

PEOPLE'S CHINA



CONTENTS

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Road to the Peaceful Solution of Asian Questions | |
| Labour Emulation Among China's Working Class | <i>Liu Tze-chiu</i> |
| A New Development in Sino-Indian Relations | <i>Ho Cheng</i> |
| Where a New Metallurgical Base Will Arise | <i>Hsu Chih</i> |
| The Trade Union in Our Plant | <i>Cheng Kuo-tai</i> |
| The Problem of Reforming the Chinese Written Language | <i>Wei Chueh</i> |
| Treasure Seekers on the Sikang-Tibet Plateau | <i>Wang Hsi-ti</i> |
| From Worker to College Student | <i>Hsieh Cheng-chung</i> |
| "The Dream of the Red Chamber" | <i>Yu Ping-po</i> |
| "Plain Perfidy" (Book Review) | <i>Lin Wu-sun</i> |
| CHINA TODAY | |
| SUPPLEMENT: Foreign Minister Chou En-lai's Statements at the Geneva Conference | |

FORTNIGHTLY

10

1 9 5 4

AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE



V. M. Molotov, Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R., and Chou En-lai, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, at a reception given on April 29 by the latter in honour of the Soviet Foreign Minister

The Delegations of the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union at the Geneva Conference. Chou En-lai sits in the third row, third from right. V. M. Molotov is second from right in the fifth row



Road to the Peaceful Solution Of Asian Questions

SINCE April 26, the delegates of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, Britain, France, the United States and other countries concerned have been meeting at the Palais des Nations in Geneva to examine two burning questions of the day in Asia—the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, and the restoration of peace in Indo-China.

Despite all the underhand intrigues of the ruling circles of the United States to wreck it even before it started, this historic conference met on schedule. This fact in itself demonstrates how greatly the possibilities have grown for the peaceful settlement of international disputes through negotiation. It also shows that the earnest desire of the peace-loving peoples of Asia and the whole world for the further relaxation of international tension has developed into a tremendous force that no one dare ignore.

The fact that the People's Republic of China—a great Asian power comprising one-fourth of the world's population—is conferring on an equal footing with other great powers has given the Conference added political significance.

The U.S. Government has always adopted a policy of hostility towards the People's Republic of China. It regards New China's consistently peaceful foreign policy as a main obstacle in the way of the realization of its plan of colonial domination of Asia. Burying their heads in the sand the ruling circles of the United States force themselves to ignore the existence of the People's Republic of China. They pursue a policy of discrimination against the status and rights of the People's Republic of China in the family of nations. These

efforts, however, have completely miscarried. Events at the Geneva Conference have shown the utter bankruptcy of these intrigues. They have proved that no one can negate the position of the People's Republic of China in Asia and the world, or disregard its voice in international affairs.

THE participation of New China in the Geneva Conference reflects the fundamental, historic change that has taken place in Asia.

Historically, the so-called Asian question has always been a euphemism for the squabbles between the various imperialist powers seeking to maintain and extend their colonial rule over this region and to divide it up into their "spheres of influence." The Korean and Indo-China questions of today are precisely the outcome of ruthless efforts to suppress the Asian peoples' struggle for their national independence and freedom; as well as armed intervention in the Asian countries by the Western powers, especially the United States. In discussing Asian questions, the Western powers, particularly the U.S., have never before treated the representatives of the Asian peoples as their equals.

Today, when the Chinese people have freed themselves from the imperialist yoke and are busily engaged in building a strong and prosperous country, the situation in Asia has been fundamentally changed. The tide of the struggle of the peoples in Asian countries to shake off imperialist rule and gain their national independence and freedom is running high. The Asian peoples can no longer tolerate living at the behest of others. The days are gone

forever when the imperialists and colonialists could freely decide the destinies of the Asian peoples, and the Asian peoples had no say in Asian affairs.

The ruling circles of the United States are scheming to turn Asia into their colonial empire by stepping into the shoes of the old colonialists, but these ambitions will certainly be frustrated by the Asian peoples. Speaking at the Geneva Conference on April 28, Foreign Minister Chou En-lai, senior delegate of the People's Republic of China, expressed the aspirations of the hundreds of millions of awakened Asian peoples when he said:

The peoples of Asia, like the peoples of other parts of the world, love peace and freedom. The peoples of Asia suffered for a long time from oppression and enslavement. Their struggle for liberation from foreign imperialist oppression, for national independence and freedom is a just struggle. This march of history is irresistible.

China's Foreign Minister brought to light the irrefutable facts of the U.S. armed invasion of Korea and their sabotage of the peaceful unification of Korea. He gave full support to the proposals of Foreign Minister Nam Il of the Korean Democratic People's Republic concerning the re-unification of Korea and the holding of free all-Korean elections.

Foreign Minister Chou En-lai also pointed out that the further intervention of the U.S. Government in Indo-China and its latest design to organize a so-called "defence community" in the West Pacific and Southeast Asia are aggressive plans threatening peace and security in Asia. They are aimed at establishing a new colonial rule in Asia and preparing for a new world war.

He solemnly declared:

We consider that the aggressive acts on the part of the United States should be stopped, that peace in Asia should be ensured, that the independence and sovereignty of the Asian nations should be respected, that the national rights and freedom of the Asian peoples should be safeguarded. We also hold that interference in the internal affairs of the Asian nations should be stopped, all foreign military bases in Asia be removed, foreign armed forces stationed in Asian countries be withdrawn, the revival of Japanese militarism be prevented and all economic blockades and restrictions be abolished.

The Government of the People's Republic of China considers that the countries of Asia should consult among themselves with a view to seeking common measures to safeguard peace and security in Asia, by assuming obligations mutually and respectively.

These words express the will and aspirations of the Asian peoples which had been suppressed for so long. They point the way to the peaceful settlement of Asian questions and have aroused the enthusiastic response of the peoples throughout Asia.

THE rulers of the U.S. are highly apprehensive of such forceful and just expressions of the will of the Asian peoples and are bitterly set against them. They cannot override the logic of such statements, nor can they find any effective way of camouflaging the U.S. policy of expansion in Asia. All they can do is to use every dirty means to try to discredit this declaration by New China.

U.S. news agencies have tried hard to smear Chou En-lai's proposals as "anti-foreign" and make out that he wants to stake a claim for China's control over all Asia. The U.S. ruling cliques are slandering the common desire of the Chinese people and the peoples of Asia who are struggling to preserve their independence and freedom and to oppose foreign intervention and enslavement; they want to deny to Asian countries the right to consult among themselves and decide on common measures to safeguard peace and security in Asia.

There is nothing new in these tricks played by the U.S. propagandists. Like all their past slanders, however, these new lies will bring them little satisfaction since they run so completely counter to the facts. The truth is that it is the U.S. Government itself and no one else that cherishes the idea of dominating Asia. In fact, far from denying this, high U.S. Government officials have made such claims officially and brazenly. Walter S. Robertson, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Far Eastern Affairs, recently admitted that the U.S. wants to maintain its dominance in Asia indefinitely. It is precisely to dominate Asia, to turn it into a U.S. colonial empire, that the U.S. is trying to set up more and more military bases in Asian countries, interfering in the internal affairs of

these countries and scheming to organize all kinds of aggressive military blocs in this area.

Washington's aggressive ambitions are clear to the great mass of the Asian peoples. Public opinion in the Asian countries has been unanimous in denouncing the U.S. Government for harbouring such designs.

Certain U.S. newspapers have attempted to characterize as "xenophobia" the will of the peoples of various countries in Asia to achieve independence and self-government free from foreign intervention, and their common desire jointly to preserve peace and security in Asia by means of negotiations among themselves. But this really exposes the aggressive ambitions of the U.S. itself.

The cold fact is that while doing their best to step into the shoes of the old colonial powers, the U.S. ruling circles are following the path of the Japanese militarist invasion of Asia and are trying to extend gradually their control over the whole of Asia in the name of "anti-communism." They are trying to turn Asia into a U.S. version of the "East Asia co-prosperity sphere" and build a U.S. colonial empire in Asia.

The efforts of the U.S. Government to revive Japanese militarism are closely linked with this scheme. But who can forget that the Japanese militarists suffered crushing failure in their bid for Asian hegemony. If the U.S. rulers decide to take this fatal course, they will certainly meet with an even worse defeat.

THE Chinese people and the other Asian peoples are not only vitally interested in the peace of their homelands, but are also concerned about peace in other parts of the world. Foreign Minister Chou En-lai eloquently expressed this sentiment in his speech at Geneva on April 28 when he said:

The people of China, like all the peoples of Asia, are concerned not only about peace in Asia but also about peace in Europe and other parts of the world. The policy of reviving German militarism and splitting Europe into mutually hostile military blocs now menaces the peace and security of Europe and at the same time affects the situation outside Europe. It also aggravates

tension and uneasiness in Asia. That is why we consider that to safeguard world peace it is necessary, through negotiation, first and foremost between the great powers, to put an end to the rearmament of Western Germany and to ensure security in Europe on the basis of joint efforts of all the European states, as proposed by the Soviet Union.

We also consider that the interests of peace demand the termination of the armaments race, the reduction of armaments and armed forces, the prohibition of atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction.

The Chinese people are anxious to maintain normal relations with other countries on the principles of mutual respect for each other's sovereign rights, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality, mutual benefit and peaceful coexistence. Carrying out these principles since the time of its founding, the People's Republic of China has established or is in the course of establishing diplomatic relations with more than 20 countries. China's trade with other countries, including the Western European countries, is growing each year. The friendship between China and the Soviet Union is being steadily strengthened and is playing an ever greater part in safeguarding and consolidating peace not only in the Far East but throughout the world. Another instance demonstrating the fruitful application of these principles is the recent conclusion of the agreement between China and India on trade and intercourse between the Tibet region of China and India. These facts forcefully prove that any attempt to discriminate against China is bound to fail.

Asian questions can never be solved by war. Those who try to do so should have learnt their lesson in Korea, as they are learning it again in Indo-China. Logic, based on a recognition of reality, has forced the statesmen of all lands, even of groups that were unwilling to admit it before, to recognize that Asian questions can only be solved by peaceful negotiations.

The way forward has been clearly indicated at the Geneva Conference. The realization of peace in Indo-China and the peaceful unification of Korea will be the first steps forward along this road.

Labour Emulation Among China's Working Class

Liu Tze-chiu

*Member of the Secretariat of the All-China
Federation of Trade Unions*

THE Chinese working class successfully fulfilled and in most cases overfulfilled its targets for industrial production in 1953—the first year of the First Five-Year Plan. The value of the 1953 output of state-owned industries, those jointly operated by state and private capital and those run by the cooperatives, increased by about 34 per cent as compared with 1952. These achievements in the great work of China's socialist industrialization are inseparable from the labour emulation movement organized by the Chinese working class.

Labour emulation arises inevitably when the workers become the leading class in a country, and, instead of toiling to enrich the exploiters, begin to work for themselves, their own class and country. It is only in the Soviet socialist state that labour emulation could have been created and extensively applied; and it is only in the People's Democracies that this example can be learnt and followed on a wide scale. Labour emulation is a special product of the socialist system. It is a development of great historical significance.

In organizing labour emulation, the Chinese working class is learning from the experience of the Soviet Union. Basically, the method involves the following steps: workers and employees are mobilized and organized to discuss the state production plans; the trade unions, acting on behalf of the workers and employees, sign collective contracts with the administration; production meetings are organized to discuss production problems; workers and employees are mobilized and organized to work out and submit rationalization proposals and popularize advanced methods of work; experiences are summed up regularly, work is evaluated and awards and honours are granted to the advanced producers. It is by such methods that the Chinese working class is encouraged to

bring into full play the new initiative and creativeness in labour which arises from the fact that they are now masters of their own country.

Production Plans Discussed

The first step in organizing labour emulation is to mobilize the workers and employees to discuss the state production plans. Such discussion is usually initiated at a meeting of workers and employees sponsored by the trade union, where the responsible personnel of an enterprise report on the production plan assigned by the state. The trade union then leads its workshop branches and small groups in similar discussions, and on the basis of the state plan, maps out emulation undertakings for workshops, work teams and individuals to ensure fulfilment and overfulfilment of the plan. This process enables every worker to understand the political and economic significance of the fulfilment of the state plan, as well as its concrete content and the steps necessary to realize it. The workers' sense of responsibility is thus enhanced and they are stimulated to seek actively for hidden productive potentialities, utilize existing installations fully, and improve tools, the organization of labour and production processes.

Following the discussion of the state plan, individuals, small groups, workshops and enterprises often put forward production plans that are higher than those assigned by the state and discover various ways of working to overfulfil these plans in the course of the emulation movement. During their discussion of the 1954 state plan, for example, work teams in the Changchiakou (Kalgan) Mining Machinery Plant in Hopei Province formulated production plans exceeding the targets set by the state. One team, headed by Li Kung-ling, undertook to raise the quality of 18 per cent of



Young worker Li Ta-lin and veteran worker An Hui-min (1st and 2nd from left) of the Shenyang Heavy Machinery Plant completed an eight-month production quota in the first quarter of this year since mastering the Soviet worker Kolesov's method of lathe-operation and using multi-cutters

its output above the set standard, and to reduce the production time fixed by the state by 20 to 39 per cent. In the course of the emulation campaign, the total value of output in this plant in February this year was 14.9 per cent above plan.

