

People's China

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April 16, 1951

On the People's Representative Conferences

— Liu Shao-chi

Economic Construction in NE China

— Kao Kang

How the Tillers Win Back Their Land

— Hsiao Ch'ien

8

Yao Hua: *New China's Films*

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Chopping the Snake at Both Ends

The feudal landlord class—the ruling force of the centuries-old feudalism of China—was at the same time the chief henchman of the imperialists during the past hundred years in which they attacked and exploited the Chinese people. That is why the *Common Programme* of the Chinese People's PCC arraigns imperialism and feudalism, along with bureaucratic capitalism, as the chief enemies of the nation and solemnly declares that their elimination is the historical task of China's New Democratic revolution.

Following the nation-wide victory, the great land reform movement is being extended by the People's Republic. It is destroying the very roots of feudalism in this country. It is also eradicating once and for all that potential fifth column of the imperialists.

Now being carried out among a rural population of 130,000,000 in various parts of the country—it is already completed in areas with a rural population of 145,000,000—it closely complements the mighty, nation-wide movement of resistance to American aggression—a movement most vividly exemplified by the Chinese people's volunteers fighting in fraternal solidarity with the dauntless Korean People's Army.

Aiding the imperialists in their attack on the Chinese people, the landlord class formed the backbone of the reactionary military forces, from the officers of the KMT army down to the village *mintuan*, the landlords' own armed bands. They invariably enlisted the bandit and gangster elements in the countryside.

Comprising only a very small minority of the population, the landlord class owned the bulk of the nation's land and wealth. They have oppressed and exploited the peasantry to the uttermost limits. They have dominated the minds of the peasants, indoctrinated them with numbing fatalism and deprived them of all educational and cultural opportunities. They relied heavily on the dead weight of the tradition of 2,000 years of oppression of the peasantry.

The peasant masses of China form more than 80 per cent of the population. Their tremendous potential of wisdom and energy was shackled by feudalism. They were forced at gun-point to cater to the insatiable greed of the landlord class, to pay in taxes and rent up to 90 per cent of their annual produce. The tragedy of the opera of the *White-Haired Girl* in which the daughter of a peasant is dragged away by the landlord in payment of a debt, by no means exaggerates reality. In time of

peace the peasants had no voice in the government. In wartime they were pressganged into the army to fight the landlords' battles. In the old China, the reactionary state regarded the peasants as the passive instruments of its policy.

All that is now changed. In the process of land reform, the peasants are transformed from slaves of the feudal exploiters into masters of the land. Their emancipation, the liberation of their mental and physical resources, the development of mutual aid and the help of the People's Government, swiftly increase their productivity and bring them prosperity. The development of the agricultural resources of the nation in turn heralds the industrialisation of the country. Under the conditions of the flourishing economy of the New Democratic state, the illiteracy and cultural backwardness of the rural areas are rapidly disappearing. The fully awakened, prosperous and culturally developed peasants will play a still more active part in the nation's political life, and the slogan of universal, equal, direct and secret elections can then be practically and completely realised.

Land reform fundamentally changes the social structure of China. The feudal landlords, the potential accomplices of the Wall Street war-mongers and their lackeys in Taiwan, have been pulled down from their places of power. They are being liquidated as a class. At the same time, there is a huge increase in the ranks and strength of the millions of emancipated peasants, who have shown themselves so industrious in production and so courageous in fighting for their rights and defending their Motherland. New millions of toilers are being freed from the control of the imperialists and their agents and brought into the camp of the revolution under the leadership of the workers and their vanguard, the Chinese Communist Party.

Land reform, in a word, is one of the chief means through which the new China will develop national construction on a still vaster scale and further consolidate the people's democratic dictatorship.

Aggressive imperialism, which is receiving its just deserts in Korea, is the head of the snake that is gnawing at the peace of the world. Feudalism, that big reserve of the reactionary forces of the world in the colonial and semi-colonial countries, is the tail of the snake. While hammering at its head, we are also at the same time determinedly hacking away its tail.

The mighty land reform movement will make China still more unassailable as one of the major fortresses of lasting world peace.

The Lao Dong Party Leads Viet-Nam To Victory

The inauguration of the Viet-Nam Lao Dong Party carries the liberation movement of the Viet-Nameese people yet another step nearer the final victory over the French imperialists and their Wall Street masters. At the same time, all the Asian peoples will be inspired by this event to yet greater efforts in the common struggle for freedom and independence from the imperialist powers.

The days of the French colonialists in Viet-Nam are numbered. They have already been dealt severe blows by the Viet-Nameese people led by the heroic men and women who have formed the Lao Dong Party. Heavier and decisive blows are now in store for them. The Lao Dong Party, the political party of the Viet-Nameese working class, armed with the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, is dedicated to the establishment of a people's democracy and to the complete expulsion of the French imperialist invaders.

The course of history points to the inevitable victory of the national liberation struggles of the peoples of Asia and the final destruction of the imperialist colonial system of exploitation and war.

Blazing the trail of Asian freedom, the Chinese people, the most numerous of the peoples of Asia,

have shown how, under the leadership of the working class and its vanguard, the Chinese Communist Party, and in unity with the proletarian revolutionary forces of the world headed by the Soviet toilers, a united people can defeat the forces of imperialist reaction and gain and consolidate their victory in a war of national liberation.

At its first National Congress held in North Viet-Nam, the Lao Dong Party adopted a Manifesto to the People, a Platform for the Party and other far-reaching resolutions. These important decisions will further strengthen the great Viet-Nameese liberation movement. They will ensure the correct development of the Lien Viet Front—the United Front of Viet-Nam—and rally still greater support among the peoples of Laos and Cambodia for the common struggle.

Under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh and the Lao Dong Party, the heroic Viet-Nameese people will continue their march to the day of certain and final victory over the French imperialists, their puppets and their American sponsors. The Chinese people extend their warmest fraternal greetings to the Viet-Nam Lao Dong Party and wish it every success.

Crimes Against The People

For more than a century, the imperialists have used a facade of religion to hide their criminal activities in China. The schools, universities, hospitals and other "philanthropic" institutions run by foreign missionaries were used by the imperialists to carry out ruthless and systematic cultural aggression against China. Warren Austin has called these activities tokens of "friendship for the Chinese people." The Chinese people, however, are no longer deceived by such lies.

The recent exposure of the over 97 per cent death rate in a Catholic orphanage in Canton, and the foul conditions and extremely high death rates in two Catholic orphanages in Nanking, have filled the nation with profound indignation. The extremely high death rates were caused by cold-blooded, murderous neglect by the foreign missionaries in charge.

The facts and photographs presented in this issue will arouse the anger of all decent people throughout the world. How different are these from the appealing photographs and honeyed reports on their work with which these missionaries wooed donations from abroad! How different were the lives of the unfortunate recipients of "charity" from those who administered it, and who, claiming to lead lives of abstinence and sacrifice, enjoyed through contribu-

tions a standard of living far higher than they would have in their own countries!

Criminals are dangerous. Criminals in evangelical garb, working behind a signboard of "Christian charity," are doubly so, because their deception has duped those who contributed in the spirit of true friendship for the Chinese people. But no Austinian oratory, no protestations about huge "cultural investments," can gloss over the shocking crimes committed under this signboard.

These were crimes against the Chinese people. They took many forms, caused great suffering. The Chinese people demonstrated their violent hostility to such crimes, as, for example, by the Boxer Uprising of 1900. But China then was a semi-colonial country, and the foreign missionaries were agents of colonialism. There was no redress to be had.

The times, however, are now different. The Chinese people today will not tolerate such crimes as these and they have the means of redress. The Chinese people who have complete freedom of religious belief and worship have exposed the hypocrites of "charity" who cloaked their activities under the signboard of Christian philanthropy—for what they are. Such crimes against the people must and will be stopped!

On the People's Representative Conferences

Liu Shao-chi

This is an unofficial translation of the text of an address by Liu Shao-chi, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government, to the All-Circles People's Representative Conference of Peking on February 28, 1951. The address deals with the elections to the conferences, and their nature and functions as the basic organisational form of the people's democratic power at the present stage.

Permit me to convey my warm greetings and congratulations to the chairman and all delegates of the Third People's Representative Conference in Peking.

We are very grateful to you, and the people of the capital, for the tremendous assistance you have given to the various departments of the Central People's Government by enabling them to accommodate themselves and work here for more than a year. This has caused, however, certain difficulties for the population of the capital, and the most evident is the housing shortage. Many people have already spoken to us of this and we also feel that the government should solve this question step by step and in collaboration with the people. I understand that you have already discussed this question here. That is fine. I am sure that it will be solved in time.

The Third People's Representative Conference in Peking has been called on an even broader democratic basis than its two previous sessions. The number of representatives has increased. Eighty-three per cent of these representatives have been elected by the people and of the 17 per cent who have been invited to participate by the government after due consultations, only three per cent are government representatives.

Such elections have been made possible by the experience the people have gained during the past two years and from the previous two sessions of the conference and because they have begun to really know their political representatives.

In the case of state-owned plants and enterprises or in universities and colleges, each individual plant, enterprise or campus forms an electoral unit which directly elects its representatives at a meeting of voters. On the other hand, the representatives of the peasants living in the suburbs, of trade and industrial circles, youth and women, and of the various city districts, are chosen at delegate conferences. Secret balloting takes place only in colleges, where the voters are all literate and are experienced in voting. Elsewhere, the voting takes place by a show of hands after the list of candidates has been discussed.

I think that such elections are perfectly correct and necessary, for by this means the organisational basis of the People's Representative Conference—this main organisational form of the people's democratic power in Peking—has been further broadened, its links with the masses have been further strengthened and the organisational form of the conference has been made more adequate than at the two previous sessions. If the present session discusses and solves more problems for the people, and the

municipal council and the consultative committee elected by it faithfully carry out its decisions, then we can predict that the prestige of the conference will be raised among the people. It will have made a big step forward in the building-up of the people's democratic power. This deserves our congratulations.

I think that not only in Peking should People's Representative Conferences be convened in this manner, but that the same should be done wherever the right conditions exist. In the cities, where the people are fairly well organised, and in the villages, where the agrarian reform has been completed, the people are beginning to be able to choose their own representatives, and, therefore, it is necessary, without delay, to give the people the right to elect their representatives to People's Representative Conferences of all levels by direct or indirect voting. As to the form of voting, this may also, in general, follow the example set by Peking.

THE mention of elections usually makes some people think of the old slogan of "universal, equal, direct and secret balloting." In the past, under the reactionary dictatorial regime of Chiang Kai-shek, the raising of this slogan, in order to oppose the dictatorship of Chiang Kai-shek, undoubtedly had a progressive significance. But the demand for the immediate realisation of this slogan under the state power of the New Democracy today, is not quite suitable to the actual conditions among the Chinese people, and, therefore, this slogan cannot be fully adopted. The greater part of the Chinese people, and mainly the labouring masses, are still illiterate. They have had no electoral experience and their interest and enthusiasm in voting is still insufficiently developed. Should we, under such conditions, register all the voters, mechanically draw up electoral zones, and everywhere elect delegates to the People's Representative Conferences of all levels by secret and direct voting and in proportion to the numbers of the population, such elections, judging by the experience gained in certain areas in the past, would be a mere formality. They would only cause unnecessary inconvenience to the people and undermine their enthusiasm. As a matter of fact, they would not give the People's Representative Conferences so elected a more popular character. Therefore we can not make the present people's power more democratic and its ties with the people closer by this means.

Such formal elections are valued by the old-type democrats of the bourgeois class. They are often contented with them, for they give them the possibility of controlling the elections and installing a bourgeois dictatorship by disguising themselves as

the people's representatives. But we are followers of New Democracy. Our primary concern is not the formality of elections but their substance. That is, that the people, mainly the working people, should be enabled to elect as their representatives the people that they really want and that their delegates should truthfully convey to the government their opinions and demands. If the elections can truly achieve this, we will not have to go into too detailed consideration of their form, but will, as far as possible, adopt the forms that are familiar and convenient to the masses. This form of election in Peking proved to be convenient to the people and, therefore, can be adopted at present. Elections by means of "universal, equal, direct and secret balloting" are not feasible and therefore it is not advisable to hold them in China under present conditions. Such an electoral procedure can be put into practice in its final and perfect form only after much preparatory work has been done, after the bulk of the people have become accustomed to voting and, on the whole, become literate.

In the near future, we have to content ourselves with completing all the preparatory work step by step in accordance with the actual conditions of the majority of the Chinese people and gradually carry out more universal, equal, direct or indirect voting by the show of hands.

THE representatives elected by the people for the People's Representative Conferences of all levels should be required to maintain constant and close ties with their electorate, convey the demands and opinions of the people to the government and at the same time explain to the people the policies of the government and the decisions of the People's Representative Conferences.

The People's Governments and consultative committees of all levels should establish special and competent organs to deal appropriately with every demand submitted by the people, reply to their letters and make themselves easily accessible to the people. By this means the People's Governments of all levels will be closely linked with the people and will serve them in a practical way, while at the same time the broad masses will be enabled to manage their own and state affairs through the conferences and governments of all levels. This is what we can gradually achieve in the near future and this will vastly extend the representative character of our people's conferences and people's governments of all levels.

The system of People's Representative Conferences and People's Congresses is our basic state system. It is the best basic organisational form of the people's democratic power. The system of our country is that of People's Representative Conferences and People's Congresses. The People's Representative Conferences are at present carrying out the functions and powers of the People's Congresses, and in the near future they will be directly transformed into People's Congresses of all levels.

