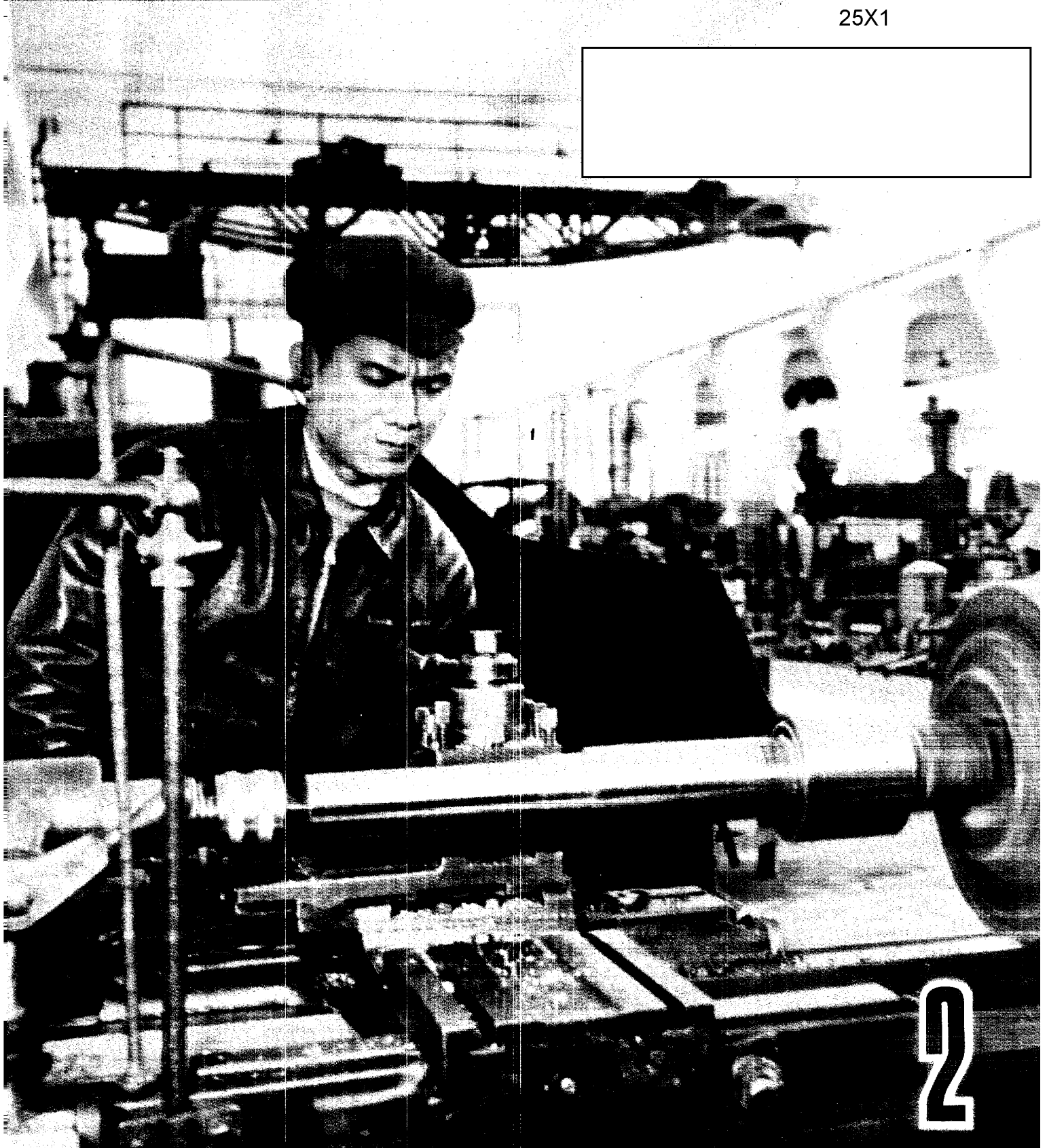


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# CHINA RECONSTRUCTS

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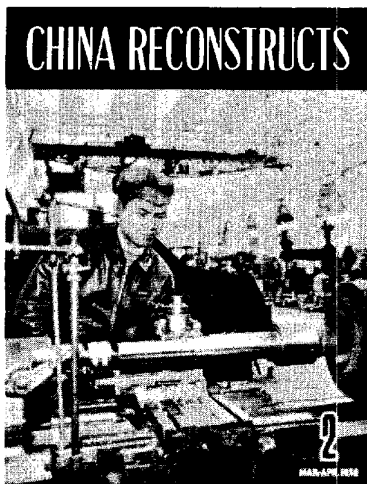
A BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY THE  
CHINA WELFARE INSTITUTE

# 2

March-April 1952

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**FRONT COVER:** A worker in the Tung Yung Machine Works in Shanghai applying the advanced Soviet high speed cutting method which greatly speeds up production and improves the quality of products.

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# Protect The Children!

SOONG CHING LING



Mao Tse-tung, leader of the Chinese people, is especially concerned for the children of our country and is frequently seen in their company. Here he is receiving representatives of the Pioneers in Peking.

**P**ROTECT the children! Protect them from every possible harm! Give them every advantage in life!

These are the demands of any decent person. For nothing is dearer to man than his children.

But today, the children are under direct threat. Already war is a devastating fact in several corners of the world. Already mothers are standing amidst torn fields and rubble streets, shedding bitter tears for their young ones. This has alerted mankind. It is a warning that we must act now to prevent such misery and distress from sweeping over all children. We can see that protecting the children is first and foremost a problem of peace.

The world's ordinary men and women want one thing above all else. They want to live out their lives, to raise their youngsters and to do their work in peace. They are solidly behind the idea that humanity must be spared the horror, the wounds, the waste, the deforming of children which has twice marked this century. They

may differ in religion; they may differ on political questions; they may be workers, writers, mechanics or farmhands; but they all hold one thing in common—that we must strive with might and main to prevent war, to protect the children.

The broad and all-inclusive delegations now streaming into Vienna are a concrete expression of the intensity of this feeling. Answering the call of the Women's International Democratic Federation, they are gathering for a historic conference which will meet from April 12-16 to mobilize all those who seek to protect the children. They come as representatives of hundreds of millions of people who think that peace and the well-being of children are inextricably woven together; that war, far from being inevitable, can most certainly be stopped in its tracks.

This meeting in Vienna is extremely important. It is the first time in man's history that an international movement has been formed to protect the children, that an organized attempt is being

made to break through to a solution of the gnawing anxiety which has torn at women's hearts for thousands of years—the fear of what war does to their children.

**T**HE SOLUTION starts with the mother in every home taking her stand that there shall be no war. It gathers momentum as each mother realizes that in the neighbourhood, in the district, in the villages and towns and in the entire nation, there are other mothers who feel equally strongly about this question. Then it reaches a crescendo of strength as mothers act in unison all over the world, not only to prevent war, but also to stop the preparations for war. Such unity of action is entirely possible. We are living in an age of expanding science, when war effects everyone, everywhere, and the desire to avert such disaster is universal. The meeting in Vienna is a demonstration of this immense will for peace. It will be a major step in effecting the solution.

There will certainly be those who will dare to resist and even

attempt to thwart this inextinguishable urge to protect the children. They will try every manner and means of deceit. But at each turn they will betray themselves. For our demands are simple and logical. One is either for peace or against it. Thus, it is easy to determine who is friend and who is foe, with whom we should unite and against whom we should struggle.

**T**HIS DISTINCTION is important. Even those who now prepare for war must take into account the people's longing for peace. They turn their whole economy to war production; they whip their people into a frenzy of fear and confusion and besiege the minds of children with terror of the atom bomb—all in the name of peace. In international organizations, the representatives of some governments concoct programmes which, they claim, seek peace. But the ink is hardly dry before they rush off to side conferences to plan war openly, or dispatch their troops and equipment to ring upon ring of newly-built war bases. With these people, there is no relation between word and deed. But to be sincerely for peace, words and deeds must match.

Such people will expose themselves. They are bound to isolate themselves from the multitudes who want no part of their dirty plots, and who will oppose in every available way their schemes of death for men, women and children.

There will also be those who will insist that organized action by the world's mothers is of no use. They will say that there is really nothing we can do about war since it is inevitable, since it is man in his "natural state."

These people are the gullible victims of those who profit by war, of the breeders of misunderstanding and the splitters trained to vitiate any move the people make for peace. We will seek to convince them with facts. We will show them, by the united outcry of our hundreds of millions, that man can reject war once and for all. We will demonstrate that man not only hates war, but is



Learning to draw in one of China's ever-increasing number of day-nurseries for the children of working mothers.

most creative and most satisfied only when he is at peace and co-operating with his neighbours.

**T**HERE WILL BE still another category of opposition to the movement for the protection of children. It will adopt a "learned" or "philosophical" approach. Its exponents have dragged Malthus from his grave and are attempting to resurrect his theories. "War is to the benefit of the human race," they say in effect. "It reduces the 'excess' population, allows more breathing space, solves the problem of the world's food shortage," and so forth.

This is thinking which has the smell of death. Yet we must reply to it, since it does receive credence in many western countries. Many recently published books put forward this line of thought. Highly "recommended" scholars spout it all too frequently in university halls, on lecture platforms, in the press and over the radio.

To these people, and to those who listen to them, we say: Look around you, sirs. How can you not see what man has done with his two hands and brain? See how man, in his love of life and peace, has worked the most momentous developments in the earth's history! See how he has

conquered, subdued, bent to his will the forces of nature! See the new gigantic strides he is taking at this very moment! You must be blind not to see that man has accepted challenges, solved every problem, and is on top, just because of his eagerness for life; that today we have knowledge with which to build a full and cultured life for every man, woman and child.

**W**E KNOW for a fact that man has but scratched the surface in providing for himself on this earth. The earth does not need to be depopulated. Rather, there is an actual need for more people. There is no "fate" or "inevitability" that requires our children to be slaughtered in war. Rather, we need to protect and nurture them so as to have more hands and brains to further develop civilization.

These are the solid facts. In China, in the past two years alone, we have demonstrated them beyond question. Many of the former "China experts" made their reputations by citing "overpopulation" as the cause of China's ills, thus diverting attention from the heavy burden of feudalism and imperialism with which the Chinese people were weighed down. The "chronic food shortage" in China was their favourite

illustration. But since the founding of our People's Republic, we have deprived them of this example. We already produce enough food to satisfy the needs of our own population and provide an excess for export as well. Yet we are still far from mechanized farming and large sections of our land remain to be reclaimed! So the facts prove not only that we can feed and clothe our present population, but that we can industrialize and support many more people.

What better demonstration can there be of the real causes and remedies for the "insoluble" problems of the so-called experts? Our own experience, in which we were anticipated by others and which holds true for all nations, shows that where a system can "function" only by condemning people to poverty and death, the people answer by condemning that system to death—and themselves go on living!

So much for the philosophers of decay and war who ask mothers not to weep for their children because they are "expendable." No children are expendable. No nation is expendable. All races and peoples have their own significant accomplishments, which have advanced or are advancing mankind. And now, at long last, the peoples are beginning to act together for the rights of each. Is there any reason for despair? There is more reason than ever for optimism. The difficulty does not exist which man cannot overcome!

Wherein does the main threat to our children lie? Today the key struggle is against the destructive intent of a mere handful of men, those who own the plants, banks, corporations, mines and mills that profit from war. These few persons also own the media of communications in their countries, which they use for their own narrow interests. They have industrial resources and a host of mechanical voices to speak for them. But their power is more apparent than real. Their enter-

prises could not work, their administrations rule, their armies fight—if the people united in their own interest. They are formidable only while they can deceive—and the deceit is wearing thin. They are not the irresistible stream which no obstacle can oppose. On the contrary, the people are the mighty river, they the puny obstacle!

**T**HE WISHES and demands of the vast majority of mankind cannot be swept away. They can be rendered ineffective only if each person stands alone, not if the people unite. That is why our crusade for peace, for the lives of the children, is the most potent force on earth. It can rip gun and bomb from the hands of those who poise them for war. It can turn the energy of the atom to the task of which scientists originally dreamed, to help man live, not to destroy him.

"In unity there is strength." Everyone knows this old saying and it applies now more than ever. This is the point we must grasp, understand and use as a guide, all of us who want peace and security for the children. We must act together.

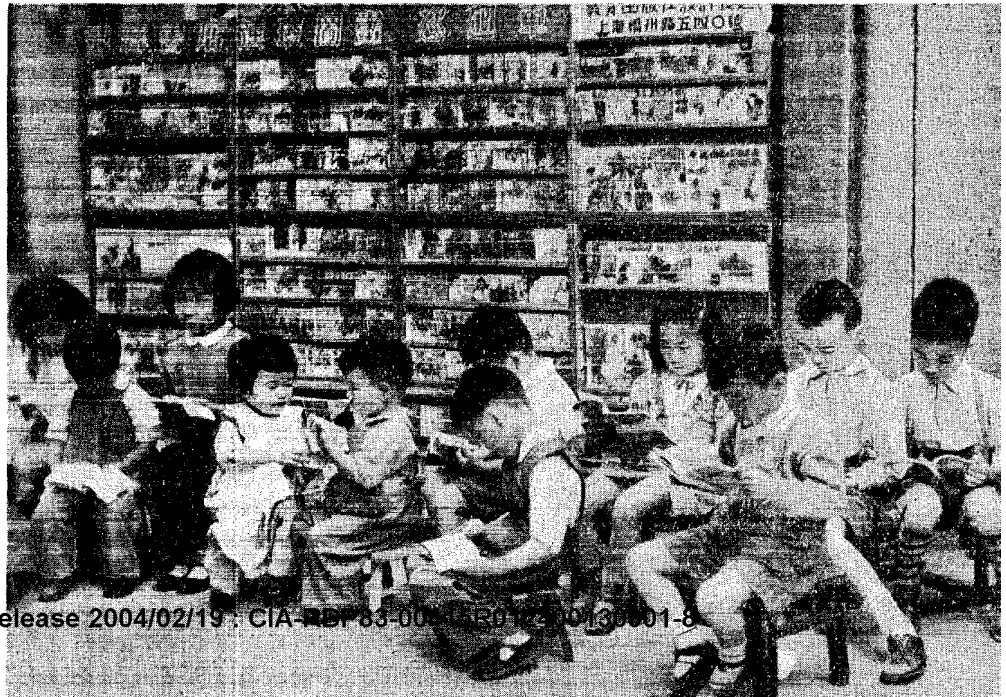
Today, the Women's International Democratic Federation offers every peaceful person and nation an excellent opportunity for united action. The Vienna meeting will result in making the world conscious of the urgent

need of protecting our children, and the way to do it. It is the duty of all to participate in and advance this movement. It should be the cause they hold most dear.

**T**HE CHINESE PEOPLE send their warm greetings, with their delegation, to Vienna. It is our hope that the Women's International Democratic Federation, in rendering mankind this great service, will achieve lofty success. We believe that children everywhere should receive all the blessings that nature provides, all the benefits the energies of man can mould. We want all children to grow up well-proportioned physically, their minds enriched by man's most valued creations. We want them to be full of confidence, fearing no state, no man, no aspect of the future. We want to free them from the threat of economic crisis and all other calamities, natural or man made.

It is to the children that we hand on the banner of life, to carry along yet another stretch of man's long road of progress. We believe with all our hearts that, given a start, they will build an advanced society and culture in which every person will have the fullest life, the greatest joy, at the expense of no other. We want with all our hearts to give that opportunity to every child. We are striving for this, and believe all peoples will strive with us. That is why the Chinese people want and defend peace.

Mobile libraries serve children in the streets and alleys of Shanghai.





# INNER MONGOLIA TODAY

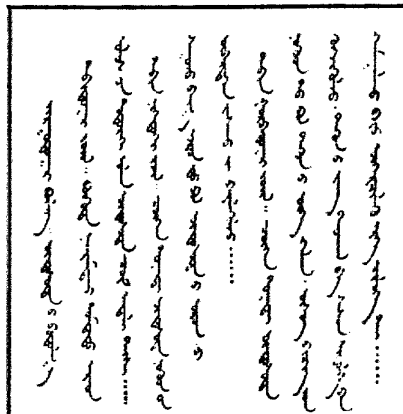
LIN CHUNG

**A**FTER the time of Genghis Khan, the Mongolian national hero, the Mongolian people suffered under the exploitation of their feudal princes, later supplemented by that of Chinese merchants and officials. From the eighteenth century on, all the territories they inhabited were administered as Chinese colonies. Then, a little over thirty years ago, what was formerly called Outer Mongolia became an independent national state, now the Mongolian People's Republic. The area commonly known as Inner Mongolia, which remains within the national boundaries of China, was organized as an autonomous region in 1947, after it had been freed by the People's Liberation Army. In 1949, when the People's Republic of China was established, its self-governing status was officially confirmed.

The Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region of China was formed from lands that were formerly part of Heilungkiang, Liaohsi, Jehol and Chahar provinces. Its total area is 231,600 square miles. Its population is 2,400,000, and consists not only of Mongolians but also of a large number of Hans (the majority nationality in China).

Since the liberation of Inner Mongolia the vast expanses of its

pastures, fields, forests, lakes and rivers, and all the great natural wealth of the region, are no longer bait for imperialistic greed or feudalistic exploitation. This wealth is now being developed by the Mongolians themselves for their own benefit.



## CHAPTER VI. POLICY TOWARD NATIONALITIES

**Article 50:** All nationalities within the boundaries of the People's Republic of China are equal . . .

**Article 51:** Regional autonomy shall be exercised in areas where national minorities are concentrated . . .

**Article 53:** All national minorities shall have the freedom to develop their dialects and languages, to preserve or reform their traditions, customs and religious beliefs . . .

*The above excerpts, given in Mongolian and English, are quoted from the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, which now serves as the fundamental law of the People's Republic of China.*

Autonomous Inner Mongolia was the earliest example of the application of the nationality policy of the new Chinese democracy. Now the Uighurs in Sinkiang (once known as Chinese Turkestan), the Tibetans in Tibet and Sikang and many less numerous nationalities also enjoy or are establishing autonomous status. By the second anniversary of the People's Republic of China, 113 autonomous national districts, large and small, had been set up, as well as 165 united local governments of various nationalities living together in the same area.

### Before Liberation

The liberation of Inner Mongolia, which came shortly after the defeat of Japan, literally saved its people from extinction. When it occurred, the Inner Mongolians were starving, sick and almost naked. The average man or woman was dressed only in a

ragged fur jacket, worn fur-side-in during the winter and the other way round in summer. Many did not even possess such a "garment" but wrapped themselves as best they could in raw sheepskins, full of holes. The population was going down, herds had been catastrophically reduced and famine stalked the land.

This condition, inherited from the centuries-old oppression of Inner Mongolia, was aggravated by the Japanese yoke which was imposed upon much of the area in 1931, and almost the whole of it after 1937. The Japanese invaders stirred up trouble between Mongolian and Han, the better to exploit both. They ordered that all pastoral and mountain products be sold only to the "Manchukuo Commercial Company," which paid extremely low prices in kind and invariably procrastinated in bringing in even the commodities it promised. Over those years, the Japanese shipped in vast amounts of opium and liquor, with which they systematically debauched the inhabitants. Their rule was entirely lawless; they could and did kill or rob anyone at will.

**Liberation and Self-Rule**

The Anti-Japanese War, however, also advanced the liberation struggle in Inner Mongolia. The Chinese Communist Party, and the People's Liberation Army which began to operate in a section of it after 1938, brought mighty reinforcements and a reliable rallying-point to the people's fight against oppression. Thus, immediately after the Japanese surrendered, the first steps to self-government could be made.

The Inner Mongolian Autonomy Movement was consolidated in Kalgan, Chahar province, in 1945. In 1946, a conference held at Chengteh, Jehol province, united the regional autonomy movements of eastern and western Inner Mongolia. In 1947, the Inner Mongolian People's Representative Conference was held at Ulanhot (formerly Wangyehmiao, Liaoning province) and on May 1 of the same year, the People's Government of the Inner Mongolian Au-

tonomous Region was set up, with Ulanfu as its Chairman.