Collective Contracts

Following concrete discussions on the state plan, the trade union in each enterprise signs a collective contract with the administration on behalf of the workers and employees. Such contracts clearly stipulate the conditions to be observed and the actual technical and organizational measures to be taken by the trade union and the administration respectively. This makes the goals of the emulation movement quite clear to all the workers and employees and helps them to take practical steps to fulfil and overfulfil the state plan. Giving effect to the principle of "gradually improving and raising the level of the material and cultural life of the mass of workers on the basis of expanded production," these contracts also stipulate wage rates, bonuses and labour protection measures that must be taken, and the provisions to be made for the workers in the spheres of housing,

social welfare (including nurseries and sanatoria), culture and education (such as clubs, playgrounds, libraries), etc. The interests of the state and the individual interests of workers and employees thus become closely integrated.

In the course of negotiations for the collective contract, the trade unions carry out a wide canvass of rank-and-file opinion. As a result, the contract, once signed, is accepted by all and becomes a programme of action for which every worker has responsibility.

During the period of implementation of the contract, the trade unions also organize the workers and employees to make detailed check-ups to see if the target figures and conditions stipulated in the contract are being fulfilled on schedule, and also to propose concrete technical and organizational measures to ensure their realization. This, in essence, means drawing the broad masses of workers and employees into participating in the management of the enterprises. During the course of such check-ups, criticism and self-criticism is developed on a mass scale and the masses exercise their right of supervision over both trade union and administration activities. Thus, not only is production improved but the link between the masses and the leadership is strengthened.

Production Meetings

Production meetings are effective instruments for launching emulation campaigns. They serve to develop the creative initiative of the workers and employees and make possible the bold exposure and correction of shortcomings in production in a spirit of criticism and self-criticism. These discussions of production problems are conducted by the trade union on the scale of the basic trade union units—the small groups—workshops or entire factories. Leading and experienced workers, the technical personnel and the administrative staff form the active nuclei which lead the masses in discussing and solving current key production problems. The steel plant of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company has solved many important problems this way. For example, it held a special production meeting on the question of waste of raw materials. Adopting a proposal advanced by workers at the meeting, the administration instituted a system of fixed

raw material quotas. As a result, the plant lowered its production costs in September last year by 1,500 million yuan. Following a special production meeting on the quick repair of furnaces at high temperatures, the time for repairs which used to take an average of 90 minutes has been reduced to 20 minutes.

Such meetings are also of great help in improving production and the work of the leadership. In October 1953, for instance, the Anshan steel plant convened a plant-wide production meeting at which the workers submitted more than 100 proposals on safety in production, and on how to improve the style of work of the leadership. Many of these were of great value and had not been considered previously.

Studying Advanced Methods

One of the important methods of developing labour emulation is to mobilize, organize and educate the workers and employees to submit rationalization proposals, and to study and popularize the experiences of the most advanced workers. Now they do so on a large scale, with the fully responsible attitude of masters of the country. They help to improve production conditions, solve key production problems, increase output and economize materials.

Advanced experience is the result of the creative labour of the advanced workers or of their working in close cooperation with the scientific and technical personnel. Armed with such experience the workers as a whole can create more and better products to meet the constantly growing material and cultural needs of the people, in a shorter time, with less intensive labour and in a more economic way. From January to November 1953, workers and employees of factories and mines in Shansi Province submitted a total of 18,115 rationalization proposals, 12,571 of which were adopted. Through increasing production or by reducing costs, 2,596 of these proposals saved 35,600 million yuan for the state. Increased production and economies brought about in the cotton textile industry by the popularization of various advanced methods in 1953 resulted in a saving of 524,300 million yuan more than in 1951. This amount is far more than the capital required to build a new textile mill with 75,000 spindles.

Administrations, the Communist Party committees and trade unions in various enterprises are constantly on the alert to support, study and popularize innovations proposed by the workers and employees. Any tendency on the part of the leading personnel whether of the Party, the administration, the trade union or the Youth League to ignore the importance of rationalization proposals or to neglect the popularization of advanced experience is characterized as bureaucracy and reprimanded as such. This ensures the steady progress of the emulation movement based on the creativeness and initiative of the workers.

Reviews and Awards

To inspire and advance the emulation movement, it is important to regularly review and summarize the experience gained in the campaign and to give suitable awards to the leading groups and individuals. This helps to put the movement on a regular, well-organized basis and to develop it on a broader scale. Leading individuals and production groups which display the greatest labour initiative and creativeness during the campaign and which unite and lead the more backward elements to fulfil their undertakings, are given public recognition in the form of red banners, medals or diplomas. Their achievements are published in newspapers and honour lists and announced over the radio and they are held in high esteem by the broad masses of the people. Moreover, they receive material prizes amounting to a certain proportion of the contribution their efforts have made to the state. The reviewing of the results of emulation campaigns means that the successful achievements of the leading workers are analysed and studied by the broad mass of workers and employees. At the same time, lessons are also drawn from the experiences of those who failed in their undertakings. Thus the movement constantly broadens its popular base.

Such reviews of the achievements of the campaign and awards to the best workers are made separately in each industry, in each factory and mine, on a regional or nation-wide scale. Sometimes they are carried out at meetings of all workers and employees, at conferences of their representatives, or at representa-

tive conferences of model workers. The Second All-China Congress of the Chinese Textile Trade Union held in 1953, for instance, summarized the experiences of the textile workers in the movement to increase production and practise economy, and honours and awards were given to 106 model workers and 24 model units. Among them were Ho Chien-hsiu, initiator of the working method named after her, Chiang Shu-ying, Wang Teh-shan and others who created the "1951 weaving method." The prize-winners were first chosen in the textile mills throughout the country and then approved by a model workers' evaluation committee jointly organized by the Ministry of the Textile Industry and the Chinese Textile Trade Union.

These are some of the most important experiences and methods of organizing labour emulation which the Chinese working class has learnt from the Soviet Union. They have been adapted to the concrete conditions existing in China and are being applied on a broad scale with admirable results.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party and with the help of the Soviet Union, the Chinese working class, full of confidence and energy, is enthusiastically developing the movement of technical inventions and innovations and steadily improving the work of organizing labour. This will further advance labour emulation, greatly increase labour productivity and help to build a great socialist state in China.

A New Development In Sino-Indian Relations

Ho Cheng

AN Agreement on Trade and Intercourse Between the Tibet Region of China and India was signed in Peking on April 29, 1954 following friendly negotiations between delegations of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of India. At the same time certain other matters of detail were agreed upon and came into force in an exchange of notes between the two governments.

The successful conclusion of these negotiations is yet another manifestation of the development of friendly relations between these two countries, which have seen such considerable advances since the founding of the People's Republic of China.

A Traditional Friendship

China and India have a long common border and their peoples have cherished a traditional friendship for many centuries. The people of Tibetan nationality in China, in particular, have always had close economic and social relations with the Indian people. Towards the close of the 19th century, however,

Britain, using India as its base, penetrated into the Chinese territory of Tibet. As a result there appeared a certain abnormality in the relations between India and the Tibet region. The Republic of India naturally bears no responsibility for this state of affairs.

The founding of the People's Republic of China ended the prerogatives which the British Government had obtained by means of unequal treaties forced on the government of the old China. The peaceful liberation of Tibet in 1951 once again provided conditions for the normal development of the time-honoured commercial and cultural relations between the Tibet region of China and India. It was therefore necessary for China and India to re-establish relations involving Tibet on a new basis. The recently concluded negotiations have successfully accomplished this.

On the basis of the new agreement, China and India will establish trade agencies in some of the commercial centres of India and Tibet respectively; both parties have specified certain



The Agreement on Trade and Intercourse Between the Tibet Region of China and India was signed in Peking on April 29 by Chang Han-fu (right), Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Plenipotentiary of the Central People's Government, and Nedyam Raghavan (left), Ambassador of India to China and Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Republic of India. Standing centre is Soong Ching Ling, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government

places as markets for the traders of both countries. Pilgrims of the Lamaist and Buddhist faiths of both countries will have facilities for travelling in both countries; Indian pilgrims of the Hindu faith may also visit Tibet. Traders, inhabitants of the border districts, porters and mule-team drivers of both countries will have facilities for crossing the border.

According to the Agreement, the Indian Government gladly agrees to withdraw its military escorts stationed at the trading posts of Yatung and Gyantse in Tibet near the Indian border. It will also turn over to the Chinese Government at a reasonable price the postal, telegraph and public telephone services together with their equipment, and rest houses in Tibet formerly operated by the Government of India. These measures which demonstrate the respect of the Indian Government for China's territorial integrity and sovereignty are in full accord with the common interests and traditional friendship of the peoples of the two countries.

This agreement has thus removed all traces of former British aggression in the Chinese territory of Tibet; it will furthermore serve to strengthen the economic and cultural ties between China and India.

Asia suffered for a protracted period from the ravages of the imperialist powers. But

since the Second World War the situation here has undergone a radical transformation. Hundreds of millions of the awakened peoples of Asia have become masters of their own destiny; yet other millions are at this moment struggling valiantly for their national independence and freedom. The peoples of Asia stand for friendship and cooperation among nations. They are of the opinion that affairs in Asia should be settled by the Asian peoples themselves. The liberated Chinese people have learnt from experience the importance of these principles. That is why, having founded their own people's republic, they have consistently and faithfully supported these principles, pursued a peaceful foreign policy and always shown their readiness to develop economic and cultural intercourse with other countries on the basis of mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit.

Friendly Negotiations

This Sino-Indian agreement demonstrates how relations among the Asian nations should be dealt with; it is an example in promoting the peaceful coexistence of nations through friendly negotiation. Because both parties strictly adhered to the inviolable principle of

mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereign rights, these negotiations were carried on throughout in a cordial and harmonious atmosphere and resulted in a successful agreement. The obligations assumed by both countries, as stipulated in the Agreement, are reciprocal and in the interests of the two peoples. As Premier Chou En-lai said in his message of greetings to Premier Nehru following the conclusion of the Agreement:

The signing of this agreement not only further strengthens the friendship between the peoples of China and India, it also fully demonstrates the fact that a reasonable settlement can be achieved for any international question so long as the nations abide by the above-mentioned principles and adopt the way of negotiation.

The enemies of peace see peaceful negotiations as formidable obstacles to their aims. They do not want peaceful negotiations to be successful, nor do they want to see the growth of friendship and unity among the peoples of Asia. For this reason they fabricated despicable rumours to exacerbate Sino-Indian relations during the negotiations. Today, how-

ever, the true facts have shattered all these shameful intrigues. Once again it is proved that no one can frustrate the people's desire for friendship and cooperation among the nations.

At the reception given by the Indian Ambassador to China on January 26, 1951 on the occasion of the first anniversary of the founding of the Republic of India, Chairman Mao Tse-tung said:

People all over the world need peace; only a few people want war. India, China, the Soviet Union and all other peace-loving countries and peoples, unite together to strive for peace in the Far East and throughout the world!

Today, as they greet the signing of the Sino-Indian Agreement, the Chinese people will continue their efforts in answer to the call of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. They will strive for the full implementation of this agreement, for the further development of the traditional friendship between the peoples of China and India, for the strengthening of the unity of the peoples of Asia and of the world, and for the preservation of peace in Asia and throughout the world.

Where a New Metallurgical Base Will Arise

Hsu Chih

Our Special Correspondent

RECENTLY I paid a visit to Huangshih in Hupeh Province, a new industrial town on the banks of the Yangtze where the gigantic Central China Iron and Steel Works is to be constructed. This is one of the key projects of China's First Five-Year Plan. When completed, it will, like the Anshan Iron and Steel Works in the Northeast, have its own mines, smelters, rolling mills and supplementary chemical plants. Its steel products will supply the new industries of Central-South China, particularly the machine-building industry. The day of its commissioning will mark a big stride in the creation of the material base for socialism in our country.

There are ample reasons for the choice of Huangshih as the location for these works. There are abundant supplies of high quality iron ore in the nearby Tiehshan ("Iron Mountain") mine. Huangshih, furthermore, already possesses one steel plant of the old Hanyehping Steel Works—the Tayeh Steel Plant—which has been completely renovated after damage suffered in the Sino-Japanese War. This plant will be further expanded, but it will comprise only a tiny part of the Central China Iron and Steel Works as a whole.

* * *

The moment I entered Huangshih, I felt the atmosphere of construction. It was hard

to believe that all that existed here only four years ago were two small settlements set among hills, ponds and wasteland. Now the hills have been levelled and the ponds filled to make suitable building sites while the townlets have spread to form a single modern-looking town.

New wharves are being built along the riverside. Steamers and junks are constantly coming and going, unloading construction materials and taking away manufactured products.

The big Huangshih Power Plant, which has now been further expanded, supplies current for industry and lighting not only to the city but also to other districts of Hupeh Province by means of high-tension cables.