In accordance with the *Common Programme* and the laws and directives of the Central People's Government and the concrete possibilities of the various areas, People's Governments at all levels, all democratic parties and groups, all the democratic classes must, actually and not only formally, make

every effort to set up the People's Representative Conferences of all levels, so that the latter may establish, both politically and organisationally, broader and closer relations with the masses of the democratic classes, become gradually more perfect in form and in the course of the next few years be transformed into People's Congresses which are perfectly capable of exercising political power on behalf of the people. Thus supported by this system which has proved most effective—the system of the People's Representative Conferences and Congresses of all levels—the whole people will rally round the People's Governments of all levels under the leadership of the Central People's Government and as one great united force will carry out the urgent tasks of national construction and defence. We shall thereby overcome all our difficulties and fulfil all our tasks. This system of conferences and congresses drawn up by Chairman Mao Tse-tung, which is thoroughly suited to the present conditions in China, will assure our country and our people of lasting victories.

The New Democratic system of People's Representative Conferences and Congresses has proved and will be further proven by history to be infinitely superior to any of the old democratic parliamentary systems. As far as the people are concerned, it is ten thousand times more democratic than the latter.

In order to build up such a system in our country, and to make it as soon as possible an orderly, regular and stable system governing the entire state structure, the People's Governments of all levels must, in accordance with the laws, directives and organisational regulations of the Central People's Government, periodically convene People's Representative Conferences. The experiences of various areas have shown that in large towns these conferences should be held not less than three times a year, in medium-sized and small towns, four times a year, in provinces at least once a year, in counties at least twice a year, while *chu* (districts), and *hsiang** may convene them according to the relevant regulations. I said "at least", but, of course, they may be convened more frequently. Experience further demonstrates that in towns with a population exceeding 100,000, urban and suburban district People's Representative Conferences

* An administrative unit comprising several villages.



Village Cadre Hears the Peasants' Opinions

Woodcut by Hsiao Su

should be called to deal with the many concrete questions which are important to the people but are often difficult for city conferences and city governments to solve, and that have to be left to the district conferences and governments.

In order to ensure that the People's Representative Conferences of all levels can be regularly held, the civil affairs departments of the various levels of the People's Governments should supervise their subordinate organs and set specific dates on which reports must be made on the work of such conferences. This is because certain government officials are not very keen on holding conferences. They are accustomed to allow a small group to monopolise all the work and are unaccustomed to consulting with the people's representatives. They consider the convening of the People's Representative Conferences "troublesome," and avoid them under the pretext that they are either "overburdened with work" or that "there are no questions to be discussed." It is necessary that such people be supervised by organisations of a higher level otherwise they will not convene the People's Representative Conferences at fixed dates. Those who fail to convene People's Representative Conferences as scheduled without adequate reasons must be criticised and even punished. Should the reasons for postponement be found valid, it is necessary to ask the superior People's Governments for approval. In this way, we can ensure the holding of the People's Representative Conferences of all levels regularly and on schedule.

The experience of various localities has shown that the work of the People's Representative Conferences of all levels brings good results once they are convened. Most conferences held in the past have been successful and have benefited all the various circles. Only a few of these conferences have been unsuccessful or only moderately successful, but even this had its advantage—they showed up the shortcomings in the work of local governments and revealed cases of bureaucracy. This called the attention of the higher authorities to establish effective control over such working cadres and give them further education. And this enabled these places to make a fresh start in their work.

Hence, whether or not there are questions for discussion, the conferences must be held at the proper times. When there is too much work to do, the holding of conferences becomes still more imperative so as to mobilise a greater number of people and rally the activists to carry out satisfactorily the work which is said to be "troublesome." Barring certain emergencies, which might necessitate a temporary change in the usual methods, postponing for the time being the convening of the conferences, under normal conditions it is imperative that this important system of our country must be strictly adhered to and that these conferences of people's representatives of all levels must be convened on schedule so that these conferences (or, in the areas where land reform is being carried out—the conferences of peasants' representatives) may be made the pivot of the work and activities of the People's Governments of all levels.

The People's Governments of all levels should report their work and activities to these conferences, answer their questions and open themselves to their investigations. The most important work and activities should first be discussed and decided on by these conferences. And then they can be carried out by a concerted effort.

IN addition, I would like to draw your attention also to the fact that the further democratisation of the organs of the people's political power in Peking has proceeded under conditions of military control. Some people are of the opinion that since military control is in force, democracy should not, or cannot, be put into practice at the same time. Or, in other words, that when a country is under military conditions, it cannot practise democracy. These people have an entirely wrong conception when they consider that the military control by the People's Liberation Army and the practice and development of the people's democratic power are absolutely opposite and incompatible things. China still remains under military conditions. In some places actual warfare is still going on. The whole country is still under military control. Nevertheless, we are everywhere putting real democracy into practice. We are holding People's Representative Conferences of all levels on schedule and we are going to hold elections for the People's Representative Conferences. We will present the national and local policies to the people and their representative conferences for full discussion and decision.

Neither war nor military control has hindered the people from practising democracy. Conversely, the practice of democracy by the people has not hindered the waging of the war or the exercise of military control. On the contrary, they help and strengthen each other. What is the reason for this? The explanation is that our military control is a people's military control and the People's Liberation Army is a people's army. To the enemies of the people and the reactionaries, the control of the People's Liberation Army stands as a strict and open military dictatorship, but for the people, it means a people's democracy. The Army's control not only does not cause any restrictions or inconveniences to the people, but on the contrary it protects and frees the people from the oppression and bondage of the old regime; it brings them great benefits; it inspires them to stand up as masters to take their destiny and the destiny of the state into their own hands; to manage their own and state affairs. In his article "*On the People's Democratic Dictatorship*", Chairman Mao Tse-tung said: "The people's democratic dictatorship has two aspects—democracy for the people and dictatorship against the reactionaries." The military control of the People's Liberation Army is the initial form of the people's democracy. It forcibly suppresses the reactionaries; it defends the people in every way; it encourages and helps the people to convoke People's Representative Conferences and establish People's Governments of all levels and then, as circumstances

(Continued on page 31)

ECONOMIC AND NATIONAL DEFENCE CONSTRUCTION IN THE NORTHEAST

Kao Kang

In waging the great and victorious struggle against American aggression and to aid Korea, the people of the Northeast China Administrative Region have gloriously fulfilled the 1950 plan of economic construction. As a result of our efforts in this past year, great progress has been made in the economic construction of the Northeast. The national defences have been further strengthened.

In 1950, the total value of the produce of the Northeast's agriculture and state industries increased by 71.7 per cent over 1949. The value of industrial goods increased 117.3 per cent and the value of agricultural products, 44.1 per cent. The total value of the produce of the state industries exceeded the original plan by 10 per cent. The number of workers and employees increased by 35.2 per cent over 1949. The total agricultural output of the entire area exceeded the plan by more than 6 per cent. Rail transport exceeded its loading plan for the year by 9.2 per cent.

As a result of the development of Northeast China's agriculture and state industries and the thorough implementation of the policy of protecting both public and private interests and benefiting both labour and capital, private industry and commerce in the Northeast have also developed to a marked extent. In the municipality of Mukden, for example, there were 12,007 privately-owned industrial establishments with 50,413 employees in December, 1949. By November, 1950, these figures increased by 30.2 per cent and 32.4 per cent respectively.

Such is the over-all picture of the development of industrial and agricultural production in the Northeast in 1950. It shows that industrial production in the Northeast has made another great stride forward over 1949. It is clear that in order to strengthen our national defences and enlarge our industrial base, it is necessary to adopt the policy of rehabilitating and developing the heavy industries in the first place. Emphasis has therefore been placed especially on the rehabilitation and development of the manufacture of the means of production. The output of the means of production was 77 per cent of the total output of state industries in 1950, while the output of consumers' goods was 23 per cent of the total.

This is the slightly abridged text of a *Report on Economic and Cultural Construction in the Northeast in Connection with National Defence* given by Kao Kang, Chairman of the Northeast People's Government, to the third and enlarged session of the Northeast People's Government Council on February 27, 1951.

* One unit is equivalent to the value of 1.63 catties of assorted grains, 5.5 catties of coal, 0.035 catties of vegetable oil, 0.045 catties of salt and 0.2 square feet of cloth.

This, of course, does not mean that we have neglected the production and supply of mass consumption goods. If we consider, for example, the 1950 production of the cotton yarn, cloth and paper factories under the management of the Northeast Department of Industry, we see that the output of cotton yarn was 250.4 per cent; of cotton cloth, 246.5 per cent; and of paper, 220.5 per cent of the 1949 production. The supply of daily necessities by state trading companies exceeded the 1949 total by 126 per cent. The sales of cotton cloth alone rose from four million bolts in 1949 to 9,020,000 bolts in 1950, thus registering an increase of 125 per cent. To promote the circulation of goods, the number of state trading companies increased from 1,060 to 1,721 from 1949 to 1950. The number of co-operatives increased to 10,335 with 10,700,000 members, (according to returns for the third quarter of 1950).

As a result of these economic developments, large sources of revenue have been tapped which not only ensured that the budget was balanced, but also provided the funds for national defence expenditures and investments for economic construction. The real income of the entire Northeast area in the year 1950 exceeded the originally planned amount by 21.7 per cent. At the same time, considerable economies have been achieved.

These economic developments have not only provided for the needs of national defence, but have also considerably improved the living conditions of the people. In 1950, factories and mines under the management of the Department of Industry of the Northeast not only increased their staffs but also raised wages, increased employees' housing facilities and carried out other welfare measures. The average wage of workers employed in heavy industry increased from 140 units* in December, 1949 to 157 units in 1950, thus giving an average increase of 12.5 per cent. More than 1,560,000 square metres of dwelling space, including clubs and hospitals, were constructed for workers and employees by the enterprises under the Department of Industry. Working conditions were also correspondingly improved.

The improvements in the conditions of life of the peasants have been especially noteworthy. Compared with 1949, the purchasing power of the peasants increased in 1950 by 33 per cent; the sale of cotton cloth alone increased from an average of one bolt per ten persons to one bolt per four and a half persons. Many peasants have bought new carts and draft animals, new clothes and quilts, repaired old and built new houses and raised more and better livestock. Their conditions of life are getting better with each passing day.

The material foundations for cultural development have also been broadened as a result of this economic construction. The number of students at-

tending primary schools in the Northeast rose to 4,576,111 in 1950. According to figures for the first half of the year, 155,748 went to middle schools and 17,978 attended universities. The quality of the instruction given has also been raised. Seven worker and peasant short-term middle schools have been opened with an enrolment of 1,550. Three new worker and peasant schools giving general educational courses have been opened with an enrolment of 3,311. Approximately 360,000 workers and employees have attended supplementary courses. The number of peasants attending winter schools reached 4,500,000 in 1950 and 1,800,000 peasants studied regularly in spare-time courses. In addition to the above, peasants, on their own account, opened 2,673 village schools with more than 206,000 students. The press, publishing houses, broadcasting stations, film studios and other popular cultural enterprises all achieved new accomplishments themselves, while closely co-operating to fulfil the central tasks of the moment.

In the field of public health, in 1950, there were 273 county health centres or hospitals, 923 district health centres, 241 child welfare and maternity clinics and 331 rural obstetric stations; 19,328 old-style midwives were re-trained. In addition, 265 health centres, 41 first-aid stations and 22 hospitals were established in factories and mines.

The people of the Northeast were greatly encouraged and their political consciousness considerably developed by these economic and cultural developments, and by the wide-spread and effective educational and propaganda work carried on among

the masses of the people. In this, the great victories and heroic deeds of the Chinese people's volunteers on the Korean front played an especially great role. The masses of the people actively participated in the volunteer activities to resist America and aid Korea. They enthusiastically supported the Chinese people's volunteers and the Korean People's Army. This movement, which combines the spirit of patriotism and internationalism in defence of peace, is now developing with mighty force throughout the Northeast.

At a time when the people of the Northeast were devoting their entire energy to economic construction, counter-revolutionaries sent by the American imperialists and the Chiang Kai-shek bandit clique engaged in all kinds of sabotage. To combat this, we adopted the policy of resolutely suppressing counter-revolution. We dealt severely with die-hard counter-revolutionary elements, but leniency was shown to those lesser criminals who were willing to repent and reform. As a result, social stability was achieved and the bandits eliminated. The people were enabled to carry on their productive tasks in happiness and with great enthusiasm.

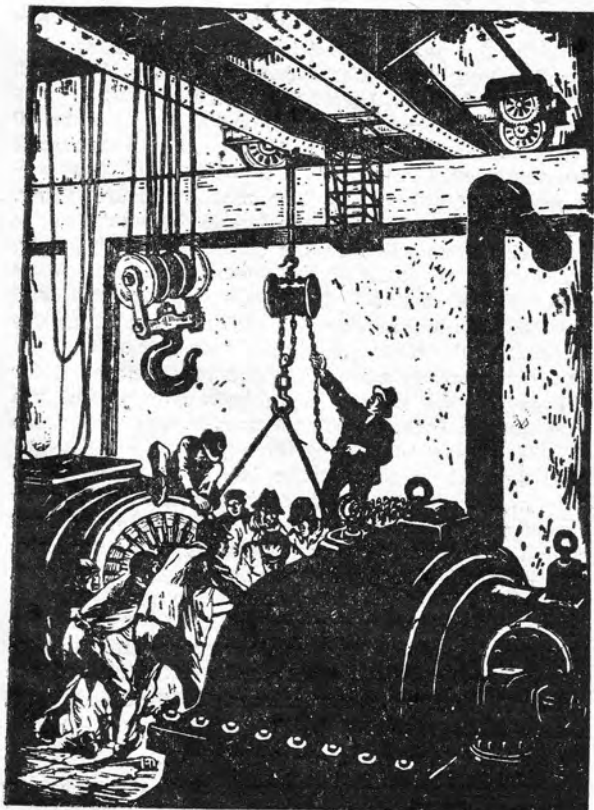
The development of economic and cultural construction in the Northeast has been quite rapid in 1950. This was chiefly due to the diligent efforts of the workers, peasants and all the people, to the conscientious work of cadres at all levels, to the assistance given us by the Soviet experts, and especially to the brilliant leadership of Chairman Mao and the Central People's Government.

