

PEOPLE'S CHINA



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PEOPLE'S CHINA

A FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE

Editor: Liu Tsun-chi

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

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

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

No. 24, 1953

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COVER PICTURE:

A student of the Yangtze Navigation School at the helm

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A New Era in Sino-Korean Friendship and Co-operation

THE Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government Delegation of the Korean Democratic People's Republic conducted negotiations in Peking between November 14 and 22 in an atmosphere of sincerity and harmony. The two parties had a full exchange of views on important political and economic problems concerning their two countries. These successful negotiations resulted in the signing of an Agreement on Economic and Cultural Co-operation valid for a period of ten years, and the publication of a joint communique. The Agreement manifests the traditional and unbreakable friendship between the peoples of China and Korea as well as their close co-operation that is now embodied in an agreement. It shows that Sino-Korean relations have entered a new historical phase. The signing of the Agreement is not only of great significance for the signatories but for peace in the Far East and throughout the world as well.

CHINA and Korea have always been close to each other; they share each other's joys and sorrows. The peoples of these two countries have a long record of friendly relations. Their friendship has been especially close since the beginning of this century, for in fighting against their common enemy, the two nations have built up a comradeship-in-arms sealed in the blood of their peoples.

In the dark years when Japanese fascism occupied Korea and invaded China, the peoples of China and Korea, in their struggle for liberation and national independence, fought shoulder to shoulder against the Japanese invaders.

Three years ago, following in the footsteps of the Japanese aggressors, the U.S. im-

perialists unleashed their war of aggression against Korea and recklessly pushed their invading forces towards China's northeastern border. Naturally, the Chinese people could not ignore this threat. They sent the Chinese People's Volunteers, composed of their own best sons and daughters, to Korea to fight side by side with the Korean People's Army. The care and warm support given to the Chinese People's Volunteers by the Korean Government and its people were one of the main sources of the Volunteers' peerless courage in smashing the U.S. plan of aggression. The peoples of China and Korea wish to further consolidate and develop their friendship and co-operation, which has been enhanced during the course of their common struggle for their national independence and security.

Thanks to the joint efforts of the peoples of China and Korea and the concerted efforts of peace-loving people throughout the world, the Korean armistice was finally signed, thus creating favourable conditions for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. But the U.S. aggressors are still not willing to admit their defeat in Korea. They are still making every effort to wreck the Korean armistice which has already been signed, in order to stall the convening of the political conference. They want to find excuses for the U.S. armed forces of aggression to remain in Korea for an indefinite length of time. At the same time, by every underhand method, they are sabotaging explanations to the P.O.W's. In their attempt to destroy the Korean Armistice Agreement, they are encouraging Syngman Rhee to clamour for war. Under these circumstances, in order to safeguard the security of the two countries as well as peace in the Far East and the world, the peoples of China and Korea cannot but maintain the

utmost vigilance and unite their efforts to frustrate the aggressors' treacherous schemes.

The delegates of the two countries have, therefore, after a full exchange of views, also reached agreement concerning the convening of the political conference for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. The governments of both countries have declared themselves ready to collaborate sincerely with all countries concerned in carrying out the peaceful unification of Korea, a great cause that affects the issue of world peace.

In his speech at the ceremony of the signing of the Sino-Korean Agreement on Economic and Cultural Co-operation, Chou En-lai, Premier and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, has pointed out that this Agreement "is a proof that the Chinese and Korean peoples are unanimous in their determination and willingness to struggle to the end for the thorough fulfilment of the Korean Armistice and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question."

THE Chinese people regard the present efforts of the Korean people in restoring their national economy and undertaking peaceful construction as having a very important bearing upon the interests of People's China. Accordingly, the Chinese Government has decided to make a free gift to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of all supplies given and expenses incurred in aid to Korea by the former between June 25, 1950, the date the U.S. Government started its war of aggression against Korea, and December 31, 1953. The Government of the People's Republic of China has further decided to make a free gift to the Korean Government of the sum of 8,000,000 million yuan within the four years from 1954 to 1957, to be used for the rehabilitation and development of Korea's national economy. The Chinese Government will also help Korea in reconstructing its railway system, which sustained heavy damage during the U.S. aggression. In promoting technical co-operation between the two countries, Korea will send skilled workers and technicians to certain branches of industry in China for practical training, as well as students to study in Chinese

universities and institutes; China on her part will send skilled workers and technicians to assist in the work of certain branches of production in Korea. This historic agreement has undoubtedly already laid a firm foundation for long-term co-operation between the peoples of the two countries; it will certainly result in a new upsurge and prosperity in the economic and cultural construction of these two countries.

THE Agreement also reflects the mighty strength of unity between the Asian nations. It serves as a grave warning to the aggressors. Asia is now in the midst of a great struggle for peace and national independence. Gone forever are the days when the imperialists could do what they pleased and dictate their will in Asia. The awakened and awakening peoples of Asia are not to be bullied. Those who blinker their eyes and decline to accept this situation, and those who refuse to learn the lesson of their failures, will certainly come to grief in the face of the mighty strength of unity between the Asian peoples in their struggle against aggression.

This Agreement well illustrates the principles of the new type of international relations which exist in the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism headed by the Soviet Union. Such co-operation and mutual assistance, which find their expression in the struggle of the peoples of China and Korea against aggression and their peaceful construction, is based on a great friendship, animated by the common desire to preserve national security, to enhance the welfare of the two peoples and to strengthen international peace. Such mutual assistance and co-operation fully accord with the fundamental interests of the people of the whole world.

The people of the world are convinced that just as the heroic Korean people, with the powerful support of the Soviet Union, China and the other People's Democracies, have won victories in their war against aggression, so will they certainly achieve brilliant successes in the speedy restoration and development of their national economy and secure their freedom and independence and the peaceful unification of their motherland.

China's Inland Navigation

Kang Sen

CHINA is extremely well supplied with inland waterways. Including major tributaries, she has more than 560 rivers. These, together with canals and lakes, are open for navigational transport over a distance of over 90,000 kilometres, of which some 26,000 kilometres are open to steam navigation. All the provinces and the majority of counties have water courses usable for transport, and most of these have a good supply of water, do not freeze in the winter and are therefore navigable the year round.

The biggest rivers of China are: the Yellow River, with about 90 million people living in its huge valley; the Yangtze River, rich in water resources and serving an area with 200 million people; and the Pearl River, with 60 million people in its valley. Among other major rivers which play an important part in inland navigation are the Sungari and the Liao, both in the Northeast, the Hsiang in Hunan Province, the tributaries of the Yangtze in Szechuan Province, and others. Some of the big rivers are direct extensions of sea routes. For example, a 10,000-ton ocean-going freighter can travel up the Yangtze River to Hankow over 1,000 kilometres from the coast, while smaller vessels can sail farther to Chungking and on to I-Ping, a distance of over 2,800 kilometres from the coast.

Imperialist Penetration

For a full century before the liberation, the imperialist powers, in collusion with China's feudal rulers and later with the Kuomintang bureaucratic capitalists, used the rivers to exploit and impoverish the Chinese people. Under the various unequal treaties,

they obtained the "right" of inland navigation in China, in which they assumed a dominant position. Using the rivers, they penetrated deep into the hinterland, dumping foreign goods, carrying off raw materials and intervening in China's internal affairs. Imperialist gunboats, which had the freedom of China's rivers, were used to suppress the revolutionary movement of the Chinese people. In March, 1927, when revolutionary troops took Nanking in the course of the First Revolutionary Civil War, British and American warships anchored in the Yangtze River brutally bombarded the city, killing many people and causing heavy damage.

After the surrender of Japan in 1945, the American imperialists seized control of navigation along China's most important inland waterway—the Yangtze River. They used this control not only for economic plunder but also to help the Kuomintang reactionaries in their criminal war against the Chinese people by transporting troops and supplies for Chiang Kai-shek.

As they retreated under the blows of the People's Liberation Army, the Kuomintang troops wantonly destroyed ships and docks and brought inland navigation to a state of complete paralysis.

During the dark days of Kuomintang rule, inland navigation in China was mainly in the hands of two British firms, Butterfield & Swire, and Jardine, Matheson & Co. The China Merchants Steam Navigation Co. operated by Kuomintang bureaucratic capitalists also had a share. Under the pressure of these privileged enterprises, shipping lines operated by

the Chinese national bourgeoisie were steadily pushed into bankruptcy; while great numbers of river boatmen were deprived of their livelihood and reduced to penury.

Changes After Liberation

After the Chinese people liberated the whole mainland of the country from the reactionary Kuomintang, the foreign imperialists' "right" of inland navigation was brought to an end, while the bureaucratic capitalist China Merchants Steam Navigation Co. was taken over by the people's state. Rehabilitation of inland navigation was rapid. Within a year, it had been restored to its pre-liberation level of activity. But this was not enough to meet the needs of the swiftly developing economy of New China. The People's Government, therefore, undertook a large-scale programme for its reform and development. First of all, it established a general state control of all inland navigation; it set going a thorough reform of the management of the private shipping enterprises; and set about co-ordinating the activities of the many thousands of wooden junks, most of which are sailed by their owners themselves.

A local inland navigation administration now exists in each province, and three special organisations directly under the leadership of the Ministry of Communications have been established to supervise navigation on the Yangtze River, the Sungari River in the Northeast, and the Pearl River in South China—the three rivers which are of the greatest economic importance. Finally, the General Inland Navigation Administration Bureau has been established under the Ministry of Communications of the Central People's Government. Under its centralised leadership, all state-owned vessels, and in some places privately-owned vessels too, are operating in accordance with a unified plan that ensures their rational use. Freight is distributed systematically. Regular navigation schedules are replacing the anarchy of the past. The activities of private shipping companies and of small boat operators are being gradually integrated in the overall state plan.

Water transport enterprises previously operated by bureaucratic capital have been taken over and transformed into state-operated

enterprises. This reorganisation has greatly reduced the number of personnel not participating directly in production. The systems of cost accounting and individual responsibility have been put into practice. Democratic reforms have helped to encourage the creative initiative of workers and employees. These measures have brought about a complete change in the character of these enterprises.

To increase the speed of water transportation and lower costs, the state inland navigation enterprises have learned and applied the Soviet method of towing in series. In the past, in China, junks were generally attached broadside to their accompanying steam-tugs. This method resulted in a high degree of wind and water resistance; it slowed down speed, reduced the tonnage that could be towed and, as a result, raised transport costs. According to the Soviet method, the junks or barges are pulled behind the tug, in single or double columns. In this way, a tug can tow three times as much weight per horse-power as by the old method.

Expanding Operations

In the past, the foreign steamship companies which enjoyed the privilege of inland navigation in China used sea-going ships or big river steamers wherever possible to avoid the extra cost of unloading and loading goods into smaller junks or barges. Tugs were therefore used very little for moving goods. After the liberation, the needs of national economic construction demanded that much bigger freights had to be moved by water. The use of tugs and barges has therefore developed on a large scale, since a greater cargo can be moved per horse-power by this means than by big ships.

After popularising the system of towing in series, state-owned navigation enterprises have further succeeded in the experimental application of the Soviet method in which the tug is placed behind, instead of in front of, a group of barges. This raises efficiency by a further 20 per cent. This method will spread throughout the country's waterways in the immediate future.

As a result of such efforts, the loading capacity of vessels belonging to the state navigation enterprises has been raised by an

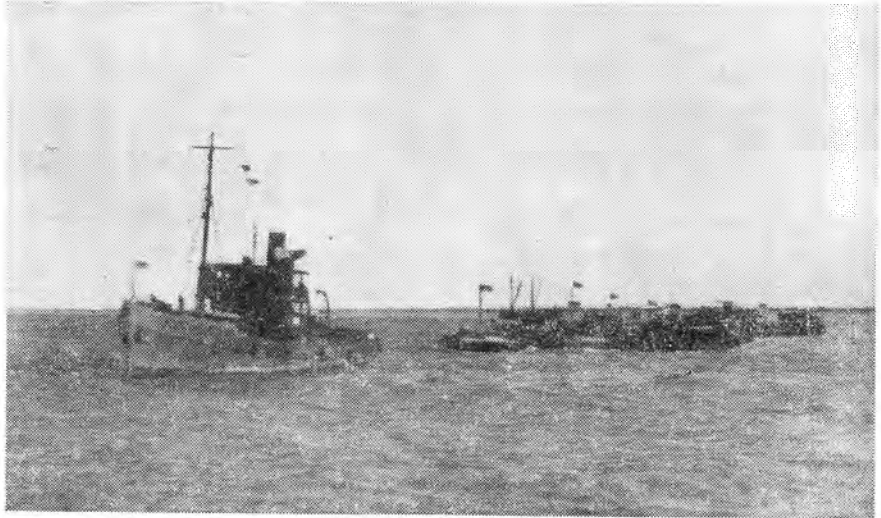
average 200 per cent compared with the preliberation level, while the turn-round rate of vessels has increased 35 per cent. This has made it possible to steadily lower freight rates. The country's most advanced inland navigation organisation, operating in North-east China, reduced its freight rates by 42 per cent in 1950 compared to the preliberation rates.