Opposite the power plant is a huge cement factory which has been expanded and remodelled. It supplies cement to construction projects all over the country—the industrial sites at Anshan, the dams being built on the Huai River, for new power plants and textile mills. Naturally this cement will also be used in the building of the Central China Iron and Steel Works. Huangshih also has two coal-mining companies and other factories.

Urban improvements too have been going on apace. In 1953 alone, six main thoroughfares were laid down. New residential quarters for workers and employees can be seen in many places. There are handsome clubs and rest homes in the hill-and-lake country in the suburbs.

All the present activities in industrial and municipal construction here are part of the work of laying a firm base for the great new iron and steel giant that will soon arise at Huangshih.

* * *

Entering the gate of the Tayeh Steel Plant, I found what looked like a separate town in itself. I walked past offices, homes, a trade union headquarters, the workers' club, cooperative, a hospital and a cinema.

Going further in, I reached the towering blast furnace and the forging and heat-treatment shops which were wreathed in clouds of smoke and steam. The rolling mill was a little distance away. Loaded with ores or products, trains whistled and clanged between the various departments.

Liu Chi-hsien, a grey-haired worker who has been in the plant for thirty-nine years, told me something of its half-century-old history. He spoke of the past with indignation and of the present with joy.

"In my time here, I've seen the warlords, the Japanese invaders and the Kuomintang reactionaries come and go," he said. "When I first came in 1915, things were already in a mess. The Hanyehping Works to which the plant and the mine then belonged had run itself into near-bankruptcy as a result of bad management."

"In 1938-45, during the War of Resistance, the Japanese were in occupation of the whole area," Liu continued. "They wanted ore for their war industry, and mining was pushed until the rate of extraction grew from 400,000 tons to a million tons a year. For many years, it infuriated us to see the rich iron ore of our country moving day and night down-river to Japan. We know that iron ore of ours would be transformed into ammunition and brought back to kill our fellow countrymen."

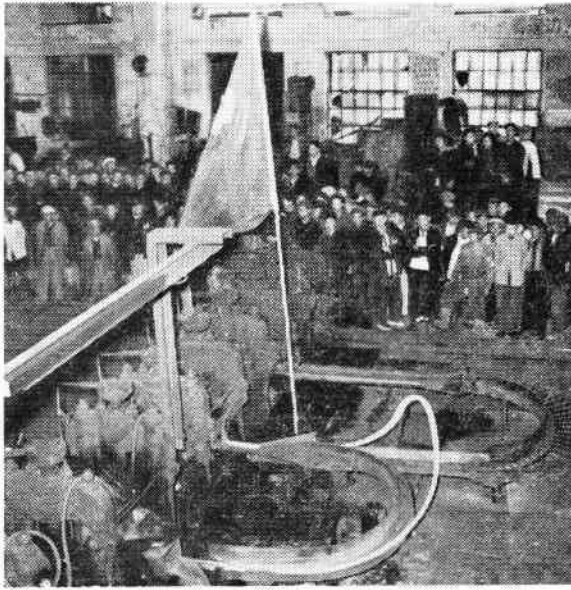
"The situation wasn't much changed after the surrender of Japan. That traitor Chiang Kai-shek started draining large quantities of ore out again, to U.S.-occupied Japan! How could we think of industrialization in the old China that was ruled by such scoundrels?" Then he drew a deep breath. "But now... now it's a different world. Just take a look at the workshops and then at the mine, and you'll see for yourself."

In the steel-making shop, the first things that attracted my attention were the Bessemer converters. Golden flames and long-tailed sparks, like tiny comets, shot from their mouths, and work went on in a blaze of light.

Liu Wei-chen, a well-known model worker who headed the Martin furnace shop, told me the history of these converters. It was also the story of how the plant had been regenerated from a state of paralysis.

"I used to work on the Bessemers," Liu said. "Under the Kuomintang reactionaries we turned out ingots of inferior quality. And the rate was only two heats a day at that time!"

Drawing many simple sketches with his pencil, Liu explained to me how the workers had again and again improved the equipment,



Guests and workers' representatives inspecting the "vertical reverse repeater," designed collectively by workers and employees of the rolling mill of the Tayeh Steel Works

raised labour efficiency, and increased the number of heats from two or three a day up to ninety in 1952. "In 1953," he continued, "we took a leap forward in quality too and now we can turn out high-quality steel."

Liu told me many other interesting things about how they mastered the techniques of making high-quality steel. At the beginning, he said, there were many technical and administrative snags, but with the aid of Soviet experts all these were overcome. The 1953 production quota had been successfully fulfilled.

"Think of all that has been done in four years," Liu said, beaming with enthusiasm. "You can't call it just advancing. 'Flying' is the word."

* * *

Leaving the steel plant, I took the train for the mountains behind the plant. Soon I arrived at the Tiehshan mines which already supply ore to Tayeh's furnaces and will also supply the Central China Iron and Steel Works. There I met the members of a prospecting team who have worked at this spot for over a year. The leader, Huang Yi, a noted geologist, told me of the wealth of the deposits there.

"The imperialists investigated them too," he said. "A certain Japanese geologist once

estimated the reserves here at 30 million tons. Well, I can tell you now that his estimate was ridiculously low. We've made a thorough survey and found that the quantity is many times greater than all previous estimates, and quite enough to supply a big iron and steel centre for a long time."

With other members of the team, I went up the "Iron Mountain." We stopped at a core-drilling machine and the man in charge handed me a piece of ore that had just been brought up. "It doesn't look at all like raw ore, does it?" he said with a smile. "Isn't it more like a piece of smelted iron?" When I took a piece of the heavy, smooth, black coal in my hand, I could only agree. He told me that all the ore in this mountain is of the same kind, with a very high percentage of iron and little foreign matter.

We went on to another part of the mining area, where a second seam of iron has been discovered under the one previously known, as well as reserves of other metals. The mountain had been excavated and terraced in many places. In the cuttings, the towering walls of oxidizing ore reflected many colours: vermilion, blue-green and pinkish yellow, looking like gigantic murals.

"You see," a member of the prospecting team said to me, "no wonder people call it the Iron Storehouse of the Motherland."

* * *

Thinking of the future of this great enterprise, I tried to picture in my mind the men and women who will erect and operate it. Suddenly, I realized that I did not need to imagine them, I had already seen them.

A year ago, I visited the construction sites of the No. 7 automatic blast furnace, the heavy rolling mill, the seamless steel tubing mill and other projects at the Anshan Iron and Steel Company in the Northeast. I saw the cadres sent by the Central China Iron and Steel Works to get practical training there. As construction has developed there they have learnt on the job and accumulated rich experience on the construction of iron and steel enterprises. Now, group by group, they are returning to Huangshih, ready to devote their enthusiastic labour to its construction. Soon the iron and steel base of Central China will be built.

The Trade Union In Our Plant

Cheng Kuo-tai

I AM the chairman of the trade union at the Shihchingshan Power Plant, which supplies Peking with electricity. Not long ago, on behalf of the union, I signed one of our quarterly collective contracts with the director of the plant, Wang Wen-ping.

The two of us have known each other for a long time. Before liberation, I was an ordinary worker in the boiler room. Wang was a worker in the turbine department, and an active leader in our struggles against the reactionary Kuomintang management. For this, he had been arrested and spent a year and a half in jail. On the eve of liberation, it was he who rallied the workers to frustrate the Kuomintang plan of destroying the plant, and to save it intact for the people. It was he again who led us in organizing our union and became its first chairman. In 1949, our People's Government, recognizing his devotion to the working class and his ability as an organizer, named him vice-director and later director of the plant.

The reason I talk about these facts is that they illustrate very vividly what we all know and feel in our country. Our state is led by the working class. Our unions are organizations of the working class. When we negotiate collective contracts with the administrations of state-owned plants, we do not do so as representatives of opposing interests, as the workers must do in countries where industry is capitalist-owned, but as two bodies discharging different functions in the common cause of the socialist industrialization of our country. The workers are as interested as the administration in increasing and improving production;



Cheng Kuo-tai (right), author of this article and Chairman of the trade union at the Shihchingshan Power Plant, discussing production questions with Wang Wen-ping, Director of the plant

and the union assumes obligations in this respect. The administration is as concerned as the union with the workers' welfare. Both sides' obligations are put down in the contract.

Results of Joint Efforts

Here are a few of the results of such joint efforts:

In the past, when the plant was owned by the Kuomintang bureaucratic-capitalists who cared for profits and nothing else, the service it gave to Peking was very often interrupted. Now things are different. As a result of our labour, the electric power generated by the plant is three times what it was before the liberation, and the supply of current to the national capital is ample and uninterrupted.

Work is easier and more pleasant. Coal for the plant used to be pushed manually in waggonettes. Now it is conveyed mechanically. With the installation of smoke control, fuel is used more efficiently and there is no more of the soot that used to blacken everything in and around the plant, and damage the health of the workers.

In the old days, wages were so low that we could hardly make ends meet. In 1949, after the liberation, they were very considerably raised. Between 1949 and 1953 they rose a further 30 per cent. Besides wages, the workers enjoy the benefit of payments for extra production and various social services. The working day is 8 hours instead of 12 to 16 hours.

Rows of newly-built brick houses for workers have taken the place of the old mud huts. A secluded villa in the hills that a bureaucratic-capitalist built for his summer retreat has now been made into a rest home for workers. Another rest house is being built in the beautiful Western Hills near Peking.

Democratic Organization

Our union, like all unions in China, is thoroughly democratic in its organization. The Shihchingshan branch embraces the vast majority of the workers and staff of the plant. Its highest organ is the general membership meeting, which elects a plant committee of 13 acting on its behalf and accountable to it. All members of the committee are workers, employees or technicians. Five of these members devote their full time to trade union affairs for the duration of their term while the rest continue to work in production.

Elected committees also exist in each shop. All trade union members are further organized into basic units, or as we call them, "small groups," generally of 20 persons working on the same job on the same shift. This structure guarantees that the opinions and demands of the rank-and-file come to me and the other members of the plant committee in the shortest possible time, while our decisions are made known to the membership just as quickly.

The process of fully airing important matters before a decision is taken is well shown by

what happened before we concluded the collective contract for the first quarter of this year.

First the trade union asked Director Wang to report to a general meeting of all members on the work of the plant in 1953, and the tasks assigned to our enterprise under the 1954 state plan. These tasks fall under three main heads: 1. guaranteed and safe transmission of electricity; 2. increased output and economies in production; 3. training of skilled personnel for the new plants arising in the course of the nation's industrialization.

The report was followed by discussions at all union levels from the committees down to the small groups. Special meetings were also convened to collect the criticisms and suggestions of model workers, old workers and technicians. The opinions expressed touched on every phase of production and welfare. They were all written down, carefully studied and analysed. A draft collective contract based on the results of these discussions was jointly drawn up by the vice-chairman of our trade union and the deputy-director of the plant. The draft was then presented to the membership for a further discussion.

Many important suggestions by the rank-and-file were adopted.

One example was the proposal of the steam turbine room workers that the temperature in their shop, which was too high both for the health of the men and the proper functioning of the machines, be maintained at approximately 35° C. The provision of better insulation and ventilation in the shop was incorporated in the final draft as one of the obligations of the plant administration.

How Problems Are Solved

Once a collective contract is signed, it becomes a programme of action for the whole plant. To carry out its obligations, the trade union organizes productive emulation drives among the workers. "Production meetings" at various levels are one method of developing the campaign. At these meetings, key problems that arise in the course of actual work are examined and solved, and advanced experience is exchanged.

I would like to give one example of how such a problem was dealt with.

There had been an accident in which a transformer caught fire when water seeped into it after a snowfall and caused a short circuit. The cause, it turned out, was negligence on the part of a repairman who had forgotten to put an insulating cushion on the lid after overhauling. Afterwards, one of the workers had described negligence of this kind as a "time bomb," which was bound to go off some time, and his saying gained currency. The Party and the trade union seized on the phrase to start a safety movement on a plant-wide scale. "Dig up the time bombs! Look out for negligence! Find the causes of every accident!"—these were the slogans of the campaign.

In the turbine room as in other shops, the production meeting discussed the correct attitude towards accidents. When the transformer caught fire, a worker who had an excellent record in safety drills happened to be on duty, but he lost his head and took the wrong measures. Afterwards he was very worried about this and became pessimistic—thinking that fixed safety procedures and drills were useless because they did not help in real emergencies. To counter this kind of thinking, the Party and trade union got another worker, Liu Ming-ching, who had remained cool and taken the proper steps, to tell how he had been able to do it. Liu, a Party member, said that he always tried to get a thorough grasp of the whole situation the minute he began a shift. Before attending to the various instrument panels in his own shop, he thought about what was going on in other parts of the plant such as the boiler temperature and even noted the weather. "With all these things in my head," he explained, "I find I can locate and deal with any trouble that occurs rather quickly." His talk dispelled the negative atmosphere. The workers realized that constant thoughtful vigilance as well as adherence to rules is necessary to overcome accidents, and that accidents can really be prevented or overcome in this way. Courage and confidence were regained.

