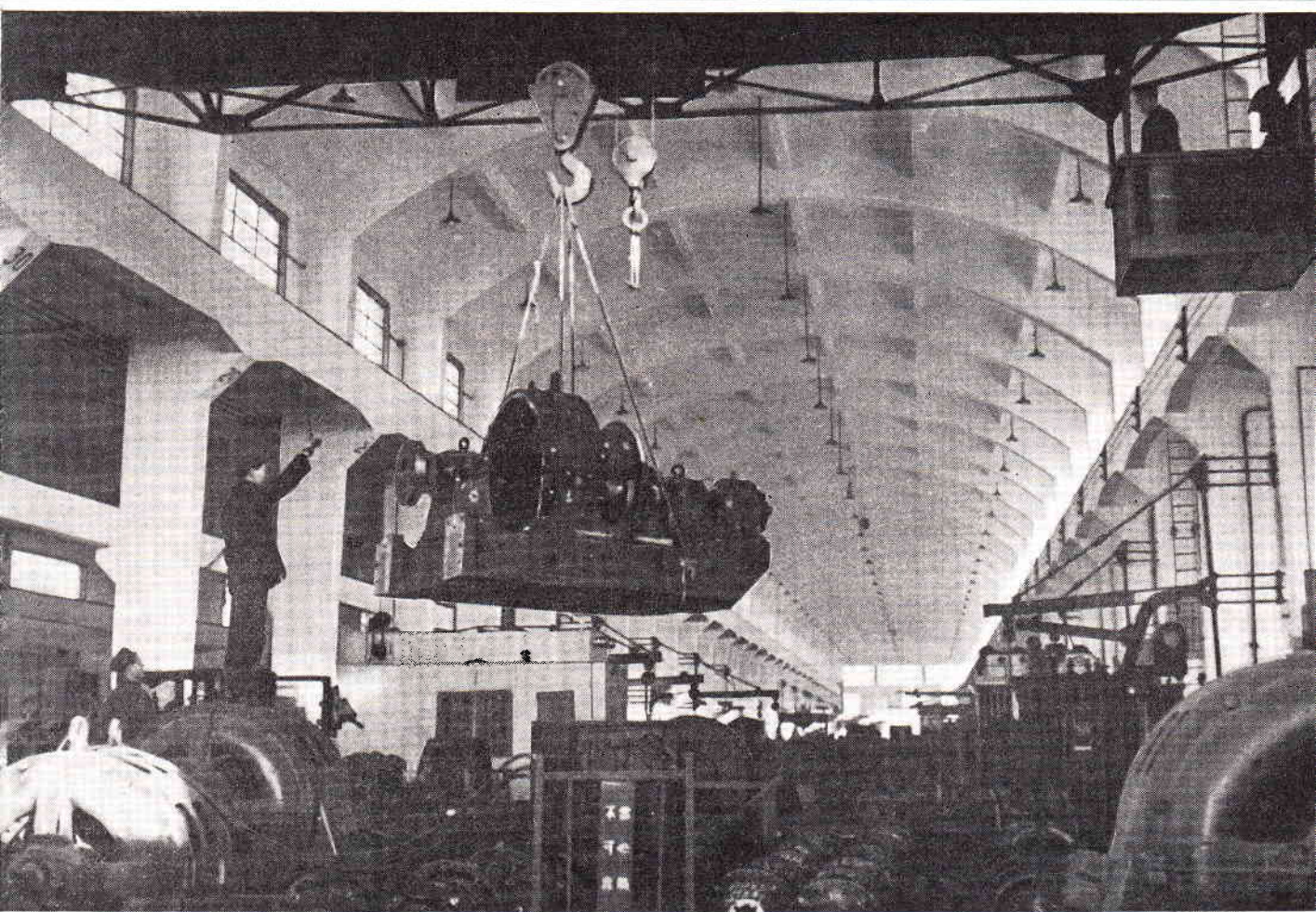


PEOPLE'S 人民中国 CHINA



SUPPLEMENT :

**A POLITICAL REPORT BY
CHOU EN-LAI**

**4
1953**

PEOPLE'S CHINA

A FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE

Editor: Liu Tsun-chi

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

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

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

No. 4, 1953

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A New Workshop of the Shanghai Electrical Machinery Works

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Planned Economy Begins

CHINA is now working under her first five-year plan—a plan for the people.

All government organisations and state-operated enterprises in industry, agriculture, trade, transport and in education and culture have drawn up detailed schedules for work and growth in 1953. Every plan, big and small, has been adopted only after thorough discussion by all those directly concerned. Each individual participates in planning and knows his place in the great effort to turn China into a rich, strong, industrialised country.

Among the preliminary goals of the first year of the five-year plan, as announced by Chou En-lai in his speech to the National Committee of the People's Political Consultative Conference, are the following increases of output as compared with 1952: for pig iron, 14 per cent; steel ingots, 23 per cent; electric power, 27 per cent; petroleum, 42 per cent; machine tools, 34 per cent; cotton cloth, 16 per cent and grain, 9 per cent. Investments in communications and transport will increase by 64.97 per cent, and state expenditures for social, cultural and educational purposes will grow by 55.86 per cent. These figures indicate the speed with which basic types of production will increase. They also assure a constant im-

provement in the situation of the working people.

In accordance with the huge demands of the draft plan which will be finalised by the coming People's Congress—men and materials are already on the move everywhere. The number of geological teams surveying the natural resources of China is ten times greater this year than last year. Thousands of specialists, technicians and skilled workers have been transferred from their present jobs to form a huge mobile army of builders. A technical training programme of gigantic proportions is under way.

By applying advanced Soviet techniques in construction, major plants are being built and commissioned well ahead of schedule. One, for example, which will be completed before the end of this year, is a rolling mill that will turn out as many steel rails annually as would be needed to build a new railway traversing the whole country from north to south.

"Fulfil the Plan!" is the slogan of the whole people. To accomplish his or her part in it is a matter of honour, a matter of concern to every citizen of this mighty nation of 475 million people marching united and confident to a happy and peaceful future.

Three Years of a Great Alliance

THE Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance was signed on February 14, 1950. On its third anniversary, against the background of world tensions created by the aggressive acts of American imperialism, its significance for peace stands out more clearly than ever.

The treaty consolidates the ties of friendship between two great peoples who together number 700 million, nearly a third of all mankind. Their alliance is the unbreakable core of the world camp of peace and democracy, a powerful deterrent to the warmongers.

The friendly co-operation between the two countries based on equality and mutual interest

promotes their rapid progress. The Soviet Union has extended credit to China on generous terms and is constantly providing her with the finest industrial machinery and equipment. The recent transfer to China without compensation of Soviet rights in the joint administration and property of the Chinese Changchun Railway is only the most recent of many acts of unexcelled and selfless friendship. With the help of Soviet specialists, Chinese workers are mastering the most advanced Soviet technical and scientific experience. There is a lively cultural exchange between the two peoples. These facts illustrate the new type of international relations that exist among states in the democratic camp—which stands for the

Chou En-lai's Political Report to the P.P.C.C.

At the fourth session of the First National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference which met in Peking on February 4, Chou En-lai, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, made a political report of paramount importance. Chou En-lai analysed both the general situation in China and the world and outlined the most pressing and important tasks facing the Chinese people. This report is printed in full as a supplement to this issue.

In his report Chou En-lai pointed out that for the Chinese people the first task this year is to further strengthen their struggle to resist U.S. aggression and to aid Korea, and at the same time to consolidate the national defence. If the new U.S. Government, he said, has no

intention of resuming the Panmunjom talks and continues and expands the Korean war, the peoples of Korea and China are fully prepared.

Referring to China's first five-year plan, Chou En-lai said that the central task of the Chinese people in 1953 is to fulfil and overfulfil the targets of the first year of the plan.

Speaking of the convocation of the People's Congress this year, Chou En-lai said that the nation is now ready for general elections on the basis of universal franchise. He recalled that during the last three years there were more than 13 million delegates of the people sitting in the people's representative conferences at all levels.

peaceful coexistence and friendly co-operation of all nations.

Relations of this kind stand in absolute contrast to the combinations between capitalist states, which drive the people to poverty and war. In the camp of imperialism, the United States Government is putting ever more brutal pressure on its satellites to bring them more firmly under its control. On the one hand, it undermines their economies by forcing them to take part in its "embargoes" and "blockades" against countries engaged in peaceful construc-

tion. On the other, it subjects them to intolerable burdens in connection with the arms drive and the carrying out of its aggressive plans.

What folly to believe that such rickety coalitions held together by gangster pacts can deflect from their chosen path the Chinese and Soviet peoples, tempered in struggles against foreign aggression of every kind, consistently victorious in all their undertakings, united by common devotion to the great cause of peace, democracy and Socialism!

Two Drawings by Ting Tsung

**How the U.S.
Embargo Works**

**The Shrinking
Capitalist Market**



New China's Home Trade

Yao Yi-lin

Vice-Minister of Commerce

THE rapid recovery and expansion of domestic trade has been a major factor in achieving the remarkable successes of rehabilitation and development in China's national economy during the past three years. Since this domestic trade is conducted under the direction of the state economy by state trading organisations, co-operatives and, of course, private merchants, they all share the credit for the present healthy state of the home market which is characterised by stable prices and the steady expansion of all enterprises.

Stable Prices

The necessary foundation for these developments was brought about by the ending of inflation, which, with its accompaniment of rising prices, market speculation, dislocation of the national economy and impoverishment of the people, held China in its grip for more than ten years prior to 1949. Immediately after its establishment, the People's Government took steps to check inflation, and prices were stabilised throughout the country by the spring of 1950.

The following table shows the over-all price situation from March, 1950 to June, 1952.

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX

March, 1950 (base period)	100.00
December, 1950	88.60
September, 1951	101.30
December, 1951	100.30
June, 1952	95.20

Under the New Democratic economic system, trade as a whole is not a state monopoly. A considerable proportion of wholesale trade and most of the retail trade is conducted

An abridged version of the article "The Adjustment and Development of China's Commerce Since 1949" published in the Peking *People's Daily*.

by private merchants. But by directly controlling certain key commodities such as grain, cotton yarn and coal, the state trading organisations have been able to play a decisive role in stabilising and regulating market prices. The price policy of the People's Government as implemented by the state trading organisations is principally concerned with adjusting the relation of prices of various commodities so as to encourage production and to protect the interests of the consumers and the legitimate interests of traders.

