

PEOPLE'S CHINA



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CHINA TODAY	

FORTNIGHTLY

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**Learn from the Soviet Union! Speed the
Socialist Industrialization of Our Country!**

A sculpture at the entrance to the Exhibition of
Anshan Workers' Inventions and Innovations in
the Peking Working People's Palace of Culture

*By the Sculpture Department of
the Central Institute of Fine Arts*

Technical Innovations Speed China's Industrialization

Lai Jo-yu

*Chairman, All-China
Federation of Trade Unions*

WITH People's China embarked on its First Five-Year Plan of construction, hardly a day goes by without the newspapers carrying arresting reports of new innovations: a worker of a certain factory inventing a mechanical device that raises productivity many times; a miner improving production methods and fulfilling his year's quota six months ahead of schedule . . . such items are appearing in ever increasing numbers. They show that the Chinese workers, conscious of their role as the leading class of the nation, are displaying a high degree of creative initiative as technical innovators.

This fact is of special significance to China's socialist industrialization. China is now in the midst of large-scale construction. It is building many new and technically advanced enterprises, but it remains a most important task to make full use of the potentialities of existing enterprises and their installations.

Most of the enterprises inherited from old China had antiquated equipment, poor working conditions and low labour productivity. The ever increasing number of advanced workers, however, are ending this state of affairs by their inventions and innovations. They are replacing heavy manual labour by mechanized and automatized production; they are improving working conditions and creating conditions for the fullest utilization of existing equipment. They are raising labour productivity and accumulating more wealth for the state.

Anshan in Front Ranks

The workers of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company—China's biggest steel centre—march in the van of this movement for inventions and innovations. The Peking Exhibition of

Anshan Workers' Inventions and Innovations, sponsored by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions on the eve of International Labour Day, now serves to introduce this advanced Anshan experience to the whole country. It is a brilliant example of the inexhaustible talents of the Chinese working class.

The first room of the Exhibition shows how this invention and innovation movement began at Anshan. In September 1952, Chang Ming-shan, a Communist and worker with 24 years of experience in the rolling mill as a catcher, invented a reverse repeater. This invention enables white-hot steel billets coming from the roughing mill to automatically curl their way several times through the finishing mill until they are rolled to the required thickness. It unknotted a problem that found no solution before the liberation; it raised the output of the finishing mill by 40 per cent, and freed "catchers" from heavy and dangerous manual labour. Chang's invention was of great significance in setting an example for all Chinese workers to turn their native wisdom to the task of developing technical innovations.

Under the influence of Chang Ming-shan's initiative, the labour emulation drive characterized by inventions and innovations swept through Anshan. The best inventions which arose out of this drive between the last quarter of 1952 and the end of 1953 are shown at the Exhibition.

Soon after the invention of the "reverse repeater," another veteran worker-Communist, Lu Nai-tao, in cooperation with assistant engineer Wu Liang-ya, created a device that automatically withdraws a billet, when heated to a certain temperature, from the reheating furnace. Previously, workers had to use big

iron hand-tongs to drag steel billets weighing 140 kilogrammes and heated to over 1000° C. from the reheating furnace. The new device eliminates this manual labour and saves the labour of 15 workers. It has raised the efficiency of steel production in the plant by 21 per cent. Since it was introduced, no more workers have got burnt or developed eye-diseases caused by exposure to the blazing heat. These automatic devices show visitors to the exhibition hall how the workers of China are freeing themselves from hard manual labour and are ever more effectively mastering their machines.

Not only such veteran workers are producing inventions and innovations. New China provides ample opportunities for its young workers to develop their creative skill. The most prominent of them is Wang Chung-lun,* a young shaper-operator of the General Machinery Works of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, who already has eight inventions to his credit, including the famous "universal fixture." With this fixture, he has raised the efficiency of his shaper six times, and helped to solve problems caused by the uneven distribution of equipment in his workshop. By further improving his tools and resolutely overcoming production difficulties, he completed the equivalent of a four-year quota in 1953 alone. Inspired by his example, Wang's workshop overfulfilled its annual production plan by 100 per cent.

A New Wave of Innovations

The achievement of this young worker has initiated a new wave of inventions and innovations throughout the country. It has advanced the emulation drive a further step forward on a nation-wide scale, and the development of inventions and innovations has become the core of this mass movement.

The Exhibition at the Peking Working People's Palace of Culture also shows that technical innovations are being made in all departments of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company. The disequilibrium in production temporarily caused by an invention which has raised the efficiency of a certain machine or shop has always been speedily righted by an-

other innovation. The well-planned and well-led movement for inventions and innovations is constantly strengthening the weak spots in production and thereby raising production to a constantly higher level. For instance, when it was seen that the output of the roughing mill could not keep pace with that of the finishing mill, whose efficiency had increased as a result of the invention of the reverse repeater, Kang Chao-wen, formerly a worker and now Secretary of the Party branch, and Chou Jen-yuan, an engineer, and others collectively developed a device that automatized the work of the roughing mill. Once again work in the bar mill goes at an even tempo—but work is faster, safer and more efficient now.

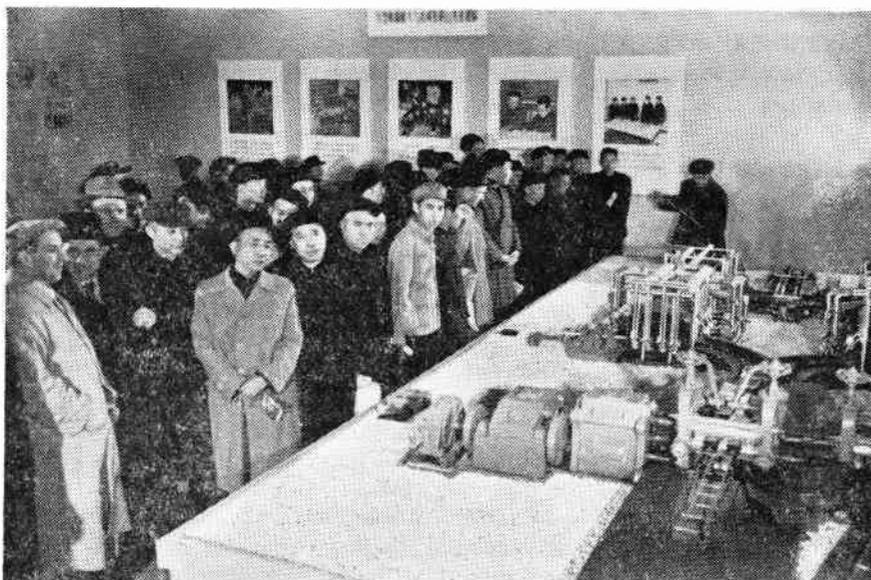
The initiative of these innovators eliminated in a brief space of time the backwardness inherited from the old Anshan. In little more than 12 months, over 17,000 workers of Anshan had put forward 38,000 rationalization proposals, of which over 22,000 were accepted and more than 13,000 were actually applied in production. As a result, production processes in such departments as the bar mill and the steel wire plant have been almost fully automatized.

Innovations in Building

The Exhibition also shows the innovations of Anshan workers are speeding up the tempo of capital construction. Huang Teh-mou, a builder, developed a machine which automatically straightens steel bars used in reinforcing concrete. Formerly, the workers had to straighten these bars by hand with sledge hammers. Following Huang's lead, the workers on the construction site of the heavy rolling mill in their turn launched a movement for mechanizing construction methods. There was a spate of innovations, and the mill was successfully completed in November 1953, well ahead of schedule.

The initiative of the Anshan workers has inspired other enterprises throughout the country to join the mass movement for inventions and innovations. Many successes have been achieved. In North China, workers in the Shihchingshan Iron and Steel Plant formed a group to mechanize and automatize production. They created 16 new devices in 1953, including an automatic temperature recording meter for the blast furnace, and an automatic breaker.

* See "Production Innovator—Wang Chung-lun" on p. 15.



Li Fu-chun, Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Financial and Economic Affairs of the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government (1st row, in overcoat), at the Peking Exhibition of Anshan Workers' Inventions and Innovations

The Tangshan Steel Works succeeded in producing rolling mill repeaters and reverse repeaters; workers of the Taiyuan Iron and Steel Works made 47 innovations for mechanization and automatization of production. In Central-South China, workers of the Tayeh Steel Works, drawing on Chang Ming-shan's experience, succeeded in constructing a vertical reverse repeater. In Southwest China, workers of the Kunming Electric Appliances Works made their old smooth rolling mill semi-automatic, and, since then, they have been able to pass their copper cores without manual labour onto an automatic winding machine. Similar innovations are reported from other areas.

The Underlying Forces

What are the underlying forces within the Chinese working class that have made these amazing developments possible?

Lenin in his work *How to Organize Competition*, once referred to the change from working in subjection to working for oneself as the "greatest change in human history." Thanks to the victory of the people's revolution, China has already produced this great change. Its advanced workers through their own

personal experiences have clearly perceived the profound significance of the change. They therefore have a high sense of responsibility towards the work of national construction. They feel that the affairs of the state are truly their own. That is why they are constantly seeking and finding better ways to fulfil the tasks the country has set itself and to accumulate more capital for the state.

The Chinese working class is today the leading class of the state—this is the essential condition which enables the workers to fully display their talents and produce a flow of new inventions and innovations. The Chinese workers are no less able than the working class of other lands. But under the reactionary rule of the past, they were the slaves, not the masters, of their land. Workers like Chang Ming-shan, who in the past fought against their oppressors by strikes and stoppages of work, have since the liberation dedicated all their talents to the service of their country's construction.

There has been a remarkable improvement of the workers' conditions of life since the liberation, and the veteran workers know this better than anyone else. The workers have found that their own living standards go up with the restoration and growth of the production which is the fruit of their own creative labour. When life has improved and is joyous, work naturally goes well. This is especially true of those who make inventions or innovations. They not only receive bounties, prizes and higher wages for their achievements, but are honoured and held in high esteem by the people throughout the country. They know that their labour no longer forges their own fetters, but is the means of their own emancipa-

tion. The interests of the individual and those of the community as a whole are at one. All this today inspires the Chinese working class to display its creative initiative.

Collective Creations

The inventions and innovations of the Chinese workers are mainly motivated by the spirit of collectivism. They create not for themselves alone, but for the state and the community as well. These inventions are the products not of one individual alone but of the wisdom of the many. The automatic wire cutter which is exhibited, for instance, is the collective product of a group of four Party members in the steel wire plant in Anshan.

The joint creations of the workers and employees also demonstrate the new, close links established between labour and technique. The experience of the workers, especially that of the veteran workers, linked with the theoretical scientific knowledge of the technicians is a powerful creative force. The cooperation between Lu Nai-tao and Wu Liang-ya which I have already mentioned, is only one of many examples.

Party Leadership and Support

These creations of the Chinese working class would be unthinkable without the leadership and support of its own vanguard, the Communist Party of China. The Party constantly concerns itself with improving working conditions and increasing labour productivity in our enterprises; it shows the workers that technical innovations are an important means in raising labour productivity. The Party gives vigorous support to the advanced workers; it fights uncompromisingly against such things as conservatism and bureaucracy that lie in the way of innovations and technical progress.

Good organization, training and material support by the leadership of enterprises are indispensable to a mass, lasting movement for inventions and innovations. In developing this campaign, the administration of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company has the organizational support of the Communist Party, the trade unions and the Youth League. The administration vigorously supports rationalization pro-

posals of workers and employees. The wages of those who make proposals are maintained at their old level even when their output is temporarily adversely affected while their invention or innovation is being tooled and tested. Workers whose jobs become redundant as a result of technical advances are immediately posted to other suitable work.

In our country, technical innovations mean improvements in working conditions and the livelihood of the working class. Things are different in capitalist countries, where the possibilities of technical innovations are greatly restricted and labour-saving developments inevitably lead to mass unemployment.

The Chinese workers are learning from advanced Soviet experience. New plants, designed and built according to Soviet standards, equipped with the most up-to-date Soviet machines and employing the most advanced production techniques, are rising in many parts of the country. They are the very antitheses of the enterprises inherited from old China; the Chinese working class is, therefore, determined to quickly renovate the old enterprises, to better working conditions and raise labour productivity in them. They are doing this with the practical assistance of several hundred Soviet experts, who are playing a most important part in fostering and helping to perfect the creations and inventions of the Chinese workers.

The innovations of the working class are accelerating and will continue in increasing measure to speed up the tempo of China's industrialization. This industrial development depends on two things: first, large-scale capital construction which will provide China with more modern plants with the latest equipment and most advanced production technique; secondly, the fullest utilization of existing industrial potential and the rapid increase in labour productivity. Technical innovations by the working class form a very important means of achieving a rapid increase of labour productivity. With their mass innovations and inventions, the working class are pushing forward China's construction and building a happy tomorrow in concert with the labouring people of the whole country.

Modernizing China's Coal Industry

Chia Sung-ming

AS China advances to industrialization, an increasingly important responsibility falls on its coal-mining industry—main source of fuel and power for all other industries. Since the liberation, this whole industry has been restored, reorganized and expanded—and its output has increased steadily each year, reaching an all-time high in 1953. It can now assure a reliable supply of coal to satisfy the expanding requirements of the iron and steel industry, thermal power plants, railways and steam navigation; thereby it facilitates the successful carrying out of economic construction under the nation-wide plan. The household coal needs of the urban population, increasing steadily in the course of industrialization, are also being met.

Rich Deposits

Among the world's countries, China is one of the richest in coal. Estimates placed its deposits at more than 450,000 million tons. Recent geological survey work has resulted in the successive discovery of a number of new mines and shown that the reserves are greater than previously supposed.

China's coalfields are convenient for mining. More than half of them have coal seams of medium thickness. In many cases, the thickness of the seams is quite exceptional. At Fushun in the Northeast, it is 50 metres on the average and reaches a maximum of 140 metres.

