

PEOPLE'S CHINA



SUPPLEMENT:

AGREEMENT ON P.O.W. REPATRIATION

12
1953

PEOPLE'S CHINA

A FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE

Editor: Liu Tsun-chi

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

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

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

No. 12, 1953

CONTENTS

June 16

Pave the Way for the Peaceful Settlement of the Korean Question "People's Daily" Editorial	3
Higher Education in New China	Tseng Chao-lun 6
How China Tackles Her Food Problem	Yeh Chou 11
Sino-Soviet Trade	Pai Hsiang-yin 15
North Kiangsu Lives Again	Kao Shih-shan 18
Clean Towns, Clean Villages (Impressions of a Ceylonese Visitor)	M. G. Mendis 25
The Steel-Maker	Hsu Chih 28
Return to the Motherland	Huang Ku-liu 31
Going to the Cinema (A Short Story)	Chang Tien-yi 33
1953 National Basketball-Volleyball Tournament	Li Yu-wen 37

PICTORIAL PAGES:

At the National Basketball and Volleyball Tournament, Tientsin;
In China's Villages Today; International Children's Day in
Peking 19-22

IN THE NEWS 38

BACK COVER:

Reading Grandpa the News Drawing by Chiang Chao-wu

SUPPLEMENT:

The Agreement on the "Terms of Reference for the Neutral
Nations Repatriation Commission"

Index to Nos. 1-12, 1953

COVER PICTURE:

Women Athletes of East China and the Inner Mongolian
Autonomous Region at the National Basketball and
Volleyball Tournament, Tientsin

Entered as first-class printed matter at the General Post Office of China

Published by the FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS, 26 Kuo Hui Chieh, Peking, China.

Pave the Way for the Peaceful Settlement Of the Korean Question

An abridged text of the "People's Daily" editorial of June 9, 1953

AN agreement on the question in the Korean armistice negotiations of P.O.W. repatriation* for which the people of the whole world have anxiously waited, was signed at Panmunjom on June 8. It has brought the Korean armistice near to materialisation and paves the way for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. The signing of the agreement is beyond any doubt an event of the first magnitude in the present world situation.

During the past eighteen months—since discussion on the P.O.W. repatriation question began on December 11, 1951—the Korean and Chinese side has made many major efforts, especially this time, when they took the initiative to resume the Korean armistice negotiations and made it possible for discussions on the question of P.O.W. repatriation to progress rapidly. The fact is further proof of this side's genuine desire to seek a solution to the question of P.O.W. repatriation so as to effect an armistice in Korea.

* The full text of the agreement is printed as a supplement to this issue.

As the result of world public pressure and steadfast efforts by the Korean and Chinese side, the American side asked that the armistice negotiations enter into executive session. After several meetings both sides finally reached the agreement on the question of P.O.W. repatriation which has now been published.

The agreement conforms to the basis for negotiations originally proposed by this side. In essence, it provides for the repatriation of all prisoners of war in two separate steps. In the first step, both sides will—within two months after the Armistice Agreement becomes effective—without offering any hindrance, directly repatriate and hand over in groups all those prisoners of war in their custody who insist on repatriation to the side to which they belonged at the time of capture, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Article Three of the Draft Armistice Agreement. The second step will be that, within sixty days subsequent to the effective date of the Armistice Agreement, all the remaining prisoners of war not directly repatriated will be released from the military control and custody of the detaining

side and handed over to the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission agreed upon by both sides—with India as its chairman and executive agent—for internment and custody within the territory of Korea. The nations to which the prisoners of war belong will, within ninety days after the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission takes over custody, send representatives to give explanations to the prisoners of war to dispel apprehensions which may exist and inform them of matters relating to their return to their homelands. An application by a prisoner of war to the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission requesting repatriation to his homeland will be validated by the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission or one of its subordinate bodies by majority vote. At the expiration of ninety days after the transfer of custody of the prisoners of war to the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, the question of the disposition of those prisoners of war who have not exercised their right to be repatriated will be submitted to the political conference—recommended to be convened in Paragraph Sixty of the Draft Armistice Agreement—which shall endeavour to settle this question within thirty days. During this period the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission will continue to retain custody of these prisoners of war. The Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission will declare the relief from prisoner-of-war status to civilian status of any prisoners of war who have not exercised their right to be repatriated and for whom no other disposition has been agreed to by the political conference within 120 days after the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission has assumed their custody. Thereafter, according to the application of each individual, those who choose to go to neutral nations will be assisted by the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission and the Red Cross Society of India.