II

As we passed into 1951, the American imperialists were still engaged in their aggressive action against our great Motherland. The Northeast was still in the front line of our national defence. The Chinese people and the Chinese people's volunteers are triumphantly fulfilling their great mission of resisting America and aiding Korea in order to protect our homes and defend our country. Therefore, the task of the people of the Northeast and their Government in 1951 is, under the leadership of Chairman Mao and the Central People's Government, to advance on the basis of last year's work a further step in building a powerful national defence force and in strengthening our economic power. We can safeguard the smooth, forward development of the construction of the entire national economy only by having a powerful national defence. At the same time, we can further improve the people's livelihood, further consolidate the people's democratic dictatorship, and lay a reliable material foundation for the construction of the national defences only by developing production and building up a great economic power. All our work must, therefore, concentrate on this central aim.

What do we plan to do in 1951?

First and foremost, we must further strengthen our national defence forces, train new technical troops, strengthen our air and sea defences, systematically train public security troops and militiamen and improve our military supply system, military engineering and hygiene, according to the plans drawn up by the People's Revolutionary Military



Repairing the Generator

Woodcut by Li Hua

(Continued on page 31)

How the Tillers Win Back Their Land

Hsiao Ch'ien

In previous issues we have printed the major documents and several important articles about the land reform movement that is now taking place in China on a scale unexampled in history. We have, however, on several occasions, been asked, especially by readers in Southeast Asia, to publish a more detailed picture of this stupendous movement. In response to these requests we begin publication in this issue of a reportage-novelette in seven parts whose theme is the process of the land reform today in China.

The author lived and worked with a land reform Work Team in a Hunan village during the whole of January, 1951 and later visited other districts where land reform has been completed. Based on such first hand observation, the author, for clarity of presentation, has created a composite picture of the leading characters and of the events that are taking place. The events he relates are typical; the characters he portrays are true to life.

The seven parts of this serial will describe (1) the countryside before land reform (2) the arrival of the Work Team and the launching of the reform (3) the awakening of the masses (4) the trial and punishment of the landlord-saboteurs (5) the process of class demarcation (6) the confiscation and distribution of landlords' land and property among the peasants and (7) the countryside after the Reform.

I

Changes on the Horizon

"Speed up the payment of the autumn tax and get ready for land reform." The call was sent forth by the Huilung *hsiang* Peasants' Association as early as the beginning of August. And yet the peasants of Hsinlu village, like many other Hunan peasants, were hesitant. They met the call to land reform with hope but also with some misgiving. Few of them were aware of the deep and startling significance the event would have for them and their children and grand-children.

This is not to be wondered at. For thousands of years, feudal exploitation had drained away the life blood of the area. There had been little change in the peasants' life. Only in 1927. Freedom had shone then for a brief but glorious moment in the weeks of the People's Power. Then bitter darkness had descended again. Peasants under thirty had but dim memories of that time and the Chiang Kai-shek tyranny had not encouraged prattling, on the part of the old timers, about those dazzling days. They could still recall to mind the short-lived days of the peasants' triumph, but side by side was another mental picture—landlords re-instated and the fertile earth around Huilung *hsiang* soaked with the blood of courageous peasants.

The seasons revolve like a wheel and the peasants in Hsinlu village followed, mechanically and unceasingly, toiling, toiling. Like wheels bearing a great load, they had groaned under the joint oppression of the KMT magistrate, the "gentlemen" of the *hsiang* Office, the *pao** heads and landlords who collected rent and practised usury with equal proficiency. The wheel turned. It was spring. The peasants must spread fertiliser, sow seeds and plant young shoots. Under the scorching summer sun they operated water wheels, weeded the fields and cut

rice. Now the wheel had turned to autumn. With the fifth watch†, men got up to plough the fields and cultivate vegetables. At sunrise they were carting away the crop and sunning it. Bare-footed women, with suckling babes tied to their backs, went to the fields to gather hay as soon as they had finished preparing the meals.

Everybody in Hsinlu village agreed that the livelihood of the peasants had improved since liberation. Bandits had been exterminated and taxes lightened. What is more, local granaries were erected so that instead of having to carry your tax-grain over 70 *li* to town, now all one had to do was to deliver it to the Seven Store-house, outside the temple—a matter of only 20 *li*. The most important thing, however, was the way the "landlord-masters" drew in their horns. During the first half of the year, when, with the help of the government, rents were reduced and deposits refunded‡, the peasants had succeeded in making the big landlords part with some of their loot. Many of the peasants got back grain, and others ready cash. It was a breathing spell for all except the poorest farmhands who owned not one square inch of soil. Peasants who had been beggarred used the money they got back to set up as stall keepers in town or to buy fresh land. So it was not unnatural that a new illusion should grow up among some of the peasants. Feeling the load which had accumulated on their backs for centuries somewhat lightened, they began to get complacent. "The landlord is already down. No need to kick him in the shins any more." Or: "the times have become better—so long as they keep steadily improving, there is no need to get worked up and act rashly." Unpleasant memories of 1927 troubled them,

† About three o'clock in the morning.

‡ Before the liberation, peasants renting land had to pay the landlords a deposit in advance which customarily amounted to a year's harvest yield.

* The tithing system of the Manchu regime in which every 10 families make a *chia* and every 10 *chia* a *pao*. The KMT also adopted this reactionary system.

nagging at their subconscious mind like phantoms. They feared a sudden reversal.

As for the landlords, taking even such a small setback lying down was, of course, extremely distasteful to them. But they tried to act chastened and subdued. At Ch'ing Ming Festival[¶] this year, for instance, none of the landlords thought it prudent to keep up the age-old tradition of giving the villagers a talk at the ancestral temple. In the old days, besides the talk, it was by no means uncommon for landlords to have recalcitrant farmhands put into sacks and beaten up as an example of the dangers of disobedience. Another established custom was for tenants to make gifts to their landlords, besides their annual rent, of vegetables, tea, beans or chickens. This year, however, the masters became unusually generous. "Save them for yourselves, please," they would say, with an ingratiating smile. Some of the cunning ones even went so far as to hand out presents to their tenants and farmhands in order to



A Chat Beside the Paddy Field

by Tseng Ching-chu

seal up the mouths of their "kitchen-gods." Then again, since time immemorial, the tenant had had to ask the landlord to dinner. He took around a sedan-chair to fetch the landlord and considered himself lucky if the latter condescended to come. This year, the tables were turned, and a good many landlords tried to extend their hospitality to their tenants.

The landlords too had not forgotten 1927. History to them also seemed to go in cycles. They looked forward to the day when they would have a chance to hit back—hard. They were not sitting back and waiting for that day either. They were plotting for it, patiently, cunningly, relentlessly...

* * *

The first people to talk "land reform" directly to the villagers were some workers from the Telephone Company in town.

A little before the Ch'ung Yang Festival[§], over the light brown field-paths of Hsinlu village,

¶ The traditional day for visiting the graves of the ancestors. It falls in early April.

§ The 9th day of the 9th moon which is about mid-October in the lunar calendar.

one began to see a new skyline. Along the northern boundary of the village, that is to say, on the opposite bank of the Pigeon River, which formed the line of demarcation between Huilung *hsiang* and Shihma *hsiang*, a series of telephone poles appeared against a background of yellow hill-slopes and floating clouds.

Then one morning early in November, a boat loaded with some 30 poles and four uniformed workers came drifting towards the south bank. Peng Fu-chuan, who was cutting firewood on the bank, stared at the boatman standing on the prow straining hard to steer the boat. Seeing the boat finally touch the bank, he could not contain himself any longer but ran down the slope and asked, "Shuang-chuan, Shuang-chuan, what are these people here for?"

One of the uniformed workers, with the characters "Telephone Company" sewed on his satchel, yelled before the ferryman had a chance to answer:

"What for? For land reform, that's what. Land reform is to make the peasants masters of the land."

This said, the worker called his companions to carry the poles on to the bank.

A vague notion presented itself to Peng Fu-chuan's brain—those telephone poles were intimately related with him and his welfare. Laying down his scythe and basket without thinking, he bent down and put one pole on his shoulder. As he was thus employed, the worker kept talking: how they would have to hurry; how the land reform Work Team would get there the moment they were through with the cadres-meeting in town. Apparently, eight days were given them to finish the job of putting up the wires.

"You four, that's all?" asked Peng Fu-chuan, concerned.

"No, four in one group," the worker told him. "Huilung *hsiang* has nine villages in all, right? Four times nine makes thirty-six."

Peng Fu-chuan was impressed. One could see this fellow had come from the town, so methodical and efficient. Yet he still could not help asking a final question, "Where does this telephone lead to?"

No idle question, that. True, he had been in town several times, turning in his crop-payment, but he had never stayed over ten days and had never touched or even seen a telephone.

"Why, to the District Government, to the local Land Reform Committee, to the Provincial Land Reform Committee. Right up to Chairman Mao himself."

The worker winked sympathetically at his peasant comrade and continued:

"All through the twenty years of the Kuomintang, the telephone system was restricted to the town. Now we are here, in the country, and we want to help you to do away with the landlord class."

(Continued on page 23)

New China's Films

Yao Hua

Soon after the liberation some film producers were discussing films with a group of workers. One of the questions was 'how do you like the average Hollywood film? The answer was, "The sooner we have more of our own films the better."

Over 75 per cent of the films shown in Chinese big cities were Hollywood products: the familiar conveyer-made models—gangsters, golden-hearted business tycoons, poor little rich girls, the "eternal triangle" with still a new twist to it and the lone American who won the war in the Pacific... They were pretty intolerable before the people's victory. They were insufferable after.

China's film workers pledged to create a new film industry that would fully serve the people, speak out truthfully and eloquently on the burning questions of the day and whose products by sheer merit, would drive away Hollywood's imperialist garbage from the screens of the country.

A year later the film workers set themselves a nation-wide public examination. The masses were the judges. On every one of 26 nights from March 8 to April 2 this year, a different new film was shown at 60 cinemas in 20 major cities.

At the end of the Film Month there was no doubt left: the film makers have made good on their pledge.

Minister of Cultural Affairs Mao Tun, China's foremost novelist and one who doesn't spare criticism when it is needed, characterised the results of last year's film making: "an outstanding success." Public demand has ousted the Hollywood product. The 26 full length features, 60 documentaries and 47 newsreels and 43 Soviet films dubbed into Chinese, produced last year, together with re-releases, the 24 films from private studios and good progressive films from abroad assure New China's film public of first-rate entertainment.

The artistic and technical success of the new films is the more astonishing in view of the fact that the average of pre-liberation films was pretty low. The Chinese commercial studios, trying to keep on the right side of the KMT censors, vainly tried to copy the Hollywood product. Few films were able to maintain a high technical level and their integrity as progressive—not to mention revolutionary—films despite the censors' shears. China's pre-liberation film art typically reflected the semi-colonial status of the country under the Kuomintang regime.

In May, 1942 at the famous Literary Meeting in Yanan, Chairman Mao Tse-tung discussed the revolutionary attitude towards literary and artistic work. He urged the art workers of the Liberated Areas to bring their art to the service of the peo-

ple. He emphasised that "the workers, peasants and armed forces of the people come first. That is why our literature and art must in the first place serve the workers, peasants and soldiers and only in the second place serve the petty-bourgeoisie."

"Literary and artistic criticism has two criteria," he added, "political and artistic... Each of the class societies and each of the classes, however, have different political and artistic criteria. Nevertheless, whatever the class society and class, the political criterion is, as a rule, taken as primary and the artistic criterion as secondary."

The principles set out by Chairman Mao at this discussion have had an enormous influence on the course of development of every branch of art in New China. They could however be widely applied in the film industry only after the liberation had freed the city production centres. Then the results were spectacular. With every encouragement from the people's government, the transformed film industry has been able to concentrate all its energies on producing films of significance to the masses of the people, dealing with their life, their thoughts and age-long strivings with the insight of a developed revolutionary artistic vision.

The *Bridge*, the first film produced by the Northeast Film Studio after liberation, was released in 1949. It tells how, aiding the PLA, a group of workers in record time repair a bridge destroyed by the KMT. It is a story of the awakening of the mighty creative potentialities of the working class under the stimulus of the revolution. It was the first time that the Chinese worker hero—the new hero of our time—appeared on the screens of China. This was followed by *Daughters of China*, a stirring film of the Anti-Japanese guerrillas, that won an international prize of the Fight for Freedom at the Fifth International Film Festival held at Karlovy Vary, Czechoslovakia. The enthusiastic popular reception given them left no doubt of the enormous value of these films in raising the revolutionary consciousness of the Chinese people, of workers, women and youth in the first place.

Reorganising the Studios

With this experience in carrying out the guiding line of Chairman Mao, the Cinema Bureau of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs worked out a large-scale production plan for 1951. The studios formerly controlled by the bureaucratic capitalists had been nationalised. Now their technical facilities were reorganised to concentrate production in the three main state studios of Changchun, Peking and Shanghai. (Special aid was given to private studios). Existing trained personnel was more rationally distributed and new talent was channelled into the industry. These were veteran cadres in many fields of art and technique, members of the more than 300 Literary and Artistic Working Groups that had served during the liberation war in the various people's governments, organisations and field armies. Though few of them had ever worked in films

Readers are referred to *The Chinese Film Industry* by Tsai Chu-sheng in *People's China*, Vol. I, No. 12 which gave a comprehensive account of the start and development of the film industry in old China and in the first days of the People's Republic.

before, they brought to film-making a rich fund of revolutionary experience and knowledge of the people. The majority of experienced film-workers in general, of course, came from the formerly KMT-controlled areas. Intellectuals, mostly from the middle classes, they had never lived among the workers, peasants and the PLA. Though many of them had participated in various ways in the patriotic movements, they had had relatively little opportunity to get to know the everyday life of the masses. The creative exchange of experience between these two groups quickly made itself felt.