Deposits are also widely distributed; they are to be found in many provinces and national minority autonomous regions. This makes it possible to set up new industrial bases wherever required.

Historically, the use of coal as fuel for smelting metals and for medical purposes was known in China as early as 2,500 years ago. By the ninth and tenth centuries, coal mines

were already being worked on a wide scale, though by comparatively primitive means.

Modern methods, however, did not appear until the establishment of the Kailan Mines in Hopei Province in 1877. Afterwards (in 1900) these mines came under the control of British capital and became the prototype of the brutal imperialist plunder of China's coal resources. In the same period, the Chiaotso Colliery in Honan Province also fell a prey to British capital. Certain important coal mines in Shantung and Hopei Provinces fell to German capital and the famous Fushun coalfield in the Northeast went to tsarist Russia, which in turn lost it to Japan in 1905 after the Russo-Japanese War. After the Japanese imperialists launched their all-out attack against China in 1937, virtually all the major mines in the country fell into their hands.

Post-Liberation Development

The retarded development of the Chinese coal industry was an inevitable result of its protracted exploitation by foreign capital. Its heritage of backwardness represented a serious obstacle to the restoration and growth of coal production following the liberation. But the workers and employees of the people's coal industry, with the leadership and help of the Communist Party and the People's Government, showed a vigorous spirit of creative initiative and succeeded in overcoming their difficulties. As a result of their efforts to increase production by various methods, coal output has risen each year as the following table shows:

Increase of Coal Output	
1949	100
1950	132
1951	164
1952	202
1953	216

The quality of coal products has also considerably improved. The ash-content of coking coal supplied by the Fushun collieries to the Anshan Iron and Steel Company is now 6 per cent, as compared to 9 per cent before the liberation. As a result, the efficiency of pig-iron production at Anshan has been raised considerably.

Improved Methods

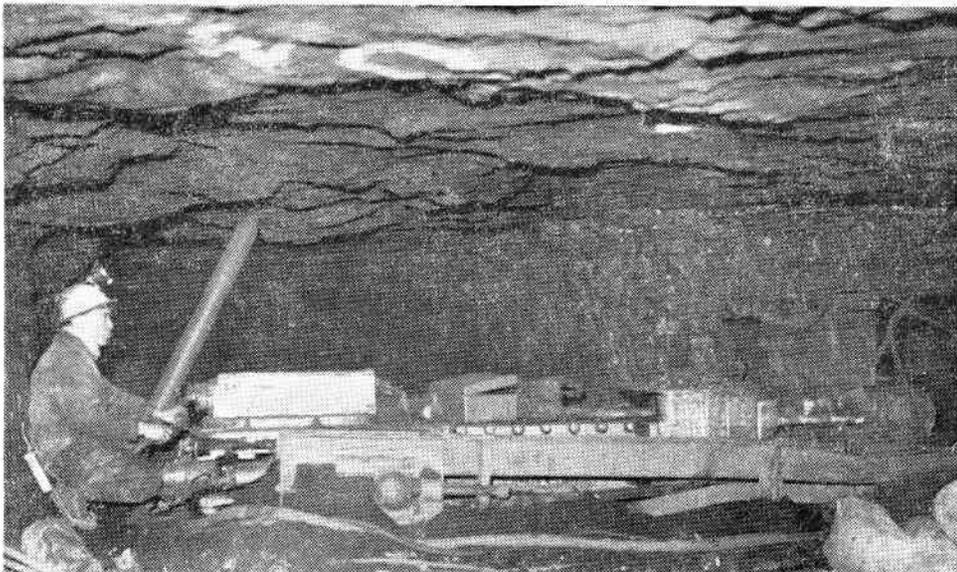
In each case the increase in output and improvement in quality of coal products has begun with production innovations in the mines. In all the important mines throughout China, up-to-date methods of coal-cutting are replacing backward ones. Partially or wholly mechanized production is gradually taking the place of manual labour. A variety of new installations protect the miners' safety and health.

Before the liberation, when backward methods were general, the usual rate of extraction was as low as 30 per cent, the remaining 70 per cent of the coal being wasted. Since the end of 1949, the "long wall" system and a dozen other new ways of extracting coal adapted to the conditions of the various mines, have been progressively introduced. Today the average extraction rate is 76 per cent. In some thin seams it exceeds 90 per cent.

Mechanization, in varying degrees, has been introduced in all parts of the country. One example is the Tatung Colliery in Shansi Province. Here, pick and shovel and the old boring and firing methods have been replaced by the use of pneumatic picks, electric drills and coal-cutting machines. Soviet-type Donbas-1 coal combines, which cut, crush and load the coal, have been introduced. Scraper-conveyors are in use in the underground shafts. The reality of a few years ago—human carriers with coal sacks tied to their backs creeping along on all fours—has become only a bad memory.

Various kinds of modern machines are being gradually introduced into collieries throughout the country. In mines where modernization is more advanced, all processes—cutting, crushing, loading, transport, sorting, etc.—are now mechanized. Domestic production of most kinds of mining machinery has begun. The first Donbas-1 coal combine made in China was completed last year.

In the process of mechanizing and automatizing the industry, many rationalization proposals have been made, and many innovations devised by miners and technicians. In the Fuhsin Colliery in the Northeast, for instance, 50 such proposals were made in the first



A Donbas-1 coal combine at work in the Tatung Colliery, Shansi Province. China is now producing combines of this type in her own factories

eight months of 1953. Five concerned automatic transport of coal and the discharge of mine water inside the pits. When they were carried out, productive efficiency in the shafts rose to such an extent that the physical labour of 500 workers was saved. In the Chiaotso Colliery, Honan Province, engineer Yuan Meng-wu invented an electric loading machine which can do the job of 500 workers, raising coal-loading efficiency by 20 times from the level before its introduction.

Better Working Conditions

Even more striking is the improvement of working conditions in the mines. In old China, underground safety installations were virtually unknown; the temperature in the shafts was usually over 30° C., the air was damp and stale; there was only about a cubic metre of fresh air per worker per minute. Accidents such as cave-ins, gas explosions and floods were of frequent occurrence. In 1943, for example, over 1,600 miners perished in a coal-dust explosion at Penki in the Northeast, while in 1935 more than 800 were drowned in a flooded pit of the Hungshan Colliery in Shantung.

Today, safety is one of the guiding principles in mining procedures. The Provisional Regulations for Technical Safety in Coal Mines, promulgated by the Central People's Government in October 1951 are very strict and detailed in their provisions. To give effect to the regulations, the government requires that each mining district has a special inspecting organ and sees that a thorough safety survey is made annually. Government safety inspectors are on constant duty in shafts in which there are potentially dangerous gas concentrations.

In the past few years, the government has made heavy investments in improvements to safety installations. Over 90 per cent of all producing shafts have been equipped with mechanical ventilation which ensures more than three cubic metres of fresh air per worker per minute (more than three times the pre-liberation figure). The average underground temperature has been lowered to 25° C. Various measures have been taken to prevent the collapse of timbering. Pumps are available to

drain off water at all times and effective measures have been taken to prevent dangerous accumulations of gas. All this has drastically reduced accident-risks in the mines.

New Mines Opened

The steady development of the national economy places new tasks before the industry. To meet these, alongside the restoration of production, many new projects are being built. Since 1950 work has been going ahead on seventeen new construction sites, most of them in the Northeast. These include the Fuhsin-Haichow open-cast mine, one of the biggest in the world, which began production last year. A number of newly-built vertical and inclined shafts will begin producing coal this year.

Construction in coal mines throughout the country in 1953 was on a much larger scale than ever in the past. State investments for this purpose in that year were over four times those in 1950. This year, there will be even more building, and planned investments will be over five times those of 1950. Construction of new shafts has already raised coal output and will continue to raise it, guaranteeing the timely and adequate flow of coal needed during China's First Five-Year Plan and laying the foundations for supplying the greater requirements of the second.

One of the main tasks of the developing coal industry is to guarantee adequate amounts of coke for the iron and steel plants. Of the shafts to be built this year, 57 per cent will produce coking coal. Several of them are located close to the new iron and steel bases now under construction.

In the restoration and development of China's coal industry, the enthusiastic and selfless aid of the Soviet Government, and of Soviet experts, is playing a very important role. The Soviet Government has undertaken to help China from 1950 to 1959 with the building, rebuilding or expansion of a large number of collieries. Its assistance covers all fields up to actual production: prospecting, designing, construction and the installation of equipment. Work on five of these projects is already under way.



This "pit canteen" in the Fushun Coal Mine provides miners with hot snacks underground during mid-shift rests

The existing coal industry of China also owes many of its achievements to Soviet aid in machinery and equipment, the introduction of advanced procedures in management, production and the organization of labour, and the training of technical personnel.

In old China, coal miners were contemptuously referred to as "coal blackfaces." Those days are gone forever. Miners today are among the masters of the new society, active and highly respected builders of socialism. Over 7,000 miners throughout the country have been promoted to responsible posts in the industry. Hundreds have been elected labour models. Among those nationally known is Ma Liu-hai of the Tatung Colliery in Shansi Province, who in 1952 set the nation-wide tunneling record of 500 metres a month, more than eight times the pre-liberation record. His experience has been introduced to miners all over the country, stimulating the setting of other production records. The government has now sent Ma Liu-hai to study at the China Coal Miners' School.

Miners' Welfare

Both the government and the trade union show great concern for the miners' daily life

and welfare. Average wages in the coal industry are now almost 100 per cent above those at the time of liberation. Medical services at coal mines have made great strides. There are now 31 general hospitals and 138 clinics devoted to the service of coal miners and their families. A number of coal mines provide artificial sunlight treatment for miners for the prevention and cure of occupational diseases.

The state has established several sanatoria especially for miners at beautiful seaside resorts, including Peitaiho and Dairen. Thousands of miners are sent there to rest each year. Under the national Labour Insurance Regulations, miners are entitled to retire, with pensions, five years earlier than other workers. At Fushun, Fuhsin and other places, homes for pensioners, mostly aged miners, have been set up.

The cultural life of miners has been greatly enriched. No less than 54 per cent of them, throughout the country, are studying in workers' short-term middle schools, technical training classes and spare-time schools. In the past few years, 38,000 coal miners have emerged from illiteracy. This summer, over 400 will graduate from middle schools and enter colleges.

China's coal miners are expressing their gratitude for the concern of the Party and government with deeds. In 1953, the first year of the Five-Year Plan, state-owned mines reached their nation-wide output target nine days ahead of schedule. In the first quarter of 1954, the target was reached five days before the deadline. With ever-growing enthusiasm, the miners are striving to fulfil and exceed the production plan for the whole year.

Loans for the Peasants

Chang Shu-jen

DURING the past four years since liberation, the People's Bank of China, New China's state bank, has granted a sum of over 30,000,000 million yuan in loans to the peasants through its network of over 10,000 branches and agencies distributed throughout the countryside. These loans have effectively assisted the peasants not only in overcoming their immediate financial difficulties, but in expanding production. They have played an important part in checking the usurious practices that once plagued the villages and in helping the peasants to advance along the path of mutual aid and cooperation.

Usury Under the Kuomintang

It would have been inconceivable for the peasants of old China to receive such loans from the state. Before liberation, the Chinese peasants lived a life of misery. They paid exorbitant rents and taxes and were ruthlessly exploited by the village usurers. Tenant farmers had to pay from 50 to over 70 per cent of their crop to the landlord in rent, as well as a variety of taxes levied by the reactionary Kuomintang authorities. After paying these exactions, they had little left for themselves. Poor harvests frequently reduced the peasants' income to a point where they could not pay these heavy rents and taxes, and they would be forced to resort to the "help" of the money lender.

Data provided by the research organs of the reactionary Kuomintang government itself

show that, even in the early days of its rule, some 56 per cent of all peasant households regularly borrowed money in order to pay their rent or taxes or for other urgent needs, while 48 per cent were forced to borrow grain to tide them over between the period when their own reserves were exhausted and the next harvest. A considerable portion of the peasants' hard-earned income thus went in the form of usurious interest into the pockets of their creditors—the landlords, the rich peasants and merchants.

Later, the increasing exactions of the Kuomintang authorities drove the peasants further into debt. Finding that the practice of usury in the villages was a promising source of profits, the bureaucratic capitalist clique of the Kuomintang began to issue loans to the peasants through its banks and especially through the so-called "cooperative banks" which it set up in many rural areas. By 1941, the principal banks of the Kuomintang clique had advanced loans amounting to over 50 per cent of all the rural loans in the country. The bureaucratic capitalists thus became the biggest usurers in the villages.

In placing their rural loans, the bureaucratic capitalists worked hand in glove with the local usurers—the landlords, rich peasants and merchants, advancing them funds as capital to expand their usurious operations. The local usurers acted as the agents and henchmen of the bureaucratic capitalists in exploiting the peasants. Thus the Kuomintang's

“farm loans” actually increased the economic squeeze on the peasants; they also helped to strengthen the rule of the bureaucratic capitalists and landlords in the villages.

These usurers had but one aim—to plunder the peasants’ land and force the peasants into virtual slavery. When impoverished peasants tried to borrow money from the banks controlled by the bureaucratic capitalists or from the local usurers, all they could generally get were short-term loans at excessively high rates of interest, and this usually meant that in the end, they would be compelled to mortgage their land or other property all the same.

Debtors Were Slaves

In their greed for exorbitant profits, creditors imposed extremely harsh terms on debtors. The poorer the peasant, the more difficult it was for him to raise a loan and the harsher would be its terms. In Lanchow, Kansu Province, for instance, the monthly rate of interest of such usurious loans was usually 15 per cent, and at times it rose as high as 40 per cent! In the villages around Changshu County, Kiangsu Province, peasants who fell into financial difficulties in the time between harvests and resorted to loans from the local usurers, were compelled to sell in advance their next rice or wheat crop at a price fixed 30 to 50 per cent lower than the market price. Thus when they paid off their debt in kind one to three months later, when the harvest was gathered, it was to the great gain of the creditor. Similar cases could be found practically everywhere in old China.