The price parity established between cotton and grain has resulted in raising the output of cotton in 1952 to thrice what it was in 1949. The textile industry in China has thus been freed from its former dependence on foreign cotton imports, and the cotton-growers' income has substantially increased. A similarly rational parity between tobacco and grain prices has helped to increase the tobacco crop in 1952 to nearly double what it was in 1950. China, formerly a tobacco importing country, now exports this crop. These results, of course, cannot be attributed solely to price policy, but this was a major factor along with the concerted co-operation of all government agencies concerned and the great productive efforts of the emancipated peasants.

The leading role of state trading organisations in setting prices on the home market through their direct control of certain daily necessities and through the implementation of administrative measures of the People's Government is of great importance to the consumers and the future of a planned economy in China.

Urban-Rural Trade Grows

Domestic trade has continued to expand steadily as production has increased in both urban and rural areas. Taking the total

volume of domestic trade in 1950 as 100, it was 130 in 1951 and a conservative estimate is 170 for 1952.

The following table shows the continuous and rapid increase in the amount of sales of some main commodities during the past three years:

Commodity	Total Sales	Total Sales	Estimated
	1950	1951	Sales
	(base period)		
			1952
Agricultural Products, by-products and handicrafts	100	138.66	148.61
Foodstuffs*	100	170.21	271.28
Cotton Yarn	100	131.90	171.43
Cotton Cloth*	100	167.27	245.76
Coal	100	115.80	141.86
Kerosene	100	108.90	262.67
Salt	100	142.35	152.89
Cigarettes	100	112.06	149.41

* The quantity supplied to markets throughout the country by the state.

The steady increase in the purchasing power of the peasants is the assurance of a huge and expanding market for urban industry. The foundation of this rise in the peasants' economic prosperity is, of course, the land reform and the introduction of modern methods of co-operative and scientific farming. But a considerable contribution to that prosperity has been the aid given by the People's Government to the peasants in fostering subsidiary occupations, raising the quality of their products, finding them new markets, facilitating quick transport, etc. Parallel measures have been taken to facilitate and expand the sale of industrial goods in the countryside by lowering production costs and prices and improving the range of goods specially made for the rural market.

One of such measures to expand urban-rural and inter-regional trade is the organisation of trade exhibitions and fairs. In 1951, business transactions at these exhibitions amounted to 10,000,000 million yuan. Held on an even bigger scale in 1952, they resulted in business transactions surpassing 9,600,000 million yuan in the first half of the year alone. At these exhibitions, government agencies connected with trade, credit, taxation, customs,

communications and transport have all closely co-operated to facilitate business transactions of both state and private enterprises.

Aid to Private Enterprises

The state operated (socialist) sector of the national economy leads the other sectors. This is an assurance that those private industrial and commercial enterprises which are beneficial to the national welfare and the people's livelihood have been developed and will continue to develop for a long time to come within the limits of the Common Programme of the People's Political Consultative Conference. At the present time, centralised purchasing and sales by government organisations extend to only a few commodities. But even these commodities may still be consigned to private merchants for home distribution or for export. Private merchants thus enjoy a very wide scope for their enterprises.

When prices were stabilised in the early part of 1950, private enterprises of a speculative nature, both industrial and commercial, had to close down or turn to other lines. But those of a useful character—the great majority—were able to find a healthy, steady market.

In May, 1950, the People's Government carried out further reorganisation of industry and commerce in accordance with the principles of developing production and establishing a well regulated, planned market. State trading organisations placed big orders and contracts for processing goods with private industrial enterprises and made large purchases of agricultural produce and products of rural subsidiary occupations. Urban-rural and inter-regional trade was energetically promoted. Following the first reorganisation in early 1950, these measures were of great assistance to private enterprises in further recovering from the effects of years of Kuomintang misrule.

During the second half of 1950, over 31,509 private enterprises applied for business licences, while 6,736 applied for closure in the cities of Shanghai, Tientsin, Peking, Wuhan, Canton, Chungking and Sian. At the end of 1951, private industrial and commercial enterprises in these seven cities numbered 20 per cent more than at the end of the previous year.

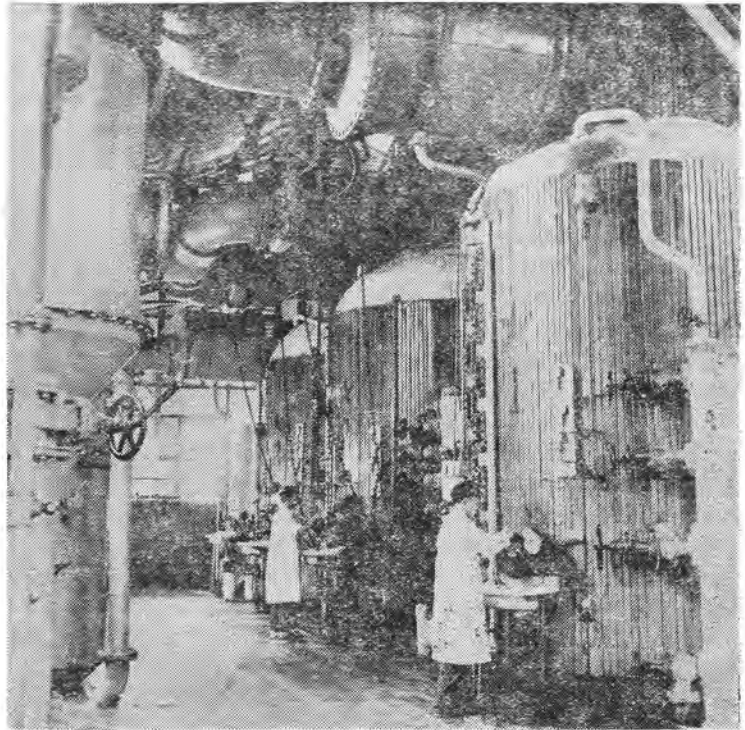
There was a 15 per cent increase in the number of private commercial enterprises. This healthy state of affairs was improved still further by the nation-wide campaign in 1952 to eliminate all forms of corruption, waste and bureaucratism.

It was towards the end of this movement that in June, 1952, at the Preparatory Conference of the All-China Federation of Industrial and Commercial Circles, Vice-Premier Chen Yun roughly defined the rate of a reasonable profit allowed for processing work and on government orders. Under normal conditions, he pointed out, the profit could range from 10 to 30 per cent, taking into account the existing conditions and the invested capital of the enterprise. This statement was received with satisfaction by private industrial and commercial circles.

When private factories and merchants accept orders for goods or processing from state trading organisations, they are guaranteed raw materials and a secure market for their products. They are assured of a legitimate profit. At the same time, the economic leadership of the state trading organisations is strengthened. From March to June, 1952, in Shanghai alone, such orders placed with private factories for processing goods or the purchase of manufactured goods showed an increase of more than 100 per cent over the same period in 1951. These orders constituted 80 per cent of the total business done by private factories during this period.

Increased Trade in Minority Regions

Special mention should be made of the development of trade in the regions inhabited by the national minorities which has helped to increase production there, improve the standards of living of the people and strengthen



Modern factories are providing Chinese housewives with better sugar. Our picture shows installations in a Kwang-tung, South China, sugar refinery

the unity of the big Chinese family of nations. State trading organisations have established more than 1,100 trading units in these areas.

These organisations have ended the irrational price relations which existed between local products and those from other areas. In Sining, Chinghai Province, before liberation, 100 catties of wool exchanged for only 25 feet of cotton cloth or 375 catties of millet, but by December, 1951, the same amount of wool fetched the equivalent of 303 feet of cloth or 1,312 catties of millet.

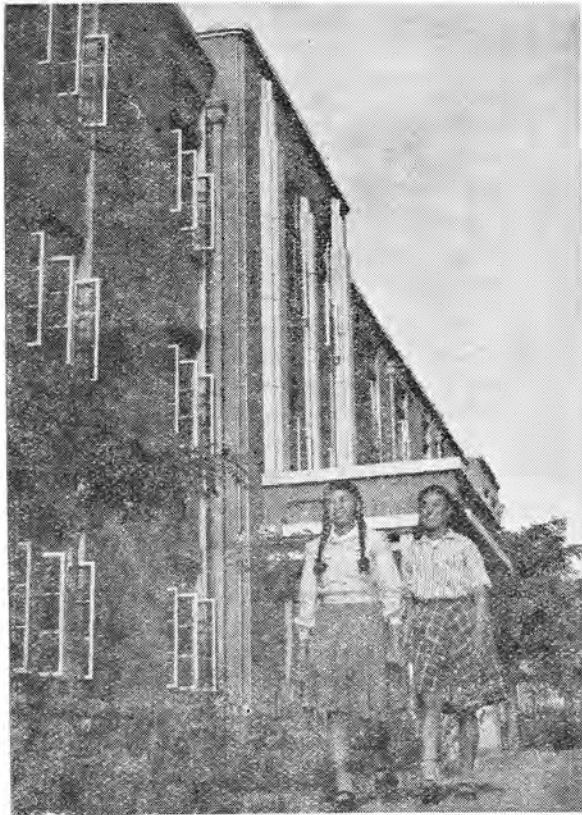
The stabilisation of prices, the extensive development of urban-rural and inter-regional trade and the adjustment of relations between public and private enterprises has developed a robust and expanding domestic market founded on the growing prosperity of the people. This has been one of the big factors in creating favourable conditions for large-scale economic construction in New China.

More Benefits for Workers

Jen Feng

THE Labour Insurance Regulations, which were introduced for the first time in China's history on March 1, 1951, were amended on New Year's Day, 1953, to cover many more categories of workers and to introduce an all-round increase in the existing scale of benefits.

Previously, the Regulations applied only to workers in public services such as railways, shipping, the post office and telecommunications, and to those in industrial enterprises, both state-owned and privately-owned, employing more than one hundred workers..



Girl workers of the Chingchow Textile Mill (Port Arthur and Dairen Area) outside their comfortable dormitory

The present revision extends benefits to workers engaged in the construction of new factories, mines and communications, and those employed by state-owned construction companies. The total of payments to be paid into the labour insurance funds by managements, both state and private, has been raised by one-fourth.

The new measure is another demonstration of the concern of the People's Government for the nation's industrial and office workers. It also testifies to the success of China's productive efforts during the last three years, which have provided the material basis on which the labour insurance system is now being extended.

Increased Benefits

Both in their original form and as now revised, the Labour Insurance Regulations provide for benefits in cases of maternity, disability, injury, illness, old age and death.

