PEOPLE'S CHINA

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PEOPLE'S CHINA

A FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE

Editor: Liu Tsun-chi

CHRONICLES the life of the Chinese people and reports their progress in building a New Democratic society;

DESCRIBES the new trends in Chinese art, literature, science, education and other aspects of the people's cultural life;

SEEKS to strengthen the friendship between the people of China and those of other lands in the cause of peace.

No. 8, 1953 April 16

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ERRATA

On the first page of our pictorial, the name "Yoshituo Hirano" in the caption to the upper left-hand corner picture should read "Yoshitaro Hirano."

On the same page, the name "Todao Kudo" in the caption to the lower right-hand corner picture should read "Tadao Kudo."

For Peace in Korea

THE whole world atmosphere has been changed by the agreement to repatriate sick and wounded prisoners of war in Korea. The agreement is a big step towards the termination of thirty-three months of bloodshed in that war-torn country. It opens the way to further action in accordance with the new Chinese and Korean proposal for a solution of the sole question that still holds up an armistice —the issue of prisoners of war. Together with other recent initiatives taken by the camp of peace and democracy headed by the Soviet Union to relax international tensions, this proposal has brought hope to all mankind.

The peoples of all countries have their eyes on Panmunjom. They are pressing with renewed vigour for an immediate cease-fire in Korea because they realise that it is the first and indispensable step towards dispelling the clouds of a new general war. It was to carry out this desire that the Soviet representative in the United Nations made the first move for a truce on June 25, 1951 and that the Korean and Chinese negotiators, by patient and tireless effort over long months, succeeded in bringing about an agreement on all points of the armistice agreement with the sole exception of the repatriation of P.O.W's. It was on the last remaining point that the U.S. side insisted on violations of the Geneva Conventions, finally walked out of Panmunjom and vainly tried "military pressure" to gain its aims.

Now that arrangements have been made to exchange sick and wounded P.O.W's, the Chinese and Korean proposal provides a quick, fair way to solve the question of the others. The proposal calls for the repatriation, as soon as a cease-fire takes place, of all who insist on going home. Any remaining P.O.W's are to be handed over to a neutral state so that the matter of their repatriation can be settled in a just manner. In advancing such a solution, the Korean and Chinese side adheres to the principles of international law which, in the interests of all peoples, it is defending against violation. At the same time, it is making a concession as regards the steps to be taken to ensure the peace the people need.

The time has come for an immediate resumption of full-scale negotiations and for the display of a similarly conciliatory spirit by the other side. As Premier Chou En-lai pointed out in his statement of March 30:

"....subsequent upon the reasonable solution of the question of sick and injured prisoners of war, it is entirely a matter of course that a smooth solution to the whole question of prisoners of war should be achieved, provided that both sides are prompted by real sincerity to bring about an armistice in Korea in the spirit of mutual compromise."

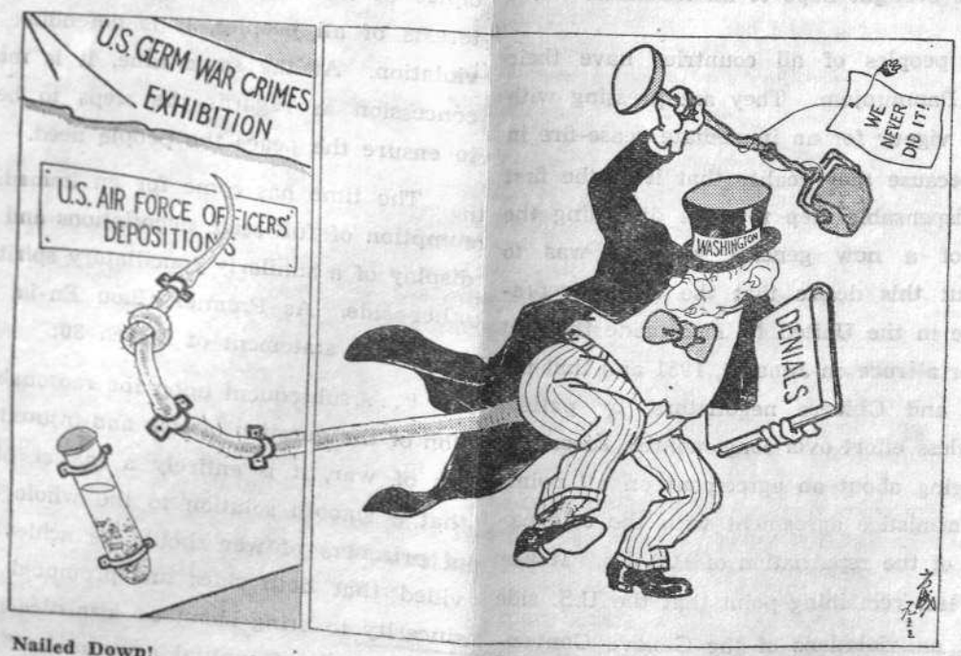
Return of Japanese Nationals

THE friendship of the peoples was strikingly demonstrated in the fraternal send-off given to 4,936 Japanese residents who left China for their homeland on March 20—the first group to return under an agreement between the Chinese Red Cross Society on the one hand and the Japanese Red Cross Society, Japanese Peace Liaison Committee and Japan-China Friendship Association on the other.

This event has a special significance because of its background. The Japanese imperialists shed oceans of Chinese blood in the criminal invasion of China that lasted from 1931 to 1945. And today the Japanese reactionaries and militarists, seeking a comeback under the auspices of American imperialism, continue to be so hostile to China that the formal state of war between the two countries has not yet been ended. But a new force, to which the future belongs, has grown up—the friendship of the Japanese and Chinese peoples. The Chinese people draw a sharp, clear line of demarcation between the ordinary men and women of Japan and the reactionary ruling clique which Washington tries to hoist onto their backs.

To the bitter disappointment of the reactionary press, the returning Japanese residents on their arrival gave ringing testimony of this friendship to their own people and the entire world. They have seen the tremendous construction and development in China since the liberation. They have shared its benefits in terms of employment, social insurance and constantly improving conditions of life. They have enjoyed a good life in a country in which the people are building for themselves.

The Chinese people wish their Japanese friends well. They send back with them their greetings to all peace-loving Japanese—and their confidence that no force on earth can obstruct the developing friendship of the two peoples for peace.



Nailed Down!

Cartoon by Fang Chen

ON THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE KOREAN ARMISTICE

Statement by Chou En-lai, Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government

THE Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, having jointly studied the proposal put forward by General Mark W. Clark, Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command, on February 22, 1953, concerning the exchange of sick and injured prisoners of war of both sides during the period of hostilities, are of the common opinion that it is entirely possible to achieve a reasonable settlement of this question in accordance with the provision of Article 109 of the Geneva Convention of 1949. A reasonable settlement of the question of exchanging sick and injured prisoners of war has clearly a very significant bearing upon the smooth settlement of the entire question of prisoners of war. It is, therefore, our view that the time should be considered ripe for settling the entire question of prisoners of war in order to ensure the cessation of hostilities in Korea and to conclude the armistice agreement.

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea hold in common that the delegates of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers to the armistice negotiations and the delegates of the United Nations Command to the armistice negotiations should immediately start negotiations on the question of exchanging sick and injured prisoners of war during the period of hostilities, and should proceed to seek an overall settlement of the question of prisoners of war.

The Korean armistice negotiations in the past one year and more have already laid the foundation for the realisation of an armistice in Korea. In the course of the negotiations at Kaesong and Panmunjom, the delegates of both sides have reached agreement on all questions, except that of prisoners of war. In the first place, on the question of a cease-fire in Korea, about which the whole world is concerned, both sides have already agreed that "the Commanders of the opposing sides shall order and enforce a complete cessation of all hostilities in Korea by all armed forces under their control, including all units and personnel of the ground, naval, and air forces, effective twelve hours after this Armistice Agreement is signed." (Paragraph 12 of the Draft Korean Armistice Agreement.) Secondly, both sides have further reached agreement on the various important conditions for an armistice. On the question of fixing a military demarcation line and establishing a demilitarised zone, both sides have already agreed that the actual line of contact between both sides at the time when the Armistice Agreement becomes effective shall be made the military demarcation line and that "both sides shall withdraw two kilometers from this line so as to establish a Demilitarized Zone between the opposing forces...as a buffer zone to prevent the occurrence of incidents which might lead to a resumption of hostilities." (Paragraph 1 of the Draft Armistice Agreement.) On the question of supervising the implementation of the Armistice Agreement and settling violations of the Armistice Agreement, both sides have already agreed that a Military Armistice Commission, composed of five senior officers appointed jointly by the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and the Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, and five senior officers appointed by the Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command, shall be set up to be responsible for the supervision of the implementation of the Armistice Agreement, including the supervision and direction of the Committee for Repatriation of Prisoners of War, and for settling through negotiations any violations of the Armistice Agreement (Paragraphs 19, 20, 24, 25 and 56 of the Draft Armistice Agreement); both sides have also

agreed that a Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission shall be set up composed of two senior officers appointed as representatives by Poland and Czechoslovakia, neutral nations nominated jointly by the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and the Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, and two senior officers appointed as representatives by Sweden and Switzerland, neutral nations nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command, and that under this Commission there shall be provided Neutral Nations Inspection Teams composed of officers appointed as members to the Teams by the afore-mentioned nations. These Inspection Teams shall be stationed at the following ports of entry in North Korea: Sinuiju, Chongjin, Hungnam, Manpo, Sinanju, and at the following ports of entry in South Korea: Inchon, Taegu, Pusan, Kangnung and Kunsan, to supervise and inspect the implementation of the provisions that both sides cease the introduction into Korea of reinforcing military personnel and combat aircraft, armoured vehicles, weapons and ammunition (except for rotation and replacement as permitted by these provisions), and may conduct special observations and inspections at those places outside the Demilitarised Zone where violations of the Armistice Agreement have been reported to have occurred, so as to ensure the stability of the military armistice. (Paragraphs 36, 37, 40, 41, 42 and 43 of the Draft Armistice Agreement.) In addition, both sides have reached agreement that "the military commanders of both sides hereby recommend to the governments of the countries concerned on both sides that, within three months after the Armistice Agreement is signed and becomes effective, a political conference of a higher level of both sides be held by representatives appointed respectively to settle through negotiations the questions of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea, the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, etc." (Paragraph 60 of the Draft Armistice Agreement.)

As stated above, in the course of the Korea armistice negotiations, one question alone—the question of prisoners of war—blocks the realisation of an armistice in Korea. And even with respect to the question of prisoners of war, both sides have reached agreement on all the provisions in the Draft Armistice Agreement on the arrangements relating to prisoners of war, except on the question of the repatriation of prisoners of war. Had the Korean armistice negotiations not been interrupted for more than five months, a solution might long since have been found to this issue of the repatriation of prisoners of war.

Now inasmuch as the United Nations Command has proposed to settle in accordance with Article 109 of the Geneva Convention, the question of exchanging sick and injured prisoners of war during the period of hostilities, we consider that subsequent upon the reasonable settlement of the question of sick and injured prisoners of war, it is entirely a matter of course that a smooth solution to the whole question of prisoners of war should be achieved, provided that both sides are prompted by real sincerity to bring about an armistice in Korea in the spirit of mutual compromise.

Regarding the question of prisoners of war, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have always held and continue to hold that a reasonable solution can only lie in the release and repatriation of war prisoners without delay after the cessation of hostilities in accordance with the stipulations of the 1949 Geneva Convention, particularly those of Article 118 of the Convention. However, in view of the fact that the differences between the two sides on this question now constitute the only obstacle to the realisation of an armistice in Korea, and in order to satisfy the desire of the people of the world for peace, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in pursuance of their consistently maintained peace policy and their position of consistently working for the speedy realisation of an armistice in Korea and striving for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question thus to preserve and consolidate world peace, are prepared to take steps to eliminate the differences on this question so as to bring about an armistice in Korea. To this end, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea propose that both parties to the negotiations should undertake to repatriate immediately after the cessation of hostilities all those prisoners of war in their custody who insist upon repatriation and to hand over the remaining prisoners of war to a neutral state so as to ensure a just solution to the question of their repatriation.

It must be pointed out that in advancing this proposal, we by no means relinquish the principle of release and repatriation of war prisoners without delay after the cessation of hostilities set forth in Article 118 of the Geneva Convention, nor do we acknowledge the assertion of the United Nations Command that there are among the prisoners of war individuals who allegedly refuse repatriation. It is only because the termination of the bloody war in Korea and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question is bound up with the question of the peace and security of the people of the Far East and the world that we take this new step and propose that after the cessation of hostilities, those captured personnel of our side who, under the intimidation and oppression of the opposite side, are filled with apprehensions and are afraid to return home, be handed over to a neutral state, and that explanations be given them by the side concerned, thus ensuring that the question of their repatriation will be justly settled and will not obstruct the realisation of an armistice in Korea.

We are convinced that this new step taken by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for terminating the hostilities in Korea is in complete accord with the vital interests of the peoples whose sons are fighting on both sides in Korea and is also in complete accord with the fundamental interests of the people of the whole world. If the United Nations Command has the good faith to seek peace, this proposal of our side ought to be accepted by it.

Peking,
March 30, 1953

MARSHAL KIM IL SUNG AND GENERAL PENG TEH-HUAI'S LETTER TO GENERAL MARK CLARK

General Mark W. Clark,
Commander-in-Chief,
United Nations Command:

We received your letter dated February 22, 1953.