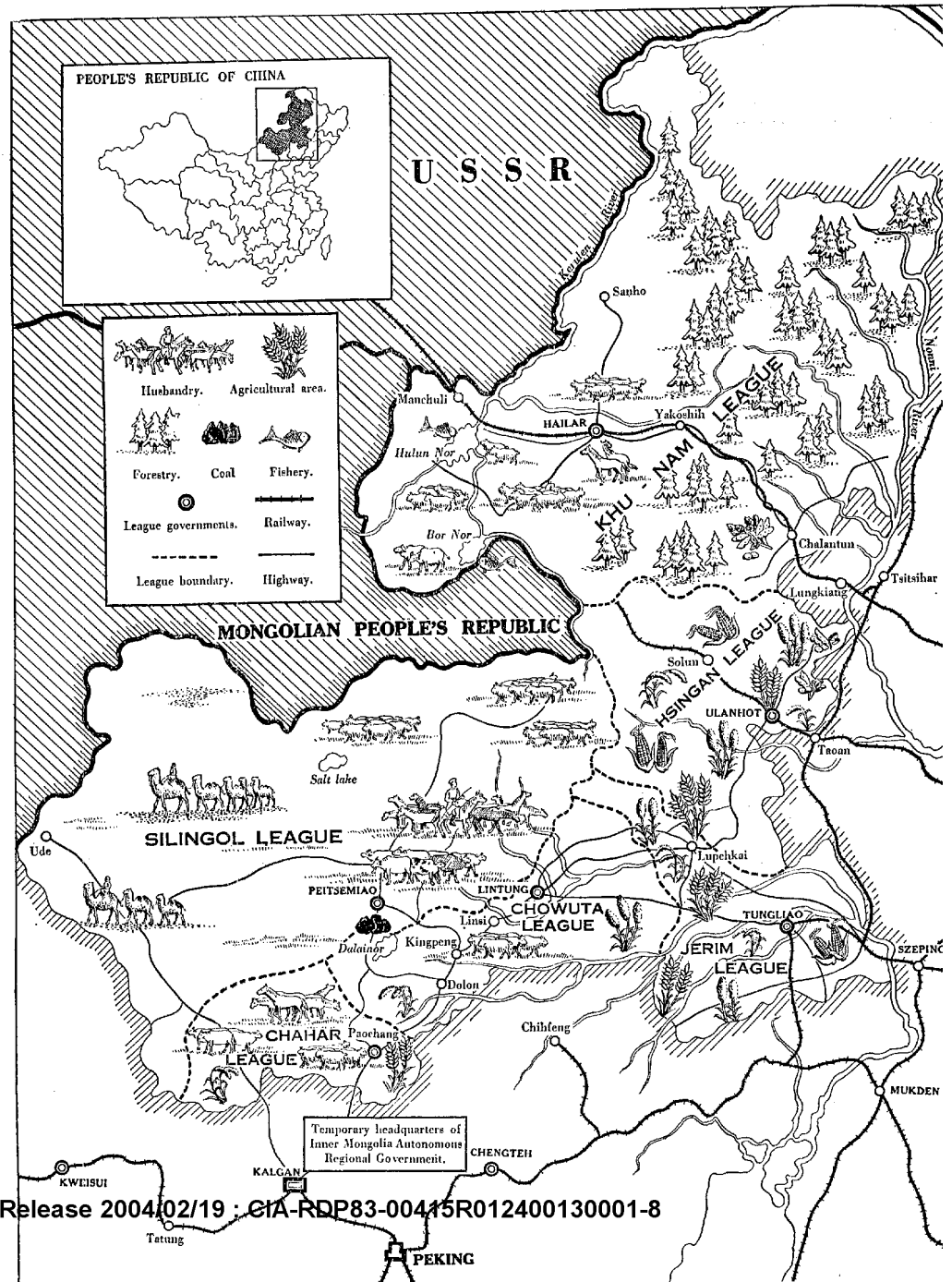
Under this people's government there are six *meng* or Leagues, comprising 32 *ch'i* or Banners (these are the traditional administrative divisions among the Mongolians). There are also three municipalities under the Leagues and seven *hsien* (counties) outside them in places with mixed Han and Mongolian populations.

Since 1950, every one of these territorial divisions has held three or four local People's Representative Conferences, while democratic

elections have been held in nearly 2,000 *kacha* or village administrative units. Delegates to the People's Representative Conference of different grades come from all walks of life—they include Mongolians and Hans, men and women, workers, peasants, shepherds and herdsmen, manufacturers, merchants, intellectuals, lamas (Buddhist priests) and princes.

All organs of government in Inner Mongolia, from the highest to the lowest, have been set up as a result of such gatherings in which representatives of the most varied groups contributed to the

**THE INNER MONGOLIAN AUTONOMOUS REGION**





A primary school of the Shingol League. Six out of every ten children in Inner Mongolia are now in school.

Government trading companies, dealing with the cooperatives and individual producers, bought grain from the peasants and animal products from herders and hunters, supplying them with large quantities of goods of daily use in return. Private business has also been developing. In the main towns of the four eastern Leagues, capital invested in private industry tripled between 1948 and 1950.

As a result of the increased turnover of goods, price ratios have changed in favour of the peasants and herdsmen. In 1947, in the territory of the four eastern Leagues, the Inner Mongolian peasant could buy only three-quarters of a bolt of cloth for the price he received for one ton of his rough grain (*kaoliang* or Chinese sorghum). Since 1949, he has been able to get 2.3 bolts, or thrice as much, for the same amount. The herdsman, who in 1947 could get 1½ bolts for the price of a 500 lb. cow, could buy four bolts by 1950. This explains the constantly growing eagerness of the people to produce and the consequent phenomenal growth of their average purchasing power, which increased by 460 per cent between 1948 and 1950.

The rising standard of living has also raised standards of education. By 1950, in the four eastern Leagues, no less than 61.7 per cent of school-age children were in primary schools. In Inner Mongolia as a whole, 80 per cent of children finishing primary school were going on to middle school instead of breaking off their studies.

In health, the most striking event has been the virtual elimination of the dread bubonic plague, once a threat to every life. In 1947, the death toll from plague was more than 13,000. In 1950, as a result of government leadership in all-out mobilization against the disease, there were only 23 cases and 17 deaths. In 1951, no cases of plague were reported.

The fight against syphilis, historically deep-rooted in the region,

common task. At every level, the People's Government of Inner Mongolia has faithfully observed the nationality policy of the People's Republic of China. This has led to a new relationship between the nationalities themselves, based on equality, friendship and cooperation.

In military affairs, Inner Mongolia has organized strong cavalry groups which are part of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and fought with it to drive out the reactionary Kuomintang. Together with the Inner Mongolian Public Security Force, the cavalry has destroyed numerous gangs of armed bandits that used to ravage the countryside, thus safeguarding the people's lives and property.

#### All-Sided Improvement

Since her liberation, Inner Mongolia has advanced in economy, culture and health, setting her feet firmly on a road of improvement to which there are now no limits.

The land reform, carried out in this region in 1947-48, has led to great increases in agricultural

production. At the call of the government, which helps them with loans and in technical ways, the Inner Mongolian peasants are organizing mutual aid teams, using more fertilizer, adopting new farm tools and methods and working on large-scale installations to prevent both drought and flood.

In animal husbandry, so important in Inner Mongolia, the new policy of free grazing, along with veterinary and breeding assistance by the authorities, has rapidly increased the quantity and improved the quality of livestock.

Timber resources are being preserved and rehabilitated by active fire-prevention work and the conservation policy of reasonable felling, both supervised by a newly created Forestry Administration.

Trade, so long a weapon for the exploitation of the people, has been turned into a means of serving them. By April 1951, no less than 640,000 persons, or over a quarter of the total population of Inner Mongolia, were members of cooperatives of different kinds.



has also begun on a large scale. Of special significance are measures to improve mother and child health. An example of what can be done in this respect has already been given by the Mongolian People's Republic, where syphilis and child mortality due to it have been virtually wiped out.

### Wealth for the People

Over half of Inner Mongolia's 231,600 square miles consist of rich grassland. The natural pastures of Silingol and Hulunbuir are world famous, offering opportunities for a tremendous increase in the present number of cattle and sheep. The government's "free grazing" policy, and its aid to animal husbandry, are calculated to achieve this increase in the shortest possible time.

Aid to herdsmen and shepherds assumes the most varied forms. It includes preventative veterinary medicine, organized campaigns to kill wolves, mobilization of the people to cut and store grass for winter feeding, digging of wells where surface water is scarce and building of cattle-pens and sheep-folds for shelter against snow-storms and wild beasts.

As a result of all these measures, Inner Mongolia's livestock are already more than twice as numerous as in 1945. In some districts they have increased three to four times. In the New Barga Right Banner each shepherd and cowherd has an average of 70 animals. The pastures are alive with new prosperity.

Inner Mongolia is very rich in salt, nitre and alkalis, which will someday form the source of a great chemical industry. The famous Ujumuchin Salt Flat, an unparalleled treasure, is seven miles long and two to three miles wide. Its large-grained salt, of unusually high sodium-chloride content, needs no special processing before use. Fifty years

ago, according to Manchu dynasty records, 200,000 cartloads of salt, of 600 lbs. each, were taken from Ujumuchin each year. Present annual output is on a high level, and the deposit shows no sign whatsoever of exhaustion. Pure salt here is really "common as mud." As recently as 1947, 2,000 cartloads were used to build a defense wall against bandits, which is still there to see. The Silingol League has 60 large and small salt flats besides the one at Ujumuchin, which the local people call "The Mother" because of its seemingly endless abundance.

Dalai Lake (Dalainor), in the Hulunbuir grasslands, is full of fish. It is about 43 miles long and 14 miles wide. The people say: "There are so many fish in Dalainor, their spines stick out of the water. They swim layer under layer from the surface clear to the bottom. If you stick a pole in the water, it doesn't topple over." One old fisherman told me

that, in 1929, a single net set in the winter, when the ice had to be broken, caught 104 tons of fish, enough to fill five train carriages. Last year, one net brought in 40 tons. The lake is now being fished to the extent of 4,000 to 6,000 tons a year.

Only nine miles north of Dalai Lake is the Chalainor coal mine which has been worked for some forty years. It has seams close to 30 feet thick and reserves of many billions of tons. There is also a great deal of coal in the Silingol and Chowuta Leagues. Among minerals, preliminary surveys show an abundance of iron, copper, silver, gold, mica and quartz.

On the great Khingon mountain range, there are vast tracts of virgin forest. Tall larches, growing thick as corn in a field, cover an area 270 miles long and 130 miles wide between the south bank of the Argun river and the north bank of the upper Nonni river.



Women delegates register at the People's Representative Conference of Inner Mongolia.

The larches here stand 100 feet high; many go to 120 feet or even more. In all, Inner Mongolia has some 35,000 square miles of forest land, three times the area of Belgium. These mountains and forests are incomparable hunting grounds. They abound in wild fowl and valuable fur-bearing animals.

**Prosperity on the Way**

While the prairies and ranges of Inner Mongolia are well known, many do not realize its agricultural potentialities. In fact, the eastern part of the region has considerable expanses of rich, productive black soil. The conception of Inner Mongolia as a semi-desert is false. The idea that its population is backward and destitute is out of date. The rich resources and brave, hardworking people of Inner Mongolia, once held down under the weight of reactionary rule are now coming into their own.

The grassland is no longer desolate. Millions of cattle graze on it and soon there will be tens of millions. Inner Mongolia is developing into a great source of meat and other pastoral products, of draught animals, of raw materials for industry for the whole of China. On steppe and farmland, her people are joyously producing and improving their own lives day by day. Her underground riches are being mined. New cities, where mighty factories will rise, are already being built.



A happy herdsman shows off her new calf. With government aid, the number of livestock in Inner Mongolia has been raised to double the 1945 figure. (top)

In addition to regular schools, literacy classes are held right near the herdsmen's homes. (centre)

A scene on the Ujumuchin Flat—its 21 square miles of pure salt form one of Inner Mongolia's treasures. (bottom)



# Chinese Post Office Spreads Knowledge

CHU HSUEH-FAN

**O**UR Chinese People's Post Office is an organization quite different from the post offices of capitalist and colonial countries and from the post office of old China. It does not confine itself to the handling of mail, remittances and other customary routine but, like all other branches of the People's Government, serves the most varied needs of the population and national construction. In particular, it has become one of the greatest and most active disseminators of education and culture throughout the country, especially in the vast rural areas where 80 per cent of our people live and work.

In China, such work was first undertaken by the postal service of the old liberated areas, which was organized in 1938 and pursued its heroic career through the Anti-Japanese War and the War of Liberation. The couriers of this service braved every hardship and often sacrificed their lives, to carry not only the correspondence of the People's Liberation Army but also newspapers and other literature. They helped to inform the people, give them the orientation necessary for confidence in victory, and popularize the best achievements in production and defence.

With the liberation of the entire Chinese mainland, the postal service of the Kuomintang regime, which had been bent to the needs of foreign imperialism and the old reactionary ruling class, also passed into the hands of the people and was reorganized to serve them. By contrast with the old post office, which had been used by only a portion of the city population and hardly served the



Chu Hsueh-fan, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications.

countryside at all, the new People's Post Office has doubled both its length of routes and its number of offices and agencies, mainly in the rural areas. The chief emphasis in the tremendous growth of the past two years has been on service to the peasantry. By July 1951, rural postal routes had been extended by 328,309 miles and 41,901 new village post offices had been set up.

## Cooperation with the Press

The combined resources of the former liberated areas postal system and that taken over from the Kuomintang, together with the vast extensions since liberation, are thus available for cultural and educational activity, as well as ordinary postal work. The main concentration is now on

increasing circulation of newspapers, periodicals and books. Promotion of the press is particularly important because daily, weekly and monthly publications in China today not only carry reports on home and international affairs, but also spread knowledge of the principles on which our country is being built up and acquaint every locality with new methods of work and organization. Propagating science, improved tools for industry and agriculture and the best achievements of our literature, they have become indispensable, as an aid in everyday tasks, to peasants, workers, government functionaries, educators and members of the professions.

Close cooperation between the People's Post Office and the press was initiated in December 1949, during the First National Postal Conference and the National Convention of Newspaper Managers, both held in Peking. The decisions then worked out have since been put into effect. One after the other, the post office has taken over the circulation of many big newspapers and magazines. The method followed has been to transfer trained staff members from the circulation departments of the papers themselves to the postal service. In the meantime, private sales agencies handling the papers also continue to operate, with post office aid and guidance.

## Millions of New Readers

While newspapers have long existed in Chinese cities, hundreds of Chinese villages never saw them in the past. The first aim of the new system has therefore been to make sure that at least

Postal workers fold and address newspapers for distribution to subscribers.

groups enter collective subscriptions and, by gathering regularly for reading and discussion, keep their members abreast of the times. In Shensi province, for example, there are over 23,000 reading groups with 320,000 peasant members. Around Changsha, Hunan province, a single postman organized 1,294 rural reading groups while another set up 1,149 groups in fifty villages within 25 days. Rural postmen often themselves read and explain newspaper articles to the people at regular intervals, becoming recognized cultural leaders in the villages as a result.

Reading groups also have their important place in urban surroundings. One branch post-office in Kweilin, Kwangsi province, organized 1,008 during the month of May 1951. Shanghai has 904 reading groups, over 600 of them in factories. In Peking, almost every block and alley has its own group, in which people collect every other evening to hear and discuss what is in the papers.

#### Help to Circulation Agents

The postal service with its nationwide network, and the individual postmen and postwomen

one newspaper is delivered regularly to every village and hamlet in the land. The results already reached in this campaign are remarkable.

Newspaper circulation in China as a whole shot up nearly five times between the beginning of 1950 and the end of 1951. The *People's Daily* of Peking, leading paper in the country, increased its distribution 3½ times in eighteen months.

An even more striking jump took place in the distribution of papers published especially for the rural areas. The *Peasant Masses*, printed in Chekiang province, reported a 19-fold increase in readership in a single year. *North Szechuan Peasants* had to augment its printing facilities several times to cope with reader demand. Today, peasants constitute 60 per cent of all newspaper readers in China, a situation no one would have conceived possible a few years ago.

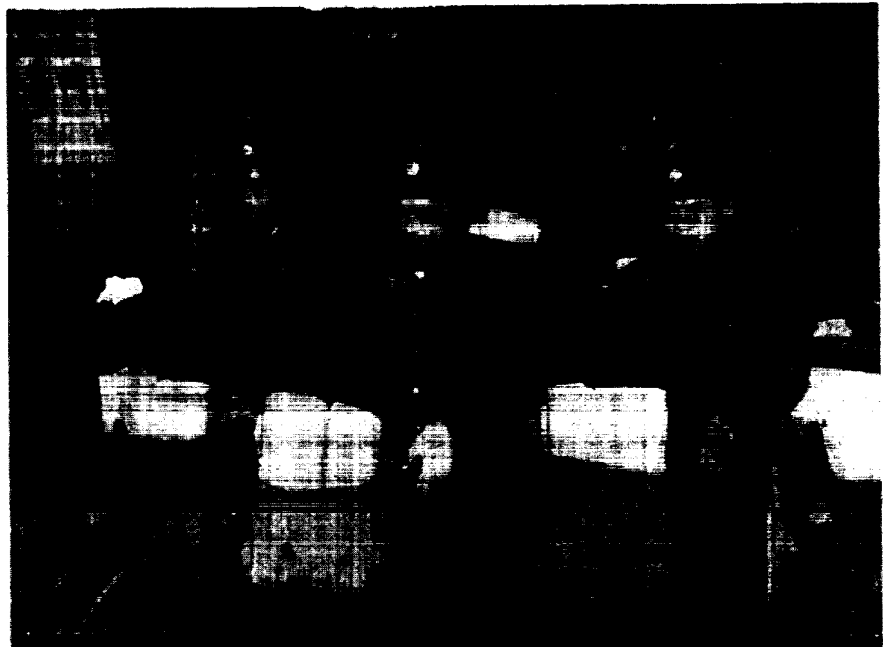
#### Growth of Reading Groups

Let us take a closer look at how the post office operates in the cultural field.

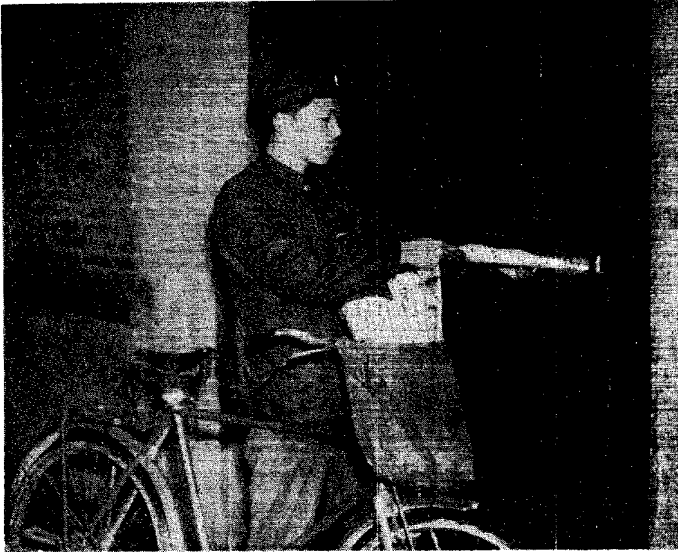
In the first place, our postal workers are inspired with the conviction that circulating news-

papers, magazines and books is not merely a technical job, but that the task of satisfying the people's thirst for knowledge is both honourable and patriotic.

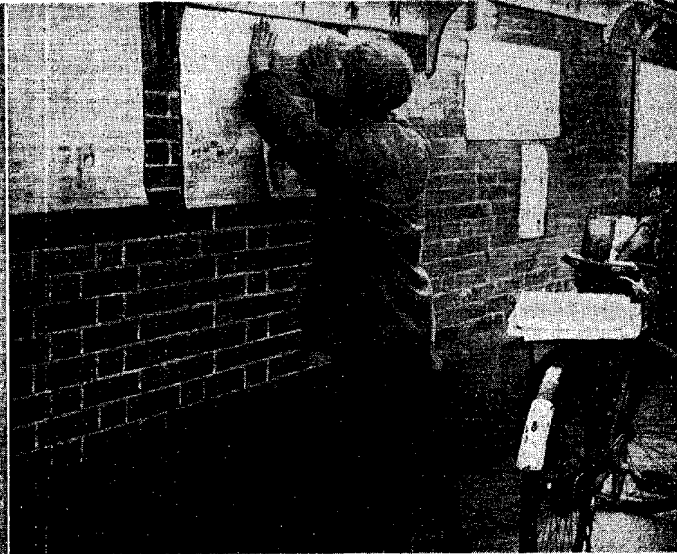
With this attitude, postmen in the cities make every effort to deliver newspapers and periodicals on time, collect subscriptions and secure renewals. In the countryside, they penetrate into the remotest places, to bring the press and all kinds of popular pamphlets to the peasants. Wherever they go, they persuade the less literate to organize into groups centering around some more literate person. These



Soon after dawn, Shanghai postmen start on their newspaper delivery routes.



Before the subscriber is awake his morning paper is waiting for him.



Postal workers put up the day's paper on the walls, for all to read.

with their intimate local contacts and knowledge, have evident advantages in undertaking a job of this kind and scope. But our post office does not seek to monopolize the work. On the contrary, it promotes, supplements and assists many other types of effort. Postal workers give active help to the elected circulation agents for various publications in factories, schools, peasant associations, rural mutual-aid groups and cooperatives. These circulation agents in their turn, lead reading groups and clubs and frequently organize public meetings on current events, national production plans and other themes broached in the press. They also frequently act as correspondents on local affairs, collecting the suggestions and opinions of readers and forwarding them to the papers for publication or action.

Cooperation between the post office and people's organizations of different kinds is growing with

#### NEWS FOR RURAL AREAS

Blackboard newspapers have become a popular feature in Chinese village life. In East China alone there are now more than 100,000 such news boards which carry dispatches relayed by Peking Radio at dictation speed.

This form of news dissemination is bringing millions of formerly isolated readers into close touch with the affairs of the nation and the world.

especial rapidity in the villages. Land reform, which has freed the peasants from landlord exploitation and made them feel that they are masters of their own soil and country, has stimulated the desire for technical and political knowledge to a degree undreamed of in the past. Land reform workers and local government officials are enthusiastic supporters of the "cultural stations" set up by rural postal agencies, from which they pick up bundles of papers to distribute wherever they go.

#### Mobilizing for Peace

Through its work in the educational and cultural fields, the Chinese People's Post Office has contributed its share to making the 475 million people of China both informed and active in the affairs of their own country and the world. It is largely through increased circulation of newspapers that the workers and peasants have consciously come to link their efforts to the major issues of our time, fight actively for increased production, contribute to repel imperialist aggression in Korea and participate in the great international campaign for peace. A majority of our adult population has signed the Stockholm Appeal for the abolition of atomic weapons, the World Peace Council Appeal for a Five-Power Peace Pact and the nation-

al protest against the rearmament of Japan.

Proud of the results already achieved, the post office is constantly striving to extend and perfect its press work. Postal workers are being educated in the political significance of circulation and promotion. The shift system of postmen has been readjusted so that all newspapers and periodicals may be delivered promptly. Total courier lines are being reorganized. Coordination with other circulating agencies, both public and private, is improving constantly.