Between 1950 and 1953, transport charges on the Yangtze River were reduced on three occasions, the freight for over 100 kinds of goods being lowered by an average 30 per cent.

In this way, state navigation enterprises, which are socialist in character, have shown their superiority over other forms of ownership and have greatly expanded their operations. In 1952, state-owned vessels accounted for more than half of all freight and passenger transport on the inland waterways of China.

Private Enterprises

The business of private shipping firms has also improved under the guidance and support of the state. Private operators in the shipping trade have learned from their own experience that state guidance and co-operation with state enterprises assure them satisfactory returns, that is why they have gradually and voluntarily taken the course of establishing joint state and private capitalist enterprises. The Min Sheng Co., for instance, was a comparatively big privately-owned shipping firm. In the past, as a result of its top-heavy administrative structure and bad management, it was losing money every year. The state took up stock in the company at the latter's request in 1952, and sent in qualified cadres to help in its management. They readjusted its administrative structure and, relying on the workers,



The per horse-power loading capacity of China's inland steam vessels has been more than trebled by adopting this Soviet method of tugging barges in series

facilitated the carrying out of democratic reforms. As workers and employees developed their initiative, greater efficiency in management and in the actual operation of its ships was quickly achieved. Under the supervision of the state, the company has placed its facilities at the service of the nation's economic construction and has made valuable contributions to the common cause. It is no longer a liability to its shareholders; in the four months between September and December, 1952 alone, it made a profit of over 12,000 million yuan. It was thus able to expand its business and services in 1953. Today it stands as an example of how great are the mutual benefits which both private capital and the state enjoy in such joint operations, and it points the way forward to private shipping enterprises in China.

Junk Transport

There are more than 300,000 sailing junks with a total capacity of nearly 4 million tons travelling China's inland waterways. Junk transport was formerly poorly organised, but with their shallow draught, and good speed with their sails up and a fair wind, they have many advantages on China's canals, lakes and rivers. They are playing a very important part in inland navigation as a means of commercial contact between town and countryside,

between the ports and the hinterland. It is mainly by junk that the grains and other special products of the countryside are collected on the river inlets, canals and tributaries and shipped to the main river ports whence they are transhipped to various parts of the country. On their return-trips, the junks carry industrial goods to China's vast countryside. The People's Government has therefore given keen attention to junk transport.

The junk-owners of yesterday were hard pressed by the big monopoly shipping firms of the Kuomintang bureaucratic capitalists and the foreign imperialists; they were at the same time the victims of ruthless feudal oppression. The feudal elements of the country—the warlords, petty local despots and corrupt landed gentry with their gangster riffraff—dominated the river courses, jetties and ports. They forced the junk-owners to pay dues to various secret societies and rackets and transit tolls. Under this ruthless exploitation an owner of a junk might have to give 20 to 25 per cent of his income in one form or another to these extortioners. With the liberation, the People's Government took early steps to free the junkmen from these bonds. It helped them to root out the feudal gangster elements and set up their own organisation—the Junkmen's Union. It also made available large loans to those who needed to repair their ships. Today, the junk fleet has become a well-organised means of transportation serving national economic construction, and the junkmen are advancing to prosperity.

With the victory of the dock workers against the same feudal secret societies and gangster elements who also dominated them, the stevedores have also entered a new life. Their livelihood is steadily improving. Under a unified state management, the stevedores get good wages; portage charges are reasonable and based on a unified scale. Theft and robbery at the docks have become things of the past.

Better Navigational Facilities

The state has also done a great deal to improve navigational facilities. The main shipping channels are being systematically dredged and put into order. Between 1950 and 1952, the workers of the Shanghai docks re-

paired many damaged ships and recently salvaged vessels, and built about 200 inland sailing-vessels and steam tug-boats of various tonnages. The tonnage of ships making runs on the Yangtze River is 11.54 per cent more than at the time of liberation.

To keep pace with the growing volume of freight carried by inland navigation, the state has systematically rehabilitated wharves at all major Yangtze ports and restored other navigational facilities such as lighters, bouys, markers, etc. Many big new warehouses have also been built. Passenger facilities, too, have been given attention. Attractive and comfortable waiting rooms have been built on many wharves. Loading and unloading is now mechanised at wharves on the Sungari River. At Hankow and Chungking on the Yangtze River, modern harbours will be constructed to handle over a million tons of shipping annually. The People's Government has also built or reconstructed over a thousand small jetties and warehouses along minor and small rivers where river traffic is also steadily increasing.

In old China, many formerly navigable inland waterways were allowed to fall into disrepair. Their channels silted up and their banks fell in as a result of years of neglect. In the rainy season, this led to floods and further rapid deterioration, while in the dry season, their channels were so shallow that even small vessels could not navigate them.

After the liberation, rivers that were a perennial menace to the lives and property of the people have been made to serve the people. The famous Chinkiang flood detention basin on the middle Yangtze, for instance, has not only freed the people in its neighbourhood from the menace of floods, but also improved the shipping channel at this section of the river. The lower reaches of the Yangtze, the Sungari and the Pearl Rivers have been greatly improved for shipping by the removal of many formerly hazardous sandbanks. At the time of liberation the Grand Canal, which runs for over 1,000 kilometres from the south to the north through East China from south of the Yangtze to near Peking, was badly silted up along almost its entire course, and the whole navigational transport system of which it forms the main channel, was in utter disarray.

Since the liberation, the People's Government has constructed the Chao River regulator and lock at Shuchien County in northern Kiangsu Province, and built the Loma Lake Dam on the upper reaches of the Lutang River in northern Kiangsu Province. This makes it possible to exert effective control over the volume of water on the middle section of the Canal. As a result, this ancient waterway, which saw a steady decline of traffic during the past hundred years, is today again the scene of lively movement. Ships of 900 tons are now making regular runs on the 300-kilometre section between the Yangtze River and Hanchuang in northern Shantung Province.

In order to divert part of the flow from the Yellow River to the Wei River, the People's Government has constructed the People's Victory Canal near Hsinhsiang, on the northern bank of the Yellow River in Honan Province. This has opened the river channel between Hsinhsiang and Tientsin to 200-ton steamboats. Many small rivers in distant regions, especially those inhabited by the national minorities, have also been dredged by the People's Government and made suitable for navigation. Small craft and larger vessels are now appearing for the first time on many rivers. As a result of these systematic efforts, China now has a greater mileage open to navigation than ever before in her past.

Safer Sailing

Inland navigation has also been made safer. Many navigational aids have been restored and newly installed. Since 1950, a complete system of such aids has been installed or reconstructed on the Sungari River in the Northeast. The upper reaches of the Yangtze River, on the 649-kilometre section between Ichang and Chungking, are notorious for the dangers of the Three Gorges and swift, treacherous currents that are a severe test for even the most experienced sailors. Now, a complete system of lighted buoys has been installed to aid day and night navigation, increase security for passengers and freights and speed the turn-around of vessels. Similar aids have been installed on the lower Yangtze. Formerly, it took 12 days for a return trip by steamboat between Shanghai and Hankow; today, the same trip takes only seven days.

As a result of all of these efforts made by the river transport workers under the direction of the People's Government, the amount of freight carried on inland waterways has greatly increased. Taking the total in 1951 as 100, the amount in 1952 was 157.6; and it will, it is estimated, reach 221.3 in 1953. During these years, inland navigation has played a big role in assisting the successful development of national economic construction. By punctually bringing up supplies, it made possible the exact fulfilment of plans in constructing such famous projects as the Chinkiang flood detention basin, the Chungking-Chengtu Railway, and the harnessing of the Huai River.

Towards Further Modernisation

China's railway transport still has a long way to go before it can be considered adequate for this vast country. The nation's networks of highways and inland waterways therefore have to play a relatively large part in China's transport and communications, particularly in regard to such essential products as grain, coal, salt, timber and other building materials. The countryside to a very large extent counts on inland navigation to exchange its native and special products for industrial goods. Inland water transport has great advantages in low costs, particularly for bulky goods, and its possibilities are almost unlimited. For this reason, China's first five-year plan pays great attention to the development of inland navigation.

The Chinese people have already achieved a great deal in reorganising and developing their inland navigation system, which is increasingly and ever more effectively serving the needs of socialist industrialisation. The development of industry will in turn strengthen China's inland navigation and assist in the most important and urgent tasks that confront inland water transport workers in China at the present time—the development of a modern inland navigation system technically re-equipped and with mechanised and automatic loading and unloading facilities, which will serve still more efficiently the cause of the socialist industrialisation of the country and the consistent improvement of the livelihood of the people.

Films for the People

Chen Chi-hua

A MOBILE cinema team has recently made a tour along the route traversed by the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army on its Long March in 1934-35. The team travelled more than 2,500 kilometres in western China, much of the way on horseback. It visited villages by the snow-covered mountains and marshy grasslands through which the Red Army passed on that historic march. By overcoming the hardships of this journey, these film workers made it possible for the Tibetan and Ch'iang peoples in those distant and out-of-the-way areas to see for the first time in their lives what they called the "talking pictures." And this is not an isolated case. In the past four years no less than 2,400 mobile cinema teams have been formed. These teams have made their way into the far corners of the country—to isolated villages, mountainous border regions as well as islands along the coast.

Thanks to these mobile teams, peasants and people of the national minorities who never saw motion pictures before now frequently find themselves at a show. In the last four years, the mobile teams and cinemas in China have shown more than two hundred feature, documentary and educational films made in China, and more than one hundred pictures from the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies dubbed with Chinese sound tracks.

In the four years since liberation, the number of Chinese cinema theatres and mobile cinema teams has increased tenfold, bringing it to a total of more than three thousand. A total audience of 600 million people attended cinema shows in 1952.

The cinema has today become an integral part of daily life among the broad masses of the Chinese people.

Film-Making in Yen-an

This great development of cinema services in New China has not been easily achieved. It

was in the autumn of 1938 that the first people's cinema group was set up in Yen-an by the Political Department of the 8th Route Army—the predecessor of the People's Liberation Army. There were only three film specialists and a few technicians with two cameras and a cinema team with two projectors.

Working in Yen-an and guerilla bases in the enemy's rear in North China, the film group completed *Yen-an and the 8th Route Army* in January, 1939. This was the first documentary film to depict the revolutionary struggle of the Chinese people. By 1940, the group had produced several other documentary films, including *The First Session of the Yen-an City Council*, *Anniversary of the October Revolution*, *Industrial Exhibition in the Border Region* and *Link Production and Fighting Together!* These were all silent films, since no sound recording equipment was available.

Following the victory of the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression, the film workers went to China's Northeast and took over the studios set up by the puppet "Manchukuo" regime.

In 1946, the Northeast Film Studio and the North China Film Unit were organised, and film work began to develop with rapid strides.

China's new cinema was born on the fronts of revolutionary struggle. In the Liberation War cameramen closely followed the vanguards of the fighting forces on the battlefield. Three cameramen, Chang Shao-ko and two others, Communist Party members, gave their lives on the battlefield. As their memorial they left us an excellent documentary feature, *The Last Battle for the Liberation of the Northeast*.

In 1948, New China produced its first feature film, *The Bridge*. This depicted the indomitable spirit displayed by the Chinese

workers in restoring the great steel bridge over the Sungari River which was vital for support of the front. The Chinese working class appeared on the screen for the first time as the master of the nation.

