

PEOPLE'S CHINA



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In the Reception Room of a Local People's Government

New Year Painting by Chang Huai-kiang

The State-Owned Economy Of New China

Wang Hua

THE victory of the new-democratic revolution led by the working class, and the founding of the People's Republic of China, ushered in a new historical period for the Chinese people—the period of gradual transition to Socialism. According to the general line of policy laid down by the Communist Party of China and the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, the basic task of the Chinese people during the period of transition is to bring about, step by step, the Socialist industrialization of the country and the Socialist transformation by the state of its agriculture, handicraft production, private industry and commerce.

At present, five different sectors exist in China's economy. They are: the state-owned economy, the cooperative economy, the individual economy of peasants and handicraftsmen, private capitalist economy and state-capitalist economy. The state-owned sector, which plays the leading role in the national economy, ensures the development of New China's national economy and is the main basis for the gradual transition to Socialism. It consists of all enterprises owned by the state. As is known, the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference provides that all enterprises relating to the economic life of the country and exercising a dominant influence over the people's livelihood shall be under the unified operation of the state and

shall be directly managed by the state organs concerned.

The State-Owned Sector

The state-owned sector of the national economy in China is Socialist in nature inasmuch as all means of production in state-owned enterprises belong to the people's state and are thus the common property of the entire body of the people. In state-owned enterprises, labour power no longer plays the role of a commodity and the working people are no longer subjected to exploitation. State-owned enterprises are operated not for the sake of profit but to expand production to satisfy the people's material and cultural needs. The production and the distribution of the output of such enterprises is not determined by the spontaneous influence of the market, but is controlled by unified state planning.

In addition to the publicly-owned enterprises set up in the old revolutionary bases before liberation, the state-owned enterprises now existing in China come from two other main sources: first, there are the enterprises owned by the Kuomintang bureaucratic capitalists and taken over by the state after the victory of the revolution; secondly, there are the enterprises built up by state investment since the birth of the People's Republic of China.

By "bureaucratic capital" is meant the monopoly capital in the hands of China's upper

ruling bureaucratic clique during the days of Kuomintang rule. With regard to this, Chairman Mao Tse-tung has said:

This monopoly capital, merged with state power, has become state monopoly capitalism. This monopoly capitalism, closely united with foreign imperialism, the landlord class and the old type of rich peasants at home, has become comprador-feudal state monopoly capitalism. This is the economic basis of Chiang Kai-shek's reactionary regime.

During the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression, bureaucratic capital further monopolized various vital fields of China's national economy. Following the Japanese surrender, it continued its rapid growth by taking over the enterprises previously controlled by the Japanese imperialists. On the eve of liberation, it held the economic arteries of the Kuomintang-ruled areas firmly in its grip.

Bureaucratic capital brought great disasters upon the Chinese people, but, as Chairman Mao Tse-tung said, it also "provided sufficient material conditions for the new-democratic revolution." After the victory of the people's revolution, the People's Government confiscated all bureaucratic-capitalist enterprises, thus enabling the state to assume control, from the very beginning, of various important and leading branches of the national economy.

It must be pointed out, however, that the old enterprises taken over by the People's Government had all been seriously damaged. Flying before the crushing blows of the People's Liberation Army, the Chiang Kai-shek bandits resorted to the wanton destruction of factories, mines, communication and transport facilities. The few enterprises which escaped destruction were on the verge of collapse owing to poor management, low labour productivity and weak productive capacity. Moreover, remnants of the Kuomintang counter-revolutionaries still hid in such enterprises, attempting to continue their oppression of the workers, to obstruct and disrupt production and practise sabotage.

Old Enterprises Rehabilitated

Relying upon the working class, the People's Government rapidly rehabilitated these ruined enterprises, carried out democratic re-

forms and established a democratic method of management in place of the old system. The workers began to participate in management, many being promoted to leading posts. Thus these enterprises were cleared of the feudal gangsters and Kuomintang special agents who had oppressed and exploited the workers in the old days. In these state-owned enterprises, the workers have become masters in the true sense of the word, with the result that they display tremendous enthusiasm in production.

After achieving initial successes in democratic reform, the state-owned enterprises proceeded to improve production techniques, eliminate the old, irrational production methods and put a reasonable wage system into effect. They have launched mass movements for labour emulation, rationalization in production and to increase production and practise economy. They have also taken initial steps to establish new technical standards designed to raise productivity, and to introduce scientific methods of management. At the same time, on the basis of the achievements made in the democratic reforms and development of production, the standard of living of their workers has been greatly improved.

The economy of old China was very backward. Industry, in particular, stood on an extremely rickety foundation. What little industry China had was very uneven in its composition and geographical distribution. The country's entire industry was marked by such characteristics of semi-colonial economy. Japanese imperialism, in its attempt to plunder China's resources, did establish some heavy industrial enterprises in Northeast and North China. But these enterprises were nothing more than an appendage of Japan's home industry. In old China, no large-scale machine-building or lathe-building industries had ever existed. Her light industry was, in the main, centred in Shanghai and a few other big cities. To a large extent, its production depended upon imported raw materials, and most of its products were exported to the countries of Southeast Asia.

The People's Government, in addition to reconstructing and expanding the existing factories and mines, has invested large sums

in new enterprises so as to gradually make Chinese industry comprehensive and independent and bring about, step by step, the Socialist industrialization of the country. In the past four years, it has established many big enterprises, thus laying the foundation for new branches of industry which China had never had before. Among examples of this are the seamless steel tubing mill, heavy rolling mill, and No. 7 blast furnace of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, the large modern open-cut coal mine at Hai-chou in Fuhsin, the flax mill at Harbin and many other modern textile mills—all of which have been completed and commissioned. These newly-established factories, as a rule, are located close to their raw material sources and markets. State-owned factories, mines, railways and other enterprises are increasing in number. All this demonstrates that the economic structure of China, especially the structure of her industry, is undergoing a radical change. The state-owned economy has developed remarkably in the four years since liberation and plays an immense role in the restoration, readjustment and improvement of the national economy as a whole.

Rapid Expansion

State-owned industry is expanding by leaps and bounds. The total value of its output in 1950 was 52 per cent above the 1949 figure. In 1951, it grew by 59 per cent over 1950, and in 1952, it was 45 per cent more than in 1951.

Moreover, the proportion of the state-owned sector has risen sharply in relation to the national economy as a whole. In 1949, the total output of state-owned industries constituted, in value, 33.9 per cent of that of all industry. In 1952, the proportion rose to 50 per cent. By categories, the state-owned sector occupied about 80 per cent of the production of China's heavy industry; fully 60 per cent of its large-scale modern industry; and about 50 per cent of that of light industry.

The state plan for 1953 makes provision for a rise in the total value of the country's industrial output of about 21 per cent above the 1952 level, including an increase of production by about 29 per cent in state-owned industries. There will be a continuing steady

increase in the production of state-owned industries in the future.

Furthermore, a large number of state trading enterprises have been formed, providing active leadership in the field of commerce. During the past few years, state trade has developed rapidly. If we take the year 1950 as the base year with an index of 100, then in 1952, the index of purchases by state-trading enterprises amounted to 383, and of total sales to 397. Proportionately, state trade has also come to occupy a more important place in the nation's commerce. In 1952, more than 50 per cent of all goods sold in China's home market were handled through state and co-operative channels. Approximately 32 per cent of all retail sales in Peking, Shanghai and six other major cities were also handled by state and cooperative trading enterprises. Of foreign trade, about 90 per cent was handled directly by the state, while the remainder of less than 10 per cent was handled by private trading enterprises under the leadership and supervision of the state.

The people's state has managed China's railways, aviation, post and tele-communications since the day it was founded. Other important means of communications such as highways, inland navigation, etc., have also come under the direct control of the state. State enterprises are taking the lead in transportation. The rapid development of state communications and transport is helping to push forward the further development of the national economy.

State enterprises are also being established in agriculture. So far, 52 mechanized state farms of a Socialist nature and over 2,100 state agricultural experimental stations have been set up. These state farms and stations play a big role in the dissemination of knowledge of advanced agricultural methods among the millions of peasants, and in giving peasants concrete help in the improvement of agricultural production.

The state bank is one of the most important pivots in the nation's economy. It alone has the legal right to issue currency. Thanks to correct policy, the People's Bank has gained an absolute leading position in the nation's finances. Private banks and financial institutions which engaged mainly in speculation now

have no place in the new China. As to existing private banks which are carrying on legitimate business, these are gradually entering into co-operation with the state bank and have all become enterprises jointly operated by state and private capital. Today, over 90 per cent of all deposits are with the state bank and its branch offices; the rest being in banks jointly operated by state and private capital.

The reason for the rapid upsurge of the state-owned economy, and especially of state-owned industry, is first and foremost, that the Communist Party of China and the People's Government have consistently carried out a policy of promoting the development, and gradually and steadily increasing the relative strength of the Socialist sector in the national economy. In 1950, the investments made by the state in economic construction amounted to 23.9 per cent of state expenditure. In 1953, investments in this field were estimated to be 44.34 per cent of the total expenditure in the national budget while the actual sum would be six times that spent in 1950. It should be noted that 20.4 per cent of the 1953 budget was earmarked for industrial construction, and the acceleration of the development of state-owned industries.

Another important factor in the rapid development of the state-owned sector in the national economy is the great upsurge in labour enthusiasm and creativeness among the workers in state-owned enterprises in recent years. This has led to a continuous rise in their labour productivity, which, in all state-owned enterprises under central industrial organizations, has shown an increase in 1952 as compared with 1951. In the iron and steel industry, for example, labour productivity increased by 37 per cent; in the coal industry by 24 per cent; in the machine tool industry by 29 per cent and in the textile industry by 32 per cent. Higher labour productivity has also been achieved by workers and employees in other state-owned enterprises.

The sincere and selfless aid rendered China by her great ally, the Soviet Union, is also of great significance in the rapid development of the state-owned sector of our national economy. Fraternal assistance, for instance, has been given to China by the Soviet Government in establishing new industrial enterprises and the

reconstruction of old ones, in the provision of scientific and technical guidance, supply of equipment, dispatching of experts to China and the training of Chinese cadres. Thanks to Soviet aid, the construction or reconstruction of many industrial enterprises has already been successfully completed, and they have been able to start production according to plan. Moreover, at the end of 1952, the Soviet Union turned over to China without any compensation the Chinese Changchun Railway together with all its subsidiary enterprises. Soviet efforts had made this railway the most advanced in China. Now, it is the centre where railway cadres are trained and where advanced experiences in the field of railway transportation are popularized. It is also necessary to mention the close economic cooperation and mutual aid that exist between China and the People's Democracies. This is another important factor in the rapid upsurge of China's state economy.

The Leading Force

The state-owned sector plays the part of the leading force in relation to the other four sectors of China's national economy. Its development accelerates the growth of the national economy and promotes the gradual realization of Socialist industrialization and of the transformation of the other sectors of economy along Socialist lines.

Under the people's state power, the co-operative economy of a semi-Socialist nature serves as a bridge between the state-owned economy and the broad masses of small producers. In this capacity, it receives preferential treatment and all-round assistance from the People's Government. For instance, in wholesale transactions, state-trading organizations not only give priority to the cooperatives but in general give them discounts of 2 to 6 per cent on wholesale prices. When issuing loans to the cooperatives, the People's Bank also charges a very low interest rate. Until the end of 1952, the cooperatives also enjoyed lower taxation rates.* All these measures greatly

*The cooperatives have reached such a stage of growth that they no longer need special tax preferences. In order to stimulate improvements in their business management special tax reliefs for cooperatives were abolished in 1953.

encourage the progress of cooperative enterprises in the new China.

Individual Economy

In present-day China, so far as the number of people involved is concerned, the individual economy of peasants and handicraftsmen still represents a very big relative strength. The People's Government guides the broad masses of the peasants along the path of organizing of mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' cooperatives, on a basis of voluntary participation and mutual benefit. The state also encourages and assists handicraftsmen in voluntary development of cooperative enterprises.

To help the peasants take the road to Socialism on a voluntary basis, the people's state does a great deal of political work among them. In helping the development of peasants' mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' cooperatives, the People's Government has carried out the following principal measures: State-operated economic organizations supply mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' cooperatives with industrial goods and purchase their produce through the rural supply and marketing cooperatives. State banks grant huge sums in loans to members of mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' cooperatives so as to help them solve their problems of production and livelihood. A growing network of tractor stations and stations for technical guidance to agriculture render technical assistance to the organized peasants. State farms also play a significant role in educating the peasants and in displaying the great superiority of large-scale farming utilizing modern techniques.

As a result of these measures, the movement of mutual aid and cooperation in agriculture is developing on a wide basis and the transformation of the individual economy of the peasants has begun. More than 43 per cent of China's peasant households have joined the mutual-aid teams and over 14,000 agricultural producers' cooperatives have come into existence in the country.

The state-owned sector of the country's national economy also extends much help to

handicraftsmen by supplying them with raw materials and purchasing their products. To raise the output of handicrafts and improve the life of those engaged in them, handicraft production is being guided, step by step, and on a voluntary basis, in the adoption of the cooperative system. Up to the end of June, 1953, there were 4,158 handicraft producers' cooperatives in the country.

With respect to private industry and commerce, the state has adopted the policy of utilizing their positive activities, beneficial to the people's livelihood, and of restricting their negative activities, detrimental to the people's livelihood. At the same time, the state is gradually leading them, on a selective basis, onto the road of state-capitalism, so that they may finally pass over to Socialism when conditions are ready.

Based on the needs of the state and practical conditions, private industry and commerce are encouraged to develop, on a voluntary basis, in the direction of state-capitalism. The implementation of this policy has been conducive not only to the consolidation of the leadership of state-owned economy over privately-operated enterprises but also to introducing more or less planned production and marketing by privately-operated enterprises.

Led by the Communist Party of China and their great leader Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the Chinese people have, in the past four years, completed the rehabilitation of their national economy and, since 1953, entered upon the period of construction under their first five-year plan. The main purpose of this five-year plan is to ensure the continuous growth of the Socialist sector of the national economy, and the further improvement of the people's material and cultural life on the basis of increased production. Only when the continuous growth of the Socialist sector of the national economy is ensured can the people's democratic system be further consolidated and developed, and the material basis for Socialism built up. That is why, in the period of transition to Socialism, the state-owned economy plays a cardinal, decisive role.

Trade With Capitalist Countries

Lei Jen-min

Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade

NEW China has always wished to restore and develop, subject to the principle of equality and mutual benefit, her trade relations with other countries. This includes trade with both governments and peoples of countries in the capitalist world.