Our country and population are huge, presenting many hard problems to be overcome. But the beginning already made proves that no difficulties exist which cannot be conquered. With the experience gained, the Chinese People's Post Office will continue and expand its effort to bring knowledge to all the people.



# A Village Teacher Fights Illiteracy

**E**DUCATORS of Lushan county, in the province of Honan, in eastern central China, met recently to elect a model school-teacher. They chose Sung Shou-ching, a woman teacher from Shenkou village.

Shenkou is a mountain hamlet of less than sixty families. Up to now only very few of the people were literate. Sung Shou-ching went to live in Shenkou soon after she was married. She was the daughter of a primary school-teacher and had had a few years of primary school herself. Having learned to read and write, she was regarded by the people of Shenkou as a "person of learning."

That winter the People's Government appealed to villagers to teach adults during the agricultural slack season. Village leaders in Shenkou came to Sung Shou-ching and asked her to take over the Women's Reading Class.

The class started off very well with twenty girls attending every afternoon. But the older women in the village did not like their daughters and daughters-in-law going to school. They started making sarcastic remarks about

"school-going women." Soon the girls began to skip their classes until finally no one turned up at all.

When Miss Sung realized what was happening and why her classroom was empty, she quickly called a meeting of the objecting old women and explained the advantages of literacy. She also visited them individually. One evening she heard the mother of one of her delinquent pupils grumbling: "The merchant is a scoundrel. I mistook a thousand yuan banknote for five hundred yuan. But when I gave it to him he didn't bat an eyelid." Miss Sung immediately said: "That's because you don't know how to read. If you did, you wouldn't have been cheated."

Old Mrs. Chang had to agree. After this discussion she said she would never again stop her daughter from going to school. She even asked to be taught herself. In a few days she could read the words on banknotes, and tell the difference between 1,000 and 500 yuan bills.

News that old Mrs. Chang was learning to read spread very quickly. When the Women's

Reading Class was resumed, attendance grew larger. Of the fifty-six young and middle-aged women in the village, thirty-seven attended regularly. Women who had too many children to look after to attend classes regularly would often drop in to see the teacher. They would ask her to help them to write on tiles, which they used as slates.

Every morning Miss Sung went from house to house helping her students to review the lessons of the day before. Over and over again she explained the meaning of new words. She held their inexperienced hands, and guided them while they wrote. Very much moved, the women would say: "I'll never be able to look Teacher Sung in the face if I don't study hard."

On moonlight nights small groups of women sat outdoors seeing who could write the greatest number of characters. Before long they were able to memorize six characters a day instead of three as at the beginning. By the time the Spring Festival was over the eight best students could write three hundred characters without looking at any text, and could



## A MODEL TEACHER

Many new teachers in China have been elected models by the people they serve. This picture shows Yu Yen-ping, a model teacher of Yaohua Villas, a suburb of Shanghai, with some of her pupils. Soon after liberation Miss Yu set up a people's winter school where she taught many peasants to read and write. She also trained a great number of new teachers. When in 1951 the Shanghai People's Government called for winter schooling for 100,000 peasants, Miss Yu organized 14 classes which were attended by 400 out of the 600 peasants in her district. It was for this that she was elected a "model teacher."



This old peasant is so happy to be able to read, he can still hardly believe it. As a result of the great literacy drive since liberation, there are now many, many like him.

read simple notices posted by the village government without any difficulty.

During the Spring Festival the students of the Women's Reading Class could often be seen swinging to the joyful music of the *yangko* dance. They even began to make speeches on current political and military topics. This again shocked the old women. One day when Chiao Kwei-yung was returning from a *yangko* dance her mother-in-law, pretending to address a dog that was passing by, called angrily: "Wriggling like that! Don't you have any sense of shame?"

Upset by these remarks, Chiao Kwei-yung did not go to the reading class that afternoon. When Miss Sung called in the evening to find out what was wrong, the mother-in-law said: "My daughter-in-law spends all her time after school playing. She doesn't do any work at all. I'm not letting her go out any more."

Miss Sung pacified her, saying: "Kwei-yung already knows 100 characters. You would be making a mistake not to let her go to school. But she is wrong not to do any housework. Please let me talk to her."

Miss Sung advised Kwei-yung to avoid a quarrel with her mother-in-law and to do more around

the house so that the old lady would gradually be brought round. The advice proved to be good. A few days later the mother-in-law visited the teacher and said: "My daughter-in-law is working very hard now. She cooks, carries water, and has really changed for the better. I used to think: 'What do young people do when they get together except play around?' That's why I didn't want her to attend school. I see now that I was wrong."

From then on Miss Sung impressed on her students the necessity of doing housework. She presided over meetings at which the girls criticized those who showed signs of laziness. This brought peace to families where there had formerly been a lot of quarrelling. At the end of the Spring Festival many of them took hoes and went to work in the wheat fields. They organized mutual-aid teams and helped each other to learn more new characters as they worked. Now they are all making plans to enroll at a regular school.

Teacher Sung Shou-ching earned the respect of all the villagers because she not only instructed the women in reading and writing but also taught them to improve their work while they studied.

## TRANSLATIONS IN CHINA

SINCE the liberation, the people of China have had far greater access to the treasures of world culture than ever before. Translators are busier. Larger numbers of worthwhile foreign books are appearing in Chinese editions. They are sold at prices more accessible to readers than ever before, through a much larger network of bookshops.

The most active demand has been for translations of Soviet literature and that of the People's Democracies. This is natural. Under the Kuomintang dictatorship, such books could hardly be obtained. The people of China, who have accomplished their own revolution and are engaged in the basic reconstruction of their country, are avidly interested in all aspects of similar experiences abroad.

At the same time, however, classical literature and modern progressive works from many other countries are available in unprecedented abundance.

Among novels on the shelves of the big bookshops, one finds new editions of Cervantes, Balzac, Tolstoy, George Eliot, Dickens, Flaubert, Victor Hugo, Mark Twain, Jack London, Romain Rolland, Theodore Dreiser, and Howard Fast.

In drama and poetry, one can buy Dante, Shakespeare, Goethe, Schiller, Pushkin, Heine, Walt Whitman, Anton Chekhov, George Bernard Shaw.

In literary criticism and research, one can pick up Georg Brandes, Ralph Fox, George Thompson.

In philosophy, apart from Marxist philosophy, various works by Francis Bacon, Hegel, Dietzgen and others have been republished, while more recent translations include American authors such as John Somerville.

In scientific literature, there are new translations from Albert Einstein, J. D. Bernal, and others. The popular scientific books of H. G. Wells continue to find readers. The autobiography of Charles Darwin is on one of the new lists of works translated.

Plans are now under way for a great many more translations. These will continue to bring to Chinese readers the best writing and thought of every land.



A typical tea garden in southeast China.

# CHINESE TEA

## And Those Who Grow It

WU CHAO-NONG

AS everyone knows, tea is a special product of China. When people talk of tea, they are naturally reminded of the country where it was first cultivated and used as a beverage. Reliable documents show that the Chinese people have been drinking tea for more than two thousand years.

By the eighth century, the land of scores of counties, spreading over several provinces, was covered with tea shrubs. These areas ranged from the Huai and Yangtze river valleys of Central China to the Min river valley in Fukien on the southeast coast and the Pearl river region of China's southernmost province—Kwang-tung. Tea was already being widely drunk throughout North China as well. Even at this early period, it had become an article of large-scale internal trade.

Somewhat later, tea was introduced into Tibet, Sinkiang, Inner and Outer Mongolia and Japan. To serve these markets, it was planted in more than five hundred counties in seventeen provinces. The number of peasants engaged in tea-growing grew to over ten million.

After China's sea communication with Europe began, the tremendous output and high quality of her tea became known

all over the world. Since the eighteenth century, the trade has been international. At its peak the export of Chinese black tea reached 180,000,000 lbs. a year; that of green tea over 21,000,000 lbs. a year.

### How Tea Exports Declined

Attracted by the profits to be made out of an article of such universal consumption, foreign capitalist interests began to open plantations in India, Ceylon, Java and Japan. All these enterprises began by importing tea seeds and tea-shrubs from China. They sent students to China to learn how to cultivate and process tea or invited Chinese experts to train their own personnel. Thus Chinese teas were ousted from the markets of colony-owning powers.

By the end of the nineteenth century, when the reactionary Chinese government broke off relations with the Soviet Union after the October Revolution of 1917, the vast Russian market was also temporarily cut off. So it came about that Chinese tea was largely displaced from the markets of the world.

The Japanese war against China that began in 1937 finished the job by cutting off sea-borne trade completely. It also seriously disrupted production. On the eve of

liberation, the export of tea from China had fallen to a pitiable low.

At all times in the past, the international trade in Chinese tea was controlled by the imperialists. They collaborated with Chinese compradores, brokers and usurers, whose interests were those of the feudal landlord class, to pay miserable prices to the actual producers. Even when China's trade in tea was at its highest, the tea peasants were robbed by super-exploitation and lived in misery.

The continuous decline in tea exports deprived these peasants of the last crumbs of benefit from the trade, plunging them ever-deeper into the abyss of poverty. It was in total disregard of their interests, as well as those of the national economy, that the Kuo-mintang pursued its policy of alienating the Soviet Union, slamming the door in the face of the biggest customer for Chinese black and green tea.

### Agony of the Growers

The peasants of the tea regions were as exploited and oppressed as other peasants in China—in some ways more so. The reactionary regime piled heavy taxes and levies of all kinds on top of the extortions imposed by the landlords. There were times when the peasants' own income



from the tea they grew was pushed down to half their cost of production. In addition, the peasants were swindled through short weight. A saying grew among them: "It's better to sell a load of fire-wood than a load of tea."

The Japanese invasion completed the ruin of the previous decades. It not only wiped out sea-borne international trade but paralyzed the internal market as well. Destruction and deterioration of inland communications made it impossible to get tea to the national minorities within China. The Japanese invaders struck a direct economic blow at the Chinese product by dumping Japanese and Taiwan teas in the northern and north-eastern provinces which they occupied. Tea manufactories closed down, throwing tens of thousands of workers out of employment. Tea-growing peasants began to chop down their shrubs to make room for grain crops. Production fell catastrophically.

There was no significant recovery in the years immediately following the victory over Japan, when Kuomintang oppression and corruption reached their height and the people all over China fought to free themselves in the War of Liberation.

### Liberation Saves the Tea Trade

The birth of the People's Republic of China brought hope and new life to every part of the country. With the victory over imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic monopoly, the tea growers too stepped firmly on the road to recovery and real prosperity. Because of the importance of the tea trade to the national economy, and its bearing on the livelihood of millions of people, the Central People's Government took prompt and energetic steps to rehabilitate it.

In December 1949, the government established the China National Tea Corporation to direct the planting, processing and marketing of tea on a national scale. Relying on the organized

effort of the people, the corporation has since worked systematically and effectively to revive the tea trade, harmonizing the activities of state and private enterprises toward the common goal. The expanding cooperative movement has been one of the greatest factors in transforming the whole aspect of the tea areas. A considerable part of China's tea crop is now sold through co-ops, under clear-cut procedures and for fair prices.

China's friendly diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies now guarantee a constantly increasing foreign trade. Chinese tea growers have thus been freed of their century-old dependence on imperialist buyers and are no longer vulnerable to imperialist competition or blockade. The policy of independence and equality pursued by the People's Government has brought independence and equality to the tea producers and the entire trade.

Internal markets too are being rapidly restored. Better livelihood for all the people of China, including the national minorities, has led to a sharp upturn in home demand. Government promotion of interflow trade between town and country and between different parts of China has opened up long-clogged channels of trade. The stagnation of the tea industry has at last come to an end.

### New Growth Begins

The problems that face the tea areas today are problems of

growth. It is necessary to raise productivity, improve quality and increase the income of the peasants. Working toward these goals, the China National Tea Corporation is promoting the production of black tea through gradual mechanization. It also calls on all tea peasants to gather tea leaves when they are most tender and maintain high standards by careful sorting.

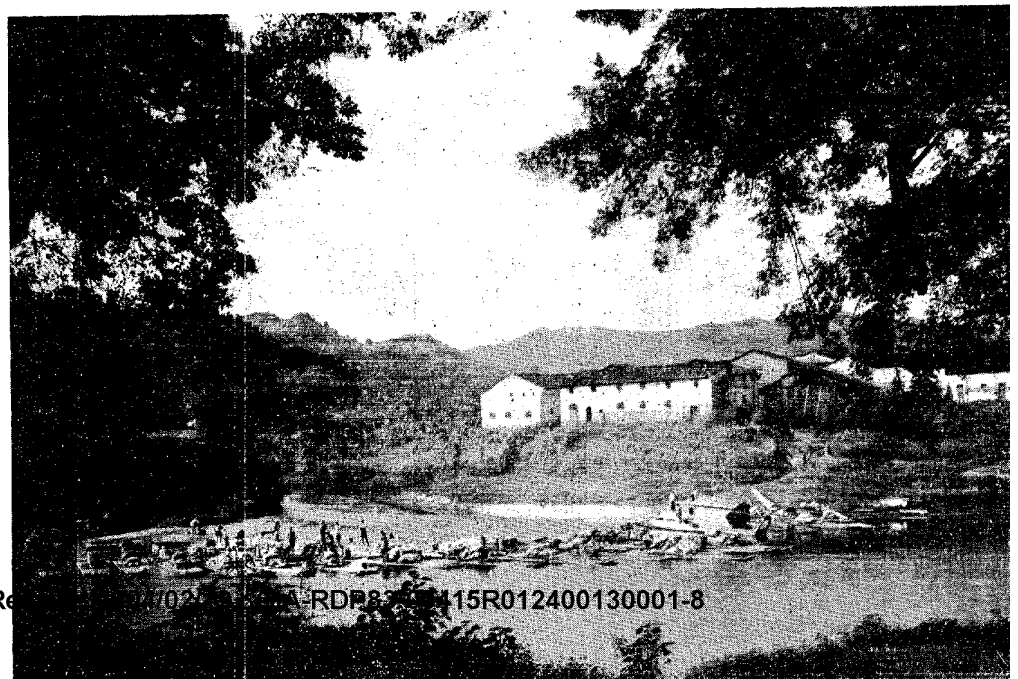
The achievements of the China National Tea Corporation are summed up by the fact that its turnover in 1950 (including domestic sales) was equal to 250 per cent of the entire value of black and green tea exports by both state agencies and private companies in the year 1949. In 1951, its operations were running at a rate 28.6 per cent above those of 1950.

The remarkable development of the production and sale of Chinese tea during the last two years provides concrete evidence of the improvements that have taken place in the national economy and in the techniques and administration of the tea industry. It demonstrates the faith the people have in the government and the ample reasons they have for such faith.

### New Life for Tea Peasants

A major part in the recovery of the tea trade has been played by government loans, offered to tea peasants to overcome difficulties and increase production. Very large sums have been made available to each of the chief tea

From this factory in Tunki, Anhwei province, tea is transported by raft down the river.





Rotary machines have replaced the old clay ovens for baking tea.

In order to change this situation, the tea peasants are rapidly being organized to work together through voluntary cooperatives. Such cooperatives are already numerous in the main tea districts. Apart from joint labour, there has also been an increase in joint purchasing and marketing—saving much time and energy for production. It is a common sight nowadays to see women tea pickers going to the gardens in cooperative groups early in the morning and singing merrily together over their work. The contrast with the past is evident even to the most superficial observers.

### More Black Tea for Export

Abroad, black tea is almost universally preferred to green. The present production of black tea in China is not sufficient to meet the demands of foreign trade. Many districts producing green tea of ordinary quality would be much better off if they switched to black. The government has already assisted several to make the change, with the result that the livelihood of the peasants has improved greatly. The greatest success has been achieved in the tea district of Pingshui, Chekiang province, where the tea peasants grow no other crop.

"If it sells, tea is gold; if it doesn't, it's trash," the Pingshui people used to say from bitter experience. Now the processing of black tea has assured them a market at all times. The government is carrying on an educational campaign in numerous places, explaining to the peasants how black tea can increase their earnings. Administrative and technical personnel have been sent out into the countryside to organize workshops for the primary processing of black tea, to introduce hand roller machines and to promote the collective methods in processing.

The shift to black tea in Pingshui county has brought the

growing districts of the country. Going hand-in-hand with big government purchases of tea, these loans rapidly solved the financial problems of the peasants and enabled them to invest in fertilizer and new tools.

A striking example is provided by a village in Pinkiang county, Hunan province, where 394 families of tea cultivators bought 390 new implements, 2.7 tons of gypsum, about half a ton of sulphur and 10 tons of lime in 1950, the first year of liberation. Such purchases are unprecedented in the history of the Chinese tea industry. The tea gardens of this particular village had been neglected since time immemorial, only with grass and manure.

Loans applied to productive use have already resulted in widespread betterment of crops. One Hunan tea peasant, Chen Kwang-nan, has described the situation in these words: "In the past we were always at our wits' end about where to borrow money and ran our legs off in efforts to find it. Now all we have to do is stay home and the money comes without our asking. What a government!"

Timely government buying of tea is also a source of happiness in the growers. As one expressed it at a meeting: "We peasants

have got up from our knees and our tea has a better time too. In the old days no one wanted to buy it and the price was low. Now the People's Government comes for it and, what's more, never cheats us. Hurrah!"

### Dawn of Cooperation

The productive enthusiasm of the peasants has been further enhanced by collective labour. Chinese agriculture used to be characterized not only by extremely small holdings but also by scattered and minute cultivation. Tea production in particular was a sideline subsidiary to some main crop, carried on piece-meal and regarded as trivial.

#### TEA PRODUCTION COSTS REDUCED

Savings amounting to ¥9,000 million (about US\$400,000 or about £143,000) have been made by the East China branch of the China National Tea Corporation during the past year through the combined efforts of the workers in patriotic emulation drives.

Most of the savings were made by applying new methods of automatic tea processing. Other substantial economies were made by changing the methods and materials used for packing. Experiments are now being made for using wax-coated cardboard to replace the aluminum lining of tea cases. If this is successful, further large savings will be effected.

peasants an average profit equivalent to the value of five hundred-weights of rice for each hundred-weight of tea, in many cases higher. It is now commonly said among the peasants that while the land reform enabled them to get up from their knees politically, black tea has done so economically. "Since the People's Government came, we haven't worried about our everyday life," remarked one old man who works at processing black tea. "In all my sixty years the highest price I remember is five hundred-weights of rice for a hundred-weight of tea. This year it was eight or nine. I'll be able to get some new clothes for the first time in five years."

### Income Rises; Life Improves

In Chekiang province it used to take three pounds of tea to buy a pound of silk, now the prices are equal. In Hoshan, northern Anhwei province, profits of tea growers in 1951 were six or seven times greater than in 1946.

Once subject to cold and hunger, most tea peasants now have plenty of vegetables, salt and fats to go with their rice. They eat fish and meat on occasion. They are wearing better clothes and sleep under new quilts.

The general economic enlivening of the tea areas can be seen at the regular town and country fairs. Anhua district, Hunan province, sold only 2.6 million pounds of tea in 1949. In 1950 the marketed output had risen fivefold to 13 million pounds.

The number of primary tea processing workshops increased from ten in 1946 to 33 in 1951. People unemployed before liberation are now busy as tea sorters and skilled workers.

Here is one eloquent fact. During the Spring Festival in 1949, Anhua butchers slaughtered five pigs and were unable to sell all the meat. For the Mid-Autumn Festival in 1950, they killed 40 pigs and had to turn some buyers away.

A cargo of tea is loaded for export.



Expert sorting ensures high grade tea for the market.

Soochow peasants who grow jasmine and other fragrant blossoms used in tea flavouring have seen a new demand spring up for their product. In 1950, many built new houses for themselves. Last year they built modern hothouses for all-weather cultivation. The same thing is happening among flower growers in Nanking.

The economic progress of the tea peasants has awakened them politically. They believe in the future, and are organizing collective production groups. They have set up workshops to make

machines for themselves, machines they could not afford when working alone.

Our country has become a good mother to these people who have produced so much wealth and enjoyed so little of it in the past. They know that their present new life and hope could never have come without the leadership of the Communist party. With joy and confidence, they are improving their productive efficiency and rallying, with the rest of the nation, to the development and defence of the People's Republic of China.



# CHINA IS RICH IN OIL

CHINA has often been described as an "oil-poor nation." This assertion is false. It was made most frequently in the literature of countries whose companies had to flood our market with their own oil products—at a fat profit. In fact, China has great resources in both petroleum and oil-bearing minerals. Since liberation, we have had a rapidly-growing extracting and refining industry as well.