In 1949, *Daughters of China* and other successful feature films were produced. Meanwhile, together with the People's Liberation Army, the camera teams advanced to the Huaihai battlefield and the Taiyuan front, entered liberated Peking, crossed the Yangtze River and went on southwards. After the liberation of the whole country, *The Birth of New China*, *The Great Friendship*, with Sino-Soviet friendship as its theme, and other documentary films were produced. Thus the film became the recorder of the historic events of China's emancipation from the rule of the Kuomintang reactionary clique and foreign imperialism.

With the liberation, progressive film workers in former Kuomintang-held areas joined forces with those from the liberated areas.

Under the KMT Regime

Film enterprises in Kuomintang-held areas had existed for over twenty years prior to the liberation. Shanghai was their main centre. At that time, film studios controlled by bureaucratic-capitalists produced many reactionary, feudal and pornographic films which were poisonous to the minds of their audiences. At the same time, the Kuomintang regime did its utmost to suppress all progressive films. It ruthlessly persecuted progressive film workers, blackmailing, arresting and even murdering them. The progressive film workers, however, never bowed to this terror, but courageously fought back against the reactionary government. In Kuomintang-held areas they even managed to produce a number of good films among which *Song of the Fishermen*, *At the Crossroads* and *The Tears of the Yangtze* were the most outstanding. These films exposed the true nature of the Kuomintang regime; they inspired the people to struggle against the



A scene from the Shanghai Studio's 1953 film "Chin and Yin River Banks." The hero and heroine from two different Tibetan tribes are happily united when the Chinese Communist Party helps their peoples to end a Kuomintang instigated feud and live in harmony

Japanese aggressors and vividly expressed the people's aspirations for democracy and national liberation.

Film-Making After Liberation

The bringing together of all film workers in the country after the liberation meant a great growth in the strength of China's film enterprises. A Central Cinema Bureau, with the noted film regisseur Yuan Mu-chih as the director, was set up under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to provide proper leadership for the great expansion of work in the future.

One of the first tasks of the Bureau was to replace the Hollywood films and other films which had dominated China's film market for over forty years and which propagated reactionary ideologies and demoralised the Chinese people. This meant that new, genuine people's films had to be produced to satisfy popular demands and serve as a means for the people's political and cultural education.

The film workers have successfully fulfilled this task. In 1950 alone, they produced 77 feature and other films, 26 newsreels, three

documentaries in colour in collaboration with Soviet film workers; and they dubbed over 80 Soviet feature and educational films into Chinese.

At the beginning of 1951 a Festival of New Films, the first of its kind, was held for one month simultaneously in 21 major cities of the country. The new films were warmly received and highly praised by the public. Among them *The White-Haired Girl*, *Shangjiao Concentration Camp*, *Red Banner Over Mount Tsuikang*, *New Heroes and Heroines* and *Unite for Tomorrow* were the most successful. The festival was a remarkable demonstration of the successes achieved by the people's film workers.

Along with the production of new films, the Central Cinema Bureau has also undertaken the training of new film personnel. It has opened classes to train projector-operators in large numbers. Over 2,000 trainees have already graduated. It initiated the Film Art Institute, the forerunner of the School of Cinematography of today, which trains film regisseurs, actors, actresses and cameramen, etc. No less than 164 students have graduated from this school, and it now has an enrolment of 330 students. The Bureau has also set up a projector-manufacturing works and a developing and printing factory for 16 mm. films.

The production of films has now been brought completely under the control of the people's state and is concentrated in three state-owned film studios—in the Northeast, Peking and Shanghai. Two institutes, in Peking and Shanghai, have been established for producing scenarios. Some of the privately-owned film studios in Shanghai also produced a number of films since the liberation, but because of their low artistic quality, they were not a commercial success. Subsequently, these studios asked to be incorporated into the state-owned studios, and at the end of 1952, their applications were accepted by the Central Cinema Bureau.

The success of the Chinese people's cinema is due, first and foremost, to the realisation of Comrade Mao Tse-tung's directive that art should serve the workers, peasants and soldiers, and to the constant guidance they have received from the Chinese Communist Party. Towards the end of 1950, for instance, one of the privately-owned film companies in Shanghai

produced *The Life of Wu Hsun*. This picture made a great hero of Wu Hsun, a man who, in reality, had abjectly put himself at the service of the reactionary feudal ruling class. This distortion of truth, however, was overlooked by a great part of the audience and quite a number of literary and art workers who praised the film. The Central Committee of the Communist Party and Chairman Mao himself immediately gave the people a lead in subjecting this film to just criticism. Cinema, and literary and art workers throughout the country participated in the fruitful discussions which ensued and which led to a strengthening of the leading position of working class ideology throughout the field of art. The cinema workers intensified their regular political studies to raise their ideological level and prepare themselves better to serve the people. They have received immense help in their work from their study of Soviet film art and experience.

Films Serving the People

New China's cinema is not satisfied with the success achieved. It is planning for even bigger tasks ahead. There is a bright future for all kinds of films—documentary, educational or feature.

Documentary films have developed on the basis of the tradition established by the Chinese cinema workers during the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression and during the War of Liberation. The Central Newsreel and Documentary Film Studio was established in 1952, and it now has more than 80 camera teams at its disposal. These teams are scattered all over the country, recording every significant event in the life of New China.

The camera teams working in Korea have braved enemy fire to immortalise on the screen the heroic deeds of the Chinese People's Volunteers and the Korean People's Army. The documentary film *Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea* got an enthusiastic reception from audiences throughout the country. It has been a great inspiration to the people in the struggle against imperialist aggression. In 1952, when it was shown for the first time in 41 cities of the country, it drew a total audience of more than ten million.

Other documentary films, both already produced or being produced, have drawn

their themes from the flourishing and varied life of peaceful construction in New China. Films have been produced depicting the great project of harnessing the Huai River, the construction of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, the growing prosperity of liberated Tibet and the happy life of the people in Sinkiang Province. The "August 1" Sports Meeting and National Day in 1952, two documentaries in colour shown this year, demonstrate the tremendous progress made in film technique since liberation.

The 10 scientific educational films produced in 1952 have proved of great value in mass education. These included *Wipe out Bacteria-Bearing Insects*; *Exterminate the Locusts*; *Safe Production in Coal Mines*; *How to Raise Bumper Crops of Cotton* and *Both Mother and Child Are Doing Well*.

Consolidating this success, a special studio for the production of scientific educational films was set up in February, 1953. It will concentrate on producing large numbers of films to introduce to the audience the large-scale economic construction projects which are under way in our country, modern scientific technique and advanced methods of production in industry and agriculture.

New Feature Films

The feature films produced in New China have shown a forceful realism. The best have won the love of the Chinese people and have gained international recognition as well. *Steeled Fighters*, *The White-Haired Girl*, *Daughters of China* and *Chao I-man* have been awarded prizes at international film festivals.

The new productions which have recently had their premieres, such as *From Victory to Victory*, *Gate No. 6* and *Chin and Yin River Banks* show the great improvements which have been made both in ideological content and artistic form.

The film *From Victory to Victory* describes the skilful strategy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. In accordance with its plan to annihilate the main forces of the Kuomintang army, the P.L.A. is first shown effecting a strategic withdrawal. Later, massing its forces in an area with advantageous conditions, it launches a counter-offensive and puts the main forces of the Kuomintang army out of action. This film vividly depicts Chairman Mao's bril-

liant teachings on the strategy and tactics of mobile warfare.

Gate No. 6 tells how the dockers of Tientsin fought back victoriously against the feudal gang-masters who were the lackeys of the Kuomintang. The scenario is based on a play written collectively by a group of dockers and many roles in the film are played by the workers themselves. The unity of China's national minorities achieved under the People's Government is the theme of the film *Chin and Yin River Banks*. The film tells how two groups of the Tibetan people are instigated to fight each other by the ruling class of old China. With the liberation of the area, however, the cadres of the local people's government, overcoming difficulties and disregarding dangers, show them the way they have been tricked in the past, and their fratricidal war is ended. They are united in the big, fraternal family of the Chinese people.

China's first coloured feature film *Liang Shan-po and Chu Ying-tai* is now in production. It is based on the ancient Chinese legend about the true but ill-fated love of a boy and a girl parted by the feudal marriage customs of the past.

New China's films have proved themselves to be rich in content and highly expressive, and at the same time, they develop the excellent traditions of Chinese national art. But with the steady progress of economic construction, the cultural needs of the Chinese people are constantly growing; the working people demand more new films of a still higher ideological and artistic level.

In view of this, the Central Cinema Bureau called a conference in 1953 to discuss how to improve the writing of scenarios. In September, the Second All-China Congress of Writers and Artists also called upon all writers for more and better scenarios. In drawing up the 1954 plan for the selection of scenario themes, emphasis has been laid on scenarios reflecting the new life of the people and their tasks in national construction under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Government.

There is no doubt that, following Chairman Mao's directive, China's film workers will achieve further successes in developing the people's films of New China.

Health Services in New China

P. Z. King

*Director of the Councillors' Office,
Ministry of Public Health*

THE establishment of the people's rule in China has opened wide perspectives for progressive improvements in the material and cultural life of the people and for the consistent improvement and development of public health services.

In the past four years considerable successes have been achieved in the organisation of general medical assistance to the population, in the development of public sanitation and in the struggle against epidemics and other infectious diseases. Fundamental victories have been gained over such dangerous diseases as smallpox, cholera and plague. Great headway has been achieved in dealing with other menaces to health such as malaria, schistosomiasis and hookworm. Kala-azar has been brought under control.

New China is successfully wiping out the terrible health conditions left by the reactionary Kuomintang regime. In old China, the long years of feudal oppression and ruthless exploitation by domestic reactionaries and the imperialists in the past one hundred years reduced the people to the depths of poverty and brought about a catastrophic deterioration in sanitary conditions. The benefits of medical science were only for the privileged upper classes of society. The masses of the people were forced to live and work in insanitary conditions and semi-starvation which bred disease.

Serious epidemics periodically ravaged large areas of the country. There were smallpox epidemics, for example, in 1931, 1940 and 1942, to note only a few. In 1946, there were 54,000 reported cases and an unknown number not reported; 15,000 deaths were recorded. Every few years, cholera epidemics would

break out in cities and communication centres. Plague was a big menace in certain parts of the Northeast, Southeast and Southwest. In 1947, 30,300 cases were reported. Such parasitic diseases as Kala-azar, schistosomiasis, malaria and hookworm sapped the vitality of the population.

The reactionary government squeezed heavy annual taxes out of the people, but provided almost no funds for the improvement of living conditions and medical and health services for the people, or for sanitary and prophylactic measures. Doctor's fees were high. In case of sickness, the working people could neither get public help nor afford to consult a doctor. The rural population in general had no medical or health services at all.

Even according to the statistics of the Kuomintang regime itself, the death rate of the country was as high as 30 per 1,000; the infant mortality rate was 200 per 1,000; and 15 of every 1,000 mothers died in childbirth.

New Health Principles

This was the situation the Central People's Government faced when it was founded in 1949. With the formation of the Ministry of Public Health in the same year, vigorous steps were immediately instituted to deal with the most urgent problems. In the very first months the Ministry of Public Health set about creating a wide network of health institutions and began an energetic struggle against epidemics and infectious diseases.

The first National Health Conference convened on August 7, 1950, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the Central People's Government, laid down the

cardinal principles for public health work in New China.

It was decided that health work would be directed in the first place to serve the toiling masses; the workers, peasants, and the people's soldiers; that the main emphasis would be placed on preventive medical services to preserve and promote the health of the public in the most efficient way; and that a close unity should be established between old-style physicians and modern-trained health personnel so as to improve and develop China's own medical science and augment the forces available for health work.

Successful Anti-Epidemic Work

In its struggle against epidemics, the first aim of the People's Government was to eliminate smallpox, cholera and plague. A publicity campaign was carried out on a nation-wide scale. Through the press, periodicals, posters, magic lantern-slides, motion pictures, broadcasting, popular booklets, meetings and other media, the people were taught simple scientific and practical methods for preventing epidemics.