Workers and office employees injured in the course of their work have their medical expenses paid by the management while continuing to draw full wages. In cases of non-occupational injury or illness, they now get free medical service in addition to between 60 and 100 per cent of their wages for a period of six successive months (before revision, it was 50 to 100 per cent for three successive months). When the six months are up, they continue to receive sick benefits from the labour insurance funds, amounting to from 40 to 60 per cent of their regular wages, until the time they recover (as distinct from the previous rate of 30 to 50 per cent for a further three to six months and 20 to 30 per cent subsequently). The revised Regulations further require that sick workers and employees must be taken back at their place of employment after they have recovered.

Workers and employees who become disabled as a result of an accident whilst at work are entitled to a pension from the insurance

fund. This amounts to between 60 and 75 per cent of the wages they were receiving at the time of the accident in cases of full disability, and between 10 and 30 per cent in cases of partial disability (i.e., if they are able to continue to work). Workers totally disabled from non-occupational causes receive a life pension from the insurance fund equivalent to 40 to 50 per cent of their wages.

Retirement pensions, calculated on the basis of from 50 to 70 per cent of the person's wages (previously from 35 to 60 per cent) are also paid. Men may retire at the age of sixty after twenty-five years' service; women at the age of fifty at the end of twenty years' work. In both cases, they must have a record of five years' (previously ten years') employment at the enterprise from which they retire. If, on reaching the retirement age, they prefer to go on working, they are entitled to draw an old-age benefit of 10 to 20 per cent in addition to their current wages.

The retirement age is lowered by five years and length-of-service provisions are more liberal in the case of miners working underground, workers in hazardous industries like chemicals and munitions and workers whose occupations necessitate their working in abnormally high or low temperatures.

All women workers and employees are entitled to eight weeks' maternity leave with full pay. Under the revised Regulations, they may take an additional two weeks in cases of abnormal birth or of twins. All medical expenses connected with childbirth are borne by the management.

Funeral expenses for workers and employees whose deaths are attributable to causes connected with their work are paid wholly by the management, while their dependents are entitled to insurance fund subsidies of 25 to 50 per cent of the deceased's wages until they become financially independent. If death resulted from other causes, funeral expenses are met



Convalescing workers play a game of ball in the grounds of the Shanghai Workers' Sanatorium

by sums from the insurance fund while dependents receive subsidies up to a total of six months' to twelve months' wages of the deceased. Funeral expenses for a worker's dependents are also subsidised by the insurance fund.

In addition to the main individual benefits as listed above, workers and employees are entitled to admission to institutions financed by the labour insurance fund such as sanatoria, rest houses and homes for the disabled and the aged. The children of deceased workers and employees have the right to care in orphanages and homes set up by the trade unions. Half the medical expenses of dependents is paid for by the employing enterprise.

All Benefits Are Free

In contrast to the situation in capitalist countries where workers and employees generally pay part or all of the cost of whatever social and medical insurance may exist, all expenses in connection with China's labour insurance system are borne by the management of state enterprises or the owners of private enterprises. Not a single penny is deducted from any worker's wages for this purpose. During the past two years, state-owned enterprises alone have paid out over 2,000,000 million yuan in labour insurance expenses, an

amount equivalent to the annual wages of 330,000 ordinary factory workers.

All enterprises, whether state or privately-owned, pay into the labour insurance fund an amount equal to 3 per cent of their total payroll.

This is over and above the sums which the management is required to spend directly for medical expenses and wages of workers and employees who are laid up due to illness or injury, and of women workers on maternity leave.

Furthermore, while the management pays the whole cost of labour insurance, its administration is in the hands of the workers themselves, through their trade unions. Trade union branches in the enterprises have charge of 70 per cent of the funds which they disburse to retired and disabled workers and as pensions to the dependents of the deceased. The remaining 30 per cent is entrusted to the All-China Federation of Labour for the purpose of financing labour insurance institutions for the workers of the whole country. Throughout the trade union structure, from top to bottom, the trade union officials who handle this work are democratically elected. For this reason, the professional "relief racketeer" is unknown and inconceivable in the field of social insurance in China.

Another advantage of China's labour insurance system over those of capitalist countries is that all its funds are used solely and entirely for the benefit of the working people.

How Benefits Are Enjoyed

Up to November, 1952, more than 3,200,000 workers and employees enjoyed protection under the Labour Insurance Regulations. With their families, this brought the number of beneficiaries to some 10 million. In addition, in enterprises employing less than 100 persons and thus outside the scope of the Regulations, labour insurance schemes were frequently set up through consultations between labour and management. During the past two years, more than 400,000 dockers and carters and more than 700,000 workers in highway transport, co-operatives, farms and small enterprises have been included in such schemes. Under the

revised Regulations, the number of workers enjoying direct protection will grow very greatly.

China's trade unions had established 51 sanatoria, 35 rest homes, 14 homes for the aged and disabled, and 4 orphanages up to October, 1952. Thirty-five additional sanatoria and 8 rest homes will soon be completed in the country's famous health resorts where some 150,000 industrial and office workers have already spent their vacations.

There are 120 hospitals and nearly 1,800 clinics attached to individual factories and enterprises, besides which some 2,800 other hospitals and clinics are available, by special arrangement, for labour insurance patients.

Insurance System Expanding

The main feature of the labour insurance system is, of course, that it is designed by the working class for its own benefit in a society in which the working class leads. Providing for every contingency, it is, therefore, superior to the partial social insurance systems which were won by the struggles of the workers in some capitalist countries.

Moreover, China's labour insurance system is a living, expanding thing. The revision of January 1, 1953 is an instance of how, as soon as the economic condition of the country improves, the People's Government immediately takes the initiative to extend its benefits.

In short, it is only in a state led by the working class that a government can be sincerely and effectively interested in improving the conditions of the working class in every way.

The Labour Insurance Regulations, and their revision, prove once again that millions who used to be considered as nothing more than "cheap labour" have been relieved from age-old worries. In this, as in other things, the liberation of China has brought immediate improvements in the material and cultural conditions of the people, improvements that grow with each year and each month that pass. The result has been a new tide of vigour and enthusiasm in the great task of industrialising China and building a still happier and more prosperous life for all.

I Met Muslims in New China

Ibrahim Jalees

BEFORE I left for New China, some of my friends and relatives instructed me particularly to meet Chinese Muslims and find out in strictest confidence whether they were enjoying full religious freedom or not.

After entering Chinese territory, I looked keenly for Muslims, but I failed to distinguish Muslims from non-Muslims as Muslims in China do not dress any differently from their fellow countrymen. I made up my mind to get acquainted with a Chinese Muslim without any official introduction.

I was fortunate, in Peking, to get this opportunity. I met Malik Ahmad Hussain, a member of the Pakistan Embassy at Peking, who was also putting up at the Peking Hotel where I was lodged. He and his room-mate, Mr. Zahur, and I became good friends. I told them I wanted to meet Muslims, to see the mosques and find out how Chinese Muslims live under the new regime.

It was not a difficult task for them to comply with my request, as they had been in China for a year or two. They had a smattering of the Chinese language and were thus equipped to play the part of interpreters.

Malik Ahmad Hussain said, "Come on, let's start our campaign from a Chinese Muslim restaurant. There is a Muslim restaurant where we take our dinner every day as no pork is served there. Will you have your dinner there with us tonight?"

I accepted their invitation gladly, and before sunset I joined my new Pakistani friends. After strolling for a while down a busy shopping centre, Malik told me:

"Now Mr. Jalees, we are on what was known as Morrison Street. Look to your left. There's a mosque here."

A mosque! I looked, and true enough, there was a mosque standing there. My friends wanted to show me the mosque from the inside, but as it was getting late I suggested that we should come some other day and see it in broad daylight. Then Malik said:

"Well, then, let's meet a Chinese friend who is a Muslim."

At Mohammed Saeed's Shop

Just next to the mosque, there was a shop selling watches, cameras, ivory carvings and other goods. To my surprise, as soon as I entered the shop, I heard a voice "As Salam Alekum." I saw two men, one young and one old, dressed in the popular blue "Sun Yat-sen uniform," standing behind the counter. Malik introduced me to them as a visitor from Pakistan.

After the introduction, the old man took his leave of us to offer prayers. The young man, whose name was Mohammed Saeed, asked us to take a seat and offered me a cup of green tea. While sipping my tea, I asked him:

"Well, Mr. Saeed, I hear that Chinese Muslims are leading a wretched life under the new regime. In our country it is a much publicised story that the Communists have boycotted the Muslims in every walk of life. They have no social status, and what is more they are not even allowed to offer their prayers. How far is this true?"

To put him at his ease, I added: "I am also a Muslim, and you know that a Muslim cannot deceive another Muslim, whatever their nationality may be. This will be between you and me."

Mohammed Saeed's face lit up with a frank smile. He replied calmly:

"This formality is unnecessary. You, too, know that a Muslim can never speak anything

Ibrahim Jalees, well-known journalist, visited China with a Pakistani delegation.



At the entrance to the mosque on Peking's Wangfutsing (formerly Morrison) Street

but the truth, even on the gallows. I am afraid of nobody but God. I must say that your information about Chinese Muslims is absolutely incorrect. The fact is that, for the very first time in the history of China, we Muslims are free from a centuries-old slavery, racial hatred and social ostracism. Under the new regime, the first gift we received from Chairman Mao Tse-tung was social equality. In the days of the Kuomintang regime, we Muslims were despised like pigs. My father and I and our family were simply vendors who used to walk up and down the streets to sell our goods, and as we were Muslims, few people would buy our things.

"And now you can see for yourself that the new regime has opened up a new life for us. We are as much citizens of China as the non-Muslim Chinese. Now we are not just hawkers but established merchants. We are

free to offer our prayers. As you saw, my father just now left your company because the time for 'Namaze Magrib' had come. Moreover...."

Mohammed Saeed could not finish his sentence because a group of customers just then entered the shop. He apologised and turned towards them.

I gazed at the cheerful expression of Mohammed Saeed for a while. Truth seemed to shine through his frank smile. I had seen his prosperous life and his care-free, smiling face. And this was the very aspect of Chinese Muslim life which I had wanted to see confirmed with my own eyes.

Mr. Saeed tried to detain me for dinner, but as we had an engagement, I took my leave after "Salam Alekum" and a warm handshake.

A Muslim Restaurant

We walked over to Tung An Market, where a Muslim restaurant "Tung Lai Shun" was situated. My hosts, Malik and Zahur, informed me that in that restaurant, all the cooks, waiters and the proprietor and the majority of the customers were Muslims.

The dinner was delicious. The *yangjo* dish (mutton) was especially tasty. As I had been having food in the western style the last two weeks, I enjoyed the Chinese dishes the more as they were similar in taste to our Pakistani dishes. In my country, I had been told that pork was the staple food of China and all Chinese had to eat it. What malicious propaganda! The existence of Tung Lai Shun Restaurant itself is the best reply to that.