In the course of emulation campaigns, the Party and trade union are constantly on the lookout for advanced ideas and methods that

arise among the workers and technicians, and they popularize them throughout the plant.

The most outstanding of these so far has been the shift to low-grade coal, initiated by boiler worker Liu Kuang-chin in 1952. Liu actively took up the call of the Party to demonstrate that such cheap coal, unsuitable for coking and therefore for many industrial purposes, could be used to generate electric current. But when he tried it in a boiler, there was a breakdown and the fire died out. Some engineers sneered at him, saying that our boilers were for standard coal and could use nothing else. But Liu was not discouraged. He studied the ventilation, coal intake and other characteristics of the furnaces, made the necessary adjustments, and finally succeeded in proving his point. Today the plant uses low-grade coal exclusively, greatly reducing production costs and consuming no coking fuel, which is so badly needed for other purposes. Moreover, Liu Kuang-chin's initiative served as the starting point of a movement against technological conservatism, resulting in big increases in production.

Mutual Help

The small groups form the foundation of all our activities. Their members help each other in their work and problems of daily life, the older workers assist the younger ones and those who are technically advanced help the less skilled. In April 1953, for instance, there were a number of minor breakdowns in the turbine room. A small group organizer, Wang Shih-chi, discovered that most of them could be traced to the negligence of a worker named Kao. In off-duty hours, he called on Kao at his home and learned something of the cause of this. He learned that Kao had previously been demoted to a lower grade job because of past negligence and, when brought back to the turbine room, thought this was just a stop-gap measure until someone else could be found. Wang explained that the transfer was really an indication of the confidence of the plant administration that Kao could do a good job and retrieve his errors. The whole group helped him to regain confidence. Thenceforth Kao worked better and soon introduced some important improvements which helped his team to win the plant-wide emulation drive in 1953.

Under such circumstances, production and the quality of work are rising all the time. In 1953 the plant supplied 11.52 per cent more current than was planned, coal consumption was 3.89 per cent below plan, and fuel costs were 17.3 per cent under the original estimate. Fifty-seven workers were cited as labour models.

Bounties at Every Turn

All workers who contribute to improving production receive bounties. There is a jocular saying in the plant: "Before the liberation, there was a tax at every turn; now there's a bonus at every turn." Such extra payments are made to winners of production contests, for making rationalization proposals, for good safety records, for overfulfilment of targets, etc. In 1953 the bonuses received by Liu Kuang-chin who introduced the use of low-grade coal, were equivalent to two years of his ordinary wages. For the whole plant last year, such payments amounted to 23 per cent of the entire payroll.

In addition to increased income from wages and bonuses, the material and cultural facilities available to the workers are constantly being increased. In the collective agreement for the second quarter of 1953, for instance, the administration undertook to build one-storey family bungalows with a total floor space of more than 1,700 square metres and multi-storeyed residential buildings with a floor space of more than 2,000 square metres, to expand the dining hall and to lay down an open-air dance floor for the younger people. During these years, the administration has also built a spare-time rest home, a sanatorium for chronic diseases, a school for the workers' children, a day-nursery, library and club.

Some of these amenities, such as the dining hall and residential buildings, were built for the workers with funds provided by the state. Besides these funds, there is the Director's Fund. When the production plan is fulfilled, this fund benefits to the extent of 5 per cent of the profit that the plant turns over to the state. If extra profits are made, 20 per cent of these excess profits are paid into it. The direc-

tor uses this fund entirely for welfare purposes in consultation with the trade union.

Finally, there is the labour insurance fund amounting to 3 per cent of the payroll. This is administered by the union, which pays out statutory sick and accident benefits, makes grants to workers in case of unforeseen financial difficulties and supervises the operation of all welfare establishments. The plant committee of the trade union has a member especially in charge of this work.

In Close Touch with Workers

The workers and the trade union officers are always in touch with each other. I myself make a tour of the plant once a week to see if there are any problems which have not come through by the normal channels, and other members of our committee do the same. Workers regard the union headquarters as their own home and drop in with all sorts of questions, concerning both production and their daily life. Some time ago, a worker complained to us that the administration had not announced the safety plan for a boiler-overhauling job, which it had pledged to do in the collective agreement. We criticized the administration, and it soon remedied its oversight.

After hours, the union provides the workers with every opportunity both to educate themselves and for rest and recreation. Many workers as well as administration cadres of worker origin attend the evening school. Both Director Wang and I, for example, have been taking cultural courses there to make up for our lack of schooling in early youth.

At the club, there are three movie performances a week: we do not have to take the trouble of going to the theatres in the city. The workers have their own band and a Peking Opera troupe which is much in demand in the surrounding villages. Our basketball team often plays those from other factories, and we have one man on the Peking Workers' Team.

This is a brief account of how our trade union works. In mobilizing the workers to take part in the socialist construction of our country, our trade union has proved itself an indispensable assistant of the Communist Party.

The Problem of Reforming the Chinese Written Language

Wei Chueh

Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the Research on the Reform of the Chinese Written Language

The editorial board of "People's China" has received many letters from readers requesting information on the problem of reforming the Chinese written language. The following excerpt from a letter by P. N. Rudenko of Kharkov, U.S.S.R., is typical of these inquiries:

"The Chinese language is still largely pictographic. Such a language, so far as I know, impedes the progress of education among the broad masses of the people. I wonder if any attempt has been made to gradually reform the Chinese language on a phonetic basis? I would also like to know whether such a reform is at all possible."

In answer to such queries, we are pleased to present the following article by Wei Chueh, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the Research on the Reform of the Chinese Written Language, which gives a popular exposition of the nature of this problem and how it is proposed to solve it. Our reader's attention is also drawn to the article on the historical development of the Chinese written language by Chen Meng-chia, "The Origin and Development of Chinese Script," in "People's China," No. 5, 1954.—Ed.

Structure of Chinese Written Language

The Chinese written language employs separate characters, each of which is composed of various kinds of strokes. Some of the more widely used strokes are: 丶 一 | 丿 ㇇ ㇈ ㇉ ㇊ ㇋ ㇌ ㇍ ㇎ ㇏. Chinese characters made of these strokes may either be simple like 人 (*jen*: man), 二 (*erh*: two), 勺 (*shao*: ladle); or complex like 麗 (*li*: beautiful) or 露 (*lu*: dew).

The original Chinese script was pictographic, but the development of pictographic writing in the Chinese language has long ceased. Such pictographs, if they may still be so called, as exist at the present time, are quite different from what they used to be in the remote past. Take the character 雨 (*yu*: rain) for example, it was originally written as 𩇛 in ancient times. It is clear what great changes have taken place in writing it since then.

During the course of development of the Chinese language, various methods were used

to coin new characters, but the great majority of new characters were formed by the ideo-phonetic method. This shows that the Chinese people have employed the phonetic method of developing their written language from very early times. Ideo-phonetic characters are composed of two parts: one, phonetic, which conveys pronunciation, and the other, ideographic, which gives a clue to the meaning but does not affect pronunciation. Here are two examples:

| Character | Sound Indicator | Meaning Indicator |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 房 (<i>fang</i> : house) | 方 (<i>fang</i> : square) | 戶 (<i>hu</i> : door) |
| 忠 (<i>chung</i> : loyal) | 中 (<i>chung</i> : centre) | 心 (<i>hsin</i> : heart) |

However, these ideo-phonetic characters are not spelt out with letters of an alphabet.

One sometimes asks, what is the relation between characters and words in the Chinese language?



Installing a giant machine in the Harbin Electrical Machinery Plant, which will soon go into production



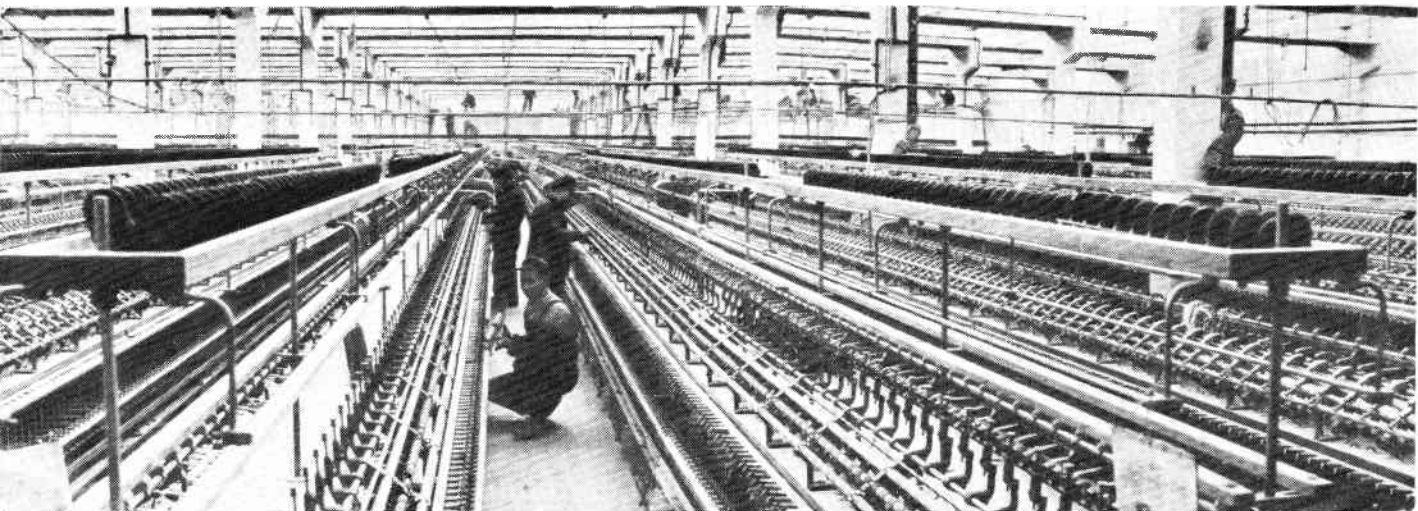
Assembling water-cooling pipes in the boiler room of Chungking's No. 507 automatic power plant, the first of its kind in Southwest China. It was commissioned in April this year



Reconditioned Cowper stove for heating the air blast at the Maanshan Iron Smelting Plant (Anhui Province). Six blast furnaces have been recommissioned here after being out of use for over eight years

Four New Projects For Socialist Industrialization

In the fine-yarn shop of the Peking State-owned No. 1 Cotton Mill, which began trial operations this April



PEKING'S MAY DAY PA



Workers of the North China General Agricultural Machinery Plant proudly display their products in the parade



The leading column of workers in the parade. They are carrying the slogan "Strengthen the General Line of Policy in the People's Republic of China"

"Safeguard World Peace!"—a float carried by Peking students



Massed ranks of paraders marching past the Tiananmen Gate



RADE



Great demonstration before the Tien An Men
struggle for the Realization of the Nation's
Period of Transition to Socialism!"

st before the Tien An Men

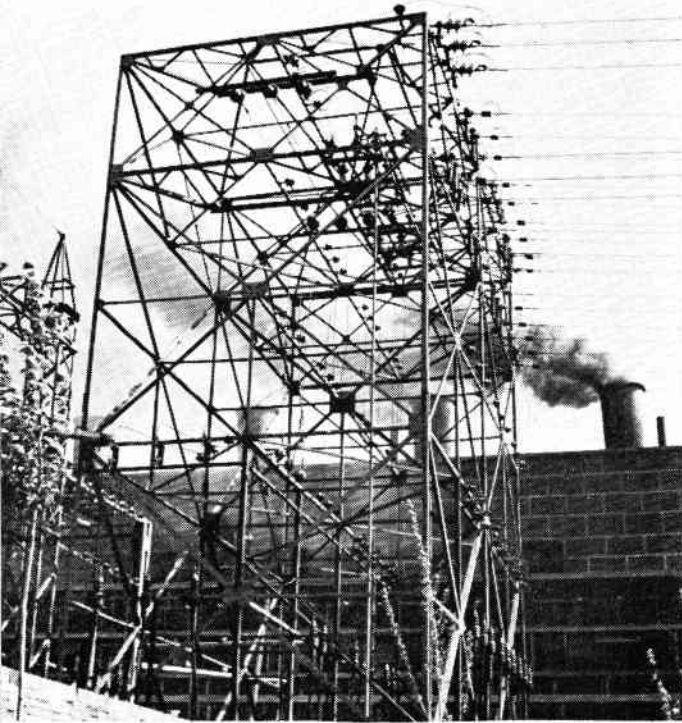
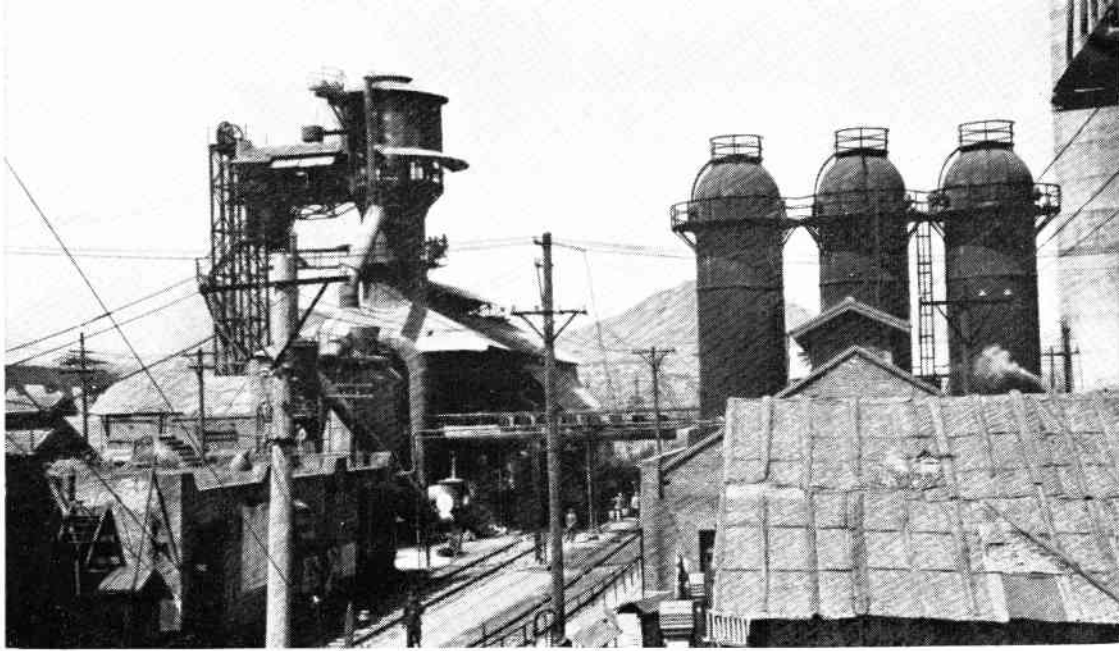