Many peasant families who had sunk into debt were forced to work for generations as virtual slaves of their creditors.

The great grandfather of Wang Hsueh-tung, a poor peasant of Kansu Province, borrowed 18 taels of silver sixty years ago from Chang Yueh-chiao, a rich peasant. By the time of the liberation, the Wangs had paid interest on this amounting to 200 taels of silver, two hogs, a cart and more than a *mou* of land. Moreover, Wang Hsueh-tung’s great grandfather, grandfather and his father had worked without payment for the creditor for a total of scores of years. Wang Hsueh-tung himself

also worked as an unpaid farmhand for Chang right up until the liberation. The borrowing of a small loan had thus resulted in the enslavement of four generations.

The victory of the revolution led by the working class emancipated China’s peasants. The downfall of the Kuomintang government brought about the collapse of the rule of the bureaucratic capitalists and feudal landlords. The principle of “land to the tillers” was realized in the great land reform. No longer do the peasants have to pay excessive rents and taxes. At the same time, as a result of the policies of the People’s Government in protecting and developing production, the vast masses of peasants have achieved a striking increase of production, and they are enjoying ever higher standards of living. These new conditions have dealt a crushing blow to the activities of usurers in the rural areas.

New State Loans

Following the land reform, China’s peasants naturally still need loans to finance their production. But the loans they now contract are very different in nature to those they were forced to resort to in old China, when they borrowed money to pay rents and taxes or just to make ends meet. Although a small number of newly emancipated peasants do still require the aid of state loans to overcome various temporary difficulties resulting from the poor economic conditions of the past, the overwhelming majority of them are, as owners of their land, now borrowing money to expand production.

To meet these needs of the peasants and assist the movement for mutual aid and cooperation, the state has each year appropriated increasingly large sums to provide farm loans under a unified state economic plan. If the total grants in farm loans in 1950 are taken as 100, this figure rose to 170 in 1951, 515 in 1952 and 624 in 1953.

These loans are granted to the peasants at low rates of interest and on a credit, not a mortgage, basis. Their terms are settled in each case according to the actual use made of them by the peasants. To suit the needs of

agricultural production, long-term loans are being gradually increased. In order to help the agricultural producers' cooperatives invest in capital construction, improve production techniques and increase their collectively-owned means of production, some farm loans given by the state run as long as three, five and even seven years. The usual monthly rate of interest of such government loans is about one per cent. Special loans, such as those provided for popularizing the use of new types of farm implements, carry a monthly interest of only 0.42 per cent. Loans granted the people of the national minorities to help them overcome production difficulties are often interest free.

In case the peasants have difficulty in paying off such government loans owing to natural calamities or other good reasons, their repayment may be either postponed or waived in order to alleviate the burden of the borrowers and enable them to recuperate and restore production.

The huge amounts of low interest loans given by the people's state since liberation have become a powerful force in reducing and gradually ending usury in the countryside. According to recent data, in some *hsiang* (administrative villages) of Honan Province, state loans to the peasants amount to over two-thirds of all the rural loans in these areas. Although private loans are still contracted between individuals in the villages, their scope is steadily dwindling because of the increasing facilities for getting state credit loans and the development of credit cooperative organizations from which the peasants can get financial aid. Moreover, the major portion of these private loans are now not usurious loans but a form of mutual help among the peasants.

The main recipients of the farm loans advanced by the People's Bank are poor peasants and some middle peasants who have fallen into financial difficulties. According to recent surveys made in Kiangsi, Chekiang, Kwangtung, Fukien, Shensi and Kweichow Provinces, about 78 per cent of all the farm loans issued by the government have gone to poor peasants and about 20 per cent to middle peasants.

The organized and individual peasants are each assured a reasonable proportion of the amount available for loans. Members of mutual-aid teams and cooperatives, who are usually the poor and middle peasants, receive relatively more assistance from the state because they are creating a new, advanced system of production and thus need more loans than the individual peasants to improve their means of production. But the state also grants loans to individual peasants to help them overcome the difficulties they meet in production or family life, to assist them to develop production and bring them gradually into the mutual-aid teams and cooperatives.

Help Develop Cooperation

The state's farm loans have stimulated the development, consolidation and advance of the agricultural mutual-aid and cooperative organizations. They have encouraged the peasants to take the high road to agricultural cooperation. In Shahsien County, Fukien Province, for instance, two mutual-aid teams jointly purchased a pump with loans received from the People's Bank and succeeded in transforming a dozen or more hectares of arid land into rice paddy. This gave them an annual increase of over 5,000 kilogrammes of grain, consolidated their organization and thus provided conditions for their development into agricultural producers' cooperatives. The members of mutual-aid teams in Chihhsien County, Sungkiang Province, bought an additional 75 sets of new-type farm implements with government loans, and thus provided themselves with the equipment necessary for the establishment of 49 agricultural producers' cooperatives. These are only two of innumerable examples of the way state loans aid the cooperative movement.

To promote the growth and development of the socialist sector of agriculture the People's Bank has established credit relations with the state-owned mechanized farms, which act as models for production in rural areas, and with the most developed agricultural producers' cooperatives, the socialist collective farms, to meet their needs for ready cash. They are also establishing credit relations with over 2,700 model nurseries for improved seeds

organized under the leadership of the various local people's governments.

Aid to Increase Production

States loans provide timely aid for the seasonal production requirements of the various localities. They help the peasants make timely purchases of seeds, implements, and other means of production, to improve production conditions and the cultivation of the land and to use new techniques for various types of field work. This has all resulted in a striking increase of output.

The farm loans granted by the People's Bank in recent years have given substantial support to the peasants' patriotic movement for increasing and developing agricultural production. In 1952 and 1953, state loans helped promote the use of over 5,000 sets of horse-drawn farm implements in the Northeast alone. Peasants who have availed themselves of these implements now practise deep-ploughing, better sowing and close-planting techniques. The per-hectare wheat yield increased by some 500 kilogrammes compared with the previous period. In the Neikiang and Meishan Administrative Regions in Szechuan Province, the peasants in 1952 built several small irrigation projects with loans from the People's Bank. As a result the irrigated acreage increased by nearly 17,000 hectares and in 1952 and 1953 rich harvests of rice and other agricultural products were reaped.

State loans are of special help to poor peasants who are still beset by temporary difficulties. They enable them to tide over financial difficulties affecting their family life or to overcome the effects of natural calamities so that they can go on to increase production and improve their livelihood. During the sowing season in 1950, before the project for harnessing the Huai River started, some of the peasants living along that river in Anhwei Province saw their fields inundated seven times in quick succession. The state bank seven times advanced them loans to help them overcome these disasters, and, as a result, they were able to

successfully sow their wheat and reap a good crop at harvest time.

Because of the vastness of China's territory and the predominant position still occupied by the small-peasant economy, the peasants need loans of many kinds, in varied amounts, and these must be available over a wide area to an immense total amount. State loans, therefore, are still inadequate to meet their needs fully. Under the leadership, and with the assistance, of the People's Government, therefore, an extensive mass movement for credit cooperatives has been launched to provide extra funds for the rural areas.

Credit Cooperative Organizations

Incomplete statistics show that by the end of June, 1953, China already had 6,871 credit cooperatives, 2,137 credit departments attached to supply and marketing cooperatives, and 14,322 credit teams organized by small groups of peasants who pooled their funds for mutual assistance. These credit cooperative organizations are effective helpers of the People's Bank in the villages. The Bank guides them in matters of policy and business and supports them with funds. They thus enjoy favourable conditions for development. Such credit organizations are playing an increasingly important role in satisfying the peasants' needs for funds and bringing the peasants onto the path of cooperation.

Through their personal experience of the aid given them by state loans and other forms of government assistance, the peasants have become still more conscious of the concern shown for them by the people's state led by the working class. This has strengthened their love for their country and their confidence in their government. It has enhanced the enthusiasm of their response to the call for the development of mutual aid and cooperation, and their support for the great work of socialist construction. They show this support by intensifying their efforts for increasing production, by selling their surplus grain to the state, by purchasing government bonds and by eager participation in other patriotic activities.

Production Innovator

— Wang Chung-lun

Li Feng

IN Anshan, Shanghai, Tsingtao, Chungking and the other great industrial centres of New China, the name of Wang Chung-lun inspires the workers to new creative efforts. Wang Chung-lun was awarded the title of Model Worker for outstanding successes on the production front. Today, innovators in every industrial field study his experience and try to emulate his achievements. Here, in short, is his story.

Working in the General Machinery Works of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, Wang Chung-lun devised a "universal fixture" which

makes it possible to carry out several additional operations on a shaper with great efficiency. With its aid, in 1953 alone he produced the equivalent of his quota for four years one month and 17 days.

As soon as the success of his fixture was proved, the Anshan Works' administration issued a call to all workers to emulate his example. In less than two months, 389 more proposals to improve machines and processes had been put forward. Of these, 86 have already been tested and yielded good results. Now the Anshan Iron and Steel Company has opened a Wang Chung-lun School to give additional training to advanced workers. Wang himself taught in this school.



The "universal fixture," invented by Wang Chung-lun, on display at the Peking Exhibition of Anshan Workers' Inventions and Innovations. The inventor's portrait hangs on the wall behind

An Encouraging Atmosphere

Wang Chung-lun lives and works in an atmosphere of teeming construction. It was in the spring of 1953. Day by day, newspapers and radio brought in reports of new successes in economic construction...the discoveries of geologists, the opening of new mines, new railways, highways, factories and mills...the creations of the first year of the Five-Year Plan. Anshan itself is one of the key centres of this new industrial upsurge. It is a great complex of giant plants, with new workers' apartments, clubs and shops. The huge new automatic

blast furnaces, the rolling mill and seamless steel tubing mill, branches of production and techniques hitherto unknown to China, were then being built. The Anshan workers, an outstanding detachment of the Chinese working class, had enthusiastically launched the patriotic production emulation campaign "to increase production and practise economy." Wang Chung-lun was inspired by the heroic struggle of the people to carry through the socialist industrialization of the country.

Wang Chung-lun has always fulfilled his tasks with credit. He had an enviable record of four years' work without producing any rejects and two years without a breakdown of any machine under his care. Already he had made seven successful proposals for improvements to tools and machines. In October, 1952 he had been admitted to the ranks of the vanguard of the working class—the Communist Party.

The work team Wang led was one of the best in the works. It had a record of unbroken success, and so it was assigned the task of producing spare parts for rock drills for the Northeast's rapidly expanding iron ore-mining industry. These rock-drills have many parts which require very exact tooling. Formerly, they were imported, but now they are needed in such quantities that it has become necessary to organize their mass production at home.

The Challenge

When Wang's shop got the order for them, it was found that the first two processes in their manufacture—lathing and milling—offered no special difficulties. But the last stages, involving complex slotting, proved to be a major problem—and this fell to Wang Chung-lun's team. The shop had lathes, milling machines, shapers and planers imported from the Soviet Union, but the only slotting machine was an old one made in Antung, Northeast China. It took two and a half hours to do the slotting on a single pawl and even then the work was second-rate.

The shapers could not be used for slotting the spare parts of the rock-drills—pawls, big nuts, etc., which are in the shape of cylinders of various sizes grooved on the inside in various ways—so the whole burden was on the antiquated slotting machine.

The team's morale was badly shaken as it started to fall further and further behind its quota. There was an embarrassed silence whenever technician Li of the mining department came into the workshop, and holding out some of the spare parts they had made, would complain: "See here, comrades! These only lasted two or three days!"

The lag in production began to affect the record of the whole workshop. The sagging lines on the production charts stared down a silent reproach. Soon a mound of unfinished spare parts was piled up around the ill-fated slotter. There was a growing spate of grumbling:

"We need more slotting machines!"

"It's the duty of the technicians to find a way to improve this slotter!"

Wang Chung-lun, for the moment, was at a loss as to how to tackle this problem. He knew the Company had good reasons for not immediately installing more slotting machines. The machine-building industry in China is still in its infancy: it is impossible to equip every workshop with the necessary up-to-date machines all at once. Wang knew that at this time when the whole country is engaged in construction, every single existing piece of equipment must be utilized to the full. Past experience told him that the only way to get around this difficulty was to improve the machines and raise their productivity. But how to turn an old slotter into a modern one or make a shaper do the job of a slotting machine? These questions worried Wang Chung-lun.

He discussed the difficulty with Pai Yung-wei, the Party secretary of the workshop. Pai said, "I've had a talk with the administration. They'll do their best to help, but it's up to you all in the first place to find a way out. Only you know these machines well. . . ."

This was Wang's first major assignment under the Five-Year Plan. Fulfil the task he must: it was a challenge to his sense of responsibility. He remembered other workers just like himself who had responded to the challenge of the times. He thought of Chang Ming-shan, who had overcome great difficulties in inventing his famous "reverse repeater"

for the Anshan rolling mill,* of Ho Chien-hsiu, the girl textile spinner, and many other ordinary workers in the country who have invented complicated devices and improved work processes. There was no question: they could not let the miners down and delay production in the mining industry.