Concerning the question of repatriating with priority seriously sick and seriously injured prisoners of war of both sides, the delegates for armistice negotiations of both sides had, as a matter of fact, reached agreement, in accordance with humanitarian principles, on Paragraph 53 of the Draft Korean Armistice Agreement. It was solely because the Korean armistice negotiations were suspended that there was no way to implement this agreed provision. In consequence, it has not been possible up to the present to repatriate seriously sick and seriously injured prisoners of war of both sides.

Since your side now expresses readiness to apply the provisions of the Geneva Convention to sick and injured prisoners of war in the custody of both sides, our side, as an expression of the similar intent, fully agrees to your side's proposal to exchange sick and injured prisoners of war of both sides during the period of hostilities. This proposal should be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Article 109 of the Geneva Convention. At the same time, we consider that the reasonable settlement of the question of exchanging sick and injured prisoners of war of both sides during the period of hostilities should be made to lead to the smooth settlement of the entire question of prisoners of war, thereby achieving an armistice in Korea for which people throughout the world are longing. Therefore, our side proposes that the delegates for armistice negotiations of both sides immediately resume the negotiations at Panmunjom. Furthermore, our liaison officer is prepared to meet your liaison officer to discuss and decide on the date for resuming the negotiations.

KIM IL SUNG,
Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army
PENG TEH-HUAI,
Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers
March 28, 1953

The Mutual-Aid and Co-operative Movement in North China

Wang Chien

UNDER the leadership of the Communist Party of China and its great leader Mao Tse-tung, the peasants of North China have completed the land reform and up-rooted the feudal land system. On the basis of this achievement they have responded to Chairman Mao Tse-tung's call to organise for production by forming mutual-aid teams and producers' co-operatives to restore and develop agricultural production.

North China is one of China's old liberated areas. It suffered heavy damage during the war years. As a result, agricultural output in general dropped by 20 to 25 per cent, and in some areas by as much as 40 per cent as compared with the prewar level. This created a serious situation. But in the short space of three to five years, production has been restored and raised considerably. Figures for 1952 show that total grain and cotton production surpassed the prewar records by 11 and 91 per cent respectively. Compared with 1951, the total output in 1952 of oil-bearing crops increased by 34 per cent, hemp by 76 per cent, tobacco by 95 per cent and livestock by more than 700,000 head. A big increase in animal products was also registered.

Apart from the basic factor of the completion of the land reform, which set free the peasants' productive forces and the resulting upsurge of the peasants' enthusiasm for production, the development of the mutual-aid and co-operative movement has been a decisive factor in the rapid rehabilitation and development of agriculture. The peasants have been shown a broad path to increased production, and China's agriculture has reached a new stage of development.

Nature of the Movement

The mutual-aid and co-operative movement in North China began in 1943. A mutual-aid team or an agricultural producers' co-operative is organised according to the voluntary principle, for mutual benefit. It is a form of collective labour based on private ownership of the land. Its law of development is growth from seasonal to year-round mutual aid, from a lower to a higher form. In North China today there are three types of such mutual aid in agricultural work.

In the first category are the seasonal mutual-aid teams based on the peasants' old practices of labour exchange * or the use of draught animals in common. † They are generally on a small scale and only seasonal. This is because during the busy spring sowing time, the summer cultivation and autumn harvesting, the peasants work collectively at their main agricultural tasks; but when the slack season sets in and there are only odd jobs to be done, they do them separately and individually. This kind of temporary and seasonal mutual-aid team is the most elementary of the three types. Although it does not drastically change the special characteristics of individual production, it contributes towards relieving shortages of labour or draught animals, and helps the peasants to acquire the habit of collective production in order to raise their output. Facts accumulated over the past ten years prove that this simple type of mutual aid is not only the basis for further development of the movement, but also plays an important role in raising production in the period of agricultural rehabilitation. Compared with individual farming it generally raises labour efficiency by one-third.

Of the second type are the regular, year-round mutual-aid teams. Membership of such teams is fairly permanent; members help one another at all times throughout the year. These teams are the intermediate form of mutual aid. Through them agricultural production can be carried on according to simple plans, and scientific methods can be introduced. Labour efficiency is increased as a result of division of labour. Some of these mutual-aid teams take up subsidiary occupations and thereby increase their peasant members' income. Some teams spend their increased incomes on buying property in common such as farm implements, draught animals, etc. Thus they pass from simple labour exchange to economic co-operation.

Mutual-aid teams have not yet basically changed the character of small and scattered farms, but farm work is to a large extent collectivised and new relations established between members. The use of draught animals, farm implements and labour are all paid for at reasonable rates so that neither peasants with, nor peasants without means of production are placed at a disadvantage.

Mutual-aid teams are therefore superior to individual farming in raising production, and, joining them, the peasants are able to enjoy better living conditions.

Agricultural Producers' Co-operatives

The third type are the agricultural producers' co-operatives which are characterised by the contribution of land as shares and the centralisation of management. They are an advanced form of mutual aid because they incorporate private land and break down the individualistic character of work on the small-scale, scattered farms. Scientific techniques are applied on a wider scale, improved and horse-drawn agricultural implements are used, and there is division of labour and cultivation according to type of land. More detailed and far-reaching plans are laid down for agricultural production and also for capital construction involving irrigation, animal husbandry, improvement of the soil, etc. Although private ownership of land is still maintained, crops are collectively harvested and distributed according to the amount of labour and shares of land contributed. A definite amount of the harvest is set aside to form a common fund.

Peasants who were illiterate only a few months ago now find great interest in the reading room of their agricultural producers' co-operative

From this the socialist character of the agricultural producers' co-operatives becomes apparent. The co-operatives are an advanced form of mutual aid and a transitional stage to collective farming. There are about six thousand such co-operatives in North China. Although not many in number they represent a form of agricultural co-operation full of vitality and with a promising future, which will become in time the chief form of agricultural production throughout North China.

In 1952 more than 65 per cent of North China's peasants and peasant households joined the various types of mutual-aid and co-operative units which totalled around two million. Half of the peasants in North China belong to such organisations, working on a regular and all-year-round basis.

Increases Production

The mutual-aid and co-operative movement has a great transforming influence on agricultural production and rural life.

First, agricultural production and the peasants' income has increased. In 1952, the organised peasants in North China formed the basis of an extensive and protracted campaign which was launched to increase production, renovate farming tools, improve ploughing technique, carry out agricultural capital construction and combat natural calamities. As a result, agricultural production advanced greatly. Experience shows that the better the

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* A form of mutual aid. For instance, when a peasant needs it his neighbour will work for him for a few days, and vice versa.

† A temporary pooling of draught animals for more effective employment. For instance, where a farm implement requires a pair of oxen to pull it and there are two peasant families with an animal each, they pool their animals and plough their lands in turn.

mutual-aid and co-operative movement is organised, the greater is production.

Judging by the returns of eight counties, the yield per *mou* of the agricultural co-operative is double, and that of the mutual-aid team, 50 per cent more than that of an individual peasant household. Many new record harvests have been made by co-operatives and mutual-aid teams. Of the thirteen new national records in North China, five were achieved by co-operatives and eight by mutual-aid teams. Not a single one was created by an individual peasant household. With the development of the co-operative movement in 1952, peasants and teams bought over 70,000 new-type ploughs, 130,000 water wheels, about 80,000 agricultural machines. The irrigated area was increased by over 8 million *mou*.

Assures Rising Living Standards

Secondly, the organisation of mutual aid and co-operation has had an obvious effect in forestalling and reducing the process of class disintegration in the countryside. Wherever the mutual-aid and co-operative movement has been conducted well, there the life of the peasants has steadily improved. Cases of bankruptcy and poverty are rare. Take the villages of Chuanti and Shangkou in Shansi Province, for instance. Since the land reform more than ten years ago, class relations in these two villages have remained stable. No case of usury or exploitation of hired labour has occurred. In areas where the peasants have not yet been well organised, often some peasants are ruined while others become rich peasants, which means that the process of the disintegration of classes is again taking place in the countryside. The above facts show that the development of production through organisation is the only correct road to a life of plenty for the overwhelming majority of peasants.

Thirdly, the development of the mutual-aid and co-operative movement has not only gradually changed the mode of production in the countryside but also the peasants' ways of life and their ideology. It has created a new atmosphere in the political, cultural and moral life in the countryside. Wherever the mutual-aid and co-operative movement is well developed, there cultural activities are exceptionally vigorous. In many mutual-aid organisations there are not only newspaper-reading groups and literacy classes but also libraries and clubs. In consequence, where there is a mutual-aid and co-operative movement, illiteracy is generally speedily eliminated among one-fifth of the illiterates.

Mutual help is developing a new social consciousness. Formerly, when in need of help, the peasants appealed to their kinsfolk or friends but now they turn to the mutual-aid team or the co-operative. Meanwhile, division of labour in the mutual-aid team or the co-operative and the setting up of creches during busy farming periods have played an important role in bringing more women into production. Women are thereby enabled to do agricultural work in the same way as men. Their status in the family and in society is enhanced. These living examples justify Chairman Mao Tse-tung's words: "Once organisation is accepted by the peasants as a habit, not only will production increase, but the political life of the peasants will improve, as will their cultural life. They will pay more attention to their health. Loafers will be reformed and custom transformed."

However, the development of the co-operative movement has not been easy nor without obstacles. We have encountered many difficulties in our advance. But we have successfully adopted the following measures to overcome the difficulties hindering the work of organisation.

Obstacles Overcome

The first obstacle we ran into was the backwardness and scattered existence of the small peasant economy. The land reform in China is only "to transform feudal and semi-feudal land ownership system into a system of peasant land ownership." In the economic conditions of present-day China, the individualistic small peasant economy will continue for a long time to have a positive significance; but at the same time it is a hindrance to organisation. After land reform, the middle peasants gradually became the majority of the rural population, and therefore it is of the greatest importance to carry out correctly the policy of unity with the middle peasants. That is to say, the basic policy of voluntariness and mutual benefit has to be stressed. Peasants may join or leave a team of their own free will. We seek to attract them to the mutual-aid team on the strength of the tangibly excellent results of organisation. When they join the team, their interests must be carefully protected.

The individual economy of the peasants normally gives rise to capitalism; that is, individualistic, small-scale production may cause the rural classes to disintegrate again. The rich peasants can exploit the poor peasants and hired labour by means of usury and the terms of hire; or they can engage in commercial speculation. In order to overcome the difficulties peasants encounter in small-scale farming and to lead the masses of the peasants to the goal of a bountiful life, it is imperative to follow the line of production through organisation as pointed out by Chairman Mao Tse-tung. To surmount these difficulties, it is extremely important to prosecute the work in accordance with the special needs of the peasants. Therefore we not only have to acquaint the peasants systematically with the development of production through organisation and the socialist future but also to lay stress on teaching them by living examples. Li Shun-ta, a model peasant, is one of the best examples of those who have been leading the peasants onto the road of organisation.

In order to increase agricultural production and to consolidate the movement for mutual aid and co-operation, it is essential to improve farming techniques. But in the work of improving techniques we meet with the resistance of a backward and conservative ideology among the peasants. When agronomists, upon their arrival in the countryside, instructed the peasants to soak cotton seeds in warm water, practise artificial pollination for maize and make regular use of chemical fertilisers, some peasants, influenced by the traditions of many centuries, were reluctant to follow their advice; it was only after the more advanced peasants, who in most cases are Party members, had adopted the new farming techniques and achieved good results that the conservative peasants gradually began to change their minds.

A very fierce struggle to overcome these conservative tendencies has developed between the advanced and backward ideologies among peasants. We are promoting the campaign for improving farming techniques on a planned basis and encouraging the peasants to learn from one another's experiences. Because better farming has increased the peasants' incomes and inspired them to greater enthusiasm, the campaign for mutual aid and co-operation has been steadily consolidated and developed.

Furthermore, in the course of organising the peasants, we have come upon the conflict between collective labour and self-interest — a result of the fact that peasants are small private owners. This conflict was responsible for the failure of many mutual-aid teams in the early period of their organisation. In resolving this contradiction, it is important to carry out sincerely and thoroughly the principle of voluntary participation and mutual benefit, as pointed out by Comrade Mao Tse-tung. Mutual aid resolves the contradiction between small private-ownership and collective labour. The key to bringing about this result is to assign farm work in a democratic way and properly calculate the amount of work done by each member so that all may be benefited.

Lastly, we have combatted two deviations in the development of mutual aid and co-operation. One was the passive, Right deviation of ignoring the importance of the movement at the present stage for the development of production and for uniting and remoulding the outlook of the peasants. Comrades with this deviation did not rely enough on the leadership of the Party in agricultural production, and actually gave encouragement to the spontaneous development of a small peasant economy. Another was the "Left" deviation: ignoring the level of political consciousness of the peasants and trying to organise all the peasants overnight. Comrades with this deviation did not understand the voluntary principle, and forced all the peasants to organise mutual-aid teams, causing dissatisfaction among them and creating a great deal of trouble.

Today, under the leadership of the Communist Party and on the initiative of village Communists, the movement for mutual aid and co-operation in rural North China is advancing in co-ordination with the needs of the large-scale economic construction of our country. Its aim is to make the agricultural producers' co-operative the basic form of agricultural production in North China within the next few years.