The influx of revolutionary cadres brought a new, healthy democratic realism, a new discipline and efficiency to the industry. The great victory of the people over their oppressors released fresh reserves of creative energy, the spirit of initiative reserves of creative energy, and the spirit of initiative among artists and technicians. There is a new "working style" in the industry. False pride wilts under the criticism and self-criticism which is now an accepted method of dealing with problems. Film cadres live the simple life of the rest of government workers. They have joined the nation-wide political study movement. There is serious preparation for new films, often involving weeks of work on location, living among the peasants and workers as one of themselves, learning from and helping them. This fusion of the film industry with the people has put its mark on the new films. The whole of the workers of Textile Mill No. 2 in Tientsin collaborated when the *Song of the Red Flag*, a story of textile workers, was filmed there. Villages, units of the People's Army, ordinary citizens, eagerly help the studios.

The practical results both in greater range and depth of theme and treatment brought by this thorough re-organisation of the industry were brilliantly demonstrated in the Film Month organised by the China Film Corporation of Peking, sole distributors of state produced films. The critic is no longer expected to make allowances for a young industry. The best films hold attention from start to finish.

New Heroes and Heroines adapted from the successful novel of the same name by Kung Chieh and Yen Tien made a strong opening to the Film Month.

The film exposes the crimes of the puppets and the horrifying brutality of the invaders, when the demoralised KMT army fled from Paiyang Lake. Then the People's Army and the Communist Party come to Central Hopei. The reactionaries are curbed. The people are shown how to organise to protect themselves and improve their livelihood by mutual help and by reducing the rents and interest rates of landlord-usurers. There are poignant and heroic moments when the Japanese temporarily re-capture the area and the peasants are commanded but refuse to denounce the Communists. Shih Tung-shan, the director, takes as his major theme the creation of the new heroes and heroines of China out of simple village people through the anti-Japanese struggle and the struggle for the national united front. It is developed through a series of episodes that are as exciting as they are illuminating and true to life.

Seven years ago the people's militia of Paiyang Lake in South Hopei attacked and captured an

armed Japanese steamboat and the ammunition on it. When the film group brought their steamboat to Paiyang Lake to re-enact the incident, old memories were stirred. Guerrillas reconstructed the events; brought out their original boats and arms and participated in the scenes. After seeing this film one understands more clearly how the Chinese people emerged triumphant against the enemies and betrayers of their country.

The *Shangjiao Concentration Camps* treats of revolutionary heroism and staunchness from another angle. In January, 1941, the KMT, by treachery, trapped the New Fourth Army, then fighting the Japanese south of the Yangtze, and threw 800 of its men into the infamous Shangjiao Concentration Camps. Inside the camps, their goalers used every foul means in the attempt to break their spirit. The film on the incident can rank with Fucik's *Notes from the Gallows* in depicting the strength of will and faith of the revolutionaries in final victory.

In 1942 the Japanese advance forced the KMT to evacuate the Shangjiao camps. The prisoners were marched into Fukien Province through the Wu I Mountains. On the way, they escaped and continued their fight for freedom as guerrillas against the Japanese invaders and their puppets. This history is the setting for some memorable and moving scenes. The dialogue between the prisoners often reaches heights of great poetic beauty.

The White Haired Girl

The reception given the film version of the famous opera drama *The White Haired Girl* left no doubt that it will be as great a popular success as the stage original which it follows faithfully. The film is well introduced. First produced in Yenan in 1945, this play is already recognised as a landmark in China's theatrical history.

The tragic theme is swiftly introduced. At the Chinese New Year festival, when tradition demands that debts must be settled, an old peasant is at his wit's end. He has nothing with which to repay a grasping and relentless landlord. When he pleads for a chance to pay later, he is told that there can be no postponement. He has a beautiful daughter and the girl can be given up in lieu of the debt. The old man is horrified. More dead than alive he

In Our Next Issue

New China Forges Ahead

by **Mme. Sun Yat-sen**

"We travelled its length and breadth, penetrating deeply into the changes which have come about in the people's lives. What we experienced so inspired me, that I want to report my impressions to the nation and the world, to report that New China's future is in the making and our Northeast is leading the way."—From the introduction to the vivid and comprehensive article by Soong Ching Ling (Mme. Sun Yat-sen), based on the impression of her recent visit to Northeast China. It will appear in the May Day issue of *People's China*.

is forced to put his finger print to the document "legalising" the exchange, and then in a passion of remorse commits suicide. It is just when the girl and her peasant betrothed find the body of the old man that the landlord's armed agents come and carry her off. In the big house she is raped by the landlord, and when her pregnancy threatens to interfere with his plans for getting a new concubine, he attempts to kill her. A kindly servant however frees her and helps her to escape in the nick of time.

Two years elapse. A legend has grown up in the neighbourhood about a girl with white hair, a goddess, who has been seen several times by peasants. It is really the girl whose long hair has turned snow white. Her child has died. She lives in a cave and eats the food offerings left by peasants in a way-side temple.

At length the People's Army enters the district, but its political workers, among whom is the girl's betrothed, find themselves strangely unable to rouse the peasants. The landlords have exploited the people's belief in the white-haired goddess by spreading the rumour that she will bring misfortune to them if they support the Communists. The political workers therefore determine to find out the truth about the "goddess". The fiancé hides with a comrade in the temple. The white haired girl appears. She is recognised by her fiancé and brought back to the village. Here she attends the "accusation meeting" against the landlords and leads and inspires the bitter relation of the wrongs suffered by the peasants at their hands.

This meeting starts the land reform and the expropriation of the expropriators.

The play owes its enormous success to its faithful and moving portrayal of the tragedy and triumph of the peasants in the struggle against the old feudal society. The film adds a powerful visual element of reality to all the excellences of the stage version.

These three tales of the people's fighters, martyrs and peasants are undoubtedly the major achievements of the past year, but they are well supported. *The Shepherd's Song of North Shensi* tells of the formation of the famous Shensi-Kansu-Ningsia (Yenan) Border Region in 1933. Two other films deal with the early revolutionary days—the creation of the Soviet base in Kiangsi in *Red Flag on the Green Cliff* and *Light Comes Back to the Earth*, a film history of the Sze-Min-Shan (East Chekiang) Guerrilla Base. *The People's Fighters* is a revolutionary adventure story of the Liberation War based on a scenario by Liu Pai-yu, one of our best war reporters. It traces the exploits of emancipated peasants of the Sungari River who fought in the liberation of the Northeast, and of North China.

Woman Locomotive Driver is based on the real life story of Tien Kwei-ying, China's first woman engine driver. *Sing Aloud and Advance* is based on the story of Chao Kuo-yu, the worker initiator of the new record movement and now the deputy director of the All-China Federation of Labour's Production Department. The theme of *Unite! Fight for the New Day!* is a textile mill strike in Shanghai which preluded the liberation of the Yangtse valley.

Outstanding Documentaries

The outstanding documentaries are *The Great National Unity of China* showing the art of the national minorities, *The Visit of the WFDY Delegation to China*, *The PLA in Production* and *The Road to Victory*, a dynamic story of the Railway Army Corps.

Not all these films reach the high level of the best. It could hardly be expected, with up to 80 per cent of the artists newcomers to film-making. The most fundamental shortcomings however would seem to stem from the fact that producers have too often conceived their material and action in terms of the theatrical stage rather than the cinema with its enormous resources of depth in space and time. This is most clearly seen in *Song of the Red Flag* which otherwise is in many ways a splendid film.

Comparing these films with the previous productions of Chinese studios, quite apart from the entirely mature outlook on their content and the significance of their themes, there has been an immense development in acting, particularly in the portrayal of workers and peasants. This is undoubtedly because the new acting cadres have themselves lived in such intimate relations with the masses of the people. Technically too, in lighting, sound and settings, keen attention to realistic detail has raised the whole standard of production. The musical accompaniment is more than adequate. The democratic re-organisation of the studios has brought technicians into closer association with the preliminary planning of work and as a result they show a new keenness in its execution. Considerable and fruitful assistance has also been given in this sphere by the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. China will play her part in this international exchange by putting several stages at the disposal of Korean guest producers.

The three state studios in Changchun, Peking and Shanghai completed their 1950 plan ahead of schedule. They are already well ahead with the 1951 plan calling for 18 major films. Last year's experience will be the basis for a concerted attempt to raise still further the quality of productions as a step to a bigger programme next year. The need for rapid expansion is urgent. The standard of living and culture of the people is rising at an unprecedented rate. The demand for first class films grows apace.





A woman political prisoner of the KMT concentration camp is compelled to watch her comrade being pushed over a cliff to her death.

New Films in 1951

The Shangjao Concentration Camps



The imprisoned patriots are forced to run in circles until they drop from exhaustion.



Back in the cells, the prisoners plan resistance and escape.

The People's Fighters



The ever victorious red banner on the battlefield.

The Shepherd's Song of North Shensi



Two typical stills from this lyrical film on the liberation of the peasants of North Shensi.

New

The White



The peasant father finds that he cannot pay his debt to the landlord.



She escapes into the mountains with her hair.

Unite! Fight for the New Day!

Films

Haired Girl



The daughter becomes a slave girl in the landlord's house.



Above—A woman textile worker confronts the KMT labour boss. Below—The Shanghai workers demonstrate.



s. Bitterness and sorrow turn
r white.

New Heroes and Heroines



A tale of the heroic struggle of simple, peace-loving peasants against the Japanese invaders.

UNDER THE NAME OF CHARITY



Antoinette Couvrette, the Canadian nun, who headed the orphanage.

Imperialist "philanthropy" for the Chinese people. Here it is in its dread reality. In a "charity" orphanage run by the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Canton, the inhuman and criminal neglect of the nuns in charge brought death to more than 2,000 infants, over 97 per cent of the total number of infants received, in a 13-month period.



The refrigerator holds good food for the nuns, while the children starved.



Two older charges whom the nuns forced to haul the bodies of dead infants to the death pit.



When the trap-door of one of the three pits was opened, heaps of bodies of dead infants were found inside, some naked, some wrapped in mats.

"Philanthropic" Orphanages

Ku Ling

Under the cover of mission churches, hospitals, schools and other "welfare projects", the imperialists have for years carried on cultural aggression against the Chinese people. But the depraved and inhuman depths to which imperialist "philanthropy" can sink and has actually sunk was factually documented in the publication of the criminal records of three mission nurseries, one in Canton and two in Nanking. These nurseries were ostensibly organised to care for orphaned and abandoned infants and children.

The Canton orphanage for infant girls was run by five Canadian sisters belonging to the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception—Antoinette Couvrette (Sr. St. Alphonse du Redempteur, M.I.C.), head of the orphanage, Germaine Gravel, Elizabeth Lemire, Germaine Tanguay, and Inulda Laperriere. Conditions in the orphanage came to light only recently when the Canton People's Government, acting on a local security board report, asked the Bureau of Civil Affairs for a prompt and thorough investigation.

Very High Death Rate

The investigators found the quarters for the children filthy and lice-ridden. The food was so rotten that it stank. Two of the children lay dead in their beds though the caretaker tried to pretend they were only ill by pulling the mosquito nets over their beds and saying they should not be disturbed.

From January, 1950 to February, 1951—the most recent investigation showed—the orphanage received 2,216 infants, and over 97 per cent died. Antoinette Couvrette has herself estimated that more than 4,000 died in the past two years. It is impossible for any outsider to record accurately the total number of infants and children who have died as a result of the criminal neglect of those in charge since this orphanage was set up in 1933.

On March 5, the Canton branch of the People's Relief Administration of China was authorised to take over the orphanage. At this time there were only 48 infants

under two years of age alive, and 29 of these were seriously ill, most of them suffering from pneumonia. There were 47 above the age of two, and, besides the older charges, this number included blind, lame and dumb adolescent girls who looked after the infants. There were also two assistants, both older orphan girls, and several old women who did miscellaneous work such as gardening and washing. All the charges were dressed in rags, and nearly every one suffered from severe malnutrition and skin and other diseases caused by neglect. Even the most rudimentary rules of hygiene were ignored. Sick babies were not isolated, thus accelerating the spread of epidemics.

Criminal Neglect

Three death pits, about 30 feet deep and five feet wide, were found near the orphanage. Two were sealed and filled. The trap-door of the third still in use was forced open. Inside, where they had been thrown in confusion, were found the bodies of dead infants.

At first the charges were too timid to speak, but gradually their confidence was won. The older charges described the calloused indifference of the nuns to the infants, how, for example, the nuns would leave newly-received infants in a cold, damp underground room after admission. Many died from exposure through this neglect. Those who survived were formally baptised and admitted to the church.

Orphanage regulations required parents or relatives to sign a statement absolving the orphanage from responsibility in case of death. Poor parents could never see their children nor find out what had happened to them. If word somehow got out that their infant had died, the only consolation they received from the nuns was that it was the "will of God."

Those who survived were treated as drudges. From a very early age they were taught embroidery needlework to earn money for the orphanage. The idea was constantly drilled into them that all human beings were sinful and had

to live a life of denial, and that those who had died and been dumped into the pit had gone to heaven. They were forbidden to leave until they were 21. They were taught nothing of the outside world, nothing about their own country or people. They were consciously developed as misfits relying wholly on God and the foreign nuns.

In the name of charity the orphanage solicited money from Canton business houses and from the people of Canada. Whenever possible they extracted payment from the relatives, sometimes on a monthly basis. In contrast to the way the children lived, the nuns were well-fed and comfortably housed, with pianos in their living rooms, dressing tables in their bedrooms and carpets on their floors.

After the investigation was made exposing the criminal neglect of those in charge, the five nuns formerly responsible for the management of the orphanage were arrested. They will be tried by the Canton People's Court.

The tireless work of doctors and nurses now assigned to the orphanage has introduced a new value to the orphanage, the value of human life. Before, medical care had been negligible. Now the orphanage has a full-time doctor and two nurses. A trained nurse is on duty day and night. The orphanage buildings have been de-loused. Adequate clothing and a nourishing diet, including cod-liver oil, have now been provided.