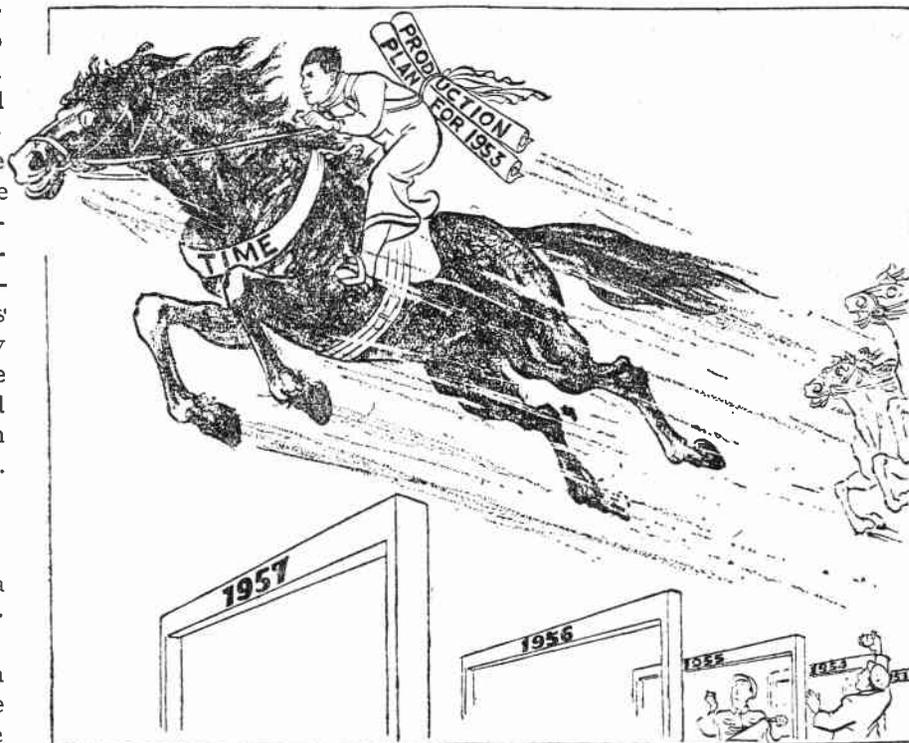
Birth of an Innovation

Then began a period of concentrated study and thought. Wang Chung-lun devoted all his spare time to studying the slotting machine and the shaper. His attention was centred

on the turntable, which was the essential difference between the two. Suppose the slotter's turntable were transferred to the powerful new Soviet shaper whose tool worked so much faster than the old slotter? But no, this wouldn't work! It was too big, and, besides, the cutting tool of the slotter worked vertically while that of the shaper worked horizontally. But this led him to the idea of designing a movable attachment for the shaper that would enable it to do slotting—some sort of fixture to hold the detail horizontally and firmly in place in front of the shaper's cutting tool, which could be adapted for boring grooves, etc., inside cylinders. With this attachment the shaper would be like a slotting machine up-ended so that its tool worked horizontally. The next step was to get these ideas down on paper for the consideration of the plant's technical department.

Though Wang knew very little about mechanical drawing, he devoted every moment

* See "A Worker-Inventor" in *People's China*, No. 13, 1953.



He who masters time

A cartoon in praise of Wang Chung-lun by Wei Chi-mei in the Peking "People's Daily"

free from work to this new task. Other workers in the team came to help with their suggestions.

Back home in the evening, Wang Chung-lun rigged up a "fixture" on the table as a model for his drawing, using a brick as a support, a tea cup as a small gear and a saucer as a big gear. He worked late into the night at his unaccustomed task.

The drawings were finished in a fortnight. The workshop manager gave a favourable opinion of the design and passed it on to the Works' Committee for Rationalization Proposals. The Committee approved the project and assigned the shop's technical team to help Wang set up the new fixture for a test.

Willing hands helped on every side. Li Wen-lan, another worker, suggested improvements that would give more exact control over the movements of the detail as it was slotted. Technician Hu Yen-lin added roller-bearing mounts to the main screw to ensure smoother adjustments of the fixture.

Then came the try-out. Wang Chung-lun, excited and anxious, took his place at the

machine. The fixture worked perfectly, producing a well-finished product. A tumultuous cheer from the shop announced the triumph to the whole plant. The test showed that the improved shaper fitted with the fixture could finish in forty-five minutes (later reduced to nineteen), a job which the old slotting machine normally took two and a half hours to do. It also enabled the shaper to produce 14 other kinds of details that could before only be made with a slotting machine.

The spare parts imported from Japan and Germany in the past had a life of only some 100 hours at the most. The new parts made in Anshan last at least 100 hours, some of them twice as long.

Production immediately soared.

New Successes

With the help of the "universal fixture," Wang Chung-lun completed his 1953 quota on July 15. Two months later, on September 15, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions called on the workers throughout the country to further develop the movement to increase production and practise economy, to fulfil and overfulfil the state plans so as to make the important first year of the Five-Year Plan a success. Wang Chung-lun responded by drawing up a plan to complete three years' work before the end of 1953.

To further shorten production time for the rock-drill parts, he invented another gadget which saved another 30 seconds in making a detail. Wang Chung-lun knows the value of time: "Thirty seconds saved on every detail is seven and a half minutes a day; and five and a half working days a year." With these improvements, he bettered his promise by completing three years' work on November 18.

At this time a big movement was unfolding to study the country's general line of policy for the period of transition to socialism. Participating in it made Wang Chung-lun feel more than ever that every new achievement in increasing efficiency brings socialism that much closer. He revised his plan and undertook to complete four years' work in 1953. By further improving his working methods he triumphantly carried this pledge out on December 25. Thus, before the close of 1953, the first year of the Five-Year Plan, Wang Chung-lun was already

working on production scheduled for the last year of the Five-Year Plan.

For this good work Wang Chung-lun received good rewards. For instance, in November, 1953, for overfulfilling the old quota by such a huge percentage, he received seven times his wages before the innovation. He bought presents for his family and things for himself that he had long wanted to get. He put five million yuan into savings in construction bonds. The administration presented him with a fine radio and a cash award.

His is no small achievement. The total value of his above quota output in 1953 was 357 million yuan. He reduced costs by 280 million yuan, thus giving a total contribution to the state of nearly 640 million yuan. In 1954, on the basis of the improved techniques employed in the works, quotas were revised upwards. But Wang Chung-lun plans, by improving his skill and shortening the time taken for auxiliary work, to complete in 12 months the equivalent of 16 months of the revised quota.

Innovators to the Fore

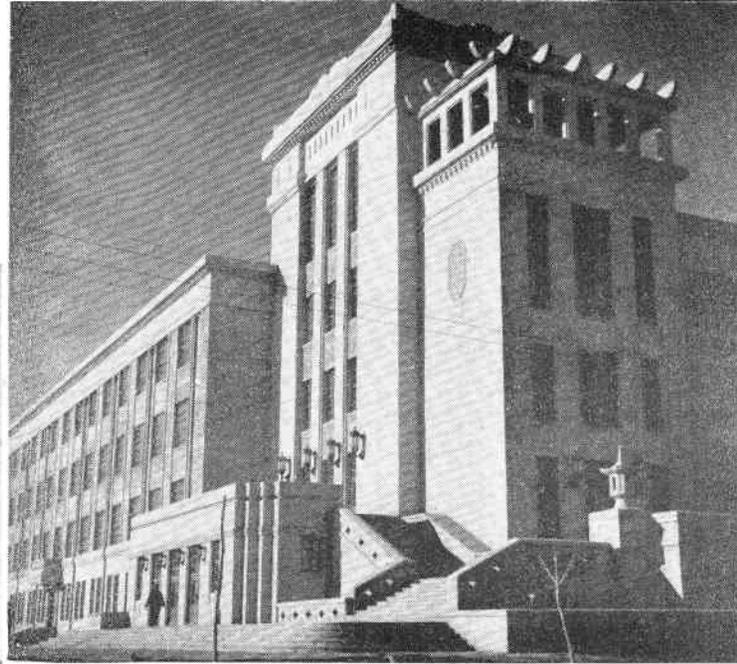
There is no computing the moral gain he has made for the state. His initiative pioneered a nation-wide inventions and innovations movement raising the emulation movement of the workers to a new, higher level. Following his achievement, a hundred and forty-three Youth League members of the Tsingtao Textile Machinery Works made a series of rationalization proposals which resulted in the setting of 188 new production records. Apprentice Liu Shu-chai there completed three months' work in 37 days.

Young lathe-operator Chen Hsiu-lin of the Shanghai Diesel Engine Works improved his lathe in January and quadrupled his productivity. He devised a new method mechanizing the smoothing and polishing of oil filter plates and raised his efficiency another ten times.

In Fushun, three young lathe-operators making parts for deep drills, hoisting engines and derricks, trebled their output by finding a more efficient angle for their cutting tool to work at.

Hardly a day goes by without reports of some new victories by the Wang Chung-luns of China in the battle to conquer time and speed the advance of their land to socialism.

Five typical students (left to right): Li Pao-chai is a fitter; Li Feng-chin is a former mint worker; Hsu Chen-lai, an electrician, worked in the power station of the Sino-Soviet Ship-building Company; Kao Shu-chih is a knitting worker of the Dairen Fish Net Factory; and Chia Heh-ting is an electric welder of the Dairen Locomotive and Coach Factory



The main facade of the College's Department of Architecture

Students of the Metallurgical Department learning to operate a Soviet milling machine

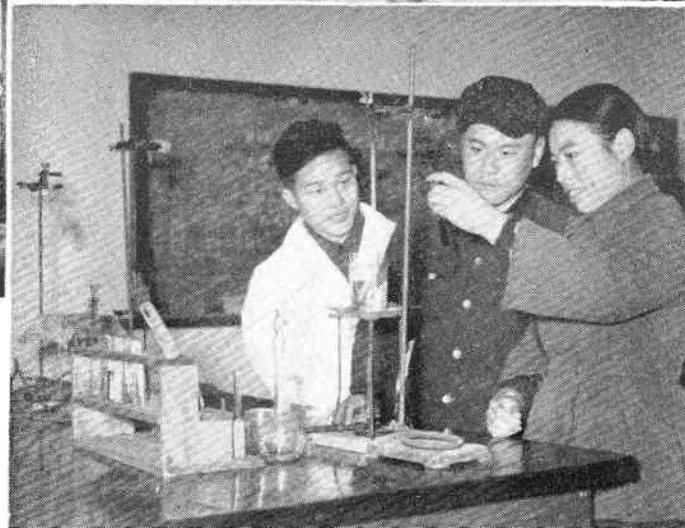
At the Northeast Engineering College in Shenyang (Mukden)

An increasing number of workers are being trained as technicians and engineers for China's new industrial enterprises



In the reading-room of the Metallurgical Department

Students of the Metallurgical Department in their chemical laboratory



WORKERS OF ANSHAN — VANGUARD OF AND INNOVATION MOVEMENT

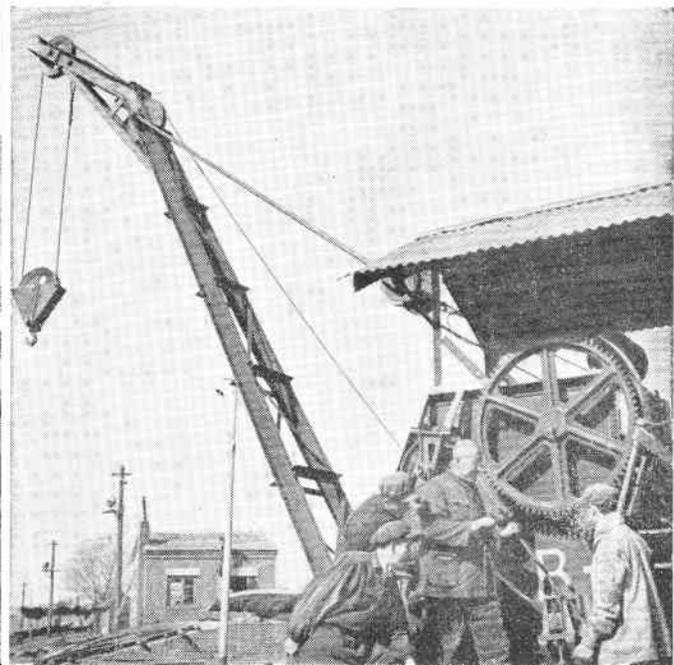


Model worker Wang Chung-lun explaining to a group of visiting workers how his "universal fixture" works

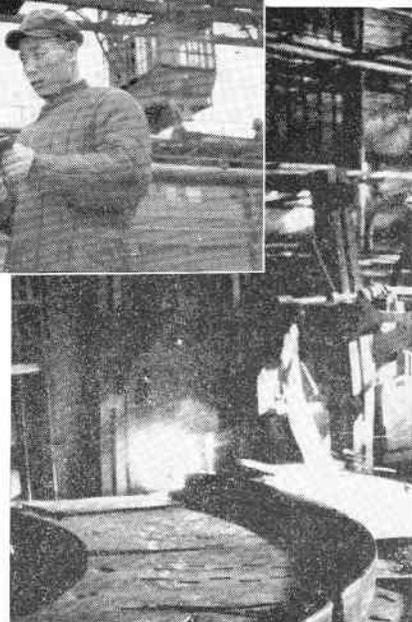


Model worker Meng Tai (right) checks oil sprayer, which is one of his r

Model worker Li Ken-yuan (2nd right) and the automatic crane he has improved



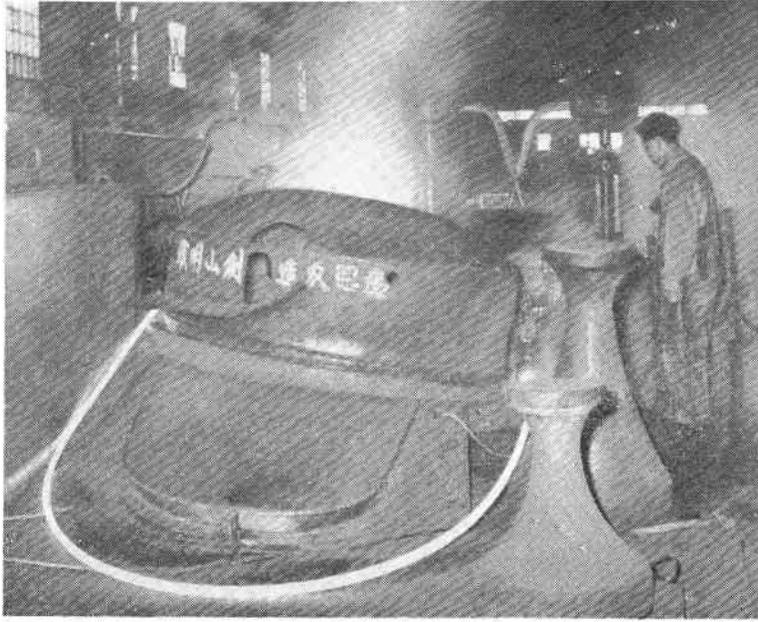
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THE INVENTION ENT