"Koje Unscreened"

A complete and documented exposure of one of the most cynical and cold-blooded conspiracies against humanity

Ling Wu-sun

WILFRED BURCHETT and Alan Winnington, the well-known Australian and British correspondents, have written a powerful indictment of the American treatment of war prisoners. Drawn from a wealth of material from various sources, *Koje Unscreened* presents a carefully detailed account of the events in American-controlled P.O.W. camps in Korea.

The authors are well qualified to undertake this task. They were in Korea during the events which they relate: not only at Panmunjom and the front, but also in the rear, where they interviewed scores of prisoners who had escaped from the Koje terror camp; Chiang Kai-shek and Syngman Rhee spies who had worked with the Americans and had been parachuted into North Korea and taken prisoner, and captured United Nations soldiers who had themselves served as guards on Koje and taken part in P.O.W. killings. This rich fund of knowledge personally gained, together with a painstaking research into American and British press reports and the reluctant admissions of the International Committee of the Red Cross, have created a profoundly convincing and moving book.

As the authors show, the formula of "voluntary repatriation" as a propaganda cover for detaining Korean and Chinese prisoners—recommended by the U.S. Army's Psychological Warfare Branch—was gladly adopted by the Truman government as a ready-made psychological pill to dope the public and also as the certain stumbling block to making any agreement during negotiations impossible. On Koje and the other camps, the American Counter-Intelligence Corps had already brought into use Chiang Kai-shek and Syngman Rhee agents for the implementation of the high sounding "Civil Information and Education" programme — under which prisoners were starved, beaten and tortured to make them renounce their countries.

Burchett and Winnington make it clear that the horrifying events on Koje and in the other camps were not isolated happenings but planned as part of a deliberate scheme to delay and if possible to wreck the armistice talks. As the pressure of public opinion increased and the unsuccessful military offensives failed to get the Americans points they demanded at the conference table, orders were given to speed up prisoner "screening" so that the "trump card" of voluntary repatriation could be played. Prisoners were tatooed with anti-Communist slogans. By the end of October, 1951, orders had been given to complete tatooing at high speed. Then when the limit was reached owing to the resistance of the prisoners, "operation blood petition" was ordered. Prisoners were forced to write "petitions" in their own blood opposing repatriation. The prisoners-of-war item on the agenda was fast approaching the stage of discussion and "the orders were to get blood petitions and to get them quickly."

"Towards the end of November," testifies Wang Chia-ti, a P.O.W. who had been a "special agent" of the KMT, "one of the C.I.C. officers, Captain Booth, personally directed the Kuomintang commander of the 72nd regiment*, Wang Shun-ching, to complete the signing of the blood petitions that night.... Booth told Wang Shun-ching that he was personally assigned to take the appeal to Ridgway's headquarters on the following day."

To seal the loopholes in the American case, "screening" was invented to back up the figures Ridgway's subordinates were putting up at the conference tent. Following Ridgway's visit to Koje in November, 1951, screening began in

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Koje Unscreened by Wilfred Burchett and Alan Winnington, published by the authors, Box 545 Peking, China, 1953.

* Prisoners in American camps are broken up into groups, called regiments.—Ed.

Australian correspondent Wilfred Burchett (in white shirt), co-author of "Koje Unscreened," briefing "UN" correspondents

Compound 86. "This was the first case we were able to trace of the type of 'screening' that later became universal" the authors write.

This is what Private Thomas James Allan of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment, now a P.O.W. in North Korea, told the authors about a "screening" in Compound 66 in Koje on June 21, 1952. Prisoners were lined up between British and Canadian troops and asked whether they wanted to return to North Korea or remain in South Korea.

"If they said they wanted to go back to North Korea," says Allan, "then they were threatened by what would happen to them if they didn't sign their names to the paper that they wanted to stay in South Korea.

"If they still refused, then I saw them being hit over the face and their bodies. They had their arms twisted behind their backs and if they still refused then they were taken away in another truck to the 'Monkey House'." (A wired cage for the torture of prisoners by American "screening" officers and their accomplices.)

Lance Corporal William Bell of the same Regiment said this of another "screening" on June 12, 1952.

"We went into the compound in two lines and threw some tear gas grenades at the prisoners. We were armed with rifles, Sten guns, gas and concussion grenades. This did not have much effect on the prisoners and we were ordered to fire at their legs. We fired about five rounds each.... I would estimate that there were twenty killed and thirty or more wounded. It is possible that I killed one or more in this action."

But unfortunately for the American Command, the force of its terrorism broke against men with iron determination and unflinching loyalty to their countries—and the hollow mockery of "voluntary repatriation" was dramatically exposed to the world. History will never forget the courage of the dignified, half-starved men who braved machine guns, grenades and flame-throwing tanks to capture the camp commandant General Dodd in May, 1952 to draw attention to their miserable lot and to demand decent treatment.

They gave Dodd and those who negotiated for his release a lesson in humanitarianism. The authors quote Dodd who spoke of his captivity after his release: "During my entire stay in the compound I was treated with the utmost respect and courtesy and my personal needs were looked out for." The world is now familiar with the result of the negotiations, but it is

worthwhile recalling Colson's replies (Colson had succeeded Dodd as commandant): "I do admit that there have been instances of bloodshed where many prisoners of war have been killed and wounded by United Nations forces. I can assure you that in the future the prisoners of war can expect humane treatment in this camp according to the principles of international law.... there will be no more forcible screening or any rearming of prisoners of war in this camp, nor will any attempt be made at nominal screening." But no sooner had Dodd been released than the massacres began again with generals boasting about their "victories" over the unarmed prisoners. Today, prisoners are still being killed, and there is no sign that the policy of coercion and terror has been abandoned.

By contrast, the authors tell of a completely different world which they found in the Korean-Chinese P.O.W. camps. The U.N. P.O.W's, the authors observe, are not only provided with adequate food, clothing, living quarters and other facilities but also encouraged to engage in various cultural and athletic activities of their own choosing. As an illustration, the authors give a vivid first-hand account of the inter-camp Olympic Games held on the banks of the Yalu River in November, 1952. "Every policy in these camps," write Burchett and Winnington, "is based on respect for human beings and on the belief that the common man does not choose of his own will to go thousands of miles to fight a people of whom he scarcely heard until he arrived in Korea."

Koje Unscreened is not only a complete and documented exposure of one of the most cynical and cold-blooded conspiracies against humanity that history has recorded; it is a key to understanding the one remaining issue in the armistice talks. In writing the book, Burchett and Winnington have done a great service to the cause of world peace by bringing fuller understanding of Koje and the larger issues that it implies. "The ordinary peaceful people of the world," they say in conclusion, "can still ensure that the choice is peace and that the thousands of Korean and Chinese patriots who shed their blood on Koje did not do so in vain."

U.S. Germ Warfare Continues

Despite all protests and warnings, the U.S. Command is continuing germ warfare in Korea. We print below some of the reported germ bombings in March taken from preliminary statistics released by the Korean Central Telegraph Agency.

MARCH 1: U.S. planes drop germ-carrying insects, such as flies and mosquitoes, and small creatures in Weiwon-erp, Weiwon County, Chakang Province and Cholbong-ni, Anbyon County, Kangwon Province.

MARCH 2: U.S. forces spread germ-carrying spiders and rodents on Sanwor-ri, Kumgang County.

MARCH 10: U.S. planes drop germ-carrying insects and disease-infected biscuits and other foodstuffs in Hamhung City, Sinchang County (South Hamkyong Province), and Pukchong County.

MARCH 11: U.S. forces spread germ-carrying insects on Sanwor-ri, Kumgang County. A four-compartment bomb case and blackflies and fleas are recovered in a snow-covered area.

MARCH 12: U.S. B-26 planes drop fleas on Yudong-ni, Tongchon County.
U.S. aircraft drop flies and mosquitoes on Unchonni, Kosong County.

MARCH 16: U.S. aircraft drop fleas simultaneously with propaganda leaflets at Yuerpri, Hoeyang County.
U.S. aircraft drop rodents at Sinnimni, Tongchon County.
U.S. B-26 aircraft drop flies, mosquitoes and spiders on a ridge to the north of the positions of the Chinese and Korean forces.

How Agriculture Is Taxed in China

Li Cheng-jui

Deputy-Director of the Agricultural Tax Department, Ministry of Finance

THE peasants of New China select their best grain for the payment of the state agricultural tax. They deliver it promptly in a festive atmosphere. Calling it their "Patriotic Public Grain Delivery," with songs and to the beating of drums and cymbals, their cavalcades of carts and barrows bearing banners and flags carry the grain and other produce to the government granaries and collecting points. The peasants completed their 1952 tax payments with pride and enthusiasm. This year they see the splendid results of their past efforts—one of the greatest results of their industry and thrift and that of the whole of the Chinese people—the launching of China's first five-year plan of national construction.

The peasants are happy to pay this tax because they see it returned to them increased a hundredfold in public works and services by a government composed of the true representatives of the people. All this stands in vivid contrast to their resistance to taxation in the past, when the reactionary Kuomintang government never succeeded, even at the point of the bayonet, in collecting more than 70 per cent of its estimated agricultural tax revenue.

Owing to the great increase in agricultural production since liberation, each peasant after payment of the 1952 tax, has an average of 50 kilogrammes of grain more than in 1951. Out of their own production China's peasants today cover their daily needs, lay aside grain for further investments, provide their government in taxes with adequate amounts for current use and reserves as well as for exports to the people of other Asian countries who need grain.

In the Past

Chronic starvation was the lot of the mass of peasants in old China. Each year vast sums were extorted from them in the form of rent, usurious interest rates and taxes. In addition to the burdensome land tax, the reactionary rulers forced the peasants to pay over seven hundred different kinds of levies. The tax bureaux controlled by the local despots and landlords were sinks of corruption. No accurate investigation was ever made into the amount of taxable land. Before liberation, taxation in many places was still based on land tax registers compiled in 1877. Many landlords paid no taxes on the land they owned, while many peasants who had already lost their land were still compelled to pay taxes on it. Some warlords even went so far as to collect the land tax many years in advance. In 1937, the year when the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression broke out, the warlords of Szechuan had already collected the land tax for 1991! It was no wonder that millions of peasants in that province known as the "Land of Abundance" were impoverished and often forced to sell their children to pay their debts.

The Chinese peasants on numberless occasions in the past had risen up against such injustice and extortionate practices. The demand for equitable taxation is an ancient one in China. When it established its first people's revolutionary bases in southern China in 1927, the Communist Party of China immediately gave effect to this just demand, taking steps to abolish the old land tax system and to replace it with a fair and equitable agricultural tax.

New Tax Policy

With the establishment of one liberated area after another, and finally of the People's Republic of China, a just agricultural tax system was introduced throughout the country.

The second paragraph of Article 40 of the Common Programme adopted in September, 1949, by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference stipulates that the taxation policy of the state shall be based on the

principle of giving consideration to the rehabilitation and development of production and the requirements of national construction and that the system of taxation shall be simplified and an equitable distribution of burden be effected. This serves as the general basis of New China's taxation policy.

New China's agricultural tax encourages production. According to the Tax Regulations, anyone who reclaims virgin land is exempted from paying taxes on such land for three to five years, while anyone who reclaims land which has fallen out of cultivation enjoys from one to three years' remission of taxes with respect to it. This encourages the peasants to enlarge the area they cultivate.

The Tax Regulations also stipulate that in cases where arid land is turned into irrigated land as a result of the peasants' own efforts, the land in question continues to be classed as arid land for purposes of taxation for a period of three to five years. This is to encourage the extension of irrigation.

Subsidiary farm occupations such as livestock raising are also encouraged and at the present time are exempted from taxation.

The Tax Regulations also make clear that by agricultural income is meant the normal annual yield of the land. That is to say, the agricultural tax is assessed according to the normal yield of the land in a specific locality. No tax is levied on any portion of the yield in excess of the normal yield which results from good work and proper management. On the other hand, if the crop falls short of the normal yield as a result of slack efforts in farming, the tax is not reduced. The peasant is thus encouraged to raise his average yield per unit area. (In cases of natural disasters, of course, every possible assistance is given the peasants including loans, relief supplies, etc. and, if necessary, remission of taxes.)

Big Increases in Output

There has been a steady increase in the area of cultivated land, in the average yield per unit area and in the total agricultural output of China in the past three years. The following table shows the increases in grain and cotton:

INCREASE OF AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT

Base year: 1949=100

Product	1950	1951	1952
Grain	117	129	157
Cotton	160	234	287

In this period the irrigated area of the whole country increased by 3,270,000 hectares.

These achievements are of course mainly due to the change in the system of land ownership and to the extensive campaign for co-operative forms of farming, but the fact remains that the new agricultural tax policy has played a definite role in encouraging production and achieving these remarkable advances in agriculture.

The agricultural tax is collected in New China on a reasonable and equitable basis. In the first year of existence of the People's Republic, in the newly liberated areas,* the old land tax levied according to the amount of land owned was abrogated and replaced by a progressive tax based on the agricultural income (normal annual yield) gained by each farm household. The lowest rate of this tax was 3 per cent and the highest 42 per cent. The lower rates were applied to poor and middle peasants, while the rich peasants, and especially the landlords in places where land reform had not yet been carried out, were subject to the higher rates of taxation.