Nanking Nurseries

The Canton case is not an isolated one. In Nanking, in the Tze Ai Home for Babies, the sister-in-charge admitted that from January, 1949 to June, 1950 the nursery received 242 infant babies and 153 of them died in this period, making the death rate about 63 per cent. Records found in the nursery indicated that the death rate was actually higher, reaching 78.26 per cent.

Originally the Tze Ai Home for Babies was established under the KMT by Chiang Ching-kuo, elder son of Chiang Kai-shek with Maj.

Gen. John P. Lucas of the U.S. Military Advisory Group in China as an adviser. Those in charge of the nursery fled from Nanking in the winter of 1948 turning it over to Hsueh Kwang-hsiu, a Catholic nun. Sixteen foreign nuns including U. S., Australian and German Catholic sisters already in China were assigned to the orphanage by the Catholic authorities. Agnes Lauscher, a German nun, was made vice-head of the orphanage. These nuns were responsible for the management of the orphanage.

Infants Sold

They made a standard practice of selling the children for adoption at the price of 100 catties of fine white rice (approximately U.S.\$6.82) for each child, and nursery records for the five-month period preceding the investigation showed considerable "earnings" from such sales.

The high death rate caused by neglect and a starvation diet of bean powder and rice gruel did not trouble the foreign nuns, who, receiving the news of the death of a child, would say to the Chinese caretakers: "We must be happy for them, for they've gone to heaven so soon." This was their attitude towards helpless children in their care. For themselves they made sure that their own earthly lives were nourished daily with milk, fruit and meat.

When this nursery was investigated in August, 1950, over 95 per cent of the children were found to be suffering from severe malnutrition. One child, Ai-tai, more than a year old, weighed under ten pounds. Today, as a result of special care, Baby Ai-tai can sit up, crawl, eat solid foods and smile.

The second Nanking case involved the Sacred Heart Orphanage and Hospital, headed by an Irish nun, Irene Mary Langran. A paying nursery was added to the orphanage in 1949, headed by a French nun, Jacqueline Andre, charging 75 catties of rice (approximately U.S.\$5.07) each month per child, as well as "extras." The children in this nursery were mostly from poor families, and from workers' families who, unable to keep their children with them for economic reasons, were duped into believing that foreign "philanthropic" institutions would

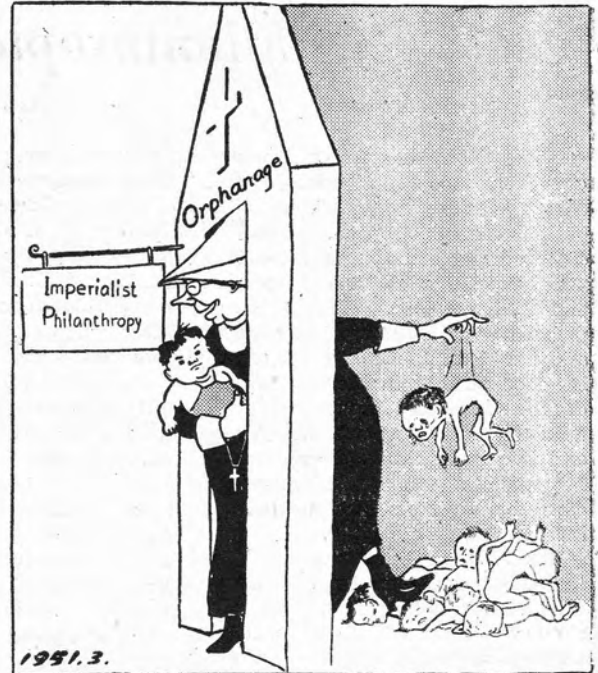
give them good care. In spite of payment which the families could ill afford, the children were neglected, and the death rate was high.

The investigation of this nursery was touched off when a Nanking resident, Liu Chia-ho, complained that his own child, a paying charge, had been badly burned through carelessness and had died in hospital. The sister-in-charge then circulated a report that the Liu baby had died of pneumonia. The case, however, was taken to the courts, and the child's body was examined. The medical report proved that death had been caused by burns. Only then did the sisters-in-charge admit this to be true.

Ma Hsu-yuan, also a Nanking resident, then protested to the authorities about another case in the same nursery, that of a child he knew who had died of starvation. When medical examination of the child's body confirmed the charge, a full investigation was carried out. It was found that from January, 1948 to June, 1950, about 557 children passed through the orphanage and nursery, and that 372 of this number had died. This criminal neglect was made public, and after trial the French sister, Jacqueline Andre, and the Irish sister, Irene Mary Langran, were sentenced to six months' imprisonment, the execution of the sentence being deferred for one year pending their deportation.

Widespread Indignation

These accounts have shocked and angered the Chinese people. They have made the people more vigilant than ever towards the "philanthropic" institutions of foreign imperialists. Three such institutions in Peking, two orphanages and an old-age home, all financed by American funds, have already



Mission to China

by Hua Chun-wu

been investigated and taken over by the People's Relief Administration.

Protests at the orphanage out-rages have come from all quarters, from hospital workers, social workers, trade unions, religious groups, teachers, women's groups and universities. Catholic groups, too, have joined the protest. In Tientsin the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Catholic Reform Movement, Hu Ke-tsai, made a public statement: "The crimes committed by imperialism against Chinese children in Nanking and Canton expose the real face of the imperialists who engaged in aggression under the name of charity and help."

A meeting in Peking of delegates from 53 organisations, called to discuss the foul conditions in these nurseries, supported the government's investigations, called for severe punishment of the criminals according to law, and urged further investigations of the so-called "philanthropic" institutions of foreign imperialists.

A spokesman summarising the views of the meeting stressed that in New China every child has a right to life, to health and to education, and that it is the duty of all citizens to protect these rights.

All Peace-Loving Women Are With Us!

Impressions of the Council Meeting of the WIDF in Berlin

Lu Tsui

The Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) which unites 91,000,000 women of 62 countries has launched a world-wide campaign for donations to aid the women and children of Korea, millions of whom have been brutally murdered, or rendered homeless and destitute by the American invaders and their satellites.

This was one of the important decisions taken by the WIDF at the suggestion of the Chinese delegation at the recent Fourth Session of its Council which met from January 31 to February 5 in Berlin.

From the moment of their arrival together at the Berlin airport, the Chinese and Korean delegations felt at once the mighty force of peace-loving men and women supporting the struggle of their two peoples in the front ranks of the defenders of world peace.

* * *

Countless posters and banners throughout the city greeted the Council. There were large portraits of the women leaders of the WIDF and of the various countries including Tsai Chang, President of the All-China Democratic Women's Federation and Vice-Chairman of the WIDF, and Pak Den Ai, Chairman of the Korean Democratic Women's Union. Huge banners proclaimed: "Salute the brave fighting Chinese and Korean women!"

The regard of the government and people of the German Democratic Republic for the conference was very clear, and very impressive was the unity of the women of China, the Soviet Union, Korea, Germany, of the East and West, and of the whole world in the common fight for the defence of peace.

Many leaders of the German people were present at the opening session of the Council meeting in the Hall of the People's Chamber. The meeting was honoured by the presence of President Wilhelm Pieck, Johannes Dieckman, Chairman of the People's Cham-

ber, and Premier Grotewohl. Premier Grotewohl welcomed the delegates on behalf of his government. He also expressed the warm appreciation of the people of Germany for the confidence that women of the world have placed in them.

It was a big and impressive session. One hundred and three Council members and delegates from 34 countries all over the world attended the meeting. The Chinese delegation was composed of six members. The Korean delegation, headed by Ho Tseng Su, Minister of Culture and Information, included a girl in a soldier's uniform—a decorated captain of a signal unit of the Korean People's Army.

From Asia there were, besides the Chinese and Korean delegates, two from India, one from the Mongolian People's Republic. The Japanese women were prevented from sending their delegates by MacArthur. The women of Viet-Nam, unable to attend because of travelling difficulties and the time factor, sent a warm message of greeting to the meeting as well as a long report on their fight for national independence and peace.

The large hall was packed daily, for the meetings were also attended by hundreds of women cadres and activists from both Eastern and Western Germany, and from Eastern and Western Berlin as well as many other representatives of various popular organisations eager to share in and hear of the work of women in other lands.

* * *

The meeting was different from an ordinary routine session of the Council. In the present world situation when the peace-loving forces are waging a most acute struggle against the forces of war, it was essentially an international conference of women for the defence of peace, following the Second World Peace Congress in Warsaw. Its agenda contained the following three points:

(1) The tasks of the WIDF in relation to the decisions of the Second World Peace Congress.

(2) The tasks of the WIDF in enlarging the unity of the international women's movement.

(3) The broadening and the strengthening of the movement for the defence of children.

Reviewing the peace campaign waged by the women of the various countries since its last session, the Council noted with satisfaction that this struggle had made unprecedented progress. However, in view of the increasing menace of war, women must further intensify their efforts in defence of peace. Emphasising the prime importance of the decisions of the Second World Peace Congress, which furnished the people with a powerful weapon in their struggle for peace, the Council declared its unanimous approval and support of the Appeal to the People of the World and the Address to the United Nations and called upon leading bodies of all its national organisations to popularise and publicise these documents and to obtain the active support of all women for the peace programme set forth in them.

It called on women of all countries to struggle more courageously in the ranks of the peace movement, to support and realise more resolutely all the decisions of the World Peace Council, to demand an immediate stop to the war in Korea, and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from that country. It demanded also the cessation of hostilities against the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, and the end of the American armed intervention against the Chinese island of Taiwan. It specially called on all peace-loving women to contribute their utmost to oppose the rearmament of Western Germany and Japan by the American imperialists.

Recognising that the unity and co-operation of all men and women of good-will is an urgent necessity under the present conditions when a new world war prepared by the American warmongers is threatening mankind, the Council meeting rightly pointed out that the WIDF, being one of the active

LU TSUI is head of the Chinese delegation to the WIDF Council Meeting.

and organised sections of the world movement for peace, is faced with the highly important task of extending and uniting the international women's movement and drawing into it the broadest masses of women of all countries irrespective of their nationalities, professions, political and religious beliefs. To this end, the Council decided to continue to strive even more consistently for co-operation with various international and national women's organisations on questions concerning the fight for peace, national independence, for the protection of secure and happy family life, the vital interests of women, and the defence of children.

In order to mobilise the largest sections of the population for the defence of children against the threat of a new war and to improve their living conditions, the Council decided to carry on a broad campaign for International Children's Day (June 1st) in 1951, and in the same year to convoke an International Conference for the Defence of Children.

These decisions were embodied in the three resolutions of the Council and two addresses: one to the women of the world, and one to the women of Western Germany.

All these decisions of the Council represent the common interests and demands of peace-loving women the world over and point the road to the defence of peace and of their children. They will surely draw new millions of women who support peace into the active struggle for the defence of peace.

* * *

The question of Korea was a central theme of the Council. Practically every delegate expressed in her speech her people's sympathy and support for the Korean people's struggle for freedom. The Asian delegates, in particular, bitterly and vigorously condemned the American aggression in Korea and expressed their solidarity with the people of Korea. The Indian delegate declared that the many thou-

sands of Indian youth who have expressed their readiness to go to Korea to fight with the Korean People's Army truly represented the popular sentiment of the Indian people to extend a helping hand to their suffering and fighting Korean brothers and sisters.

The chief Korean delegate Ho Tseng Su bitterly described the almost unbelievable atrocities perpetrated by the American vandals in Korea. The whole audience listened in silence. When she concluded her speech, the American, British and Australian delegates rose and embraced her with tears in their eyes. They denounced their own governments' aggressive policies in Korea and demanded the withdrawal of their troops from Korea.

The world-wide respect and gratitude to the Chinese people for their glorious actions in aiding Korea to combat American aggression were expressed in the thunderous cheers given to the delegates of our Chinese women. This was expressed too in the general report of Madame Vaillant-Couturier, the WIDF General Secretary, and very movingly in the speech of Madame Nina Popova, Vice-President of the WIDF and head of the Soviet delegation, and by many others. China's report to the Council on the activities of the Chinese women in aiding Korea and in defence of world peace was interrupted many times by stormy applause.

On the last day of the meeting when all the delegations laid wreaths on the memorial to the heroes of the Soviet Red Army, a Norwegian delegate, a middle aged woman active in the democratic and peace movement, approached us. In a quiet voice she said, "Your Chinese people's volunteers are today doing just what the Soviet Army did before. We know this and we appreciate it. As a mother I thank the mothers of the Chinese volunteers from the bottom of my heart."

The words of that Norwegian mother were not hers alone—they

expressed the thoughts of millions of peace-loving women and mothers throughout the world: appreciation and admiration for the victorious Chinese people who, having themselves stood up like a giant, have immediately stretched out their hands to their neighbour invaded by the imperialists.

* * *

We Chinese women, on our part, pledged to our sisters the world over to implement the WIDF decisions to the fullest. That is to say, we will intensify still further our efforts in support of the Chinese people's volunteers and the Korean People's Army. We pledged to extend greater aid to Korean women and children, to take even better care of the mothers and dependents of the volunteers, to extend further the unity of women from all strata and to activate every patriotic and democratic woman in the nationwide campaign to resist American aggression and aid Korea. In addition, we promised to eradicate completely any remnants of imperialist influence in China, to formulate and fulfil our "patriotic pledges", and to work still harder in the construction of our Motherland.

At the same time we Chinese women are determined to extend still further and consolidate our solidarity with women everywhere, particularly with the women of Asia, to oppose resolutely the re-militarisation of Japan, co-ordinating this struggle closely with that of the people of Europe against the re-militarisation of Western Germany; to support the campaign for signatures to the Five-Power Peace Pact.

Chinese women are now actively preparing for International Children's Day on June 1 and for the coming International Conference for the Defence of Children.

Indeed, China's women are in the forefront of the struggle to defend peace. They are fighting side by side with women the world over for a lasting peace and a happier life for the next generation and those to come.