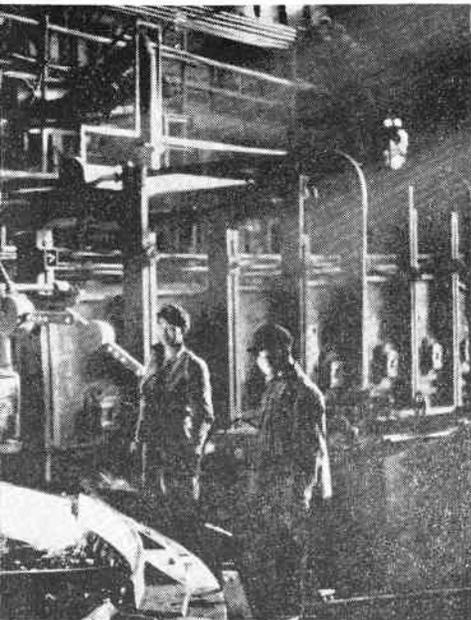
ks the automatic
many inventions



Model worker Chang Ming-shan (*kneeling*) with his invention, the "reverse repeater," which automatizes the most dangerous process in rolling steel bars

ngineer Wu Liang-ya
veteran worker Lu Nai-
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ver 1000° C in a furnace

Model worker Huang Teh-mou (*right*) has made a great contribution to Anshan's successes by his improvements to 14 kinds of tools





Workers' housing at the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, North-east China



The reading-room of the Shanghai Workers' Sanatorium

Care for the Workers' Welfare

New China's economic advance is accompanied by constant improvements in amenities for the working people



A worker receives medical treatment at the Peking Sanatorium of the Postal and Communications Workers' Trade Union



A miners' rest home at Peitaiho, famous North China summer resort

East China's Agricultural Research Institute

Liu Chun-an

THE East China Agricultural Research Institute was founded in Nanking in early 1950. It was built up on the foundation of the reorganized National Agricultural Research Institute, the National Animal Husbandry Experimental Institute and the National Forestry Research Institute, which had existed under the reactionary Kuomintang. Its growth has been rapid. It now has nine departments studying food crops, industrial crops, horticulture, soils, plant protection, animal husbandry and veterinary science, forestry, agricultural chemistry, and farming implements. It has a special division for physiological research on crops, a nursery for improved seeds, an experimental farm of 180 hectares, and well-equipped laboratories and green houses.

The People's Government has entrusted the Institute with tasks of great responsibility in East China. This great area enjoys very favourable conditions for the development of agriculture. It has numerous plains, rich soil, a propitious climate, abundant rainfall and many water conservancy works. The delta of the Yangtze River, which provides especially advantageous agricultural conditions, is one of China's richest agricultural areas. Its staple crops are rice, wheat and cotton. The fruits of Shantung Province enjoy world-wide fame.

The author is the Director of the East China Agricultural Research Institute.

Excellent tea is grown both in Chekiang and Fukien Provinces.

Following the land reform, the peasants of East China have displayed an increasing interest in utilizing new farming techniques and improved farm tools and implements to increase their output. The Institute has, therefore, devoted its main effort to helping the peasants raise crop yields by applying knowledge of the most advanced agricultural science to the practical tasks of production. In the past years, it has centred its research work on the study of methods of raising yields of rice, wheat and cotton.

Improving Crops

Research workers of the Institute have improved many kinds of crops by the use of selected seeds, which they have later helped the peasants to cultivate on a wide scale. Such improved varieties are better adapted to the local environment, produce bigger crops and have a higher resistance to infectious plant diseases. The following are only a few of the many improved varieties of crops which the Institute has developed: "I Hsien Hung," a new variety of rice, not only ripens earlier but yields 6.5 to 8.8 per cent more than ordinary varieties of rice. The No. 5201 wheat ripens five days earlier than other varieties and is resistant to both rust and smut. There are also a number of other varieties of improved wheat that can resist scab. Among



A young scientist artificially pollinating a flower of a new variety of long staple cotton which is being developed at the East China Agricultural Research Institute

the new varieties of cotton the Institute has developed is "Haitao Cotton," which ripens 30 days earlier than normal, while a hybrid of herbaceous and upland cotton has a fine long staple and a high lint percentage. East China is steadily expanding the area planted to new kinds of rice, wheat and cotton. In the field of market gardening, improved varieties of spinach and tomato have also been cultivated.

Research and experiments on the techniques of cultivation have also produced good results. New cultivating techniques increased the 1952 cotton harvest on the Institute's farm by 22 per cent over that of 1951. This new method of cultivation was quickly introduced to other cotton-growing areas in East China.

The Institute has also succeeded in designing many new farming implements. The peasants had never used ploughs capable of making deep furrows in paddy fields, and the shortage of such implements has greatly retarded the increase of rice output. The

Institute's research staffs therefore compared the construction of Soviet ploughs with that of the locally made ones, and as a result of their study, they were able to design and manufacture a new type of plough suitable for tilling paddy fields. Drawn by a single ox, it can dig a furrow 20 to 23 centimetres deep. This plough has already been experimentally used in certain districts. The Institute has also improved the single row cotton drillers and cultivators used by the peasants and designed a new type of windmill. Following the successful experimental manufacture of such farming implements, the Institute has invited peasants from various places to try them out and later made further improvements to them based on the results of the peasants' practical experience in using them.

Fighting Pests

The Institute's scientists have also made considerable headway in the study of plant diseases and various agricultural pests. Effective measures have already been devised for curing or preventing attacks by pests on pear trees and pea plants. Successful experiments have also led to the manufacture of an anti-bacteria powder for use against wheat smut; three very effective insecticides have been developed for killing pests on fruit trees and vegetables, cotton, and in granaries respectively. Serums and vaccines for preventing or curing pestilences which attack cattle, hogs and fowl are also being made in large quantities. These preparations are being mainly manufactured with local raw materials. This lowers their production costs and thus promotes their extensive use. The serums and vaccines used to prevent rinderpest now cost only one-eighth of what they did in the past.

Close Contacts with Peasants

The Institute's scientists pay the closest attention to the latest developments in Soviet agricultural science and methods and to learning consistently from the peasant masses. In seed selection, its research workers have, in

addition to Michurin's theories, studied the peasants' rich experiences in this work and the best high-grade seeds used by various peasants. As a result, many new and improved seeds have been successfully bred.

The Institute systematically sends out teams of agronomists to the villages to make field studies. They have learnt a great deal from the peasants' rich store of practical experience, while the peasants in their turn, have benefited from the team's modern scientific knowledge of farming techniques.

Close links between scientists and peasants produced good results.

The region near Tangshanchen in northern Kiangsu, a famed pear-growing area, was attacked in recent years by a pest that ruined the fruit. Unable to combat the danger, the peasants saw no solution but to destroy the infected trees. In 1953, however, the Institute dispatched a team to Tangshanchen. Working with the peasants, its anti-pest measures gave excellent results and the pear-growers have since gathered exceptionally good crops.

The Institute has also sent a work team to the countryside around Wuhsi in southern Kiangsu Province, a rice-growing area. Working on the spot, it gives the peasants systematic assistance in solving various production problems.

The Institute's scientists maintain regular contact with the peasants in a variety of other ways. They invite the peasants to lectures and informal discussions and to visit the Institute's experimental farm. They keep up a correspondence with peasants living in distant places. In 1953 alone, the Institute sent over 400 letters in reply to various inquiries by the peasants concerning production problems.

The time when agricultural scientists confined their activities to their reading rooms and laboratories is a thing of the past. Now they are frequently seen with the peasants in the countryside. This enables them to get a good understanding of the actual conditions of China's agriculture, and to draw on the rich experiences

of the peasants. This also explains why they have achieved such great practical results in their research work. As one agro-technician said at a recent discussion meeting: "Before liberation, my work was mainly to go to the library to look up books and search for materials to write my theses. But now my work has been completely changed. Now it conforms entirely to the needs of the vast peasant masses."

Since the Institute staff completed its study of the nation's general line of policy in the transitional period, the entire atmosphere of the Institute has been revitalized. With their main aim defined as aid to the agricultural producers' cooperatives and the state farms, they are determined to equip these cooperatives and farms with still more advanced techniques so that they can further raise their outputs to support the nation's industrial construction and help to completely modernize China's agriculture.



Members of the Department of Forestry of the East China Agricultural Research Institute recording the growth of saplings in the Institute's tree nursery

Cultural Centre in Luchuan Village

Our Correspondent

NIGHT closed in. Under the dark-bluish sky, Luchuan village and its surrounding fields were bathed in the silvery moonlight. In the playground in front of the village primary school, everything was ready for a performance of plays and operettas. A small mound of earth had been made into a stage, and a simple scene set up on it.

Just before it had turned dark, a staff member of the village cultural centre had informed everybody that two plays and two operettas would be staged that evening and all were invited to attend. The playground was crowded. The children, as usual, sat in the first rows, close to the stage. Behind them sat the women and old men. The young folk stood on both sides in groups.

Plays and Operettas

A troupe of professional actors and actresses from Peking performed a historical play and then a modern play which had the general elections as its theme. Then the village spare-time dramatic troupe presented two short operettas in the *yangko* style, a form of acting that has grown out of the North China ballad singing and dancing. Both of these reflected the new life in the liberated countryside and the thoughts and emotions of the peasants today. The audience was deeply interested. They could not tear themselves away even though the plays went on late into the night.

The amateur troupe was surprisingly competent. I learnt that, in the past two years, several professional troupes have been to the village and performed quite a number of excellent plays, so the amateur actors and actresses in the village had quickly picked up professional experience and improved their performances.

Uncle Pi, a village elder, told me: "I had never seen an opera, nor visited a theatre, in my more than sixty years of life. I little thought in the old days that I would live to enjoy so many things in the past two years: operas, lantern slides, gramophone concerts, films..."

Village Life Changed

At that evening party, I met young Li Chih-kung, the director of the village cultural centre. He described to me the cultural and recreational activities that go on in the village. They usually start after dark. A day's hard work over and the night slowly falling, many peasants take a short after-supper rest and then gather at the cultural centre to pass their leisure hours there.

Those dark days under the Kuomintang when the peasants were denied access to cultural activities and recreations are gone forever. With the land reform the peasants received land, and since then their life has been transformed. In 1953, the average cotton yield in the village increased by 50 per cent per *mou* over pre-liberation days. Luchuan village is not lagging either in the advance to cooperation. Members of the Hung Feng-chi Agricultural Producers' Cooperative doubled their yield per *mou*. Sixty per cent of all the peasant households in the village have joined mutual-aid teams or agricultural producers' cooperatives. Of the 250 poor-peasant households at the time of the land reform, 80 have since become middle-peasant. The cultural work is forging ahead. At the end of 1951, a movement was started to wipe out illiteracy, and the 550 villagers who were illiterate at the time of liberation are beginning to master reading and writing.

The number of pupils in the primary school has also increased. In 1948, it had 124 pupils; now it has 327. Formerly, its pupils were mostly the children of landlords and rich peasants, whereas now, 80 per cent of them come from the families of poor and middle peasants.

The evening after I arrived at Luchuan village, Tsui Wen-chih, a member of the Youth League, invited me to his home to eat dumplings. In the old days dumplings even on festival occasions like the New Year were a rarity in his home, as they were in the homes of most other peasants in the village. Tsui was formerly a poor peasant; now he has become a middle peasant. His whole family has joined the village agricultural producers' cooperative.

After supper, Tsui took out a *chungshan* guitar, which he had bought only recently, and played a cheerful tune. When he saw that his younger sister, a pupil in the primary school, was going to do her homework, however, he took his guitar under his arm and led me to the cultural centre to see him rehearse in a play.

A Busy Centre

The cultural centre is housed in a bright and spacious cottage. Its rooms are by no means small, but it was crowded on this as on most evenings. At tables covered neatly with white cloths, young folks were happily playing various games, while the older men, puffing away at their pipes, were absorbed at their chessboards. The centre's equipment is mainly supplied out of local government funds.

On the walls were posters urging the people to play their part in the socialist transformation of the country and to participate in the general elections.

Shelves and racks on either side of the room displayed more than 1,000 books and magazines. The librarian is nineteen-year-old Meng Kuang-chen. Not long ago she was



Li Chih-kung (standing), head of Luchuan Village's cultural centre, leads a discussion on the plan of coming activities

illiterate. Then she studied in the spare-time evening school of the village, and on her graduation volunteered to work in the evenings in the cultural centre as librarian.

This is no sinecure. She selects suitable books and magazines to be sent to the peasants' homes, and has set up "reading posts" throughout the village. The home of seventy-year-old Uncle Wang is one such "reading post." Every evening, Wang invites his neighbours home, and then reads stories and other interesting passages from the material supplied by the library to the people sitting around him. Sometimes he reads popular stories about the deeds of labour models and combat heroes, sometimes, descriptions of new methods of production or scientific explanations of farming techniques.

"The books the peasants mostly borrowed at first were illustrated stories," Meng Kuang-chen told me. "Now they like pamphlets dealing with the techniques of agricultural production and the journal *North China People*." These pamphlets and the journal are of direct practical value because they tell them about the production experience of the peasants in other places. More recently, readers have been borrowing full length novels and other literary works.