Under the leadership of the local Party branches and the local governments, the people in every locality took steps to improve environmental sanitation in streets, yards and dwelling houses. At the same time, vaccinations were given systematically throughout the country, together with preventive inoculations on a wide scale in certain areas. Between 1949 and the end of 1952, no less than 214 million injections were given for the prevention of cholera, typhoid, plague and diphtheria, and 511,600,000 vaccinations against smallpox. Other administrative measures were also put into operation. The sanitary control service, for instance, was strengthened along communication lines and over water sources and more adequate supervision was instituted over hygiene standards of foods and beverages in warehouses, shops and restaurants. Proper isolation wards were provided in hospitals for epidemic victims. A network of anti-epidemic teams and stations was established throughout the country. By the end of 1952, there were 186 such teams and stations. Medical teams were sent to fight against the plague at danger

spots. The people were given practical advice on how to carry out disinfection. The anti-epidemic teams of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies of the U.S.S.R., which came to China at the invitation of the People's Government, gave great help to this campaign.

In 1952, the U.S. imperialists began to wage their criminal bacteriological warfare in Korea and China's Northeast, and a wave of anger surged through China. The Chinese people's answer to this crime was a nation-wide and effective patriotic movement for better sanitation. Throughout the length and breadth of the land—especially in the big cities where the population is concentrated—environmental sanitation was rapidly and permanently improved. Nearly 318,000 kms. of sewage pipes and drains were repaired or newly laid. Nearly 1,400,000 wells were improved or newly sunk. Over 74 million tons of garbage were removed from old dumps; 127 million rats were caught and killed. Flies, mosquitoes, fleas, lice and other germ-carriers were wiped out by the million. Conditions favourable to the breeding of such insects and pests were eliminated. Special attention was paid to cleanliness of food and drink, and the proper disposal of faeces. Keeping the streets and public places clean became a popular habit, and personal hygiene became everybody's concern. Out of this campaign emerged many model health workers who became keen supporters and efficient organisers of health work at the basic levels.

Many large-scale water conservancy and construction projects are under way today in People's China which is engaged on an unparalleled programme of national economic construction. Anti-epidemic and medical service teams have been dispatched to look after the health of the several million workers and peasants engaged on such great construction works as the Chingkiang (middle Yangtze) Water Detention Project, the harnessing of the Huai River, and the Kuanting Reservoir. Their successful work has ensured the successful building of these great engineering projects.

The state-owned pharmaceutical industry is also making rapid progress while the privately-owned plants are receiving advice and various kinds of aid from the government. As

a result, China is now quite self-sufficient in its supply of rigorously standardised vaccines and serums as well as insecticides.

These measures and activities have born remarkable fruit in the battle against epidemics and infectious diseases. In the past four years, not a single case of cholera has occurred. The incidence of smallpox has declined sharply. It has been completely eliminated in certain cities. The plague-affected areas have shrunk steadily. Other kinds of epidemics are also declining. No large-scale epidemics that might affect production have occurred in factories, mines or on construction sites. Thus, during the past four years, the new medical service provided the essential health conditions guaranteeing the health of the working people and thus facilitating the restoration and development of the national economy.

Health Services for the Working People

To provide medical services for the population and give effective leadership in local health work, there has been a systematic organisation of health institutions at basic levels in town and countryside. Many new hospitals have been set up. By the end of 1952, there were 139,000 hospital beds available in 983 publicly-run hospitals, a 117 per cent increase compared with 1950. By the end of 1952, about 98 per cent of China's counties had county health centres and about 42 per cent of its districts in rural areas had district health centres. These figures, moreover, do not include the privately-run clinics supported by government subsidies. Furthermore, there are 10,000 joint-clinics and rural medical co-operatives organised by the peasants spread throughout the vast countryside to serve the rural population.

In industrial and mining areas, the Labour Insurance Regulations, promulgated by the Central People's Government in 1951, have brought free medical services to workers and their family dependents as well as maternity benefits to women workers in all factories and mines employing over 100 workers. The total now covered by the Regulations is over 10 million people. In 788 factories in Shanghai, for instance, labour insurance funds spent by

the managements or owners in 1951 and 1952 amounted to some 10 per cent of the total wages of all their workers. The major portion of this amount was devoted to medical and health work.

Hospitals have been set up in many factories and mines. In Northeast China, for example, by June, 1952, there were 20 times as many hospitals in factories and mines and 12 times as many health clinics as compared with pre-liberation days. A doctor is now available there for every 625 workers. The national figure in this field is 880 to 1 doctor. There are 7.1 hospital beds for every 1,000 persons. There are first-aid stations in most workshops and mines, and the majority of those in charge have received special first-aid training. Trade unions in many places have set up their own sanatoria, rest homes, spare-time sanatoria and spare-time rest homes. There are now 92 spare-time rest homes for workers in the Northeast.

The number of hospital beds for workers in the textile industry of East China was increased by two and a half times between 1950 and 1952. In Shanghai, 788 enterprises established 153 sanatoria and rest homes for workers between 1951 and 1953. There were 48 times more beds for industrial and mining workers of Northwest China in 1952 as compared with pre-liberation times and 50 times more health personnel.

Since July, 1952, all personnel in government institutions and in political party and social organisations are entitled to free medical care.

Better Health for National Minorities

Special attention is being paid to health work in the national minority areas. The People's Government has sent many medical teams to these areas to give the local inhabitants free medical treatment and instruct them in the fundamentals of health and hygiene.

There are now 50 new hospitals in the national minority areas, 358 newly established health centres at county level and 48 mobile medical and health field teams. Thanks to the creation of this expanding network of health institutions, China's national minorities have

for the first time got the possibility of enjoying modern medical services. Several anti-malarial centres have been established in national minority areas in Central and Southwest China.

A successful offensive has been launched against venereal disease. This was prevalent in many of the national minority areas in the past. It not only ruined the health of many people but caused a serious reduction in the population. In Inner Mongolia, in the five banners of Hu, Tsu, Hsi, Yi and Wu, 65,446 cases of syphilis were treated in the past three years. The ravages of this disease inherited from the past are being brought under control as its social causes are being eliminated.

And in preparation for still better health services, 2,300 middle-grade medical personnel have already been trained from among the national minorities and more than 400 are studying at medical colleges.

Modern Methods of Childbirth

The health of mothers and babies is being effectively promoted in New China.

In the past, old customs and superstitious practices brought great harm to the health of mothers and babies, and not infrequently were fatal in their results.

At the present time there are well over 30,000 mother and child-care organisations, maternity hospitals, children's hospitals and midwifery stations. At the end of 1952, there were 161 mother and child-care centres, an increase of 144 per cent over 1951; 2,112 mother and child-care clinics, an increase of 357 per cent; and 27,400 modern maternity stations, an increase of 54 per cent. Over 260,000 modern and old-style midwives have been trained or re-educated. Mention must also be made here of the direct financial aid given by the state to mothers, free maternity



Mobile medical teams supplement the regular medical service which is being established in the countryside. A baby gets a smallpox vaccination from a mobile team in a village near Peking

treatment, labour insurance benefits of grants and leave before and after childbirth, etc.

Through this system of institutions, modern scientific methods of midwifery (pre-natal examinations, the observance of sterile conditions at birth, etc.) are being popularised to replace the old customs. Various forms of publicity are being used to bring these new methods to the people's attention and, as a result, the population is giving tremendous help to the health organisations in their work. As the merits of the new scientific methods gain wider and wider recognition, an ever-increasing number of expectant mothers are demanding their use.

Publicity is fully co-ordinated with practical organisational measures. In Peking, for instance, a network of mother and child-care centres has been jointly set up by the public hospitals, professional obstetricians, and qualified midwives. Led by the district health committee, a mother and child-care group is organised in each block of houses headed by one of the socially active residents, and this is responsible for publicity work among expectant mothers and for putting them in contact with the district health agencies and mother and child-care stations. Pre-natal examinations are all free. Expectant mothers pay a mid-

wifery fee as fixed by regulations, but in case of need, it is paid by the People's Government. The success achieved in this field is shown by the following fact: in 1949, nearly 42 per cent of expectant mothers still relied on the old methods of midwifery, but since the network of mother and child-care centres was well established in October, 1952, over 96 per cent of expectant mothers have adopted modern methods.

An increasing number of new midwifery courses have been set up to train more qualified midwives. In villages and other areas where there is still a shortage of obstetricians and modern medical workers, the first and most urgent task is to re-educate the old-style midwives so that they can grasp the most essential techniques of modern obstetrics and learn the rudiments of modern hygiene for women and children. This is being done. In addition, a large number of ordinary housewives are being trained to help at births.

As a result of these measures, the mortality rates of both mothers and infants have dropped sharply during the last four years.

The network of mother and child-care institutions is being constantly expanded.

Expanded Medical Education

The system of medical training institutions has been considerably expanded in the past four years. All middle-grade medical institutes have been enlarged to enrol graduates of junior middle schools or those of similar educational attainments. After two or two and a half years' training, these students will become "feldsher doctors," nurses, midwives or medical technicians able to attend at X-ray treatments, do laboratory work or assist as pharmacists, etc.

A series of reforms has been simultaneously carried through in the higher medical institutions. These included the re-organisation of medical schools and colleges, improvements in their curricula and teaching methods, which have allowed reductions in the periods of study, and increases in the number of students enrolled. The total number of students in medical colleges has now far surpassed the combined figure of all doctors

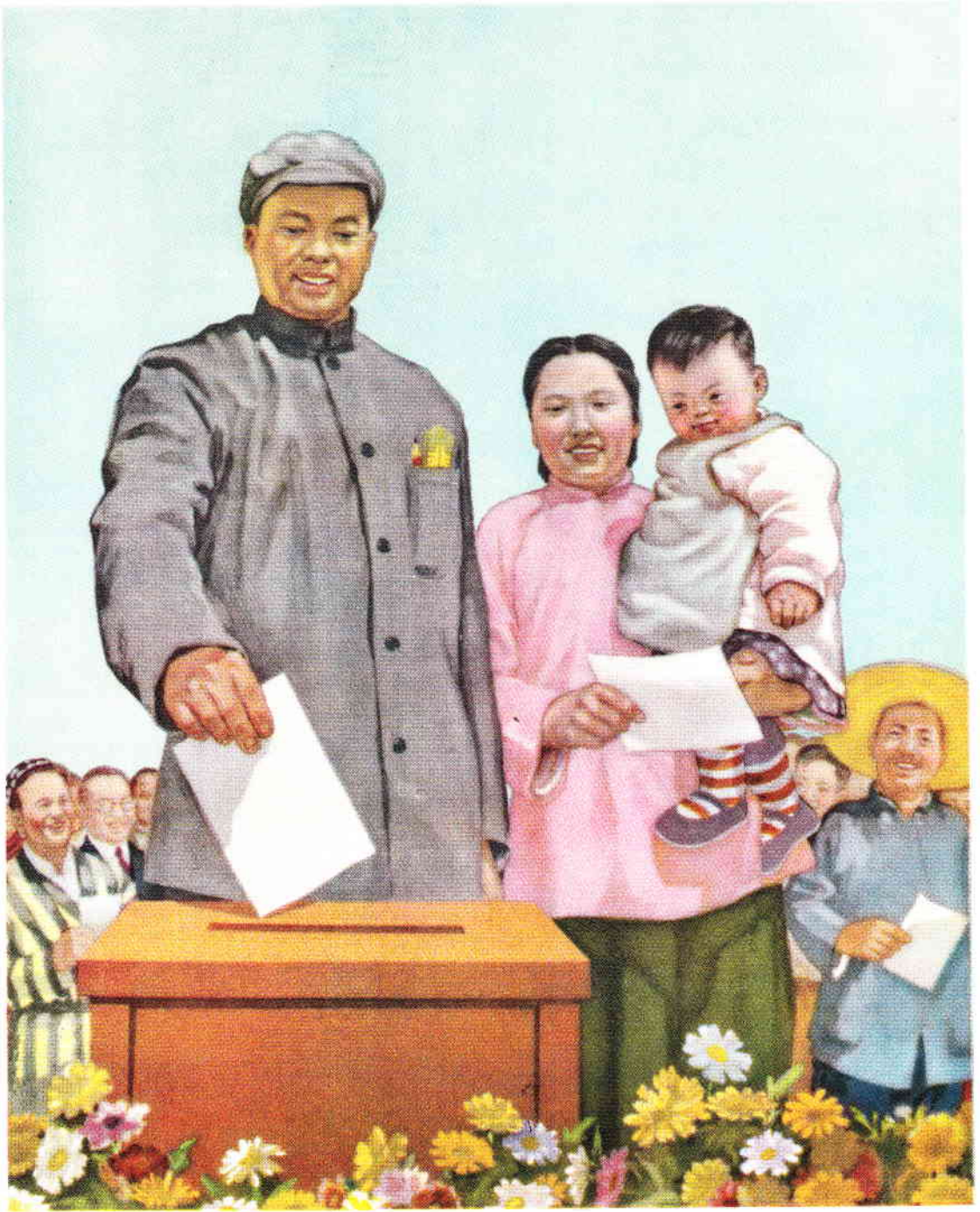
trained during the past 69 years. Preliminary steps have also been made in the study and development of the old-style Chinese medical practice and *materia medica*.