HOW THE TILLERS WIN BACK THEIR LAND

(Continued from page 11)

Peng Fu-chuan's head was in a whirl. When all the poles had been transferred to the bank and the workers were getting ready to start setting them up, he also picked up his scythe, slung his basket over his shoulder and ambled off. His way took him along the dyke and down another slope, and he was deep in thought.

When he had reached the foot of the slope named Seven Stars, he lifted his head and gazed at the Peng-chu Homestead, which rose above the bare tree-tops. The roof of Master Peng the Second's mansion was broad and spread out like those thick shoulders of its owner. All around on the outskirts were groups of dilapidated mud huts. Ever since he was six years old, Peng Fu-chuan had lived with his father in one of those huts. At times, he, too, hated Peng Erh-hu, Peng the Second Tiger, especially when he smelled the meals being prepared in the big house. Fish, meat and what not. And he, Peng Fu-chuan could only have strips of dried potato all the year round. Still, to Peng Fu-chuan, it was all a matter of "fate." "To have or have not depends solely on fate; no human effort can come to anything." Take the way his luck had turned two months ago. Out of the clear blue sky came an invitation from Master Peng the Second, who insisted on "presenting" him free a piece of land valued at five *tou** and seven *sheng*, and good, fertile land at that. Also he was asked to move into one of the tile-roofed rooms in the Master's outer yard. Hm-m, his luck had certainly turned!

It came to Peng Fu-chuan like a shock that perhaps he should not have helped carry those poles after all, that he had somehow betrayed his master. However he had acted in the past, thought Peng Fu-

* *Tou* is one tenth of a *tan* (picul) and ten *sheng* make a *tou*. In Hunan, land is sometimes measured by the average yield, as around Changsha. In the locality where the events related here are set, it is measured according to the amount of seeds the land requires. One *tan* equals roughly 7 *mou*.

chuan, Master Peng the Second had certainly grown more enlightened since liberation. Without him, where else on earth could he, Peng Fu-chuan, get his food and clothing?

Most of the villages in Hunan are formed of several homesteads, each of which in turn is composed of one or more clans. In the small homesteads, as far as blood relationship goes, the members were usually three to five times removed from each other at the most. So, in a sense, each of these homesteads was a little feudal stronghold. In Hsinlu village there were three prominent homesteads: the Peng-chu Homestead, "Big-house" Lo, and the Li Garden. Not far from the dyke, near the Seven Star Slope, was a one-street town.

When Peng Fu-chuan came back to the Peng-chu House, he naturally told others about the affair of the telephone poles. The news passed around quickly and before noon all three homesteads had heard about it. Some of the old folk remained indifferent. But even they stepped up to the footstone in front of the Arch of Chastity and Filial Piety and leaning on their crutches, took a weary look. They had seen many new things: the Japanese; the KMT Army... The bitter experiences of many years told them: what is new is not necessarily well-meant.

The younger generation, however, could not repress their excitement. One by one, they bypassed the woods and the graveyard, and ran up the narrow field-path towards the river bank. Crazy Grandma, with bound feet, was also among the crowd. She was fifty-three. And there she was, with her crutch, caught in a sea of people, staring wide-mouthed at the poles standing upright this side of the bank.

The moment the peasants arrived on the spot, they began showering questions at the workers. Crazy Grandma, lightly passing her bony fingers over one worker's arm, whispered, "Ah, you look exactly like my Teh-ming. Look, he was as tall as you are. I brought him up myself, from so high." There was a catch in her voice and soon she was sobbing.

"There, there, no tears! This is not a time for crying but for laughing," said the worker to Grandma. Then after scribbling something in a pad with his pencil, he announc-

ed, "No more questions, please. The telephone is put up for land reform. After land reform, up come you peasant comrades, and out go the landlords. Understand? Come, those who are strong, help us carry these!"

At this, all the peasants got to work. Some dug holes, others helped carry the already numbered poles. Especially in the matter of hole-digging, the peasants exhibited a thorough expertness which commanded great admiration from the workers. With the help of so many "extras," the job was finished ahead of time while the sun was still lingering over the western horizon. Slender shadows were cast by the poles right across the new-mown fields, forming a pattern, like a seal-impress, claiming ownership and authority.

* * *

Crazy Grandma also lived in Peng-chu Homestead, and when she got back she pounded on all the doors and shouted at whoever opened, "Hey, land reform, land reform! My son Teh-ming must be coming back!"

Peng Hsin-wu's pregnant wife was just stepping out to call the pigs home when Crazy Grandma ran right into her and, quite befuddled, fell down. Alarmed for fear she might have got hurt, Mrs. Peng told her soldier husband to go and fetch Chun-hsing, Crazy Grandma's daughter. She helped the old lady up, led her into the room and sat her down on a stool. She poured out some water for her and holding her hand, she said, as if explaining something to a child, "Grandma Li. Your son is not coming back. Didn't Hsin-wu tell you? He was telling the truth. Don't go on hoping like that. You won't be able to stand it."

"Not coming back!" Crazy Grandma repeated mechanically. Then with a piercing shriek she fell off the stool in swoon.

Neighbours came pouring in, all talking at the same time. Uncle Kuang-lin, fingering his thin beard, said musingly, "Better not mention to her any more this business of her son having died in the battle. Her daughter is getting married pretty soon, isn't she? What will happen to the poor old soul after that?"

At this point, Crazy Grandma's only daughter, Chun-hsing, still a

child with pig-tails, broke upon the scene. Seeing the old lady's dusty, waxen pale face, she was distraught and wailed, "Mama, O Mama!" It was Peng Hsin-wu who lifted Crazy Grandma up in his arms and laid her down on the bed.

After a few moments Grandma's eyelids began to flutter. The first person she saw was her daughter. She took Chun-hsing's hand and, stroking it gently, said as if quite resigned, "Don't worry. Don't worry!" Then again in agony: "So your brother is gone," and lapsed into silence, hopeless with sorrow.

Anger surged in Peng Hsin-wu. He knew Teh-ming had been killed. "Grandma Li, Chun-hsing, just think of it," shouted Hsin-wu, his eyes ablaze, "Who was it that killed Teh-ming? Wasn't it that landlord son-of-a-turtle Peng Erh-hu? Didn't he send me off too as cannon fodder? Where would I be today if it were not for the Communists? They captured me, but they did not treat me as a prisoner. They saved me as though I were their own brother. Now I'm determined to have a showdown with Peng Erh-hu or I won't call myself a man!" Since Hsin-wu had come back from the army, he had taken a keen interest in village affairs, and had been elected head of the local *hsiao tsu*, the small group, and was leader in many things.

nese were here, his brother Yintung, as the bogus village-elder, undertook to pressgang men and women for them. After the defeat of Japan, Peng the Second Tiger stepped into his place. For four full years, he was the tyrant in Huilung *hsiang*, acting for Chiang Kai-shek, harassing the peasants with continuous demands for able-bodied men and various "contributions."

Liberation threw Peng Erh-hu out on his ears. For a while, supported by his contacts and henchmen, he tried to keep up his old prestige. Acting the part of a kind, easy-going superior, he would deliver threats like the following to the peasants in public: "Don't you get too active. We are settled, homey people. One should leave a margin in doing things so that there won't be any hard feelings in the future." For the last few months, however, he had started giving out presents to all the tenants and farmhands in his employ, past or present. Like a conjuror's cloak, his house disgorged numberless green American blankets and other "surplus material."

While Hsin-wu was loudly cursing Peng Erh-hu, the other peasants in the room only looked at each other and said nothing. Some thought: he had coughed up quite a lot at the "rent reduction and

up all the old scores? Some knew that Peng Erh-hu still had hidden small arms and a lot of henchmen. A word too much and something might happen to you. There was silence in the room.

Chu Yao-hsien, known locally as "The Scholar" was the first to put these thoughts into words. Before speaking, he cleared his throat in the manner of a fortune-teller; then he scratched at a scar on the back of his head. All this was in order to show that his statement was made with great care and deliberation.

"Huilung *hsiang* will soon have land reform," said he with an air of authority. This spring he had attended a meeting of peasant representatives in town and had come back with an exaggerated sense of self-importance. Ever since then, he had shown up on every important social occasion with a peasant representative's red silk insignia pinned on his breast, swaggering like an ox. "In land reform everybody gets what's coming to him. Chairman Mao is fair and impartial. There will be no mistake about it." A loud cough here, then, "Master Peng the First, Master Peng the Second, what does it matter? They are right here among us. They can't fly away. As for their land, it can't walk off either. So why get so excited? After all we're all men of the same homestead!"

The peasants, most of them already nervous and thinking of backing out, were easily persuaded by the scholar's words. Many of them now voiced the opinion that they should postpone settling accounts with Peng Erh-hu until the Work Team arrived.

Hsing-wu found himself standing alone. He realised that his anger had carried him away, so he did not press his point. He called to mind a passage from a speech he had heard several days before on "Work Preparatory to Land Reform" made by the Secretary of the District Communist Party Branch. "You can't pull the landlords down until the masses are fully organised to act together. If you don't think you can pull them down, don't make any rash move and frighten them unnecessarily."

* * *

A mark of interrogation was planted in the heart of every pea-



A Visit from the KMT Tax Collectors

by Li Hua

Peng Erh-hu. The name struck horror and hatred into the hearts of all the peasants. Peng the Second Tiger! When the Japa-

deposit refund," more or less withdrawn from local affairs and had in general acted in a pretty humble and penitent manner. Why bring

sant and every landlord in Hsinlu village with the planting of the telephone poles. The mark became bigger, nearer and clearer as one after another the poles were set up.

Since the Huiling *hsiang* government had its office in the ancestral temple of the Peng-chu Homestead, and the village-chairman of Hsinlu village, Peng Yu-tang was himself a member of the Peng-chu Homestead, the telephone system naturally centred there. The long line of erect telephone poles led towards that hamlet and everybody within, high or low, was in great excitement.

On the morning following the coming of the workers Peng Yu-tang called a meeting of the small-group leaders in the temple courtyard. Passing on instructions from the District People's Government, he said the land reform Work Team would probably arrive around the 25th of November. In the meantime, a matter of more than ten days, they must devote themselves to dispelling rumours and combating any sabotage on the part of the landlords. They must redouble their vigilance and watch carefully every move the landlords made. At the same time no peasant should be blamed or attacked if he should hesitate to fight the landlords or should be deceived by them, because one cannot expect the peasants to wake up very fast after they had been oppressed and hoodwinked for thousands of years. Instead, one should employ all kinds of methods to rouse the masses' class consciousness. When that is done and the masses have really "stood up," then fighting the big racketeers, hunting down rumours and stopping the illegal activities of the landlords will all proceed smoothly.

The landlords, too, now saw that the coming land reform would destroy their power. It would not be as easy as the "rent reduction and deposit refund" campaign. They knew from the newspapers and booklets that the people wanted to destroy only the landlord class, not the landlords themselves; that not all their lands would be taken away from them so that they had no means of livelihood, but that they would get a similar share like everyone else. But, to the landlords, who had

ridden roughshod over the peasants for centuries, a "similar share" was treated with contempt. Used to to reign supreme in the villages, they were determined not to take the coming blow lying down.

When he was told Peng Hsin-wu wanted to settle accounts with him, Peng the Second Tiger's face fell. His eyes bulging, he rapped the edge of the hard-wood table with his pipe and addressing himself to his concubine said, "Turtles and tortoises are kings today. And here am I, bitten by a mad dog."

Peng Erh-hu's study was very ornately furnished. Scrolls and paintings hung on the walls above boxes and boxes of old editions. Only one thing was missing. Below the wall-clock there used to hang a picture showing a group of people welcoming the arrival of the Kuomintang army. If it had been there still, one would have discovered Peng Erh-hu sitting proudly besides the Divisional Commander of the KMT's 107th Division. Those days were past, but Peng Erh-hu still gloated over them with pleasure.

His hands clasped behind his back, he strode out of the study. In the big hall he paced to and fro, pondering. In the centre of the hall were his ancestral tablets, tracing his lineage back twenty generations. Then there were scrolls and tablets signed by "all the gentry of the district." On the main beam hung a horizontal piece with oversized characters: "A Precious Star Illumines This House."

Thoughtfully, Peng the Second Tiger gazed at the ancestral tablets as if asking his ancestors' advice to meet this new crisis. There were still a few incense sticks, not yet burnt out, stuck in the incense-burner. He rearranged them.

"Pang . . . Pang . . ." From the other side of the courtyard came the sound of someone monotonously knocking the "wooden fish". It was Peng Erh-hu's wife, reciting the Buddhist sutras.

"The meal is ready, sir!" an anaemic-looking girl of about fifteen announced, standing outside the threshold.

Peng the Second Tiger gave an impatient grunt. Suddenly he raised his head and said, "Yueh-lien!" The girl turned around. "How would you say I've been treating you?"

Yueh-lien, already at the foot of the terrace, was slightly taken aback. She too had sensed a change in the atmosphere around the house. The other day while out shopping for Mrs. Peng at the Seven Star Slope, she had seen a lot of people, in groups of two or three, engaged in animated discussion around the well and on the field-paths. The walls were covered with slogans and picture-posters, with one showing a fat landlord sitting astride the back of a thin, undernourished peasant. As for her, she had served Mrs. Peng for eight years. She had never stolen a needle or a piece of string. Yet she had to take beatings—both from Mrs. Peng and the younger concubine. Once in December, the concubine's baby had fallen off the bed and she was stripped naked and beaten. Compared with these two women, Master Peng the Second could well be said to be kind. A kick or two was the worst you got from him. Therefore she answered, "You have treated me all right, sir." But the words were accompanied by a brief glance at Peng the Second Tiger through eyes blood-shot from constant exposure to kitchen smoke. The verdict was too good for him and she gave it but reluctantly.

The Pengs did not all eat together. Peng the Second Tiger, his concubine and the baby had their meals in the study. After lunch, he broke his usual habit of taking a nap. He locked himself and the concubine in and the two of them started packing quietly.

This lasted until evening when Peng the Second Tiger stepped out of the study and made his way to his brother's house. On the way he passed his farmhand Peng Fu-chuan.