Mukden's Muslims

The second city I visited in China was more or less a Muslim city. It was Mukden (Shenyang—Ed. P. C.), the capital city of Manchuria (Northeast China), which is the homeland of about 40,000 Muslims. It is estimated that there are about 10 million Muslims in China.

The majority of those living in the Northeast are in Mukden.

At the platform of the Mukden Railway Station, our hosts of the Northeast had assembled to meet us. Among them were the head of the Department of Commerce of the Northeast People's Government, Mr. Wang Hsing-yang, and the chairman of the Department for Co-operatives, Mr. Ma She-fun. I have referred to their names particularly because they were both Muslims—not ordinary Muslims but men at the helm of affairs.

In the afternoon of the same day, accompanied by some famous writers from India, including Mr. K. A. Abbas, I went out to meet the Muslims of Mukden. As our car entered a "Muslim Muhalla," a huge crowd jammed the route. They were Muslims.

Fatima Shiyam

We got down from the car. Our new Muslim friends were clapping enthusiastically. The very first Muslim I met was a lady standing among half a dozen children. I asked her her name. She replied smilingly:

"My Islamic name is Fatima and my national name is Shiyam."

"But why these two names? Is not one name sufficient?" I asked her.

I don't know how well educated or how politically conscious the lady was. She seemed just an ordinary housewife. But anyway she replied:

"Well, we must have one national name also so that we can have close relations with our neighbours irrespective of religion, cast or creed."

Though Fatima was not a teacher at any school, nevertheless she taught me a lesson—a lesson on religion and patriotism. She took me to the homes of some of her friends. In each house, I noticed the inscription:

*La Ilaha, Mohommedder Rasoolillah
Haza Min Fazle Rabbi
Ya Ali. Ya Mohammed*

The same inscriptions that we have in our own homes, on the walls and on the mantle-pieces.

I went to see a magnificent mosque which is named Chingso Mosque (i.e. the Southern Mosque). In the mosque I met Imam-Hazrat Mohommed Younus. He informed me that there are eight big mosques in Mukden. I had no time to see the other seven, but I met Hazrat Abdul Hai of the Northern Mosque, Hazrat Mohommed Issa of the Eastern Mosque and others. These religious leaders were not only in charge of the religious activities of their areas but also held responsible posts in the administration of government. Hazrat Mohommed Issa and Hazrat Mohommed Younus were members of the municipal government of Mukden.

Hazrat Mohommed Younus told me that the new government had exempted all mosques and religious schools from taxes. The primary religious schools for Muslims, run by the Southern Mosque, was given a grant of 6 million people's dollars per month by the Northeast People's Government. In the primary school, I met some students and teachers. The media of instruction are Arabic and Chinese. The school has thirty teachers and six hundred students.

Nanking's Beautiful Mosque

I met Muslims also in Nanking and Shanghai. In Nanking, I visited the beautiful big mosque which is reputed to be the first mosque to be built in the Far East. It is a magnificent and ancient mosque which had lain deserted for centuries and reopened only after the liberation. Five times daily about five hundred Muslims gather there for their prayers.

About 120,000 Muslims live in Shanghai. There are fourteen big mosques and three Islamic high schools. I visited all these including the biggest mosque which is situated at No. 70 Chikiang Road.

* * *

Now back in my country, whenever I hear or read the lying propaganda that there are no mosques or Muslims in China, the Peking mosque appears before my mind's eye with the smiling figure of my Chinese Muslim friend Mohommed Saeed greeting me with "As Salam Alekum" in a friendly voice.

China's Response to The Vienna Congress

The decisions of the Vienna Congress of the Peoples for Peace have received the warmest support of the Chinese people. They have been greeted as a great encouragement in the struggle against American imperialist aggression and to aid Korea and in the demand for an immediate end to the war in Korea. The call of the Congress for the conclusion of a Pact of Peace between the Five Great Powers is universally acclaimed.

This support was emphasised on the return of the Chinese Delegation from Vienna when the China Peace Committee, at an enlarged meeting of its Standing Committee with representatives of various people's organisations on January 26, unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that the decisions of the Congress "conform completely to the will and desire of the Chinese people and of the peace-loving people of the world. They constitute a programme of action for easing the present international tension. We resolutely support and endorse them with the greatest enthusiasm."*

Madame Soong Ching Ling, leader of the delegation, noted in her report to the meeting that "the Vienna Congress brought together more closely than ever before the peace-loving people of the whole world and inspired yet greater alarm among the warmongers."

On January 25, Kuo Mo-jo, the deputy-leader of the delegation, in an interview with the Hsinhua News Agency stated that in bringing the decisions of the Vienna Congress to the people, the delegation wants to show how the resolutions of the Congress now serve as a common programme for the whole world in the fight for safeguarding peace. In putting them into practice, he continued, the Chinese people must combine the peace movement with efforts

to fulfil the three main tasks of national construction in 1953—to intensify the movement to resist American aggression and aid Korea, ensure the carrying out of construction plans, prepare for nation-wide elections and enactment of the constitution. "The accomplishment of these three main tasks will in itself constitute a strong guarantee for peace in Asia and the rest of the world," he concluded.

Fulfilling these resolutions to mobilise yet greater support for the work of peace, members of the delegation have already undertaken a heavy schedule of meetings. The press and radio have fully reported on the work of the Congress and many rallies have already been held in factories and villages. Delegates are touring their home areas and reporting at mass meetings and in broadcasts. The Peking branch of the China Peace Committee has held a delegate meeting in support of the Vienna resolutions. Wu Yao-tsung, executive secretary of the literature division of the Chinese Y.M.C.A. who was a delegate to the Congress, writing in the newspaper *Ta Kung Pao*, especially noted the growing number of persons representing various religious denominations participating in the peace movement. He called on all Chinese Christians to do their utmost to carry out the resolutions of the Congress.

Chu Pu-chuan, model worker of the North China Agricultural Machine Works, who fulfilled his 1952 plan in 9 months and 26 days, told reporters: "I am going to raise my productivity still more. That is how I shall support the great resolutions of the Peace Congress. I want to see everybody in the world enjoy a peaceful and happy life!" That, in simple words, is the response of the whole Chinese people to the world's heartfelt cry for peace and the end of wars.

Y. Y.

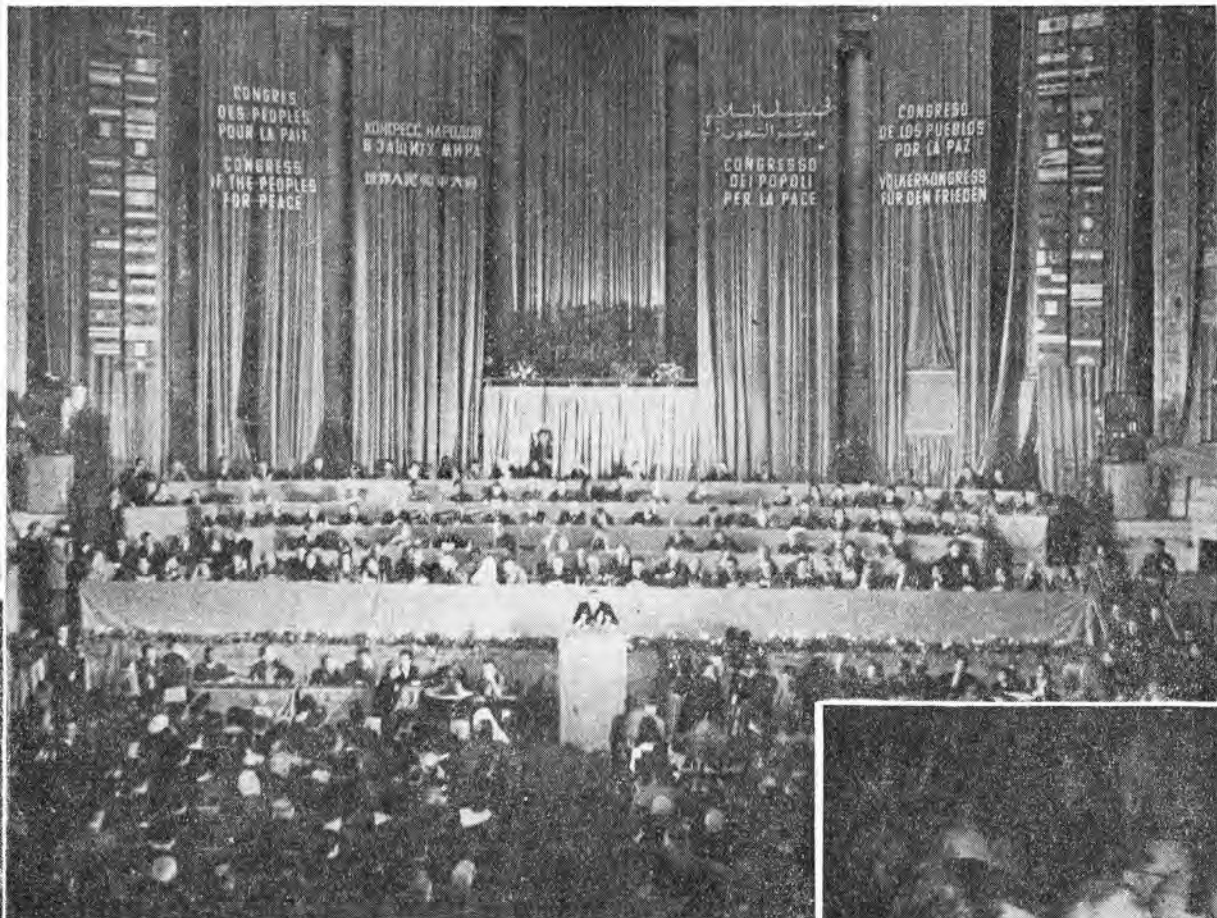
* See the supplement to this issue.