China has received much assistance from the Soviet Union in improving health work. In addition to participating in the anti-plague measures mentioned above, many Soviet health specialists and physicians have come to China to give lectures and help in practical day-to-day work. The Soviet Union Red Cross Society Hospital, opened in Peking in 1952, is led by Soviet doctors and all its equipment was provided by the Red Cross Society of the Soviet Union. This hospital has set a fine example for all Chinese medical workers both in the organisation of medical services and the use of the most up-to-date methods of treatment.

Medical and health workers in New China have entered with enthusiasm on the study of advanced Soviet medical science. The theories of the great Soviet physiologist Pavlov are now being extensively studied in all medical circles in China. Advanced Soviet methods of treatment, such as use of the "novocaine block" and "sleep therapy," both based on Pavlov's theories, have been introduced into China and are now widely adopted. Painless childbirth methods based on his theories are also gradually being popularised, and excellent results have been obtained. Professor Filatov's method of tissue therapy, a very effective Soviet therapeutic measure, is also widely practised.

* * *

The foregoing is only a brief summary of the considerable achievements scored by New China in its health work in the past four years. And what this means to the health and happiness of the people is, of course, inestimable. Back of this great and successful effort lies the victory of the Chinese people's revolution which was led by the Communist Party. It is only in a nation where the people are their own masters that the government can so serve the people, continuously improve their livelihood and create the prerequisites for a constant improvement in their health. In this work of bringing better health to the masses, the new-democratic social system once again confirms its superiority.



Elect Our Deputies for the Building of New China

A Poster by Tao Mou-chi

Railway equipment being loaded at Hankow on the Yangtze for the new Chengtu-Paochi Railway which is under construction. Inland water transport plays a big part in China's industrialisation plans

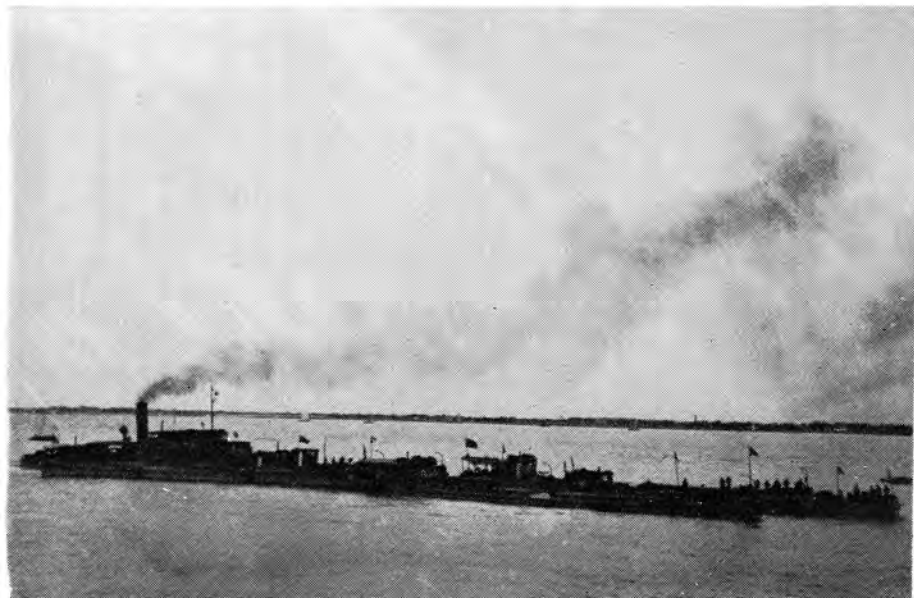
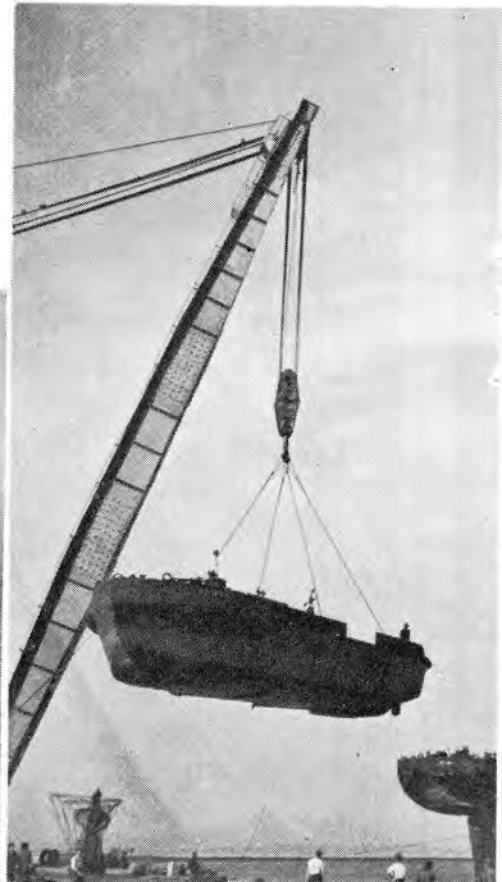


Traffic is revived on the ancient navigational aids and dredging have made it navigable again after it fell into disrepair. Kuomintang

CHINA'S INLAND NAVIGATION

A steam tug pushing five barges up the Yangtze. This new Soviet method is 20% more efficient than tugging them astern

Newly built cargo craft being loaded for inland waterways in m.





Grand Canal. New locks, have made its middle section hopelessly disrepair during the days

located at Dairen, Northeast China, in many parts of the country



A river steamer passing through a new lock at Kaoliangchien, on northern Kiangsu's main irrigation canal, part of the big Huai River project



China today has more than 90,000 kms. of navigable inland waterways on which vessels owned by the state carry over 50% of the freight. Privately-owned vessels, including the great fleet of 300,000 junks, are also prospering as they serve national construction under state guidance.

The many years of neglect of the main waterways is being remedied by dredging and construction of new ports, navigational aids and other modern facilities, and by large-scale water conservancy projects.

Inland navigation plays a big role in the exchange of products between town and countryside. Eggs awaiting shipment at a port in Szechuan on the upper reaches of the Yangtze





One of the ward buildings



The entrance to the out-patients department

A New Municipal Hospital in Canton



Modern public health facilities are being steadily expanded in New China. This 1350-bed municipal hospital completed this year, with a medical and working staff of 1200, also serves 2400 out-patients daily

Patients of the surgical department enjoy spacious accommodation in this building

Popularising Scientific And Technical Knowledge

Liang Hsi

*Chairman, All-China Association for the
Dissemination of Scientific and
Technical Knowledge*

THE All-China Association for the Dissemination of Scientific and Technical Knowledge was founded at the All-China Conference of Natural Science Workers held in August, 1950.

The Association set itself four main tasks:

1. To help the working people of town and country to master scientific and technical knowledge so as to enable them to participate more actively in national economic construction;

2. To propagate a materialist understanding of natural phenomena in order to combat superstition;

3. To acquaint the people with scientific and technical achievements in China, and thereby stimulate their patriotism;

4. To spread medical and hygienic knowledge to help protect the people's health.

In carrying out these tasks in the past three years and more, the Association has acquired a valuable body of experience.

The main activity of the Association consists of lectures, supplemented by lantern-slide shows, exhibitions and the publication of pamphlets. It has set up 28 branches in major cities and 94 county sub-branches in many parts of the country, all of which work under the guidance of leading scientists. Its 23,416 members include scientific workers, faculty and staff members of institutions of higher education, engineers, agricultural specialists and medical workers. From the founding of the Association to the end of June, 1953, its

branches and sub-branches sponsored 25,753 lectures, 1,084 exhibitions, 8,853 lantern-slide and motion-picture shows on scientific subjects to a total audience of 16,959,000 people. These figures show that the popularisation of scientific and technical knowledge has made giant strides within the short span of three years and more.

These achievements are due to the support of the Communist Party of China and the People's Government, the active participation of scientific and technical workers and the enthusiastic support of the labouring people throughout the country. Moreover, the working experience and assistance of the U.S.S.R. Association for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge have been of great help to our work.

Scientists Aid Workers

Since the close of 1952, the Association has been organising lectures systematically in the big cities. Workers comprise the majority of the audiences. In line with the general principle of the People's Government to increase production and practise economy, advanced experiences in production are popularised in the factories. In many cities, lectures on production have been given for workers and cadres. These include a series of lectures on production processes in machine-building sponsored by the Shanghai branch of the Association; on electricity and electrical engineering sponsored by the Port Arthur-Dairen branch; and on textile technology sponsored by the Tientsin branch. Each of these was well pre-

pared. For example, in Tientsin, lectures on the technology of the textile industry were preceded by consultations on the best method of presentation with the leadership of the factories and a meeting of those textile engineers and professors who are members of the Association. Opinions were thus collected from specialists, trade union cadres and workers' representatives. Good organisation also ensured good attendances.

Systematic lectures of this kind prove their worth in practice. Lu Hsueh-ming, a fine-yarn worker, could not discover why there were so many broken threads in her weaving. She thought that the quality of the thread she had been using was not fine enough. Despite all her efforts, she failed to improve her work. It was only after attending a lecture that she began to see the effect of moisture, the temperature of the air and other factors on the quality of the cotton yarn. This led her to consult with the worker in charge to improve conditions of heat and humidity. She also suggested a modification of certain machine parts. As a result, the number of thread-breaks in the mill where she works declined by 16.7 per cent and production showed a significant increase.

Yang Tou-chen, a worker of the Huachi Electrical Machinery Plant in Hankow, after listening to a lecture on "New Methods of Metal-Cutting," was another who succeeded in putting what she heard into practice. After changing the angle of her cutting tool, she was able to increase her output fivefold. Moreover, the life of the tool was prolonged.

In Hangchow, to cite another example, a number of stokers heard a lecture on the proper tending of steam boilers. This led to the more rational use of fuel, and greater efficiency in the functioning of their boilers.

Lectures are also given for government workers and the youth. The Hangchow branch of the Association sponsored a series on natural developments under the following four titles: the formation of the solar system, the origin of life on the earth, organic evolution and the origin of man. By popular request each lecture had to be given four times, instead of only once as originally scheduled. Over 12,000 people heard this series.

At Paoting, Hopei Province, the lecture on "The Great Stalin Plan to Transform Nature" was twice repeated at popular request. Well received lectures on China's economic construction and scientific and technical achievements were given for government workers in Peking.

The Association has enthusiastically supported the nation-wide patriotic sanitation movement which has been in progress all over China to improve the people's health. It has already sponsored 5,900 lectures, over 140 lantern-slide shows and 84 exhibitions on medical science and hygiene for a total audience of 3,445,000 people.

On February 14 this year, a partial solar eclipse was seen in many parts of China. The Association mobilised a large number of scientists and scientific workers to promote the understanding of this phenomenon among the masses. More than 1,200,000 people attended the 1,078 lectures, 19 exhibitions and 338 lantern-slide shows that were specially organised.

At the request of the Association, Chang Yu-cheh, director of the Tzu Chin Shan (Purple Mountain) Observatory in Nanking, broadcast a scientific explanation of this phenomenon over a nation-wide radio hook-up on the day of the eclipse. In Tsingtao, crowds of people thronged the hillsides and seashore to observe its phases, while at Kunming, in Yunnan Province, more than 10,000 spectators packed the Yuantung Hill for the same purpose.