Readjustments in Rates

Under the Land Reform Law (promulgated in June, 1950) the land of the landlords was confiscated and distributed to peasants who had previously owned very little or none at all. The rich peasants, however, who usually own about twice the amount of land owned by the average peasant, have retained their property. This changed situation called for readjustments in the progressive rate of taxation. After the reforms the lowest rate was raised to 5 per cent and the highest was reduced to 30 per cent. Nowadays poor peasants in general are taxed from 5 to 10 per cent and middle peasants about 15 per cent. A few rich peasants are assessed at the highest rate of 30 per cent. China's agricultural tax policy thus accords with the general line of development of China's agriculture. It places the proper restrictions on the development of rural capitalism and helps to lead the peasants steadily in the direction of co-operative farming.

Provision has been made for taxes to be reduced or completely waived in the case of peasants who are suffering under particular difficulties due to lack of labour power (for example, widows with children and no adult bread-winner) or natural calamities. Lower rates of taxation ranging from 10 to 30 per cent below the ordinary rates are paid by those national minorities who are still economically backward and have not yet recovered from the ravages of reactionary rule in the past. Some national minorities have been completely exempted from taxation for a certain period.

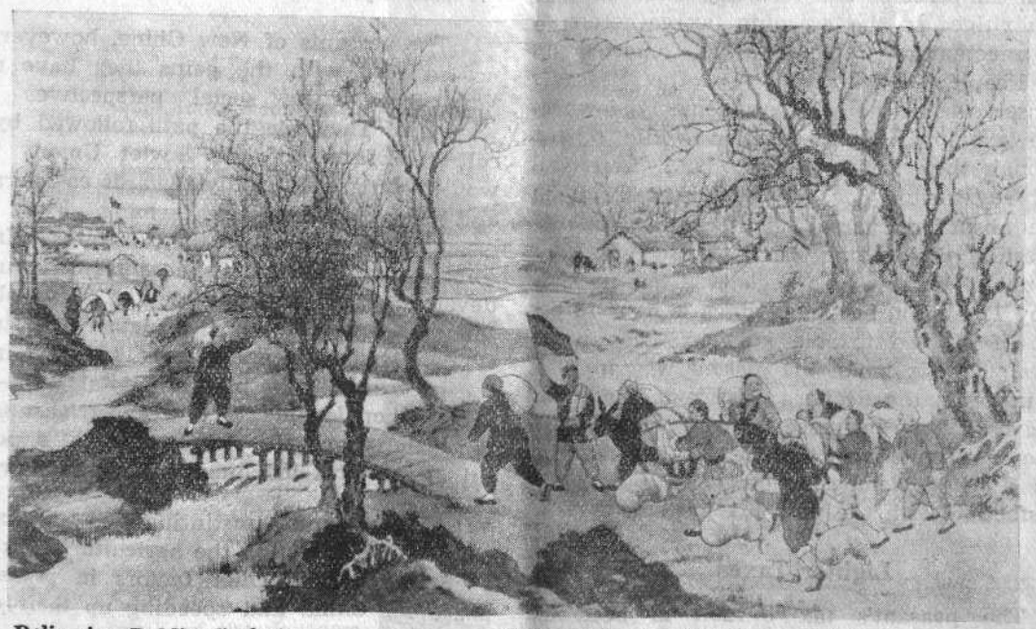
Only One Agricultural Tax

The Central People's Government has also made the agricultural tax regulations as simple as possible. In 1950, it decided that local surtaxes added to the regular agricultural tax should not exceed 20 per cent of the regular tax. (There was no limit to surtaxes in old China, and these often exceeded the regular tax many times over.)

In 1952, all surtaxes were abolished. Since then, only a single agricultural tax has been levied on agricultural production. To finance local non-profit-making undertakings such as cultural and recreational activities or the repair of bridges, roads, etc., the local authorities are still authorised, subject to approval of a higher authority, to collect funds from the local populace, provided that this contribution is voluntary and amounts to less than 7 per cent of the agricultural tax.

Payment in Kind

The agricultural tax is mainly paid in kind: more than 80 per cent is paid in the form of food crops; another 10 per cent in cotton, peanuts, and other industrial crops by peasants who grow industrial crops. Peasants living in the suburbs of big cities or near communication centres, however, may, if they wish, pay in money. Such payments account for less than 10 per cent of the total amount of revenue from the agricultural tax.



Delivering Public Grain — *Painting by Ko Hsiang-lan and Lin Hsueh-yen*

* In the people's revolutionary bases, mainly in North, Northwest and Northeast China containing a total population of 120 million people, the land reform was carried out before the establishment of the People's Republic of China. The land was distributed roughly equally (according to the number of people in each household) in accordance with the concrete needs of the situation then existing during the revolutionary war. In these areas, a system of proportionate tax is still in force. The progressive tax will, however, be introduced in these areas in the near future.

Payment in kind enables the peasants to bring in part of whatever they produce as tax and saves them the trouble of selling their crops beforehand. It also guarantees that the government will have large amounts of foodstuffs and some industrial raw materials at its disposal. This ensures public control over an assured supply of foodstuffs and is an important factor in the stabilisation of food prices. That the twelve-year inflation of commodity prices was halted within half a year after the inauguration of the Central People's Government was in considerable measure attributable to the policy of payment of the agricultural tax in kind, a system which is well adapted to the present needs of the country.

Peasants Well Satisfied

The peasants actually assessed themselves for taxation purposes.

In the course of the land reform, they themselves made assessment of all arable lands. They graded these lands according to quality and determined the average annual yield of each plot. Land which the landlords had formerly concealed by not registering it with the authorities so as to shift the tax burden on to the peasants was registered, and fields which the peasants had formerly tilled but had not divulged to the grasping tax-gatherers of the reactionary regime, were reported to the People's Government by the peasants themselves. In the old days, some landowners were exempted from taxation while others, although they had sold their land, were still held responsible for paying the tax on it. Such absurd practices have been ended. As a result, during the past three years, the amount of taxable land registered has increased by 11 million hectares, which is over 12 per cent of all the taxable land in Kuomintang times. This is one of the reasons why in 1952, for instance, the People's Government actually received 7 per cent more than its original estimate of revenue from the agricultural tax. This was a vivid demonstration of the peasants' satisfaction with the new tax system.

Lighter Taxes

The peasant's tax burden is becoming lighter every year.

With the help of the government, during the land reform the peasants received 46 million hectares of land. They no longer had to pay an annual levy of land rent to landlords amounting to 30 million tons of grain. They also received and have since then received large amounts yearly in farm credits and numerous improved farm implements. Their income has greatly increased. Great public works, roads, railways, water conservancy projects have been undertaken for their benefit, and their welfare improves day by day.

Since the agricultural tax is assessed according to the *normal* and not to the *actual* yield of the land, the peasant's tax burden is a constant, and since his actual income rises every year due to increased production, he pays a declining portion of his income in taxes every year.

At the same time, while in 1950 the agricultural tax constituted the second largest item in national revenue (urban taxes being the first), in 1953 though slightly greater in absolute figures than in 1952, it will, due to the rapid increase of industrial production, drop to third place (constituting only 10.99 per cent of national revenue), after urban taxes, and the profits of state operated enterprises paid into the treasury.

The peasants of New China, however, are not satisfied with the gains they have made thus far. Their social perspectives have widened. They see the path followed by the collective farms of the Soviet Union. They want to progress steadily towards co-operative, and after that, collective farming. They want gradually to mechanise their farming. In the coming five years the peasants will further develop agricultural production, accumulating the capital needed for the further building of China's industries, and especially heavy industry, according to the plan of capital, large-scale construction leading to the industrialisation of the country and the development of a powerful agricultural machine-building industry.

The peasants' unstinting and enthusiastic contributions through the agricultural tax have been one of the chief factors in preserving peace for China and speeding up their country's advance to industrialisation.

Friendship Between The Chinese and Japanese Peoples

Arrangements concluded between the Chinese Red Cross Society and the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Japanese Peace Liaison Committee and the Japan-China Friendship Association have helped the first group of Japanese nationals desiring to return to Japan, totalling 4,936 persons, to leave China for home between March 20-22, 1953

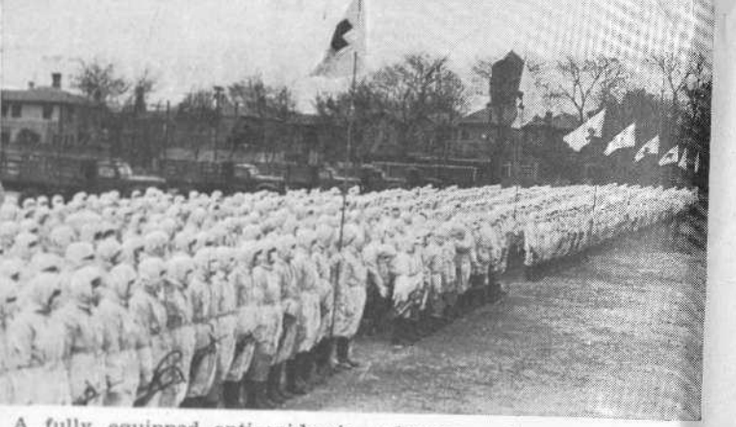
Chief delegate of the Chinese Red Cross Society, Liao Cheng-chih (first from right) talking with the leader of the Japanese delegation, Tadatsugu Shimazu, and deputy-leaders Tomi Kora and Yoshituo Hirano (right to left)

Director Hsu Jui-shu and staff members of the No. 8 Hospital of the Ministry of Health, Peking, wishing Harue Kinoshita, former nurse of the hospital, a good journey home

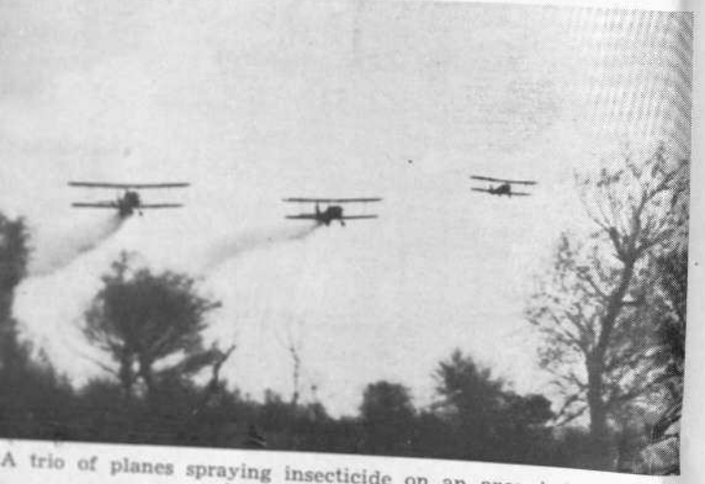
Todao Kudo (right), on behalf of the Japanese Red Cross Society, presents a gift to Peng Tse-ming, Vice-Chair-

HOW CHINA PROTECTS THE PEOPLE'S HEALTH

In 1952 a health movement on a scale hitherto unknown in human history was started in China. It rid China's cities of flies and mosquitoes and made it one of the most sanitation-conscious countries in the world. With the coming of spring it is now being intensified



A fully equipped anti-epidemic volunteer column ready for action in an area infected by U.S. planes

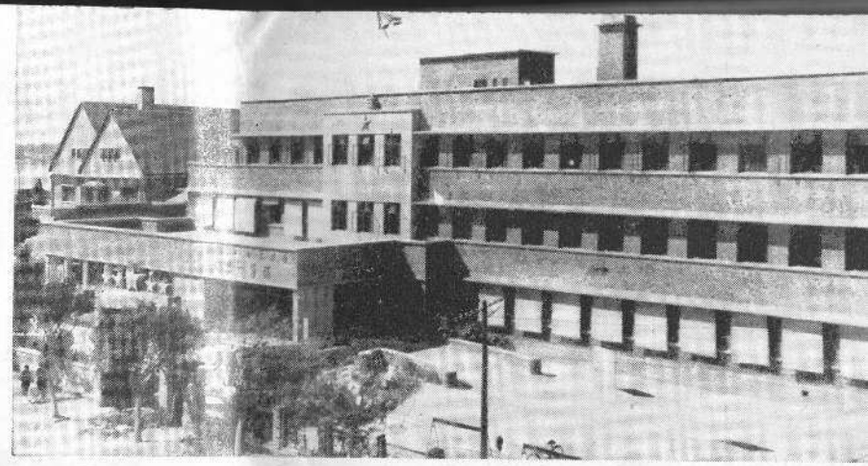


A trio of planes spraying insecticide on an area infected by U.S. planes

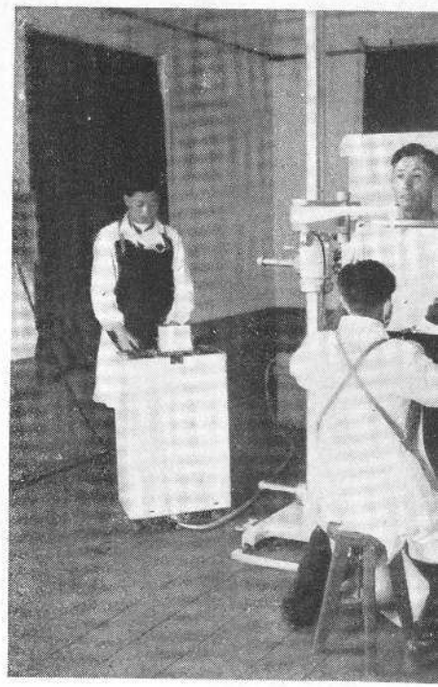
The principle of the health and sanitation campaign is "prevention is better than cure." Groups of civilians like these in a Peking suburb have cleared all mosquito-breeding grounds around China's big cities

"Strengthen the Patriotic Sanitation Movement" is the call of this poster by Feng Tseng-chun

Wei Ai-ying, a model sanitation worker of Hotse County, Shantung Province, gave anti-epidemic injections to 1,230 villagers in 14 days. She was one of thousands trained



Modern hospitals such as this one for Tientsin textile workers provide free medical service to workers



In a factory clinic of the Northeast, regular health check-ups and mass radiology aim to forestall disease

Modern preventive medicine has been brought to al the many nationalities of China. Government medica personnel giving anti-epidemic injections to Uighurs o Sinkiang Province

The park is a haven of green trees, flowers and water-courses in the heart of the city

The People's Park, Shanghai

The old Shanghai race course, 35 hectares in extent, once an exclusive preserve of imperialist gamblers, has now been turned into a splendid people's park and square for the use of the people

Tasting the delights of the ferris-wheel in the children's corner

Playing games in the park. In the background, the former Race Course Club now houses a museum and public library

Anshan Arises Anew

China's Steel City is being rebuilt and equipped with the most modern automatic installations to produce iron and steel for her first five-year plan.