* * *

For the whole afternoon Fu-chuan had been pounding rice, and while he worked he turned over in his mind the perplexing problem: Is the Master his enemy or benefactor after all? Hsin-wu had told him a lot of bad things about his master, but here he was, retained and treated with consideration when all the other four farmhands had been dismissed. Destroy Master Peng and where would he get another job as a farmhand? Who would feed him? Master Peng had made the point clear several times. "Land reform? Land re-

form means Communism. This year the landlords. Next the rich peasants. The year after the middle peasants. In five years' time everybody will be penniless. That's what it is." To tell the truth, the prospect did not strike Fu-chuan as so ominous. All he had was one cotton quilt, practically in rags—but wait. Yes, hadn't Master Peng "presented" him with a piece of land only last month? Well did he remember that evening—the way Master Peng dramatically pointed at the ancestral tablets in the hall and said, "We all belong to the Peng family. Let those who can help others. But no outsider is going to come and share our land!"

Seeing Fu-chuan pounding rice, Peng Erh-hu was displeased.

"Ah, stop it," he ordered. "Who knows to whom the rice will go?" This had been his constant attitude ever since the day the telephone poles were put up. He once even told Fu-chuan to let the cattle eat just grass and not beans.

His hands behind his back, Peng the Second Tiger went on his way through a side-door in the west wall towards his brother Peng Yin-ting's house.

* * *

The Village Chairman and the small group leaders did their best to persuade the peasants not to listen to idle rumours and to get the autumn work done so as to clear the way for a successful land reform. Yet, in spite of their efforts the malicious rumours gained ground and the whole of Hsinlu village was in a state of great agitation.

Take Chou Hsiang-jui, for instance. He was the proprietor of Chien Hsiang Department Store on the street near the Seven Star Slope. Without a *sheng* of land to his name in the village, yet he confided to regular customers over the counter. "We're not going to buy in any more goods from Hsiangtan. Who knows who will be the victims in this land reform business?" Owners of groceries and herb stores also showed signs of uneasiness. Observant people reported that even the smoke rising from the chimneys of the brick-kilns was daily getting thinner.

No one knew for certain whether the rumours originated in the village and then passed on to the street or the other way round.

Peasants going up to town with basketfuls of vegetables and eggs would be questioned in great detail by the merchants and after having got rid of their goods, come back in the evening with basketfuls of rumours. The Village Chairman was pestered with questions: Is it true that a married person won't get any land? Or must a person get married before he can be given any land? It got so that even peasants with tiny bits of land worth only one or two *tau* began to get thoroughly nervous.

A woman named Tu Yu-chen had worked as a wet-nurse for the family of Chu Yao-hsien for three months while her husband was away. Then her mother-in-law suddenly showed up and insisted on her coming home. It seemed the mother-in-law was anxious since she had been told that after the land reform able-bodied women would be sent up to Manchuria.

It was at this anxious time that Peng Hsin-wu received a small package, probably thrown over the wall by someone. On opening it he found a note wrapped up in a ball of cotton: "One Peng doesn't want to hack off the head of another Peng. Let this be a warning to you not to throw your weight around too much."

Rumours buzzed and flew like mosquitoes and like mosquitoes were hard to squelch. The village activists tried to hunt the rumours down. The trail went from house to house, sometimes would lead right into another village. Some peasants were especially cautious. They refused to disclose the source of their information. "Don't know," they would say, shaking their heads or claimed they could no longer remember where they heard it from.

The *hsiang* Chairman called a meeting every other day to combat rumours. They wanted to get actual witnesses and evidence before they jailed any rumour makers. Several clues were gained at these meetings. The house of landlord Lo Pei-jung, in the "Big-house" Lo Homestead and that of the Peng brothers seemed to be the two main sources of rumours. Lo Pei-jung had called progressive members in his homestead "new-style racketeers." He had also whispered that the small-pox serum that the government brought from Hengyang contained poison.

Peng the Second Tiger had boldly torn off the poster put up by the Peasants' Association with the characters: "He Who Tills Shall Also Reap!" An old used bank note, with the characters "getting poorer with each land reform" crawled across it was found in the street. It was traced back to Hsieh Chang Store and there it was discovered to be a trick of Peng Yin-ting's.

On the morning of November 23, the Village Chairman and the leaders of the small-groups were discussing whether to hold the three rascals for questioning when Peng the Second Tiger's wife burst into the office. Her face was tear-stained. She stamped her feet and beat her breast in lamentation.

"Oh the scoundrel, the thief!" she cursed. "Ever since he took that wench, we've not spoken to each other. Last night the lights were on in his room for the whole night. We only found out what he had done when Yueh-lien went in to clear the room this morning. He has run off with that dirty little trollop and taken the suit-case which had my dowry in it too!"

Everybody immediately jumped to his feet. Hsin-wu especially was in such a rage that he wanted to start the chase at once.

The Village Chairman hurriedly phoned this news to the *hsiang* Chairman. Then he dispatched some cadres with Mrs. Peng to make an investigation of the house.

At noon the District Government phoned back ordering that both Lo Pei-jung and Peng Yin-ting be immediately arrested as rumour spreaders. The two "criminal landlords" with three small-group leaders as guards made their way along the field-path north of the Pigeon River towards the District Government. Hsin-wu, one of the three guards, carried a rifle.

They passed along the line of sentinel telephone poles. The early winter wind playing on the vibrating wires produced a sort of mellow and portentous music. It seemed to express the age-long sufferings of the peasants. Yet mingled in the complaint was a note of hope, a resonant twang singing of Huilung *hsiang's* fertile land and its hard-working inhabitants.

Two days more and the land reform Work Team would arrive in the village.

Blind Minstrels of the People



The blind minstrels are singing new ballads in the tea houses of Peking. In the cool of late afternoon, while the customers sip their cups of hot green tea, the story-tellers, lightly tapping their way with their slim bamboo canes, come among them, and to the music of the *Erh Hu* violin or beat of castanets relate the *Tale of the Young Couple Working in the Fields*, a tale of modern love, or the *Story of the Four Guns*, four highly articulate firing pieces whose autobiographies cover the most exciting adventures in the revolutionary wars. Then they have stories of Comrade Mao Tse-tung and Commander-in-Chief Chu Teh, of the people's volunteers in Korea, of production competitions.

They tell comic tales of old-fashioned mothers-in-law . . .

If you coax them, they will still tell you the old familiar fables of fairies, *Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio* or the 2,000 year old *Tales of the Eastern Chou Dynasty*. But they are discriminating now in their choice of tales from feudal China. They have set their faces against the superstitions of ghosts and evil spirits, of such tales as *Lady into Fox*.

Customers like to hear of something new, yet are curious. Where did they get these new ballads from?

"Where? Please see our badge! We are students of the Blind Artists Training School."

The idea was proposed last year to the People's Government by Professor Lo Chang-pei, the famous linguist and the well-known novelist Lao Sheh. It was enthusiastically supported by the Bureaux of Civil Affairs and of Labour and the Department of Literature and Arts of the Peking Municipal People's Government. In December the classes for 62 blind street wanderers were established in an old temple.

Like Homer, the immortal Greek, such minstrels used to wander through the city streets and country places of China. They were already a familiar part of the social

life of the country before the Sung Dynasty in 960 A.D. They told the historic romances of feudal times and although the stories are well known, children and grown-ups have always loved their musical tones and their many ways of telling.

Each ballad has many melodies to accompany it. In Peking alone more than 400 melodies are in current use.

These minstrel singers lived a life of ironic tragedy. Themselves the victims of feudal conditions, they blindly sang poetic praises to feudal times and ways of life, and helped to perpetuate their own slavery.

During the past three decades the blind musicians fell on even harder times. As they put it: "The rich who were able to come to the tea houses would not pay us. The poor couldn't even afford to come!" Many degenerated and became fortune-tellers.

When liberation came the blind singers wondered what the future held in store for them. Very soon they found that life was changing fast. They shared in the growing prosperity of the new Peking. Two blind minstrels, Wang Shao-chin and Chu Shao-pin were invited to participate in the National Conference of Literary and Art Workers. This was a shock to the blind fraternity. They had never thought that a blind man could be treated as an equal.

Training for a New Life

The minstrels eagerly attended the School. In the morning from 9 to 11 the famous professional theatrical ballad singers Tsao Pao-lu and Lien Ko-ju taught them new ballads and melodies. In the evening from 7 to 9 they came again for political discussions and lectures. During their three months of training, they received a stipend of 70 catties of rice a month from the Government and a new black cotton suit for the Spring Festival.

At the end of February, the first class graduated. They had learnt 30 new ballads and melodies. They were artists of New China. They found themselves on the threshold of a new life. Wang Shao-chin was

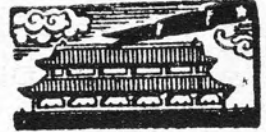
invited to work at the Shanghai Music Academy's research institute for ancient music, Kiang Lan-tien joined a PLA troupe of entertainers. Two others are attached as teachers and research aides to the Peking People's Dramatic Academy. Many others are broadcasting their ballads regularly over Peking Radio. Several have contributed their own compositions to the press. They are always in big demand for concerts and entertainments at people's clubs. Now the rest of Peking's 100 blind minstrels are being re-trained.

Twice a week a resonant new voice sings over Peking Radio. Tens of thousands on the streets, in tea houses, parks, clubs and private homes prick up their ears at its optimistic tones, smile at its witticisms. It is Fan Shih-chung, the blind minstrel telling his own stories and ballads of the people's victories over the American imperialists. He still makes his popular rounds of the tea houses reciting his new political monologues and comic educational stories. Fan was once an unfortunate fortune-teller. Son of a poor peasant, he lost his sight as a child and when his parents became utterly impoverished he was apprenticed to a minstrel. Blind as he was, he had to do the household chores, and was cruelly ill-treated. Finally he ran away. Wandering in the city he listened to the story-tellers and then one day decided to try his hand at it himself. Thus he supported himself, but as times became worse he took up fortune telling. Fan told people that he believed in destiny, but he says with a grin: "I knew at least better than to believe that myself. Yet I still counted it as lucky if a man was rich, with enough to eat and nothing to do. Now after this three months' training, I would say that he is lucky who can work to serve the people."

It is no wonder the minstrels like to sing songs of joy these days. When the customers jokingly tell them: "Now you blind have opened eyes!" The answer comes seriously: "Our eyes are blind, but not our hearts!"

CURRENT CHINA

March 26—April 10

**Currency Unification**

The People's Currency came into use in Northeast China and the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region on April 1 by order of the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government.

On the same date, the Northeast Bank and the Inner Mongolian People's Bank were incorporated into the Central People's Bank as its branches.

Up to this date, local currencies were authorised for use in these two areas to protect their economies. Now, however, that commodity prices have been firmly stabilized throughout China, the unification of currency will facilitate the interflow of commodities and further integrate and foster the national economy.

The order provides that the local currencies of the two areas be exchanged for the People's Currency at the rate of 9.5 to one. The currency exchange will be completed in the Northeast by June 1 and in Inner Mongolia by the end of July.

Shanghai's First Elections

For the first time in history, the five million citizens of Shanghai have elected their own representatives to deal with municipal affairs. During the past 10 weeks, 6,021 representatives were elected to the

people's representative conferences of the city's 30 districts. Among them 1,273 were elected by the factory workers, 632 by the peasants and 862 by the merchants; 1,072 were elected by local residents, 181 by the various democratic parties, and 25 by the national minorities.

These representatives at their meetings brought in nearly 30,000 proposals covering civil affairs, public security, city construction, finance, culture, etc., each of which was then dealt with by the municipality or district authorities. They will later report back on their work to the people.

Water Conservancy Projects

Under a nation-wide plan the dykes on various major rivers are being strengthened in preparation for the rainy season this year. The plan includes the Chaopai River in the north and the Yangtze and Pearl Rivers in the south. Five million people will work on these projects which involve moving an estimated 400,000,000 cubic metres of earth.

Yellow River Dykes: More than 200,000 people are already working on the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River to strengthen the dykes which protect the people of Honan, Pingyuan and Shantung Provinces from flood.

Progress in Education

The 13-day meeting of the first National Secondary Education Conference concluded on March 31 in Peking. It decided that more intermediate technical and vocational schools should be established to cope with the growing demands of national reconstruction. More normal schools, too, will be opened to train more teachers to meet the growing need.

Middle schools are to be improved. They will avoid over-the all-round mental and physical development of students. Health facilities for the students will be improved.

Latest Achievements: Middle schools increased in number during the past year from 3,690 with an enrolment of 1,090,000 in June, 1950 to 5,137 with a total enrolment of more than 1,500,000 pupils, according to statistics compiled in the latter half of 1950.

The composition of the students in these schools also underwent a big change: the children of the working people constitute 70 per cent of the total in the Northeast, 80 per cent in Hopei, 82 per cent in Shensi, 77 per cent in Pingyuan and 66 per cent in Chahar. More than 4,000 cadres who were former workers and peasants have entered the short-term middle schools recently established for adults.

Schools for Minorities: From 20 to 30 per cent of the total enrolment of middle schools will be made up of students from the minority peoples. Many new primary schools have already been established in the various national minority regions there.

Livestock to be Increased

Inner Mongolia plans to increase its livestock by 11 per cent this year over last year. Skilled cross breeding, the sinking of new wells, more extensive inoculations against rinderpest and wide-scale wolf and rat extermination campaigns are all parts of the new plan.

In 1950 over 2,500,000 animals were inoculated and the herds of livestock increased by 10 per cent over the previous year.

American Planes Again Invade China's Air

American planes have again of late repeatedly invaded the air of Northeast China, bombing and strafing, and causing loss and damage to the life and property of the Chinese people.