As a result of the work done by the Association, broad sections of the people are now acquainted with the scientific theories explaining the cosmos.

The Association has also published a great quantity of pamphlets and other reading matter on various scientific and technical topics, designed to give practical help to the working people of the cities and countryside. For instance, the pamphlet *How to Use Fertilisers*, published by its Szechuan branch, sold 5,000 copies in the villages in a single month.

The People Aid Scientists

Peasants come to the branch associations constantly with questions concerning ways of increasing production. This close co-operation between the Association and the people



With the help of microscopes and slides, a publicity worker of the Patriotic Sanitation Campaign Committee of Peking gives a popular explanation of the role of various germs in causing diseases

is well illustrated by the case of the Chekiang provincial branch, which in two and a half years received 3,874 letters from peasants. This work of popularising scientific and technical knowledge has brought Chinese scientific workers into close contact with the masses of the people—thus enriching their own knowledge by wider contact with facts and practice. To give one example, Liu Chih-ying, Professor of Entomology at the Chekiang Agricultural College, has received from the peasants many specimens of insect-pests. Among them was one of whose existence he had not been aware, but which it proved important to study. While serving the people, science in China is constantly stimulated to new and more intense research by being daily confronted with questions arising in the daily work of millions of toilers.

The work of popularising scientific knowledge and techniques in New China is still

in its infancy, but its future growth is assured. Chinese scientific and technical workers regard this work as an important responsibility. The Standing Committee of the All-China Association for the Dissemination of Scientific and Technical Knowledge has stated in one of its resolutions:

“Our scientific and technical workers must set themselves the aim of integrating scientific knowledge with the needs of the masses, combining individual wisdom with that of the labouring people, and linking up scientific research with the productive activities of the masses. We are well aware that the mastery of science and technique by the labouring people will greatly speed up the industrialisation of our country and its step-by-step transition to Socialism.”

This directive serves as the guide of all of us who are working to popularise scientific knowledge and technique.

Election in Shaho Village

Sun Chan-ko

IT was deep night. As usual, the peasants of Shaho had gone to bed early after the day's strenuous work. All was quiet in the village. Only in Lu Chi-feng's house could a light be seen at this late hour. This sight no longer aroused comment. Ever since May, when the preparatory work for the election had started, the old man had given up his lifetime habit of "early to bed." After he was chosen to lead his electoral group, he was always busy with public activities: making up the census, registering voters and many other matters. His whole group, and local activists in general, made his home a gathering place. Here they discussed how to organise the election committee, how to verify registrations and similar problems.

Selecting Candidates

Following a night spent in preparations, the twelve members of the group met in Lu Chi-feng's courtyard to approve candidates from the village for election to the *hsiang* people's congress.

Lu Shou-chuan, head of the village and a member of the Communist Party, was the first to be nominated. His name was proposed by the respected 92-year-old Li Chuan-chen. Old Li described Lu Shou-chuan's life and work, his sufferings under the rule of the reactionary Kuomintang and active participation in leading the peasants to struggle against the landlords in the agrarian reform. The venerable elder even recalled the village head's grandfather and father—to prove that his family had been industrious and honest farmers for generations. "Lu Shou-chuan is a good boy whom we can trust," he concluded. "Let's elect him. We'll never regret it."

Lu Chi-feng's wife was the next to speak.

"Our village head," she said, "shows concern for families that lack labour power. He often has asked me: 'Have you sown? Any

difficulties?' And when we need help, he never fails to give it."

After her came a peasant who had sat quietly in a corner.

"It's self-evident," he started, slightly embarrassed, "that our village head is a really good man. Let me give my own experience. I followed his advice about a new way of wiping out cotton aphids and had a big crop—300 catties more than in ordinary years. What's more, Lu Shou-chuan is humble—he never puts on airs. Last year he often came to my land to see how the sowing was going. This year, he helped me plan the new house I was building."

So many more people were eager to talk about the prospective candidate that Lu Chi-feng, who was chairman, had a hard time maintaining orderly procedure. Finally the nomination of village head Lu Shou-chuan was unanimously approved.

Next, the meeting began to discuss the qualifications of another nominee, Liu Chuan-yen.

The first speaker was Hsiao Tu.

"How could a fellow like him be elected as our deputy?" he started in a provocative tone. "He is backward and superstitious, full of remnant feudal ideas. He mentions 'the lord of heaven' in every sentence. If there is drought or flood—I bet he will burn incense and pray to the 'lord of heaven!'"

These words seemed to represent the common opinion regarding Liu. As no one spoke up for him, his nomination was dropped.

When the name of a young peasant woman, Chu Yuan-fang, was proposed, Liu Ching-tai who had said nothing previously got up in opposition.

"We are electing a deputy. How can a woman do that job?"

This provoked a sharp response, especially among the women present.

"What backward ideas you have! Show us a woman who is inferior to you?"

"Liu Ching-tai, you are an old die-hard, full of feudal nonsense."

"He should be seriously criticised!"

The chairman of the meeting, called for order, then said to Liu Ching-tai:

"You are wrong! Chairman Mao has taught us that men and women should be equal. Women, just like men, have the right to elect and to be elected. We all know that in these years, women haven't fallen behind men in any field! Take Chu Yuan-fang whom you oppose! She is only twenty but she works hard and studies hard. She is also the leader of a mutual-aid team. In what respect can she not compare with our menfolk?"

Then he said to the women: "Everyone has the right to state his opinion at this meeting. Don't get excited just because of Liu Ching-tai's words."

The majority approved Chu Yuan-fang's qualifications. She, too, became a candidate.

The meeting became quieter—but not for long. The nomination of Li Teh-cheng gave rise to heated debate. Li was proposed by Lu Chi-feng, but Pu Hsiu-ying, Lu Chi-feng's wife, jumped from her seat and said determinedly:

"I object to Li Teh-cheng! He has been vice-head of our village for many years and how did he do his work? Bureaucratically, always giving orders! When chemical fertiliser was being popularised last year, we hesitated to buy it because we did not know how to use it. Did Li Teh-cheng explain its advantages? No, he just commanded us: 'Whether you like it or not, you must buy chemical fertiliser!' I don't like such behaviour and told him so frankly. And do you know how he answered? He said: 'That's my nature!' Just imagine, that's his nature! Is this what you call a public servant of the people?"



Peasants holding an informal discussion on the candidates nominated for election to their hsiang people's congress

She was supported by Chang Shu-hua, who had not been involved in the debate thus far but could restrain her patience no longer.

"Last year, peasants in the village where my mother lives dug an irrigation ditch and had a good harvest," she said. "So I got an idea. If the stream at the eastern slope of our village could be used, how much land could be watered and how much grain could be harvested? I made this proposal to Li Teh-cheng. He didn't answer 'yes' or 'no.' Just cut me off with 'Are you going to provide the money?' I was so angry, I ran away immediately. Later I talked about my idea with Shou-chuan, the village head, who thanked me for my suggestion and referred it to the district government. They arranged a loan for us and now we have our irrigation."

Hsiao Tu hated Li Teh-cheng because he had been detained at his order after a fight. Now he remembered this and shouted:

"What kind of person is Li Teh-cheng? He detained me! Let's make this lord over the people cool his heels off-stage."

"What are you talking about. Hsiao Tu!" Shih Jui-hua, a women voter, interrupted.

"Isn't it right to detain you when you beat others, you rascal? You're just making a malicious attack. Do you remember who helped us to carry out the land reform? Who led us in fighting the landlords? Wasn't it Li Teh-cheng? We were afraid of the landlords' revenge but Li Teh-cheng encouraged us to take the land anyhow. Some poor people here had no food. Wasn't it Li who helped them with what he saved from his own mouth? Didn't he distribute government relief grain to everyone else before he took his own share, though his need was just as urgent? Can his services to the people be forgotten?"

"Shih Jui-hua, you exaggerate too much in Teh-cheng's favour and don't say anything about his defects," Lu Chi-feng's wife broke in. "That won't do either. Teh-cheng does not consult with the other people on anything, and that's no good."

The courtyard was a hubbub of voices. Some were for Li Teh-cheng and others were against. The chairman called for order, but no body listened.

Something flashed into Hsiao Tu's mind. He jumped to his feet and counted the people. Then he shouted: "Seven against and five in favour, the minority should submit to the majority."

Old man Li Chuan-chen did not think this was right, so he stood up, raised his arms and looked around. Because his opinion has always been respected, everyone fell silent.

"Folks! Listen to me." He said in a low voice. "I am the oldest here. I have lived more than ninety years and have a little more experience than some. Who said Li Teh-cheng is not a good boy? I'll tell you something about his history. Forty years ago landlords in Taian County forced his parents to run away. So they put his elder brother and him in two baskets on a carrying pole and wandered around. Finally, they came here.

"Teh-cheng's father worked for a landlord and his mother became a beggar. That's how they brought up their children. Teh-cheng's elder brother was seized by the Kuomintang and put into the army. The old village head forced his father to pay taxes; crushed him down—till he fell sick and died. Before his death, the old man, in tears, said to Li Teh-cheng: 'Son, remember to avenge your Dad!'

"Teh-cheng did as his Dad asked. After liberation he was one of the leading comrades in the fight against landlords. They tried to bribe him but he refused and stuck to the peasants. Also he was active in suppressing bandits, exposing and punishing counter-revolutionaries. Li Teh-cheng always wants others to live well but he doesn't care about himself. So how can you say that he is a lord over the people?"

Casting a fierce glance at Hsiao Tu, the old man continued:

"Of course, he has shortcomings. He's impatient, hot tempered and sometimes commits the mistake of commandism. But who has never committed mistakes in his work? In my opinion, he has acknowledged his errors and in the last half year he's been correcting them."

"What kind of mistakes did Li Teh-cheng make?" Shih Jui-hua asked, her voice calmer now. "Giving orders? When he forced others to buy chemical fertiliser, wasn't it so that we farmers could harvest more crops?"

"Don't defend him," Lu Chi-feng's wife argued. "Look at our village head Shou-chuan for comparison, he never does things by compulsion. Even if Li Teh-cheng recognises his shortcomings and tries to overcome them, it's difficult to change his temper. We should think carefully whether he'll make a good deputy."

Gradually the number of Li Teh-cheng's supporters increased and finally he was nominated as a candidate. Chang Shu-hua, who had first made the strongest objection, now said:

"To pick only on his faults, of course, isn't fair. He has his good points too. If only he stops trying to do his job by commanding and issuing orders, he can be a good leader."

The remaining names up for nomination were disposed of quickly. Everyone agreed on two other men who were well-known and reliable, while the rest were retired. The end result was five candidates out of a total of thirty or so names suggested at the first instance.

The Election

The next gathering was the election for the *hsiang* people's congress, attended by Lu

Chi-feng's group and all others in the village. It took place in the square in front of the ancestral hall. To the peasants, this square was associated with many memories. Here the Chiang Kai-shek gangsters and the landlords had perpetrated their crimes before the liberation. Here, too, after the liberation the peasants had met to fight the landlords. Now they were met here to elect their deputies to the people's congress for the first time. The scene was solemn and beautiful.

A portrait of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, flanked by national flags, was placed above the rostrum. The peasants wore their best clothes, as at a festival. The sound of gongs, drums and wind instruments filled the air. People were smiling and talking, and groups of merry youngsters were singing. One song was *Flowers of Democracy Are Blooming Everywhere*.

The people sat in rows; laughter was frequently heard amidst the din of conversation. The chairman knocked on the table, signaling the start of the meeting. Then he announced loudly:

"The number of registered voters is 218 of whom 211 are present. I think we can commence our meeting." The crowd applauded approvingly.

"I remind you once again. Don't raise your hand if you do not approve the candidate whose name is called. This is your own right."

The election started in accordance with the list of candidates.

"Those who are for Lu Shou-chuan, please raise your hand!"

A forest of hands went up. All was quiet except the sound of votes being counted. Then it turned out that one old woman had raised both of her hands. She explained that one was for her daughter-in-law who had just given birth to a baby and was unable to attend. The counter told her that an election worker would visit her house and give her daughter-in-law a chance to vote for herself. So the old woman put down one hand.

The result was announced—211 votes for Lu Shou-chuan. He had been elected unanimously.