The agreement provides that the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission will be vest-

ed with full power and that the detaining side may not offer any hindrance, interference or sabotage; it also provides that the side to which the prisoners of war belong will make explanations to and visit prisoners of war. It is thus possible for all the prisoners of war to have the opportunity to exercise their right to be repatriated.

The substance of this agreement makes it clear that the contention of “no forcible repatriation” which the American side publicised again and again in connection with the question of P.O.W. repatriation is in fact non-existent.

What really should be resolutely precluded in connection with the question of P.O.W. repatriation is the forcible detention of prisoners of war by the detaining side. This side has time and again pointed out this danger and is firmly opposed to the forcible detention of prisoners of war. This stand maintained by this side fully conforms to the desires and interests of prisoners of war longing to return home. Consequently, the consistent stand of this side against forcible detention of prisoners of war is perfectly justified and realistic and practical.

In fact, the danger of forcible detention must continue to receive attention even now, when agreement has been reached on P.O.W. repatriation. The Syngman Rhee clique of South Korea is raising a hue and cry against the agreement. This bluster shows that the Syngman Rhee clique evidently intends to detain prisoners of war by force. It must therefore be recognised that true settlement of the P.O.W. repatriation question now still depends on whether the American side is able to carry out strictly the provisions of the agreement and avert the danger of forcible detention of the prisoners. This is a new test which the American side will face while it puts the agreement into effect. All people anxious for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question must pay

close attention to this point and be highly vigilant.

Moreover, it should be noted that when the Syngman Rhee clique was fulminating against the agreement, U.S. President Eisenhower sent a letter to Syngman Rhee declaring that after conclusion of the Korean Armistice Agreement the U.S.A. planned to negotiate a so-called "mutual defence pact" with the Syngman Rhee clique. If the U.S.A. really intends to do so, it will inevitably create the impression that the U.S.A. and the Syngman Rhee clique are in effect premeditating a new scheme. It will tend to raise further obstacles in the path of a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. This would run counter to the object of the Political Conference, which is to bring about the peaceful unification of Korea. According to Paragraph Sixty, Article Four, of the Draft Korean Armistice Agreement drawn up by both sides on August 5, 1952, the task of the political conference of a higher level is to "settle through negotiation the questions of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea, the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, etc."

Now this side is perfectly willing to conduct further negotiations at the political conference to be held after the cease-fire to bring about the peaceful settlement of the Korean question and the unification of Korea. Foreign Minister Chou En-lai, in his statement of November 28, 1952, endorsing the proposal of the Soviet Delegation to the seventh session of the U.N. General Assembly regarding the Korean question, pointed out that the peaceful unification of Korea must be achieved by the Koreans themselves. Our stand fully conforms to the legitimate wishes and rights of the Korean people.

But what is the purpose of the so-called "mutual defence pact" which the U.S.A. and the Syngman Rhee clique are talking about? This new military alliance to keep the Syng-

man Rhee clique under U.S. military control clearly is aimed either at encouraging the Syngman Rhee clique to sabotage the Korean armistice and peace or at aggravating the disunity of Korea. How then can this be called striving "by all peaceful means to effect the unification of Korea?" It is little wonder that Syngman Rhee, after receiving Eisenhower's letter, could assert: "There is only one course open to us, that is, to continue our struggle until we either win or lose." The fact that the U.S. Government, at a time when the Korean Armistice Agreement has yet to be concluded and the political conference of a higher level remains to be convened, is already preparing openly to plot with the Syngman Rhee clique in advance against the political conference must command the attention of the masses of the people throughout the world anxious for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question following the cease-fire.