Hsu Chih

WHEN the People's Liberation Army at last freed Anshan in the winter of 1948, this heart of the industrial Northeast of China was a desert of debris. Weeds grew breast-high in the yards of the steel plants. The blast furnaces, crippled and rusted in fantastic streaks of red and yellow-brown, stood like giant fungoid growths on a wasteland. The roofs of most of the workshops, all valuable equipment and even the door-knobs had been removed and sold by Kuomintang speculators. Nothing worked. Only the dead weight of the heavier machines had saved them from being carried off wholesale by these plunderers and their American masters. The workers were lean with hunger.

Yet just previous to their seizure by the Kuomintang, these works had been among the biggest industrial enterprises operated by the Japanese militarists, turning out millions of tons of metal—iron and steel.

Under the Japanese Colonialists

In 1919, the Japanese built the first metallurgical plant here to exploit the iron deposits of the area. From 1937 to 1944, they rapidly expanded Anshan's capacity till it became the chief centre of the steel industry in "Manchukuo," the puppet state established by the Japanese in China's Northeast.

Anshan was a typical colonial enterprise. It did not work for the people's needs, but for the people's destruction. The Japanese capitalists and militarists used its production only for their imperialist aims. Anshan's iron and steel provided the sinews of war for the Japanese armies invading China. By 1941, Anshan steel was being turned against the British and American people and all the other peoples in Asia and the Pacific area.

Anshan was built to wring the maximum profits out of cheap, expendable labour. The ore dressing mill was like a ring in Dante's Hell. Many workers fell victims to the grey ore-crushing machines on which all safety precautions were missing. The coke ovens, blast furnaces and open hearth furnaces devoured not only raw materials but also the workers. Not a single worker in the small bar mill had escaped injury from the red-hot metal, which, under those conditions, was the enemy of man instead of the malleable servant of his will and interests.

Liberation and Reconstruction

With the victory of the revolution, the Anshan works passed wholly into the hands of the people, and the work of restoration and transformation was begun. Some engineers had estimated that it would take from fifteen to twenty years to restore the factories and mine shafts of Anshan. Yet within three years, the workers of New China had put Anshan back on its feet. The conditions which used to make work a continual nightmare have been ended, once for all.

The workers of Anshan are famed all over the Northeast for their revolutionary spirit. Every big movement for liberation has had participants from Anshan. Now they showed

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Hsu Chih is a poet now working at the great Anshan steel works. He is one of many writers and artists who, under arrangements made by the All-China Federation of Writers and Artists, have gone to various great construction projects in order to get first-hand knowledge of the new China of large-scale economic construction. This is the first of several articles which he will write for *People's China*.—Ed.

their mettle in the hard struggle for industrial rehabilitation.

Some engineers advised that, before starting on repairs of the coke ovens, the plans should be sent for the approval of the Otto Company in Germany, which had made the original designs. But the workers went ahead and completed their repairs successfully, making in addition improvements on several other coke ovens.

There was nothing conceited in these actions. Decisions were made in full consciousness of the difficulties to be overcome. The workers here are led by the Communist Party of China, the Party which has been leading the people of China from victory to victory by relying on the prowess of the working class, on its collective wisdom and its fearless self-reliance in overcoming difficulties. There was also the selfless help by the Soviet specialists armed with the experience of socialist construction in the U.S.S.R.

With rehabilitation ended, the drive for new production records started.

China's first automatic blast furnace at Anshan is already producing pig iron for national construction

In honour of the 35th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the workers of the No. 5 Martin furnace established a new record on November 8 last year by completing one smelting of steel in 8 hours and 19 minutes. During the rest of the month, which was marked as a special month of Sino-Soviet friendship, a big production campaign was launched, in the course of which the workers of the No. 4 Martin furnace cut this time by two hours and ten minutes, simultaneously increasing the amount of steel per square metre of hearth area from 7.05 to 11.08 tons. This new record considerably surpassed the efficiency of similar open hearth furnaces in capitalist countries and approached the average levels attained in the Soviet Union.

In 1949, the output of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company was only 10 per cent of the highest production level of the past. By 1952, output rose to 80 per cent, while in 1953 it will considerably surpass all previous figures. But today, beating old records is no longer regarded as anything out of the ordinary. The workers of Anshan have gone further—a new Anshan is rising that is a model of technical efficiency for the whole of the country, with the latest types of mechanised and automatic production processes brought into use.

Big New Plants

The workers' enthusiasm is fired by thoughts of the splendid future before them. They are building a gigantic new rolling mill and a seamless tube mill and reconstructing the No. 8 blast furnace. When the rolling mill is completed, its planned annual output of steel products will be sufficient to build fourteen modern steel plants as large as all the Anshan works. Its annual output will be enough to build six tractor factories each with a yearly production of 40,000 tractors. The value of its annual output will exceed a fifth of the yearly production of the more than 32 million farmers of Northeast China. If the seamless steel tubes to be produced were to be linked together, they would extend from Heilungkiang in the extreme north of China to Hainan Island off her southern coast. The new blast furnace will produce enough iron each day to make 60,000 ploughshares. It will be operated by a foreman sitting in the control room, reading the recording meters, watching the signals and working the various electric switches. Raw materials will be automatically transported to the furnace and hoisted into place. The testing rod will gauge whether the furnace has been fed sufficiently and transmit the information to the foreman through the recording meter.

The two mills and the blast furnace will be fully automatic. The workers in the mills will direct operations merely by supervising the machinery, checking the signals and pressing electric switches on the control-boards.

These builders of a new world are self-confident; they are buoyed by optimism; they have the élan and vitality of creators. They are the heroes in a wonderful new story. They are engrossed in the most arduous work, but they are the happiest of men.

The two mills and the blast furnace are three of the great projects scheduled for completion in 1953. Chinese workers had never before seen such machinery and equipment as arrived from the Soviet Union. Nor had they imagined what high precision was required for installing automatic machinery.

One would need an enormous canvas to portray fully the grand scale of the construction site, and the high spirits and enthusiasm of the people there. The vastness of it all and the huge machines tower over men; and yet man dominates the whole panorama in his power and magnificence. The various projects are going ahead at record speed. The blast furnace project has been completed, a greater part of the work on the seamless tube mill has been completed and the rolling mill is also more than half finished.

A Socialist Industrial Giant

Yet this is only the beginning of the story of the new Anshan. The preliminary plans for the Company, drawn up with the aid of Soviet experts, run into 120 heavy volumes.

The winter school at the Anshan Iron and Steel Company trained skilled workers in various professions for Anshan's capital construction. A teacher instructing a young excavator-operator

The original Anshan steel works was an industrial enterprise with out-of-date equipment. Productivity was low, and it was geared to the needs of the Japanese imperialists, seeking only to plunder China's wealth—more pig iron was produced than steel and more steel than steel products.

Anshan was transformed by the liberation into a people's steel works whose products suit the needs of the Chinese people. Anshan is becoming a modern socialist steel city equipped with the most advanced technique. With first-rate mechanised and automatic installations of the latest design, labour productivity will be raised four and a half to five times, while steel production will increase sixfold. It will be able to turn out any type of steel desired. The amount of ores mined will correspond to the capacity for turning out pig iron; steel will be produced in quantities the capacity of the processing shops can handle.

Over a hundred big projects are outlined in the plans of the new Anshan. While the work is already well advanced or completed on three of these, the rest will be got under way at a fast rate within the next few years.

Once a Soviet specialist remarked humourously of the old type of open hearth furnaces: "They can be used both for making steel and to keep us warm!" With the reconstruction, all the open hearth steel furnaces will be large, highly efficient and automatic. The extremely out-of-date blast furnaces designed by the German engineers for the Japanese will in a few years' time be completely replaced by automatic blast furnaces of immense capacity.

The whole process from mining of the ores up to the making of the steel products will be completely mechanised.

One of the finest workshops I have ever seen is the extension to an old factory in Anshan. While one side of the building is still dark and dreary, a reminder of the past, everything in the new workshop is dazzlingly bright. White glazed tiles form the floor; the walls are shiny and clean. The machines purr serenely; the coiling pipes are painted red, green, blue and yellow. We walked along the catwalk between the big installations and up and down the winding staircases. Fine chromium-polished lamps lighted up the passages. Green and red signal lights flickered on and off. Somehow or other, I was reminded of a garden. Because I commented on the cleanliness and brightness of this workshop with some amazement, I was told that others still more handsome are being built. But that is as it should be, of course, in the world of socialist technology.

The workers talked about the tremendous changes already brought about, of the glory of work today in the new Anshan and of the vastly improved conditions of their work and life, of the central heating, gas, electricity and running water that they now enjoy in their homes. One of them exclaimed: "Now there is happiness, warmth and light in our life. There's no comparison with the past!" Another promptly added: "The future will be even better! There'll be no comparison with now. How we'll work! We'll put out our very best to build that future!"

A basic change has already been made here, but the transformation is clearly only started. At Anshan, people see the light of a new day. There we can already feel the warm breath of tomorrow in our faces.

YVES FARGE

The Chinese people learnt with deep grief that Yves Farge, member of the Executive Bureau of the World Peace Council and President of the French National Peace Committee, passed away on March 30, 1953. An eminent champion in the cause of world peace, Monsieur Farge was a leader in the fight for the independence and liberty of France and a friend of all the peace-loving people in the world. His great contribution to the cause of defending peace and democracy in the world won him the high honour of being awarded a Stalin Peace Prize in 1952.

Last year, Farge visited Northeast China and Korea where he investigated the germ warfare waged against the Chinese and Korean people by the U.S. Government. After he had completed his work, he immediately voiced his protest against this crime. On his return to France, he widely publicised the results of his findings. Ruthlessly exposing the American crime, he ignored all threats of imprisonment.

Kuo Mo-jo, Chairman of the China Peace Committee, has described the death of Yves Farge as "an immense loss to the cause of peace." "I am deeply confident," Kuo Mo-jo wrote, "that the people of the whole world who love peace and justice will continue to struggle on a basis of growing solidarity and fraternity, for the realisation of a lasting world peace to which Farge dedicated his whole life."

From Gamblers' Resort To People's Park

Li Yu-wen

IN the heart of Shanghai is the People's Park —a centre of culture and recreation for the six million people of China's biggest city. Its facilities include a public park, a museum, a grand concourse for demonstrations and a Hall of Sino-Soviet Friendship.

All this has arisen during the last eighteen months. Before the liberation this great expanse of ground was closed to the people. Seized by the British interventionist troops in 1861 and forcibly cleared of the Chinese habitations which then stood on it, it served for more than eighty years as a race course for the imperialists' profit.

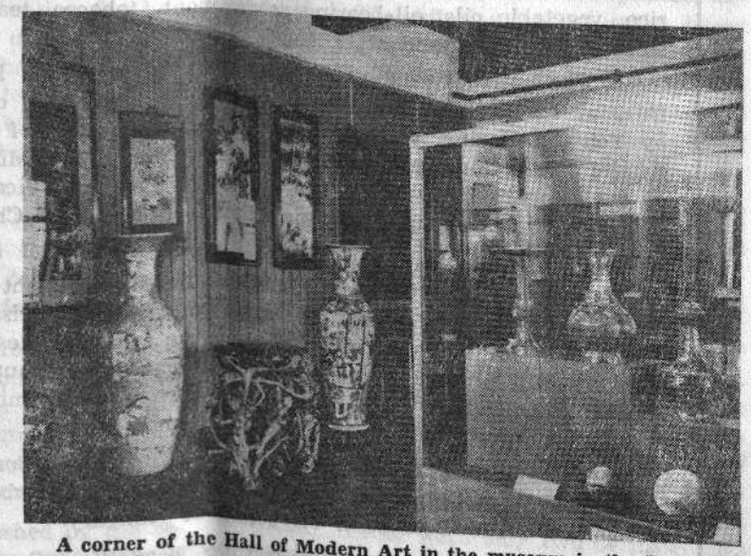
For almost a half century these parasites did not allow anyone to set foot in the place except themselves. They put a sign on the gate: "Chinese and Dogs Not Admitted." In 1909, however, financial considerations led them to open it on race days only to Chinese who could be induced to bet on the horses. How much money was sucked out of the people in this way may be seen from the fact that the racing tax alone comprised one of the chief revenue items of the imperialist-run Shanghai International Settlement. At ordinary times this one big green space in the city limits was available to "members only"—which did not include Chinese.