Voting continued for other candidates. When Li Teh-cheng's name came up, Lu Chi-feng's wife asked to say a few words:

"I do not approve Li Teh-cheng as a deputy. Although my husband is not pleased, still I do not approve him. This is my right."

Despite this statement of opposition, Li Teh-cheng was elected too.

Afterwards, the five new deputies — Lu Shou-chuan, Lu Shou-chin, Li Teh-cheng, Lu Hung-wu and Chu Yuan-fang — mounted the rostrum amidst applause. All the gongs and musical instruments were sounded. Girls dressed in attractive colours presented the deputies with bouquets.

Village head Lu Shou-chuan had participated in many such public occasions. Yet this time he was so excited that his voice trembled.

"Fellow villagers!" he said. "Like the red flowers pinned to our chests, our hearts too are blooming! We are very happy that the electors have such confidence in us. We assure you that we will follow Chairman Mao's teachings and we also hope that you will help us. If we have shortcomings, please criticise us frankly. Since we are serving the people, we are responsible to you in everything we do."

Li Teh-cheng also asked to speak. But when he got up, he did not know how to start. Finally, he managed to say: "My working style was stiff in the past. I used to order and command. From now on I will certainly correct myself and not disappoint your trust."

Lu Chi-feng jumped up on the rostrum. Facing the deputies he said:

"I represent the voters, today we have elected you people as our deputies. Remember. If you work for us well, you will always have our trust. Otherwise, you will be recalled."

Turning to the voters he asked:

"Folks! Am I right?"

"Yes! Yes!" Came the many-voiced reply.

The election was over. As the voters went home, they engaged in lively conversation about the events of the election. They felt deeply that day that every one of the people is a builder of the people's state power in New China.

Professor Hua Loo-keng— Outstanding Mathematician

Yao Fang-ying

IN June, 1953, the Academia Sinica (the Chinese Academy of Sciences) published *The Additive Theory of Prime Numbers*, by the outstanding mathematician, Professor Hua Loo-keng. The manuscript of this valuable work of scientific research had actually been completed as early as the beginning of 1941, when the author was teaching at the South-west Associated University in Kunming, Yunnan Province. But under the Kuomintang regime there was no chance of getting such a work published. Indeed, the bureaucratic Kuomintang officials to whom the manuscript was submitted contrived to lose it.

Fortunately Professor Hua Loo-keng had sent a copy of his manuscript, in English, to Academician I. M. Vinogradov of the Academy

of Sciences of the Soviet Union. In the spring of 1941, this eminent scientist telegraphed to Professor Hua, telling him that the work would be translated into Russian and published in the Soviet Union.

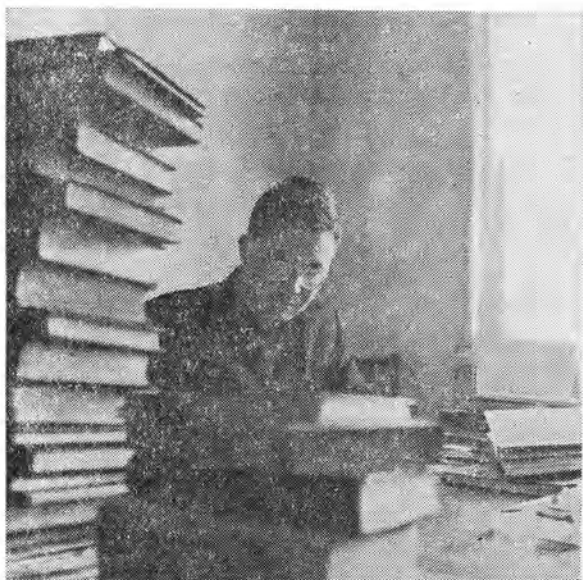
Professor Hua visited the Soviet Union in 1946, on the invitation of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. There he helped put the finishing touches on the translation. The next year the book was published by the Institute of Mathematics named after V. A. Steklov.

Science in Old China

This story vividly illustrates the difficulties under which science laboured in old China. Professor Hua himself referred to them in the introduction to the first Chinese edition of *The Additive Theory of Prime Numbers*:

“In order to publish this book in China,” he wrote, “I have had to translate it from Russian into Chinese. This is eloquent proof that the corrupt Kuomintang clique in old China paid practically no attention to the development of science in our country. It also shows, by contrast, how highly the fruits of scientific research are valued by the new people’s state.”

Professor Hua’s achievements in higher mathematics are inseparably connected with his consistent study of the advanced mathematical science of the Soviet Union. This study began in 1935, at a time when most Chinese mathematicians were still quite contented with the theories of Anglo-American bourgeois scientists. It was after mastering the method of mathematical investigation developed by I. M. Vinogradov that Professor Hua achieved new successes in his work on the theory of num-



Professor Hua Loo-keng at work

bers, the results of which are summarised in his book.

Professor Hua's studies extend in many directions. Possessed of a deep knowledge of mathematics, he addresses himself to the most pressing problems of contemporary mathematical science. He has studied such problems profoundly and has given successful solutions for many of them. In the past 20 years he has published over one hundred papers on mathematics, greatly enriching Chinese science.

Early Life

Born in 1910 in the family of a small businessman in Chintan County, Kiangsu Province, Hua Loo-keng was forced by the poor circumstances of his family to leave school at the age of 15 and help his father in business. But he was too interested in science to devote himself to business as his parents intended. Attracted by mathematics, he decided to master it by himself.

In his spare time when there were no customers in his father's store, he plunged into study. His father was not at all happy about this, and on several occasions threatened to burn all his books. But threats could not force the young man to change his decision and he continued his studies with untiring zeal.

In 1929, while Hua Loo-keng was employed as an accountant at the Public Middle School of Chintan County, his writings on mathematics began to appear in scientific magazines published in Shanghai. When the school principal discovered the extent of Hua Loo-keng's mathematical knowledge, he asked him to teach a class. At that very time, however, the young scientist fell ill with typhoid followed by arthritis, which left him lame in his left leg.

A year later, Hua Loo-keng went to work in Tsinghua University in Peking. In the summer of 1931 he was given a minor position in the Department of Mathematics. In his spare time he learned German and French and studied books and journals on mathematics. It was then that he began to have his mathematical papers published in scientific journals abroad. Later he was promoted first to assistant, then to full instructor in Tsinghua University.

Prof. Hua's Contributions To Mathematics

The Additive Theory of Prime Numbers is based on a study of the theorem of mean value developed by Professor Vinogradov, and its results, to which the author has contributed several improvements. It also correlates the methods of research into Waring's problem and Goldbach's problem, further develops Tarry's problem and discusses other problems in the theory of numbers.

In addition to his work in the theory of numbers, Professor Hua has also made contributions to the theory of Fourier transforms and to the theory of elliptic modular functions. But his most profound studies have been in the theory of the automorphic functions of several variables (or automorphic functions with matrices as variables) and in the theory of Fuchsian functions. In the study of abstract algebra, Professor Hua has contributed a great deal to the theory of groups. He has been successful in proving by a very elegant method that semi-automorphism of an sfield must be either automorphism or anti-automorphism.

In the summer of 1936, Hua Loo-keng went to Britain, where he continued his scientific studies in Cambridge University. Two years later, during the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression, he returned to China and was appointed Professor of Mathematics at the Southwest Associated University in Kunming.

Under the rule of the Kuomintang, honest scientists like Hua Loo-keng suffered great difficulties in their material life. Moreover, they were frequently persecuted for holding progressive views. On December 1, 1945, the Kuomintang regime brutally attacked students of the Southwest Associated University. Four students were killed in that massacre. Kuomintang special agents also assassinated Professor Wen I-to, the famous poet, a close colleague of Hua Loo-keng and one whom he deeply respected. It was under such conditions that Hua Loo-keng and his family went abroad in the summer of 1946.

As soon as he heard the momentous news of the victory of the people's revolution in 1949, Professor Hua immediately returned to

his native land. While still on his way back he addressed an open letter to all Chinese students in the United States, urging them to return to China and dedicate their efforts to the service of the people.

Professor Hua found on his return that his dream of a liberated China had already become a reality.

In New China

He was deeply struck by the boundless enthusiasm of the young Chinese students. "In the past, I had at most only about ten students in my class," he said. "Now on my return to Tsinghua this time, I find the lecture room packed with some 60 students. The students are eager to master science quickly, and this has inspired me to speed up the writing of a book which is urgently needed by them." This work, *The Introduction to the Theory of Numbers*, will soon be completed.

Professor Hua was invited to attend, as an observer, the Second Session of the First National Committee of the People's Political Consultative Conference in June, 1950, where he heard the discussions on the historic Agrarian Reform Law and the address delivered by Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the great leader of the Chinese people. He also joined a delegation organised by the Academia Sinica to visit the countries of eastern Europe and later attended a meeting of the Janos Bolyai Mathematical Society in Hungary. On this journey abroad where they were so warmly greeted by the peoples of these friendly countries, Professor Hua, like other members of the delegation, felt a deep pride at being granted the honour of representing the liberated Chinese people. After returning to Peking at the end of September, 1950, he never tired of telling of these experiences. "Rounds of applause would come from the audience whenever I mentioned in my talks abroad the name of Chairman Mao Tse-tung or spoke about the People's Liberation Army," he recalls.

The people and their government in New China surround scientists and science with care and attention. Professor Hua has received unflinching assistance and support from the Communist Party of China and the People's Government. In 1950, the Academia Sinica invited him to take part in the preparatory

work for the establishment of the Institute of Mathematics. When the Institute was opened in July, 1952, he was appointed director. In 1951 the newly-inaugurated Chinese Mathematical Society elected him its Chairman and concurrently Editor-in-Chief of its *Journal of Mathematics*. When the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions convened in Peking in October, 1952, Professor Hua Loo-keng, as an active peace partisan, took part in its work as an observer.

Conscious of this care of the government and the people, Professor Hua works devotedly and tirelessly for the welfare of China. Even while working at the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions, he contrived to use every spare moment to continue his research work.

What is the source of Professor Hua's inexhaustible energy? The best answer is given by himself: "Since the people need us, our science can be developed to the maximum; People's China has opened a bright future before us; we can make the best use of our abilities."

Professor Hua's research room is in the big new building of the Institute of Mathematics of the Academia Sinica in Tsinghua Yuan, on the western outskirts of Peking. Nearby stands a neat house, where he lives with his family. In his leisure moments, he is frequently to be seen there in earnest and lively conversation with his friends. This 42-year-old mathematician who looks much younger, is always glad to pass on his own experience of life and work to his students and encourage them to study hard. When they talk, somewhat awed by the intellectual genius of the great mathematicians, he assures them—"not genius, but hard study."

Professor Hua Loo-keng has recently returned from another visit to the Soviet Union. Both in his public talks and in his private conversations, he speaks with admiration about the great achievements made by Soviet mathematics in the cause of Communist construction. "At a time when China is entering onto her planned economic construction and advancing towards industrialisation," says Professor Hua, "Chinese scientists must do all they can to accelerate the building of the new and happy life of the Chinese people."

The National Peking Library



ON the western shore of the capital's lovely Peihai Lake stands a palatial modern building in the Chinese style—this is the National Peking Library. A stream of visitors flows daily through its bright red gates. They are government employees, teachers, students, workers and peasants. They come to read current publications or to search for reference material which they need. The Library has an attendance of about 1,000 readers a day.

This is the largest library in China with a fund of over 2,500,000 books both in Chinese and foreign languages. It was founded on the basis of the royal libraries of the Ming (1368—1644) and Ching (Manchu) (1644—1911) Dynasties and formally opened in 1912, the year following the overthrow of the Ching Dynasty by the Revolution of 1911. Unfortunately, many of the priceless books from the royal libraries were either plundered or destroyed in the course of the repeated foreign invasions and warlord civil wars of the past one hundred years. Large numbers of ancient Chinese classical works were stolen or burnt by the foreign imperialists when they sacked Peking during their war of intervention in 1900.

Under the Kuomintang regime the National Peking Library, like other cultural institutions in China, was reserved only for the privileged few of the reactionary social system. Only the victory of the people's revolution

made this great repository of learning accessible to the broad masses of the working people.