Soong Ching Ling delivers her speech "People Will Turn the Tide" on the second day of the Congress

At the Congress Of the Peoples For Peace

A Chinese Delegation of 59 members, headed by Soong Ching Ling, and representing the democratic parties, nationalities, people's organisations, religious groups and outstanding public figures of the country attended the Congress of the Peoples for Peace held in Vienna from December 12 to 19



A general view of the Congress in session in Vienna's famous Concert Hall



A group of Chinese delegates discuss the "Address to the Governments of the Five Great Powers for a Peace Pact"



Members of one of the more than 100 geological teams which are now engaged in survey work in many parts of the country collecting information needed for China's first five-year plan

Deep underground in a mining area a group of students trace the direction of geological strata



Surveying the route for a new
range in N



Surveying Ch



Young chemists analyse specimens
geolog

railway line across the Chingling
northwest China



Two members of a survey team admiring just what they set out to discover—a rich find of iron ore

China's Resources

Students learning their job by practical survey work



Students in the base laboratory of their survey team



Kuo Mo-jo, deputy-leader of the Chinese Delegation to the Vienna Congress of the Peoples for Peace, tells workers of the First State Ball-bearing Plant in Moscow about the Chinese people's support of the world peace movement



At a Leningrad home for orphans of the Second World War delegate Chen Shu-tung receives a gift of books from the Young Pioneers

China's Peace Delegates in The U.S.S.R.

On their return from the Vienna Peace Congress, the Chinese Delegation visited the U.S.S.R. where they were warmly received by the Soviet people

Mei Lan-fang, China's noted actor, at a meeting with representatives of the arts in Moscow



China Explores Her Resources

Kao Shih-shan

THE founding of the People's Republic and the recent launching of large-scale economic construction has opened up vast perspectives for geological work in China. It will be many years before China's full potential in natural resources is known, but already new riches are being discovered daily. The existence of many of these was not even suspected in the past.

Former Estimates Too Low

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (11th edition) estimates that China has enough coal in Shansi Province alone to "last the world at the present rate of consumption for several thousand years." It speaks of rich resources in iron ore, copper, tin, antimony, quicksilver, gold. The antimony mines of Hunan Province are world famous and before 1937 produced over 70 per cent of the world's total output of antimony. At this time, too, China produced approximately 60 per cent of the world's output of tungsten.

But such descriptions cannot represent the true picture of China's richness in natural resources. Reviewing the work of geological survey in New China during the last three years, Li Sze-kuang, Minister of Geology, who is himself a well-known geologist, recently stated that "all former estimates of China's resources in coal, iron and a number of non-ferrous metals have been proved to be too low."

The new finds are reported from many areas. The coal reserves in Northeast China alone have in fact been proved to be ten times greater than the previously accepted estimate. One of the big coal mines in North China has now been shown to have six times more coal than was formerly calculated. A large coal field has been discovered in the coal-mining area of Kiangsi Province that will have great

importance for industry in Central-South China. Rich coal deposits have been discovered in the area of the Wei River, a tributary of the Yellow River in Shensi Province. They will provide abundant fuel for Northwest China's growing industry.

Huge Ore Deposits

One of the big iron ore mines of North China is now known to have a reserve ten times greater than had been supposed. The thickest portion of the ore body is several hundred metres in depth. Part of it can be worked by the open-cut method. Extensive new data has been gathered about the iron ore and magnesium deposits in the Northeast, China's greatest steel centre. Surveys have shown not only great hidden potentialities in the old iron ore fields but revealed new deposits. The metal content of these new deposits is high and they are conveniently concentrated.

For their own purposes, certain imperialist oil interests assiduously spread the story that China lacked petroleum. Now, it is known that this story has no foundation whatsoever. Three years of careful geological survey has disclosed numerous oil-bearing regions.

Exact geological knowledge of China's resources is one of the most important prerequisites of the planned national construction which begins this year. The planners of heavy industrial development need to know what are the available resources in coal, iron, petroleum, copper, lead, zinc, tin, and other minerals. Geologists must survey and choose the best routes for railways, and highways and bridges, sites for ports, plants, dams and hydroelectric power stations. Conscious of the great responsibilities that now rest on their shoulders, the geologists have taken up their work with the utmost enthusiasm and devotion, placing them-



Two members of the March 8th Survey Team formed entirely of women in Harbin, Northeast China, last year

selves unreservedly at the service of the people. Their work goes on the year round.

Rapid Expansion

The scale of work is steadily increasing. The funds appropriated this year for geological surveys and prospecting are much bigger than those in 1952. In the Northwest, for example, appropriations are nearly seven times greater than last year. Allocations of the Northwest Petroleum Administration for oil prospecting are double what they were in 1952.

In 1950, twenty-nine geological survey teams were at work. In 1951, eighty-three geological and palaeontological parties were sent out. In 1952, eighty-seven teams conducted surveys. A great many are at work in the Northwest prospecting for petroleum, coal, limestone, ferrous and non-ferrous metals. More extensive researches were continued in the Lungyen iron ore area. At Anshan, the total depth drilled reached twice the amount the Japanese occupationists did in more than twenty years. In 1953, general survey work will be expanded still more.

The Ministry of Geology was established last September to direct all these activities

and immediately took charge of survey work throughout the country as well as the direction of the work of all geologists and geologic workers including hundreds who had taken up other work and now wished to resume their profession. This has prepared the ground for a great intensification of activity.

The work to be done this year throughout the country is from ten to twenty-three times greater in various branches than that of last year. There will be ten times more drilling operations than in 1952, twenty-three times more trenching and twenty times more underground exploration, while the area to be geologically surveyed will increase tenfold. Next year, the work will be on an even bigger scale, and it will increase still more in 1955. The overwhelming majority of geologists will join in field work. This year special attention will be paid to the needs of heavy industry, particularly the iron and steel industry, non-ferrous metallurgy and fuel.

Importance of Geological Work

Geological work has become one of the most important branches of activity in the economic construction of the country.

The Institutes of Geology and Palaeontology, though continuing to form part of the Academia Sinica, have for the present been placed under the direction of the Ministry of Geology so as to facilitate their full co-operation. These institutes have turned their attention towards a close association of theory with practice. One of their prime tasks is to help the field teams solve difficult practical problems and sum up and analyse their findings. A national conference has been held in Peking to plan geological activities, and many fruitful discussions on various aspects of the work have taken place. Considerable work has been done in classifying geological information. Geological libraries and exhibitions are being organised. Ten teams of students led by experienced instructors have already brought back 120,000 specimens for the Peking Geological College. All records of excavation work are being centralised.

The geologists have also done a considerable amount of work in popularising their science among the people. Wherever the survey teams go, they first gather the local people and especially the miners together and teach them some of the elementary principles of recognising rocks and strata. Many useful deposits, scientific specimens and fossils have been discovered by such amateur prospectors. Many mines in Jehol Province were revealed by the local people who had kept their knowledge hidden from the colonialists and exploiters in the past. Five shepherds in the mountains of Kirin Province recently discovered a rich deposit of antimony in that area.

Training Personnel

Thousands of new personnel are being trained to meet the demands placed on geologists by the large-scale construction that is now being launched in China. Two new colleges of geology have been established. Hundreds of geologists have already been

trained in the past two years in schools attached to geological survey teams or the geological departments of various universities. They have also been getting swift and efficient training in practical work with the survey teams or with drilling crews in the field. Short-term training classes in drilling, chemical analysis, surveying and cartography have been established in various parts of the country.

Before liberation, geology was considered an unimportant subject in the colleges. Few students entered this profession. Those few who did mostly found only unemployment waiting for them in their own field and drifted away to other professions. Now, geologists are in urgent demand. Despite the great amount of geological work already done, "in New China," says Minister Li Sze-kuang, "geological achievements still lag behind the needs of China's industrialisation plans." The present slogan is: "We want many times the number of geologists now available to discover the riches of China for the people!"

The Writers Go To the People

Yao Hua

In his talks at the Yen-an Round Table Discussion on Literature and Art in May, 1942, Chairman Mao Tse-tung advised the writers and artists to go to the people, to the workers, peasants and people's fighters, to throw themselves wholeheartedly into the revolutionary struggle, to study Marxism-Leninism, to make their art a veritable art of the people. The writers of China have followed this direction. Each of the 177 books in the People's Literature Library series published in 1949 is a work created under the guidance of the principles enunciated at the Yen-an talks. They include Ting Ling's *The Sun Shines on the Sangkang River*, Chou Li-po's *Hurricane* and Ho Ching-

chih's *The White-Haired Girl*, three works honoured by Stalin Prizes, which vividly depict the life of the peasants in the liberated areas.

These writers and their colleagues had gone and fought alongside the peasants in their struggles for liberation, for the land reform. . . . They fought and worked in the people's army. It was out of these rich experiences that they created their best works.

Inspiration From Life

Experience has shown abundantly that it is the real life of the people fully and intensely lived that is the source of our finest literature.

As Chao Shu-li, author of the *Rhymes of Li Yu-tsai* and the *Changes in Li Village*, said, the characters in his works are his neighbours and the scenes he describes are the places where he lived; the events are what he experienced himself "stained with the blood of many of my old comrades." The life of the people is the inspiration for his creative work, and it is this that gives his writings the qualities that so impress his readers.

Many other writers in the liberated areas went to the countryside. But it was not just "to collect materials" in the ordinary sense. They worked as clerks or assistants to the county or district governments or in similar capacities. Being mostly city intellectuals of the old society, they found it difficult at first to establish close contact with the village folk. But with the help of the Communist activists in the villages, they were finally able to create a warm understanding with the peasants and thus developed the insight and knowledge to create excellent new works about the revolutionary changes in China's countryside.

Learning From Working

The well-known novelist, Ting Ling, twice took part in the land reform. The first time she went solely with the purpose of writing. While others did the organisational work, she concentrated, as she thought, on "observing." She talked only with the people who interested her, trying to understand their character and outlook. Her friendship with the peasants was therefore not profound. She could not fully comprehend the ideological changes which the peasants underwent during this great movement. The second time, however, she threw herself wholeheartedly into mass work. Now she talked to the peasants in order to understand the situation in the village and help them to get their problems solved. As a result, she soon became a warm friend and comrade-in-arms of the peasants throughout the district. Thus it was that she created her vivid novel about land reform, *The Sun Shines on the Sangkang River*, which was published in 1947.

The experiences of writers who have gone to work in factories or who have taken part in the life of the army also show that the writer

must establish a living contact with the workers, peasants and soldiers and become their intimate friend before he can hope to become an "engineer of the human soul." This is the path of realism that modern Chinese literature and art follow.

Because of the initial shortage of qualified personnel at the time of the founding of the People's Republic, many of the writers were called upon to work in government undertakings or to do organisational work, particularly in the preliminary development of their own greatly expanded federations of writers and artists. Ting Ling, for instance, took up the editorship of *Wen I Pao* (Literary Gazette); Ho Ching-chih joined the Department of Creative Writing of the Central Drama Academy. Over busy with routine work, such writers found themselves somewhat divorced from the people's everyday life which was changing rapidly from day to day. This situation could not but adversely influence the state of creative writing for a time, but now a change for the better has taken place.