Recently, this fact has been given fresh expression. In the second part of 1953, China signed commercial agreements or trade contracts with a French Commercial and Industrial Delegation, a British Trade Delegation organized by British industrial and commercial circles, a delegation from the "Japanese Diet Members' Union to Promote Japan-China Trade" and an Indonesian Government Economic Mission—all of which came to Peking during this period.

In other words, China has added to its trade relations with countries in the capitalist world. What is more, the volume of trade and the variety of commodities exchanged between China and these countries have increased as well.

U.S.-Made Obstructions

However, the progress of trade between New China and the countries of the capitalist world has not been all plain sailing. Its development, in the past few years, has, in fact, been a tortuous one. As a result of the correct trade policy carried out by the People's Government of China, trade with countries in the capitalist world was restored and developed in 1949-50. The total amount of China's foreign trade in 1950 surpassed that of 1936, the year before the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression. Especially marked was the development of Sino-British trade.

But a decline began in 1951. This was due to the U.S. "blockade" and "embargo" against China, and the obstruction and breaking off of normal trade with China by the governments of various countries which, disregard-

ing the interests of their own peoples, allowed themselves to be pressed into obeying the policy of the United States.

One example was Sino-Japanese trade. Japan and China have always had close economic relations due to their geographical proximity. In 1950, trade between the two countries had been, to a certain degree, restored. Japan was supplied with large quantities of high quality, low-priced ores, coke, industrial salts, soya beans, etc., all things which she needed and was accustomed to import from China. At the same time, goods from Japan also constituted a certain proportion of the total amount of Chinese imports. But in 1951, because the Yoshida government started to follow the "blockade" and "embargo" policies of the U.S. Government, Sino-Japanese trade came to a virtual halt, constituting less than 1 per cent of the total foreign trade of Japan in that year. As a result, Japan was forced to import the coal, iron ores, soya beans etc. necessary to her from the United States at unreasonably high prices.

The U.S. Government, by its selfish and retrogressive measures, has created serious difficulties for the foreign trade of other countries in the capitalist world. Under the cover of the "blockade" and "embargo," it seeks to further its own economic penetration of these countries and to monopolize the capitalist world market. American "aid" is used to dump its surplus goods into its satellites' markets; it sets up a high tariff wall against their imports and undermines their traditional multi-lateral patterns of trade. In particular, it forces these other countries to suspend their normal trade relations with countries of the camp of peace and democracy.

The result is that the capitalist world market finds it even more difficult to absorb all the goods produced within its limits. This has led to a progressive shrinkage of produc-

tion, thrown still more people out of employment, and accelerated the deterioration of the national economy of various capitalist states. It is only natural, therefore, that an ever-increasing wave of protest has risen within their borders against American manipulation of international trade. Moreover, some of their more far-sighted political and business leaders are beginning to recognize the urgency of adopting an independent trade policy, and of trading with all countries irrespective of differing social systems.

China Expands Trade

It was against this background that trade between China and many capitalist countries gradually picked up in 1952. In April of that year, while the International Economic Conference was in session in Moscow, the Chinese delegation there concluded trade agreements and contracts to the total value of over U.S. \$200 million with industrial and business representatives of eleven countries including Britain, France, West Germany, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland. Later, the Japanese delegates to the Moscow conference came to Peking and signed a trade agreement with China arranging for a two-way exchange of goods worth £60 million sterling.

These agreements and contracts have not all, however, been successfully and fully implemented, owing to the obstruction and interference of the U.S. Government and the various governments concerned under the pressure of the United States. Nevertheless, their conclusion bears witness to the common desire for the development of normal trade relations on the part of the Chinese Government and people on the one hand and the peoples of the capitalist world on the other.

Since the Moscow conference, China's trade with capitalist countries has made further marked progress. In the second half of 1952, a tripartite trade agreement was sign-



At the signing ceremony of the Sino-Indonesian Trade Agreement between the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Indonesian Republic on November 30, 1953. The agreement was signed by Lei Jen-min, Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade, on behalf of China (*right*), and by R. R. A. Asmaoen, leader of the Indonesian Government Economic Mission, on behalf of Indonesia (*left*)

ed between China, the Soviet Union and Finland. In June, 1953, China and Finland signed a bilateral trade agreement, raising the volume of trade between the two countries by 23.5 per cent over that of 1952. The range of commodities covered was wider. Trade relations between the two countries became closer.

The same period witnessed a further strengthening of the long-established trade relations between China and the government of India. Trade relations have also been established between China and the government of Pakistan, and between China and industrial and business circles in Burma, Indonesia, Sweden, Switzerland, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Egypt, Chile and other countries. Thus, our country is making every effort to increase its foreign trade.

Equality and Mutual Benefit

In doing business with capitalist countries, we base ourselves on the principle of equality and mutual benefit. This has been proved in many ways. Trade is done in the form of direct barter, thus saving both parties and particularly the capitalist countries, from difficulties in payments. Capitalist countries,

in doing business with the United States or among themselves, invariably encounter serious difficulties in payments caused by "dollar shortages." In trade with China, these are avoided. Moreover, the goods that are bartered meet the requirements of the respective parties. Neither dumps its goods on the markets of the other. Prices are reasonable. There is no exchange at unequal prices. Countries taking part in this kind of trade, therefore, find it beneficial to the development of their national economy and the betterment of the living conditions of their peoples.

The trade policy of China, built upon the principle of equality and mutual benefit, is well illustrated by its trade with Ceylon. Ceylon is dependent on the world market for its economic life. To feed its people, it must import 400,000 tons of rice each year, and export almost its total output of rubber and tea to pay for it. After the Second World War, the monopolists of the United States, which replaced Britain as the chief buyer of Ceylon's rubber, took advantage of their position to force down its price from 73.5 cents to 24.5 cents a pound, driving the rubber industry of

the island country to the verge of bankruptcy. The danger was averted only by the Sino-Ceylonese five-year rubber and rice trade agreement concluded at the end of 1952, under which China guaranteed to buy the major portion of Ceylon's rubber output at fair prices. The agreement ensured employment to as many as 300,000 rubber workers in Ceylon. It helps Ceylon to solve its serious rice shortage, while China gets the rubber she requires.

Precisely because China insists on equality and mutual benefit in its trade policy, more and more people in countries of the capitalist world are beginning to feel, from their personal experience, that trade with China is profitable. For this reason, the demand for the establishment and development of trade relations with China is increasing and growing stronger daily. In certain countries it has become a mass movement in which people of every stratum take part.

Widening Prospects

Facts prove that the government and people of every country can benefit from mutually-beneficial trade with China based on equality. Moreover, China, with nearly one-fourth of the world's population, is now engaged in planned economic construction. This also promises a bright future for her foreign trade. As national construction proceeds, China will need more machinery and raw materials, such as power and mining equipment, communications and electrical engineering materials, scientific instruments, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and chemicals. The marked rise in the purchasing power of the Chinese people and their constantly growing material and cultural needs will, as a result of the development of production, also multiply their demand for imported daily necessities.

Furthermore, as a result of the rapid development of production, the output of major industrial and agricultural products in China has already far surpassed the peak figures of the past. New types of goods are being produced. Not only is China now able to supply her traditional exports in greater quantities to the countries that need them; she can also export



The Delegation of the Japanese Diet Members' Union, headed by Masanosuke Ikeda (3rd from left), at a reception for them given by Nan Han-chen (2nd from left), Chairman of the Chinese Committee for the Promotion of International Trade, on October 3, 1953

additional products such as meat, gunny bags and certain manufactured goods. Therefore, China's ability to pay for her imports has further increased. This is shown by the fact that beginning with 1950, alongside the expansion of her foreign trade, China has put an end to her old unfavourable balance of trade which had lasted for more than seventy years.

The Socialist industrialization now being carried out in China is one of the primary factors leading to the expansion of her foreign trade. Anyone who holds a contrary view is obviously ignorant of the facts. A clear statement on this question was made by Premier Chou En-lai in his recent talk with Professor Ikuo Oyama, Chairman of the Japanese National Peace Committee. "Some people in Japan think that once China becomes industrialized, there will be no future for trade between her and Japan," Premier Chou said. "We must point out that they are entirely mistaken. The past economic relation between an imperialist country and a semi-colonial country, a relation based on 'Japan's industry and China's raw materials,' cannot be completely changed unless China becomes industrialized. As China gradually becomes industrialized, the production and needs of China and the Chinese people will expand more and more, and she will need all the more to develop international trade relations."

The trade agreements signed in Peking in 1953 between China and Finland, Ceylon, Britain, France, Japan, Indonesia and other countries give further evidence of the great potentialities of China's foreign trade. For instance, the appendix of the Sino-Japanese Trade Agreement stipulates that China is to export to Japan ores, coal, salt, soya beans, bristles, tung oil, ramie, raw silk, carpets, medicinal herbs, spices, etc., and that she will in turn import from Japan metals, machines, chemicals, electrical appliances for the household, clocks and watches, and other articles. All these facts show that China's potential in foreign trade will grow side by side with her gradual industrialization.

China is an important member of the new democratic world market headed by the Soviet Union. Trade among the countries in the camp of peace and democracy has been de-

veloping continuously on the basis of complete equality, mutual benefit and cooperation with a view to bringing about the economic progress of all concerned. The democratic world market ensures China an uninterrupted supply of up-to-date technical equipment and other essential materials, as well as outlets for her own ever-increasing production. It also frees her from being affected by economic crises in the capitalist market.

The U.S. policy of "blockade" and "embargo" has only further strengthened the firm unity of China and the other countries in the democratic world market. By 1950, China's trade with the Soviet Union and with the People's Democracies represented 26 per cent of the total volume of her foreign trade. The proportion grew to 61 per cent in 1951 and to over 70 per cent in 1953. This forms the most reliable and solid foundation for China's foreign trade. As the economic upsurge of the countries in the camp of peace and democracy continues, trade relations among them will correspondingly develop.

We believe, however, that there are still wide prospects for trade between China and the capitalist countries. We are not only expanding our trade with the democratic world market but also actively developing trade with capitalist countries. The facts given earlier in this article constitute the proof. China, like the Socialist Soviet Union and other People's Democracies, believes that countries of different social and economic systems can maintain peaceful coexistence and commercial intercourse, and establish and develop normal trade relations with each other. Facts prove that the development of such trade relations plays an important role in strengthening the economic ties between nations, improving the lives of the peoples, helping the economic development of the countries concerned, solving their economic difficulties, promoting the understanding between their peoples, easing the current tense international situation and winning peace for the world.

This is why New China has been and always will be glad to establish or further develop trade relations on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, with the governments and peoples of countries in the capitalist world.

The "People's Daily"

Hsiao Ping

EVERY day at daybreak, a stream of post office vans, motorcycles and bicycles loads up with copies of the *People's Daily* outside the office of the paper on Chang An Street, one of Peking's main thoroughfares. Then they speed to the railway station, the airport and local distribution points to get the daily to its readers—members of the Communist Party, Youth League members, workers, peasants, intellectuals and cadres of government offices and people's organizations all over the country.

The *People's Daily* is the official organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. It has been known by several different names in different periods. It was called the *Guide* in the period of the First Revolutionary Civil War (1924-1927); the *Struggle* in the period of the Second Revolutionary Civil War (1927-1936); the *New China Daily* in the period of the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression (1936-1945) and the *Liberation Daily* during the Liberation War. The *People's Daily* in its present form was founded in 1948, when the people's revolutionary forces were approaching their final victory in the War of Liberation. Throughout its history, this organ of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party has been closely linked with the revolutionary struggle of the Chinese people, showing the labouring people where the truth lies and illuminating the path to victory.

Since the victory of the people's revolution, the material and technical basis and the working conditions of the editorial department of the paper have been fundamentally improved. In Yen-an, the *Liberation Daily* had its editorial department in a cave. Its whole staff numbered no more than fourteen persons. Using a handpress, they published only 8,000 copies a day. Today, in its fine new headquarters, the *People's Daily* has a staff of 270 in its editorial department, and a printing works with a staff of 400 persons. Its rotary

press prints its daily edition of 550,000 copies in two and a half hours.

The *People's Daily* gives an authoritative picture of the political, economic and cultural life of the broad masses of the Chinese people. It publishes and explains the decisions made by the Communist Party of China and the Central People's Government in leading the Chinese people in their gradual transition to a Socialist society; it also explains in broad terms theoretical and practical problems concerning the Party and national construction. It keeps its readers informed about the achievements made by the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies in their peaceful construction, the struggle of the people in the colonial and semi-colonial countries for national liberation and the struggle for the defence of peace waged by the people throughout the world. The paper has played an immense role in educating the cadres and the broad masses of the labouring people.

Aids Marxist Education

Great attention is paid in the columns of the *People's Daily* to the propagation of the theory of Marxism-Leninism and the teachings of Mao Tse-tung. It has, for instance, printed the full texts of Stalin's works *Marxism and Linguistics* and *Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.* as well as a great deal of supplementary material. It has printed the full texts of Mao Tse-tung's works, *On People's Democratic Dictatorship*, *On Contradiction*, *On Practice* and others. It regularly publishes special articles on the theory of Marxism-Leninism, on problems of philosophy, history, literature and art, etc. One of its main tasks is to combat all ideological misrepresentations or distortions of Marxism-Leninism. In 1951 a film, *The Life of Wu Hsun*, which had serious defects of outlook, was produced. It sang the praises of Wu Hsun, a man who, in effect, served the interests of the feudal reactionary forces at



The front page of the January 1, 1954 issue of the "People's Daily"

the close of the 19th century. Wu Hsun, in the guise of a friend of the people, actually opposed the peasants in their armed struggle, and tried to inveigle them into a compromise with the ruling classes. When it was publicly released, this film was acclaimed by people under the influence of bourgeois ideology. The *People's Daily*, however, severely criticized this film in its editorial columns. At the same time, it sponsored a discussion to clarify the true nature of Wu Hsun's historic role. Cultural workers in all parts of the country participated in this discussion which lasted for four months. In that time more than a thousand articles and letters bearing on the subject were sent to the paper. This discussion played an important role in raising the ideological level of the intellectuals and the broad masses of the Chinese people.