Chairman Mao Tse-tung with the two Young Pioneers who presented
bouquets to him on the rostrum at Tien An Men

Some of the many foreign guests who celebrated May Day with
the people of Peking



The renovated Tayeh Steel Plant will form part of the new Central China Iron and Steel Works



These high-tension cables carry electricity from Huangshih's renovated power station to industrial enterprises in the locality and in other areas as well

IN HUANGSHIH

A New Industrial Centre

Stretching along the banks of the Yangtze in Hupeh Province, Huangshih has grown since liberation from two small settlements into a modern industrial town. The Central China Iron and Steel Works, one of the key projects of the First Five-Year Plan, will soon be built here, and when completed will make Huangshih one of China's greatest iron and steel centres

A new, fully equipped sanatorium for Huangshih's workers



Characters may be said to be the constituent elements of words. A single character may be a word by itself or it may combine with one or more characters to form a word. Thus the character 學 (*hsueh*) may be used as a word by itself, meaning "to study"; it may also combine with the character 文 (*wen*: writing) to form the word 文學 (*wen hsueh*), meaning "literature," or combine with the characters 生物 (*sheng wu*: living things) to form the word 生物學 (*sheng wu hsueh*), meaning "biology." There are also words that contain an even greater number of characters. Thus 社會主義 (*she hui chu i*: socialism) is a word of four characters, while 國際主義者 (*kuo chi chu i che*: internationalist) and 達爾文主義者 (*ta erh wen chu i che*: Darwinist) are words of five and six characters respectively.

The countless number of ways in which characters may be grouped make the formation of such compound words or terms an easy matter. Thus the contemporary Chinese language has a very rich and varied vocabulary.

As a word may consist of one or more characters with each character forming a distinct syllable, and as words are the basic elements of the language, the Chinese language cannot be said to be monosyllabic. Some sinologists fail to understand the true relation between characters and words in the Chinese language, so they make the mistake of considering it a monosyllabic language; there are likewise no grounds for saying that the Chinese language is poor in vocabulary and expressions.

Is It Difficult to Learn Chinese?

If we base our comparison on the structural elements of the written language, it can indeed be said that Chinese is more difficult to learn than the phonetic languages.

Most Chinese characters are very complicated and difficult to write. The analysis of the strokes used in Chinese characters (given in the first paragraph of this article) may tend to give the impression that they are all very simple. But most characters are composed of seven or more strokes, and it is by no means a simple matter to put these strokes together in the proper order to form the characters. We can more fully appreciate the difficulty when we know that these basic strokes do not represent sounds or syllables.

In the phonetic languages one can fairly easily spell out any word if one knows its pronunciation. But with the Chinese language, to learn a character one has to learn three things: how to pronounce it, how to write it and how to understand its meaning—knowing the one does not mean knowing the other. In this respect it is much more difficult to learn Chinese than a phonetic language.

In point of grammatical inflections Chinese is, however, comparatively easy. It has not the host of inflections which European languages have. In the Chinese language the noun, pronoun and adjective do not change with the case. Nor does the verb change with the person of its subject. So when one masters, let us say, two thousand Chinese characters together with their combinations and the basic rules of their usage, one is sufficiently equipped to read popular books and newspapers. As to speech and writing, they depend upon practice. But this applies to any language.

Reform, Past and Present

Why, then, must the Chinese written language be reformed? In the phonetic languages, the letters of the alphabet, which are not very numerous, are the primary elements and all words are built up with them. On the other hand, the Chinese written language is made up of thousands of characters, each of which is different in form and is composed of various numbers of strokes. Every character in the Chinese written language is a distinct unit in itself. For this reason, besides being difficult to read and write, the Chinese language is very inconvenient for use in type-setting, typewriting, telegraphy, indexing and lexicography.

Type-setting, for instance, in countries which have a phonetic script is almost universally done by linotype; in China, however, all type-setting has to be done by hand. Up to the present, it has not been possible to make a commercial linotype capable of operating efficiently with several thousand separate characters. Such facts show that the reform of the Chinese script is necessary.

The movement to change the Chinese written language into a phonetic one began some sixty years ago. Dozens of schemes have been proposed during that time, but only a few of the more important need be mentioned here.



Left: A page from a mass primer published at the beginning of this century in which the Chinese characters appear alongside the same words written in the Alphabet for Mandarin Chinese, invented by Wang Chao. Right: A page from a workers' and peasants' primer published in New China. The Chinese characters are accompanied by the symbols of the Phonetic "Alphabet" which indicate how they are pronounced

In 1892, Lu Kan-chang invented the *Chieh Yin Hsin Tzu* (New Phonetic Alphabet) modelled on the Latin alphabet. In 1900, Wang Chao invented the *Kuan Hua Ho Sheng Tzu Mu* (An Alphabet for Mandarin Chinese), which was later revised by Lao Nai-hsuan. There was an attempt to popularize Wang Chao's "alphabet," but it was soon proscribed by the reactionary Manchu government.

In 1913, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education of the Peking government, a conference was held to consider the unification of pronunciation. Although the collectively devised *Chu Yin Tzu Mu* (Phonetic "Alphabet") was approved by the conference, the government only confirmed this approval officially in 1918 after a delay of five years. For some time the forty symbols of this phonetic alphabet were used in textbooks for primary schools to help children study the characters. Thus the phonetic symbols ㄅ ㄆ ㄇ (ai hsi kung wu) would be printed alongside the phrase 愛惜公物 (care for public property), giving its sound. After 1933, however, the popularization of these symbols practically ceased.

In 1951, Chi Chien-hua, an instructor of the People's Liberation Army, revived the phonetic alphabet as an important aid in his teaching method and subsequently used it to develop his "quick method of learning Chinese characters." This method gave very satisfactory results and was soon adopted by short-term literacy classes throughout the country. But it must be noted that these phonetic symbols are merely aids for pronouncing Chinese characters and are not meant to replace the Chinese characters.

In 1925 the *Kuo Yu Lo Ma Tzu Pin Yin Fang Shih* (Method of Spelling Chinese with Roman Letters) appeared. But it was not popularized although its sponsors in 1928 got the Kuomintang government to give it official approval. By this method, as the name implies, Chinese words are spelt with letters of the Roman alphabet in accordance with their pronunciation. Thus the term 國音字母 (*Kuo Yin Tzu Mu*: Phonetic Alphabet for National Pronunciation) is spelt *Gwoin Tzyhmuu*.

In 1928, with the assistance of the Soviet philologists V. M. Alekseev and A. A. Dragunov, Chu Chiu-pai, famous Chinese revolutionary and writer, and Wu Yu-chang,* an enthusiastic leader of the mass education movement, worked out the *La Ting Hua Hsin Wen Tzu* (The New Latinized Written Language), according to which all the Chinese words are to be spelt with letters of the Latin alphabet. This Latinized language was intended to replace the original Chinese characters altogether. To give an example, the phrase 紀念魯迅 (*Chi Nien Lu Hsun*: Commemorate Lu Hsun) would, by this method, be written *Ginian Lusin*.

In 1931, the "New Latinized Written Language" was used experimentally by the Chinese community living in Vladivostok. Since its introduction into China, progressive intellectual groups have publicized it widely. Hundreds of books and magazines written and published by individuals or various public bodies have expounded its advantages. It was put into practical use on a considerable scale in certain places, especially during the War of Resistance

* President of the China People's University and Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the Research on the Reform of the Chinese Written Language.

to Japanese Aggression, in the Shensi-Kansu-Ningsia Border Region, which was then under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.

Chairman Mao's Directive

The Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung pay great attention to the matter of the reform of the Chinese written language. In the *New Democracy*, written in 1940, Chairman Mao says:

... Our written language must be reformed on certain conditions, and our spoken language must be brought close to that of the people. We must know that the people are the inexhaustibly rich source of our revolutionary culture.

The nation-wide victory won by the new-democratic revolution in China has now provided favourable conditions for the reform of the written language. In order to carry out this reform under proper guidance and in a systematic manner, the Central People's Government in May 1951 set up a preparatory committee for the establishment of a Committee for the Research on the Reform of the Chinese Written Language. Its terms of reference included the taking of preliminary steps to simplify the Chinese characters in answer to the urgent need for popularization of education.

"To simplify" has been defined as meaning to reduce the total number of Chinese characters in practical use as well as the number of strokes making up the characters. As a result of careful research, the preparatory committee has as a first step settled on 2,000 characters as a working vocabulary for the compilation of textbooks for the worker and peasant masses in the mass movement to liquidate illiteracy.

The Committee for the Research on the Reform of the Chinese Written Language was finally established on February 5, 1952, after more than a year of preparatory work. Its main tasks are as follows:

- (1) To do research work on the Chinese characters and to draw up a plan for their simplification.
- (2) To work out a new phonetic system for the Chinese written language.

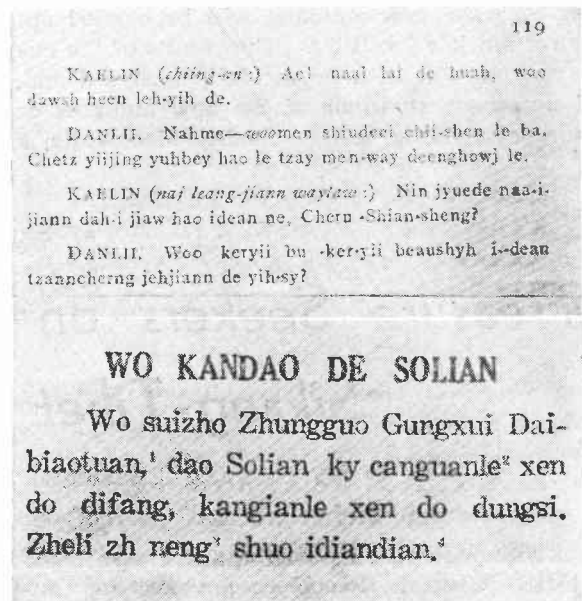
To reform a written language which has been in use for thousands of years and is still

in living use, and change it into a phonetic one is a gigantic task; it is fraught with difficulties and requires great labour and patience to carry through successfully. It has therefore been proposed that the work of reform be carried out in two successive stages.

First Stage

The first stage will be to simplify the Chinese characters. This will be done along two lines. First, in certain cases where several characters have the same pronunciation, only one may be retained. For example: since the characters 巴, 疤, 耙, 芭, 笆 are all pronounced *pa*, the last four characters may very well be discarded, retaining only the first character (these characters are today rarely used separately; they have no modern meaning by themselves but only as adjuncts to other characters or groups of characters). Again, since the character 果 (*kuo*: fruit) may also be written 菓 and the two characters have the same pronunciation and meaning, there is really no need to continue use of the latter.

Secondly, there will be simplification of the writing of the characters or reduction of



Upper: A page from "The Last Five Minutes," a play printed in accordance with the Method of Spelling Chinese with Roman Letters (published in 1929). Lower: A page from the pamphlet "We Saw the Soviet Union," published in the New Latinized Written Language in 1953

the number of strokes used to write them. The Committee has already made a preliminary selection of about five hundred simplified characters in current use, such as 体 for 體 (*ti*: body) and 齐 for 齊 (*chi*: even), which are much easier to read and write than the original characters. All these simplified characters, together with other newly coined simplified characters, will, after due consideration and test, be given formal recognition; and the superfluous and cumbersome original characters will be discarded.

Furthermore, the subsequent adoption of an alphabet will first of all lead to its use to write all names of persons and places as well as commonly used characters which defy suitable simplification.