By 1952 many more young cadres were becoming available to do organisational and administrative work. The creative writers were able once again to take up their pens, their minds enriched by new experience, by deeper political study.

Where the Writers Are Now

What are the writers of New China doing now?

Today, wherever the creative work of the people is going on, there the writers will be found. In March 1952, with the co-operation of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles organised the first group of writers to go to Korea, to the factories and rural districts.

Chao Shu-li, who was editing the literary monthly *Ballad and Song* in Peking, is now in Shansi Province, where a big campaign is under way to build up the rural producers' cooperatives.

Chou Li-po was for a time editor of *People's Literature* and headed the Chinese

delegation which visited the Mongolian People's Republic. He began a novel after he worked for a period in the Party branch of an iron and steel plant and he has now returned there to complete his work.

A great number of writers including Liu Pai-yu, author of *Flames Ahead* and *Three Fighters*; Yang Shuo, the well-known short-story writer, and Wei Wei, who wrote the famous reportage about the Chinese people's volunteers—*Who Are the Most Beloved Ones?* have been in the heroic forces of the Chinese people's volunteers. Some of them have been in fighting Korea for nearly two years and they have already produced new works that have won wide popularity.



A sketch of a Chinese people's volunteer made on the Korean front by Ku Yuan

Pa Chin, who also went to Korea, is noted for his novels. They enjoyed a big sale in the past and exerted a very great influence on Chinese youth, especially his trilogy *The Family, Spring* and *Autumn*. After liberation, he found himself lacking in the experience of the new life. His pen lacked vigour in a heroic age. In Korea among the volunteers, he received the most moving impression of the new people of China, their heroism, their steadfastness, an impression that changed his whole outlook, as is clear from his reportage published in the Chinese press.

The writer Yang Shuo recently completed the novel *Three Thousand Li Through Korea*, a story showing how the volunteer railway service detachments aiding Korea fulfilled their tasks. Yang Shuo says that when he first went among the masses of the workers, peasants and soldiers, he found himself a stranger among them. It was only after he realised their true nobility, only after the gradual remoulding of his own outlook on life under the influence of the Party's education and the impact of hard facts, that he naturally came to love them. As he himself writes: "...I really love the people and I wish to remain with them for all my life!"

For any writer, the extent to which he loves the masses of workers, peasants and people's fighters represents the extent to which he has reformed himself ideologically, and also the extent to which his work is educative. It is this that Pa Chin and Yang Shuo have come to understand.

In mid-November, 1952, the All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles organised the second group of writers, several scores of them, for work among the masses. They gathered from many parts of the country in Peking for a month's study and to work out their plans for several months or years, depending on the need.

Ai Ching, the poet, prepared to go to the villages of east Chekiang. Li Chi, author of the story in verse *Wang Kuei and Li Hsiang-Hsiang*, planned to go to the Yumen oil fields, while Lu Mei, one of the authors of the play *The Red Flag*, set out for Anshan, centre of China's steel industry. They received every assistance from the People's Government, the Party and the All-China Federation of Labour. On reaching their destinations, they will work in county or district Party committees, in the local trade union organisations or as cultural or political instructors in army units.

They have gone out into the thick of the struggle of the people for national defence, for more production, for national construction, for peace, for life—writers of the people.

New Houses for Old

Chen Yu

THE greatest housing operation ever undertaken in the city's history was carried out at the end of last year when working-class families comprising 170,000 people were rehoused in Tientsin, North China's largest industrial and commercial centre, with a population of nearly two million.

There was city-wide interest and rejoicing at this "great removal," for it marked completion of the first stage of the municipal government's plan to rehouse all those of its citizens who had for long years been compelled to put up with living in miserable shacks and huts, overcrowded tenements and doss-houses.

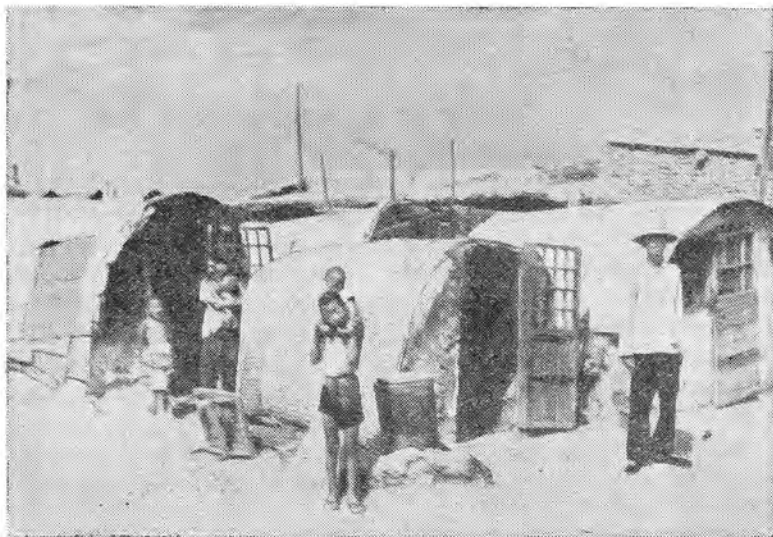
Tientsin had for ninety years been one of the notorious "treaty ports" in which the foreign imperialists and Chinese reactionaries piled up fabulous profits and cared nothing for the welfare of the factory workers and labouring people. Proper water supply and sanitary services were only to be found in those parts of the city inhabited by foreigners and wealthy Chinese. Outside these areas sprawled slums of crowded tenements, and beyond them mud or straw huts beside stagnant ditches and

latrines. It was not unusual for a family of up to a dozen or more comprising three generations to live in a room no bigger than seven by eight feet—"pigeon-coops"—as their unfortunate occupants called them.

Hu Shing-tan, a printer now comfortably installed in one of the new municipal dwellings, explained to me with more than a touch of feeling in his voice, "I've a family of three. One room served as bedroom, livingroom, bathroom and kitchen! You didn't have to walk much in my home." But there were many even less fortunate—those compelled to stay in overcrowded, insanitary rooming houses the rent for which often amounted to as much as half their wages. Others, unable to find any kind of accommodation near their place of work, had to live ten or more kilometres away, involving three or four hours of daily travel to and from work.

Following the liberation of Tientsin in January, 1949, the first concern of the new people's municipality was to rehabilitate and reorganise the city's industrial and commercial life to serve the needs of the people instead of the graft and profit-hungry foreign and Kuomintang rulers. Production and trade increased steadily and swiftly. The emancipated workers recognised that they were now working in their own and their country's interests, and their enthusiasm in production soared. Tientsin won fame as the city where the first all-Chinese motor vehicles, Diesel engines, automatic lathes and electric trolley buses were produced.

Side by side with these developments came a steady transformation in the workers' living conditions. Real wages went up, previously undreamed of social services were introduced—like the Labour Insurance Regulations' free me-



These miserable shacks are typical of those in which tens of thousands of Tientsin workers used to live before the liberation

dical service, holidays with pay, and insurance benefits. As soon as it was possible, factory managements provided more housing for their workers while others carried out long overdue house repairs.

At the beginning of 1952, the municipal people's government announced its intention to tackle the immense task of rehousing the people on a city-wide scale. A special building commission was set up which included representatives of the trade unions. The commission canvassed the opinions of the people, especially housewives, as a guide to the architects. In all, ten different blue prints were submitted for final consideration.

The municipal people's government itself built houses for workers of state-owned enterprises, while the owners of private factories were provided with loans on generous terms from the municipality to build houses for their employees.

Actual construction work began in April. By September, what had formerly been open fields and wasteland on the city's outskirts were now occupied by seven large housing estates where the finishing touches were being put on block after block of roomy, single-storeyed houses. These seven new "Workers' Villages" cover an area of 3.76 square kilometres or roughly one-thirteenth of the total built-up area of the city.

Building workers on the job took an immense and special pride in their work right from the moment of the laying of the first foundations. They knew that, for the first time in their lives, they were building houses which they themselves, as well as their comrades in the factories, would occupy. Advanced methods of brick-laying and carpentry were introduced. In a spirit of friendly competition, construction teams and shifts challenged each other to economise time and building materials and raise the standards of finish and durability.

On Sundays large numbers of volunteers—workers from various factories and their



Pang Chang-ho and his wife have cycled to see how the building of their new home in Tientsin's No. 1 Municipal Workers' Village is coming on

families—came down to the building sites to lend a hand. They wanted to speed the day when they could finally turn their backs on their old "pigeon-coops." The men would help to level the ground, shift building materials and do other useful jobs. The womenfolk did mending and washing for the building workers who were temporarily living on the site. The children, too, enjoyed themselves doing easy odd jobs, sweeping wood shavings, cleaning finished windows, making and carrying tea to all and sundry.

Each housing estate has water and electricity laid on and proper drainage systems. Each has its own co-operative store, vegetable market, post office and bank. Regular trolley and bus services make contact with the city convenient and cheap. The current year will see the completion of clinics, kindergartens, libraries, cultural centres and sports grounds. The municipality is laying down tree-lined roads. All the houses face south to get the maximum light and warmth. The main room is ten by eighteen feet, and a kitchen is shared by two families. Rooms are distributed according to families: a big family occupies two or three rooms, a small family one room.

Bearing in mind the ghastly housing conditions of old Tientsin, the new housing estates

represent an enormous step forward, a serious commencement in wiping out one of the worst heritages of the past. Later on, a higher standard of housing will be introduced. The new buildings are an emergency measure. They are intended to last only for a period of seven years.

When the workers moved into their new homes, it was a real "red-letter" day in their lives, celebrated with songs and dances and the traditional firecrackers.

When his last piece of furniture was moved into his new home, Sun Lian-fa, a cook employed at No. 1 Cotton Textile Mill, told me, "Now I can begin to pull myself out of debt." Married earlier in the year but unable to find a home, he and his bride had been living in a rooming house where the rent was so high that he had had to borrow to make ends meet. Now, like the other tenants, his rent, including water

and electricity, will amount to no more than 4 per cent of his monthly wages.

When Liu Huai-te, a worker at a bicycle factory, moved his big family from an old one-room shack no bigger than nine by ten feet into his new home of three rooms and a kitchenette in the "Village," his seventy-year-old mother, who lives with them, was overjoyed. She paced the rooms to and fro, first touching the spotless white walls, then the newly painted windows and doors. Finally, holding back her tears with difficulty, she said, "Huai-te, we couldn't possibly ask for anything better..." Her son gently cut her short, saying, "No, Mother, times have changed. From now on everything will get better and better. This is just the beginning. These houses are really only makeshifts. In a few years' time, we'll have a bigger and much better house than this. More wonderful things than this are yet to happen in China."