This reading room is also the scene of many discussion meetings. One of these, held on the suggestion of Chao Lan-fen, a mother of four children, was a discussion on *The Cock Crows at Midnight*, a short story by the young writer Kao Yu-pao, about how the landlords in the old society oppressed the peasants. The discussion was interesting; it went beyond the book, for many readers in sympathy with the hero in the story could not help talking about their own past sufferings and bitter life under just such conditions as the book describes.

The activities of the cultural centre, however, are not confined to this room. Its personnel have organized the peasants in many other activities.

Many Activities

In 1952, the village suffered from a spell of drought and the peasants feared to sow the cotton crop. The local Party organization called on the peasants to organize and overcome the drought by collective action. But many villagers were doubtful. For how many generations had they been accustomed to the idea that "a good harvest comes from Heaven"! Then the cultural centre went into action. Its members helped the Party organization to explain to the peasants how to battle against drought. They talked to the peasants individually, delivered lectures and made use of lantern slides, pictures and the blackboard

newspaper; they persuaded the peasants to sow the crop using new anti-drought methods, sinking wells and watering the crop artificially. These efforts produced the desired effect; they reaped a good cotton crop that year. It was a real victory over drought.

In 1953, a big meeting was held in the village to show the peasants the advantage of good cotton seed selection. On this occasion, a picture story showing how to select the best seeds was drawn by the staff members of the cultural centre and hung in a prominent place. It attracted much attention.

In busy seasons, Li Chih-kung and all the activists of the cultural centre take their work to the fields. Last year, as a result of heavy downpours, the lower parts of the village lands became waterlogged and the crop there was threatened. It was decided that a drainage ditch must be dug immediately. Li Chih-kung organized the young people to help in the digging. Singing songs and taking turns to perform "quick ballads," they made the work go with a will. The ditch was finished in no time, and the crop was saved.

At the beginning of this year, the cultural centre organized an exhibition to popularize the general line of policy in the period of transition to socialism. The exhibition showed exactly what would be done in pictures, graphs and other forms easily understood by the peasants. Deeply impressed, the peasants discussed it animatedly for many days. Someone described it to me: "A mere look at those pictures told you everything. A peasant who goes it alone is like a man walking on a bridge built of a single tree trunk. Mutual-aid and cooperation are the strong bridges that will take us to the future!"

One of the most popular activities of the centre is the spare-time dramatic troupe. In the last three years, it has given many excellent performances which, as I saw, the peasants love. Their favourite plays are *Good Sisters* and *Ballot for the Best*. Both spotlight the life and struggle of the new people of liberated China. Formerly, the troupe



In the reading room of Luchuan's Cultural Centre

only rehearsed plays in the winter, but this year, because of better organization of labour year-round rehearsals have been organized.

Among the most active supporters of the cultural centre are members of the Youth League. They take part in its monthly business meetings, making valuable suggestions to improve its work and discussing how

to organize its activities in a better way. The Party organization in the village, too, gives constant leadership to its work and help to all its efforts.

Talking about future plans for the centre, Li Chih-kung told me that soon it will have a new house, and then the cultural activities of the villagers will be unfolded on a still bigger scale.

Cultural Centres and Houses of Culture

In recent years the People's Government has established a large number of cultural centres in the villages and houses of culture in urban areas to develop cultural work in the localities and enrich the collective cultural and recreational life of the people and especially of the workers and peasants.

In educating the people in a spirit of patriotism and socialism and making them conscious and active builders and defenders of their motherland, these institutions play a big part in the battle against the influence of old and backward ideologies among the masses of workers and peasants, in bringing about their cultural emancipation and in developing the cultural revolution that is surging through China. They have been of great service in stimulating the enthusiasm for labour of the worker and peasant masses and in speeding the economic construction of the country.

Building up from scratch at the time of the liberation, by the end of 1953 there were already about 2,470 houses of culture, 4,560 village cultural centres and 18 mobile cultural service teams. They are spread throughout the country to serve the various administrative units—provinces, municipalities, counties, towns, districts, *hsiang* and the outlying areas of the national minorities.

They have carried on effective publicity and educational work among the masses of the working people in connection with the land reform, the peace movement, the sanitation movement, the new Marriage Law and the general election. They use many media in their work: lantern slides, exhibitions, lectures, blackboard newspapers, newspaper reading groups, radio talks, performances by spare-time dramatic troupes of the workers and peasants, mobile libraries providing popular books and magazines, technical and cultural studies. They are playing a big part in the campaign to wipe out illiteracy among the workers and peasants.

According to statistics covering the three-month period from July to September 1952, when there

were about 6,000 cultural houses and centres in the country, they gave more than 90,000 lantern-slide shows to audiences totalling more than 47 million people; they organized 148,000 lectures, reports and discussions on various subjects with a total attendance of 46 million persons; they held more than 20,000 exhibitions on different themes which were visited by more than 56 million people. Some 20 million people came to read books and magazines in their reading rooms and libraries. In addition they maintained close contacts with more than 70,000 spare-time dramatic troupes in the countryside and in the factories and gave them constant help and guidance in their productions and other activities.

As their activities are closely related to the needs and interests of the people, they are warmly supported by the masses. By means of mobile exhibitions, they have, for example, popularized among the peasants new methods of seed selection, a new technique of sinking wells and ways of fighting insect-pests. They have given the peasants in their localities a great deal of help in increasing production and improving their farming techniques.

Giving them political leadership and aid in other ways, the local Party committees of the Chinese Communist Party take a deep interest in the work of the houses of culture and village cultural centres.

Personnel of these mass cultural centres in the various areas held a series of conferences in 1953 to discuss ways and means of improving their work.

Early this year, the houses of culture and village cultural centres mapped out new plans based on a careful appraisal of local conditions and aimed to further expand their activities to meet the growing cultural needs of the people. They will be greatly helped in this by the five thousand cadres who have received training at short-term classes on a rotation basis for their work in the cultural houses and centres.

The May Fourth Movement

Li Shu

THE May Fourth Movement of 1919 was of great significance in the history of the Chinese people's struggle for liberation. This anti-imperialist and anti-feudal mass movement was a prelude to the formation of the Chinese Communist Party and the rapid development of the Chinese proletarian revolution. It marked the beginning of a new epoch—the inception of the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal democratic revolution of the broad masses of the people led by the proletariat.

The Background

Since the incursion of foreign capitalism which started in the middle of the 19th century, the economy and social structure of old China had gradually taken on a semi-colonial and semi-feudal character. Although the bourgeois-led revolution of 1911 overthrew the Manchu Dynasty, it did not root out feudalism or bring the country real national independence. After it, the whole country was parcelled out into a series of what were virtually feudal principalities, ruled by the various groups of warlords, all backed by one or the other of the foreign imperialist powers. There were constant and destructive civil wars between them, and these increased the sufferings of the Chinese people.

From 1914 to 1918 the Western imperialist powers were preoccupied with the First World War and had no time for adventures in the East. Given this brief respite, China's light industry enjoyed a temporary boom. In 1913, Chinese capital invested in textiles controlled only 4,600 looms and 652,600 spindles. By 1919, it controlled 9,400 looms and 1,174,000 spindles.

Japanese imperialism, however, seized on the temporary absence of its Western competitors to speed up its exports of capital to China

and dump goods into China. The number of spindles owned by Japanese capitalists increased more than threefold during the period of the war.

The growth of industry increased and strengthened the ranks of the Chinese working class. Under the triple oppression of imperialism, feudalism and the native bourgeoisie, the Chinese proletariat became increasingly revolutionary.

The opposition between the forces of progress—the working class, together with the peasantry, petty bourgeoisie and national bourgeoisie, on the one hand—and the forces of reaction—the landlords and big, comprador bourgeoisie on the other hand—sharpened the conflict between new and old ideas, greatly heightening the political consciousness of the broad masses of the people.

This conflict was reflected in the New Culture Movement sponsored by progressive elements among the intellectuals from 1916 onwards. This movement opposed feudalism and aimed to promote democracy, science and the reform of literature. It spread to ever wider circles of the population and aroused a universal demand for liberation among the masses.

The victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia made an indelible impression on the minds of the Chinese people. It brought to them Lenin's idea of the strategy of proletarian revolution in the era of imperialism, pointed out the correct direction for the national-liberation struggles of the peoples of colonial and dependent countries and gave them a living example of victorious revolutionary action.

The progressive intellectuals who initiated the New Culture Movement, and the youth

which supported this movement, saw in the October Revolution new hope for national liberation. The whole intelligentsia sympathized with the October Socialist Revolution; in the victory of the Russian people they saw reflected the great strength of the liberation movement of the masses.

The May Fourth

Taking advantage of the European imperialist powers' preoccupation in the First World War, the Japanese imperialists had launched not only an economic but also a political and military campaign of aggression against China. They occupied by force the port of Tsingtao in Shantung Province, which had been leased to Germany as a concession, and the Tsingtao-Tsinan Railway together with adjacent areas. But they were not satisfied with this. As a prelude to further encroachment, they handed the notorious "Twenty-one Demands"* to the Chinese government in Peking which was then headed by the warlord Yuan Shih-kai. Later they coerced the government in Peking, under the warlord Tuan Chi-jui, into signing a series of traitorous agreements and further induced it to declare war on Germany.†

Following the defeat of Germany, the peace conference was convened in Paris in January 1919. The Chinese national bourgeoisie, which had opposed Japan's aggressive

activities in China during the period of the World War, was deceived by the catchwords of "truth" and "justice" put about by the British and American imperialists. It vainly believed, therefore, that the conference held great hopes for China and would elevate her prestige among the nations. Under the pressure of public opinion, the Peking government sent a delegation to participate in the conference, and it brought up several demands, including the withdrawal of foreign troops stationed in China, the abolition of foreign extra-territorial rights, the return of leased territories and concessions, tariff autonomy, and cancellation of the "Twenty-one Demands" which Yuan Shih-kai had accepted.

The Paris Conference, however, turned down these reasonable demands of China and further aggravated the situation by approving Japan's seizure of Tsingtao and appropriation of the positions and privileges which Germany had formerly held in Shantung Province. This rebuff aroused the wrath of the Chinese intellectuals, who denounced this shameful act and resolved to oppose it. Acting with great revolutionary spirit, they and the students initiated a struggle against the Peace Conference decisions. Internally, they called on the people to oppose the traitors Tsao Ju-lin, Chang Tsung-hsiang and Lu Tsung-yu, high-ranking officials and corrupt henchmen of the warlord government, who had either participated in signing the traitorous agreements with Japan or were instrumental in contracting foreign imperialist loans.

On May 4, 1919 more than 5,000 students from various educational institutions in Peking led the way in raising the banner of struggle against the betrayal of the nation. Defying the threats of the warlord government, they gathered in front of the Tien An Men for a demonstration. Shouting slogans, they marched to the house of Tsao Ju-lin, the lackey of Japanese imperialism. They routed the armed guards at his door and broke into the house. Tsao, clambering over a back wall, escaped. The students, searching for him, finally cornered Chang Tsung-hsiang, the second traitor, who was China's minister to Japan and happened to be visiting Tsao at the time, and in their anger beat him. By this time the police force arrived and thirty-two of them were arrested.

* The Twenty-one Demands were put forward by Japan in 1915. Their implementation clearly meant the turning of China into a Japanese colony. But Yuan Shih-kai, who then headed the Peking government, needed the help of the Japanese imperialists to carry out his plan of becoming emperor. So, on May 9, 1915 he announced acceptance of Japan's demands. This shameful act of betrayal aroused the bitter opposition of the broad masses of the Chinese people.

† During the later period of the war, Great Britain, France and tsarist Russia reached a secret understanding with Japan whereby the former were to support the latter at the eventual peace conference in its demand that it should take over all the rights and privileges Germany previously enjoyed in Shantung Province and the Pacific islands formerly held by Germany north of the equator; while the latter should undertake to drag China into declaring war on Germany. For this reason Japan coerced Tuan Chi-jui's government into joining the Allies in the war against Germany.

A wave of solidarity with the students swept over the whole nation. On May 7, big student rallies and demonstrations of support for the Peking students' patriotic struggle took place in Tientsin, Shanghai, Nanking, Wuhan, Tsinan, Taiyuan, Anking, Changsha, Canton, Foochow, and Chungking.

Protesting against the repressive acts of the warlord government, students of various schools and colleges in Peking went on strike on May 19. They brought their message out onto the streets and public places, denouncing Japanese imperialism and its lackeys. On June 3, hand in glove with the Japanese minister in Peking, the warlord government arrested more than 1,000 students, hoping by this means to smash their patriotic movement. But this new persecution only served to fan the flame of the students' movement. Undaunted by police intervention, they further carried the movement to the masses of the people. The movement acquired fresh impetus and began to rouse the entire nation.

The Growth of the Movement

The centre of the student movement then shifted from Peking to Shanghai; its scope expanded and it began to include the working class as well. Shanghai was then China's biggest industrial and commercial centre. Industrial and commercial enterprises of foreign capitalists as well as those of the Chinese national bourgeoisie were concentrated there, and there, too, was the main force of the Chinese proletariat.

The students' campaign for a boycott of Japanese goods considerably enlarged the market for goods from Chinese factories. Owing to the increase of tangible profit and their patriotic sentiment, the national bourgeoisie began to support the students' patriotic initiative. Influenced by the students, the Chinese merchants of Shanghai called a strike on June 5 and merchants in other big cities of the country followed their example. All demanded the release of the arrested students and the punishment of the traitors.

The Shanghai workers began to take an increasingly active part in the anti-imperialist struggle. More than 20,000 workers and office staffs of five Japanese textile mills and the Chinese-owned Commercial Press gave a lead

by also coming out on strike on June 5. The next day, public transport employees and workers of a British engineering works followed suit. Then shipyard workers, longshoremen, sailors, and workers in automobile repair shops, public utilities and railways, all started to organize strikes.

The impact of the strikes was such that the warlord government in Peking was forced to release all the arrested students.