Criticism and Self-criticism

One of the special columns of the *People's Daily* runs under the general heading of "Party

Life." This carries articles passing on experience in Party work in various enterprises and government offices, and describing the activities of outstanding Party members. It has printed stories about people like Chao Kuei-lan, who risked her life to save her factory from an explosion; model Communist member Wu Yun-to, China's "Pavel Korchagin"; Divisional Commander Cheng Yueh-chang, hero of the People's Liberation Army; and Yen Ming, a Communist of peasant origin, who, on account of his excellent work, was promoted by the Party to a leading post in a big factory. The column also levels sharp criticism against backward Party organizations and Party members who have fallen short of their duty, showing them how to correct their errors and overcome defects in their work. Severe criticism was directed, for example, against the errors of Li Sze-hsi, a Party member and village cadre in Hunan Province, who, after the victory of land reform, fell victim to the idea that the revolution "was over," and lost enthusiasm for revolutionary work. A penetrating analysis of this backward outlook of Li Sze-hsi was printed in the column, and this, according to many comments and letters received by the editorial board from Party members of peasant origin all over the country, helped many to see what lies in the further perspective of the revolution—the bright future of Socialism.

Consistently carrying out the "Decision Concerning the Promotion of Criticism and Self-criticism in the Press" promulgated by the Central Committee of the Communist Party in 1950, the *People's Daily* runs another special column entitled "Letters to the Editor." This prints letters from readers in various places criticizing defects in Party or government organizations. The column also carries the replies of the organizations concerned to the criticisms made. Letters of this kind are extremely helpful in revealing and eradicating defects in the work of various enterprises, government organizations and institutions. For instance, as a result of a letter from two readers in Shanghai that was printed by the *People's Daily*, a machine which was lying idle in a textile machinery factory was transferred to an iron and steel plant which happened to need just such a machine. Another letter from

a reader in Tientsin exposed the fact that a wagon-load of cotton prints was destroyed by fire caused by the negligence of workers in a certain state-owned company. As a result of the criticism raised by the *People's Daily*, the company made a thorough investigation into the case and worked out measures to eliminate defects in its work. When the *People's Daily* carried a letter from peasant readers in Shantung reporting cases of poisoning caused by the insecticide used in the villages, the local people's government promptly took counter-measures to deal with this danger.

The *People's Daily* also wages an effective campaign against those who try to stifle criticism. In the spring of 1953, a student of the Institute of Communications in Shanghai wrote to the *People's Daily* criticizing administrative work in the school. When the letter was published, the president of the school, who was concurrently Director of the Department of Communications of the former East China Military and Administrative Committee, took vindictive measures towards this student. When the Party took up the matter, he adopted a hostile and uncooperative attitude. The *People's Daily*, after an investigation, found out the true facts and consistently supported the criticism made by the student. Eventually the arrogant president was expelled from the Party and was also dismissed from his post by the administrative authorities. In an editorial entitled *Those Who Suppress Criticism Are the Party's Sworn Enemy*, the *People's Daily* called upon all Party members to develop criticism and self-criticism extensively and to wage a resolute struggle against all attempts to suppress criticism as this is detrimental to the interests of the Party.

In the Struggle for Peace

The *People's Daily* mobilizes the people in the struggle for world peace. Since 1950, when the Chinese people launched the great movement to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea, the work of mobilizing the people to support this lofty struggle has become an important task of the paper.

In addition to day-to-day reporting, the *People's Daily* issues a special weekly supplement called "Resist U. S. Aggression and Aid

Korea." This one-page feature carries stories of the heroic struggle of the Korean people and their Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers against the aggressors; reports of the warm support of peace-loving peoples of the world for the Korean people and other related items.

By this consistent coverage of one of the great mass movements of the day, the *People's Daily* helps its readers to understand that, only by winning the struggle to resist U. S. aggression and aid Korea, can they safeguard the peaceful construction of China and peace in the Far East and throughout the world. The paper has played a most important role in organizing and inspiring the masses for this great struggle.

Popularizing the General Line

In 1953, China completed the rehabilitation of its national economy and began its first five-year plan of national economic construction. The Communist Party and the Central People's Government of China drew up in more definite terms a general line of policy for the development of the country during its transition to Socialism. The general line provides for the gradual realization of the Socialist industrialization of the country and the carrying out of Socialist transformation by the state of agriculture, handicraft production, and private industry and commerce step by step over a relatively long period. The *People's Daily* has paid great attention to the popularization of this general line. It explains the objective of the general line and the road that must be followed in bringing about the gradual Socialist industrialization of the country and the Socialist transformation of agriculture, handicraft production, and private industry and commerce. It has brought to its readers' attention the experience in Socialist construction of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

This coverage is supplemented by daily reports on concrete achievements in national economic construction and by popularizing advanced experience in production. There are reports on the Anshan Iron and Steel Company's works, that great centre of China's new heavy industry, and systematic coverage of

other newly-rising industrial enterprises. Every issue carries articles describing the work of outstanding man and woman workers and engineers. Recent reportage has introduced such nationally famous model workers as Ma Heng-chang, leader of a work brigade in a machine-building factory, which has consistently overfulfilled its quotas; the coal-miner Ma Liu-hai, who set a new record for speed in tunnelling; the girl spinner Ho Chien-hsiu, who invented a new working method; and engineer Lan Tien, to whom a great share of the credit must go for mapping out the route of the Chengtu-Chungking Railway.

Help to Peasants

The *People's Daily* gives great help to the peasants. It makes known to them the policies of the Party and the People's Government in the development of China's rural areas. It tells them why and how they should follow the road to the future pointed out by Chairman Mao Tse-tung in his work *Getting Organized*. It also reports on the achievements of outstanding members of mutual-aid teams, agricultural producers' cooperatives and collective farms. At the same time, it levels its criticism against those rural cadres who deviate from the Party line, and, because of their wrong outlook and working style, use methods of compulsion and of giving bald commands in organizing and guiding the peasants. On February 15, 1953, the paper carried the *Decisions on Mutual Aid and Cooperation in Agricultural Production Adopted by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China* and an editorial entitled *Key to Guidance of Agricultural Production*. This document and the editorial were of exceptional importance and they have become the key guide for rural Party organizations in their work of organizing and guiding the peasants.

A great deal of space is given in the *People's Daily* to the popularization of the advanced experience of the best peasant farmers. Recent coverage includes the new irrigation methods of peasant Tien Cheng-hsiang of Shansi Province; the methods of champion cotton-grower Chu Yao-li and of the Shantung peasants who have gained big increases in wheat yield by applying the close-planting method of the Soviet Union; the successful methods of exterminating locusts used in

Anhwei Province, and the good results achieved in forest protection in Northeast China.

Another important topic which finds space in the *People's Daily* is the policy on nationalities adopted by the Chinese Communist Party and the Central People's Government. Regular roundups are given on the achievements of the national minorities in building a free and happy life since their liberation from the yoke of the Kuomintang reactionaries.

The *People's Daily* also gives consistent attention to reporting on the cultural and educational achievements of the Chinese people and the development of their science, art and literature. Coverage is given to the activities of the universities, secondary and primary schools; achievements of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies in their development of science, culture and art, and the application of Soviet educational methods in the schools of China.

Close Contacts With Readers

Opinions of representative people of all strata of society are fully reflected in the columns of the *People's Daily*. It has a broad range of active contributors from among the workers, peasants, scholars, writers, cadres, fighters of the People's Liberation Army and of the Chinese People's Volunteers, model workers, students and many others. Regular contact is maintained by its editorial department with more than ten thousand correspondents scattered throughout the country. Over 200,000 contributions received by the editorial department in the past four years came from workers and peasants. This is in addition to more than four hundred letters received from readers everyday and the average of twenty readers who call every day at the office. The *People's Daily* prides itself on taking prompt and appropriate action on all matters raised in readers' letters and by its many visitors, so that defects and mistakes pointed out by its readers may be quickly rectified.

The most varied matters are brought up in letters and by visitors. An agricultural mutual-aid team reports on its rich harvest; a worker criticizes the bureaucratic style of work of the factory management. A group of fighters of the People's Liberation Army protests against the bacteriological warfare waged by

the U.S. aggressors. Students of a whole class express their determination to devote themselves on graduation to construction in the border regions of the motherland. . . .

Readers Abroad

The *People's Daily* keeps regular contact with its readers abroad and its subscribers scattered in more than twenty foreign countries. It constantly carries articles on important international issues, and it gives the views of the Chinese people on current international affairs. It makes known the foreign policy of the People's Government of China, which is directed against all wars of aggression and stands for the settlement of international disputes through negotiation and the maintenance of peace among all peoples.

For the past four years the *People's Daily* has devoted a great deal of attention to introducing its readers to China's great ally, the Soviet Union. How vast is the interest of the people in this coverage is shown by the thousands of letters which have been received from readers expressing their common belief that: "The Soviet Union's today is our tomorrow."

The *People's Daily* reflects the gratitude of the Chinese people for the sincere and self-

less help given them by the Soviet Union. It systematically publishes letters from its readers addressed to their Soviet friends. Following Chairman Mao Tse-tung's instructions on "learning from the Soviet Union," the *People's Daily* has devoted many of its columns to introducing the advanced experience of the Soviet Union to its readers. It has carried many important editorials of the *Pravda* in the past four years, and runs a special column for articles and commentaries reprinted from the Soviet press.

Special space is devoted to the achievements of peaceful construction in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

Readers can also be sure of getting reports on the labour movement in capitalist countries, on the struggle for liberation of the people in colonial and dependent countries, and the great struggle for peace waged by all peoples.

Holding high the banner of Marxism-Leninism, the *People's Daily* inspires its millions of readers in their struggle for the bright tomorrow. It rallies the labouring masses around the Communist Party that is leading the Chinese people in the advance to the Socialist future.

Relics of the State of Chu

— An Exhibition of the Material Culture
Of China Over 2,200 Years Ago

Wang Yu-chuan

IN the course of the excavations which the Archeological Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Chinese People's Republic carried out near Changsha in Hunan Province in 1951, many objects were discovered relating to the last period of the Kingdom of Chu in about the 3rd century B.C.

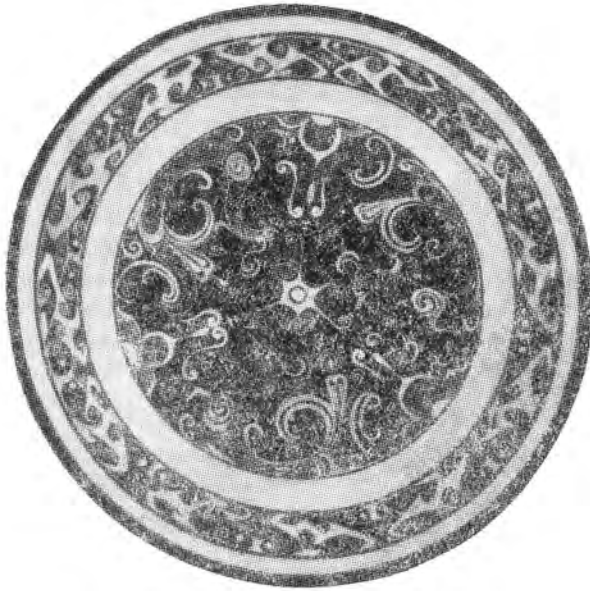
Last year these new and important discoveries were put on exhibition at the Historical Museum in Peking together with other

rare finds relating to the same period. The exhibits on display give an unrivalled opportunity of judging of the high level of development of culture in the state of Chu at that time.

A Crucial Period

This exhibition enriches historical science with new and extremely important material about this crucial period in the life of the Chinese people—an era known in Chinese history as the Period of the Warring States (403-221

The author is a research worker in history.



Design on a lacquered dish (a reproduction). The phoenix design in the centre is typical of Chu art; the border ornament is characteristic of designs found on objects excavated in the Yellow River basin and dating from the Spring and Autumn Period (722-481 B.C.)

B.C.) After the fall of the Western Chou Dynasty in the 8th century B.C., the Eastern Chou Dynasty was formed but this was never able to subdue the various principalities, and in the 5th century B.C., the old kingdom of the Chou Dynasty finally crumbled into numerous small feudal states. These waged incessant wars among themselves for the hegemony of China. Finally, seven states remained: Chu, Tsin, Yen, Chi, Wei, Chao and Han. The two most powerful rivals were the kingdoms of Chu and Tsin. But the policy of the Kingdom of Tsin more closely answered the historical demands of the times, and this enabled it, in the 3rd century B.C., to conquer all its rivals including the Kingdom of Chu, and unite China. The head of the Tsin Kingdom assumed the title of Tsin Shih Huang Ti and became the first emperor of a centralized feudal despotism in China.

The history of China in this period still demands detailed study, but there is reason to state that the cities of the various feudal kingdoms situated at key intersections of communications were at that time turning into

centres of trade and handicraft production. The system of private ownership of land and the buying and selling of land had been established. An increasingly important economic position was being taken by the newly risen feudal landlord class and the growing merchant class which demanded an end of feudal barriers to trade. The policy carried out by the Kingdom of Tsin, aimed at the creation of a powerful centralized state, answered these demands. It is interesting to note that one of the chief assistants of the first emperor Tsin Shih Huang Ti (221-210 B.C.) was a rich merchant of that time, Lu Pu-wei.

The Rise of Chu

At an early date, the Chu people inhabited part of the area watered by the Huai River and its tributaries. They were an ally of the Shang Kingdom, but this was conquered by the Chou Kingdom about 1066 B. C. Following the loss of their ally and faced by a stronger opponent, the Chu people gradually migrated southwestwards and resettled in the area of the present Hupeh and Hunan Provinces. Here they tilled and developed the land. In the course of the following centuries the Chu Kingdom grew into a formidable power. It annexed no less than 45 feudal states formerly owing allegiance to Chou, and became the largest among the seven contending states of the Warring States Period.

At the height of its power, the Kingdom of Chu occupied the present provinces of Hupeh, Hunan, Kiangsi, Anhwei, Chekiang, Kiangsu and parts of the provinces of Szechuan, Honan and Shantung. Chu thus controlled the extensive and fertile valleys of the Huai and the Yangtze Rivers, with their large forests and rich mineral resources including gold, copper, tin and iron.

The Chu people assimilated and developed various elements of the cultures of the two great river valleys, the Yellow and the Yangtze; they inherited the culture of the ancient Shang Kingdom and adopted much of that of the Chou, but they created a highly developed culture of their own. This, as seen in the material, literary and other historical records

of that era, was characterized by great originality.

Chu's Role in History

The people of Chu made a very great contribution to Chinese history. Both the historians Fan Wen-lan and Kuo Mo-jo have justly attributed to Chu the credit of making major contributions to the development of the south of China. To quote Kuo Mo-jo:

They (the Chu people) laboriously developed the south for nearly a thousand years, and their contribution to the establishment of the Chinese nation cannot be ignored.

These judgements are powerfully confirmed by the cultural remains of the Chu people which have recently been discovered and are now systematically exhibited at the Historical Museum. These relics, therefore, are of great significance in our further study of the role the Chu Kingdom played in the history of the development of the Chinese nation.