Second Stage

The second stage will be the gradual popularization of the phonetic system. Work is already proceeding on the devising of a Chinese phonetic system for writing the common language (formerly called Mandarin) in accordance with the Peking pronunciation. As soon as the new alphabet, together with certain rules of spelling, are decided on, experiments in learning the new alphabet will be carried out in certain key localities. The results of the experiments will then be carefully analysed and, if necessary, revisions of the new alphabet or rules of spelling will be made. Meanwhile, a

phonetically arranged dictionary will be prepared. After this has been done and other further preparations made, the new phonetic language will gradually be put into general use. By this time a start may be made on translating into the new phonetic language all important works, treatises and documents on politics, economics, literature and science originally written in the old Chinese characters.

In a word, we may say with confidence that the replacing of the present Chinese written language with a new phonetic one will certainly be brought about in the future. It will be a process of reforming the Chinese written language through a gradual transition involving at first the use of phonetic words together with simplified Chinese characters and finally the sole use of the phonetic system.

Ever since the May Fourth Movement of 1919, the *pai hua* (the spoken language of the people) has been increasingly used in Chinese writings. This has paved the way for the development of a phonetic language. Furthermore, the movement for a phonetic language has accumulated a great deal of valuable experience since its start in the closing years of the Manchu Dynasty and especially during the last thirty odd years. There is no doubt that, with the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the task of reforming the Chinese written language will be successfully carried through.

Treasure Seekers on the Sikang-Tibet Plateau

Wang Hsi-ti

THE Central People's Government announced its decision in May 1951 to send a group of scientific workers to survey the natural resources and study social conditions on the Sikang-Tibet Plateau. The team finally chosen included specialists of various kinds,

both experienced veterans and young men and women fresh from college. I felt myself fortunate indeed to be selected as a member of this team, and like all others in the party, was proud of the great trust placed in us by our motherland.



*Left: A geological prospecting group makes its way through a snow-covered valley on their way to the Pomi area on the Sikang-Tibet Plateau
Right: A typical scene in the upper valley of the Nu River, Tibet*

In early June, we took leave of the capital and set out for the distant frontier area—the famed “Roof of the World.”

The plateau rises from 3,000 to over 4,000 metres above sea level. The air at such altitudes is thin, and we newcomers found ourselves extremely short of breath while climbing its mountains. Our strength seemed to be sapped away; our hearts pounded violently, as if ready to jump out of our breasts. But after several months’ practice, we gradually adapted ourselves to the height. We became real frontiersmen. We learned to climb the soaring peaks. We became adept at swiftly pitching our tents to protect ourselves from the violent winds, pouring rain and hailstorms, which are common occurrences on the plateau and come up with startling suddenness.

We travelled little known areas. Once we moved for several days across a great snow-clad mountain and discovered a densely forested area. There was not a single household within scores of kilometres. We pitched camp deep in the place, encircled by the snow-clad mountains. To drive away the cold and gloominess of the forests and, incidentally, to protect ourselves from the wild forest animals, we built a flaming bonfire of piled logs. We sat around it in a circle, and by its light dis-

cussed our plans or read the books we had brought with us.

Most Welcome News

On another occasion, after traversing several mountain ridges, we arrived at a hamlet named Chiaka. Our Tibetan guide told us that the People’s Liberation Army had once passed this way on their march to the frontier of our motherland. He told us how completely everything they did embodied Chairman Mao’s national policy of equality and unity. The armymen helped the local peasants reap the green rye, and this left a particularly deep impression on the Tibetans. Learning that we were also sent by Chairman Mao, the local inhabitants treated us like their own family folk, begging us to stay in their homes. Finally we were accommodated in the home of Tsaweng Lachia, an old Tibetan. On the following day, many of our new neighbours crowded into the house. They brought us honey, butter and pheasants... We had a splendid meal. Then we received the most welcome news. An old man, grey-haired and wearing a darkish-brown long gown, stepped forward and told us that iron ore had been discovered in the area.

The old man, Yihsi Tsejen, proved to be a blacksmith. He had spent most of his life in

the mountain wilderness mining and smelting iron, and he knew exactly where the iron ore could be found. Happily promising to lead us to the spot, he murmured reverently, "The Kinsha River is long, but it has an end. There is no end to Chairman Mao's benevolence."

The next day, accompanied by this fine old man, we rode our horses to the snow-covered mountain where the iron ore lay. The wind blew hard and the path up the mountain was very difficult. But the old blacksmith was tireless, explaining with many energetic gestures all that he knew about these parts.

Following a stratum of limestone rock up the side of the mountain, we noticed many small natural stone pillars on a layer of limestone—these were corallites. At the same time, Jen Tien-pai, one of our team, discovered many fossils of trilobites and shells. These fossils showed that this stratum of rock belonged to the carboniferous period, and therefore indicated the real possibility of coal deposits in the area. As we neared the mountain-top, we saw layers upon layers of black rocks all around us! But unfortunately it was turning dark, and we were unable to continue to prospect for the suspected coal deposit. Very unwillingly we returned to the village for the night. That evening we discussed our finds on the mountain, and decided to stay a few more days in Chiaka, to locate the coal deposit.

Several days passed by. We had almost covered every likely place in the nearby mountains, but without success. Once we asked our old host, "Have you ever heard in the neighbourhood about black stones that can be used as firewood?" He stared at us in amazement and shook his head to our disappointment: "Are there really such strange stones in the world?" he asked. "People say all sorts of precious things can be found in the mountains, but I've never heard of such strange stones."

Once more we continued our search. It was a cold day. We left Chiaka far behind and climbed over one mountain ridge after another. Then we advanced down a deep valley. Among the rubble which had rolled down from the mountain, we found many glinting, soft,

greyish-black pieces of material which broke instantly into thin plates when tapped with a hammer. They left a black stain on our fingers—graphite!

With this find to guide us, we lifted our heads and scanned the mountainside to find out where the graphite came from. It was from a granitic peak, and oddly enough, the graphite was embedded in it.

That evening we reviewed the fruits of our day's labour. But the whereabouts of the coal deposit still remained a mystery. Science told us that coal can be turned into graphite under conditions of high temperature. Since there was graphite, there must be a coal deposit in the vicinity!

And so we spent more than ten days in the area of Chiaka looking fruitlessly for coal. Before we left, however, we decided to make a final try. Our persistence and energy were finally rewarded!

The Stones That Burn

That day, we spotted a layer of what looked like inky black rock near a mountain-top, so we hopefully made our way up there. When we got to the spot, there was no trace of coal. But soon we noticed a sort of greyish-black dust sandwiched between two layers of hard rock. And when we had removed the dust with our hands, we found that we were digging out lumps of glittering coal!

We were overjoyed at this discovery and filled several bags with the coal to bring back to the village. Already in our excited imaginations, we could see tall hoists installed here to draw up this precious food of industry from the shafts, electric lights flooding these hillsides and molten iron pour sparkling from blast furnaces.

Back in the village, we invited the old blacksmith and his neighbours to come and see "the stones that burn like firewood." The next day, we led a whole group of villagers to where we had discovered the coal and explained to them on the spot the rudiments of how to

locate ores. Then we continued on our journey.

We spent a considerable time surveying the natural resources in other parts of the Sikang-Tibet Plateau. Finally, we arrived at Changtu, and here one day a cadre of the Changtu local government handed us a strange gift, saying it was from the inhabitants of Chiaka—a cow-hide bag filled, it seemed, with heavy weights. On opening it, we found it contained a whole collection of ores. After we had left the village, the inhabitants had apparently started a regular campaign to gather “strange stones.” And they had collected this whole bagful of them. They sent it to the *hsiang* government, which passed it on to the

county government, and so on from hand to hand until it reached us.

We found that we now had nearly thirty samples of different ores collected by the peasants of Chiaka as well as by our own hands in various parts of the plateau. Besides the coal, there were ferrous and non-ferrous metals, raw materials for the chemical and building industries. These rock samples symbolized for us the love of the Tibetans for their motherland, and their ardent enthusiasm in building a new life for themselves. These ores showed also that here on the plateau, we have everything ready to hand to found many industries—iron and steel, electricity, chemicals, cement...

From Worker to College Student

Hsieh Cheng-chung

CHU KUO-HUA worked for eleven years in a factory. Today he is a second-year student in college, an exemplary student, keen on his study and always punctual in his attendance at classes and study sessions.

This strapping young man of twenty-nine with his muscular limbs and sun-tanned face is typical of the students of worker or peasant origin in the China People's University. Before liberation, he only managed to get six years of schooling. Then his father, who had been a hard-working labourer all his life, died. Chu Kuo-hua, 14 years old at the time, had to shoulder the responsibility of helping his mother bring up his younger brothers and sister. He got his first job in the Hocheng Petroleum Works run by the Japanese who were then in occupation of Northeast China. He had to carry firebricks to the top of a 50-metre-high gas furnace. Tired, dizzy at the

end of the day, blood from his lacerated shoulders staining his worn, patched shirt, he had to carry on under the crushing weight of the bricks for fear of the lash of the whip carried by a brutal foreman.

In August 1944 he was transferred by the Japanese to a dyke construction site. Working conditions here were even harsher.

After the victory of the War of Resistance, Chu Kuo-hua went back to factory work, but he was soon thrown out of his job and became unemployed when the corrupt and inefficient Kuomintang managers cut back production.

Changed Beyond Recognition

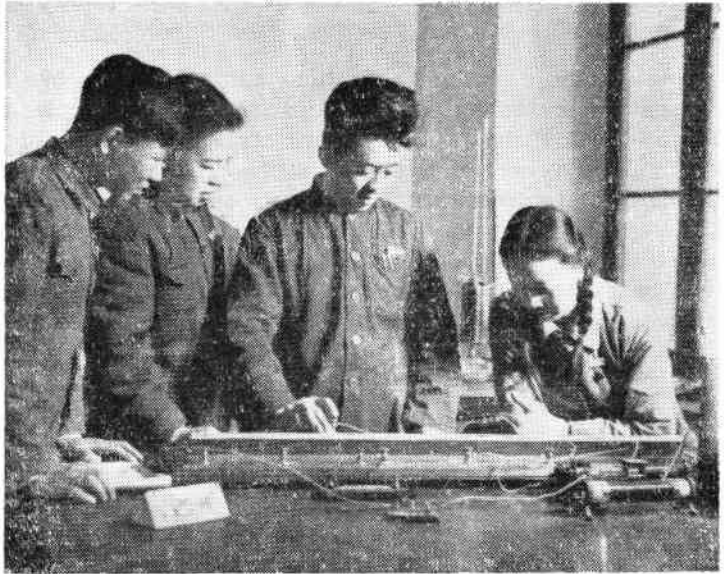
Liberation came to his native town in 1948, and he again went back to work in the factory. But now things were changed beyond

recognition. The workers had become masters of the plant. The new manager frequently came to have a friendly chat with the workers. He sought their advice on management and other questions and was constantly solicitous for their welfare. Chu Kuo-hua and his family soon moved into a big new apartment building; he got a substantial wage increase and his living conditions improved tremendously. Under these conditions where each advance in production and management in the factory was reflected in the betterment of his life, it was not surprising that his interest and regard for the plant increased and he showed an ever greater zest in improving his work.

In the autumn of 1949 the plant was asked to produce increased supplies of oxygen for use in repairing the railway in Liaosi Province. Chu Kuo-hua knew that without this oxygen the repairs would be delayed, and this in turn would mean delaying the southward march of the People's Liberation Army. He stayed to work in the plant day and night. He racked his brains trying to find a method of increasing the productivity of the oxygen-producing apparatus. Finally he not only succeeded in doing this but brought about economies in production that saved the people's state the huge sum of 5,800 million yuan a year. The management and his fellow workers were unstinting in their praise. He was elected a national model worker, and soon after he was promoted to be director of the hydrogen workshop.

In his new post, Chu Kuo-hua continued his efforts to raise production. He also improved labour safety measures in his department.

Throughout the time that the plant was being rehabilitated after the liberation and while he was director of the hydrogen production workshop, Chu studied the techniques of production with the help of the technicians. He gave all the time he could to improving his general education. He made rapid progress. With-



Chu Kuo-hua (2nd from right) and his school-mates in the electrical laboratory

in two years he was able to write by himself not only work reports but also articles for the newspapers. When some Tsinghua University professors visited the plant, he drew them sketches of the machines to their complete satisfaction, and gave them clear explanations of the operations involved. The workers themselves raised the proposal: "It would be a good idea to send Lao Chu to study in college for a couple of years."

Off to College

In August 1951, the personnel department of the plant was notified that scholarships were available for industrial workers to attend the China People's University in Peking. The conditions were that the candidate should have reached a middle school level of education, have worked in a factory for at least five years and be under thirty years of age. Chu Kuo-hua fully qualified on all counts. Indeed, he was more than qualified: he was a national model worker. With the agreement of the trade union, the administration dispatched him to Peking. While he was studying, his family would receive a special subsidy from the university.