The rapid expansion of the mass movement, however, now began to cause disquiet to the national bourgeoisie of Shanghai. They asked the students to advise the workers of the inadvisability of holding further strikes. At the same time, the imperialist authorities of the foreign concessions in Shanghai adopted repressive tactics. All this failed to daunt the workers. By June 9-10, the number of strikers totalled some 70,000. All industrial and commercial activities and communications were brought to a standstill; Shanghai was almost totally paralysed. The wave of strikes soon spread to other places. The railway workers of Tangshan and Changsintien in northern China and the workers of Kiukiang, the port on the middle Yangtze, joined in and held patriotic demonstrations. The workers of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway were preparing to strike.

By this time the tide of students' strikes had swept to more than 60 cities, from Heilungkiang in the north to Kwangtung in the south, from Kiangsu in the east to Yunnan in the southwest. In Peking, handbills distributed by the most advanced elements demanded the abrogation of the traitorous agreements concluded with Japan, the dismissal of the traitors and recognition of the people's right to freedom of speech and publication and of assembly. "Should the government fail to comply with the people's demands," warned these handbills, "the inhabitants of Peking will resort to action in the struggle for radical reform."

The Peking government was greatly alarmed at these strikes of students, merchants and workers throughout the country. It was frightened by the revolutionary ideas that could be clearly seen emerging in the wording of the handbills. Under the pressure of aroused public opinion, it announced on June 10 the resignation of the three traitors most hated by the

people: Tsao Ju-lin, Chang Tsung-hsiang and Lu Tsung-yu; it also announced a reshuffle of the cabinet.

Thinking that the government had yielded to the popular demands and that the movement had scored a victory, the people called off the strikes on June 12.

The Far-reaching Effects

The May Fourth Movement had profound and far-reaching effects. In the course of this struggle and as a result of it, the advanced revolutionary elements who had a rudimentary idea of communism, began to realize that only the concerted action of the oppressed masses could carry the people's revolution to victory. Among them were Li Ta-chao,* Mao Tse-tung and Chu Chiu-pai.† In an article carried by the *Hsiang Chiang Review*, Comrade Mao Tse-tung,

* Li Ta-chao, one of the earliest of those who introduced Marxism-Leninism into China, was one of the founders and earliest leaders of the Communist Party of China. He was arrested in 1927 and later executed by the warlord Chang Tso-lin.

† Chu Chiu-pai was one of the earliest members and leaders of the Communist Party of China. He was captured by the Kuomintang in the guerilla area of Fukien Province in 1935 and was executed on June 18 that year.

who was its editor and had personally led the people of Hunan Province during the May Fourth Movement in a vigorous struggle against the traitors, wrote: "Now we know that it is not the guns of Lu Jung-ting** that can overthrow traitors like Tsao Ju-lin. Let the masses stand up and the traitors will be shouted down—they will tremble with fear and flee in panic." He pointed out that this was the way of struggle taken by the oppressed peoples of Europe. "We should do the same," he wrote, "and unite ourselves on a nation-wide scale."

Shortly after the May Fourth Movement, Marxist groups were formed in places like Peking and Shanghai. In 1921, these groups were consolidated into a proletarian party—the Communist Party of China—which has ever since led the revolutionary struggle of the Chinese people.

Soon, the revolutionary movement of the Chinese people began to unite with the revolutionary movement of the international working class and became an integral part of that great world movement.

**One of the big warlords of southern China who once cooperated with Sun Yat-sen in opposition to the Peking government.

Our Football Tour in China

Jozsef Konya

A Selected Football Team of the Hungarian People's Republic visited China in February this year on the invitation of the Commission of Physical Culture of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China. During their five-week tour in China, the Hungarian athletes played 11 friendly matches with a number of Chinese teams in Peking, Shanghai and Wuhan and won the warm admiration of the Chinese people by their fine technique and sportsmanship. Their visit has contributed greatly to the friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

Below we print impressions of his visit to China by Jozsef Konya, Captain of the Hungarian team.

WHEN I learned a few months ago on a frosty January morning that I was to captain the Hungarian football team selected to visit the People's Republic of China, I was overjoyed. My friends and co-workers at the

Mátyás Rákosi Works warmly congratulated me. They bombarded me with good wishes and questions. I could hardly get down in my notebook all the subjects about which they demanded information.



Jozsef Konya, on behalf of the Hungarian Football Team, exchanges banners with the representative of the Central Institute of Physical Education's eleven

On February 12, we were in the capital of the People's Republic of China receiving a heart-warming welcome. Behind my first impressions it was not difficult to see that a new world had been born in China. We saw factories, flats, schools and cultural centres being erected at a rapid pace in Peking and elsewhere.

A few days after our arrival, we began our series of matches with various teams. We played against the team of the Central Institute of Physical Education and against the "August 1st" Team of the People's Liberation Army. During our matches it was a pleasure to observe the sportsmanship and disciplined conduct of the Chinese players and their excellent physical condition. Their footwork showed great buoyancy. I made the acquaintance of a number of talented players who show capabilities of great progress. I am convinced that, with planned work and regular training, Chinese football players will in a short time rank with the world's best.

The large crowds which filled the beautiful Peking stadium to capacity at each of our

matches greeted us with sincere affection, and, although of course they cheered for the Chinese teams, they applauded our successful play, our goals and victories with sportsman-like appreciation.

Keen Interest in Sport

As a result of the care of the Chinese Communist Party, the Central People's Government and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, nation-wide mass sports have made a big stride forward in liberated China. It was a great experience for me to observe the Chinese people's love of sports. Football, which a few years ago was played only in a handful of large Chinese cities, has now become a mass sport of hundreds of thousands. Be-

sides the big teams which play for national titles, there are numerous young teams in factories and other enterprises. In the course of our visit to China, we also met many talented athletes, swimmers and table-tennis players and saw many excellent volleyball teams. It was especially interesting to see how the gymnastics movement has caught on among the masses of people. Of a morning if we happened to pass by a sports field we always saw youngsters or adults doing their "daily dozens." Millions of people do regular daily gymnastic exercises.

China's women have equal opportunities with men in joining various kinds of athletics suitable to them. In the past few years, the number of women taking part in athletic activities has grown steadily. For instance, the number of girl athletes in the basketball and volleyball matches held in Wuhan Municipality in 1952 was nine times more than in 1951. Many excellent girl athletes have begun to emerge. In 1953, at the national track and field meet, nine national records were broken by girls.

The flourishing of sports in China and the growth of their popularity among the masses, as in our own country, Hungary, is closely interlinked with the general development and the rise in the living standards of the population. I saw signs of this everywhere I went. Ordinary workers are now spending their holidays on the shores of the East Lake near Wuhan in villas which were once the luxurious resorts of the landlords and aristocracy. More than 10,000 young people are studying in the People's University of Peking. The Shanghai shops and department stores, which are well stocked with goods, are crowded with shoppers...

In Shanghai, we played a number of matches and afterwards held joint training sessions with the Chinese football players. We played several more matches in Wuhan and then returned to Peking.

Our Chinese friends made the days of our stay in the Chinese People's Republic very pleasant with their affection and attention. With art historians as guides, we visited the former Imperial Palace, which, with its store of cultural treasures has been turned into a public museum. We admired the graceful "marble boat" in the lake of the Summer Palace. We saw an exhibition showing the thousand-year-old history of China's porcelain manufacture... We attended a gay evening programme in a beautiful cultural centre. We came together with our Chinese sportsmen colleagues for a farewell party, and after a month of unforgettable experiences, we boarded planes on March 17 for our return to Budapest.

We brought away with us vivid impressions of a great land and a great people, who, freed from ancient oppression, are building themselves a new life of happiness.

The "Workers' Daily"

Tsao Tzu-ko

SINCE it began publication in July 1949, the circulation and popularity of the Peking *Workers' Daily*, organ of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, has steadily increased among the workers and staff of industrial enterprises throughout the country.

In addition to keeping its readers abreast of current events, the *Workers' Daily* pays special attention to the political education of the working class. It systematically directs its readers' attention to problems which are of

common and urgent interest to the working class, and organizes discussions about them. Since 1952, "Readers' Forum" in the *Workers' Daily* has led discussions on such questions as "who feeds whom?" and "what is the future of the working class?" Tens of thousands of letters have been received from readers giving their views in such discussions and quoting personal experience to make their points.

Gives Political Education

These discussions have helped its readers visualize more clearly that the working class is the creator of the wealth of the nation and

The author is an editor of the *Workers' Daily*.

the master of the state and that a brilliant future lies ahead of it.

When China's planned economic construction began in 1953, the *Workers' Daily* brought up another topic for discussion: "For whom do we work?"—linking this up with the movement to publicize the general line of policy of the country in the period of transition to socialism. Through articles and letters published during this discussion, readers came to understand more profoundly that the personal interests of the individual are inseparable from those of the people's state, that the socialist industrialization of the country answers the vital interests of the working class and will lead the whole Chinese people forward to a fuller and happier life.

The *Workers' Daily* not only carries systematic reports on the current tasks of national construction; it actively encourages its readers to participate in the emulation campaigns and publicizes the experience and achievements of the leading workers. When the Kolesov method of metal-cutting was being introduced into China's industries in 1953, the *Workers' Daily* not only described the advantages of this new method in general terms but also gave relevant details. It provided systematic coverage of how this new technique was being introduced in various parts of the country and the experiences of workers in mastering it. This advanced Soviet production method was thus rapidly spread through the industrial works of the country, and the general level of efficiency in metal-cutting was raised.

Helps Increase Production

In 1951, the nationally famous Ma Heng-chang production team issued a challenge to all workers in the country to increase production and practise economy. The *Workers' Daily* immediately headlined this news and mobilized a mass response to the challenge. It ran daily reports on groups of workers in various parts of the country who had taken up the challenge. Within six months, over 11,000 production teams had joined this nation-wide emulation drive.

As the organ of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, the *Workers' Daily* naturally

gives special attention to union activities. Two special columns—"Union Life" and "Answers to Readers" are devoted to answering various questions concerning the trade union movement. In addition to this, through news items and feature articles, it fully and systematically introduces its readers to the working experience of the best basic union organizations. This coverage prompts union members everywhere to study such experience and reorganize and develop the work of their own union organizations in the light of what they learn.

Close Links with Readers

The paper maintains a close link with its readers—the masses of workers and employees. It has a daily column of letters to the editor reflecting the opinions of its readers; it organizes personal interviews with readers and helps them solve their problems. Besides printing news agency material, the paper also carries articles and items from its staff reporters and contributions sent in regularly by a network of worker-correspondents in the factories and mines throughout the country. It helps to train these worker-correspondents in many ways and looks on them as one of its main sources of material.

As the workers' own paper, the *Workers' Daily* serves as an instrument helping the working class to master Marxism-Leninism, to understand current affairs and politics, to enrich their knowledge of technique and skill in production. It serves to unite the workers and aid in the conduct of trade union work.

By giving constant coverage to the activities of the workers abroad in the struggle for working-class rights in the countries of capitalism and the colonies and in the building of a new society in the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies, the *Workers' Daily* links its readers in solidarity with the great world working-class movement for peace and progress.

Its staff does its utmost to carry on the best traditions of the working-class press under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, so that it can more effectively inspire and organize the working class to play its full role in the building of socialism.

Introducing "Imperialism and Chinese Politics"

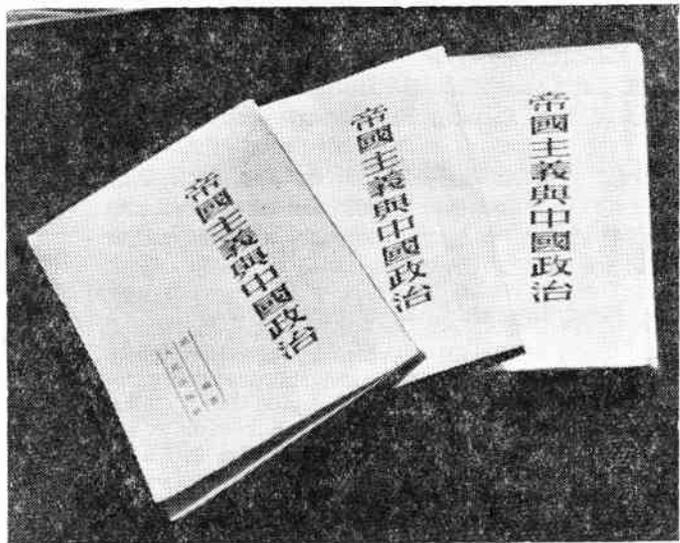
Tai Wen-pao

IMPERIALISM AND CHINESE POLITICS*, by the Chinese historian Hu Sheng, is an account of nearly a century of political relations between the imperialist powers and semi-colonial China. It was first published in 1948. A second edition appeared in 1949 and a new edition was published in 1953 with some revisions and additions by the author.

Tracing the record of concrete historical facts over a period of eighty-five years—from the Opium War of 1840-42, to the eve of the First Revolutionary Civil War of 1924-27—the author illustrates how the imperialist powers pursued their aggressive aims in China and how the reactionary rulers of China, contrary to the demands of the people, adopted an attitude of appeasement and servility to the imperialists. This book also shows how gravely the cause of the people's revolution was damaged by the political reformists who cherished vain illusions concerning the imperialists. Particular attention is reserved for the role of the U.S. imperialists.

A Reactionary Alliance

It was the Opium War that marked the beginning of the era of China's national oppression by the imperialists. The first section of the book deals with the political relations between China and the capitalist countries in the twenty years beginning with the first and



second Opium Wars. It shows how, after the signing of the Treaty of Tientsin (1858) and the Convention of Peking (1860), the foreign invaders and the Manchu government established a relation of "mutual trust" based on military cooperation to suppress the Chinese people's revolution. Discussing this, the author draws the correct conclusion that the imperialist powers were afraid of the Taiping Revolution of 1851-64; they supported the Manchu government in so far as they could rely on it to facilitate their enslavement of China. On its part, the Manchu government adopted an attitude of compromise and appeasement towards the foreign invaders. It never hesitated to use force, however, when it was a question of suppressing the people. This policy of mutual accommodation remained unchanged until 1911, when the corrupt Manchu government was finally overthrown.