The people of Shanghai never ceased demanding that the race course be taken over for public use. But the Kuomintang regime, being in league with the imperialists, did not dare even to raise the question.

The property was finally returned to the Chinese people when it was taken over by the Shanghai authorities on August 27, 1951. The work of turning this infamous gambling site into a people's park began immediately.

The people hailed the end of this inglorious relic of imperialist rule and its conversion into a people's playground. Happily, the Shanghai citizenry and especially the youth devoted their spare time to building the necessary facilities. Now they are enjoying what they have built.

To the west of the square is a five-storey edifice. Today it houses the Shanghai Museum and Public Library. The Museum is rich in historical objects showing the wealth of the people's cultural heritage. The Library contains some three quarters of a million works, classical and contemporary. To meet the needs of working people who have just completed their literacy courses, it has a large



A corner of the Hall of Modern Art in the museum in the People's Park in Shanghai

supply of illustrated books written in simple language but rich in educational content on many subjects.

To the east of the Park is a concert hall, an open-air stage and a swimming pool.

The new public park, which is eighteen hectares in extent, is encircled by a creek and beautified by artificial hills, ponds and bridges of Chinese design. Among its attractions is a long, winding, covered walk built of the famous "Plum Garden" stone from Ningpo in Chekiang Province. Spacious children's playgrounds are equipped with swings, merry-go-rounds, sand pits and other things which all kiddies love.

The Hall of Sino-Soviet Friendship, housed in a palatial building with large red pillars, includes a movie theatre and a picture gallery. Here the working people of Shanghai can see what life is like in a socialist country and learn from Soviet experience how to industrialise their country and advance their agriculture. Here too they can learn how the Soviet people are working for world peace.

On big occasions like National Day and May Day the Shanghai people, marching a hundred abreast, file through the grand concourse of the Park. They demonstrate their joy in the freedom and peace they have won, the building of a new country where all that is, is for the people.

New Trade Agreements

A protocol on trade for 1953 between China and the Soviet Union, a protocol to the Agreement on Credits to the People's Republic of China of February 14, 1950, and an agreement concerning the assistance to be rendered by the Soviet Union to China in the expansion and construction of power stations were signed recently in Moscow.

These protocols envisage further development of trade between China and the Soviet Union. In 1953 the Soviet Union will deliver to China equipment for the metallurgical, mining, engineering, chemical, power and other industries, supplies for industry and transport, modern agricultural machines, pedigree cattle, seed and other goods. China will deliver to the Soviet Union non-ferrous metals, rice, vegetable oils, oil-bearing seeds, meat, tobacco, tea, fruit, wool, jute, raw silk, fabrics, hides and other goods.

The protocols and agreement were signed by A. I. Mikoyan, Minister for Internal and Foreign Trade of the U.S.S.R., on behalf of the Soviet Union, and by Yeh Chi-chuang, Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Financial and Economic Affairs of the Government Administration Council and Minister for Foreign Trade of the People's Republic of China, and Li Fu-chun, Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Financial and Economic Affairs, on behalf of China.

* * *

A Sino-Hungarian Barter and Payment Agreement for 1953 was signed in Peking on March 30. Under this agreement, which envisages an increase of 51.7 per cent in the value of trade between the two countries as compared with 1952, Hungary will provide China with machinery, telecommunications equipment and general commodities; China will supply Hungary with minerals, soya beans, grain, other agricultural products and general commodities.

The agreement was signed by Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade Hsu Hsueh-han on behalf of China, and E. Safranko Hungarian Ambassador and head of the Hungarian Trade Delegation on behalf of Hungary.

Good-bye, Japanese Friends!

How a Group of Japanese Residents Left for Their Homeland

Our Correspondent

THE Kuo Min Hotel was one of Tientsin's three largest hotels specially reserved for Japanese residents leaving China for Japan following the recent agreement arrived at in Peking between the Chinese Red Cross Society and three Japanese public organisations. Everything was ready to accommodate the first group of travellers at the port of embarkation—from the specially prepared clubroom down to the last 40 pounds of *miso-shiru* (a soup made of bean paste which is a great favourite among the Japanese), that Tientsin could offer.

In Tientsin's Hsinkang Harbour, departing Japanese nationals wave good-bye to their Chinese friends on shore

Soon, the first bus flying the flag of the Red Cross Society of China drew into the courtyard of the hotel and pulled up near where we were waiting with its horns blaring, as if the driver was determined to make us notice he had arrived. He was not the only one to be in a holiday mood. The passengers that tumbled out of his car had the air of excitement that all travellers have: men hurried after their luggage (some had as much as a carload of it); mothers were busy with their children.

But soon everything was in order. The luggage was stored away and the travellers settled down in the hotel until, a few days hence, they would board the first ship for home.

In this group there were railwaymen, nurses, engineers and clerks. Some wore kimonos, some western-style clothes and some the blue uniforms of Chinese government employees. All were excited over the prospect of going home after so many years' residence in China.

They were particularly touched by the reception that Tientsin gave them. Sueo Wakasa, an engineer, told me of an instance which showed the complete absence of ill-will on the part of the Chinese towards individual Japanese, despite the terrible suffering that militarist Japan had caused China during the past decades. On the street in Tientsin one day, Wakasa was stopped by a man who had noticed his arm-band with the inscription "Japanese National Leaving for Homeland."

"So you are going back" the stranger asked with a smile. "Well, good luck to you! I hope you will visit us again in the future. We people of China and Japan respect each other, and should help each other."

Wakasa has a four-month-old daughter. While in Tientsin she had a bout of pneumonia. The medical unit specially set up for the homegoing Japanese by the Red Cross Society of Tientsin rushed her to hospital where she was given priority treatment by Tientsin's foremost specialist. These were only two of many acts of hospitality shown the returning Japanese by

the people of Tientsin. Restaurants, barbershops and bath houses voluntarily gave them discounts of 5-20 per cent.

Toyokichi Fujii, a railway engineer, was full of praise for the arrangements made by the Chinese Red Cross, which had provided all the food, lodging and travelling expenses from home to shipboard.

"What about your furniture and other property?" I asked him.

"Oh, the Chinese authorities allowed us to bring as much baggage as we liked, but the ships sent from Japan could not take all our belongings, so we sold our furniture and other surplus things."

Fujii said, however, that Chinese public organisations and representatives of the Japanese had met to evaluate the furniture and other property of the seventy families in his group, and all had been sold to everyone's satisfaction. The proceeds from this sale could be remitted to Japan, as there were no currency restrictions imposed.

Katsuichiro Susumu, a signalman of the Shihchiachuang railway station, showed me a Shanghai-made "Liberation" fountain pen which his Chinese colleagues had given him as a farewell gift. He spoke fondly of his Chinese friends.

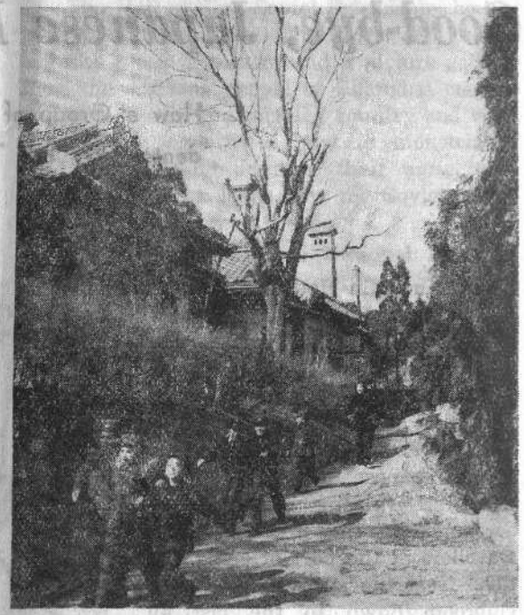
"One incident moved me very much," he said. "Our neighbours helped us wash our clothes and bedding when we were getting ready for the journey. They cooked a special farewell dinner for us. They even collected several hundred thousand yuan to help me out, in case I'd have to wait some time before I can get a job in my own country."

"What was your salary?" I asked him.

"The same as my Chinese colleagues' of the same grade as myself, that means, more than 700,000 yuan a month," he replied.

Susumu is a good worker. I learned that the team under his charge had been awarded a red banner for its outstanding work.

Japanese workers in China enjoy, as a matter of course, the benefits of labour insurance like all their Chinese colleagues. Many in this group that I interviewed had received these benefits. Genichiro Okuwaki and Unzo Ghinagawa, two old retired workers of the Tienshui railway station, had been receiving old-age



Japanese children outside their own school in Dairen, Northeast China

Young nurse Hasuko Matsuo, when hospitalised for over a year, had received medical treatment free and continued to receive 30 per cent of her regular salary. Takako Ohata, formerly with the library of the People's University, had given birth to twins in 1951. Her maternity leave was therefore extended from fifty-six to seventy-five days. In addition, the University authorities gave her a monthly subsidy equal to one and a half times her monthly salary on account of her being a mother of several other children.

* * *

This was not the first time since the Japanese surrender that Japanese nationals were leaving for their homes. Since the liberation of China in 1949, many had returned. Fujii told me about the case of Yoshiro Higashi, who had worked with him in the same department. Higashi was a railway engineer and would have willingly stayed on to help in the restoration of China's railways, but his wife and children were in Japan. So he wanted to be reunited with his family, although he was able to remit money to them. The railway administration helped him

Many others had left, said Fujii, but the U.S.-launched invasion of Korea had caused a shortage in ships that prevented Japanese nationals from going home.

* * *

On March 22, we boarded special coaches on the train for Hsinkang Harbour, and in two hours we drew up alongside the Hakuryu Maru (3,207 tons) and the Hakusan Maru (4,351 tons), specially sent from Japan. In a short while, these ships would take our Japanese friends on their homeward journey. As we were saying good-bye, all of us were filled with the conviction that the people of China and Japan have always been and will remain friends.

Talks on the Return of Japanese Nationals

Arrangements for the return of Japanese nationals to Japan were finalised in Peking on March 5 this year. The talks, which began on February 15, were conducted by a delegation of the Red Cross Society of China led by Liao Cheng-chih and a delegation of the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Liaison Committee of the Japanese Peace Committee, and the Japan-China Friendship Association, led by Tadatsugu Shimazu.

In an interview with the Hsinhua News Agency on December 1 last year, an official of the Central People's Government stated that there were about 30,000 Japanese residents in China and that the Government would aid those who wished to return home to Japan. This offer naturally did not refer to the war criminals including those who had joined the Chiang Kai-shek and Yen Hsi-shan brigand armies after the capitulation of militarist Japan. All Japanese P.O.W's, except those still retained by the Chiang and Yen brigands, it was made clear, had been repatriated before the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

The Japanese delegation formed of the representatives of the three above-mentioned organisations arrived in Peking on January 31 this year to discuss shipping arrangements and other specific problems in connection with the return of the Japanese nationals to Japan. The talks were conducted to the satisfaction of both sides. Tientsin, Chinhuangtao and Shanghai were designated as ports of embarkation. The Red Cross Society of China offered to meet all travelling expenses, board and lodging of the returning Japanese from the time of assembly up to the time of embarkation. Shipping was to be until about July this year. However, if after that time other Japanese nationals in China wished to return to Japan, facilities would be given them to do so.

In his speech at the opening of the negotiations, Liao Cheng-chih stated that Japanese residents in China had received the full protection of the People's Government; their incomes had increased in keeping with the general improvement of life in China. They communicated freely with their homeland, and were free to make remittances to Japan for their families there. He estimated that there were many Japanese nationals who wished to return to Japan and also others who wished to remain in China. Many had, in fact, returned to Japan after the founding of the People's Republic of China, and if it had not been for the obstruction by the U.S. imperialists and their "blockade" and the Yoshida government, all who had wished to do so would have long ago departed.

"The success of the talks," said Mr. Tadatsugu Shimazu, leader of the Japanese delegation, "was a demonstration of the fact that any difficulty can be surmounted given a basis of peace, friendship and true humanitarianism." He expressed his heartfelt thanks for the sincere assistance rendered by the Red Cross Society of China.

Liao Cheng-chih, leader of the Chinese delegation, expressed hopes that the returning Japanese would live as happy a life when they got back to Japan as they had led in China. He hoped they would not be "discriminated against or persecuted by the Japanese Government because of having lived and worked in China."

The Fruits of China

Kao Shih-shan

CHINA is a land of fruits. Tropical fruits—pineapples, bananas, coconuts, lichees and their smaller, sweeter version, the longan—grow in the south. Apples, pears, grapes, persimmons; peaches, plums, apricots and Chinese dates grow in the north. North or south, strawberries and other berries grow in profusion. While temperatures in the North-east are dropping below 40 degrees Centigrade, the orchards of Kwangtung Province are green and fruits are ripening. Favourable natural conditions and the industrious labour of skilled fruit-growers have produced over a thousand varieties of fruit trees in China. Throughout the four seasons of the year, China's fruit markets have a rich supply. In Peking or Shanghai you can eat China-grown oranges, tangerines, watermelons, pomelos and pomegranates.