At the university, Chu Kuo-hua plunged into his new tasks, but it was clear that

some of the courses, like integral calculus and geometry, were for the moment too difficult for him to master. The university authorities looked into the matter, and seeing that his general educational background still needed some reinforcing, assigned him to the preparatory department which had been set up especially for those students, former industrial workers and revolutionary cadres, who needed some preliminary coaching before they took up normal university courses.

Chu Kuo-hua found that it was no easy matter to keep up with the courses like mathematics, physics and chemistry even in the preparatory department. But he applied himself to his studies the same way he had done in the factory; he was determined to overcome all difficulties. When he came up against something he did not understand, he tried first to get it straightened out himself; only when his own resources utterly failed him did he go to his instructor or schoolmates for help. His diligence was rewarded, and finally he got A grades for all courses. A year later he was ready to attend regular classes at the university.

As he had had some previous practical experience in the refining of petrol when he was working in the petroleum plant, he chose this as his major subject in the department of industrial economics.

Special Attention

The university professors paid special attention to the worker students. His mathematics instructor frequently coached him after lecture hours in the subjects they had just dealt with in the classroom. The generous help given by the faculty was a constant source of encouragement to the worker students.

He also found that many of his classmates were students transferred from other schools. They had a higher level of education, and were always ready to give their worker classmates a helping hand. With such assistance, Chu Kuo-hua successfully mastered physics, analytical geometry and other courses of a theoretical nature which only a few months before would have seemed utterly beyond his comprehen-

sion. He studied with great concentration and diligence, and spent all his spare time on weekdays, Sundays or holidays working on the problems which he had not succeeded in solving in the past week, preparing for the next week's lessons or studying Russian in order that he might get a first-hand knowledge of the advanced experience of the Soviet Union. He can already boast of a working knowledge of the language. He kept up with the current situation by reading newspapers and magazines. He also managed to read novels and general publications related to his field of study.

His progress was rapid even in such a difficult theoretical subject as dialectical materialism.

During the coming summer vacation he is going along with the rest of his class to do experimental work at an oil field. Here he will have a chance to get some practical experience on the job and test what he has learned about industrial economics and oil-refining during the past two years in the university.

* * *

Last year Chu Kuo-hua went back to his native town to spend the summer vacation. There were many changes. He found that the plant had acquired new equipment and that one of his younger brothers had become a fitter and the other a gas worker.

There was a happy re-union. The young workers of the factory crowded around Chu Kuo-hua, plied him with questions about the university and the worker students there, about their studies, their life and their activities. Chu Kuo-hua smilingly tried to satisfy their lively interest. "There is a constantly increasing number of worker and peasant students," he told them. "After the victory of the people's revolution, the doors of the schools and colleges were thrown wide open to the workers."

Chu Kuo-hua stood before them as a living example of what this meant.

One could see on their faces their confidence that they too would follow in the steps of Chu Kuo-hua and were determined to emulate him.

"The Dream of the Red Chamber"

Yu Ping-po

THE recent publication of a new, revised edition of *The Dream of the Red Chamber*, the great 18th century novel by Tsao Hsueh-chin, is an important event in the literary life of New China. It is a striking expression of the way in which the liberated Chinese people cherish their literary heritage. It is a tribute to the extraordinary realism and literary skill of this 200-year-old masterpiece.

The Dream of the Red Chamber is a major work of more than 900,000 Chinese characters. It was circulated originally in hand-written copies and achieved immense popularity when it was first printed from wooden blocks and published in 1791.

Story of a Feudal Family

It is a story of the tragic love of two cousins of an aristocratic feudal family woven into the scene of the day-to-day life of the family, its rise and gradual decay in 18th century China. Rich in incident and intimate detail, this incisive picture of a cross section of the Chinese ruling class in the time of the Ching Dynasty was written by one who belonged to that class, knew intimately the life of its inner courts and, because he suffered deeply from it, saw its rottenness with startling clarity albeit with a feeling of class self-pity.

The Chia family, whose fortunes are traced in this book, owed its rise to two brothers who received the title of duke for services rendered to the emperor. These titles were hereditary and the family enjoyed a large income from its estates and allowances from the treasury. It lived in magnificent style and had great influence in public affairs. At the time the story opens, the two dukes had died and the family was headed by the daughter-in-law

of one of them, the Dowager Duchess Chia. Her eldest son, Chia Sheh, was a rascal. Her second, Chia Cheng, was an official and a hypocrite. Chia Sheh's son, Chia Lien, was a rake and his wife, Mistress Feng, a clever, self-seeking woman. The male descendants of the other duke's family headed by Chia Chen were even more decadent.

The central character of the novel, Chia Pao-yu, Chia Cheng's son, fell in love with his cousin, a lovely but delicate girl, Lin Tai-yu, who lived in the family mansion. Their marriage, however, was opposed by the family elders. Pao-yu was finally tricked into marriage with another cousin. Lin Tai-yu died of a broken heart and Pao-yu himself, reduced to the depths of despair, gave up the world and became a monk.

Retribution overtook the Chia family. Chia Sheh and Chia Chen were cashiered for corrupt practices in official work and their property was confiscated.

Picture of a Class

The novel exposes the economic roots of the wealth and power of the Chia clan—brutal exploitation of the peasants—and of the corruption that finally destroyed it. This is shown in the 53rd chapter, where the tenant farmers of a Chia estate, in a year of poor harvests, brought in 2,500 taels of silver and several cartloads of pigs, chickens, ducks, fish, vegetables. Chia Chen, thinking this too little, in a passion scolded them: "What will I do with this trash?...Where will I get money from except from you?" Members of the family did not hesitate to blackmail each other. They stole from the family treasury and use their family influence to extort bribes. They lent money out at usurious interest. Mistress Feng alone was in possession of a whole trunkful of I.O.U.'s.

They used their influence ruthlessly and unscrupulously. "We wouldn't care even if

The author is a well-known Chinese essayist and research member of the Institute of Research on Literature of Peking University.

someone accused us of rebellion," Mistress Feng boasted arrogantly. Chia Sheh brought about the death of a man only to get his collection of fans. Mistress Feng, for the sake of a 3,000-tael bribe, broke up a marriage contract and caused the death of two young lovers.

Through the mouths of various characters the author bitingly comments on these pillars of feudal society: "Only the stone lions at their gate are clean!" "Even their cats and dogs are perverted!" Luxury was accompanied by greed and baseness, but with it all there was a stern insistence on the observation of the outward

forms of decorum and decency. This was not surprising, as this conventional decorum and ceremony was the last moral support of the rotten feudal system. When this went, all was gone. So even in the midst of their evil-doing, they mouthed the time-honoured precepts about propriety, filial piety and so on.

It was in the name of such propriety that Chia Cheng nearly beat to death his son, Pao-yu. It can thus be imagined how these monsters and hypocrites treated their servants and slaves. When Chiao Ta, an old servant who had several times saved the life of one of the dukes in battle, got drunk, he was seized and bound and forced to eat horse dung. When one of the maids annoyed her mistress, she was driven from her bed, though she was ill, and thrown out of the house. She died the next day.

Theme of Marriage

The author deals with many of the basic facts of the life of feudal China: the position of the peasants, the patriarchal system, family relations, the position of women; but, like a red thread woven through its texture runs the



Portrait of Tsao Hsueh-chin, author of "The Dream of the Red Chamber" (painted in 1762)

theme of the question of freedom of marriage.

There was no freedom of marriage in feudal society. The personal interests of the young people were subordinated to those of the family clan to which they belonged. A "good" marriage was looked upon as a means to strengthen the power and wealth of a clan.

Marriages were perforce marriages of convenience arranged by the heads of clans. Many were the tragedies that resulted from this overriding of all natural attachments between young men and women that did not suit their clans' interests. This is why, despite their love for

each other, Pao-yu and Lin Tai-yu were prevented from marrying. Lin Tai-yu was an orphan, the daughter of a censor of the salt inspectorate. The girl finally chosen for Pao-yu was the daughter of a millionaire purveyor to the imperial household.

Thus, through a myriad incidents and personages, the author takes the reader into the heart of this feudal mansion and into the secret places of the hearts of its inhabitants, creating a convincingly true picture of such a feudal family and its doings.

The leading characters stand out in sharp relief. The author is not afraid of showing them "in the round." They are not cardboard figures, but living beings with failings and good qualities, interwoven as in life. In the first place, there is Pao-yu, the hero. Many of the sentiments of the author are voiced by him. He hates baseness, defies the accepted ethics, despises the orthodox ambitions of his class and the squalid squabbling for official preferment and honours. He hates the way man exploits man and wishes that due respect be paid to women. Despite his failings that stem from his upbringing—his effeminacy and

his love of luxury—he represents the youth who strives for nobler ideals. His ideas are shared by Lin Tai-yu. This meeting of minds is a source of their love, but in the conditions of the feudal society in which they lived, such ideals and such love were inevitably doomed to a tragic fate.

The Author

The author of the novel, Tsao Hsueh-chin, was born about 1723. His novel unfinished, he died in 1763. He had completed 80 chapters, but the manuscript drafts for the rest were lost. Some 20 years later, a new edition of the novel appeared with an additional 40 chapters. These new additions are ascribed to Kao O, a minor official.

The Dream of the Red Chamber is based on an intimate knowledge of the kind of life described. The author came of a rich aristocratic family which had been ennobled in the service of the Manchu rulers, and in the early days of the Ching (Manchu) Dynasty enjoyed the favour of the court, managing for three generations the imperial brocade making works in Nanking. But as a result of a palace coup d'état the Tsao family was ruined. Following this, Tsao Hsueh-chin lived in poverty in the western suburbs of Peking. Here for more than ten years he worked on his novel until his death.

Kao O, it is clear, did not fully follow out the intentions of the original author, but indulged his own inclinations in completing the work. He describes the ruin of the Chia family as a result of its crimes, and the outcome of Pao-yu's ill-fated marriage to his rich cousin, but by way of tribute to the established order of things—about which the original author certainly had his reservations—Kao O has Pao-yu finally take the imperial exams before he becomes a monk and hints that the Chia family may still repair its fortunes. Many facts show that all this was not in Tsao Hsueh-chin's original plan.

The Dream of the Red Chamber is one of the great masterpieces of fiction. It rises like a pinnacle above the general level of the fiction of that day in China. It is in the class of the very greatest novels.

Exposes Feudalism

The Dream of the Red Chamber is a swan song of the feudal system in China. Contemporary interest in it is centred in the penetrating realism with which it exposes that system. The author was equipped for this task because of his wide knowledge of its life. He knew wealth and luxury, then he was hurled into poverty. In the course of this social transformation, he made a wide circle of acquaintances in every stratum of society.



Painted clay-figures modelled by the folk artist Chang Ching-hu show the hero and heroine of "The Dream of the Red Chamber," and some of their young friends at a painting party in the Chia mansion

This extraordinary achievement has its roots deep in the Chinese literary heritage: The author was greatly influenced by the *Western Chamber*, a drama of the Yuan Dynasty (1280-1368). In his novel he frequently uses phrases and sentences from the *Western Chamber*, and some descriptions of places are actually adapted from this drama. The author is also directly indebted to the novels of the Yuan and Ming Dynasties, such as *Ching Ping Mei*, *Water Margin*, *Pilgrimage to the West*,

and others, both in regard to the development of various episodes and in many of the ideas expressed. He also proceeded further along the course of social comment set by his predecessors.

This work is, of course, steeped in the culture of the great literary works of the past. The author received a wide literary education and was the friend of famous scholars. His masterpiece is composed with immense skill and a fertile literary ingenuity. In its use of language it surpasses all its predecessors, dexterously handling the vernacular Peking dialect and adroitly weaving into it the sophisticated scholars' tongue. In these respects *The Dream of the Red Chamber* is an invaluable contribution to Chinese literature and forms a part of the rich heritage of the Chinese people.

The novel, of course, has blemishes. Since his work was directed against the feudal system and some of its most cherished shibboleths, the author often, for safety's sake, had to resort to hints and obscurity to mask his meanings.

No better appreciation of this novel could be given than the words of Engels:

... A socialist-biased novel fully achieves its purpose, in my view, if by conscientiously describing the real mutual relations and breaking down conventional illusions about them, it shatters the optimism of the bourgeois world, instilling doubt as to the eternal character of the existing order, even though the author does not offer any definite solution or does not even line up openly on any particular side. (*Marx and Engels on Literature.*)

In the past two hundred years, this novel was bitterly denounced by the feudal rulers as a disgusting calumny on the conventional feudal order of things. However, it was read and enjoyed by the people and particularly by the youth who sympathized with Pao-yu and Tai-yu's fate and enjoyed the author's jibes at the old society. The new assessment which is being given to it by modern critics has revealed its profounder values. Its republication today and study by the present literary generation brings new instruction and enjoyment to the mass of readers in People's China.

Book Review

“Plain Perfidy”

Lin Wu-sun

ONE of the most revealing episodes of the long-drawn-out Korean negotiations occurred on December 12 last year when Arthur Dean, U.S. representative and partner in Dulles' law firm, scurried out of the discussions in Panmunjom about the Korean Political Conference and broke off the negotiations. This inept “ambassador” had been trying to force on the Korean-Chinese side a “new” formula

which he said was “final.” According to Dean's ultimatum, any agreement that might be reached in the Korean Political Conference would not be binding on Syngman Rhee. The Chinese delegate, Huang Hua, classified this as a trick to leave Rhee among others a loophole for “their perfidious actions.” Dean, who for nearly five hours had been trying to break off the talks, seized on the word “perfidy” as an “insult” to the U.S. and walked out.