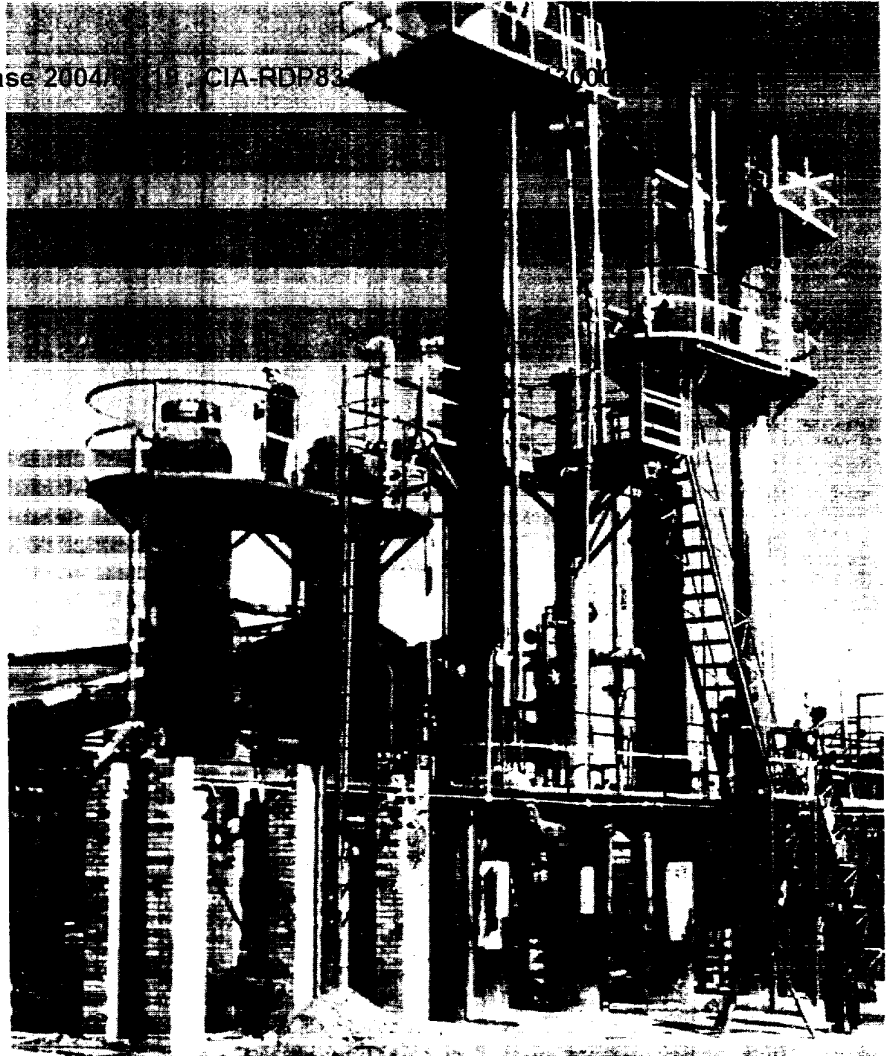
For many Chinese had themselves been deceived by decades of propaganda that only American and British imports could supply our needs, the National Petroleum exhibition, held in Peking in December 1951, was a real eye opener. An illuminated chart around which thousands gathered every day showed that deposits of oil are found throughout our country, particularly in its northwestern, southwestern and northeastern regions. Details were given of how known deposits are being developed and how others are being discovered.

## Facts and Figures

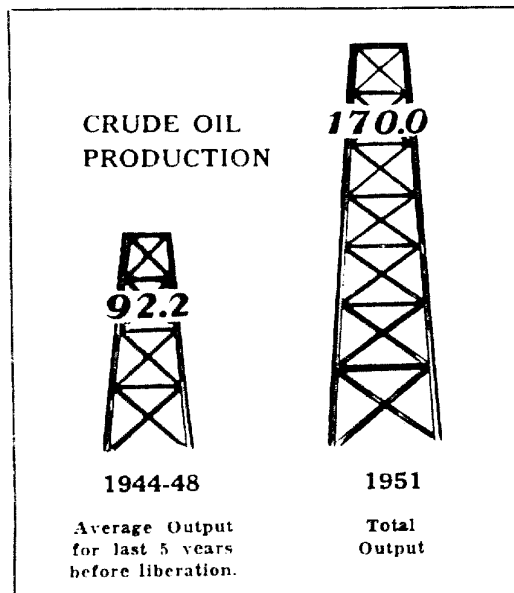
People who attended the exhibition or read the many articles that appeared in the press were glad to learn the following facts:

In the first two years of the People's Republic of China, the number of geological survey teams in the field has increased to three times the pre-liberation peak. By contrast with the reactionary Kuomintang regime, whose budgets showed no appropriations for test-drillings, the Central People's Government has devoted 76 per cent of its total investment in the oil industry to this activity. Rich finds have resulted.

The output of crude oil in China in 1951 was 79 per cent above the average of the last five years of the Kuomintang regime. The



Petroleum development is initiating the industrialization of northwest China. This polymerization plant produces high-quality gasoline.



## Year-by-year output of crude oil (1949 = 100)

1944	95
1945	94
1946	98
1947	75
1948	108
1949	100
1950	135
1951	170

process of growth can be seen from the above diagram.

Manufacture of oil products is also at its highest point in Chinese history. Gasoline production was

50 per cent higher in 1951 than in 1949. Kerosene production was 49 per cent higher.

Storage capacity has been increased tremendously. The tank



This model lorry brigade devised a record-breaking way of increasing oil-drum loadings.

capacity of the government-operated China National Petroleum Corporation is 150 per cent over its pre-liberation peak. The capacity of its oil warehouses has likewise grown by 90 per cent.

### Rapidly Growing Facilities

Substantial forward steps have been made in oil processing, notably in the synthetic oil industry. In the Northeast, high-octane gasoline used by our aviation is being produced from coal. The Japanese, during their long occupation, made little headway in this direction.

The Northeast also abounds in oil-bearing shales. Oil distilled from this source now exceeds by 30 per cent the level of production under Japanese rule. Moreover, the quality of the product is improved.

These advances have been achieved through the rehabilitation of old processing units and the construction of new ones. The plant at Fushun, which was almost totally destroyed by the Japanese and the Kuomintang, has been fully rebuilt. Installations erected since the liberation of the region include the synthetic gasoline plant described above, a thermal cracking plant to process oil-bearing minerals, a polymerization plant which produces high-quality gasoline from gas released in the cracking plant, and a high-pressure hydrogenation plant.

Refining facilities in northwest China with its five oil regions (northern Shensi, western Kansu, central Kansu, the Hohsi corridor and Sinkiang) have also been substantially extended. Petroleum development is one of the factors that will soon turn the once poor

and desolate expanses of the northwest into a major industrial area.

As in other phases of the construction of new China, the benefits of increased production in the oil industry have been passed on to the people. By an order of the Ministry of Trade issued December 13, 1951, prices of petroleum products to consumers throughout the country were reduced by 10 per cent. There could be no better proof of how much progress we have made in developing our oil resources and foiling the imperialist embargo which, among its other objectives, has aimed to starve us of oil.

### Roots of Success

In the short period since the liberation, China's oil industry has progressed more than in the previous half century. This is because the political and social freeing of the Chinese people has also unchained the productive forces of our country.

The first drillings in Yenchang oil field in north Shensi province, for example, were made some 60 years ago. But practically nothing happened afterwards because of the influx of foreign oil. It was only when the People's Army made the region its base that the field began producing regularly—despite the Kuomintang blockade which made it impossible to restore or supplement the antiquated equipment.

During the Anti-Japanese War, the Kuomintang spent large sums to equip the China National Petroleum Corporation's field in Kansu. But after V-J day its masters, the

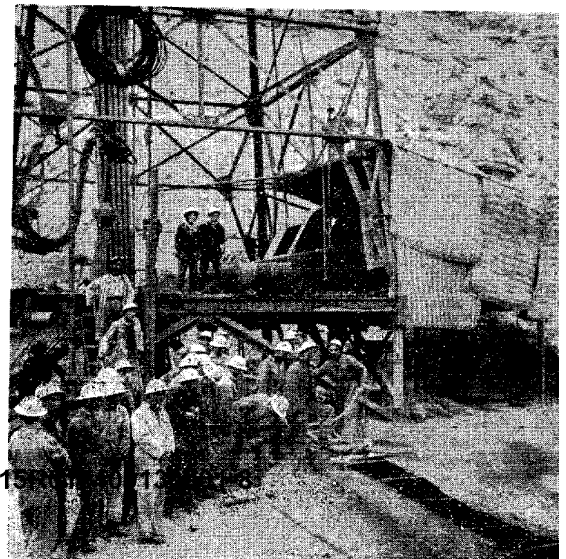
"Oil flows!"—a new well begins to produce.

American monopolies, inhibited the growth that might otherwise have taken place. Clearly, China could never develop her oil industry, or any other, while her position remained semi-colonial.

Today, by contrast, China has become truly independent and enjoys truly friendly, truly equal relations with the U.S.S.R. and People's Democracies, which are interested in helping us develop, not in holding us back, for anyone's private profit. From these sources, we have obtained all materials that cannot yet be produced at home. Soviet specialists have put their experiences freely at the disposal of Chinese oil technicians and workers, whose labour enthusiasm is high because they are working for themselves and the whole people. The result is a degree of initiative and a tempo of construction never seen in our country before.

The thermal cracking plant in the Northeast was built in only four months. The synthetic gasoline plant was completed in half a year. Drilling and electrical apparatus for the oil fields and practically all machinery needed for refineries are now made in China. Efficiency has increased in every department of oil production, processing, storage and transportation.

In brief, the long stagnation of China's oil development has come to an end. Oil will not form a "gap" in our industrialization as the imperialists predicted. On the contrary, we are already building a petroleum industry worthy of our great country.





Young Pioneers of the Shih Chia Hutung primary school in Peking present their most honoured emblem, the red necktie, to Kuo Chun-ching, famed heroine of the People's Liberation Army.

# CHINESE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

TZE KANG

WHAT ideas do people abroad have about Chinese women? For many, still think of us in terms of bound feet, subjection to a home of endless, unrelieved toil for the poor, and a general attitude of laziness for the rich. Such stereotypes have been spread far and wide by writers who had an interest in presenting them as stereotypes that China's China needed population by foreigners. They had some basis in the old, extinct society of China when our country was oppressed by feudalism and exploited by imperialism. Now these facts, and stereotypes, have disappeared. They must be swept from the minds of people abroad because the Chinese people have swept them from contemporary reality.

Today, every honest visitor to new China is surprised to see the changes that have taken place. Chinese women are now

entering every field of work, recognized as equals in all spheres of life by law and in fact, universally eager for knowledge, happy in work and study because they know the future is one of unlimited improvement.

The same transformation has come about in the lives of Chinese children. What was the fate of Chinese children in the past? Most babies were delivered by old-fashioned midwives, with the result that a horrifying number of women and newborn infants died. Small children begged in the streets beside their impoverished mothers or had to go barefoot for a pittance. Thousands starved in famines resulting from feudal exactions, or perished in epidemics, because public health medicine hardly existed and preventive medicine did not exist at all. Woman and child workers coined wealth for foreign and

Chinese owners in factories where, as the cheapest raw material, they were worked mercilessly with no provision for either health or safety.

## State Protects Mother and Child

Today the health, welfare and education of all Chinese children have become a major concern of our society and state. The Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the basic policy laid down for the People's Republic of China when it was established on October 1, 1949, states in Article 43 that "public health work and medical work shall be promoted and attention shall be paid to the health of mothers, infants and children."

The new Marriage Law promulgated by the People's Government in 1950 provides protection to both mother and child.

The Labour Insurance Regulations introduced on May 1, 1951 give women workers 56-days' maternity leave with full pay, make it illegal to dismiss pregnant workers and require all factories with over 500 workers to set up their own medical service.

These laws have not remained on paper as was the case with many in the past. The People's Government is implementing them actively and has allocated large budgets for the purpose. Women and minors in industry are assured equal pay for equal work. Many thousands of day nurseries take care of the children of working mothers in town and country. Mother and child health departments have been set up in the national Ministry of Health and in regional and provincial health bureaus. In district health centres, separate sections or specially assigned personnel take charge of the work. Such direct government responsibility for mother and child care has no precedent in Chinese history.

## Striking Figures

An idea of the scope of this activity may be gained from the fact that 744 woman and child health stations and 9,464 maternity service stations have been set up

in towns, industrial suburbs, rural districts, sub-districts and villages. China now has 156 children's hospitals. There are many special gynecological and obstetrical hospitals, child health sanatoria and mother and child health institutes. The All-China Federation of Democratic Women and the cooperative movement have set up numerous health stations of their own in this field.

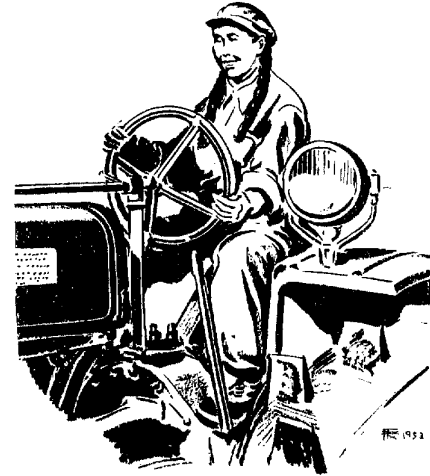
In the past two years, China has trained 4,340 nursery workers, 3,743 woman and child care workers (not including Southwest China and Inner Mongolia), 458 gynecologists and many other categories of personnel. A Woman and Child Health Experimental College with training facilities has been set up by the Ministry of Health. The Peking University Medical College has organized a department for mother and child health studies. An entirely new Woman and Child Health College has been opened in Mukden. In all medical schools, the number of students specializing in gynecology, obstetrics and pediatrics has increased. Local stations are re-training old-fashioned midwives on a large scale. Manuals on pre-natal hygiene and child care, written for both mothers and practitioners, have been issued in hundreds of thousands of copies—and

posters in millions. Millions of people have also seen filmstrips and attended illustrated talks on the subject. As a result of these widespread and varied activities, mother and child mortality has fallen greatly. In Hoche district, Pingyuan province, the death rate from infant tetanus has fallen from 42 per cent to 1 per cent.

In the sphere of preventive medicine, no less than 119,137,715 children have been vaccinated against smallpox in the past two years. Nearly a million children have been inoculated with BCG serum against tuberculosis, as well as against diphtheria and whooping cough. On Children's Day, June 1, 1951, free medical examinations were given to children under seven years old in all cities of China.

#### Effects of Land Reform

The most striking change in the life of the Chinese people has been the land reform, already completed in an area containing over 300 million rural inhabitants. Landlord estates were divided among individual peasants regardless of sex or age. This gave reality to the new status of women. They are now equal citizens, instead of pieces of property to be transferred from the father's homestead to the hus-



In China today women drive combines on state-owned farms.

band's or prey to the lusts of the all-powerful landlord.

An idea of what chains have been struck off our women by the land reform may be gained from the motion picture "The White-haired Girl." Many people outside our country have already seen this film, which, with the opera of the same name, is based on a true incident of our War of Liberation. It exposes not only the material greed of the landlords but also their constant sexual aggression against the wives and daughters of the peasants who were totally dependent on their mercies and dared not resist.

Sitting among people viewing "The White-haired Girl" in China, one often hears the angry exclamations of women in the audience when these past humiliations, about which the old ruling classes maintained absolute silence, are stripped bare on stage and screen. Along with the land reform, the new Marriage Law of China is cleaning the whole country of slave-trade in women, of servitude of girls before marriage, of the keeping of handmaids and of the former unlimited masculine dictatorship in matters of marriage and divorce. Our women today are independent persons, active in every field. All elements of discrimination against women workers, whether in wages or in eligibility for promotion, are being eliminated from Chinese life.



Before liberation life for women was endless toil.

Girls in both city and country are free to choose their own partners in marriage. Industriousness and ability have become the qualities most sought after by husbands and wives, since labour is now the main criterion of worth and respect. The popular minstrel's ballads of our countryside once concerned with the love affairs of the ancient great and the frustrations of ordinary young men and women under the oppression of the old society, are giving place to optimistic recitals

Rural children are getting their first chance at a proper education. Formerly only the landlords and the top layer of rich peasants found it possible to educate their children—for other peasants the effort required tremendous sacrifices or was altogether impossible. Land reform has led to an immense increase in village schools. Almost the very first thing that peasants do with the deposits the landlords must now refund to them is to contribute a portion towards setting up village schools.

How better to spend it than for a school?"

In rural schools in China, the enrolment of poor peasant and farm labourers' children has risen immensely. The educational policy of the People's Government works actively to increase the proportion. Country children who in the past could look forward only to the killing toil and prospectless existence which made old men and women of their parents by the time they reached their forties are now full of ambitions to which only their own ability can set a limit. They dream of becoming tractor drivers, engineers, scientists, poets, aviators—of heroic deeds in defence of our new democratic China which has opened such prospects to all. They hate the past and its dark memories and are a force for progress that cannot be underestimated.

The Young Pioneers organization of children between the ages of nine and fourteen was founded only two years ago. It already has a membership of 2,400,000. No one can pass by these youngsters, with their white blouses and red scarves, without admiring the clear-eyed future masters of the nation. In the Pioneer organization and out of it, boys and girls strive eagerly to be strong in body and to know everything—yet their striving has nothing to do with thoughts of personal wealth or of dominating others. The dreams in their heads are of transforming our country and serving our people, of living in friendly comradeship with the common people of all lands. Wherever one goes, one hears their fresh voices raised in song.

The extent of the educational effort of the People's Government for China's children can be judged from the fact that in 1951, which was only the second year of its foundation, 110 million copies of new textbooks were printed. The number of elementary schools is already 66 per cent above that of 1946.

#### Women Workers and Leaders

China's liberation has given her independence and has made it possible to advance to large-scale



Women are keen students of engineering.

of the new life. In the songs sung today, true lovers succeed in overcoming all obstacles to their union but are loath to be idle even during their honeymoons. Labour is a joy when it is labour for one's own welfare and future.

#### Education for All

Old China was a country of illiterates. The illiteracy among women, outside a few big cities, was practically total. Now, in both city and village, women flock to literacy classes and courses in many other subjects. Determined to make up for the ignorance once forced upon them by conditions and tradition, even grandmothers of sixty or seventy are learning to read and write.

The material improvement in our country has already eliminated the once-common spectacle of the starving child. Children no longer beg in our cities—they go to school instead. Great effort has been put into a multitude of new activities, institutions and publications for children.

All over the country, peasants are busy building schoolhouses, making classroom furniture and besieging county governments with requests for teachers.

In northern Szechuan, the number of primary schools doubled in the spring of 1951 as compared to the previous term. This area alone now has 15,622 primary schools, over 13,900 of which have been set up by the peasants themselves. In eastern Szechuan, 2,000 village schools were set up between February and April last year. Ho Ken, a former poor peasant who donated 2,000 cattles of grain for a school said feelingly, "When I was a child, I starved and froze. Where could I get money to go to school? My three children also don't know how to read yet. Now, Chairman Mao has given us back what the landlord used to take away, I don't have to worry about food and clothes any more. I have bought a cow and a plough, and I still have some money left over...."



construction. The liberation of Chinese women has enabled them to take their proper place in this great effort of the whole people. Our industries now have 650,000 women workers. Thousands are participating in the great Huai river control project, which is ending the threat of floods in an area containing one-seventh of our agricultural land. A woman engineer, Ch'ien Chen-ying, is assistant construction chief of this mighty undertaking.

The whole country knows the names of Ho Chien-hsiu and Chang Shu-yun, two outstanding women workers who invented and introduced new methods in textile production, thus contributing immensely to the national wealth. Chao Kuei-lan, a girl worker in a Dairen plant who lost an arm while courageously averting an explosion that threatened the whole factory, has become a national example of readiness to sacrifice for the common good. Regarded as a model by all Chinese womanhood, she is now studying in a party school. In old China, only a few years ago, Chao Kuei-lan was a very poor girl to whom nobody paid any attention.

Chinese women are appearing in many fields in which they were never seen before. We now have women railway builders, women



They work on the trains.

locomotive engineers, postwomen and women drivers in city transport. Many young women have joined our people's army, navy and air force, to help defend the peace we need to build our new life. Others are attending officers' training schools. Even women parachutists are no longer a novelty.

Leading the work of rebuilding our society and our country are the members of the Chinese Communist Party, among whom are 600,000 women. There are 150,000 women among our new-type government functionaries at

various levels of national and local administration.

The whole nation is proud that Soong Ching Ling (Mme. Sun Yat-sen), a great woman of China, was awarded the Stalin prize for the promotion of international peace in 1951. All the Chinese people, and Chinese women particularly, are inspired by this high and meaningful honour. Our country builds for peace. The emancipation of Chinese women, and the improvement of the health and education of Chinese children, will enable them to live fully and richly in the peaceful world the peoples can and will achieve.

*Drawings in this article by Tsai Cheng-hua*



In the government and defence forces they help their country to build for peace.

### HEALTH MILESTONES

No major epidemics have occurred anywhere in China during the past two years thanks to nation-wide epidemic prevention work.

During this whole period, not a single case of smallpox has been reported from Peking, Port Arthur, Dairen, Yingkow, Chingwangtao, Chefoo, Amoy or Canton.

In 82 cities including Peking, Shanghai, Mukden, Nanking and Sian, 850,000 children were inoculated against tuberculosis with BCG serum.

# New Spirit In Peking Handicrafts



A worker applies colour to cloisonné in a Peking workshop.

**E**XCITING things are happening in Peking's world-famous handicrafts. For the first time in hundreds of years, new designs are appearing in cloisonné and porcelain, in jade and ivory carvings, in fine carpets and needlework. Master craftsmen are making vigorous ivory figurines of China's present-day men and women instead of Buddhist saints and Taoist hermits. Cloisonné trays and painted silk lanterns have come alive with boys and girls swinging in the buoyant *yangko* dance. Peace doves fly on powder boxes and plates. Vases are painted with colourful patterns adapted from the best, not the decadent, periods of China's art.

All these things represent a developing revolution in craft design, which had remained stereotyped since the eighteenth century. Who has not seen the everlasting dragon against a background of minute ringlets, the clusters of stylized flowers, the human figures painted on porce-

The making of cloisonné ware was introduced to China from Turkey during the fourteenth century. Designs are outlined with bent wire fillets secured to a brass base. The spaces between the wires are then filled with enamel. Chinese craftsmen have developed this technique to a very high pitch, producing very intricate and beautiful designs.

lain in costumes and moods belonging to a long-buried past? Under the patronage of the later Manchu court, these designs had lost all movement in a maze of ornamentation. Later they were turned out automatically for foreign taste in "*chinoiseries*." The Chinese themselves became heartily tired of most of them. When people made presents to each other, they preferred to give fruits, sweetmeats or other things.