On March 30, 12 US planes flew over Lakushao, Kuantien County, Liaotung Province, dropped bombs, and subsequently flew to Changtienhokou and Antung to bomb and strafe. Four US planes bombed Antung again on the same day and 28 planes bombed Chi-an County. On March 30 (up to 3:00 A.M. on the morning of the 31st) US planes invaded China's territorial air on 17 different occasions. In addition, on March 31, 12 US B-29s bombed Linchiang County, and on April 7, 24 US B-29s and jets dropped 50 bombs on Antung.

"The Chinese people will make the enemy pay his blood debts yet," states the Peking *People's Daily* in its April 8 commentary on these repeated criminal acts of the U.S.

The paper points out that "at the very outset of America's war of aggression against Korea, the Chinese people clearly sensed that the enemy's main objective was to attack China."

Soong Ching Ling Awarded

Soong Ching Ling, President of the People's Relief Administration of China, is among the seven persons awarded Stalin International Prizes for "Strengthening International Peace." These prizes are awarded by a special prize committee which met in Moscow in early April. The citation states that Soong Ching Ling (Madame Sun Yat-sen) has been a life-long fighter for the Chinese people. She has opposed the reactionary regime of the Chiang Kai-shek gang and American imperialist aggression in the Far East. She spares no effort to support world peace and oppose the remilitarisation of Japan.

Support for Peace Pact

To safeguard world peace with further concrete action, the Chinese People's Committee for World Peace and against American Aggression called on April 5 for a signature campaign to the statement advocating the conclusion of a Five-Power Peace Pact; and for a nation-wide poll on the question of Japanese re-armament. Both campaigns are to be launched during the second half of April.

MacArthur Denounced

MacArthur's statement in Tokyo on March 24, threatening to extend the war onto China's mainland, has aroused intense indignation throughout the country. The spokesman of the Chinese People's Committee for Peace and against American Aggression, after refuting the war-monger's shameless clamour, appealed to the nation by saying: "All Chinese people must be more vigilant and must intensify the sacred struggle to resist America, help Korea, safeguard their homes and defend their Motherland until we, together with the Korean people, have liberated all Korea and driven out the aggressors who aim to invade China."

3 More U.S. Spies Arrested

Alf Bonningue, Henrius Pollet and Ludov Watine, three US spies of French nationality, have been arrested by the Public Security Bureau in Tientsin.

All three are Catholic fathers connected with the US Strategic Services Unit since 1947. After Tientsin's liberation they sent out information to the U.S. intelligence about Chinese airfields, factories and institutions over the radio they

China's Railways Stride Forward

Reviewing the great achievements of the railway network in 1950, Teng Tai-yuan, Minister of Railways, reported to the Central People's Government Administration Council at its recent meeting in Peking, that the annual transport plan had been fulfilled 21 days earlier than scheduled. The average loading capacity per day overfulfilled the schedule by 7.4 per cent; the total tonnage of freight transport by 2.8 per cent, and the passenger services by 5.8 per cent.

He pointed out that the railway lines were now 1,000 km. longer than in 1949. The number of locomotives has increased.

New China's railway transport system lays special emphasis on speed, punctuality and safety. The average speed per hour showed a rise of from five to 25 km. above that of 1949. The speed of passenger trains was raised by 13.8 per cent while that of freight trains showed an increase of 7.1 per cent as compared with the Northeast railways when under Japanese rule in 1941.

The Minister stated that 99 per cent of the passenger trains and 97 per cent of the freight trains were running to schedule.

Since the introduction of advanced Soviet techniques and in the course of emulation drives by the workers, 148 locomotives each recorded over 100,000 km. of perfect running, without major overhauls. Two well-known locomotives—the *Mao Tse-tung* and the *Iron Bull*—each topped the 200,000 km. mark.

As a result of efficient administration and the enthusiasm of the railway workers, the income of the railway bureaux south of the Great Wall exceeded the estimated returns by 17 per cent. The railwaymen also saved a total of 310,000 tons of coal.

And while speed, turn-round and conveniences were greatly improved, the Minister pointed out, the accident rates were reduced to the lowest figures ever recorded.

In co-operation with the Railway Trade Union, the Ministry had also undertaken to improve the welfare and labour conditions of railwaymen. Along the tracks there are now 269 shops for railway workers, 171 mess halls, 401 bath houses, 287 barber shops and many sanatoria, rest centres, clubs and nurseries. In addition, more than 130,000 railway workers and staff were enrolled at various spare-time schools.

Sino-Soviet Through-Traffic Agreement

A Sino-Soviet Railway Through-Traffic Agreement was concluded on March 14, after negotiations in Peking between the Ministry of Railways of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Communications of the U.S.S.R. This Agreement provides that a through-railway service for passengers, luggage and freight transport between the two countries be inaugurated as from April 1, 1951.

set up in Tsin Ku University (formerly the Tientsin College of Industry and Commerce). The staff and students of the University were instrumental in exposing these crimes.

Enemy Losses

During the 66-day fighting period from Jan. 25 to the end of March, losses of over 60,000 troops—of which more than half are US troops—were inflicted on the enemy in Korea. During the three campaigns between Oct. 25 and Jan. 5—73 days of fighting—enemy losses approached 62,000, states the communique of the KPA.

Brief News

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party cabled condolences to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on the death of M.F. Vladimirovsky, Chairman of the Central Auditing Commission of the C.P.S.U.

The Peking *People's Daily* on March 28 hailed the European Workers' Conference against the remilitarisation of Western Germany, praising it as a serious blow to the imperialist war policy now being applied in Germany.

Letters from Our Readers

India Against Rearming Japan

Dear Editor:

I hope you are in constant touch with Indian opinion on recent developments in Korea. The Indian people are solidly behind China and against any American aggression in Asia, nay, in any part of the world. Though we ourselves have not witnessed the horrors of totalitarian war, we have had the bitter experiences of the by-products of this hateful monster. Therefore, we Indians, in the common interests of all peoples, will not allow the U.S. gangsters to unleash their criminal lust further.

Without any hesitation I can state that India vehemently protests against the American imperialists' vicious plot to rearm Japan in order to further their aggression against the Asian peoples. There have been several strong editorials in Indian papers on this subject, and there will be many more. But as one of the millions and millions who want peace for progress and prosperity for war-torn humanity, I am forced to face the fact that American Big Business is wilfully and dishonestly dragging the world toward an atomic war. But the new-born peoples of India and China, indeed the peoples everywhere in the camp of peace, are determined to achieve social, economic and political justice. We will strike out on a new course. **"WE WANT PEACE! IT MUST BE WON!"**

India has already raised her Himalayan voice, "Hands Off Asia!" Let us march on together. "Down with the Butchers' Bloc Led by the Anglo-American Devils!"

A. Ghose

Calcutta, India
February 20, 1951

Back from the U.S.

Dear Editor,

It's only been a short time since we returned to China from the United States. I certainly had a hard time getting away. The F.B.I. seemed to think I was pretty important though as an engineer I had had nothing to do with poli-

tics. They made constant enquiries about me from friends in New York. "What are his plans?" "What does he think about the Communists?" "What does he think about 'Red China'?"

To speak frankly, I wasn't sure just what I did think about all these things. I only knew that I hated the Kuomintang for its rottenness, that I would be welcome in New China, and that my training as an engineer would be put to good use.

The few days we spent in Hongkong were a nightmare. The high costs and the colonial mentality of the Hongkong officials were a great shock to me. I knew about these things, of course, but I hadn't realised how serious they were. And the bribery we had to pay just to make our way to the border. We had quite a lot of baggage and put it in the hands of a transport company. I was staggered at the "just a little more" that we had to pay to the people looking after our luggage for we'd arranged the price in advance.

When, after I thought we had reached the border, the young man said, "Now this will cost you twenty dollars more," I exploded. "I thought this sort of thing didn't go on in New China!" I snapped. "But you're not in New China! You're still in Crown Territory! New China's over there," he said pointing some yards distant. We paid with poor grace and crossed into New China.

What a difference, orderly queue: waiting for customs inspection, efficient service, and no bribery.

Knowing that we were returned students, the government provided accommodation for us, arranged an interesting trip for us with side-visits to factories and schools in Canton.

We both feel that we belong to New China. My wife and I both have jobs. We're working harder than we ever worked before, but we like our work and the sense of being part of a great country that is building.

Kung Li-tao

Hankow
March 10, 1951

"English Friends Worried"

Dear Editor:

All the people whom I meet in England now seem to have got a better idea of New China because, as a result of the war in Korea, they have got a clearer idea of the American government's policies towards other nations.

At first they really thought Korea was a small affair that MacArthur would soon settle. But the arrival of the Chinese people's volunteers and the defeat of the U.S. troops showed this was not so. Then the news gradually leaked out about the way the Americans have bombed flat everything they could in Korea and the way they think "shooting ten refugees is justified if we kill one North Korean guerrilla." They are also angry at the way the Americans order their Government around, not only about Korea, but here in Britain. In one magazine a writer says the slogan of the British people should now be "No annihilation without representation!" They know now that the Americans would mercilessly bomb London as flat as Seoul—and the rest of England too—if they thought it would serve their purposes. My friends apologise that their Government is sending English soldiers to Korea. They understand now that the Chinese people were right in going to help the Korean people resist America.

The big capitalist papers are coming out in favour of re-arming Japan. But again, the ordinary people I meet are against it. They don't like the way the Americans are "defending democracy" in Korea. They are distrustful of the Americans leading them into a war they don't want against the Chinese people. They are even more worried about re-arming their old enemy as an ally "to defend democracy."

A Chinese Student

Hampstead, London
February 12, 1951

ON REPRESENTATIVE CONFERENCES

(Continued from page 7)

ripen, gradually hands over the full power to these governments. When the counter-revolution has been rooted out and the land reform completed, the majority of the people become organised and the People's Representatives Conferences and the People's Governments of all levels enter upon the full execution of their duties, military control naturally becomes unnecessary, and its full power naturally passes to the People's Governments of all levels. Thus, our military control not only does not hinder the convening of People's Representatives Conferences of all levels but, on the contrary, the convening of such conferences and the creation of the people's power of all levels is one of its main tasks. For this reason it is wrong to put off the convening of the People's Representatives Conferences under the pretext of the existence of military control or wartime conditions.

Economic construction has already become the main task of our country and our people. But this New Democratic economic construction must be guided and defended by a New Democratic power. Without a New Democratic political structure it is impossible to have a New Democratic economy—an economy comprising five sectors of economy integrated under the leadership of the socialist state economy. This is also one of the outstanding

CONSTRUCTION IN THE NORTHEAST

(Continued from page 9)

Council of the Central People's Government, so as to adapt ourselves to the needs of a modern national defence force. We must also take adequate care of dependents of members of the armed forces. This will strengthen our armed forces.

Secondly, so far as industrial production and construction is concerned, we plan to develop the engineering industries actively and systematically in the light of the needs and concrete possibilities of national defence and economic construction. The total value of the output of enterprises under the control of the Department of Industry in 1951 is expected to be 18 per cent higher than that of 1950. And the value of the output of the means of production is expected to constitute 85.1 per cent of this total. The production of consumers' goods is also expected to increase so as to satisfy the needs of the rising standard of living of the people.

Thirdly, in agricultural production, the yield of each hectare of farmland in 1951 is expected to increase by 6 to 7 per cent. A production target of 19 million tons of grain has been set. To satisfy industrial needs, it is planned to enlarge the area of cultivation of special crops: 420,000 hectares will be allocated to cotton—an area sufficient to produce 90,000 tons of ginned cotton, while 96,000 hectares will be planted to produce 65,000 tons of hemp.

An afforestation programme will be started this year to extend the shelter belt in the western part of Northeast China. Three million cubic metres of timber will be felled according to plan. Surveys and preparatory planning will also be started this

characteristics distinguishing our New Democratic revolution from past bourgeois revolutions.

Before the time of the bourgeois revolution, i.e., before the establishment of the power of the bourgeoisie, capitalist economy already existed and was being developed. But the New Democratic economy, led by the socialist state economy, can be organised and developed only after the establishment of the New Democratic state power under the leadership of the working class. The political construction of New Democracy and the development of People's democratic power, together with the democratisation of our country, are inseparable from the economic construction of New Democracy and the development of a people's economy, together with the industrialisation of our country. Without the democratisation of the country, and without the development of the political power of New Democracy, it is impossible to ensure the development of the New Democratic economy and the industrialisation of the country. In other words, the development of the New Democratic economy and the industrialisation of our country will greatly strengthen and consolidate the basis of the New Democratic political power. Hence our basic slogan: For democratisation and for industrialisation! In this country, democratisation and industrialisation are inseparable.

Long live a free, prosperous and powerful New China!

Long live the state system of the People's Representative Conferences and the People's Congresses!

year for the permanent flood control project of the Liao River system.

In order to carry out the primary task of facilitating the interflow of goods between the towns and the countryside, the total value of sales of state trading companies in the Northeast will be 28 per cent higher than last year and that of co-operatives, 27.5 per cent higher.

Those responsible for communications, especially the railroads, must make every effort to fulfil the nation's transportation plan. We will systematically repair and build highways and improve our telecommunication services in accordance with the needs of national defence and the economy.

The 1951 financial plan calls for an increase of urban tax revenue and an improvement of methods of collection as a result of the development of the national economy. It also calls for an increase in the profits from public enterprises as a result of improvements in the operation and management of these enterprises. These measures, together with the levy and collection of "public grain" (the agricultural tax in kind—Ed.) in a fair and reasonable manner, will provide the funds for national defence expenditure, for investments in economic and cultural construction, for public health works and other constructive enterprises. They will also serve to ensure a stable price level.

The total value of the output of state industries and agriculture in the Northeast in 1951 will be 13.8 per cent higher than in 1950.

Such is the general picture of the measures planned to strengthen our national defence and economic construction in 1951 under the over-all aim of consolidating our national defence.

Sketches from the Korean Front



Korean Commanders and Fighters

Pencil Drawing by Lin Kang



Against the Background of the Ruins of Their City Destroyed by the American Invaders, the Korean Civilians Welcome the Liberating KPA and the Chinese People's Volunteers.

Pencil Drawing by Hou Yi-ming