China is the "ancestral home of fruit trees." Fruit orchards were planted here several thousand years ago. Centuries of cultivation have produced varieties of fruit as good as, or even better than, any in the world. There are over a hundred varieties of citrus fruits in China. The much-advertised California Sunkist oranges are far inferior to many Chinese oranges. The sugar-acid ratio in Sunkist oranges exported to China is 8 : 1; in the case of Kwangtung-grown Hsinhui oranges, it is 20: 1. A Sunkist contains only 35.7 per cent of juice, while a Hsinhui orange contains as much as 58.5 per cent. Yet the Hsinhui is by no means China's finest orange. Kwangtung's Pung oranges are superior in colour, flavour and taste. "They are the world's best" as a Soviet fruit expert put it.

Not only did China develop its own fine fruit trees; many excellent varieties have been imported from abroad. Some varieties of apples were brought to China about seventy years ago, and now they are planted over half of China, north of the Yangtze River. These apples have not only retained their original qualities but have also been improved in one way or another. Apples in fact have now become one of China's major fruit products.

Fruits are grown not only "in the farmers' back yard" as a side occupation but on a large scale. Orange or apple orchards often cover areas of thousands to tens of thousands of hectares. Grapes are grown in Sinkiang, China's westernmost province, and elsewhere in a belt stretching to Shantung Province on the eastern coast. In many places, vineyards spread in all directions as far as the eye can see. One can walk from village to village under endless vines rich with clusters of luscious fruit.

Legends About Fruit

The Chinese people are fond of fruits and have many interesting legends about them. At the Mid-Autumn Festival when fruits are most plentiful, the peasant tradition was to offer sacrifices of pears, bananas or grapes to the moon. The ceremony over, the whole family would sit down together and eat heartily of the harvest. When Peking residents celebrate the Spring Festival—the Chinese lunar New Year—the whole family eats apples, for the word "apple" in Chinese is pronounced *ping kuo* and the word "ping" is the same as in *ho ping* (peace). It is a symbol of the hope that the whole family will have peace in the coming year. In the old days, as soon as a bride stepped down from her sedan-chair, she was given two apples. The marriage bed is decorated with sprigs of plump lichees, round longan, pomegranates with their many seeds, and dates (in Chinese the word for "dates" is *tsao*, pronounced the same as the word for "early"). These are symbols of blessings to the young couple—wishes for a peaceful, happy and fertile union, producing a round and plump baby at an early date. At birthday parties, peaches are considered to be the most suitable gift. The old customs are still popular, though today they have new meaning—the wishes they represent have never been more alive in the hearts of the people.

Sorting Kwangtung's famous lichees at a marketing co-operative

Destruction and Rehabilitation

There was a decline in China's fruit production in the years immediately preceding liberation of the country. Fruit orchards need large capital investment and careful management, but the landlords who lived on the rents from them neither invested heavily nor looked after the trees scientifically. The peasant fruit-growers, on the other hand, though working hard to improve their trees, lacked capital. In consequence, the fruit trees suffered seriously from diseases and pests and their output steadily declined.

In addition, orchards were frequently and openly robbed by the KMT and Japanese troops, and trees were cut down for firewood. Numerous orchards were destroyed in this way.

During the years of reactionary Kuomintang rule, ruthless exploitation ruined the peasants, and fruit farming suffered accordingly. City dwellers too could less and less afford to buy fruit. U.S. interests, operating with the connivance of the KMT regime, monopolised what remained of the export market and squeezed the primary producers to secure their profits.

Liberation reversed this process of decline in China's fruit-growing. Through the land reform, tenant growers and landless labourers received the orchards which they had so long cultivated for others. But in their destitution, they lacked the capital and means for rapid rehabilitation. The People's Government made loans available to them, sent them specialists to combat diseases and pests, and introduce new improved varieties and methods of grafting and planting.

The People's Government's efforts in promoting the cultivation of fruit among peasants working with the enthusiasm of emancipation were chiefly responsible for these record harvests. In the fruit-growing areas, there was better irrigation, better control of diseases and pests, more fertiliser. The People's Government extended loans to the peasants for these purposes. The peasants themselves were able to provide more capital out of their savings from the better economic conditions they have enjoyed since liberation. Government loans to orange-growers in Kiangtsin County, Szechuan Province, totalled over 200 million yuan, and this was used for the purchase of fertiliser. Pear-

growers in Shantung Province received special loans for sprayers and insecticides. The further spread of modern scientific methods of grafting and pruning is also having increasing effect. The name and methods of the famed Soviet agronomist Michurin are becoming increasingly well known among the fruit-growers of China.

Bumper Crops

During the past three years remarkable increases have been achieved in output. In China's main fruit-growing areas, the harvests of 1952 were on the average 50 per cent higher than in 1951. In individual cases the increases were as much as 250 per cent.

The apple crop surpassed the previous year's record by 50 per cent. Liaotung Province in Northeast China, one of the outstanding apple-growing areas, harvested 71,000 tons of apples, 50 per cent more than in 1951.

Even bigger increases were gained by the orange and tangerine orchards of the country. Szechuan Province, China's main citrus fruit area, surpassed its highest prewar crop level. Kintang County in that province harvested 250 per cent more fruit than in 1951. Tangerine-growers of Hwangyen County (Chekiang Province) got their best harvest in decades. The harvest of the famous sweet tangerines and kumquats of Kiangsi Province, Central-South China, was one and a half times bigger than in 1951.

Laiyang pear trees in Shantung Province produced a crop 30 per cent bigger than in 1951. Turfan, Sinkiang Province, had 35 per cent more seedless grapes for drying than in the previous year.

Growing Demand

The rapid rehabilitation and development of China's national economy and the general increase of the people's purchasing power, has greatly increased the popular demand for fruits which the fruit-growers can now supply. Led by the state trading organisation, fruit co-operatives and private merchants have expanded the fruit market, buying and selling at reasonable prices and helping the peasants in marketing. Improved communications and many exhibitions of city and rural products have greatly assisted the interflow of trade. In the past only the emperor and his courtiers in Peking could eat the lichees which were then transported from Kwangtung Province by pony express. Now in season they are available to the ordinary residents of the capital at reasonable prices.

In 1952 on National Day the amount of fruit sold in Peking worked out at an average of more than six kilogrammes of fruit per family, or about three pounds of fruit per person, 112 per cent more than in 1951. A feature of the trade, not unusual for other big northern cities, is that the amount of southern fruits—oranges, bananas, pineapples, coconuts, etc.—has increased and that many big co-operatives have established fruit departments to deal with the increased turnover.

Fruits exports are also growing, as the following table shows:

Year	Oranges	Apples
Base Year:	1940=100	
1951	204.7	146.44
1952	321.09	216.50*
1953 (planned)	504.56	285.94*

* Does not include apple exports by private merchants.

Considerable quantities of fruit are also canned, fermented to make wines or other beverages or preserved in various ways. The market at home and abroad for these products will certainly also increase. Peking's preserved fruits especially have received many international awards. With the increase in fruit production, both preserving and canning industries are being expanded.

And all of this is only a beginning. There are suitable fruit-growing land, particularly on the slopes of hills covering an area bigger than the present acreage under orchards. The expanding economy of China is creating an ever bigger market for fruit. China's fruit-growing peasants are looking confidently to bumper harvests and bigger markets. They understand how valuable an addition they are making to the health, wealth and happiness of the nation.

A Sunday in the Country

Tien Liu

THE stars were still twinkling when Lao Wang got up. He pulled on some clothes, mumbling quietly to himself: "Sunday again! How time flies!"

"Why, what do you do specially on Sundays?" I asked from the snug warmth of the *kang**.

"Oh, one thing and another," he replied. "It's a rest day for us co-op workers, but it seems to go pretty quick."

This was a surprise to us. Tsai, the press photographer, and I had only arrived in the village the night before after three years in the cities, and here already we heard about such a big change in village life. In the old days, the peasants took a holiday only at the New Year and one or two other big seasonal festivals. How did this all come about? What did they do with their Sundays? We plied Lao Wang with questions (he is the busy head of the village agricultural producers' co-op) until finally he suggested that we take a look around and see for ourselves.

We set out after breakfast. It was a bright clear day. The sun had risen over the rim of the plateau, and the shadows of trees etched sharp shadows like wood-cut prints on the ground. A light breeze spread the scents of the ripening harvest. The singing of birds and chirping of crickets echoed through the sweet fragrant air.

The land bordering the village was laid out in vegetable plots for the members of the co-operative. There were potatoes and green beans. Huge golden-ripe pumpkins lolled on beds of straw under the autumn sun. Several members were working in groups of twos or threes on their own plots. A middle-aged woman in a new deep-blue cotton frock was picking tender, luscious beans, gathering them by large handfuls into her bamboo basket. Hovering around her was a little girl wearing a hat made out of a large pumpkin leaf. The girl had shiny black plaits bedecked with wild flowers, and as she skipped along, the flowers fluttered and danced like butterflies around her slender shoulders.

Rich Crops

"While we're out here, let's take a look at the crops," Lao Wang suggested. He led us along a narrow path that climbed a steep slope. At the top, fields of rich crops lay spread out in front of us. It was a handsome sight beyond our expectations. The *kaoliang* stood firm in the field like saplings in a forest nursery. The maize had grown ten feet and more. Luxuriant tassels hung from bursting cobs. It was a fine crop of maize, and there was ten *mou** of it.

"Such millet!" he exclaimed, as we moved on further to a new field. Lovingly, he fingered a golden ear and placed it on his open palm. "We'll get more than 1,000 catties a *mou*," he said. "That's a big lot over our quota."

"What's the quota?" asked Tsai.

"Well, we only planned for 850 catties a *mou*!"

Lao Wang had reason to be proud. One hundred and seventy of the village's 220 families belonged to the co-operative. They sowed more than 1,700 *mou* of land to autumn crops and 700 *mou* to wheat. This year, the average produce of all crops per *mou* of land will amount to 336 catties.

"Before the war, in 1937," explained Lao Wang, "the harvest average was about 165 catties, and in 1948, it dropped to less than 130."

*A *kang* is a brick bed that can be heated in winter.

*15 *mou* is equal to one hectare.

"That was a very thin time," he reminisced. "At the end of the war, why, there was hardly a thing left standing. All the same, this is not an easy place to farm."

And he was right. As the morning wore on, we saw something of the difficulties. Yaoshankou Village was fairly typical of other villages in this one-time revolutionary base in the Taihang mountains*. Situated on a high shoulder of loess, the village was surrounded by tortuous gullies, so many that we could not for all the world tell by which we had come the last evening. During the fighting against the Japanese, this labyrinth of gullies had been a perfect defence against the enemy who were always beaten back with heavy losses. However, what was advantageous terrain in the past had now become a serious obstacle to production. The tracts of cultivated land which seemed at a distance to lie beside one another, we now found to be sometimes as far as one or two miles apart. One had to cross gullies, clamber up cliffs, or scramble gingerly down steep mountain paths to reach one field from another. No horse, let alone cart, could possibly have managed some of these paths, so the farmers had to carry every bit of manure, soil and crops on their backs. The scarcity of local water sources presented an even greater problem. For drinking water, the farmers had in the past depended on the summer and autumn rainfalls which they had stored in underground cellars.

The Co-op

"Of course, we've got our reservoir now," said Lao Wang. "So our worst problems are over. That's one of the advantages of the co-op. We can manage all sorts of jobs now that we could never have tackled singlehanded in the past."

Our talk was interrupted by the sound of voices. A lively group of young people approached, laughing and calling out to Lao Wang. "What's this?" said one. "You come to inspect our work even on Sundays?" "What would you like to buy?" said another. "I'll pick out anything you fancy!"

The young people were on their way to an urban-rural trade exhibition and fair at Panlungchen, a town two miles from the village. It was quite a big affair. In addition to trading in livestock and industrial and local products, there were two performances given by the local opera companies.

As they passed on their way, Wang looked after them with amused affection. "They're a happy lot," he said. "When I was their age, I was working as a farm labourer for a landlord. I even had to work on New Year's Day, let alone Sundays. As to treating myself to a day's outing, that was simply unheard-of."

* * *

We ate our noon meal in the home of a young member of the co-operative, Han Chin-mu. He insisted on my sitting on the *kang*, which was covered with a gay new woollen blanket. He passed me a bowl of steaming noodles garnished with cabbage, apologising: "I went to see the show. I didn't know I'd have a guest for lunch, so I'm afraid you'll just have to take pot-luck." For a moment, I thought he was merely being polite, then I realised he was quite sincere. Noodles was a dish reserved for festivals in the past. Now it was accepted as a normal everyday meal.

I was surprised to learn that he had come to the village as a refugee as recently as 1947. "You have such a comfortable home," I said. "You must have had a good harvest."

"No, it's the same with all of us," he said. "Our life is getting better every day."

He told us about another peasant with a family of five, whose income in 1950, before the producers' co-operative was formed, had been barely 2,800 catties of grain a year. In 1951, after joining the co-operative, he received 5,200 catties for his share of the autumn harvest. Last year, his income was 5,900 catties of grain, more than double his original income, and his younger brother was able to give up his work to enter primary school.

After visiting the co-operative's two experimental plots in the afternoon, we began to understand more fully the reason for the village's rapid advance. One plot was used for seed-selection and testing and the other for trying out new farming methods. The co-op cultivates all land under an over-all plan, using each plot for the crop it is best suited for. Better care was given to crops, with more fertiliser and moisture. All seeds used in the year's sowing had passed the test for superior quality. Many new farming methods have also been adopted for general use.