* *Imperialism and Chinese Politics* by Hu Sheng, People's Publishing House, Peking, 1953, 220 pages. An English translation of this work will soon be published by the Foreign Languages Press, Peking.

This study of Chinese history from 1840 to 1864 spotlights the fact that imperialism and feudalism, which then became closely allied, were the two main forces oppressing the Chinese people. From that time on, the imperialist powers never missed an opportunity of tightening their control over the Manchu Government, while the latter made concession after concession until China's independence was almost totally lost.

The "Westernizers"

At the same time a number of "new" officials emerged at the imperial court. The most prominent among these were Tseng Kuo-fan, Tsuo Tsung-tang and Li Hung-chang, who suppressed the Taiping Revolution with the help of foreign troops. They declared that they were "westernizing" China, but, in fact, they did all they could to maintain the moribund feudal system and pave the way for the further advance of the invaders.

Regarding this, the author says:

The imperialists' economic aggression ruined China's feudal economy and this inevitably resulted in the emergence of capitalism in China. The imperialists, however, did not wish to see the normal development of capitalism in China. They wanted to see China ruled by a government which would be a pliant tool of the foreign powers and at the same time strong enough to maintain internal order. In plain words, they never intended to allow China to become a country able to stand on its own feet. The kind of "foreignization movement" which Li Hung-chang carried on suited the imperialists very well and therefore had their approval.

The outbreak of the 1911 Revolution, which overthrew the Manchu (Ching) Dynasty, was a shock to the imperialists. But they found a ready tool for opposing the revolutionary people in Yuan Shih-kai, who was eager to ascend the imperial throne. The author says of that time, "it is an undeniable fact that the United States, Japan, Britain and Germany urged and encouraged Yuan Shih-kai to establish a dictatorship and, subsequently, to restore the monarchy."

Yuan Shih-kai died in 1916, but the imperialists were not short of puppets. His successors, the Peiyang (northern) warlords, were split into two cliques—the Chihli clique and

the Anhwei clique. Feng Kuo-chang, Tsao Kun and Wu Pei-fu, warlords of the Chihli clique, were willing agents of the Anglo-American imperialists, while Tuan Chi-jui, warlord of the Anhwei clique, and Chang Tso-lin, warlord of the Fengtien clique, were favourites of the Japanese imperialists. The author shows how, following the Washington Conference (1921-1922), the conflicts between various imperialist powers were reflected in the endless wars waged among these Chinese militarists, who were all agents of the imperialists—Japanese, British or American. The warlords were all arch-criminals who sold their country for personal gain, stirred up civil wars and trampled on the rights and wellbeing of the people.

On the basis of a study of three historical periods—the Taiping Revolution, the 1911 Revolution and the First Revolutionary Civil War—the author draws an indisputable conclusion: throughout this time, the imperialists did everything in their power to help the counter-revolutionary forces in China, to defeat the revolution and impede China's progress. And the U.S. imperialists were the most malign and cunning among them.

Reformist Illusions

Nevertheless, there were quite a number of people among the reformists in China who pinned fond hopes on the imperialists and vainly sought to get help from them. These reformists thought that there was no need to launch a frontal attack against imperialist aggression, that capitalism could be realized by means of reforms, and national independence could thus be achieved. But the imperialists took advantage of this very illusion to deepen the enslavement of China. As Chairman Mao Tse-tung states clearly on this point:

The imperialist powers certainly do not invade China in order to transform a feudal China into a capitalist China. Their aim is just the opposite—to transform China into their semi-colony or colony.*

It is not surprising, therefore, that all the reform movements, or movements of a reformist nature which occurred towards the end of the Manchu Dynasty, resulted in

* "The Chinese Revolution and the Chinese Communist Party," *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung*, Vol. II.

failure. The history of these 85 years from the Opium War up to the eve of the First Revolutionary Civil War fully bears out the fact that the futile illusions of the reformists brought harm to the cause of the people.

The People's Revolution

Unlike the reformists, however, the people did not naively expect support from the imperialists. In "The Chinese Revolution and the Chinese Communist Party," Chairman Mao Tse-tung writes:

The process of the transformation of China into a semi-colony and colony by imperialism allied with Chinese feudalism is at the same time the process of the struggle of the Chinese people against imperialism and its lackeys.

These two aspects of the situation which persisted throughout modern Chinese history are brought into sharp relief by the author at the very beginning of his book. He writes:

The patriotic struggle of the Chinese people against the foreign capitalist aggressors began the very day the Manchu government signed the first treaty which sold out China to a foreign power.

Thus, the author not only describes the tragic story of how China was invaded by the imperialists and how China's relations of inequality with the imperialist powers came into being; he also shows how those unequal relations were transformed by the victorious advance of the Chinese people's revolution. The great revolutionary struggle waged by the Chinese people for their national independence is highly evaluated in this book. The author criticizes certain absurd ideas about modern Chinese history propagated by bourgeois historians. On the other hand, he has not tried

to gloss over the mistakes committed by the Chinese people in the course of their struggle.

In the new edition of his work, the author has added further explanations regarding the relations existing between the aggressive forces of imperialism and the feudal forces; regarding the relations between the reform movement in the last days of the Manchu Dynasty and the forces of imperialism; and finally between Yuan Shih-kai and the whole European bourgeoisie at that time. New material has also been added relating to changes in internal and external conditions on the eve of the May Fourth (1919) Patriotic Movement; on class relations in Chinese society at that time; and the historical significance of the May Fourth Movement

Role of the Communist Party

The most important addition to the book is the new section, "Banner of Struggle Against Imperialism." This deals with the birth of the Communist Party of China and the great historical significance of the Manifesto issued by its Second Congress. This Manifesto gave the Chinese people a profound analysis of the contemporary situation in China, and for the first time in history, closely linked the Chinese people's struggles for a people's democracy with the struggle for national independence. With the founding of their Communist Party, the Chinese people found trustworthy leadership in the fight against the imperialists and their lackeys in China.

It should be pointed out, however, that this book has some defects. There is, in particular, a lack of analysis concerning the economic situation in China during this period. It is particularly to be regretted that the author does not give the economic background of the "closed-door" policy adopted by the Manchu government at that time. The economic factors underlying the conflicts among the different cliques of warlords after 1911 are also not elucidated. Furthermore, insufficient attention is given to the analysis of the revolutionary struggle of the Chinese people, and especially of the development of revolutionary thought during the past hundred years.

Despite all these shortcomings, this is one of the best books ever written on the subject which it covers.

CORRECTIONS: In No. 7 of *People's China*, the second sentence from the bottom of the last paragraph on page 32 should read: "The Laochang Tin Plant . . . now has five times as many workers as it employed in pre-liberation days."

The last sentence of the caption for the illustration on page 38 should read: "An agrotechnician . . . giving a lecture on cotton growing."

In our last issue (No. 8), the seventh line of the last paragraph of the first column on page 5 should read: "A 300-kilometre dyke has also been built along the Yellow River in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region."

CHINA TODAY

May Day Labour Emulation Draft Constitution Discussed

There was a sharp upsurge in the labour emulation campaign in factories, mines and on capital construction sites throughout the country in honour of May Day. All workers and employees of many state-owned factories in Tientsin and Shenyang (Mukden), of the Shihchingshan Iron and Steel Plant in Peking and the State-owned Northeast No. 4 Rubber Factory; all work teams of the Suchiatun Engineering Section of the Harbin Railway Administration Bureau; the Liu Li-fu Brigade of Port Arthur; the Kuo Chao-lan Brigade of the Dairen Locomotive and Wagon Factory and other work teams undertook to overfulfil their April production plans.

All participants in the labour emulation drive are working to raise their labour productivity, improve the quality of products, reduce production costs, improve working conditions and ensure safety in production, as well as to raise their own technical level and the level of enterprise management.

Labour emulation has also spread through various capital construction sites. Builders of the Han River Bridge at Wuhan have undertaken to raise the last of the five most difficult giant piers well above the river's surface before this year's flood season starts.

This year, the May Day labour emulation campaign is being carried out in a more systematic way and on a larger mass scale than ever before.

The first meeting of the Committee for Drafting the Constitution of the People's Republic of China was held on March 23. Chairman Mao Tse-tung, on behalf of the Communist Party of China, submitted the first draft of the constitution drawn up by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. After hearing an explanatory statement on this draft by Chen Po-ta, the Committee decided to complete discussions on it and revise it within two months, so that it can be submitted to the Central People's Government Council for approval and promulgation as the Draft Constitution. Discussions on the Draft Constitution will be held by the plenary session of the Committee and the joint session of the members of the Committee and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Copies of this Draft Constitution will be distributed for discussion in leading organizations in the greater administrative areas, provinces and cities, and in the local organizations of all democratic parties and groups and people's organizations.

Korean Delegation in China

A Korean people's delegation was given a warm welcome by the people of the capital when it arrived in Peking on March 14. On the evening of March 16 it was honoured at a big welcome meeting held in the Huai Jen Tang Hall. Liu Shao-chi, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government, was present and received the delegation. Kuo Mo-jo, Vice-Chairman of the National Com-

mittee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Chairman of the Chinese People's Committee to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, and Kim Ung Gi, the leader of the delegation, spoke at the rally.

The delegation has been welcomed at meetings with the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, the Central Committee of the China New Democratic Youth League and the All-China Democratic Women's Federation, and has visited agricultural producers' cooperatives in the Peking suburbs. It has conveyed the warm regards of the Korean people to wounded and sick personnel as well as families of the Chinese People's Volunteers. Members of the delegation have attended specially organized forums with the capital's educational, literary and art workers. Choi Yong, one of the delegates, whose life was saved by a C.P.V. fighter, Lo Sheng-chiao, who died while rescuing him from drowning, has had many happy meetings with the youth and children of Peking. Each meeting has been a moving expression of the close and fraternal unity and friendship between the Chinese and Korean peoples.

The many performances given by the three Korean art troupes accompanying the delegation have been enthusiastically received.

Following their stay in Peking, the members of the delegation divided into two groups are now paying visits and giving performances throughout the country. Their activities are being widely featured in the national press and

are followed with great attention by the Chinese people.

Spring Sowing Begins

Spring sowing has begun throughout the country — from subtropical Hainan Island in the south to Heilungkiang Province in the north. In the warmer parts of Central-South, Southwest and East China, the sowing has already been completed. In North-east China, sowing began earlier than in recent years because of timely rainfall this spring.

Following their study of the nation's general line of policy in the period of transition to socialism, ever greater numbers of peasants throughout the country are joining mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' cooperatives with an even greater enthusiasm for production than before. There are now over 58,000 agricultural producers' cooperatives throughout the country. While continuing their efforts to raise per-hectare yield, the peasants are also enlarging the area under cultivation. North China plans this year to grow 14% more grain and 29% more cotton than last year; the figures for Northwest China are 6.5% more grain, 7% more cotton and 27% more vegetable oil crops. In Heilungkiang Province, the biggest grain-producing area in the Northeast, the grain output will rise by 22.4%. Other districts have also set themselves higher production targets.

The People's Government has sent working teams to the countryside to give advice on the spring sowing. State farms and machine and tractor stations are giving technical assistance to neighbouring mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' cooperatives.

Bigger supplies of farm tools and other agricultural means of production are also being made available.

State-trading companies and supply and marketing cooperatives will this year supply the peasants with 66% more farm tools, 60% more fertilizers, 120% more sprayers and 150% more insecticides than in 1953. Last year, peasants re-invested in production large sums from the income they obtained by selling their crops to the state. In addition, the state will this year appropriate 10,000,000 million yuan for loans to aid the peasants expand production.

Cotton Output Increases

China's textile industry will be greatly expanded in the next few years and larger amounts of cotton will be needed to meet the people's ever-growing demand for cotton cloth. The Ministry of Agriculture has therefore decided, beginning this year, to set a target of raising an average of an additional two catties of ginned cotton per *mou* a year in the next few years, and increase the cotton acreage by over 5 million *mou* in each of the next few years.

By 1952, the total output of cotton had increased by 191% compared with 1949, the year of the founding of New China, and by 52% compared with the pre-war (1936) peak year. Output in 1953 closely approached the 1952 level.

To ensure fulfilment of this plan to increase cotton output, the Central People's Government has adopted a series of measures, including raising the price of cotton, restoring the practice of advance purchases of cotton, encouraging cotton-growers to join mutual-aid and cooperative or-

ganizations and improving planting techniques, etc.

Prize-Winning Songs

In a review of popular songs composed in the past three years between October 1949, and October 1952, 114 have been jointly selected by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of the Central People's Government and the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, and prizes are to be awarded to their composers. Among those which won first prizes, the three leading ones are "The Hearts of the World's People Beat as One," "In Praise of Our Motherland" and "Battle Song of the Chinese People's Volunteers."

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, some 10,000 popular songs have been published with themes taken from the new life of China and its people.

The awards give recognition to the achievements already made in popular song writing. The prize-winning songs will be printed as a *Collection of Prize Songs* and recordings of them will be made.

Women's Sports in Tibet

Lhasa had its first women's sports meeting and the first of its kind in Tibet in March this year. Teams representing women cadres of government organizations and units of the People's Liberation Army stationed in Lhasa and the Lhasa Patriotic Women's Association competed. Many Tibetan housewives also took part in the various contests.

The meeting lasted for six days. A warm atmosphere of solidarity between the Tibetan and Han peoples reigned in the crowded stadium.



**Link Labour and Technique Together! Contribute Still
Greater Efforts to Our Country's Industrialization!**

A sculpture at the entrance to the Exhibition of
Anshan Workers' Inventions and Innovations in
the Peking Working People's Palace of Culture

*By the Sculpture Department of
the Central Institute of Fine Arts*