Northwest China's Automatic Cotton Mill

Wang Tseng-jen

CHINA'S Northwest is famous for its long fibre cotton that can be spun into 32-40 count yarn. Formerly, three-fourths of this crop was sent to Shanghai or Tientsin mills, and when it came back to the Northwest as cloth, it was too expensive for the peasants to buy.

Now, three and a half years after liberation, that has all been changed. A great modern factory, the No. 1 Northwest State Cotton Mill, has been built at Hsienyang, not far from Sian, capital of Shensi Province, on the broad and fertile plain watered by the Wei River. Here, the fields in autumn are white with cotton as far as the eye can see. The Kuanchung District, where the mill is located, is one of the most famous cotton-producing centres in the whole of China. Situated on the Lunghai Railway, which has been extended northwest to Tien-shui

and Lanchow and is now being carried up to Sinkiang Province, it has excellent transport facilities.

In accordance with its decisions on the more rational distribution of industry, the People's Government began the construction of the mill in June, 1951. It was planned, built and commissioned in eleven months and started production in May, 1952. Its annual output of cloth is already enough to make one suit each for seven million persons. The mill increases the output of the Northwest textile industry, both state and private, by 50 per cent.

This mill is equipped throughout with up-to-date machinery made in China. Reeling frames and combers are of the latest automatic type. They stop by themselves as soon as a thread breaks. Winding machines, too, stop

themselves when a cone is full. The looms come to an immediate standstill when a thread snaps. Empty shuttles on the looms are automatically replaced by full ones.

Great attention has been paid in the designing of the mill and machines to the safety and welfare of the workers. The workshops are spacious, well lit and air-conditioned. Dust extractors keep the air clean.

Well-constructed living quarters, dining rooms, a hospital, creche and kindergarden, schools, clubs and a co-operative store have been built for the workers.

They Know Why They Build

Knowing well what this mill means to the people of the Northwest in terms of cheaper clothes, rising living standards and technical progress, the workers who built this plant vied with each other in friendly competition to complete the project quickly and well. Every work brigade signed a "patriotic pact" to fulfil its assignment in exemplary fashion.

According to the old ways of building in China, the various workshops would be built first, then machinery installed and the first trial run would take place only when all was considered ready. In building this plant, construction material was accumulated on the site while the final blue prints were still being completed. The machines were installed the moment each workshop was ready to take them and long before the last finishing touches were complete. Each machine was tried out as soon as it was assembled, and some were in actual operation even before all the factory floors were fully laid.

In building the mill, skilled workers came from such noted textile centres as Tientsin, Shanghai and Tsingtao. They not only installed machines but stayed to train the new workers in their use. Some 120 proposals were successfully introduced during the process of equipping the workshops. Hsu Shou-chen, a metal worker, used to waste 20 metres of iron piping out of every hundred when he was forced to work under the Japanese occupation. In building this mill, he finally cut waste down to 1 per cent.

The training of mill hands was started in good time. In August, 1951, while the

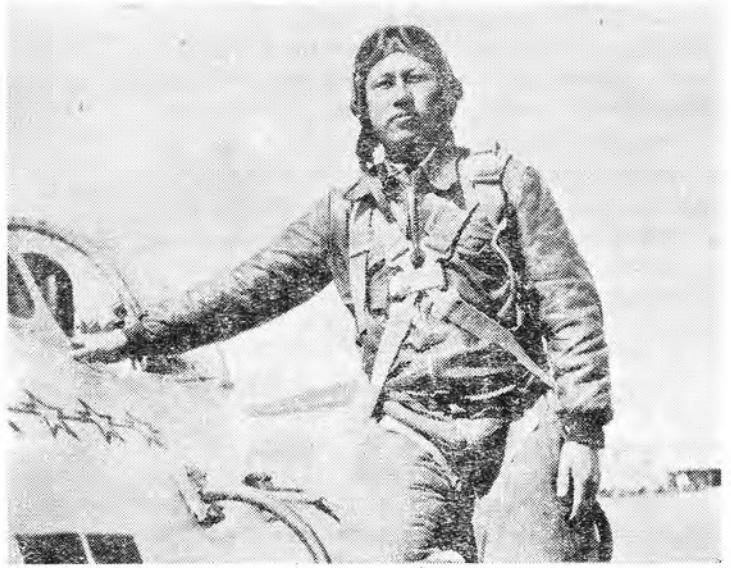


In the fine yarn department of the Northwest No. 1 State Cotton Mill

machinery was still being put in, new workers were taken on and sent to other textile mills in the Northwest and in Tsingtao where they attended training courses under skilled model workers and learned as they worked. Mostly sons and daughters of local emancipated peasants, they were eager to acquire industrial skills. Wang Yu-chen, a woman spinner, was able to tend 500 spindles after a short course. Ho Keng-teng, a carding-machine operator, learnt to manage 60 carding machines after three months' training.

Today, the looms of the No. 1 Northwest State Cotton Mill are operating day and night. Truck-loads of cotton straight from the fields of the surrounding counties rumble into the mill yards. From its dispatch department, bales of textiles go direct to the villages to meet the needs of the people. This modern, giant mill, which has already proved such a boon to the inhabitants, heralds the coming transition of China's vast and rich Northwest from a wild and sparsely populated territory into a land of industry and prosperity.

Chang Chi-hui



—Hero of the Korean Skies

A Special Correspondent

"Greatest of U.S. jet fighter aces." This is how *Time* magazine described Major George A. Davies Jr., the much boosted "superman" of the invaders' air force. But on February 10 last year, Chang Chi-hui of the Chinese people's volunteers met Davies in battle over Pakchon, Korea, and sent him and his Sabre jet crashing down to earth.

Chang Chi-hui's brilliant victory cast a gloom over the camp of the enemy, who pin their hopes on "supermen" to win their battles for them.

I called at an airfield somewhere in Korea to interview Chang Chi-hui. He was out on a mission, but I did not have to wait for long. A few minutes after my arrival, a squadron signalled the control room that it was coming in. The silvery fighters touched down one by one, and as they taxied past us, an officer of the airfield pointed out a jet with four bright red stars painted just below the cockpit.

"That's Chang Chi-hui's plane," he said. "Altogether he's got four Sabre jets to his credit."

On February 10 last year, Chang Chi-hui, volunteer airman in Korea, shot down a U.S. jet ace Major Davies Jr. We print here a report by a special correspondent of his interview with Chang Chi-hui.

The fourth star was added after he shot Davies down."

"Tell me how you got the better of Davies," I asked Chang Chi-hui after we were introduced.

He readily consented. Early on February 10, his group was ordered to attack enemy planes detected coming in the direction of the airfield. They took off and pierced through a thin mist shrouding the airfield. But up in the cold sky, visibility was excellent. Chang was flying with his squadron at the rear of the group.

"Just after we passed a rivulet," he said, "I saw a lot of specks, like flies, coming from the direction of the sea. They were enemy planes. When I looked again, they had become larger, like black spots. A few seconds later, I could make them out more clearly, and now they looked like small black crosses.

"Drop auxiliary fuel tanks!" the order came. I dropped my tanks and waited impatiently for the second order. But just at this moment, the enemy planes disappeared from view.

"I did not know then that Davies was in command of the enemy formation; but I did think to myself, 'This chap must be an old hand; look how tricky he

is! I guessed that this enemy flier, seeing that we had not made a frontal attack on his group, must be trying to sneak up on our rear and attack my squadron.

"I was right. I spotted him as soon as he appeared and reported to the commander. Then I thought of a ruse to get him. I deliberately pretended not to have seen him and flew on. Perhaps Davies was too cocksure; anyhow he made for me. When I thought he was close enough, I banked sharply to port before he could open up with his guns. With Davies now in front of me, I gave chase, my wingman giving me cover. When I got within range, I let him have one burst. Immediately, long streaks of fire shot out from his jet. I gave him two more bursts just to make sure.

"My wingman reported that the plane was down. That was how Davies met his just punishment."

Peasant's Son

I couldn't help admiring this young flier. So often the impossible becomes possible in New China that one accepts the fact and is no longer astonished. The inspiring feats performed by the liberated Chinese people have now become a commonplace in the Chinese scene: the control of flooding rivers; peasants producing bumper crops unimaginable under the old society; workers' innovations which save the nation millions upon millions of yuan . . . But now he sat before me, this living embodiment, this reality of the changing China, the young flier who but a few years ago toiled with his poor peasant father on the land.

Davies had more flying hours than any of our young pilots. He had had many planes to his credit during the Second World War. How did Chang, a former peasant, comparatively young in the technique of air battle, defeat the "greatest of U.S. jet fighter aces?"

Chang thinks one reason is that the American airmen, like their fellow invaders on the ground, are afraid to die. It is well known that monetary inducements are given to enemy pilots to encourage them to strafe and bomb the Korean people. Speaking of this, Chang was reminded of an incident.

"We were questioning an American airman one day," he said. "The prisoner told us that our planes were simply 'terrific.' 'As soon as you see us, you rush headlong at us. I don't understand why you are so brave. What do you do it for? How much do you get paid for each plane downed?'

"I was very amused, for it was obvious the American could only think of war in terms of money. So I asked the interpreter to tell him we had 475 million with an additional 30 million.

"He was astonished. 'You mean U.S. dollars?' he said incredulously. 'No,' I replied. 'It is 475 million Chinese with the addition of 30 million Koreans. They all support us and we fight for them. All peace-loving people all over the world support us, and we are fighting for them, too.'"

For Peace and Justice

Chang stressed that the victories of our airmen are really attributable to the fact that they fight for peace and justice. Because of this, they are ready to lay down their lives for the Korean people, for their Motherland and for stopping the aggressors in Korea and ending the menace to peace.

Chang Chi-hui had given a demonstration of this high patriotism and internationalism in another battle before the Davies encounter.

He had just finished a fight with an enemy plane and sent him crashing to earth when, turning to gain altitude, he saw behind him two more enemy planes. They had suddenly appeared from the sea and were uncomfortably near his tail, but thanks to his "silver swallow" (our pilots call their jets by this name), he gained altitude and swung round behind them. Chang fired when he got into range, but no sound came from the guns. He had run out of ammunition.

Now the enemy planes were once more behind him and ready for a kill. They were pressing him down, lower and lower . . . "What shall I do now?" Chang thought, "I'm in a fix." The words of Pokryshkin, the Soviet air-force hero he had read in a book, flashed through his mind, "Courage will bring you what you need." In that instant, Chang made his decision. He brought his "silver swallow" hard round and faced the enemy planes. "If I must die, I'll crash into you and bring you down too," he thought.