### How the Change Began

It was only after liberation that Peking's handicrafts began to awaken from this long lethargy. The people's authorities gave new encouragement to a group of Tsinghua university professors who had been engaged for some time in drawing designs based on ancient Chinese bronzes and porcelains, and had asked forward-looking master craftsmen to adapt them in cloisonné. In June 1950, the government set up the state-owned Peking Handicraft Company. It engaged these professors and a group of artists to produce designs blending the vigorous best of ancient Chinese art with the atmosphere of present day China.

At first, the venture met with many difficulties. Exporters refused to handle the new products,

maintaining that their customers in America, Britain and other capitalist countries would only buy the designs they associated with China, such as dragons and frail languishing women. The handicraft workers had been mechanically producing the old ornate things for generations; to change meant loss of time, and besides they were not convinced that it would work out.

To break through these obstacles, the company arranged talks for the craftsmen at which the tradition of Chinese art and reasons for their degeneration were discussed. The craftsmen were urged to turn back to original sources and develop them in a more healthy direction. Ample loans were made available to the workshops. The handicraft company itself placed large orders for articles of new design. It agreed to pay for all losses incurred in changing over and experimentation.

In the spring of 1951 the American embargo sent the handicraft business looking for new markets. The first efforts were focussed on stimulating the internal market. To get the Chinese consumer to buy its goods, the company discovered, it was necessary to produce articles in tune with popular sentiment since liberation. The

same thing applies to China's new international contacts. Both the government and the people's organizations were sending representatives to friendly countries. These needed gifts to take with them which would give people abroad some idea of the new spirit in China.

Peking craftsmen began to carve statuettes of China's new heroes and heroines who had laid down their lives for their country. Their products became more alive and their own enthusiasm mounted. They kept the artists busy by asking for more and more designs.

### Motifs from Tunhuang

Then in the spring of 1951, a new stimulus appeared. More than a thousand hand-painted reproductions of ancient murals from the Tunhuang caves in Kansu province were shown for the first time in Peking. The exhibition caused a sensation. Everybody talked about it. Lectures were given on the origin and history of the works shown. Day after day, artists went with their easels and paints to copy the pictures. This exhibition had a tremendous influence on handicrafts too.

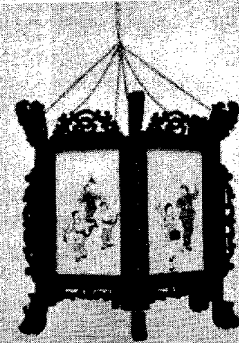
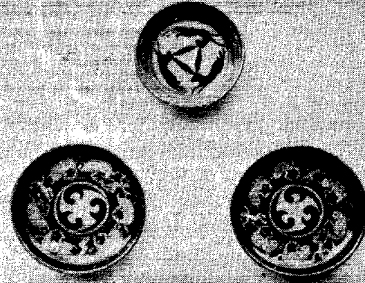
Tunhuang is a small town on the edge of the Gobi desert. Once an important stage on the post road linking China with Iran, India, Greece and Rome, it possesses great cultural monuments in the shape of 469 caves decorated with Buddhist religious paintings and frescoes commissioned by devout passersby who prayed for good fortune in their business and their travels.

The oldest of these paintings dates back to 366 A.D., while a few were added as late as the eighteenth century. The best of them range from primitive directness in the early period to rich colour and composition in the T'ang Dynasty (618-906 A.D.). While the main themes are religious, the murals also show the people of each period farming, fighting, hunting and enjoying themselves. The cornices, friezes, columns and high ceilings of each cave are filled with wonderfully decorative geometric designs.

Most of the Chinese public had little previous knowledge of this treasurehouse of art belonging to their own country. When the Peking Handicraft Company took the local craftsmen to see the exhibition they were filled with amazement by the perfection of the geometric designs and the brilliance of the chromatic schemes. They visited the exhibit again and again. They eagerly attended a lecture specially arranged for them and asked the artists who had done the reproductions to provide them with designs. These designs have now appeared on trays, vases, lamps, powder boxes, tea containers and rugs. The secretary of the Peking Handicraft Company says, "Our workers are like people who have been on the same tiresome diet for years and suddenly find new, delicious food."

To raise the level of handicrafts in other parts of China, the new Peking products have been sent to big trade exhibitions held in many large cities. Abroad, they have been shown in the Soviet Union, in Switzerland, Sweden, Poland, Denmark and Norway. Everywhere they have been admired for the originality of their design and excellence of their workmanship. Combining old skills with living designs, they are bound to become known throughout the world.

For the first time in hundreds of years, new designs are appearing in Peking's handicrafts. The peace dove is one of the most popular themes.





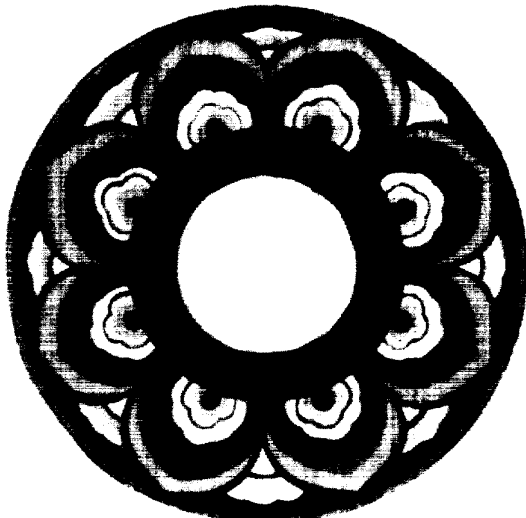
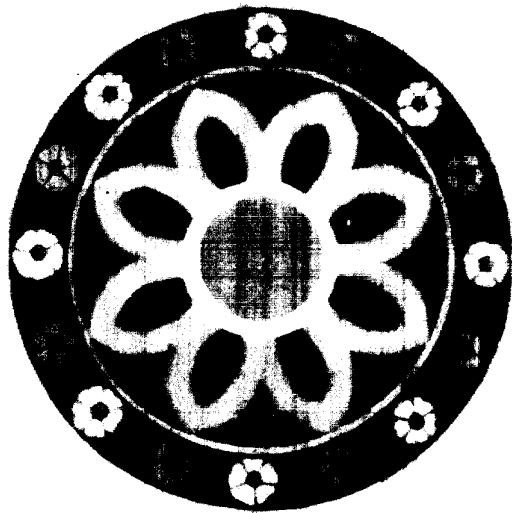
A BUDDHA T'ANG DYNASTY (618-906 A.D.)



MUSICIANS

## TUNHUANG MURALS

Major treasures of China's ancient art, long seen as lost to the country where they are located, were revealed to the world in 1900. Exhibition featured reproductions of the magnificent and ancient murals of Kansu province. It captured the imagination of handicraft designers. simple and stately Tunhuang designs in cloisonné (a kind of enamel work), as well as examples of the new designs that draw on pages 24 and 25).



Approved For Release 2004/02/19

HALOS T'ANG DYNASTY (618-906 A.D.)



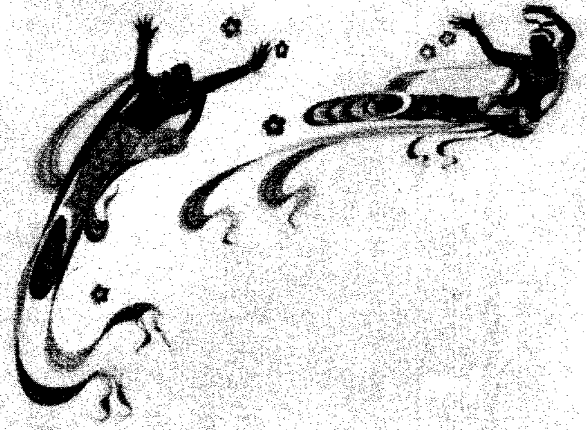
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MODERN PEKING CLOISONNE WARE WITH

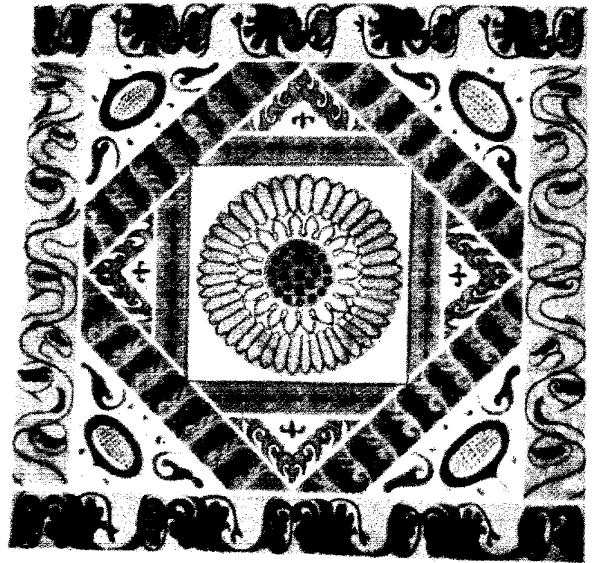


SUI DYNASTY (581-617 A.D.)



GANDHARVAS (Top)

CEILING DESIGN (Below)

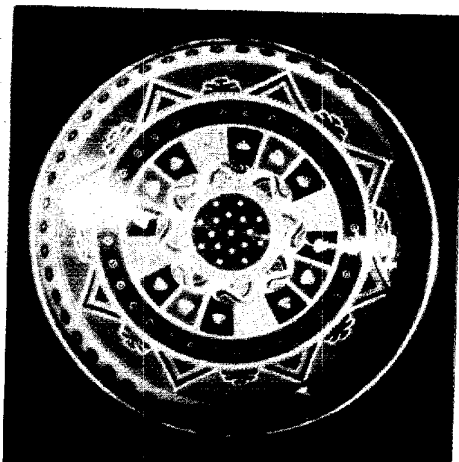


T'ANG DYNASTY (618-906 A.D.)

WEI DYNASTY (366-580 A.D.)

# INSPIRE NEW DESIGNS

by travelers who managed to reach the remote part of Peking at an exhibition held last year. The exquisite murals that fill 469 caves at Tunhuang, in western China's capital, who have since adapted the (camel-work). Some details of the Tunhuang master-ration from them, are shown on this page (see article



TOP OF SHRINE

WEI DYNASTY (366-580 A.D.)

# The North China Trade Exhibition



## AUTOMOBILES AND TRACTORS: HOME PRODUCED

AT the great North China Trade Exhibition in Tientsin, late in 1951, people crowded around the first automobile and tractor made entirely in China.

The car was one of several already manufactured in Tientsin. Tractors are being produced by workers in Taiyuan, Shansi province. The appearance of both was epoch-making, a herald of the future in Chinese national industry, transport and agriculture.

Among the thousands of industrial products and great numbers of machines displayed in the exhibition were over a hundred items of major importance which China was never able to make before liberation. They included coal-cutting machinery for our mines, automatic universal precision lathes and a variety of other modern machine tools. Among regional "firsts" on display were 100-h.p. diesel engines to provide power wherever needed in town and country, electric trolley buses and other items.

The instruments of production and transport exhibited in Tientsin had all been made during the period of rehabilitation of Chinese economy. Large-scale industrialization of the country has still to begin. Yet what has already been achieved proved to every patriotic visitor and foreign well-wisher that China can make anything

that she requires. It was also testimony that the American-inspired embargo on machine exports to China, designed to cripple our industry, has on the contrary stimulated it. In successfully solving problems posed by the embargo, Chinese industry has made a faster leap forward in its range of output than might otherwise have been the case.

### Raw Material Wealth

As with productive equipment, so with raw materials. The variety of North China's natural resources, and of the uses to which they are already being put, came through vividly at the exhibition. To cite a few examples, there were specimens of coal from Shansi, Hopei, Suiyuan, Pingyuan, and Chahar; iron ore from Chahar, Hopei, Suiyuan, Pingyuan and Shansi; sulphur from every province in the region; gold from Hopei, Shansi, Suiyuan and Inner Mongolia. North China supplies gypsum to the whole country and its asbestos, with fibres up to 2½ inches long, is of very good quality.

Plants whose possibilities were hitherto ignored are now being put to industrial use. Paper manufactured from "chih chi tsao," a kind of wild grass that grows along the Yellow river and was previously used only to make brooms, is more resistant to fold-

ing and crushing than American banknote paper. Strong gunny sacks are being made of another domestic fibre that was burned for firewood in the past. Last spring, the rubber-producing grass, *kok-sagyz*, was experimentally planted in Suiyuan province, with initially favourable results.

While it has long been known that North China has rich resources, many of the raw materials shown were an eye-opener to the visitors. Peasants, workers, government economic personnel and private businessmen all learned a great deal from the Tientsin exhibition.

More than 20,000 white-kerchiefed peasants from the north China countryside, chosen by their fellow-villagers to attend the exhibition, stayed for days and sometimes weeks in the homes of Tientsin residents. The peasants had all experienced tremendous improvement in their own lives as a result of liberation and land reform, but this was the first time they were able to see how the whole nation is moving forward. They saw their own future as they crowded avidly around the generators for village power and light stations (some of them had never even seen an electric light before), the tractors and combines and the improved animal-drawn agricultural implements, already available in quantity, that raise

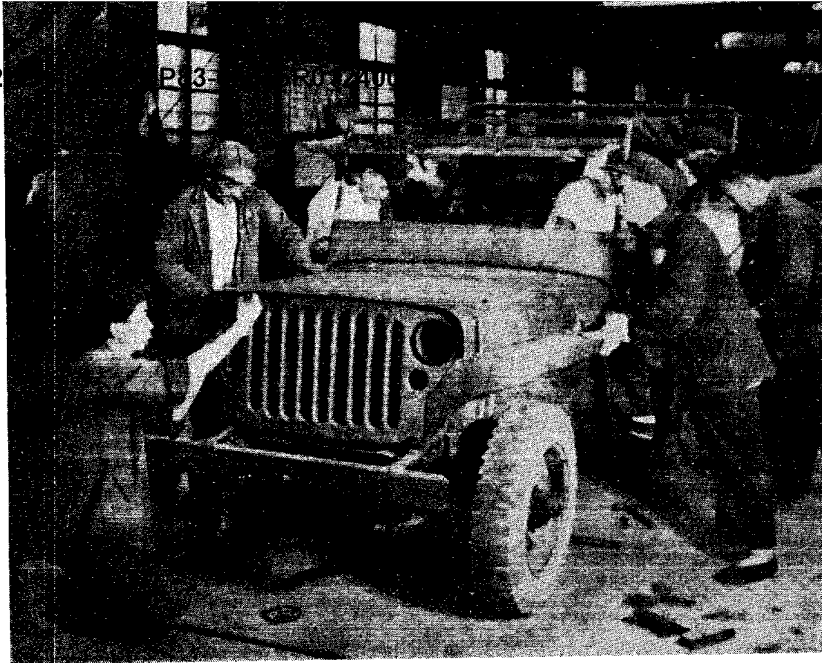
the productivity of farm labour several times. They realized their own part in the country's progress as they viewed various industrial products made out of the crops of their own fields. In the models of hydraulic schemes which will soon solve major flood, drought and irrigation problems, they saw that even the "unconquerable" forces of nature can be bent to the control of man.

### Industry Meets Agriculture

The benefits of industry are already available to peasants on a scale immeasurably greater than ever before in Chinese history. Fertilizers are cheap. So are many agricultural machines. That something new is happening in China is plain from the remark of one peasant who lingered around a mechanical oil press: "It does the work of the four mules we use for the job in our village—and it costs a lot less."

Peasants, particularly those organized in mutual-aid teams and able to make group-purchases, placed many orders for new equipment at the exhibition. By invitation, they visited agricultural implement factories in Tientsin and gave their suggestions to engineers and workers as to what

Finishing the first jeep made in Tientsin. These workers are now producing a station-wagon model as well.



needed to be made, and what could be done better.

At other factories which they inspected, the peasants watched spellbound as great looms turned out cloth like magic—unlike the laborious treadle looms of the villages. They made many worker friends and constantly sought explanations from them of all they had seen.

Confessed one peasant representative: "We used to ask, 'why is the working class supposed to be the leader?' We peasants thought we could make everything

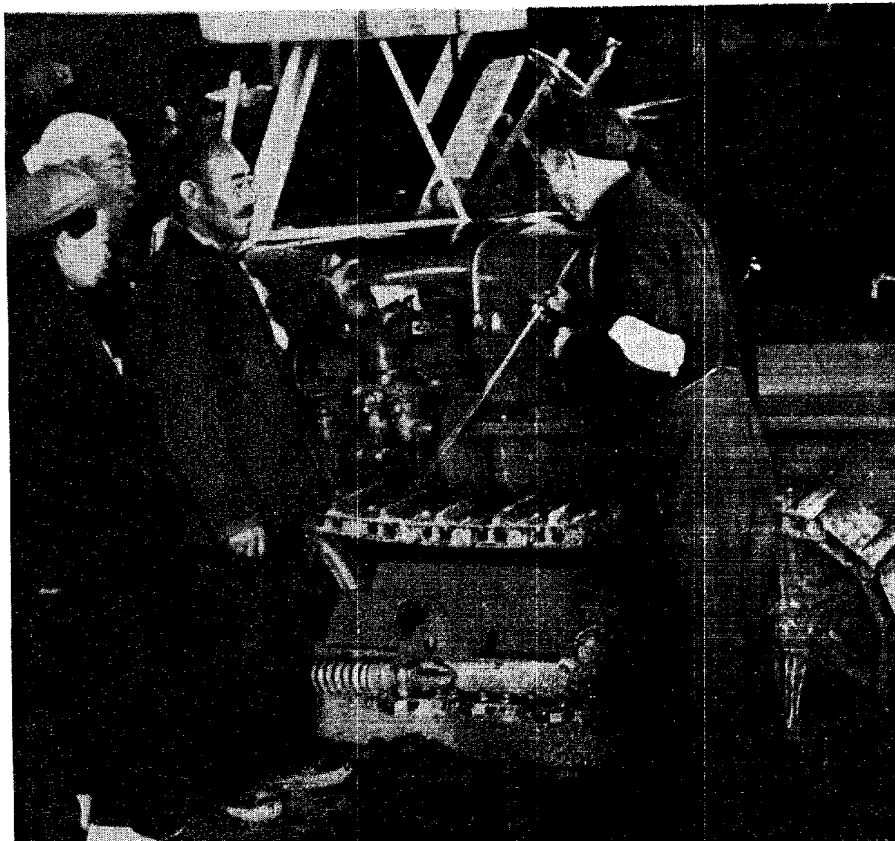
we were likely to need except salt. We grew our own food, spun and wove our own cotton, produced our own vegetable oil for cooking and lamps. But now we see a much better future ahead of us and we can't get there behind a wooden plough and an ox. However hard we try, we can't grow telephones and electric lights."

### What Workers Have Achieved

The exhibition showed clearly that the advance of new China, now that ancient oppressions have been removed, takes place through the combination of science, collective effort and a forward-looking outlook.

In the pavilion devoted to industrial improvements, many photographs and charts recorded the changes the New Democracy has brought about in the workers' lives. All the humiliating practices which symbolized the total absence of workers' rights in the old society, such as the searching of workers by factory guards before they went home, have now been abolished. Workers in government-owned enterprises elect their own representatives to

China's first tractor made in Taiyuan, Shansi province, was a centre of attraction for peasant and other visitors to the exhibition.



Management Councils, which are in charge of administration, production and wages. In private factories, their delegates sit on Labour-Capital Consultative Conferences which discuss improved production and find solutions for disputes.

How workers' suggestions and inventions are encouraged, and how industrial development benefits from this, was graphically illustrated. A very old Chinese proverb says that "three shoemakers make a sage." The workers of China, discarding craft "secrets" and democratically combining their rich experience to improve production and rationalize management, have devised many new methods that no sage ever thought of.

When the Tientsin Automobile Assembly Plant decided to make its first car, instead of just putting cars together, it was found that many tools were lacking. The workers talked this over, and improvised what was needed out of

old machines and spare parts. Engine castings presented a particularly difficult problem, but after initial failures this too was solved. Altogether, in Tientsin, no less than 8,455 workers' suggestions were made in the first seven months of 1951. A large part of them were adopted with benefits to their initiators in the form of special payments, and to the nation through increased output.

### New Ways in Farming

In agriculture too, science and democratic joint effort are working remarkable transformations.

Chinese peasants used to say: "You don't need skill in farming; all you need is sweat."

The agricultural improvement pavilion at the North China Trade Exhibition refuted such ideas. It was not sweat but science that produced the enormous melons and cabbages, the heavy-headed, large-grained wheat, the 900-lb. pigs that were displayed there.

Having witnessed these results, achieved sometimes on state farms, sometimes by the most forward-looking rural mutual-aid groups and individual owner-cultivators, the peasants flocked with new interest to see the demonstrations of ploughs that could cut deeper into the soil, seed selection procedures, new fertilizers and sprayers to destroy various pests.

Devoting its utmost effort to the increase of agricultural yield per acre, the government has publicized the example of the 49-year old peasant Chu Yao-li, who reached a cotton yield of 7,296 lbs. an acre, or 222 lbs. more than his last year's record. Chu Yao-li came to the exhibition himself, was received as an honoured guest, and gave explanations of his methods. If the average cotton productivity in North China could be raised to even one-fifth of Chu's yield, the total present harvest would be more than doubled. No wonder Chu has become a national figure.