Village Reading Room

On our way from the plots, we dropped in on a village reading room and library in Kutao hamlet, one of three libraries recently opened in the village. It was in a big house, well furnished, with the books set in apple-pie order on a long T-shaped table. More than ten young men and women were engrossed in their books. The librarian told us that the village reading rooms usually had forty to fifty readers every day.

"We have more than 700 books," he said, "and 57 newspapers and journals. Of course,

Lao Wang, head of the agricultural producers' co-operative at Yaoshankou Village, compares the big ears of the co-operative's improved millet with the thin ears grown by an individual peasant on a neighbouring plot

there are still quite a number of our people who have not yet learnt sufficient characters to be able to read, so we help them out by arranging reading groups, where people who can read fluently read aloud to others. These groups are very popular."

Leaving the library, we headed over the hills. "You must see Nankou," said Wang. "That's a favourite spot for our people on a Sunday."

It was not long before we heard peals of laughter and voices. Clambering down a slope, we came on a colourful scene. A jet of clear water gushed from a cleft in the rocks into a stream. Along both banks, men and women were washing clothes. Garments of many colours were spread over the grass and rocks, looking like flowers in full bloom. Children played catch beneath the trees. A group of boys were throwing stones into the stream, trying to disturb the frogs. Not far from us was a young peasant of twenty or so vigorously washing a woman's print frock.

"Washing for your wife? That's a model husband!" said Lao Wang with a smile.

"And why not?" retorted the lad. "We've equality between men and women! If she has time to spare, she does my washing. Today I've plenty of time, so I do hers!"

But in spite of his words, he turned rather pink, and everybody burst out laughing. A young man and a young woman who were washing garments together opposite him laughed loudest of all.

Photographer Tsai took a quick snapshot of the happy scene.

The young peasant, who by now was crimson, lost no time in making his comeback. "And what about yourselves?" he laughed to the young couple, who were known to be in love. "You're in the photograph together—a proper pair of lovebirds! How's that going to look in the newspapers, hey?"

A gale of laughter rang out anew, louder and more gleeful.

Its cheerful sound reverberated throughout the valley.

* In Shansi Province.

IN THE NEWS

Nation-wide Support for Chou En-lai's Statement

Enthusiastic support for Premier Chou En-lai's March 30 statement on the Korean armistice negotiations is being voiced throughout the country. Kuo Mo-jo, Chairman of the China Peace Committee, said that Premier Chou En-lai's proposal on the question of repatriating all P.O.W's "completely conforms with the vital interests of the Chinese and Korean people and the common interests of the peace-loving peoples all over the world."

Leaders of China's popular mass organisations and democratic parties, professors, leading members of the various religious communities, overseas Chinese, prominent writers and artists, leading industrialists and professional people have all hailed the statement as a practical expression of the desire for peace of the Chinese and Korean people and of all peace-loving people. Many individuals have written to the press supporting this new step towards peace in Korea, but at the same time stating their determination to redouble their vigilance to ensure defeat of any further scheming by the U.S. aggressors to block the achievement of peace in Korea or to launch fresh aggressions.

Anshan Expansion

Thousands of workers, college graduates and engineers are continuing to come from other parts of the country to work in Anshan, pace-setter of China's industrialisation. Orders from Anshan are going to machine-building factories all over the country. Seventy-five factories in Shenyang, Nanking and other cities have signed contracts with the Anshan Iron and Steel Company to supply equipment and material.

shan Iron and Steel Company. An additional 5,000 technicians, mainly from the rank and file, will be trained from 1953 to 1958. More than 10 technical schools and training classes have been set up. The training programme will not only meet the needs of Anshan but also turn Anshan into a technical training centre for the country's iron and steel industry.

Pig Iron Records

Twice as much pig iron was produced in China in 1952 as in 1950. All major iron smelting plants can now produce first-grade pig iron for making steel. The blast furnaces' record outputs per square metre of hearth area have already topped levels in the United States and Britain and are approaching the Soviet level.

In 1952 pig iron output in the Shihchingshan Iron and Steel Plants, Peking, was 429% above the annual output during the Japanese occupation.

Women on the Railways

Twice as many women are working in China's railway system as in 1950. Women workers and employees, who number altogether 25,500, hold posts in every railway department. They are employed as train dispatchers, locomotive drivers, teachers, health workers, administrators, etc. Among the many women model workers who have become nationally famous are Tien Kuei-ying, a poor fisherman's daughter who became the first woman locomotive driver in China, and Sun Hsiao-chu, China's first woman dispatcher, whose dispatching method is being promoted throughout the country.

Spring Afforestation

Spring tree planting has started gramme: 54,000 hectares will be planted with trees this spring. The number of saplings in nurseries will be increased and 15,000 hectares of old forest areas will be reafforested. Already 21,000 hectares of land have been newly afforested. Fukien is one of China's important lumber areas. It produces more than 1,000 different kinds of timber, many of great economic importance. For the paper industry alone, during the past three years, the province produced 76,000 tons of bamboo cellulose and wood pulp.

A 500-kilometre-long shelter belt has been started along the Yellow River in Ningsia Province. This shelter belt will greatly help soil conservation and the preservation of moisture in the Yellow River valley.

Record Fish Hauls

China is planning for a record fish haul this year. The catch has steadily increased since liberation. The total in 1952 was 17% over the highest prewar record and 291% over that of 1949. This year an increase of at least 10% over last year is aimed at.

Fishermen are ready for the coming fishing season. Hundreds of thousands have joined the fishing co-operative societies which attend mainly to supply and marketing services. They assure the fishermen fair prices and ready markets. During the first six months of this year, their members plan to land 400,000 tons of fish—equal to their total catch last year.

China's fishing grounds constitute 23% of the world's total; her average annual catch is about 5,860,000 tons.

New Crops for Sikang-Tibet

This spring, wheat, peas, potatoes and some 10 other crops will be grown for the first time on the Sikang-Tibet plateau. Successful experiments have been made by the state farms there and peasants are now receiving seed for these crops.

under local conditions. Fine new strains of wheat, peas and potatoes from the Soviet Union and Northeast China have now been widely distributed.

There are 120 state farms in the areas inhabited by national minorities in Sikang, Yunnan and Kweichow Provinces. Some have specialised in growing cotton, jute, tobacco and tea and they are spreading advanced farming techniques among the peasants. More will be set up this year in the national minority areas throughout Southwest China. In addition to the state farms, many agro-technical stations are helping the peasants.

Veterinary Work in Tibet

Tibetan stockmen are enthusiastic about the services which the People's Government is providing for them. A big veterinary station was established in Lhasa in January and has already treated nearly 1,300 animals. All its services are free. A factory for the manufacture of rinderpest and anthrax serum is also being built in Lhasa, and a special class has been opened there to train Tibetan veterinary surgeons.

Ancient Music Revived

Chinese music of 800 years ago was recently heard in Peking. The scores of this rediscovered music which were thought to have been lost were actually preserved in some Buddhist temples in Peking. Eighteen old monks who had learned to play this music in their youth can still play some of the scores. The chief instruments are wood winds made of bamboo, and small brass gongs made in 1465. The Peking Federation of Writers and Artists sponsored the concert at which the monks played the music to hundreds of musicians. Prominent musicians are helping the monks to search for and revive more of these ancient scores.

Briefs

equipped with up-to-date automatic machineries imported from the Soviet Union, and will be commissioned this year.

* * *

A new heavy machine-building plant is being built in Taiyuan, Shansi Province, North China's industrial centre. This will be the first large up-to-date plant of its kind in China. When completed, it will build China's first large steel rolling mills, coking equipment and heavy cranes.

* * *

Inner Mongolia is making remarkable progress in establishing agricultural producers' co-operatives. The first 15 were set up last year, and it is estimated there will be 167 by the end of this year. Their superiority has been demonstrated by higher crop yields, which in some cases are 30% more than those gained in individual and even mutual-aid farming.

* * *

Telegraph services in the Uighur language are now available in nearly half of Sinkiang's 78 county seats. The Uighur people make up more than 80% of Sinkiang's total population.

* * *

Kiangsi Province's handicraft production is now 150% above pre-liberation days. Chief among these are porcelain, which is world famous, linen, needle work, etc.

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Foochow, capital of Fukien Province, now has 19 handicraft co-operatives with almost 1,000 members. Half of the city's umbrellas are made by co-operatives.

CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

March 26

The Peking *People's Daily* prints

March 28

Kim Il Sung and Peng Teh-huai send a reply to General Mark Clark agreeing to Clark's proposal of February 22 to exchange sick and injured P.O.W's during the period of hostilities and proposing that the delegates for negotiations of both sides resume immediately the armistice negotiations at Panmunjom.

March 30

Premier and Foreign Minister Chou En-lai issues a statement on the Korean armistice negotiations.

The Sino-Hungarian Barter and Payment Agreement for 1953 is signed in Peking.

April 1

Hsinhua reports from December, 1952 to February, 1953, the people's forces in Korea wiped out 36,502 enemy troops and destroyed or damaged 1,262 enemy planes.

The first All-China Folk Music and Dance Festival opens in Peking.

April 3

V. V. Kuznetsov, Soviet Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to China, presents his credentials to Chairman Mao.

The Central Electoral Committee issues a directive announcing that elections of the local people's congresses will be carried through from May to October this year.

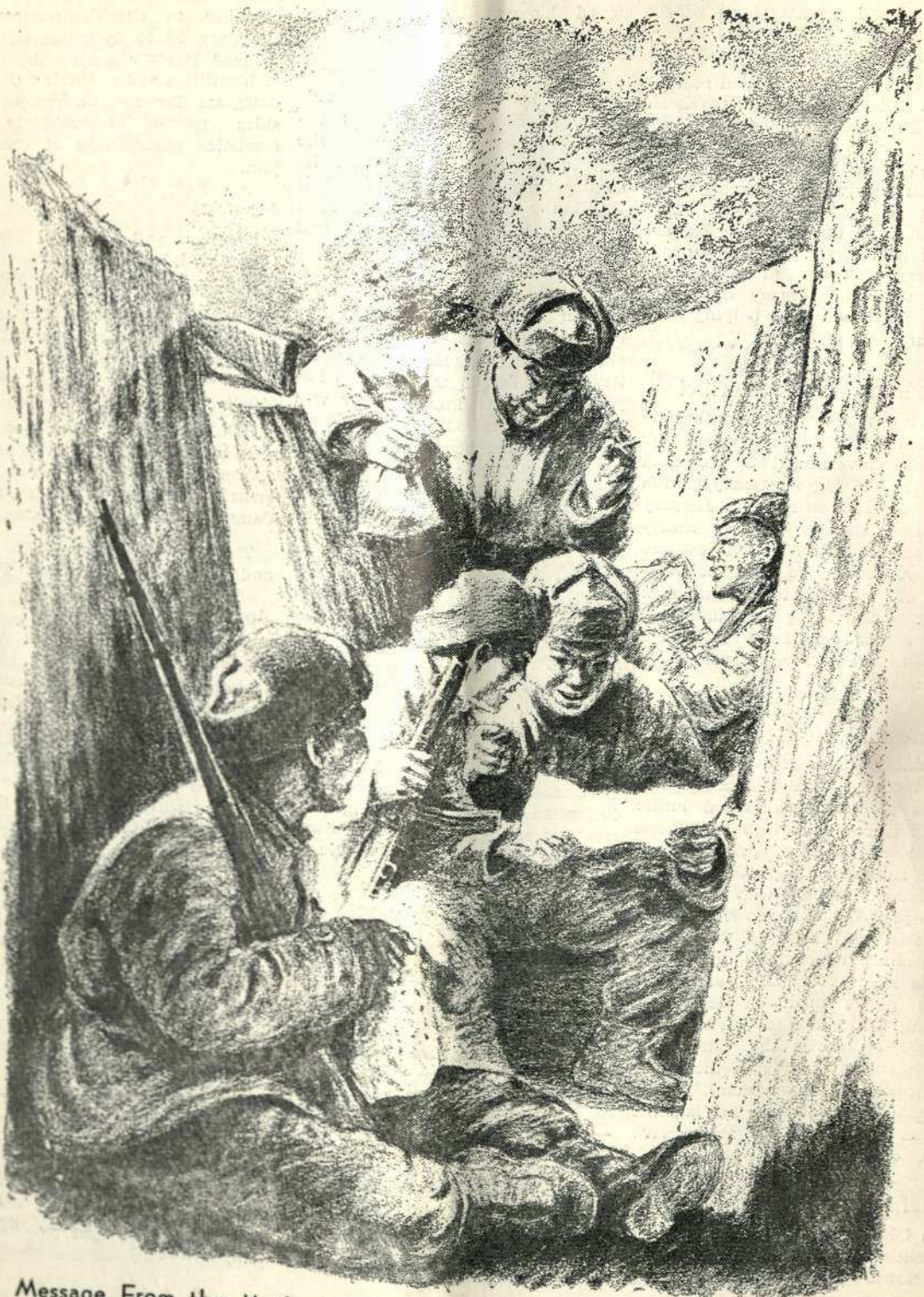
Two delegates of the Ministry of Civil Engineering of the Central People's Government leave Peking for Warsaw to attend the Polish Architects Conference scheduled to be held from April 11 to 13.

April 4

The All-China Federation of Labour sends a message of greetings to the workers of the U.S.A. in connection with the preparations for May Day.

April 5

A regional tournament of North



Message From the Motherland

Drawing by Ku Yuan