Chang's manoeuvre scared the enemy planes, and they broke off at a sharp tangent. But Chang was now in the heat of battle and was determined to bring one down. He chased one of the planes, forcing him to lose height. The enemy pilot was terrified, lost his head, and crashed into a mountain peak. Chang gave a cheer and zoomed upwards to safety. Meanwhile, another comrade had come to Chang's help. Taking advantage of the manoeuvre which broke up the pursuit of the two enemy planes, the pilot, Liu, shot the other plane down.

Chang has been awarded the Special Merit Medal by the headquarters of the volunteers for bringing down Davies' plane. The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has given him the meritorious Service Medal.

IN THE NEWS

For Happier Marriages

A directive issued by Premier Chou En-lai on February 1 states that a movement to further publicise the Marriage Law and check up on its implementation will be launched in March throughout China. It will not, however, be carried out in national minority areas and the areas where land reform has not been completed. It will pay particular attention to cases where the Marriage Law has not been properly observed and to education to eradicate old-fashioned, feudal ways of thinking which are the root cause of most unhappy marriages.

Preparations for the campaign are in full swing. Commissions to lead its activities have been set up in the various administrative areas and big municipalities such as Peking and Tientsin. Teams have been sent to various counties and villages to investigate conditions and analyse the problems to be tackled. Pamphlets, leaflets, posters and other publicity material are being prepared. In Kiangsi Province, 120,000 booklets on the Marriage Law have been printed. In Northwest China, scores of cadres have been specially selected to publicise this movement, and mobile exhibitions on the Marriage Law will tour the area. Tientsin will hold several exhibitions on the Marriage Law during the Spring Festival, the Chinese lunar New Year, which falls on February 14. Tientsin's many dramatic troupes will stage special performances on this theme. Writers' and artists' organisations are also mobilising their members to support the campaign.

Anshan's Automatic Mills

Three big projects—a renovated blast furnace, a rolling mill and a seamless tubing mill—are under construction in China's major steel centre, Anshan. The blast furnace

will soon start production, and the rolling mill is scheduled for completion by the second half of this year.

With these projects in operation, China will be able to produce huge quantities of rails and structural shapes—including angles, I-beams and channels—for railway, bridge and building construction. She will also be turning out seamless tubes for oil pipes and locomotive, ship, aeroplane, automobile and tractor parts.

All the mills will be equipped with the most up-to-date automatic machinery. This will free workers from heavy, laborious jobs. The renovated blast furnace, for instance, will operate automatically from the charging of the iron ore right through to the production of pig iron. The rolling mill, which will produce hundreds of thousands of tons of rolled steel products annually, will be manned by only 640 workers.

1953 Medical Education

Highly qualified medical personnel are to be specially trained for work in factories, mines and villages, states a Ministry of Public Health directive on China's plans for medical education in 1953.

More doctors will be trained and short-term specialised courses in higher medical training provided. The most important task in secondary medical education this year will continue to be the training of physician's assistants (feldschers). Ten secondary medical schools will be added to the existing 300. More training establishments and courses will be set up for old-style doctors who now wish to receive a modern scientific training. It is estimated that 30,000 such doctors will enrol in these courses in 1953.

Good Winter Catches

Good winter catches have been made by fishing fleets operating in the Choushan area off Chekiang Province, one of the biggest fishing grounds in the Far East. More than 4,000 boats are employed with crews totalling 30,000.

This winter's haul is bigger than last year's. The island county of Tinghai, for example, brought in 8,000 tons last month. After completing the first stage of the fishing season, Tinghai fishermen have already deposited 1,500 million yuan in the bank.

This winter's successes are due to better organisation and a much improved transport system.

Long before the season started, state companies handling marine products and the fishermen's own co-operatives made preparations to transport and market the catches. Special boats to transport fish attended the fleets while at sea.

Lumber Industry Expands

The lumber industry's output targets for this year have been set at 38% above last year's.

New virgin forests in the Hsing-an and Changpai Mountains in Northeast China will be exploited in the coming period. A vast long-term afforestation programme is under way.

The whole industry is being rapidly mechanised. More electric saws and caterpillar tractors are now used by lumbermen. Thousands of kilometres of narrow gauge railways have been laid in the main timber areas in Northeast China and Inner Mongolia. Regular rail transport is also being extended into the forest-belts.

By adopting Soviet methods, over 600,000 cubic metres of extra timber that was formerly considered waste can now be saved annually in Northeast China alone. Local lumbermen have also developed many inventions and more efficient methods of operation.

Credit Co-operatives

Credit co-operatives are assuming an increasingly important role in the countryside, where there are now more than 8,000 such societies. Still greater developments are expected, as there are also more than 5,000 smaller mutual-aid credit groups and most of the large credit co-operatives have grown out of these smaller groups. There are also over 1,000 credit departments attached to the trading, supply and marketing co-operatives.

The rapid expansion of this rural credit system is the result of the widespread development of organised farming. The application of scientific farming methods by the peasants has raised the need for funds.

At the same time, supervised and backed by the People's Bank, these credit societies are absorbing idle money in the villages. They have been able to provide more funds for productive purposes than the banks could possibly manage alone.

In Shansi Province, for example, 2,620 credit co-operatives and mutual-aid groups last year provided loans that enabled the peasants to buy some 14,000 draught animals, 490 farm carts, 229 water-wheels, 1,228 ploughs and large quantities of insecticides and seeds.

Chronicle of Events

January 21

China commemorates the 29th anniversary of the death of Lenin.

Foreign Minister Chou En-lai issues a protest and gives a warning concerning the intrusion into the territorial air of Northeast China on January 12 of a U.S. RB-29 type plane carrying special agents, which was shot down by the Chinese air force. Most of the crew were taken prisoner.

U.S. military aircraft strafe motor vehicles of the Korean-Chinese Delegation to the Korean armistice negotiations some six kilometres south of Hwangju, wounding three men. The Korean-Chinese Delegation files a strong protest with the U.N. Delegation.

February 16, 1953

A Chinese cultural delegation arrives in Bucharest, Rumania, after a month's visit to Hungary.

January 24

Hsinhua reports A.A. units of the people's forces in Korea brought down 12 enemy planes and damaged 7 between January 16 to 20.

An exhibition on U.S. germ warfare called "China and Korea Accuse" sponsored by the Chinese and German Peace Committees and the Aid Korea Committee of the National Council of the National Front of Democratic Germany opens in Berlin.

January 25

Hsinhua reports U.S. aircraft twice violated the Panmunjom conference area during the two days, January 23 and 24.

A Burma-China Friendship Week begins in Rangoon.

January 26

Hsinhua reports another U.S. military aircraft was shot down by the Chinese air force when it intruded over Kuantien County, Liaotung Province, in Northeast China on January 23.

The China Peace Committee adopts a resolution supporting the decisions of the Congress of the Peoples for Peace.

The Trade Delegation of the Republic of Finland arrives in Peking.

An agreement between China and Poland on the 1953 plan of activities for cultural co-operation is signed in Warsaw.

January 28

Hsinhua reports more Syngman Rhee troops are voluntarily coming over to the side of the people's forces on the Korean front. In the 30 days ending January 10, the number of Rhee troops on the western front who came over to the people's side equalled two-thirds of the total who came over in this area during the previous 11 months.

January 31

The Japanese Delegation for the repatriation of Japanese nationals in China arrives in Peking.

February 4

The fourth session of the First National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference opens in Peking under the chairmanship of Mao Tse-tung.

LETTERS

To the Editor

A British P.O.W.'s Thanks

P.O.W. CAMP NO. 1.
NORTH KOREA.

I am deeply thankful to the Chinese people's volunteers for providing me with all the necessary things to make my Christmas as near a Western one as possible. I fully realise the difficult position regarding transport of the C.P.V., and it only goes to show me that no matter what difficulty, the will of the C.P.V. will overcome it.

The food was very good, and one thing we all enjoyed was the beer issued to us by the C.P.V. As many may know, beer in England is the working man's pleasure, and I am sure it was a pleasant surprise to all. Tea, coffee and powdered milk helped to bring us together and realise the difficulties overcome by the C.P.V. Many other things such as sweets, cakes, fruit, note-books, soap, tooth-brushes and biscuits given to us in large quantities went further to show the policy of the C.P.V. Their policy is one of equality, and they practise a friendly attitude towards all.

We enjoy the privilege of enjoying all our own holidays as well as all those enjoyed by the C.P.V. At these times, we are always given extra food, and sports such as basket-ball, volley ball, football, (the Americans enjoy soft ball) take up a large part of our daily life.

All this goes to prove to me that the C.P.V. realise we, the men of U.S.A., Britain and other countries who are P.O.W's here, are not to blame for being here in Korea. I as well as the people of China, know that we, the working people, have been hoodwinked into this unjust war, and the whole blame lies with the warmongers of the U.S.A. followed by the few in Britain. I know, with the joint efforts of the Chinese and all the peace-loving peoples, the Americans will be forced to come to a peaceful settlement in Korea. We must take your example. You, the people of China, have set us an example. It is an example we must follow, because it will lead us to peace.

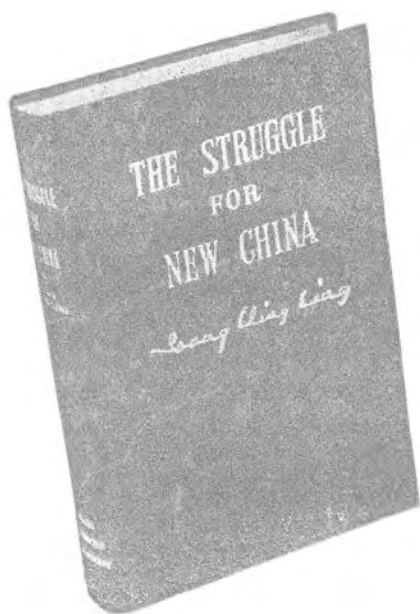
5498719 Cpl. ARMSTRONG

The Struggle for New China

by

Soong Ching Ling

(Mme. Sun Yat-sen)



A collection of more than sixty important speeches, articles and statements written by Soong Ching Ling between 1927 and 1952:

GIVING a vivid description of the new forces of China in their struggle and victory over the old;

PROVIDING invaluable material on the Chinese people's stand against foreign invaders both during and after the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression;

DESCRIBING how the gigantic task of national reconstruction is being undertaken in New China; and

REFLECTING the development of the world situation as a whole over the past years.

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