The basis for more widespread application of science and better tools in farming has been laid by organizing the peasants for joint work. Mutual-aid teams have already played a tremendous part in rehabilitating North China's agriculture from the ruins of war, in bringing cereal crops back to the pre-war level and cotton output to 55 per cent above pre-war. They have also facilitated repair of dykes and irrigation ditches and the battle against locusts.

### Benefits of Cooperation

Experience, as tabulated in figures at the exhibition, indicates that mutual-aid teams generally get the best harvests; buy more animals, build better barns, use better tools, solve puzzling problems more easily through common discussion. Moreover, they keep in closer touch with new methods, new events and new markets through reading-groups which regularly peruse newspapers and pamphlets. About 55 per cent of all North China peasants are already members of mutual-aid teams, and in some counties as many as 90 per cent have joined.



Peasant delegates carefully examine one of the new agricultural implements Chinese industry is supplying, in large numbers, to the villages.



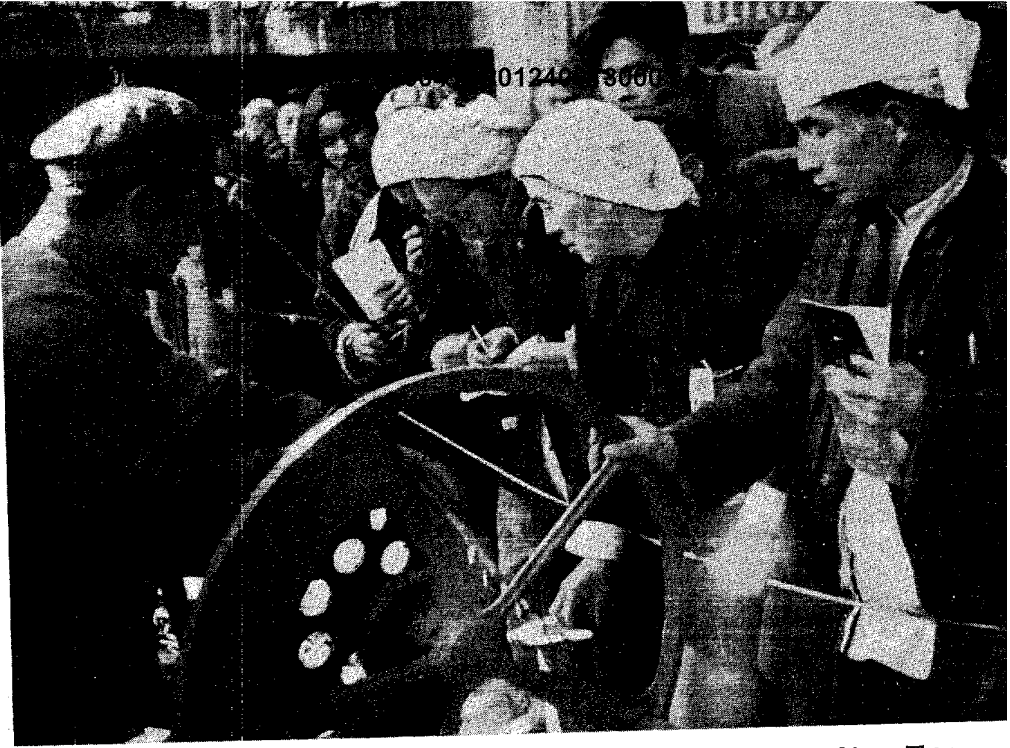
The mutual-aid team is a seasonal or more lasting, cooperative for the purpose of work only; the land, buildings and most tools remain individually owned. Now, however, a new form of organization, the Agricultural Production Cooperative, has begun to appear. In this higher form, land as well as labour is pooled.

In the old days, China's peasants were nameless. The new democracy has produced tens of thousands of peasant leaders whose fame has spread far and wide. Li Shun-ta of Shansi province, who attended the Tientsin exhibition, became a national hero by organizing a model mutual-aid group which issues challenges to others all over our vast country. Chia Lan-hu of Hopei province enlisted his village in a cooperative afforestation effort, planting 450,000 trees on waste land and protecting the fields of the people from sandstorms. Bewhiskered 56-year-old Ma Yi-chien organized another cooperative which irrigated and flushed out large tracts of alkaline farmland, increasing its yield tremendously.

Not only is China's countryside producing more, but the cultivators are much better off. Price relationships are becoming more favourable to the peasants. Before liberation, it took the price of 3½ *tou* (a *tou* is 13.3 lbs.) of wheat to buy an ordinary iron ploughshare. Now one can buy three ploughshares for the price of one *tou* of wheat.

### Life-Giving Trade

All underestimation of trade (on the ground that "it does not create new values") is opposed by the People's Government, which does everything possible to promote internal commerce. With both industry and agriculture producing more, and the liberated peasants entering the market as customers for all sorts of goods, the growth of exchange between town and country becomes more important daily. The Tientsin exhibition was organized to increase such trade. In the first and largest of its 17 pavilions, one could see how every form of transport, from trains to camel caravans, is utilized to knit the



Peasants take notes while a demonstrator lectures on a new machine. They will use these notes for reports to their own villages.

country into an economic unit; how land and water routes have been improved and coordinated one with the other; how marketing procedures have been reformed, products standardized and credit facilities expanded to help both seller and buyer.

The North China Trade Exhibition was itself a mighty stimulus to commerce, both within North China and between North China and other regions. It was attended by representatives of government and trading organizations, of North China's 10,000 cooperatives which now have over ten million members, and of thousands of private firms. Orders actually placed at the exhibition amounted to ¥1,560,000,000 People's Currency (about US\$70,000,000 or over £24,700,000). The trade turnover resulting from it indirectly will of course be much greater.

The Tientsin exhibition is only one of many held in various parts of China during the past year and a half. Some, as for instance the Northeast Trade Exhibition at Mukden, showed an even larger trading turnover. Taken together, these exhibitions have helped considerably to strengthen the national economy and to lay the basis for large-scale industrialization.

### CORRECTION

We regret that, due to errors in conversion to English units and other oversights that occurred in the editorial office, certain figures in the article "Ending the Flood Menace" (CHINA RECONSTRUCTS, No. 1) were printed wrongly in some of the distributed copies. The attention of readers who may have received such copies is called to the following corrections.

Page	Col.	Line	Printed	Should Read
4	2	4	170 miles	480 miles
4	2	6	Over 16 million cu. yds.	Approximately 158 million cubic feet
5	2	6	102,000 cu. ft. per second	307,000
5	2	7	99,000 cu. ft. per second	297,000
8	2	14	eight sluice gates	nine sluice gates
8	2	18	fixed dam	movable dam
8	2	20	two of 69 feet	four of 69 feet

The caption accompanying the picture at the bottom of page 6 was also inaccurate. It should read:

"In the first phase of the work, reinforced cement structures were built in 56 places along the Huai and its tributaries."

# First Trains In Szechuan

**A**RROGANT young officials who moved to Chungking and other places in Szechuan province with the Kuomintang regime during the war with Japan used to jeer at the people there, "You've never seen the sea; you've never seen a train." This would always make the Szechuanese angry. They had been waiting a long time for a railway to help the development of their great and productive area which is as large, as populous and as rich in agricultural and industrial resources as the whole of Germany.

Ever since 1906, when the Manchu dynasty still ruled, there had been talk of a railway from Chungking to Chengtu. Surveys were made, part of the roadbed laid out, station buildings erected at different times and contracts drawn up with all kinds of foreign concerns. Indeed, the collapse of the Manchu empire in 1911 was precipitated by a revolt of the Szechuan people against its attempt to turn over the projected line to American bankers (in the famous Hukuang loan scandals). But whether the Manchus, the so-called Republic, the provincial militarists or the Kuomintang

Excited children brought bouquets for the railway workers when the first train ran from Chungking to Neikiang.



grafters were in power, it was all the same. There were plenty of promises, the people were taxed to within an inch of their lives with each "revival" of the projects, corrupt officials dickered with imperialist monopolies over the unhatched chickens of railway profits, but no rails were laid and no trains ran. So it went on for over forty years.

Today the people of Szechuan (now divided into four administrative areas) are riding and hauling their goods in trains. The Central People's Government did in a few months what previous governments had prated about for decades. It took no more than half a year after the liberation of Szechuan for railway-building to begin in earnest. On June 15, 1950, the first spike was driven on the 329-mile stretch of railway running west from Chungking,

Szechuan's commercial and industrial port on the Yangtze river, to Chengtu, centre of its richest agriculture. On July 1, 1951, regular train service started on the 102-mile section from Chungking to Yungchuan. By the end of 1951, trains were puffing into Neikiang, 175 miles from Chungking.

## Soldiers and People

The People's Liberation Army, which freed Szechuan from the long night of feudalism and imperialism, was also the force that changed the Chungking-Chengtu railway from dream to reality. Its officers and men did not confine themselves to military tasks, or sit around in garrisons and eat off the people. No sooner had they cleared out the main forces of reaction than they got to work building.

Having no previous experience in railway construction, the army men asked engineers to teach them. As they worked, they held on-the-job classes and forums, studying the experience of the Soviet Union in building railways in the face of all kinds of hardships. Now they have mastered the required techniques to such an extent that the foundation laid for the line is the firmest of that of any railway in China. They have also broken national records of construction, and their methods have been adopted in the building of the Tien-shui-Lanchow line in the Northwest, another new and



Building one of the 970 bridges of the Chungking-Chengtu line.



New housing goes up to relieve Shanghai overcrowding.

## TRANSFORMING OUR CITIES

**C**HINESE cities are being rebuilt on new foundations. Roads, bridges, water supply and sewage disposal are being extended and improved. City life grows easier, healthier and cleaner. Peking, Shanghai, and Tientsin today manage to keep their streets freer of garbage and litter than does New York, despite all the mechanical equipment at its disposal. This may be hard to believe for anyone who knew only the old China. But it is true.

Before liberation, whatever improvements were made in city services were for the benefit of the rich alone. Any convenience they may have afforded the working people was purely incidental. This was obvious to every eye. Running water, electricity and even pavements often ended abruptly in the middle of some city block, because that was where the last "person who mat-

tered" lived—and everything beyond was considered unimportant. The difference between services available in well-to-do residential areas and workers' districts of the same cities was shocking. The one had everything the twentieth century can provide. In the other, people were forced to live as though none of the inventions of the past 300 years had been heard of.

Present improvements are being concentrated precisely in these workers' quarters. The following is a review of some of the things done in the past two years, city by city.

### Water and Sanitation

In Peking today, 1,200,000 people are using running water free of *bacillus coli*. Miles of new water mains have been installed. Before liberation, there was no piped water at all outside the city

walls. Now pipes have been extended to serve miners' settlements in the western suburbs.

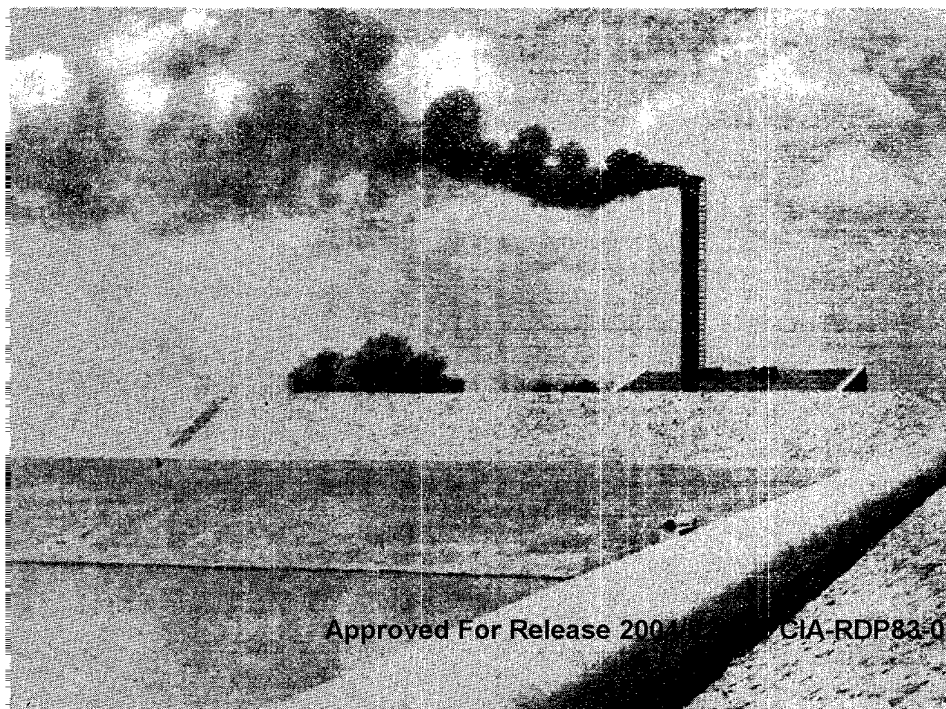
Drainage and sewage disposal in the capital have improved beyond recognition. Heavy rains no longer turn any of its streets into deep canals where the water stagnates for weeks at a time. Open drains are being replaced by culverts. Newly paved smooth street surfaces also help drainage. Half-an-hour or 40 minutes after even the most torrential downpours, there is no longer any water in the streets of the working-class districts. This is true even of the lowest-lying areas, around Dragon Beard Ditch, where rain always used to interrupt communications, and sometimes caused houses to collapse.

The centuries-old underground sewage system of Peking, not used for years because it was neglected and blocked, has been cleared of all obstacles and made fully serviceable. Almost a hundred miles of its culverts have been cleaned and repaired.

### More Bridges; Better Roads

Shanghai is concentrating on the repair of bridges and roads, which deteriorated badly through the years of Japanese and Kuomintang occupation. The 44-year-old steel Garden Bridge, which was in poor condition when the city was liberated, has been structurally restored and thoroughly rust-proofed after four months' work. The Huang Peng

A corner of the 80-million gallon precipitation tank of Tientsin's new waterworks.



bridge has been rebuilt in reinforced concrete, involving the use of the longest steel cables ever employed in local bridge construction. Many other bridges have been renovated and reopened to traffic after long disuse.

Many streets in former slum areas of Shanghai were torn up for sewer-laying, then re-surfaced, in a work project that also relieved the temporary unemployment in the city in 1950.

Water hydrants have been installed in many places, including the banks of Soochow creek, to serve the inhabitants of boats and barges who formerly had to use the filthy creek water to drink.

Areas which have been without street lights for years, or never had them, are now illuminated at night.

### Progress in Tientsin

In Tientsin, the emphasis has been on an ample, safe supply of water to serve both the city's inhabitants and its industries. This city, the largest port of North China, has just increased its water supply by 65 per cent. Construction was based on a plan made 15 years ago but shelved by the British interests which then controlled the waterworks—because the well-to-do minority of the population already had "enough" water, and to give poorer people more would be "uneconomical." Now Tientsin has a giant new precipitation tank for river water with a capacity of 90 million gallons. By using natural differences in water levels, the engineers have arranged for a steady flow to the purifying plant without expensive pumping ma-

chinery. The width of culverts has been doubled.

Tientsin's water is now safe to drink from the tap, which was not the case before liberation. Preparations are being made to soften all city water while still in the storage tanks, thus saving huge quantities of soap.

Tientsin's communications have also been bettered. New locally-made trolley buses run in the city. The main highway leading to Peking, long in a terrible state, has been fully repaired. People used to joke about this road, "A person riding into Tientsin is so banged around that he arrives with a bump on his head, hating the city before he has even seen it." Now the road is a subject of compliments, not jeers.

### Labour Heroism at Nanking

Nanking has re-surfaced 864,000 square yards of city streets. The historic Chang Kan bridge, destroyed by the Japanese invaders was rebuilt in half a year. Seventy feet wide, and made wholly of concrete, it carries traffic to southern Kiangsu province.

Many labour heroes emerged on the Chang Kan bridge job, on which 700 men were engaged. Aware of the importance of restoring this major communications link, they worked on the buttresses in icy water during the winter months and through the turbulent spring thaw. City residents assisted by providing comforts and helping equip their dormitories, and by themselves doing volunteer work to complete a culvert, construction of which had been discontinued under the reactionary Kuomintang.

A new 20-mile long sewer has been laid to serve 200,000 people living in the southern part of Nanking. Sewers in other sections of the city have been cleaned, repaired and extended.

Despite the fact that the Kuomintang made Nanking its "capital" for so many years,

Open drains are being replaced by culverts. The picture shows work on the notorious Dragon Beard Ditch in Peking.





Large public swimming pools give relief from summer heat. This is the shallow pool at Shih Cha Hai, Peking, which also has others for more expert swimmers and divers.

367,000 of the inhabitants lacked water service of any kind, and had to drink impure water from old wells and stagnant pools. One of the first things done after the liberation of the city was to install 365 conveniently-placed hydrants to bring piped water to these areas.

### Housing, Parks and Hospitals

Wuhan (the triple city of Wuchang, Hankow and Hanyang) is the industrial hub of central China. Reconstruction here has been concentrated on buildings and roads. The pace has been such as to cause temporary shortages of bricks and other materials. Wuhan has a new workers' hospital, a new theatre and a movie-house built specially for railway workers, new government buildings and over 500 units of new housing. The old municipal hospital has been repaired. About 300,000 square yards of trees and flowers have been planted and road surfaces have been paved. Wuhan's Central Park has been renovated and a new People's

Square, with a capacity of 220,000 persons, is planned for the city.

Hangchow, capital of Chekiang province, has repaired 254 old-style streets with an overall length of 30 miles, and provided them with proper drainage and sewers. By contrast with the "modern" thoroughfares along which Kuomintang officials rode around in their cars and big merchants and bankers did their business, such streets were never taken care of in the past.

### Soldiers Build a City

Not only are old cities in China being made over, but altogether new ones are being built.

In faraway Sinkiang, men of the People's Liberation Army are working on a new garden city which will be completed in five years. They have already built over 20 miles of paved roads and many houses. The city will begin with an area of 5½ square miles, with 350 acres devoted to three parks. Trees and flowering shrubs will line all streets and squares.

The city will have industrial, administrative, commercial and residential zones. It will serve as a focal point for several large mechanized farms in the surrounding countryside.

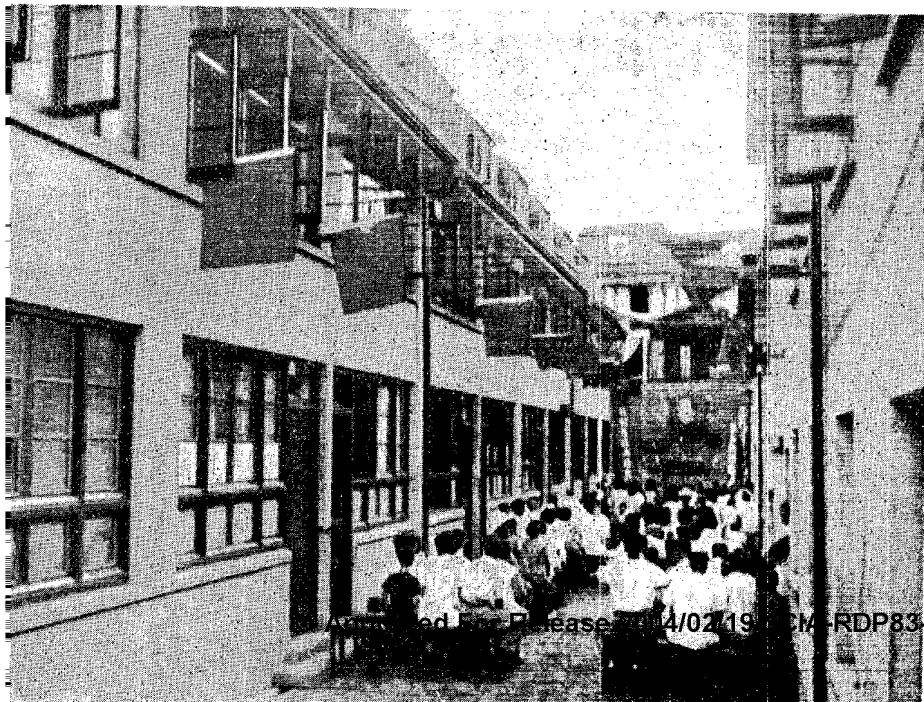
Construction on the Sinkiang site began under the most difficult conditions. In winter, the ground froze hard, and had to be hewn like rock when foundations were laid. Beams for the houses were horse-hauled to the site from 60 miles away (there is still no railway). The People's Liberation Army men, soldiers who serve the people in peace as well as defend them, are determined to finish the job ahead of schedule. They have volunteered to work on Sundays as well as weekdays.

### The People Volunteer

Labour enthusiasm is the foundation of all reconstruction and new building in China's cities. It is the weapon with which technical difficulties are overcome, old methods improved, new ways boldly tried out, and time-tables revised downward. In all cases, regular workers are supplemented by volunteers. Thus Nanking stevedores repaired several miles of streets in their spare time, saving the city the cost of labour. In Wuhan, students, government functionaries—even priests and nuns—undertook to work several hours a week to put their city in order. Among the Wuhan volunteers were an old woman of 80 and a schoolgirl of twelve.

The people are building in this spirit because the cities, the country, the government are now theirs.

Workers held a block meeting when they moved into Pinghuang Villas, Shanghai, one of the developments replacing the old airless slums.





Tree planting on a huge scale has begun throughout China. This young timber was planted by peasants in Sulu county, Hopei province.

To fight plant diseases, which our peasants in the past accepted as an infliction from heaven, the People's Government has concentrated chiefly on prevention and mass education in science. Success has been achieved in checking grain smuts and other blights.

### Planting Forests

Forests are important for water conservancy, drought prevention and soil protection, as well as timber. The reactionary Kuomintang regime, with its corrupt officials and marauding troops, reduced the already depleted forests of China to a bare 5 per cent of the national territory. Floods, dust storms and droughts increased as a result.