Now the P.O.W. repatriation question has been settled and complete agreement is at last possible on the Korean armistice negotiations which have dragged on for nearly two years. The agreement on the P.O.W. repatriation issue has opened the way to the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. But it still rests with both sides to abide by the agreement and fulfil the obligations which they undertake to ensure that the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission can smoothly accomplish its mission, and that the political conference of a higher level works out a fair and reasonable settlement of the question of the disposition of the prisoners of war who have not exercised their right to be repatriated, and thereby to seek a peaceful settlement of the Korean question in the spirit of sincere consultation. It is universally recognised that the Korean question is one of the most important international problems and that its peaceful settlement will greatly ease the present international tension and pave the way for the settlement of other pressing international problems.

Higher Education In New China

Tseng Chao-lun

Vice-Minister of Higher Education

ONE of the prerequisites for the successful realisation of the first five-year plan of national construction which the People's Republic of China launched this year is the training of an adequate number of cadres in all key branches of activity. This has necessitated the radical reorganisation of the old educational system, which served only the interests of the upper classes and could naturally not cope with the gigantic new tasks of modernising China. Reorientation has been no easy matter. This was especially the case with higher education, which was more or less a copy of the educational systems of the occidental capitalist countries and was totally unsuited to the needs of the people. However, with the wise guidance of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Communist Party of China, the enthusiasm of educational workers and the support of the people, a firm foundation has already been laid for a new educational system able to produce the personnel needed for the work of building China's modern industrialised economy and New Democratic social system, to answer the pressing needs of the day.

Complete Reorganisation

In the brief period of three and a half years since liberation, higher education in China has made big advances. Besides a great increase in the number of students, there has been a marked improvement in the quality of work. The irrational features of pre-liberation education have been eliminated. For instance, in the old days, colleges, institutes and universities were concentrated in a few big cities. One city would often have several institutions offer-

ing almost identical courses. This was typical of the chaos of the old society. It resulted in wasteful overlapping of faculties and equipment and the training in certain subjects of too many students which inevitably led to many of them being unemployed. A common saying in old China was "to graduate from a university is to become unemployed." The universities, ill-planned and unco-ordinated, could not cater to the needs of the people. While there was a surplus supply of graduates for certain fields of work, other fields equally or even more important were in dire need of new personnel. The logical result of such duplication of study courses was a scarcity of teaching staff and equipment. Consequently, some departments could offer only a meagre range of courses, and students graduated with unforgivable gaps in their education.

Many teachers, unfamiliar with actual conditions outside the university campus and with only a hazy understanding of the real needs of the time, passed on knowledge from antiquated textbooks or based their lectures mainly on facts relating not so much to China as to some occidental country where they may have happened to take up their post-graduate studies. Education, especially higher education, in pre-liberation China was thus in a hopeless plight. It had become totally disassociated from the real needs of the country and, like so many things imported from the capitalist West, had taken on a semi-colonial and semi-feudal character. One of the basic tasks of New China was, therefore, to completely reshape education, to make it truly Chinese and answer the needs of our people. A complete reorganisa-



The Northeast Institute of Geology, Changchun, has over 2,000 students

such as the steel institute, the mining institute and the geological institute, each of which is designed to give the specialised engineering training needed for industrial and economic construction. Then there are twenty-nine agricultural forestry colleges and seven institutes for finance and economics, four for politics and law, etc. Finally, the government has founded

tion of higher educational institutions has been undertaken.

Institutions of higher education are now divided into several distinct groups, each with its own special function. Thus there are universities for education in the liberal arts and sciences and higher educational institutions for various branches of technical knowledge. There are now thirteen universities in different parts of China. In big cities like Shanghai and Peking, the old universities which were similar in nature have in some cases been divided up and in others combined so that each region has only one university for the arts and sciences. There are two in North China, at Peking and Tientsin, one in the Northeast at Changchun, four in East China at Shanghai, Nanking, Tsingtao and Amoy; two in Central-South China at Wuhan (Wuchang and Hankow) and Canton; two in Southwest China at Chengtu and Kunming and two in Northwest China at Sian and Lanchow. This has brought about a better concentration of personnel and equipment and the universities have been immensely strengthened by this change.