Chinese scientists have always been interested in this eventful period of Chinese history, and have given close study to the discoveries of bronzes and other objects relating to the time of the Chu Kingdom discovered in the basin of the Huai River in 1922. In 1933, over 800 articles of the Chu Kingdom were dug up out of a mound at Lisankutui in Shouhsien, Anhwei Province. These archeological studies were more systematically organized following the establishment of the Chinese People's Republic, and they resulted in the discovery of many extremely valuable historical relics near the city of Changsha in Hunan.

The present exhibition displays a great variety of objects: articles of daily use, trays, dishes, goblets for wine, delicate handicraft articles, objects of religious ritual, weapons for war and the chase and ornaments of various kinds. Their excellent condition results from the fact that the coffins in the Chu graves were heavily and completely covered with a water-proof and airtight "skin" of white clay which effectively preserved their contents, even delicate silks, from the humid climate of Changsha.

The tableware—bronze plates and dishes, tripods, a jar for beverages and other objects show that handicraft production in the Kingdom

of Chu had reached a high level of attainment both in art and technique.

Painted wooden grave figures—the earliest of their kind now extant—men with well trimmed beards, women with elaborate hair-dos and made-up faces show what the people of this ancient time were like in their long, ankle-length garments. Near them are beautifully carved jade ornaments, vitreous beads and jewelry, a waist-belt made of silk, jade pendants and other articles of dress adornment.

Fine Craftsmanship

The lacquer ware particularly displays designs of exquisite taste. Hitherto the earliest known lacquer ware was that of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.—220 A.D., that is, 2,000 years ago). These newly discovered lacquered objects of large sizes show that the art must have had its inception in China long before their date of approximately 2,300 years ago. Made with a hemp cloth base, they are well preserved, which shows the high level of technique attained in this art. A beautifully designed tray in red and black looks as if it left the hand of its creator only yesterday.

The vitreous beads found in these excavations open up a new line of investigation. Hitherto some European archaeologists have concluded that glass-making was introduced into China from the Middle East. These beads, however, contain barium and are thus of a chemical composition different from that of their supposed Western progenitors. This fact points to an independent Chinese invention of glass.

The excavations of the Chu graves yielded up many richly decorated swords and spears and other types of weapons which convincingly demonstrate the high level attained at this period in working metals.

At the time of the Warring States, bronze was giving place to iron for tools or weapons. Mencius, the great philosopher of that time, speaks of iron implements for tilling the soil. In the manufacture of iron tools and of various kinds of alloys, Chu had remarkable achievements to its credit. Hsun Ching, a well-known Confucian scholar of that period,



Men of the C.P.V. helping to rebuild the General Office of the Cabinet of the Korean Democratic People's Republic in Pyongyang

The Chinese People's Volunteers' Fraternal Aid To the Korean People

With the signing of the truce in Korea, the Chinese People's Volunteers have turned to help the Korean people with peaceful construction and the rehabilitation of their war-damaged land



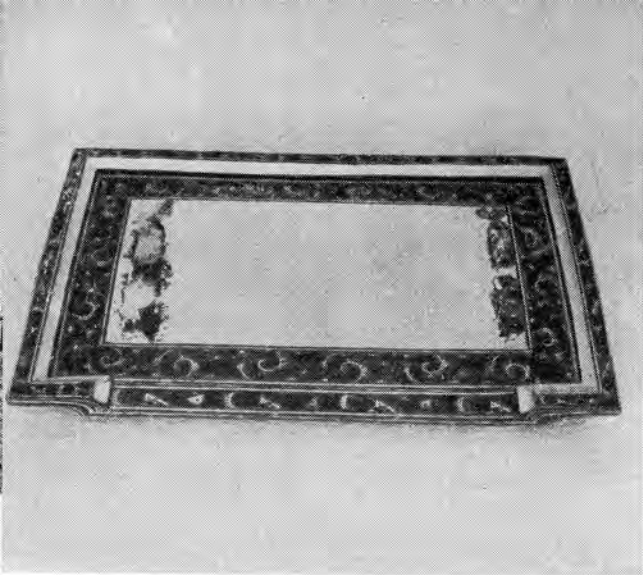
Chinese People's Volunteers help to restore a school



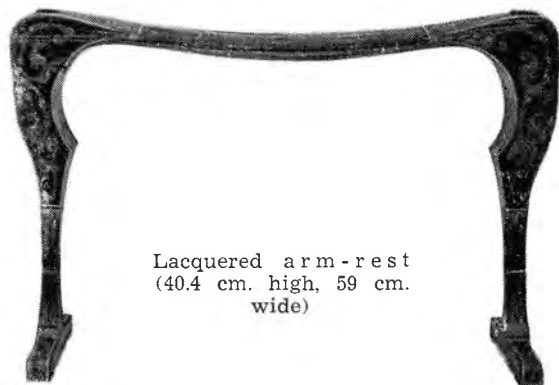
Volunteers who are rebuilding dwelling houses for the Korean people get a welcome cup of tea from a little Korean girl



The Korean people, the Korean People's Army, and the C.P.V. celebrating the completion of their work of rebuilding the Kem-yong Reservoir, one of the largest in the Korean Democratic People's Republic



Lacquered tray (48.9 x 31 cm.), with design in black on red



Lacquered arm-rest (40.4 cm. high, 59 cm. wide)

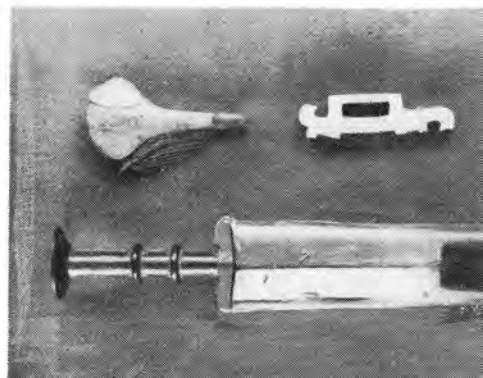
RELICS OF THE STATE OF CHU

In 1953, the Archaeological Research Institute of the Academia Sinica carried out excavations near Changsha, Hunan Province, resulting in the discovery of relics of the state of Chu of the period of the Warring States (403-221 B.C.) These newly-discovered relics, together with others of the state of Chu discovered in Changsha and other districts during the past twenty years, are now on exhibition at the Historical Museum in Peking

Bronze incense-burner (55 cm. high, 56 cm. wide between the two handles)



Bronze musical instrument. Early period of the Warring States



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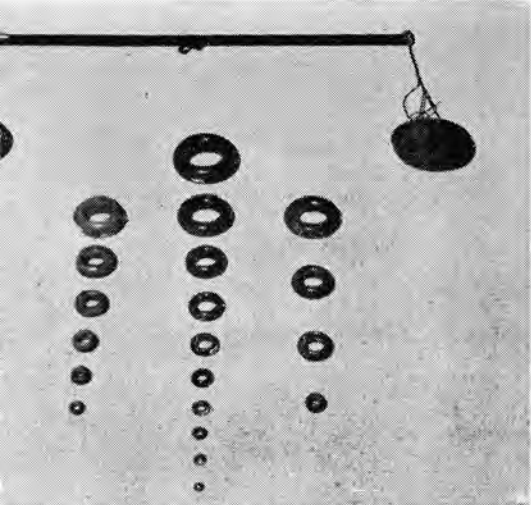
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Red lacquered shield

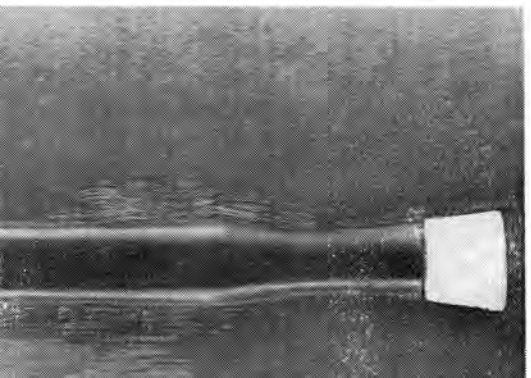


Bronze mirror with a coiled dragon design on its back (18.8 cm. in diameter, 0.26 cm. thick)

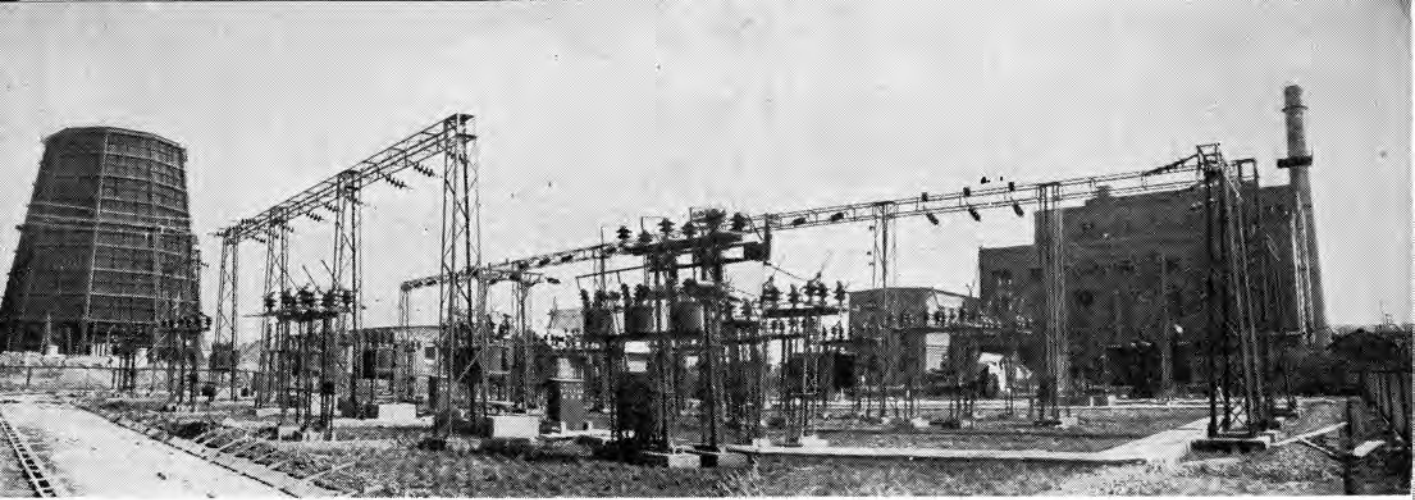


Balance and a full set of weights (the earliest ever found in China; the balance arm is a restoration)

Iron sword with scabbard (46 cm. overall length, scabbard 33.5 cm. long, sword 33.5 cm. long), with fittings made of jade and bronze



Painting on silk (a reproduction). The earliest painting extant in China (31.5 x 23 cm.)

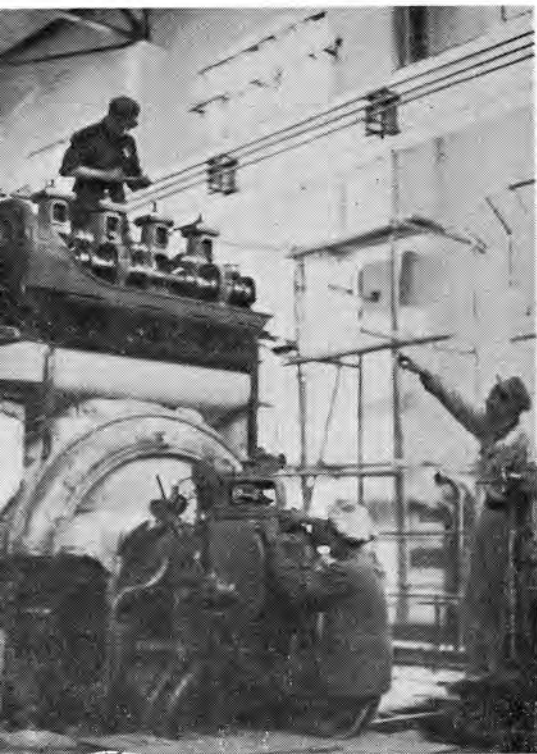


A general view of Sian's No. 2 Automatic Power Plant

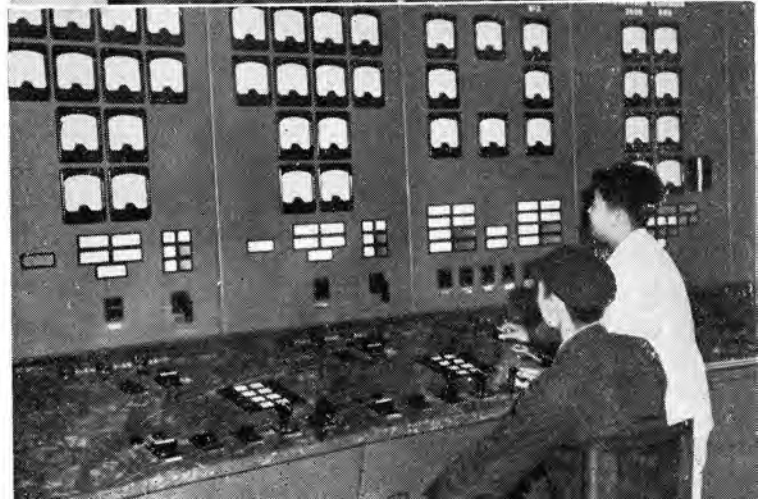
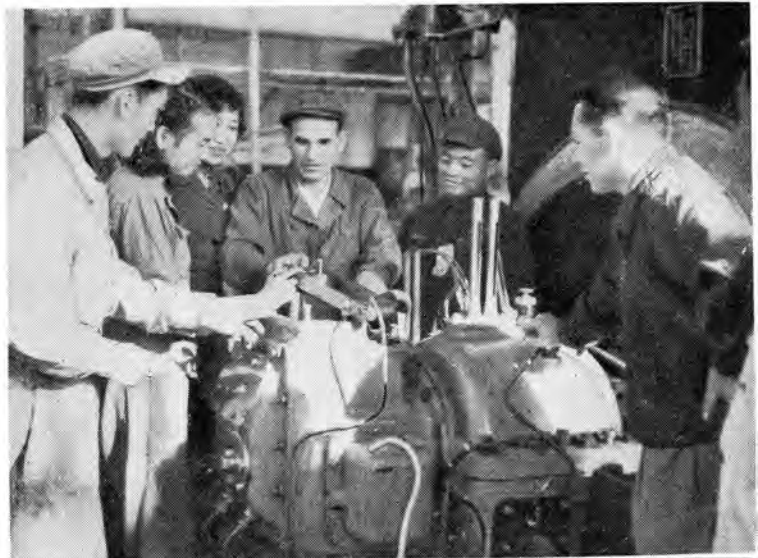
Northwest China's Biggest Power Station

The No. 2 Automatic Power Plant in Sian, Shansi Province, was commissioned on October 9, 1953

A Soviet specialist explains the workings of the Soviet-made steam turbine and regulator to a group of workers and technicians



This steam turbine in the Plant was installed four days ahead of schedule



The main control room of the Plant

states that the iron spears made in Wan, a city of Chu, "are as deadly as the sting of a poisonous insect."