With the founding of the Chinese People's Republic in 1949, the Library took on new tasks. It has become a genuine people's library catering to a vast number of the working people. It plays a big role in the development of general education and scientific research and it has become one of the important centres for the spread of a knowledge of Marxism-Leninism and the teachings of Mao Tse-tung.

A devoted staff is constantly improving the facilities the library offers the people. It now has five departments: a supply department, responsible for the collection and purchase of books; an antiquarian department, which specialises in the collecting and care of rare books; a cataloguing department, which handles the work of classification; and a reading and reference department, which has charge of the lending service, reading rooms, mobile library services, lectures and exhibitions. This has the largest range of services and the largest staff. Then there is the Soviet library department, which has its own reading room opened specially to meet the readers' growing demand for Soviet books and magazines. This department now has a splendid collection of Soviet publications and is giving readers tremendous help in mastering the advanced Soviet techniques which are now being used so effectively in New China's construction.

During the past four years, the Library has rapidly increased its book fund, mostly with new publications. It has a large state appropriation for this purpose. In 1952 alone the number of new acquisitions was 32 times the number of all books acquired between 1946 and 1948, the year before the liberation. It has also received many books in regular exchanges with libraries in 14 countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas. It has its biggest exchanges with Soviet libraries.

Its fund of rare books has also grown rapidly from 70,000 to 140,000 between 1949 and 1952. These include some fine examples of books transcribed by hand in the 5th century and editions printed from wood engravings in the 9th century. Many patriotic collectors have donated priceless volumes to the Library. Mr. Fu Chung-mo, for instance, has presented it with over 30,000 volumes including 1,000 rare books. These have now taken their place beside other treasures of the Library. Among these are the 4,300 rolls of the Buddhist Canon printed from wood blocks engraved between 1149 and 1173 in the Sung Dynasty (960-1279). These were rescued by the fighters of the Eighth Route Army from the Japanese invaders in the guerilla area of Chaocheng, Shansi Province, in 1942. The people's fighters carefully preserved these precious rolls for many years and presented them to the Library after the liberation. In 1951, Leningrad University transferred the 11 volumes of the Yung Lo Encyclopaedia which it had in its collection to the National Peking Library. This encyclopaedia, compiled over 540 years ago in China, is of the greatest historical importance.

In 1953, the National Peking Library began the collection of rare editions of revolutionary works. These include early Chinese translations of the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin as well as manuscripts of leading Chinese revolutionary writers.

To study these rich stores of knowledge, the Library maintains a general reading room, two reading rooms for scientific and technical publications, one periodicals reading room and a special room for rare books. Beside the main building are two large, newly built halls. One is used as a children's reading room, the other for exhibitions.

In addition to the general reading service, the Library regularly sponsors lectures and exhibitions. In the first half of 1953 alone, the Library invited scientists, professors and writers to give 14 lectures on various subjects. Kuo Mo-jo, celebrated writer and historian, lectured on Chu Yuan, China's ancient patriot-poet; Chang Tieh-hsien, the noted translator, gave an address on the life and works of Mayakovsky; Tai Wen-sai, Professor of Mathematics of the National Peking University, lectured on Copernicus, the Polish astronomer,

and Hou Jen-chih, Head of the Geographical Department of the National Peking University, lectured on Peking, China's great capital. Some of the audience came to attend the lectures from as far as Tientsin, Paoting, Fengtai and other towns in the neighbourhood of Peking. Among the exhibitions held this year was one on the life and works of Stalin and another to mark the 135th anniversary of Karl Marx's birth.

Books to the People

The National Peking Library maintains close contact with government organisations, people's associations and the broad masses of readers throughout the length and breadth of China. Within and around the city of Peking alone, it has arranged to supply books to 733 organisations, mining and industrial enterprises, army units, schools and other libraries. The staff of the Library has also organised scores of mobile libraries in the residential areas and building sites on the outskirts of Peking. A special library is maintained for workers on the construction site of the Kuanting Reservoir 100 kilometres northwest of Peking. These services have made reading matter accessible to broad masses of the workers and peasants.

The Library also has a correspondence and reference service. Between November, 1951 and August, 1953, 826 inquiries from Chinese and foreign readers were answered and many of them were supplied with reference materials.

The primary tasks of the National Peking Library now are to bring books and periodicals to the broad masses of the working people, to help them raise their political and cultural levels, to assist scientific workers in their researches, and to collect and preserve the literary heritage of the Chinese people. These tasks will take on increasing significance as China unfolds her first five-year plan of large-scale economic construction. The library staff are now doing their utmost so that their service will assist to the maximum in the great work of China's socialist industrialisation.

CORRECTION: In issue No. 22 of *People's China*, the last sentence in the 1st para. of the 2nd col. on p. 30 should read: "The Southwest China Radio Station and the Chinghai People's Radio Station broadcast programmes in Tibetan, while the Sinkiang People's Broadcasting Station broadcasts daily in Uighur."

IN THE NEWS



Study of General Line

Following the directive of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Party organisations at all levels are organising on a large scale the study and popularisation of the general line of policy of the Communist Party in the transition period during which the socialist industrialisation of the country will be carried out and agriculture, handicrafts, private capitalist industry and trade will undergo a socialist transformation. This study is being carried out among responsible workers in state institutions, industrial enterprises, trading and cultural organisations and among the leading personnel and members of the various democratic parties and groups and social organisations and also among the wide masses of workers, employees and peasants.

Leading party workers are giving reports on the general line at meetings in administrative area, provincial, regional, district and county centres, in cities and villages, factories and institutions.

This whole course of nationwide study of the general line of the Communist Party is being closely linked with the study of the experiences of the Soviet Union in socialist construction and also with the study of the works of Lenin and Stalin on socialist construction.

Factories Fulfil 1953 Plans

Many factories in various parts of the country are reporting advance fulfilment of the year's production plans.

Workers of the ore dressing plant of the Yunnan Tin Company in Southwest China reached their production targets for this year 70 days ahead of schedule.

Workers of the Yumen Oilfield in Northwest China have fulfilled this year's quotas for gasoline and kerosene production. They reached the year's target for crude oil two and a half months ahead of schedule.

A machine-tool factory in Tsinan, East China, completing its quota for this year 52 days ahead of schedule, went on to produce 59 extra lathes by the end of the year.

Scores of factories in Shenyang (Mukden), Anshan and Dairen in the Northeast, as well as many factories in North, East and Northwest China have finished their year's quotas 41 to 70 days ahead of time.

Workers Attend Scientific Lectures

The Port Arthur and Dairen Association for the Dissemination of Scientific and Technical Knowledge has completed a series of lectures on mechanical engineering for skilled workers of that important industrial area. This is the latest of more than 100 lectures given by professors and engineers to a total of 6,000 workers on electricity, engineering, the chemical industry and other subjects. The purpose of these lectures sponsored by the Association is to give the workers a theoretical background for their practical work and to help them to solve the problems they encounter daily.

Other study circles in the area are also contributing to raising the workers' technical level. Following talks arranged for the workers at the Sino-Soviet Ship-Building Company by the Port Arthur-Dairen Ship-Building Society on ship-building and repairs, one group in the company's foundry reduced their rejects from 13% to 0.5%.

Cotton Harvests

Chinese cotton-growers have increased their per-hectare yield. As a result, despite a planned reduction in the cotton acreage in 1953, the cotton output for the year will nearly equal that of 1952, when a record crop was picked. Preliminary estimates indicate that the 1953 crop will be about 96% of that of 1952, or 46% above the highest annual prewar yield in 1936.

Peasants in the Nantung area, chief cotton centre of Kiangsu Province, are flocking to the co-operatives to market their new cotton crop, which is some 20% above last year's. Kiangsu produces about 10% of the country's cotton. It is an important supplier for the mills of Shanghai, China's leading textile centre.

Collective Farm's Harvest

The Spark Collective Farm in Northeast China has scored new successes this year. An average of over 6,000 kilos of rice per hectare was harvested on its 202 hectares.

This collective farm was the first to be established in China. It was formed with 36 households in February, 1951, in the desolate area formerly known as the Great Northern Wastelands. Now it has 62 households and there are 40 new applications for membership. Its cultivated area has doubled since 1951.

The farm has made rapid progress by adopting mechanised and scientific farming methods. This spring tractors were used to plough 78% of the area under crops. Sowing, weeding and husking were all done by machine.

Today, each member of the collective farm has received an income equal to the wages of skilled workers in the cities. All the members live in new houses lit by

electricity. After fixed working hours each day, they attend their own spare-time school to catch up on the education they missed in their childhood. The farm's clubhouse provides regular entertainments for them.

Scientists Study Wild Life

Two thousand different animals were captured in the forests of the Little Khingan Mountains in the Northeast between March and October this year, in the first systematic zoological survey ever carried out in China.

They include Tibetan grizzly bears, lynxes, racoons, badgers, roe-deer, hares, squirrels, chipmunks and a number of animals whose presence in China was not previously known.

The survey was made over several hundred square kilometres of forests by zoologists of the Academia Sinica.

The zoologists are studying the variety and distribution of wild animals in the area and their habits and economic value. They will also work out ways and means to control and exterminate animal pests.

More Schools in Kiangsu

School-building projects in Kiangsu Province for this year have a total floor space of over 200,000 square metres. When finished they will accommodate an additional 40,000 students. By the end of October, 75% of the year's plan was completed.

New buildings for over 140 schools and colleges are being built. The Nanking Geological Institute, the East China Agrotechnical College, the East China Water Conservancy Institute and the East China Aeronautical Engineering Institute are among those which will receive new or enlarged buildings.

Briefs

A state-owned glass factory in Peking has, for the first time in China, successfully manufactured wood glass, a kind of filter glass. Regular production of wood glass has now started.

* * *

China's first Petroleum Institute has been opened in Peking to train fully qualified engineers for oil prospecting and refining. Half of

its over 1,000 students were transferred from the former Petroleum Department of Tsinghua University and the former Liquid Fuel Section of the Dairen Engineering Institute.

* * *

China's first group of seismologists have just completed an 8-month course at the Institute of Geophysics of the Academia Sinica in Nanking. They are now on their way to establish seismological stations in North and Northwest China.

* * *

Visiting China on the invitation of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, the Japanese Trade Union Delegation to the 3rd World Trade Union Congress and the Japanese peasants' delegates to the International Agricultural and Forestry Workers' Conference both held in Vienna, arrived in Peking on November 22 and 24 respectively.

CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

November 21

An exhibition of applied arts of the German Democratic Republic opens at the Peking Chungshan Park.

November 23

A Sino-Korean Agreement on Economic and Cultural Co-operation is signed in Peking.

November 28

A Sino-German agreement on implementing the plan for cultural co-operation in 1954 is signed in Peking.

November 30

The Korean-Chinese side at the Panmunjom negotiations presents a 5-item overall proposal concerning the Political Conference.

A Sino-Indonesian trade agreement is signed in Peking.

December 2

Cay Sundstrom, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Finland to China, presents his credentials to Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

December 5

A Bulgarian Film Festival begins in 20 cities with the showing of a number of outstanding Bulgarian films.

LETTERS

To the Editor

Chinese People's Volunteers

CALCUTTA, INDIA

General Peng Teh-huai's report on the Chinese People's Volunteers in Korea published as a supplement in your No. 19 issue has created a great confidence in the minds of the peace-loving people of the world in the growing might of the cause of peace and democracy. The Korean armistice has shown that the real balance of forces in the present international situation is unfavourable to the imperialist camp of aggression. It has also shown that the correct way to solve international disputes is by peaceful consultation between the countries concerned.

The movement of the great Chinese people and the heroic acts of the Chinese People's Volunteers in Korea to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea has educated the entire people of the world in the spirit of patriotism and internationalism and enhanced their self-confidence in defence of peace and national sovereignty. It has proved that any imperialist aggression can be defeated by relying on the strength of the people.

A. Ganguli

Eager to Know New China

MONTGOMERY, PAKISTAN

We are a few college students living in the buildings of Aslam Manzil at Montgomery. We went through your magazine and were overjoyed to read of the buoyant enthusiasm with which your nation works to improve conditions of life in New China. We were able to enlarge the limited scope of our knowledge about New China.

It is our earnest desire to study everything pertaining to your country, so that we may be able to understand how the people of China were able to stand on their feet.

M. Ahsin Alam
Mohsin Alam
Tafar Aban

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