Plain Perfidy, published by the authors, Alan Winnington and Wilfred Burchett, P. O. Box 545, Peking, China.

By breaking off the talks on such an issue, Dean drew the attention of the world

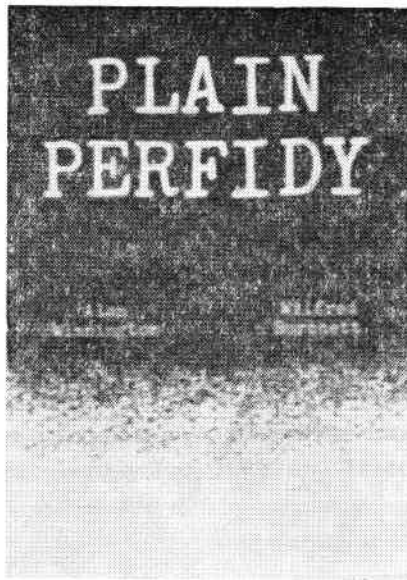
all the more to the fact that the U.S. manoeuvres in Korea and elsewhere were perfidious. Alan Winnington and Wilfred Burchett, who covered the Korean negotiations from beginning to end, have taken U.S. perfidy as their central theme in a damning exposure of American methods in the latter stages of the Korean war and the first days of Korean peace.

In *Plain Perfidy* the authors in a popular, readable style present the case with a mass of closely documented and irrefutable material gathered from American sources, from prisoners of war who had met the reality behind the smokescreen of American "humanitarianism" and evidence from official reports made by the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission. This massive evidence is backed by a striking collection of photographs which even by themselves stand as plentiful proof of the barbarity of the American imperialists. One chapter of the book contains unanswerable proof from American medical sources that Korean and Chinese prisoners were cynically used as laboratory "guinea pigs" in developing bacterial warfare. The authors are to be congratulated on this excellent piece of research and for making these terrible facts known to the public.

Record of U.S. Perfidy

The whole course of the Korean war was replete with acts of U.S. perfidy.

Perfidy is the thread which Winnington and Burchett trace through American moves in the final stages of the war: perfidy to prolong the war, to trap their allies into extending the Korean war into China and frustrate the desire of the whole world to get peace in Korea; perfidy to steal a "psychological victory" out of the peace when it was forced upon them.



When dying men, quadruple amputees and women driven mad by rape were handed over at Panmunjom by the "U.N." Command during the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners, even those people who had previously accepted at their face value Washington's loud shouts about humanitarianism, began to question U.S. policy. When Syngman Rhee, with American connivance, abducted 27,000 prisoners ten days after U.S. General Harrison had solemnly pledged his country's name on the agreement for their

proper repatriation, more people began to see the value of American commitments. On this classic piece of perfidy, the book gives new material from prisoners of war who were abducted on June 18 last year but have since managed to escape and were interviewed by the authors.

Faced with world condemnation for this palpable trick, the American high command next put up puppet Rhee to threaten a "march to the north" while they hastily threw together the next stumbling block to sabotage a truce in advance. Washington's timetable at this stage was thrown out of gear by the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers, who ripped Rhee's best divisions to pieces and forced the American negotiators to give guarantees of his future good behaviour—removing the last obstacle to the Korean truce. But not before Dulles and Rhee had signed a rogues' agreement that American troops would stay in Korea—the very issue that the Korean Political Conference was supposed to settle by withdrawal of all foreign troops.

How NNRC Was Sabotaged

One of the most illuminating parts of *Plain Perfidy* is the exposure by the authors of American efforts first to prevent the terms of the Armistice Agreement from being put into effect by the Neutral Nations Repatriation

Commission, then to prevent the Koreans and Chinese from giving explanations to their own prisoners by such methods as refusing to build proper facilities, and finally by ordering their special agents to refuse to allow the prisoners outside the compounds at all. At the same time, it shows how every American propaganda device was turned on to intimidate the Indian Custodian Force and prevent it from carrying out the terms of the truce agreements.

The authors trace how the NNRC and the Indian Custodian Force lost control of the situation, although constant pressure was exerted by the Polish and Czech delegates to weed out the special agents and give each prisoner a chance to express his own desires. This was never done, and finally the NNRC had to admit failure.

American strategy was to prevent prisoners from attending explanations until December 23 and prevent the Korean Political Conference from meeting until after January 22, on which day they demanded that all remaining prisoners be handed back to them. The prisoners' return would, so they reckoned, provide America with an asset in the cold war. Accordingly, Dean's job was to delay the Political Conference with deadlocking devices as long as possible and then to walk out and wreck it completely.

"Murder Will Out"

But, as events turned out, the American manoeuvres backfired one after another and led to what the authors describe as a total defeat for American psychological warfare and along with it, of the so-called principle of "voluntary repatriation." "Murder will out and it did," Winnington and Burchett conclude. "It was impossible to maintain the fiction of men 'preferring suicide' to returning home, in face of the obvious fact that they were being held back by a concentration of terror unimagined outside the wildest dreams of Himmler. It stank and it went on stinking until everybody knew, and even America's allies paid only the barest formal lip-service to this 'new principle.'"

The authors of *Plain Perfidy* have brought together the many threads that together weave the pattern of American perfidy in Korea.

They show how U.S. monopoly press agencies build up propaganda campaigns and create war hysteria to support American war policy. They quote eyewitness accounts of the terrible tortures and murders carried out in P.O.W. camps under American control and give a description of the murder trial, unique in judicial history, in which special agents were tried for murdering prisoners solely because they wanted to return home. The trial was finally stopped by the Americans withdrawing facilities.

NNRC's Damning Evidence

Although, as the authors point out, the NNRC failed to break up the rule of the secret agents, they did put on record some of the most damning evidence in their Interim and Final Reports. Both reports deny the existence of "voluntary" choice by the prisoners in American hands. "The prisoners of war in the South Camp (Korean and Chinese prisoners—Ed.) and the leadership (secret agents and their masters—Ed.) which sustained them, negate all assumptions or assertions about freedom of choice...It would be bare assertion unsupported by any evidence that the prisoners had voluntarily sought non-repatriation." The NNRC Final Report also repeated the conclusion of the Interim Report that "any prisoner who desired repatriation had to do so clandestinely and in fear of his life."

Publication of *Plain Perfidy* is most timely and will make available to the people of the world a vast mass of well documented background material essential for an understanding of the Korean issue which is being discussed at the Geneva Conference. It provides, moreover, a key that unlocks the high-sounding phrases of modern U.S. propaganda and shows plainly behind them the ugly pattern of the behaviour of the American rulers—perfidy of the basest and crudest sort used in the attempt to grab world domination.

Both as a damning exposure of American perfidy and as a document of the momentous struggle waged by the Korean and Chinese peoples to frustrate it, *Plain Perfidy* will be a powerful weapon in the hands of the people everywhere to combat the lies that cloak Washington's aggression.

CHINA TODAY

Old Factories Support New Projects

The well-established industrial enterprises of China are providing not only equipment but technical personnel to assist the construction and launching of new major projects which will speed the socialist industrialization of the country.

In the first quarter of this year, the Anshan Iron and Steel Company sent over 300 skilled workers to help industrial construction in other areas. The Dairen Lathe Factory last year sent a group of workers to help build the No. 1 Automobile Plant and recently it transferred another 36 experienced workers and employees to help on the construction of the Harbin Measuring and Cutting Instrument Factory.

These veteran plants are also training construction personnel for other major projects. Since the autumn of 1952 the Anshan Iron and Steel Company has been training industrial administrators and technicians for the Tayeh iron and steel base in Hupeh Province. By March this year these cadres, as their training ended, were already returning to work at Tayeh. The Nanking Automobile Assembly Works has set up several classes to train over 300 skilled workers for the No. 1 Automobile Plant which is being built in the Northeast. The Nanking Lathe Factory has trained 40 workers for the same plant.

The older works have, in addition, undertaken to raise production to meet the needs of heavy industrial construction.

Peking's New Department Store

To meet the growing demands of the people of the capital, whose purchasing power is rising steadily, a great new department store, the largest of its kind in Peking, will be built on Wangfuching Street, one of the capital's busiest shopping centres. Construction will begin in May this year and is expected to be completed in early 1955.

The new store will occupy over 4,000 square metres of ground and have a total floor space of over 18,400 square metres—as much as the sales section of the world-famous Central Department Store in Moscow.

It will have six storeys facing Wangfuching and five in its rear portion as well as a basement. It will be able to deal with over 10,000 customers at a time and its thousand and more salesmen will be able to serve goods to over 120,000 customers daily. It will be equipped with modern ventilation facilities and a large lounge. A special rest room will be available on the second floor for mothers shopping with their children.

Spring Work on Huai River

With the coming of spring, work is being stepped up on the Huai River harnessing project which was begun four years ago. More builders and building materials are arriving at the various construction sites.

Work this spring includes the building of four reservoirs, the repairing of 25 large culverts and

sluice gates and over 100 bridges, and dredging and improvements on the courses of 22 tributaries of the Huai.

Work continues this spring on the Poshan and Nanwan Reservoirs on the tributaries of the upper reaches and the Futzeling Reservoir on a tributary on the middle reaches of the Huai. The Poshan Reservoir was completed in April. At the Futzeling Reservoir, concrete pouring continues on the multiple-arch dam which will be built high enough to contain this year's flood waters. Work has already started on the building of the new Meishan Reservoir on the upper reaches of the Shih River, a tributary of the Huai, in Anhwei Province.

Over 63 million cubic metres of earth will be moved in dredging and improving the courses of the 22 tributaries. This work will play an important part in raising agricultural production along both banks of the Huai River. When improvements have been completed this year to the Peifei River's drainage and irrigation system on the middle reaches of the Huai, over 1,100 square kilometres of land to the north of the Huai River in Anhwei Province will be basically protected from water logging caused by excessive rainfalls.

Aid to Korea's Construction

The Chinese people are giving enthusiastic support to the Korean people in the post-war rehabilitation and development of their national economy. Many textile machine parts, concrete-mixers,

pumps, power and lighting installations and equipment, and communication apparatus, etc. are being manufactured for the Korean people in industrial enterprises throughout China. Considerable quantities of such supplies have already been completed and transported to Korea.

Large quantities of building materials including tens of thousands of cubic metres of timber, over 100,000 tons of cement, thousands of tons of rolled steel, heat-resistant materials, water-proof roofing and carpenter's tools, etc. have already been sent to Korea.

Many locomotive and wagon repair plants are repairing locomotives, freight and passenger cars for Korea. These plants have all overfulfilled their work quotas for the first quarter of this year.

A big variety of piece goods and over 180 items of daily necessities have already been sent or are on their way to Korea.

Scientists in Field Surveys

Hundreds of scientists including soil specialists, geographers, botanists, zoologists, entomologists and hydro-biologists will be working on field surveys in various parts of the country this year.

A group of scientists will carry on further surveys, studies and experiments on soil erosion and con-

servation in Northwest China in preparation for the harnessing of the Yellow River.

Hydro-biologists have started a comprehensive survey of China's rich resources in aquatic products.

A group of entomologists are studying the habits of locusts and the natural conditions of their habitat in an area on the border between Shantung and Kiangsu Provinces as a first step to devising methods of eliminating these pests altogether. They are also studying and making experiments on how to eliminate cotton aphids and other cotton pests in the area north of the Yellow River in Honan Province. Another group will study insects which damage the forests of the Great and Small Khingan Ranges in Northeast China.

Central-South Tree Planting

A mass movement for spring tree planting is in full swing in the vast areas along the middle reaches of the Yangtze River and the Pearl and Min Rivers in Central-South China.

These areas, with their warm climate and abundant rainfall, are very suitable for the growth of pine, eucalyptus and other trees suitable for building purposes. To ensure a permanent supply of timber for national construction, the Central-South area will plant

over 6,700,000 *mou* of trees this year and 90% of these will be planted this spring.

University Professors Join C.C.P.

Many teachers of the National Tsinghua University, one of the largest higher educational institutions in China, are making applications to join the Communist Party of China. In 1953, 137 teachers formally applied for membership.

In the past four years, the Party organization in the University has made considerable efforts to help the teachers raise their political and ideological level, and today, having fully realized that it was the Party's leadership, encouragement and organizational work which enabled the Chinese people to win their great victory, they appreciate the great significance of membership of the Party.

Wu Liang-yung, associate professor of the Department of Architecture, expressed the prevailing sentiment well when he said that it is only under the leadership of the Communist Party that the Chinese people will be able to build a socialist society and live a happy life, and that therefore every teacher who trains personnel for socialist construction should be in the van of the struggle for the bright future of the people.



Under the Apple Blossoms

The Uighur people celebrate their new life in People's China

Water colour painting by Huang Chou