It is with some considerable foundation, therefore, that Kuo Mo-jo declares, "Chu was the first to use iron tools."

The excellently made cross-bow exhibited here is also the oldest in existence in China. This weapon is mentioned in the literature of the Warring States Period, but the specimen exhibited is the only one that has been found up to the present.

Here too is a full set of weights and a balance, the earliest ever found in China, and clay facsimiles of the gold coins of the time.

Hitherto the oldest specimens of silk fabrics discovered have been those of the Han Dynasty. But silk has been found in abundance in the Chu tombs. From these we can see the development of silk manufacturing in pre-Han times.

Well-developed Art

The wooden sounding board and base of the ancient instrument *Sze* for 23 strings, a type of zither, also shows the high level of development attained by Chu in the musical arts so praised by Chu Yuan in his poetry. This instrument, too, is the oldest specimen of its kind in existence.

Of outstanding interest is a piece of the earliest painting on silk ever discovered in China. This is a portrait of a lady in profile in a long robe, with wide billowing sleeves of decorated material. She has a tiny waist and carefully coiffured hair. Above her hovers a phoenix in opposition to a Kui (one-footed) dragon. It has been interpreted in a recent article by Kuo Mo-jo as symbolic of a struggle between life and death.

Great skill and artistic taste characterize the large number of bronze mirrors which were also discovered in these Chu graves.

The handicraft production and art of the Chu Kingdom, as these relics show, had reached a high level of development. Literary remains also prove the high level attained in literature. It is enough to point out that the people of the Chu Kingdom gave the world that great poet

Chu Yuan, the 2230th anniversary of whose death was, on the proposal of the World Peace Council, marked last year in many lands. Historical relics and documents thus enable us to affirm that, in many spheres of cultural development, the Chu Kingdom stood in the forefront in the China of that time.

Synthesis of Cultures

The Chu culture was by no means one which had frozen into orthodox forms. It was, even up to the moment when the Kingdom was destroyed, in a lively state of development. The traditional culture inherited from the Yellow River area—the cradle of Chinese culture—was not only enriched but developed in an original way by the Chu people. This mingling of cultures can be traced in the sphere of design. Animal shapes, the phoenix, dragon, or snake motifs are intertwined with geometric designs, characteristic of an earlier date. In many cases, while the outer ring of decorations on a plate or shield or mirror back is taken from the traditional Yellow River heritage, the inner circle is composed of decorations that form a typical style of their own, the so-called Huai River style, so named from the site where these objects were first found. This mingling of cultures is remarkably demonstrated even in separate details. (See illustration on p. 17.) Nevertheless, the artists and artisans who designed these things succeeded in creating a perfect synthesis of the two styles.

Scholars who previously depended almost exclusively on written records for their information have, right up to the present time, underestimated the cultural attainments of the people of Chu. In some cases they did not allow for the fact that they were reading testimony composed from the point of view of the Chou court and the Chou literati who were naturally prejudiced against the Chu Kingdom with which they were at rivalry. Such Chou sources describe the people of Chu as "barbarians." Now the balance is being righted. Some years ago, Kuo Mo-jo, basing his conclusions on Chu bronzes and their inscriptions, voiced the opinion that the Chu culture was comparatively highly developed for that time. The most recent research based on these new archaeological finds prove this view to be fully warranted.

The Volunteers Help Korean Rehabilitation

Wu Ming

ON October 4, 1953, an engineering unit of the Chinese People's Volunteers was working intensively and cheerfully on a construction site in Pyongyang, when they were visited by Marshal Kim Il Sung, Premier of the Korean Democratic People's Republic.

In his chat with the C.P.V. company commander, Chuan Heng-shan, Marshal Kim Il Sung said:

"During the war, you comrades shed your blood to defend the national independence and happy life of the Korean people. Now after the armistice, without taking any rest, you are helping us in our peaceful construction. Will you please convey my regards to every comrade and give them all my thanks!"

"Thank you for your kindness, Comrade Kim Il Sung," came the reply. "Everyone of us is determined to help the Korean people rebuild Pyongyang and make it more magnificent and beautiful than before."

Rebuilding Pyongyang

During the course of the more than three years of war, Pyongyang, the provisional capital of the Korean Democratic People's Republic, was reduced to a heap of ruins by U.S. high explosives. But as soon as the signing of the Korean Military Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953 put an end to the firing, the Korean people started with resolute energy to rebuild Pyongyang and all their other cities and villages destroyed by the U.S. aggressors.

In their colossal task of healing the wounds of war, the Korean people again have the fraternal assistance of the Chinese People's Volunteers. During the past few months, Volunteers stationed in Pyongyang have helped to restore the buildings which housed the General Office of the Cabinet and the Ministry of Trade of the Korean Democratic People's Republic; and the Central Hospital. Aside from these they helped to build nearly 550 residential buildings

and two brick kilns. They have also given a hand in the repair of the Taedong River Bridge, and the construction of the 500-metre-long bridge on the upper reaches of the river. Now, they are helping to put up more than twenty five-storied buildings near the railway station in east Pyongyang.

The C.P.V. are busy too repairing war damage in many other places in the huge area between the Yalu River and the Military Demarcation Line. They are helping the Korean people to restore the many other Korean cities, such as Kaesong, Wonsan, Sinanju and Manpo which were razed to the ground by the invaders. And, as was their daily practice during wartime, they continue to help the Korean peasants in their field tasks, harvesting, preparing manure, dealing with insect-pests and other natural difficulties.

Not long ago, the Chongchon River Bridge was recommissioned with the aid of the Volunteers, and at about the same time, the Taenyong River Bridge in northwestern Korea was re-opened to traffic.

At the Taenyong Bridge

The completion of the Taenyong Bridge was a particularly happy event for the nearby villagers. More than ten years ago, the villagers planned to build this bridge themselves. But when the building materials were ready and delivered to the site, the Japanese occupationists came and seized the timber to build barracks. After Korea's liberation from the Japanese aggressors, the people's state built a concrete bridge over the river. But during the war, this was blown up by the U.S. and Rhee bandit troops in their southward flight. The explosion also killed hundreds of innocent civilians. After the armistice the men of the C.P.V. decided to help the local people restore this bridge as soon as possible.

It was a difficult job, because it was still the high-water season. To lay the foundations

of the bridge the Volunteers had to work in and sometimes under water several metres deep. Once when the planks of the temporary make-shift bridge were washed away by the turbulent stream, Chang Yung-chu, a squad leader and merited fighter (second-class), led his men with a dive into the water to retrieve the planks. On another occasion, five untended rafts floated down from the upper stream and got stuck on the piers of the bridge. The piers, in imminent danger of being battered down by the rafts, were saved by several fighters removing the rafts at the risk of their lives.

Off the northern shore of the estuary of the Chongchon River, there used to be a breakwater more than 20 kilometres long. It was bombed and destroyed by enemy planes during the war. This made tidal waves a serious menace to the life and property of people living along the coast. This breakwater was repaired within three days by more than 1,000 fighters of a certain C.P.V. unit.

The Volunteers also helped the Korean people rebuild many reservoirs, including the Kumryong and Chashan Reservoirs, thus ensuring irrigation to large tracts of land.

Rebuilding a Hero's Home

Since the armistice, a certain C.P.V. detachment has been stationed in the vicinity of the home of Kim Pung Rae, a scout of the Korean People's Army who had been awarded the title of "Hero of the Republic." Kim's family consisted of his mother, wife and children. Before the war, the whole family industriously worked on their farm. They led a happy life. On the outbreak of war, Kim went to the front.

In November, 1951, the Kims' house was bombed by the American air pirates. The family went to live in a cave in a nearby hillside. In May, 1953, only two months before the signing of the armistice, Kim's mother was killed by an enemy plane while transplanting rice seedlings in the fields. His wife, Kim Sung Ok, with her grief buried deep in her heart, redoubled her efforts in production. Later, she joined in the support service of the frontline. Her courage and devoted work won her the title of "Model Worker in Supporting the Front."

The Volunteers decided to help Kim's wife and children, and they built a new house for them. In order to buy the building materials, they saved on the foodstuffs allotted to them. Both Kim's family and the villagers expressed the warmest gratitude to the Chinese fighters for this brotherly act.

Two newly-erected school buildings stand on the site of a certain primary village school in north Korea which, like many other schools, were razed to the ground by American bombs during the war. The sports field, once dotted with bomb craters, has been levelled off and restored. Boys and girls shout and laugh there as happily as in prewar days, playing on swings and slides and climbing the wooden poles and horses. "Our Uncle Volunteers built these for us!" they say with great pride.

At the foot of a hill 15 kilometres from Tae-ui, on a former heap of ruins overgrown with weeds, there now stand three new two-storied school buildings set in a spacious sports field. This school is now attended by more than 700 Korean children who had to study in dark and damp dug-outs during the war.

This school was also constructed by the Volunteers with building materials—timber, bricks, tiles, and so on—salvaged from dug-outs and ruined houses.

On September 1, the school held its opening ceremony. It was attended by the pupils' parents as well as peasants of nearby villages. This meeting turned into a warm expression of the Korean people's deep gratitude and love for the Chinese People's Volunteers. A 70-year-old man, firmly grasping the hands of Company Political Instructor Yang of the Volunteers, was so touched that for a long while he could hardly utter a word of his speech. The children closely crowded around the Volunteers, seizing their hands and excitedly admiring the medals and badges on their tunics. At the meeting, a Korean peasant said: "You are our true friends and brothers. Many thanks for your fraternal help."

The unbreakable friendship between the Chinese and Korean peoples, sealed in blood shed in a common cause, has been strengthened and developed still more since their joint victory over the aggressors. This friendship is a guarantee for the well-being of the Korean people as well as peace in the Far East.

Days With the Brave

Mei Lan-fang

Towards the end of 1953 the third Chinese People's Delegation visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Below we print an article by the noted Chinese actor and Director of the Chinese Drama and Ballad Research Institute, Mei Lan-fang, who was a member of the delegation, in which he records his impressions of the visit.



Mei Lan-fang in Korea

WE met the dauntless Korean people and their army; we met "those who are most beloved," our comrades of the Chinese People's Volunteers. I was deeply moved, so sincere were their words, so firm and warm were their handshakes.

Now we had a chance to see for ourselves what before we had only heard about. Those who have not seen it can hardly visualize the destruction brought to Korea by the U.S. invaders. Ruins stand wherever buildings stood before. But bombs failed to destroy the will of the Korean people. Unshaken and determined, everyone of them stood steadfast at their post. Everywhere, in towns and villages the people are clearing away the ruins and rebuilding their homes. They made me realize with fresh force what is meant by patriotism and internationalism.

No words can describe the strength of Sino-Korean solidarity and friendship. It is impossible to know the profundity of the friendship between the two peoples unless one has seen it manifested in concrete action.

Lo Tieh-kai is the father of the Volunteer Lo Sheng-chiao, who, at the cost of his life, rescued the Korean boy Choi Yong from death in an icy stream. When, at a meeting, this Chinese father met and clasped tightly in his arms the Korean boy, he burst into tears. He could find no words with which to express his feelings, or say what he had wanted to say.

I saw a simple, rough stretcher at an exhibition. It had been carried by one Pak Jai

Kyn, a Korean peasant and an immortal hero. The comrades of the C.P.V. told us about him: Pak was a stretcher-bearer at the battle of Sangkymryung, helping to move the C.P.V. wounded back to the rear. When enemy planes appeared, he had covered the wounded with his own body to save them from the strafing planes. Thus he had laid down his life for others.

As we travelled through the land, everywhere we found our Volunteers helping the Korean people rebuild their homes, their factories, roads and bridges. We greeted them from the train windows. We smiled and waved to them.

At a meeting one afternoon, the youngsters of our Children's Dramatic Troupe attached to our delegation were lifted up into the arms of the Korean people, passed from hand to hand and presented with flowers. After the meeting, they were entertained and spent the night in Korean homes. The next day they came back full of gay appreciation for the hospitality of their Korean friends.

At one evening performance, a Korean actress played a scene from the Chinese opera, *The White-Haired Girl*. Wang Kun, a Chinese actress who has played the title role in that fine opera at home, presented her Korean counterpart with a bouquet and there, on the stage, with a common impulse they threw their arms about each other.

How can one express what we felt at that moment when we finally met our Volunteers.

in Korea? In all my sixty years of life, I know of no comparable experience. In the cold of north Korea's winter, these healthy young fighting men, gun in hand, stand on guard in Korea, vigilant defenders of peace. As I looked on them, I involuntarily thought of those happy days which the people of our motherland were able to live in these past few years, of the large-scale economic construction which has gone on in our country guarded by these heroes, of how hard I should work for our motherland so as to be worthy of these splendid sons and daughters of our country, who have steadfastly fought on the battlefronts of Korea for the past three years.

The men of the C.P.V. gave a heartfelt welcome to us of the delegation—people from the motherland. They had washed and pressed their trim uniforms before we arrived, and pinned their medals on their tunics. They had picked us bouquets of flowers. We embraced each other, shook hands heartily. We laughed aloud in our gladness at this meeting. Each inquired after the health of the others.

They provided warm bedding and plenty of food for us. They had built a special dormitory for us. Inside were paper scrolls of welcome. "We built a house on a high hill to welcome our friends!"

When I entered the dormitory, I saw on the wall beside the bed reserved for me a picture of myself taken together with the great Soviet producer, Stanislavsky. There was also a photograph of me taken during the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression when, unwilling to appear on the stage under the rule of the Japanese invaders, I had deliberately grown a moustache. There were also pictures of myself in various roles.

It was difficult to say good-bye when the end of our visit came. As we left for the station, the Volunteers crowded the hilltop and applauded us again. We waved our hands to them in farewell.