The People's Government protects all forests. In addition, in the first year of liberation alone, it planted 300 million saplings. In the spring of 1951, the second year, 500,000 acres of land were afforested. This was more than the Kuomintang did in all its 22 years of misrule.

China has 675 million acres (over a million square miles) of sub-marginal land on which trees can be grown. The government plans to turn all this land into forest within thirty years. When this has been done, forests will cover 20 per cent of the entire area of China instead of 5 per cent as at present. The appearance of the country, as well as conditions of agriculture, will change. Denuded hills around Chinese villages will be clothed in green. Watersheds will be guarded by stands of timber. Vast shelter belts will transform now arid sections of northwestern China and Inner Mongolia.

Chinese peasants once believed that man's fate depended on the "will of heaven." Such superstitious ideas are being replaced by a conviction, already well-founded in experience, that man must and can conquer nature. Common effort under the New Democracy is what the people rely on today in fighting calamities and building their new life. The days of submission to "fate" are gone forever.

## Man Wins Over "Fate"

**I**N 1950, during the spring thaw, a great ice-jam piled up at various points along the big bend of the Yellow River, threatening the whole area with disastrous floods. Try as they might, the peasants could not get the ice floating again by their usual methods. Local artillery units of the People's Liberation Army came to their aid and tried to smash the blocks with gunfire, but they were too solid even for this. Then, on Chairman Mao Tse-tung's own orders, the People's Air Force worked day and night to destroy ice-jams at 30 different points with heavy bombs—and there was no flood either that year or next.

Throughout the ages, the Yellow River used to inundate the Honan plain whenever its rate of flow at Shenchow, in that province, exceeded 353,000 cubic feet per second. As soon as the People's Government was established, it mobilized the peasants to increase the height of the surrounding dykes and build a large detention basin. The result was that floods were avoided although the river's flow rose to 600,000 cubic feet per second in 1950 and to 812,000 cubic feet per second in 1951.

In the near future, the Yellow River, source of a hundred evils, will be made to irrigate tens of thousands of square miles of cultivable land that now lacks only water to make it produce. It will be opened to navigation over great stretches that were useless for transport in the past.

### Conquering Drought

As with floods, so with drought. People said of north China, before liberation, that it suffered "nine droughts every ten years." In 1951, for the first time, a threatened drought was averted by organized human effort.

Under the personal leadership of large numbers of government functionaries headed by the chairmen of Hopei and Pingyuan provinces, ten million peasants dug 38,955 new wells and over 4,000 irrigation channels equipped with 66,603 waterwheels. The parched land was watered and became green again.

In the "drought year" of 1951, peasants in Hopei province managed to plant and save more than two million acres of cotton, helping the country to achieve the biggest crop in its history.

### Battling Crop Pests

The People's Government is also waging war on various crop pests that used to make deep inroads on agricultural production. Last year, 34,000 government personnel of different grades led over six million peasants in campaigns against the grain-devouring locust and that deadly enemy of the cotton plant, the boll weevil. Over 8,000 tons of insecticide were sprayed by planes of the People's Air Force, supplemented by 96,623 liquid sprayers and 4,451 powder sprayers on the ground. No less than 86 per cent of the 7,000,000 acres of land afflicted by these parasites were cleared of them.

# Miners Produce More, Live Better

Equipped with new tools and work clothes, and better paid than ever before, miners in China's state-owned collieries have raised their output 23 per cent.



NOT long ago, Yuan Tze-ming, an ordinary miner at the Pinghsiang colliery in Kiangsi province, wrote in his diary: "There was a time when I often had no wages coming in, and did not know what it was to be warm and well-fed. But this year everybody in my family has bought new clothes, new blankets, new mosquito nets and soft pillows. This year, I bought presents for my friends, yet I still have ¥415,000 saved up. Also, we have a pig."

This is typical of the swift changes taking place in the lives of Chinese coal miners, both on the job and in their homes. Shower baths have been installed at pit-heads. Miners have moved out of the dirty, leaking hovels in which they used to live into new well-built dormitories. Their children go to school at the expense of the administration. Old miners can retire to special homes. A whole new network of hospitals, sanatoria, libraries, spare-time schools, theatres and social halls serves China's mining communities.

Miners used to have a hard time getting married. Now good wages and the respect in which workers are held have changed this. Parents no longer put up a fight when their daughter wants to marry a miner. In the Northeast, during the last two years, housing built by coal mine administrations for married couples totalled over 2,253,000 square yards of floor space.

### Safety Measures

Every precaution is being taken to make the work of the miner safe. This is a startling change from the old days when deaths among miners were often counted by hundreds in a single accident and when the mine administrations, with the utmost callousness, worked on the principle: "We are interested in coal, not in lives." In 1950, the Central People's Government ordered that all coal mines be thoroughly inspected and ventilation equipment installed.

Safety training classes were set up and until miners had a

thorough knowledge of the new regulations they were required to devote at least two hours a week to their study. Wide publicity was given to all safety measures and special committees were organized to see that they were carried out.

One convincing proof of the need for such vigorous action came from Northeast China. An inspection of a machine shop at the Fushun coal field early last year brought to light no less than 3,000 work hazards. These were all eliminated, the majority on suggestions from the workers themselves. The results were immediate and in the following period the number of fatal accidents decreased by 78.8 per cent.

Safety work has now become a job for everyone. Last June, for example, a miner in the Chenghsi colliery injured his foot while at work. The administration immediately called all workers and staff to a meeting at which the reasons for the accident were explored. Afterwards, led by their



During rest periods in the pits, literate miners teach those with less education.

trade union, the miners were divided into panels which investigated the matter in greater detail and recommended necessary changes. This procedure is typical.

When the trade union of a colliery in Northeast China started a mine safety campaign, the wives of the miners also joined in. They pledged: "When our husbands get out of bed, we will examine their pockets to see that they carry nothing inflammable to the pits." Miners' families also undertook to see that they got enough sleep. To ensure this, older women now get the children of night-shift workers together and tell them stories so that they don't make any noise while their fathers rest. Even the pedlars in mine towns now do their business at designated spots and do not cry their wares so loudly as before.

The result of all these varied measures is that the death rate in Chinese coal mines decreased by 75 per cent while injuries dropped 65 per cent, in the first half of 1951 as compared to 1950. Not a single mine explosion took place in 1951.

### Power Tools Appear

Mining techniques are changing very fast. The old honeycombing methods are going out and the "long wall" method of timbering is coming in, increasing both

safety and production. Pneumatic picks and drills are replacing manual ones. When these were first brought to the Fengfeng Coal Mine, some miners were enthusiastic but others, more conservative, were fearful. They argued that the new tools were too heavy, that they were so noisy that one could not hear if the ceiling cracked, and therefore dangerous.

Coal-hauling and man-trips in the Hualnan mines are now electrified—an example of the way the miner's life and work have changed since liberation.



As a result of discussion, Pit No. 506 undertook to make a trial. Seventeen miners were elected to operate the pneumatic tools. The pit was divided into competing teams. Members of each team signed a compact to cooperate closely with each other. To the surprise of the older men, a new record was made the very first day. Pneumatic driller Li Kwang-cheng and his team cut 37.18 tons in four and a half hours. Other pits joined the competition. In two weeks, one set a man-day record of 254 tons!

Today, the miner rejoices in the machinery which produces on such a large scale, calls for less strength and, in combination with safety measures, reduces the hazards of work. According to recent estimates, all collieries in China are overfulfilling their plans. The national average productivity, among miners, has risen by 23 per cent.

This year, the People's Government will continue to rebuild and re-equip existing mines, and to prepare for the opening of new ones. Mining bureaus all over the country will also pay special attention to helping privately-owned collieries to achieve higher output.



## The Huainan Miners

A TYPICAL example of the improvement in the life of miners since liberation is provided by the Huainan colliery in north Anhwei province.

Knowing that their own welfare is dependent on production, the miners have raised working records beyond all estimates. In 1951 the coal output target was surpassed by 11.7 per cent and topped that of 1950 by over 100 per cent. During the year 175 miners earned the title of "model worker," and 74 miners' brigades were named "advance teams," for efficiency in working methods.

Following the increase in production, came the overall improvement in the miners' welfare. Compared with 1950, average wages in 1951 increased 7.82 per cent and were scheduled to be raised another 19.5 per cent this spring. In addition large monetary awards were given to all model workers.

Economically better off and politically awakened, the Huainan miners became eager to raise their cultural level. Over 7,600 went to sparetime schools during 1951 and are now all able to read simple texts. Among their family members, 2,359 women enrolled for study and 5,285 children entered middle, primary or vocational schools.

With a welfare fund contributed by the government, the miners were able to set up a hospital, a recreation centre, a model workers' home, a sanatorium and a spare-time school. They have also formed 56 different kinds of clubs.

Most of the miners have already moved into good housing. In 1951 the mine administration built 3,025 dwellings and repaired 4,817. It also opened many nurseries.

For the first time in their lives great hope and happiness has come to the miners of Huainan.

An "advance team" on its way to work. (top)

Dancing is popular at all times. (centre)

Huainan miners built this new, modern hospital. (bottom)



# IN PRAISE OF OUR MOTHERLAND

Moderato Grandioso

Music and Words by WANG HSIN

*mf* See the five - star

Red Flag wav - ing high. Loud-ly rings our song of vic-to - ry,

*mp* Prais-ing our be - lov - ed Mo - ther - land, *mf* Grow-ing rich - er and

stronger ev-ery day. *ff* Prais-ing our be - lov - ed Mo - ther-land, Grow-ing

rich - er and stronger ev-ery day. *ff* stronger ev-ery day. *Fine*

Through the mount - ains, through the val - leys, Flow the Hwang Ho —  
 We love la - bour, we are val - iant, In - de - pend - ence and  
 East - ern skies are lit with sun - shine, Our own Peo - ple's Re -

and the Yangtze - kiang, Great and spac - ious and beau - ti - ful  
 free - dom our i - deals. Ev - ery hardship we have con - quered,  
 pub - lic here we build, With our lead - er Mao Tse - tung

*f* Is our — be - lov - ed Moth - er - land. He - ro - ic peo - ple have  
 That's how — we won our lib - er - ty. We dear - ly love — peace, we  
 Point - ing — to us the way a - head. Our lives are grow - ing bett - er

stood up brave and free, Firm - ly u - nit - ed with the strength of steel. See the  
 love our Moth - er - land, Who - dares in - vade us is look - ing for his grave.  
 ev - ery sing - le day, The light of our fu - ture fills us all with joy.

Translated by CHEN YANG-LI

# Yu Chang the Wolf Hunter

**N**OT LONG AGO, in the Huaian district of Chahar, near Inner Mongolia, a little girl was snatched by a wolf. The people ran after the beast, but in vain. Suddenly a rifle cracked and the wolf fell dead, releasing the child who was terrified but not seriously injured. When the girl's parents effusively thanked the old peasant who had fired with such accuracy and effect, he replied briefly: "My own daughter was killed by a wolf. When I shot the beast, I felt I was rescuing her. I hunt wolves because I want to protect our children."

Shortly afterwards, the same old man, his gun slung over his shoulder, was seen on the platform at many village meetings called to aid Korea and defend our own country from the threat of invasion. At fairs and gatherings, he hung the carcasses of wolves he had killed in front of the public. "The imperialists are as ruthless and cunning as wolves," he would say, again and again. "If we don't keep them away we will never have peace."

There are those who need endless hammering at a point before it penetrates their heads, but to the people of Huaian these words were convincing. Moreover, the man who spoke them was not just anybody. He was Yu Chang, their own countryman, now famous throughout new China as the "wolf-hunting hero."

**W**HO is more familiar with the wolf-nature than the inhabitants of Huaian? Wolves breed in White Dragon mountain and Wolf Tooth mountain, both situated in the district. On occasion, the beasts have become so bold as to invade the villages in packs, carrying away sheep, pigs and children,



Wolves menace both people and livestock in Chahar province and in Inner Mongolia, where wolf hunting is a serious business.

attacking anyone they came across. When the Kuomintang, which gave such matters little thought, was still in power, wolves killed 200 people in Huaian in a single year. The terrified peasants did not dare go into their fields, no one ventured out of doors at night, and travellers did not move except in large groups.

Of all the Huaian people, no one can speak with more authority about wolves than Yu Chang. Fond of hunting from childhood, he started with rabbits and jackals and, after a few years, went on to wolves. To hunt the wolf with a muzzle-loader of village manufacture calls for great skill and courage. One must approach him at close quarters and kill with the first shot. A wounded wolf will leap at your throat before you have time to reload. Moreover, to kill a wolf with a native gun is a much harder proposition than doing it with a rifle.

As Yu Chang says, one must hit a wolf "square in the nose if he is coming at you; right under his tail if he is running away; smack on his shoulder-joint if you flank him from the front and behind the ear if you flank him from the rear." All these are difficult shots, but if you can't manage them you had better not fire at all, because you won't even stop the animal.

**T**HROUGH MANY YEARS, Yu Chang learned to shoot unerringly. He also took to trapping, which requires strategy because wolves are wary creatures whose every habit must be studied if they are to be outwitted. But at one time all these painfully acquired skills threatened to go for nothing. Suddenly, during the Kuomintang period, Yu Chang's war on the wolves came to a dead stop. The Kuomintang officials began to consider him a "dangerous fellow" because he was independent,

popular, active in reconnoitering the countryside and good with weapons. Yu Chang, the seasoned hunter who had never flinched before a wolf's fangs, was frightened by the wolf-men in authority,—against whom, as a plain peasant, he had no appeal. Shocked and discouraged, he put aside his gun and traps.

**L**ATER the Japanese invaders succeeded the Kuomintang. Under their rule, in the summer of 1941, packs of wolves once again ranged up and down Huaian. It was in that year that a well-known and much feared lone wolf slunk into Yu Chang's own yard, where his wife and five-year-old daughter were enjoying the cool evening, pounced on the child and dragged her off. When the hunter came home, he grabbed his long-unused gun and set out in pursuit. Failing to find the wolf in the dark, he came across the beast's tracks only at daybreak. The tracks led him to the half-eaten body of his little girl.

After this, the grief-stricken Yu Chang left all other matters and devoted himself once more to trap and gun. He forgot his fear of the officials. He brushed off the superstitious old men in the village, beaten down by long slavery, who muttered that his daughter's death was "heavenly punishment" for many offences against the "supernatural" wolves. Neither men nor gods could prevent the father from having his revenge—and after many sleepless nights on the trail the chance came. The cunning lone wolf finally approached Yu Chang's trap, sniffing at the bait suspiciously. Yu Chang, who was watching, fired once and did not miss.

The father's vengeance only brought him more trouble. Once more the human wolves, Japanese quislings this time, smelled prey and got to work. When news of Yu Chang's resumed hunting

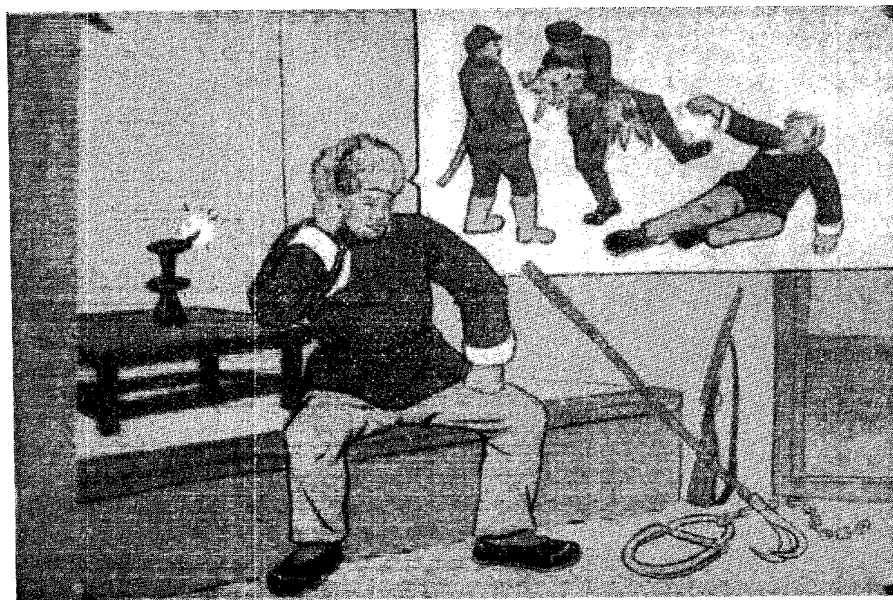
reached the town police, they ordered his arrest. He was dragged from his home to jail. His frantic wife was kicked when she went to beg for mercy. Some time later, Yu Chang was released, with black eyes and a back half-broken from beatings. The rich fur of the wolf he had slain, taken from him as "evidence," ended up as a rug on the bed of the police chief's wife, who liked such things.

**T**HIS TIME, Yu Chang vowed never to touch his gun again as long as he lived. Even liberation, which came to Huaian after the war, did not change his fixed resolve. The Communist party overthrew the old rulers. Yu Chang received seven acres of prime land in the land reform and began to cultivate them with his family, hard workers all. Freedom and a better life came to him and to all the Huaian people. Why hunt again and court misfortune, risk the loss of all this happiness? That was how things looked to the old man, scarred to the depths of his soul by the oppression of the old order.

But the wolves did not leave the people alone. In 1949 they descended on the district again—killing and mauling over a hundred persons. The marauding beasts became so daring that they entered the county town, and

children were kept home from school. The District People's Government, unlike the authorities of the past, called on the peasants to organize themselves for a large-scale hunt. Yu Chang, however, was not among those who responded. He let his weapons lie and farmed his land. When the people, remembering Yu Chang's skill, came and asked him to lead their effort, the veteran wolf hunter declined. He gave as an excuse his age and poor health, but the real reason was his deep, unreasoning fear. Only after repeated urging and long visits by the district chiefs, only after fine new arms were supplied that made his hunter's heart leap, did Yu Chang finally consent, still with deep foreboding.

**O**NCE ON THE TRAIL of his ancient enemy, however, Yu Chang's old instincts, courage and rich experience rushed to the surface. Within three days he had personally caught a wolf alive on top of the town wall and killed two others. The campaign was a success. The streets of Huaian became safe. Peasants who had stood in awe of the "godly" powers of the wolf began to see a talisman in the human skill of the famed Yu Chang. Delegates came from every place that was still infested. No sooner did Yu Chang clear one village of wolves than he was called to another.



Under Kuomintang and Japanese oppression, Yu Chang swore never to hunt again.



After liberation Yu Chang was persuaded to resume hunting for the sake of the people.

wolves are to be wiped out over large areas, I can't do it alone though I hunt day and night," he thought. "Only large numbers of skilled hunters can do it. And who can teach them better than I?" That was how Yu Chang learned what makes a true people's hero in our time.

**T**ODAY Yu Chang is a public figure of the new type. Aided by the government, beloved by the people, he finds joy in teaching and organizing large numbers of hunters. He has trained over 120 apprentices and helped form some sixty teams in different villages. He has lent his most prized Soviet-made trap to village blacksmiths to be copied. When some of his apprentices encountered material difficulties, Yu Chang sold his own furs to help them out. Always on the lookout for men able to pit wits and daring against the wolves, he even undertook to turn two former opium smokers who had become village pests into hunters—and succeeded.

This is the man who appears throughout Chahar and Inner Mongolia, now in one district, now in another, telling what the new society has done for him, inspiring assurance that with its help men can conquer wolves as well as all other calamities.

As a speaker and propagandist, Yu Chang is in endless demand. Old men listen to him with respect, because his past was their own. Young men look up to him; he can teach the best of them skill and courage. Who can more appropriately speak of the power of our country than this simple peasant whose labour-trained brain and hands have outmatched the wolf in strength and cunning?

*The illustrations in this story are from a coloured poster series used in peasant education—and displayed at the recent North China Trade Exhibition in Tientsin. Such posters have done much to introduce new methods of production and organization to both peasants and workers.*

Self-confidence and self-respect returned to the old hunter. The admiration and love with which he was met everywhere made a new man of him. He took pleasure in travelling from place to place and saving the people. When rewards were offered, he refused, saying: "It is for my fellow-countrymen that I came out, not to seek profit." His renown grew to new heights after he tracked down a she-wolf long known for size, elusiveness and ferocity. Terrified villagers who had caught a glimpse of her said that she was "as big as a donkey, with bloodshot eyes." Even Yu Chang was puzzled at first by the beast's apparent ability to move about without leaving a trail. It was only after many long days that he discovered that she had an unusual habit of walking only in cart-ruts along the roads. When he set his best trap in a place based on this knowledge and hid to watch the capture, the she-wolf came up to it, calmly chewed the wire that secured it, sprang the trap and carried it off, bait and all, in her teeth.

Yu Chang had been so sure of snaring this wolf that he lay in ambush without firearms, carrying only a long iron hook for the finishing stroke. It was with this hook that he gave pursuit through the snow, stalking the beast from the East Mountain to Taiping valley, keeping after her for three days and nights, hungry, his boots

worn out, his feet half-frozen. Finally, the tired wolf's vigilance began to falter while the hunter's determination was still keen. Yu Chang was able to surprise her, and kill her with his hook. Even after skinning, the carcass weighed well over a hundred pounds.

**A**LONG WITH the honours piling on Yu Chang, came a problem, the new kind of problem which, instead of thwarting people, makes them grow and advances the common interest. Unstinting of his energy in helping others, the old wolf-hunter was still conservative on one point. He was ready to use his skill at any call, but not to divulge his techniques. When village cadres tried to persuade him to teach his experience to whole groups, so that the people themselves could handle the wolves, Yu Chang became stubborn. How could amateurs absorb quickly what it had taken him a lifetime to learn, he asked himself. Besides, why should he part with knowledge so hardly acquired?

It was only after Yu Chang had been invited, as an honoured participant, to provincial and national meetings of labour heroes, after he had heard the speeches of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and other leaders, that he began to realize that this attitude, "natural" in the old society, was a form of selfishness. Gradually, Yu Chang's ideas changed. "If

# A PLACE THE CHILDREN LOVE

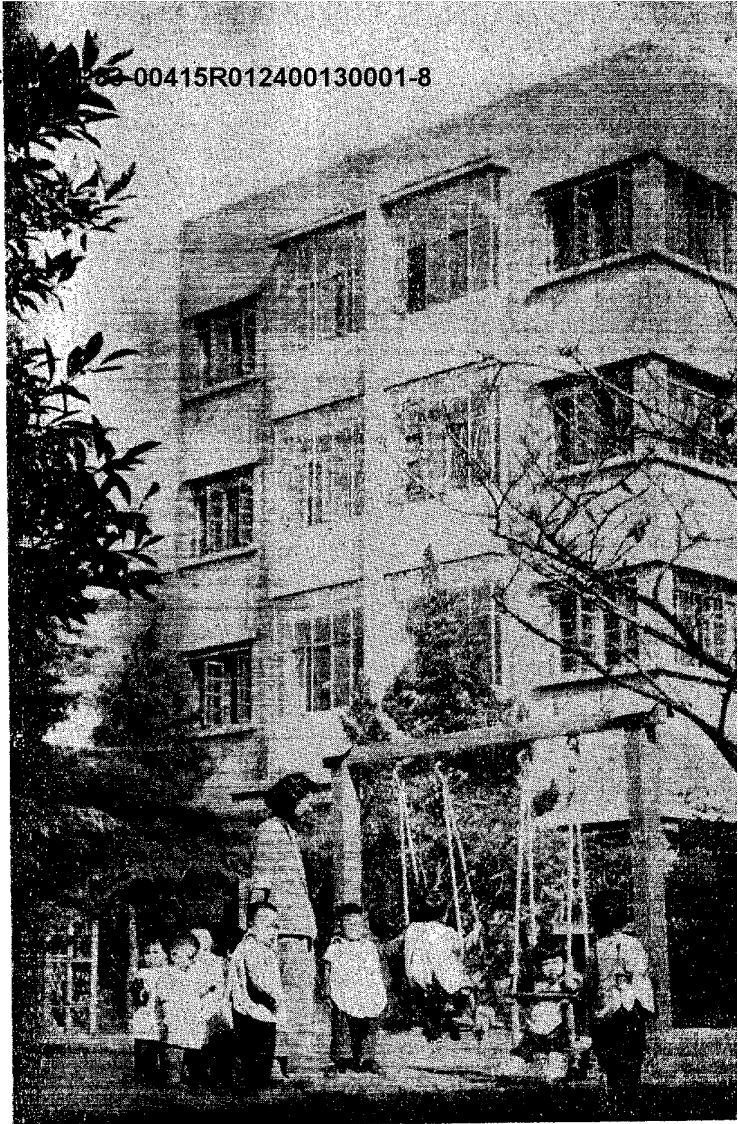
CHEN SHAN-MING

**T**HE NURSERY of the China Welfare Institute is only ten minutes by car from the western edge of Shanghai. Entering the main gate, one is struck with the beauty of the compound, its numerous tall evergreen and maple trees and its wide, green lawns that give off a pleasant grassy fragrance. One feels that such a place must be a paradise for children, and the joyous shouts of the kiddies soon prove this to be so.

The CWI Nursery, which was started after the liberation of Shanghai, is a pilot project for the solving of several of China's main problems in child care. The first of these problems is connected with the position of women in the new society. Our liberated women are being drawn into the work of reconstructing the nation. Many find it difficult, however, to do so as long as there is no provision for the care of their children while they are at work.

The second problem concerns the many women who volunteer for temporary work in outlying areas where they cannot take their children. To meet their needs, we must have homes which give complete care, twenty-four hours a day. This is a transitional problem. As more facilities become available in or near every place of work, all our children will have both group and home life. Today, as a legacy from the pre-liberation period, the number

The CWI Shanghai nursery is in a modern, sunlit building.



of nurseries, though growing rapidly, is still inadequate to meet the expanding demand.

### A Pilot Project

The CWI Nursery is an experimental one. It takes care of some 200 children of working mothers in industry, government and people's organizations. It operates around the clock and provides everything a child needs in medical care, food, play, education and companionship.

Since such work in China is comparatively new, the nursery constantly assesses its own experiences and makes changes necessary for the normal and healthy development of the children. Methods which have proved themselves are written up and made widely available to mothers, child care workers and other nursery institutions. A teaching centre for nursery education is now being planned.

The main emphasis in the CWI Nursery is on physical development. A resident pediatrician, of many year's experience, assisted by six graduate nurses, keeps an eye on the children from the moment they enter the institution. Before admission, every child is thoroughly examined and given a tuberculin test. If the reaction is positive, the child is X-rayed to make sure no active lesions exist. If it is negative, a BCG inoculation is given. After admission all children are vaccinated against smallpox and inoculated with pertussis vaccine, diphtheria toxoid, and other preventives according to a schedule set by the Shanghai Municipal Health Bureau.

Each morning, there is a health inspection. Suspected cases of illness are immediately isolated in an infirmary. After their noon nap, the temperature of all the children is taken. The health



The children seem a little dubious when Chen Shan-ming brings them their first puppy.

and defenders of new China. Here is a typical result. Once a group of 3½-year-olds went to visit a nearby vegetable garden. On the way home, they met three soldiers of the People's Liberation Army. They immediately began calling them "Uncle" and asked the soldiers to play with them. One bright-eyed little girl said, "You army uncles are brave. You love all children, help the peasants and protect us from our enemies. When we grow up we want to be like you." The children began to sing one of their songs called "The Good Liberation Army." The three soldiers picked the children up one by one and gave them tight fatherly hugs. They were reluctant to go on about their business and wanted to stop and play with their small friends. When the children came back to the nursery, they reported, "We saw some Liberation Army Uncles. We shook hands with them and they picked us up and said we were good children." The story was repeated over and over again to the envy of all who had not had the same good luck.

section keeps a constant check on minor ailments. Height and weight are measured every month and special attention is given to children who are underweight or do not increase regularly in weight. A complete physical examination is given each child every three months.

The nursery staff carries on constant health teaching. The children are taught about life in the infirmary through stories, songs and rhymes. Through posters and conversations, they have learned why preventative injections are good for them and will help them to grow strong. Now, during physical examinations, many help the doctor by handing her tongue depressors and a flash light. When the time comes to be weighed, they undress and stand on the balance, anxiously asking whether they have grown. In the infirmary, they chat and joke gaily with the nurses.

The life in the infirmary is patterned as much as possible after the regular life of healthy kiddies. Sick children have their own sets of toys and playthings and a definite daily schedule. After recovery they greet the nurses when they see them, with smiles and happy calls.

Last winter, a little boy in one class caught measles. The first step taken was to isolate him immediately. Then all parents who were in the vicinity were called to give blood transfusions to their children if they had been exposed. Children whose parents were not available or suffered from poor

health received blood donated by the doctor and nurses. As a result, the epidemic was controlled within one class. Due to good care, the infected children developed no complications. Some even gained weight during their stay in the infirmary.

The children's diet is carefully planned and supervised by a trained nutritionist. Each child gets one egg, two dishes of mixed protein, a dish of rice or noodles, fruit, milk, biscuits and dessert, soup and five cups of water daily. The food is eaten in three well-balanced meals supplemented by two light snacks of milk and biscuits or nuts in the afternoon.

#### Educational Programme

The main emphasis in the nursery's education programme is on love. Children are taught to love their country and people. They learn folk songs and dances and hear stories about the builders



Each child has its own wash basin and all are taught to look after themselves.



The children are taught to love and respect labour. Every opportunity is taken to show them how the things which they use are produced. They see how the chairs they sit on are made by the nursery carpenter, how the food they eat started with plowing and planting by the farmers, how the milk they drink is prepared by the cook.

### Making Things Grow

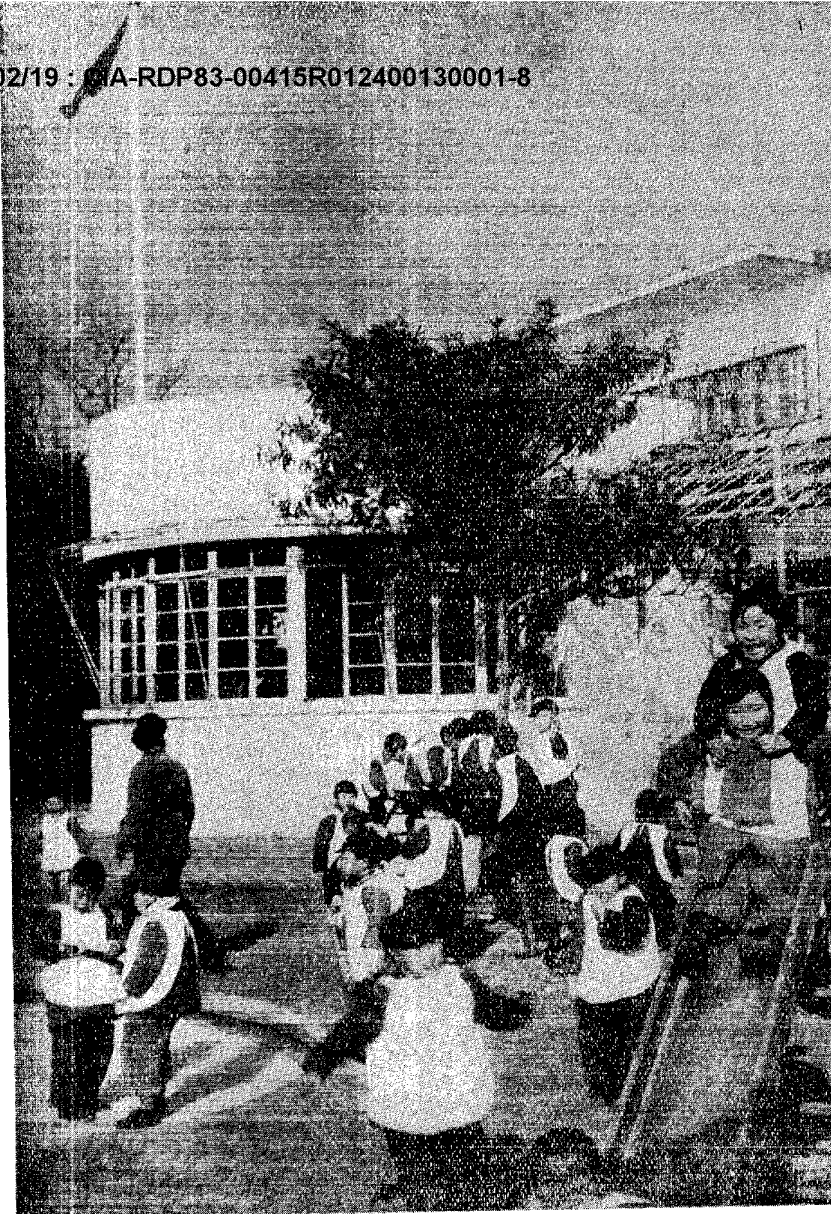
The older children also plant vegetables in their own garden. The first day that a class gets an allotment is filled with great excitement and happiness. The children divide into groups. One picks up stones and wheels them to the garbage pile. A second pulls up the weeds. A third, aided by the teachers, digs and hoes. The fourth group plants the seeds. The garden is watered every day. When the first eagerly awaited sprouts appear, the youngsters' faces are radiant with proud happiness.

When the vegetables are ready to eat, the children take them to the cook and ask that they be prepared for the next meal. Many children who previously disliked vegetables now eat their whole portion and ask for more. Children who have worked in the garden take the initiative in protecting all plants and flowers in the nursery.

In the children's own activities, self-reliance and mutual help are stressed very early. The 1½-year-olds are encouraged to feed themselves with only occasional help from the teachers. Older kiddies learn to undress and later to dress themselves. They take turns undoing each other's back buttons, making beds and cleaning the classrooms and playrooms. All put their chairs back in place after meals, learn to use their handkerchiefs, wash their hands before eating and to line up in good order when going from place to place. In this way, the youngsters quickly become independent. Group encouragement together with individual help where it is needed is the principle employed.

Love of nature is also developed in the children. They are taken on trips to nearby farms and vegetable gardens, to the

The youngest children are housed in a separate building, the playroom of which is shown in the background of this picture.



park, the zoo and the dairy. They learn the life cycle and functions, common plants, animals and insects. Older classes help to plant vegetables and to feed the nursery pets. When the children first saw the cows in the dairy, many were frightened of these huge animals. But after watching the milking and feeding, all of them were willing to stroke the calves.

### Public Spirit Taught

Love of the people's property is taught by emphasis on good care of toys, which are put back in their places after playtime and washed regularly in soap and water. The children are taught to take good care not only of the toys in their own class but also those of other classes and those shared by the whole nursery. Natural curiosity to see how things work is diverted from destructive into constructive chan-

nels. For example, young Lin-lin once gave the wall a taste of his wooden hammer. The teacher explained that all big boys keep their home in good condition and that hammers are used to make toys. After this, Lin-lin became a voluntary one-man guard for the walls of the playroom.

Finally, the children are inculcated with love and deep appreciation for their parents and the work they are doing for the country. Parents are urged to come and see their children once a week. If they have no time on Saturdays and Sundays, special arrangements are made. At the end of every month, the nursery provides transportation to the city where parents come and take their youngsters home for the week-end. In addition, parent's meetings are held every two months, at which time the Nursery



The nursery has many foreign visitors. These pictures show friends from England (left) and Pakistan (right) receiving a warm welcome.

staff reports on the health and progress of every one of their charges.

### The Children's Holiday

International delegates and friends of China often come to see the CWI Nursery. The youngsters crowd around their "Indian Aunties," "Soviet Uncles" or "English Uncles." They want to shake hands and be picked up. They also sing and dance for the guests.

When the Indian peace delegate, Dr. M. Atal, came to visit the nursery, he was greeted by young Cheng-wei who bowed to him and presented him with a bouquet of flowers almost as big as himself. The doctor bowed, picked a red carnation and gave it back to the little boy. Cheng-wei was surprised but soon recovered, with a beaming smile and a quick "thank you." The doctor then found himself surrounded by expectant eyes and outstretched hands. He left with only one flower as a memento of his visit. This peace delegate brought happiness to the youngsters, and their joy and love gave him new strength in his own struggle.

There are many celebrations, in the nursery, of which International Children's Day is the most important. Early in the morning, last June 1, little Chen-sen stuck his head out of his mosquito

net and yelled, "Big demonstration today." This was followed from all sides by: "I shall carry Chairman Mao's portrait." "I shall be the Spirit of Peace." "The teacher says today is like our birthday." "Teacher says we have to behave on our birthday."

After breakfast the older classes marched in a demonstration while the younger ones acted as spectators. All the children were dressed in bright colours, there was much noise from the waist-drum and yangko dance teams. Then followed the Spirit of Peace and the portraits of China's great leaders. The marchers sang and danced, shouted slogans and pinned flowers on the teachers' dresses. They had heard so much about people's parades since liberation that they were overjoyed to have one of their own.

The nursery staff prepared the children's favourite dishes for the noon meal. In the afternoon, there was a meeting. Tse-ke, six years old, was chairman. He said, "Today is our birthday. We are very happy. We will be good boys and girls. Let's tell Chairman Mao and Vice-Chairman Soong Ching Ling that we will grow up to be good people like them." This was followed by the presentation of flowers to teachers, cooks and nursery attendants as an expression of thanks for their work. Then each class gave

a performance, even the two-year-olds going up to the platform and singing "Little, Little Mouse." The final part of the celebration was a cartoon film.

### Staff Standards Are Raised

The responsibility of caring for the children is taken very seriously by the CWI Nursery staff. After an 8½ hour work-day, they devote a further hour to political and professional study. Two years of such study have produced most gratifying results. Staff members have been able to overcome most of their individualistic attitudes and developed a selfless revolutionary striving to better their work in every way.

Before the liberation, many nurseries had to disguise themselves as hospitals, orphanages or schools to get even an allotment of rice. Since liberation, the best houses have been allocated to them by the people's government, which gives them every attention and consideration. In Shanghai alone, the number of nurseries has increased several-fold. The China Welfare Institute is proud to be pioneering in this work.

It is proud to give their earliest training to children who are wanted, protected and respected in new China, who will grow up to love their people and help build a world of progress and peace.



A red ribbon joins the lower part of the flagstaff to an olive branch signifying peace and a large figure "1" in yellow. An inscription under the flag reads "Commemorating the First Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China." The value, a decorative leaf design and the words "October 1, 1949" and "1950" appear at the base. The inscription and base are differently coloured in each of the five stamps comprising the set, while the central design is the same.

Like all contemporary Chinese stamps, each commemorative bears the words 中國人民郵政 (Chinese People's Postage) below all other elements of the design, in close proximity to the denomination. The commemoratives also carry minute identifying numbers and symbols on the bottom margin, according to the following system: 紀 1.4-3 means "First Commemorative Set, consisting of four stamps, third stamp." All stamps are printed on unwatermarked paper and are not gummed.

It is interesting to note that, in sets Nos. 4 and 5, traditional Chinese decorative elements were introduced to frame the stamp designs. This tendency was to become stronger in subsequent issues.

Readers wishing to order any of the commemorative issues described above may do so by sending an International Money Order for the face value of the stamps, plus return postage, to:

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For the Northeast, 東北貼用 is added beside the flagpole. Values are NE¥1,000; 2,500; 5,000; 10,000 and 20,000.

**Our Contributors**

**SOONG CHING LING** (Mme. Sun Yat-sen) is Chairman of the recently-established Chinese People's National Committee in Defence of Children. She is concurrently Chairman of the People's Relief Administration of China and the China Welfare Institute. She was awarded the Stalin International Peace Prize for her valiant fight for peace and democracy throughout the world.

**LIN CHUNG** has just returned from a survey of Inner Mongolia which he made in pursuance of his duties as a member of the executive committee of the People's Relief Administration of China.

**CHU HSUEH-FAN** has been Minister of Posts and Telecommunications in the Central People's Government since its establishment in 1949.

**WU CHAO-NONG** has worked in tea production and trade for 30 years. He has visited tea plantations and factories in many countries, including India and Ceylon, and has written and translated many books dealing with the industry. He is now general manager of the China National Tea Corporation

**TZE KANG** (Peng Tze-kang) is a well-known newspaperwoman in China. She began her journalistic career at the outbreak of the Anti-Japanese War as a correspondent of the *Ta Kung Pao*, for which she continued to work until liberation. Now an editor of the *Progressive Daily News* in Tientsin, she is concurrently one of the literary editors of China's leading newspaper, the *People's Daily* of Peking

**WANG HSING**, one of China's outstanding young composers, is vice-director of the Tientsin People's Theatre. Previously a musical worker in the old liberated areas, he has written many popular songs. He attended the last session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Council as a representative of the All-China Federation of Literature and Arts.

**CHEN SHAN-MING** is the head of the China Welfare Institute Nursery and concurrently an Executive Committee member of the Shanghai Democratic Women's Federation. She is a graduate of Yenching University and the P.U.M.C. Nursing School in Peking. She holds an M.A. degree in Child Development from Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York and has had ten years experience in work with small children.

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# LI SHUN-TA, A PUBLIC FIGURE OF NEW CHINA

Not many years ago, Li Shun-ta was a poverty-stricken refugee. Today hundreds of millions of men, women and children in China know his name and admire his achievements. This simple, hardworking man has given an example to our entire peasantry of how to tread boldly forward to prosperity along the road opened by the liberation. His work methods and achievements have been publicized by the government the press and people's organizations.

Li Shun-ta's initiative in organizing mutual aid teams and introducing new methods of cultivation has brought higher productivity and a better life to his own village. In 1951, Li Shun-ta's mutual-aid team challenged teams all over the country to compete in raising agricultural output. Their response has already had a marked effect on Chinese agriculture as a whole.



LI SHUN-TA and his family, fleeing from famine in Honan province during the Anti-Japanese War, settled in a small village in the bare Shansi mountains.



HE WAS THE FIRST to respond when the Liberated Area Government called on the peasants to organize mutual-aid teams to increase production.



DURING THE ANTI-JAPANESE WAR, when there was a shortage of harvest labour, Li Shun-ta mobilized old men, women and children to help.



LI WAS NOT AFRAID to try a new variety of corn, "Golden Queen," introduced by the government. His once skeptical neighbours came to admire the resulting bumper crop.



WHEN THE GOVERNMENT urged the peasants to soak their seeds in warm water to combat disease, Li was the first to try. The good results again convinced his neighbours.



"IF THE MOTHER SEED IS STOUT, the offspring will be fat," says Li Shun-ta who is the first to introduce the practice of seed selection in his locality.



LI ALSO LED in investing in improved implements and propagandizing their merits far and wide.



UNDER LI SHUN-TA'S LEADERSHIP the village grew prosperous. "Our wild mountain has become a treasure mountain," the villagers said.



IN 1950 LI SHUN-TA WAS ELECTED model peasant of Shansi province and attended the National Conference of Labour Models in Peking where he was personally congratulated by Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

This picture story of Li Shun-ta is typical of the many presented in series of coloured posters at the great North China Trade Exhibition at Tientsin. Such posters have done much to educate peasants and workers in new methods of production and organization and to put an end to the old dependence on "fate." They are among the many ways by which the cultural level of the Chinese people is being raised.