Everyone in our theatrical troupe put a special enthusiasm into his work. In order to give as many performances as possible for the Volunteers, we divided our group into two teams. Ours, the second team, was a very small unit of only eighteen actors. It included noted Peking opera actors Chou Hsin-fang,

Cheng Yen-chiu, Ma Lien-liang and myself, a few musicians and stage attendants. Nevertheless we succeeded in presenting four or five lengthy operas at each performance. In some cases even the backstage attendants who had never appeared on stage took some parts in the performances. Sometimes between us we played a total of as many as sixty characters! Sometimes one person would act four or five roles, male or female. Upon completing our performance in one place, we would immediately proceed to the next. We gave our performances in any kind of weather, despite icy winds or chilly rain. None of us had ever had the experience of playing under such conditions, but we all felt an unusual zest for this work. Ignoring the weather, we concentrated our attention on how to give our best at performances and how to make our singing reach the furthest rows at the back. It was an inspiration to us to see the smiling faces of our fighters and hear their enthusiastic applause.

Several Volunteers who had been assigned to look after us were unable to leave the dormitory and thus missed our performances. We deeply regretted this. One day when Lao Sheh, the well-known writer, and Chou Hsin-fang were taking a walk after dinner, they heard some of these Volunteers playing the Chinese violin and singing opera airs in the kitchen. Back at the dormitory, Lao Sheh made the suggestion: "Let's give them a special performance!" We immediately organized a group and put on a show for them accompanied by the Chinese violins of the two Volunteers. The news spread quickly and soon the kitchen was filled with all the comrades who were looking after us. Ma Lien-liang, Chou Hsin-fang, Lao Sheh and I all sang. Kao Yuan-chun, the well-known Shantung quick-ballad singer, also gave a performance. It was a happy occasion for us.

Every member of our delegation felt the deepest regret at leaving this heroic land of Korea, the Korean people and their army and the Chinese People's Volunteers who stand day and night vigilantly on guard. The spirit of patriotism and internationalism which we saw so splendidly displayed there will always remain a source of strength to us in our work on the fronts of the economic and cultural construction of our motherland.

The Fushun Automatic Power Station

Our Correspondent

1953, the first year of China's five-year plan, saw an up-to-date, large-scale automatic power station commissioned at Fushun, in Northeast China, the country's largest coal mining centre. This station, generating twice as much power as the automatic Fuhsin station completed in the Northeast in 1952, is now supplying electricity to factories which have been or are being built in Fushun and in the southern part of Northeast China. It is one of the several big power plants which were built in 1953 in Taiyuan, Chengchow, Chungking, Sian, Tihua and other places.

The Fushun station's installations are on the most up-to-date lines. The whole production process—from the dumping of coal to the supply of power to the consumers—is automatic. So far as equipment and the power capacity are concerned, the plant is far superior to any power plant built in old China. The completion of this and other power plants of the same type demonstrates that China has started to build its large-scale power industry on the most advanced and up-to-date technical basis.

The essential requirements of a power plant are that it should guarantee safe and regular transmission of power to its consumers—the factories, the manufacturers, the cities and villages. The way in which it fulfils these requirements is the criterion of its technical efficiency.

The equipment of the Fushun station fully guarantees the safe and continuous transmission of power to its consumers, and assures the safety of its service personnel.

All low-voltage transmission lines in the plant are insulated. All moving parts of machines and passage ways among machines are protected by safety rails or shields. Overhead ways are reached by firm, conveniently placed stairs. The exact installations of

the stokers ensure that the air in the workshops is always fresh and free from coal dust.

When I arrived at the Fushun station, I paid a special visit to the boiler room. The boilers are the most complicated and important part of a power plant. A temperature of over 1,400 degrees must be maintained in their furnaces.

Accidents were frequent in the power plants of old China. A worker at the Fushun boiler house told me how the boilers of one power plant exploded in the puppet "Manchoukuo" days, and shattered the whole plant. Pieces of metal burst out like shrapnel in all directions, resulting in many deaths among the workers.

Automatic Safety Devices

Thanks to automatic devices installed in this new plant, the possibility of such explosions is eliminated. A set of improved emergency valves are fitted to the boilers. Under normal pressure, these valves are tightly closed, but if the pressure in the boilers exceeds the limit, the valves automatically open to reduce the pressure and ward off the danger of an explosion.

Automatic warning signals are installed in other shops of the plant. They are the most devoted assistants of the workers. A red light on a board automatically signals if there is any danger of stoppages of installations, and in clear letters, tells where and what the trouble is. At the same time, an alarm is sounded to attract attention to the indicators.

In addition to the safety devices mentioned above, signals which warn of incorrect setting are installed on many parts of the machines to prevent any mistake in operation. If a worker sets a machine going incorrectly, an alarm is sounded and subsides only when the error is corrected. Many important parts of the machinery of the plant have duplicate sets of automatic equipment. If there is a stoppage

of one set, the alternative set automatically takes over the job at once. For instance, the main lubricating oil pumps, the water pumps and the ducts for conveying powdered coal to the furnaces, all have duplicates to guard automatically against stoppages.

Such automatic equipment not only makes the operation of this power plant highly efficient and safe, but frees the workers from heavy manual labour. Because of inadequate equipment, workers in the old power plants have to do many heavy and dangerous jobs by hand. In the Fushun station such work is handled by machinery. For instance, workers no longer stoke coal into the furnaces with shovels. This is now done by machinery. Coal is automatically dumped into bunkers from the coal trains and transported thence by conveyor to a mill where it is pulverized and blown under air pressure into the furnaces. Thus no manual labour is necessary in moving coal to the furnaces. One of the most important jobs in the boiler room is to keep a wary eye on the temperatures of the boilers. In the old plants several dozen thermometers are needed to measure temperatures in different parts of the boilers and the attendant has to run up and down all day to check the temperatures. Now in the Fushun plant he has only to press a button and the exact temperature of a particular part of a boiler appears on an indicator.

The three shops of the plant each have control panels on which there are lines of buttons. Sitting at this point the worker can control the operations of all installations simply by pushing the buttons.

This up-to-date automatic equipment has made it possible to give the workers excellent conditions of labour.

All the low temperature pipes are wrapped around with four layers of asbestos while high temperature pipes have even thicker wrappings. Such insulation keeps temperatures normal in the workshops. This not only protects the health of the workers, but conserves a large amount of heat. It was usually considered impossible to avoid noise or hum of machines in industrial workshops, especially in turbine rooms. Yet utter quiet reigns in all the workshops of the Fushun plant. The turbine generator works noiselessly. Engineer Chu of the turbine room told me that this machine was of the latest Soviet construction. He explained that its noiselessness was due to its exceptionally low coefficient of vibration.

This great modern Fushun power station is only one of a growing number which will be built as the industrial construction of China develops. These plants will greatly expand and consolidate the power base of China's industry, one of the essential conditions of the Socialist industrialization of the country.

On the Changshan Islands

Fang Ai

I recently visited the Changshan Islands which lie in the Yellow Sea 90 kilometres west of Dairen. Their population, which numbers about 40,000, is mainly engaged in fishing. The fisherfolk live in seashore villages in clean and well-built little stone houses. From the hill which dominates the main island, you can see a numerous group of islands studded in the blue-green main.

Before the liberation, the Changshan Islands were under the domination of the Japanese invaders and the despotic fish merchants who acted like regular gangsters in their dealings with the fishermen. Working hand in glove with the Japanese, they established groups like the Marine Products Company which mercilessly robbed and exploited the fishermen, making them sell their catch at extremely low

prices and pay usurious interest rates on the loans they were forced to contract.

Under the oppression of these fiends, many of the fishermen went bankrupt and were forced to work for them, receiving incredibly low wages and leading a life of extreme poverty. Fisherman Chou Chuan-hung once owned two large fishing boats with all the necessary gear, but he fell into the clutches of the Yushen Company. Bit by bit over the years he was compelled to mortgage his house, fishing boats, equipment and finally everything he possessed. In the end, the whole family were driven to destitution. In like manner, most of the fishermen were reduced to bitter want and privation as a result of the ruthless exploitation of the Japanese and the despotic fish merchants. Recalling those terrible days, fisherman Wang Chin-shou told me:

“At that time we couldn’t even dream of having enough to eat or wear. How could there be any talk of increasing production?”

More Production, Better Life

The Changshan Islands were liberated from the Japanese in 1945, and soon the fishermen were also freed from the gangster rule of the fish merchants. They began a new life. The People’s Government advanced them loans which, in 1950 alone, enabled 732 fishermen to buy all the fishing gear they needed to get back into profitable production. At the same time, the People’s Government took steps to help them improve their techniques and organize themselves into mutual-aid groups and production and other cooperatives. Supplies of articles needed for production and consumer goods were assured the fishermen through the cooperatives and help was given them in transporting and selling the catch.

These measures soon had concrete results in bigger catches and a better livelihood for the fishermen. The care and aid they received from the government gave a big boost to their morale, and they determined to do all they could to increase production by improving their fishing techniques and fishing implements. Wang Teh-pen, a veteran fisherman, using a new method of surveying, discovered new fishing grounds and set a new record by catching

over ten tons of herring in 1953. The whole fishing community on the Changshan Islands participated in the movement to increase production and practise economy, and scored a brilliant success. They have extended the fishing season from eight to ten months, and the Changshan Islands’ catch has risen steadily from year to year. It reached 15,000 tons in 1953, a 61 per cent increase over that of 1950. The earnings of fishermen have also increased in step with rising production. The average income of a fisherman’s family in 1953 was three times that of 1952.

The fishermen’s life on Changshan is now one of increasing well-being and happiness. I visited Sung Chi-shou. His is a family of seven. Sung himself is a sailor on a freighter, while his eldest son, Sung Pao-hsien, is a member of a mutual-aid fishing group. Now the family’s income is not only enough to enable them to eat and dress well, but also put aside some savings. Sung Chi-shou’s other children—a boy and a girl—go to primary school. The family now lives in a new house built since the liberation, and there is an atmosphere of plenty and comfort in this home: there are new printed cloth curtains on the windows; in one of the rooms there is a lacquered redwood chest and a full wardrobe; the beds are covered with padded quilts; a brand-new mirror hangs on the wall.

There are plenty of goods now in the local shops. The manager of the cooperative store told me that its average monthly turnover exceeded 520 million yuan. In the first ten months of 1953, it sold about 100,000 metres of cotton cloth, that is, double the amount sold during the whole of 1952.

This growing material prosperity has enabled the fisherfolk to satisfy their increasing demands for cultural activities and education. Before the liberation there were only five primary schools on the Changshan Islands and these were housed in dilapidated buildings, without desks or benches. Now there are 24 primary schools up to the fourth form, five primary schools and one secondary school. There are 6,200 pupils in the primary schools, five times more than before the liberation, and all children of school age now have the opportunity

to study. There are schools now even on the two remotest islands, where previously not a single person knew how to read or write. Every fishing village also has its winter schools and literacy classes for the fishermen and the womenfolk. Film shows and theatrical performances are now regularly brought to the Islands, and there is also a growing number of young amateur singers who give performances of their own compositions. Drinking and gambling, which were common practice among the fishermen in the past, now have no part in

the new life of Changshan's islanders, who have plenty of rational enjoyments to entertain them and no sorrows to drown in drinking.

Wang Teh-pen, who is a labour hero and leader of the mutual-aid fishing group of Hotaochun Village, told me enthusiastically:

"Ours is only a mutual-aid group at present, but we are preparing to reorganize it into a production cooperative in 1954. Pay us a visit later, and instead of little fishing boats, you'll see something to surprise you—motor sailboats and launches!"

A Short Story

A New Home

Ai Wu

AS the train approached the city, Ho Hsueh-ying looked eagerly out of the carriage window. The innumerable lights of the city beamed like so many happy and friendly eyes smiling a hearty welcome to her, and her heart was filled with joy. Unconsciously her red lips had curved into a smile, but catching herself in time, she bit her lips gently so that the passengers sitting opposite her might not see her excitement.

The cold wind from the snowy plain closed in around her as soon as she stepped down from the carriage. But she did not feel the cold. She put down her suitcase, bedding roll and the two baskets, and looked eagerly all around. The light on the platform was not too bright. She saw many dark figures boarding the train and still more moving towards the over-pass. From nearby came the glad cry of a man:

"Ah, there you are!"

The voice of a woman promptly replied happily:

"Ah! There's your Daddy, Baby!"

The couple went off, one hugging the child, the other carrying the luggage. Hsueh-ying was

finally left all alone on the platform. She peered again from left to right. She was really alone. She began to feel a little unhappy.

"Didn't he say in his letter that he would definitely come to meet me?"

The locomotive snorted and rumbled out of the station.

Now, standing forlornly on the platform, she suddenly felt that everything around her was cold and strange. Even the shining windows seemed distant in their attitude. It was then that she felt the bite in the wind; her face and neck were freezing, and her ears hurt from the cold. Wrapping the loosened red scarf more snugly around her neck, she plucked up her courage and walked resolutely towards the over-pass with the bedding roll slung on her back, the suitcase in her right hand and the two baskets, one filled with eggs and the other with red dates, in her left.

She and Wei Chen-chun had been married nearly six months, but most of that time she had led a lonely life, except on the few occasions when he had come home on holiday. Although she lived with her parents-in-law, they were not much company. On ordinary days, she was happiest when she was working with the other women of the

The author is a well-known writer.

village weeding the wheat fields, or singing songs together while working among the *kaoliang*. Another source of joy to her was her husband's letters. In a recent one, he had mentioned that the factory was building more houses for the workers. "As soon as the new buildings are ready, you'll come and we'll live together." What glad news! Since then, every time she wrote, she never forgot to ask: "Is the new house ready?" Finally, there came the letter saying that he had been allotted rooms in the new buildings and asking her to go to him at once. Extremely pleased, she had sent him a rather childish letter: "You know I've never been in a train before. I'm scared of such a long journey. How am I to find you in such a big city where you are? I'll be all alone. Please, please, come back to get me, I beg you!" When in reply her husband said that he could not come to fetch her because he was doing some urgent work, she wept with disappointment. She didn't even bother to read over carefully the most important part of that letter, which said: "The five-year plan will start soon! We want to lay a firm foundation for it by fulfilling our task in hand with flying colours. We even wrote to Chairman Mao to tell him that we are determined to accomplish our 1952 plan twenty days ahead of schedule. All of us are in high spirits; no one wants to ask for leave and everyone refuses even to take his day-off. Just think, could I come back to fetch you at such a time? Please understand me."

She threw the letter on the table and cried petulantly: "Is he really that busy?" However, she quickly got over her disappointment and went out happily to buy eggs and red dates for her husband, knowing that these were his favourites. The next day, she followed the directions in his letter—"Ask someone to take you to the railway station"—and took her place contentedly in the train, trusting in his words when he wrote, "I will certainly meet you at the station."

But now she had arrived—and he was not there to meet her. Slowly, she walked across the over-pass, down the ramp and into the passengers' waiting room. There, she put her luggage on the ground and decided that she would sit down and rest a bit while she plucked up courage to inquire about the whereabouts of her new home. She knew that she need only ask to find the place where it was; it would not be difficult. But she was really hurt that her husband had not come to meet her. Staring at the basket of fresh eggs and the basket of red dates, she reflected bitterly:

"I think of him every day, every hour, but he is so unconcerned about me."

Just at this point, a young woman came in. She had a scarlet wool kerchief over her hair, and her chubby round face, flushed from the cold, looked cheerful and energetic. She wore a black cotton-padded overcoat, unbuttoned, so that the red and white print of the bluish jacket she wore under the coat was set off most attractively under the lamp light. Catching sight of Hsueh-ying, she ran to her and exclaimed:

"Ah, now I've found you!" Putting her fur-gloved hand to her heart in a gesture of relief, she continued: "I had to run so, for fear I might be late and miss you . . . Oh, do you still recognize me? . . . I am Pang Yueh-hsiang."

At first Hsueh-ying was surprised to be accosted by the other young woman whom she thought looked familiar, but whose name she couldn't remember. But on hearing the name Pang Yueh-hsiang, she felt her cheeks burn, and blushed to the ears from embarrassment. More than a year ago when Yueh-hsiang was still living in the village, the two had quarrelled over the cutting of wood and grass on a hill-side. After that incident, every time they met in the village they had turned their backs upon each other. It was really embarrassing to see her here so unexpectedly, the more so since Yueh-hsiang had come here specially to meet her!

But Yueh-hsiang seemed to have forgotten their former squabble. She said affectionately:

"We heard long ago that you were coming, only I didn't know the exact date. Just now Old Wei phoned the Family Committee, so I immediately left the dinner table and rushed here. I was afraid that, being a stranger to this city, you wouldn't find our place. Have you been waiting long?"

Hsueh-ying was dumbfounded. She felt even more embarrassed to find Yueh-hsiang being so nice to her.

"Not too long. . . . But where is Chen-chun? . . . I am afraid this is too much trouble for you. . . ." she replied bashfully, her face still burning.

"He is still in the workshop. But trouble for me? what are you talking about! This is just the kind of thing we members of the Family Committee should do," said Yueh-hsiang, glancing at her with a smile. Then she walked her towards the main exit, saying: "Wait here a moment while I go and get a cab."

Looking at Yueh-hsiang's back, Hsueh-ying thought:

"She has put on weight. How much she has changed in a year! . . . And how stupid I was, not

to know what to say to her . . . Yet in the past I wasn't behind her in anything." Hsueh-ying couldn't help feeling vexed. She felt even more annoyed with her husband for not coming to meet her himself. "If you don't come, all right, but why ask her to come? . . ."

Even after they got into the cab, Hsueh-ying still felt embarrassed. She sat with her eyes fixed on the pair of clumsy cotton-padded gloves on her hands. The trotting of the horse's hoofs and the whirling of the wheels over the snow-covered road gave out a monotonous sound, punctuated now and then by the driver cracking his whip.

Pang Yueh-hsiang found the silence uncomfortable and she felt obliged to say something to relieve the other's constraint. Pointing to the buildings outside the cab's window, she said with pride:

"That's our factory over there. Its lights brighten up half the sky! The iron-smelting plant is over there where those two columns of red smoke are spurting out of the blast furnace. Further on is the steel mill with its long row of chimneys. Both Old Wei and Old Chang are working there. . . ."

Hsueh-ying stared out of the window as she listened. They were passing seemingly endless rows of gigantic buildings studded with innumerable bright lights. Flashes of sapphire blue flickered in some of the buildings, while around several others, dark-yellowish smoke, with a red glow, curled up high into the black sky. In the distance tall chimneys and two or three huge structures could be made out dimly. These, Yueh-hsiang said, were gas-holders. Locomotives, trucks, and strange cars such as she had never seen before were in constant movement, their headlights glaring. Every now and then one or the other gave a raucous snort or honk.

Hsueh-ying could not remember the names of the many plants described by Yueh-hsiang; the steel mill was the only one she kept in mind, and she turned to look at it again and again. She thought: "Why, the way they work here they don't even seem to sleep. They work much harder than us peasants." And when she realized that her husband was still working there even at this very moment, she felt a special tenderness for him in her heart.

"Gracious me!" ejaculated Yueh-hsiang, all of a sudden. And she called to the driver: "Old friend, don't drive down this road. They're repairing it. We can't get through."

"Yu! Yu!" cried the driver, turning his horse down another street. As the cab sped along the

road, they suddenly saw before them several tall, brightly-lit buildings, trim and neat, some on individual plots, others in rows. The buildings were widely spaced, and the light from the houses shone on the snow-covered ground in between. Radios were playing music and songs. They heard the strains of "We are busy every evening and every day. We workers have the strength. . . ."

Yueh-hsiang pulled Hsueh-ying's sleeve gently and, unable to hide her feeling of happy pride, exclaimed:

"Look, these are all houses for us workers. In the spring, all the families plant flowers around their homes, and when you open your windows you can smell the fragrance instantly."

Yueh-hsiang became more animated as she talked on. Always on the enthusiastic side, she was intensely interested in everything. She then turned to the sanitary conditions of this residential district.

"The anti-epidemic work around here went very well. Our Family Committee has mobilized the housewives and they've given the neighbourhood a thorough cleaning. We also elected the best ones as models. Tomorrow I'll give you a good look around. Wherever you go, you'll see that every home is spick and span. There's not a germ dropped by those American devils that can get by us! We've beaten them thoroughly! . . ." Then she asked: "How's the anti-epidemic work in the village? . . ."

"Things are not what they used to be." Hsueh-ying replied, tossing back a lock of hair that had fallen over her eyes. Her usual vivacity was restored, and as always, she was determined not to let her village down. She continued: "We catch insects and clean the yards everyday. The district government even said ours is a model village for cleanliness. Members of our Sanitation Committee have been awarded prizes and they got beautiful red rosettes to wear."

"I'm sure you got one!"

"What can one do when they insist!"

"That's very nice," Yueh-hsiang said with praise and satisfaction in her voice. She could not refrain from adding: "But our job here is more difficult. There are only a few score families in a village, here we have thousands and thousands of families. To organize them all, we have to have scores of Family Committees alone. This germ war is no small matter; it's got us Committee members working busy as bees. We have to educate and

lead the people and we also have to check up on the work done. We went from one household to another; you know you can't slip up on a single one."

"We were terribly busy too in the village. We'd be criticized if we overlooked a single point." Hsueh-ying added.

"That's true," Yueh-hsiang said. Addressing the driver, she called: "Old friend, please hurry a bit. I still have a meeting to go to." By the light of a street lamp, she looked at her watch, and then said to Hsueh-ying: "Here we are busy even in the evenings; it's not like living in the country."

Hsueh-ying made no reply. But she thought impatiently: "Why aren't we there yet!"

The crisp crack of the whip sounded through the biting wind. The horse started a faster trot.

At last they arrived before a row of buildings where Yueh-hsiang told the driver to stop. Then she cried out cheerfully: "Ah, Old Wei must be back. See, the lights are on."

Hsueh-ying couldn't tell which were the windows of her new home. But to her all the windows seemed bright and shining, as if smiling their welcome. The sound of sweet music came from them. How happy she was!

Having paid the driver, Yueh-hsiang walked on ahead, carrying the suitcase and the basket of red dates. Hsueh-ying followed close behind her, carrying the bedding roll and the basket of eggs. A short walk led them to the door. As she entered, Yueh-hsiang cried out laughingly:

"Hey, Old Wei! Why don't you come out to welcome your wife."

Hsueh-ying was sure that her husband would rush out to greet her with open arms. But no one appeared and her heart sank again. Wei Chen-chun was nowhere to be seen even after they entered the front door. But three women and a man came out to meet them. The women's hands were white with flour, and the man held a broom in one hand. Hsueh-ying did not know any of them; she was afraid that Yueh-hsiang had led her into somebody else's home by mistake. But these strangers were extremely nice. Smiling, they relieved her of the things she was carrying. Someone brought her a stool to sit on. As soon as she sat down, a steaming cup of tea was put into her hands as if they were greeting a guest of the house. Still, Hsueh-ying felt greatly put out because her husband had not appeared. She was on the verge of crying and held back her tears with an effort.

With a glance at Ho Hsueh-ying, Yueh-hsiang asked the man:

"Old Li, how is it you are all back, but Foreman Wei is not yet home?"

Glancing at Hsueh-ying, Old Li replied:

"Don't you know what sort of person Old Wei is? Whenever anything special has to be done at the plant, he forgets everything else, and simply can't tear himself away from the workshop. He finished his own work at four o'clock in the afternoon. But he was worried that the next shift might not be able to carry on properly and would let down the quality of the steel in the furnace. That's why he gave me the key to the house. You don't know how urgent the present job is." And he cast another glance at Hsueh-ying.

Hsueh-ying lowered her head, and gave her eyes a quick dab. She felt hurt, thinking: "He doesn't care in the least for me; he doesn't come home even when his own work is done."

Pang Yueh-hsiang didn't notice Hsueh-ying's disappointment. She was easily roused. Pouting her lips she said protestingly in a loud voice:

"Who says I don't know! Now don't be funny! Who doesn't know that the steel you people produce is needed everyday for the capital construction of our country? I know all about what you're doing!"

Hsueh-ying could not understand all this talk about the factory. She had the feeling that Pang Yueh-hsiang was showing off in front of her, and yet she couldn't help listening attentively. She hoped that they would continue to talk about her husband.

Old Li asked Yueh-hsiang with a teasing air:

"Since you know so much, let me ask you, what sort of steel is required for capital construction these days?"

"You needn't laugh. So you think I don't know? Let me ask you isn't it what is called 'Ping-San' steel?" Yueh-hsiang was really not quite so sure what it was so although she still sounded confident she said it in the form of a question.

Old Li burst out laughing, his roguish eyes twinkling. "If it was 'Ping-san' steel, then there'd be no problem. But now we don't need 'Ping-san' steel for capital construction; we need 'Kang-san' steel instead. It's a new kind of steel indispensable for the frames of factory buildings. Remember that so that next time you go bragging you won't get things mixed up again!"

Hsueh-ying was inexplicably pleased to see Yueh-hsiang thus corrected by someone right in front of her, although she could not understand such terms as capital construction, "Ping-san" or "Kang-san." Somehow she suddenly lost all her dislike and envy for Yueh-hsiang.

"If I knew so much about everything, I could be the foreman in charge of the furnace myself!" retorted Yueh-hsiang, blushing violently in her discomfort.

"Pooh! So you think it's easy to be the foreman in charge of the furnace?" said Old Li pulling a long face to hide his smile. Then he added in a chiding tone, "You just try! It's no easy matter to produce 'Kang-san' steel. It's enough to worry one to death. Old Foreman Wan of the second shift worked until his eyes were bloodshot and his clothes scorched, yet he couldn't make it. Yesterday he was so upset he almost cried. Just think what would happen if on account of your failure the supply of steel should run short and capital construction get delayed. What would you do? Of course, it's easy for you women just to talk."

Hsueh-ying lifted her head and looked at Old Li in amazement. She couldn't help thinking: "Ah, is it as difficult as all that?" She felt worried on account of her husband; she pictured him with bloodshot eyes and scorched clothes.

But Yueh-hsiang was not going to stand for Li's teasing. She exclaimed: "My goodness, you make it sound so remarkable. Any one would think you steel workers were born that way! After all, you only get your skill by learning. Let me ask you, isn't there a woman foreman in the iron-smelting plant?" Turning to Hsueh-ying, she told her warmly, "You know, there are women here who lead the menfolk in work, too!"

"Ah!" Hsueh-ying was wide-eyed with surprise and admiration.

"Ha! But that's in smelting iron, not in making steel!" Old Li complacently turned up his nose while his face expressed his scorn.

"Humph! don't look like that, you scamp! Sooner or later women will begin to make steel and then we'll show you!"

"Oh yes, and you'll be foremen, too!" Old Li laughed. "But remember, don't you start to weep over the job as Old Wan nearly did!"

Hsueh-ying knitted her brows; she felt quite disgusted with Old Li. She simply couldn't stand the contempt he expressed towards women. In the mutual-aid team back in the village, her work was always as good as any of the men's.

"My gracious! It seems your foreman is the only remarkable person around!" said Yueh-hsiang. Her face was flushed and there were beads of perspiration on her forehead from the heat of the argument.

"Of course he's remarkable!" Old Li turned to Hsueh-ying and nodded knowingly: "It's difficult to find the man to match him! The day he tapped that 'Kang-san' steel, the director, the Party secretary and the chairman of the trade union all came around to congratulate him. They shook his hand and pinned a red rosette on his chest. It's a pity you weren't here to see it. Did Old Wei tell you about this in his letter?"

"No," Hsueh-ying replied in a small voice. She was slightly vexed with Wei Chen-chun for not telling her about such things in his letters; at the same time, she was very pleased because her husband had won such a great honour.

"Well, you'll have a chance to see such things in the future," Old Li told her consolingly. "Here in our factory, if you become a model worker, the trade union will send the awards you won right to your door in a car with a band of drums and trumpets. It's a real sight! All the neighbours come and applaud." Then he turned to Yueh-hsiang and added, "I bet Old Wei will be elected a model worker this year."

Yueh-hsiang sat sipping tea. Now she said mockingly, "I think there's hope for you, too, for your wagging tongue alone, if not for anything else."

"Of course!" retorted Old Li. Pausing for a few seconds, he told Hsueh-ying, speaking now with feeling: "But for that matter, we're no equals of Old Wei. When he works he forgets himself completely and gives his all. Since he was admitted to the Party, he's become even more energetic. Even after his shift he's usually near the furnace, seeing to this or that. When the Soviet experts come, he always has a deal of questions to ask them. Sometimes he goes after the technicians when they have already gone home. . . ."

A woman, her hands sticky with dough, came in looking for something. On her way back to the kitchen, she couldn't help cutting in:

"Speaking of Old Wei, there's certainly many things to say. Take holidays for instance: On his day-off he'll still go to the workshop for a look around. We were teasing him the other day; we asked him why he applied for a flat; he might just as well take his bedding and go sleep near his beloved furnace!"

Then she smiled, glanced meaningfully at Hsueh-ying and went into the kitchen.

Hsueh-ying liked to hear them praise her husband. At the same time she was a little worried about him. "Ai, he should also think a little of his own health."

Several other women came in, carrying babies in their arms. They greeted Hsueh-ying and told her, smiling:

"Sorry we're a bit late. Is there anything left for us to do so that we too can help?"

"Yes, you can help prepare dinner," Yueh-hsiang reminded them with a smile. "We were so busy talking we nearly forgot that our guest from afar hasn't eaten yet!"

Hsueh-ying immediately protested, saying:

"Please sit down, all of you, and don't bother, I really can do it myself."

The woman who had just entered the kitchen promptly popped out her head and said:

"Dinner's nearly ready! Just now when we came in we found flour and meat in the kitchen so we started right away to make meat dumplings."

"You people manage real quickly!" Yueh-hsiang said approvingly. She turned around to Hsueh-ying and couldn't help telling her proudly, "You see, all this is the work of our Family Committee!"

"I've a share in it too!" said Old Li, grinning teasingly. "Just now when I brought the key back I mobilized them. When they heard how our foreman is devoting himself to national construction, they dropped their own work at home and came here to help." Then, looking at the women who came late, he joked: "These backward elements were kept back by their children."

The women also mocked him: "But we can still help in preparing the food. Whereas you, the advanced element, only know how to stand here and gab."

"Make him go and help fill the meat dumplings!" one woman ordered in pretended wrath.

"Yes, go! Go to the kitchen!" Two others were about to seize him.

At that point, the loudspeaker in the corridor came to Old Li's rescue. He raised his hand for silence:

"Quiet! Listen! It's time to study!"

With these words, he folded his arms over his chest in mock solemnity to show that his business here was finished. Then, he strode off with a mischievous smile.

"The rascal!" cried the women, chuckling.

But Yueh-hsiang said seriously,

"Comrades, let's go right away! We've got to stick to our Patriotic Pact and not let the teacher wait for us!"

The three women in the kitchen came out still wiping their hands. They went to Hsueh-ying and said:

"We have to go now to attend class. Do you think that you can manage the rest yourself?"

The moment she entered the flat, Hsueh-ying had noticed that the women were kneading dough. But she wasn't clear what it was for. Only now did she realize that they were preparing dinner for her! She was deeply moved. Her face flushed, she stammered:

"That's too, too. . . ."

Yueh-hsiang was the last to go. At the door, she turned around to add,

"Old Wei may be very late; you boil the dumplings and eat first!"

Hsueh-ying was happy to see that everyone showed such respect and affection for her husband. She determined that however hungry she was, she would wait for him and they would eat together.

Now that she was alone in the flat, she gave herself up to the joy of inspecting her new home. Everything was brand-new! The walls were as white as snow and the window panes were bright. On the new iron bed was a bedspread with pink flowers. The newly-painted tables and chairs gave out a mellow glow. Even the picture of Chairman Mao on the wall was a new one. This filled her heart with special delight. Then she went in to the kitchen, where she found that there, too, everything was new—there were new pots and pans, bowls, cooking spoons and knives and a new cupboard. She was very satisfied when she saw there was running water and even a gas cooker in the kitchen, saying to herself, "No need to carry water from the well and chop the firewood now! How nice and convenient!" Then she opened the door of a small room, where she found the flush toilet. Much surprised, she remembered that only a cinema in the county town had such a convenience. She walked around the rooms, looking at this and that; happiness seemed to well up from her heart and she could hardly stop smiling. She wanted very much to find someone near and dear to tell him or her the joy in her heart. Finally, she could contain herself no longer and warmly addressed the picture of Chairman Mao on the wall:

"Chairman Mao, don't you think our new home is really fine! . . ."

Just then, there was a noise at the door and in came Wei Chen-chun pushing his bicycle. His brown, ruddy, strong face looked thinner, but on it was an expression of great joy. He exclaimed, "Oh, you've come!" And then he looked a bit uneasy and said, "Ai, sorry I wasn't able to come and meet you as I promised in my letter! . . ."

Hsueh-ying actually meant to upbraid him, at any rate she was going to pout a bit and say something like: "So you take me so much for granted!" But now face to face with her husband, she found it impossible to utter such words. She helped him with the bicycle, and without lifting her head, said in a low voice:

"That's all right. You've been too busy at work!"

With the bicycle safely out of the way, Chen-chun took Hsueh-ying into his arms. Gazing at her brown, oval, and intelligent face tinged with a faint blush, he said affectionately: "You know, many trains come to the plant bringing ores or the molten iron from the blast furnace. Every time I heard the whistle blow, I thought of you coming, and just now I was so impatient helping Old Wan finish that heat. As soon as the steel was tapped I got on my bicycle without even waiting to take a bath. The funny thing is, I was in such a hurry I fell off the bicycle."

Hsueh-ying, whose eyes were cast down, looked up at her husband and asked anxiously,

"Are you hurt?"

"It was nothing," said Chen-chun, smiling. "I just fell on the snow. . . . Were you impatient waiting for me? I know you must have cursed me, didn't you?"

"I don't blame you at all!" said Hsueh-ying. "They all came to help, and arranged everything very nicely. They even helped make meat dump-lings."

"Let me go boil the dumplings for you!" She chattered on happily at the same time freeing herself from Chen-chun's arms.

"Haven't you eaten yet? How you must have waited. Let me go and boil the dumplings for you. Why, you must be very tired after the long journey," said Chen-chun and headed for the kitchen before Hsueh-ying.

"But it's you who's tired! You worked hard all day and then you helped other comrades with

their work. Now, you go and lie down a bit." Hsueh-ying gave him a gentle push to make him sit down while she herself ran off to the kitchen.

Following her, Chen-chun said gaily:

"I'm not the least bit tired. I'm so happy today, we tapped two heats of 'Kang-san' steel, and now you are here!" Then he asked her tenderly, "Did Pang Yueh-hsiang meet you at the station all right?"

Hsueh-ying poured boiling water from the kettle into the pot, and said with pretended dis-pleasure:

"Why did you ask her to come and meet me?"

"What's the matter? Wasn't she nice to you?" asked Chen-chun a little startled.

"Oh, she's very nice. Only it was rather embarrassing. Didn't you know we had a squab-ble once and were not on speaking terms." Hsueh-ying again blushed inadvertently as she spoke.

"My goodness!" cried Chen-chun chuckling. He stretched out his big strong hand and patted Hsueh-ying on the shoulder, saying at the same time:

"Why do you bother to remember such trifles? Pang Yueh-hsiang has made great progress in the past year. She studies well and works hard. She's nice to people and willing to shoulder responsibility. Everyone has a good opinion of her. She is no longer the old Pang Yueh-hsiang." But suddenly he caught the look on Hsueh-ying's face, and noticed that her lips were pouting. Immediately he chang-ed the subject. "Now that you are here, of course you'll join their studies. I'm sure you'll make big-ger progress than Yueh-hsiang. First of all, you'll be able to accept new things faster than she since your educational level is higher. Besides, you're hard-working, you won't let yourself lag behind anyone in work. And I'm going to help you as much as I can."

Hsueh-ying was happy again. She covered the pot; and tossing back the strand of hair that had strayed to her face, she said eagerly:

"The dumplings will take some time to cook, I brought dates from home, so you come and have some dates first!"

She ran into the bedroom to get the dates.

"Fine, fine! I've been hankering for dates from our own village," said Chen-chun, his heart feeling light and gay. As a matter of fact it was not the dates that made him so gay, it was rather the happy smile which reappeared on Hsueh-ying's face. Happily, he said to himself, "Now, at last we've made a home!"

CHINA TODAY

Economic Construction Bonds

A decision to issue National Economic Construction Bonds was taken by the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China at the beginning of December, 1953.

The purpose of this bond issue is to absorb surplus capital in the hands of the people and use it to speed up the country's economic construction and for the consistent improvement of the people's material and cultural welfare.

The bonds, to the total value of six million million yuan, will be redeemed by annual instalments over eight years. They will be put on sale in January, 1954 and distributed according to the economic conditions of various strata of the people. It is expected that 4,200,000 million yuan of the bonds will be taken up by the urban population and 1,800,000 million by the peasantry. Subscription to the bonds will be on a completely voluntary basis.

This is the second bond issue since the founding of the People's Republic of China. The first was the People's Victory Bonds. Calculated on the basis of parity units, this was issued in 1950 soon after the new state was founded and while its economic and financial difficulties were still being overcome. The sale of these bonds nevertheless was successful.

The new bonds are being issued under completely different conditions. The rapid restoration and development of the national economy has greatly improved the material conditions of the Chinese people and raised their cultural

standards. This provides most favourable conditions for the floatation of the bonds.

The news of the National Economic Construction Bond issue has been warmly greeted by the people throughout the country. Knowing the new bonds are of great significance to the further development of national economic construction, workers, peasants, intellectuals and industrial and commercial circles have all expressed their eagerness to lend their savings to the country.

China's New Textile Mills

By putting 21 newly-built or rebuilt textile mills into production in 1953, China has greatly increased her output of cotton and woollen goods.

The 1953 output of cotton yarn and cotton cloth was more than double that of 1949. The total number of spindles and looms in the country's textile industry has increased by 15.5% and 21% respectively, compared with 1950.

Most of the newly-built textile mills are located in the cotton-growing areas. Immediately after the liberation, over 83% of the cotton produced on the Kuanchung Plain, the biggest cotton-growing area in Northwest China, had to be transported to cotton mills in the coastal areas to be turned into cloth. Now, the cotton mills built in that area take up most of the local cotton supplies. By the end of 1953, the Northwest No. 1 Cotton Mill alone had produced nearly 1,300,000 bolts of cotton cloth, while the number of bolts of cloth produced in the Northwest as a whole is now five times

that produced in 1949. The Hant'an Cotton Mill of Hopei Province is an example of another new mill established in a famous cotton-growing district.

New textile mills have also been built in areas inhabited by the national minorities. For example, the Tienhsin Woollen Mill in the Tienchu Autonomous Region in Kansu Province went into production in 1951. In 1952, a new cotton mill was commissioned in Sinkiang Province.

At the present time, eight new cotton mills are under construction and 20 old textile mills are being reconstructed in China. The construction of four big new cotton mills will start this year in Peking, Shihchiachuang, Sian and Chengchow.

Introducing New Farm Tools

A consistent campaign to introduce new types of farm implements, chiefly improved ploughs, to the farms of the country has been going on ever since 1950. Over 600,000 improved farm implements of various types are now being used and they have played an important role in raising agricultural output.

The People's Government established 11 machine and tractor stations in 1953 in several dry land regions. These stations have given great assistance in ploughing to 5 collective farms, 58 agricultural producers' cooperatives, 39 mutual-aid teams, 9 local state farms and some individual peasants. They are of great significance in helping the peasants increase their production. The Changchih Machine and Tractor

Station in Shansi Province, for example, has ploughed altogether over 12,000 *mou* of land for the Sino-Soviet Friendship Collective Farm in Changchih County. Although this farm suffered from a serious attack of pests and drought in 1953, it still raised a rich autumn crop averaging 271 catties per *mou*, an increase of 19.9% above that of 1952; 33.4% above that produced by the best mutual-aid teams and 47.2% above the average harvest of individual peasants in the same county. The Peking Machine and Tractor Station helped the Red Star Collective Farm plough its land to produce a cotton crop 50% above that of 1952.

Higher Education in NW

Northwest China has made notable achievements in the development of higher education during the past few years. The area now has 14 institutes of higher education, with a total enrolment of over 12,000. This is four times the number of students there in 1949, the year of liberation.

During the past four years, nine institutes, including the Northwest University and Northwest Engineering College, have trained 4,000 specialized personnel; and the enrolment at the colleges or universities for teachers, medical, animal husbandry, veterinary and other kinds of specialists, and especially for engineers, is constantly increasing to meet the ever growing demand for cadres.

Great attention is also being paid to the training of cadres from among the national minorities. About 3,200 students of 16 national minorities are now being trained in the two institutes and one agricultural college established primarily for the minority

peoples. These two institutes have trained no less than 2,000 national minority students who are already serving at various posts.

Before liberation, all the higher educational institutes in the Northwest were extremely short of school buildings and dormitories. None of the school buildings could be considered fit for teaching purposes. From 1952 onwards, new school buildings and dormitories have been built with a total floor space of nearly 38,000 square metres.

As the country has entered upon planned economic construction, the Northwest institutes of higher education have made great improvements in their teaching methods.

All colleges and universities have established various special courses to meet the new demands of national construction. The advanced experience of the Soviet Union has been applied both in planning and organizing teaching work or in teaching methods. Scientific research work has also been improved. The quality of the specialists trained has been greatly raised as a result of the various measures mentioned above.

Chuang Autonomous Region

The Chuang autonomous region in western Kwangsi Province, with an area of over 134,000 square kilometres and a population of about 8,500,000, is the most populous among the autonomous regions already established in China. The Chuang people constitute 64% of the region's population, which includes 11 other national minorities, such as Miaos, Yaos, Tungs, etc.

Great achievements have been made in the political, economic and cultural development of the na-

tional minorities inhabiting this area since the establishment of the autonomous region a year ago.

Following the victorious completion of the land reform in 1953, the organization of the peasants of the various nationalities in the district has been gradually extended. Mutual-aid teams now embrace 13% of the total population. During the past year, the people's government of the autonomous region has loaned large sums to the peasants to help them overcome production difficulties; it has also established many small demonstration farms and agro-technical stations to help them use the new types of farm implements and improve their ploughing technique. Thanks to these measures, the total grain output of the region in 1953 was 8% above that of 1952.

No less than 1,580,000 people of the region have joined the supply and marketing cooperatives, credit cooperatives and consumers' cooperatives. Trade has steadily expanded and the total purchases of local products in 1953 were 50% above those in 1952.

Considerable progress has also been made in the fields of culture, education and public health. The whole region now has 85 middle schools and 15,570 primary schools, with a total enrolment of over 1,150,000 students. There are, in addition, many short courses for reading and writing and spare-time schools for workers and peasants. The winter schools are being attended by 300,000 peasants.

Over 200 hospitals, clinics and maternity and child-care centres are distributed throughout the region, and many cultural centres, amateur dramatic groups and mobile cinemas have also been organized.

RADIO PEKING

ENGLISH LANGUAGE BROADCASTS

Greenwich Mean Time	Frequencies (kc/s)	Metre Bands
03:00 - 03:30 (11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Peking Time)	11960	25
	15060	19
09:00 - 09:30 (5:00 - 5:30 p.m. Peking Time)	640	468.7
	700	428.57
	6100	49
	7500	40
	9040	33
	10260	29
	11690	25
14:30 - 15:00 (10:30 - 11:00 p.m. Peking Time)	15060	19
	700	428.57
	6040	49
	11690	25