Twenty polytechnic institutes have been formed by recombining and rearranging the technical colleges of the old universities. One of the prominent features of the new educational system is the addition of twenty-six newly-established special technological institutes,

two special colleges in the Northeast and in Sinkiang which train students from the national minorities as personnel for the national development and promotion of culture in their own areas. The Central Institute for Nationalities in Peking and those in the Northwest and other areas are not included in these totals, which are, of course, subject to increase.

Teaching Methods Reformed

This basic reorganisation has also brought about fundamental reforms in teaching methods. In place of the colleges or schools which formed the units of the old institutions of higher education and their subdivisions of departments, each institution now has departments subdivided into one or more "specialties." In some cases a specialty may again be divided into two or more "specialisations." This system of specialties and specialisations is adopted from the Soviet educational system. The guiding principle of this system is that institutions of higher learning should aim at training cadres for specific jobs in the highly complex fabric of economic construction. The whole educational procedure reverses the pre-liberation process, which, by trying to turn out jacks-of-all-trades, aimed at lessening the chances of their being unemployed if their own particular "specialty" was already over-staffed.

Each specialty or specialisation has a detailed study-plan drawn up with a very concrete and definite aim in view. For example, the specialty "internal combustion engines" has a study-plan of its own, different from the study-plans of all other specialties. This study-plan for each course makes provision for practical work in factories in three periods during the four years of college life. A student graduating in this specialty is thus able to step into his work as a mechanical engineer with concrete knowledge and practical experience in the design and construction of various types of internal combustion engines.

Each study-plan embodies a list of courses offered in the particular specialty; and each course has a carefully worked out programme of study which gives the concrete aim of the course and lists the various items to be taken up for study in the academic year or term. It also specifies the time allotted for each item and the exact material to be handled within each hour of instruction. Textbooks are written and compiled according to this programme. In this way, standardisation and uniformity has been brought about in methods and content of instruction throughout all institutions of higher education in the country.

Teaching and Research Groups

Within each specialty there are one or more teaching and research groups or *kafedras*, to use the Soviet term, whose responsibility it is to see that the study-plans and programme are actually put into execution. They also ensure that the best and most advanced methods of instruction are used, giving the best knowledge available, and that new teaching experiences are exchanged between the teachers. Each *kafedra* also has the task of directing research work in its particular field and training post-graduates and assistants so that they can take up teaching posts.

It must not be imagined, however, that this is a system of "narrow" specialisation. The student is enabled to concentrate on his particular subject, but extra-curricular activities are provided so that he can advance his study of Marxism-Leninism and general

knowledge. Sport and other cultural activities usual in student life are amply taken care of.

Higher Education Expands

The scale of higher education has greatly increased during the past three and a half years. To date, 219,700 students are enrolled in institutions of higher education. This figure exceeds the pre-liberation 1946 peak of 129,000 by 69 per cent. Arrangements have been made so that every single graduate of the middle schools or person with middle-school-graduate status—unless he is already working—can continue his education in an institution of higher education. Before liberation, there were 185 institutions of higher education; this figure rose to 210 in 1951. Now, after the radical reorganisation and reshuffling, the figure is 218. The total number of teachers in institutions of higher education, including professors, assistant professors, instructors and assistants is 26,482, which is a 20 per cent increase over the pre-liberation record. A break-down of these figures indicates the new trends and nature of our education. For example, students majoring in technology in pre-liberation days numbered only about 18.9 per cent of the total student enrolment. In 1952, this figure rose to 35.4 per cent.

There has also been a rapid increase in buildings and equipment. The present Tientsin University, for example, a polytechnic institute which has grown out of the old Peiyang University founded in 1896, has a student enrolment several times larger than that of its predecessor. The new university had to be moved to a more spacious site, and buildings had to be erected almost overnight. In 1952 alone, the total area of construction of this university amounted to 62,000 square metres, a figure which exceeds all the construction work (covering 46,000 square metres) undertaken in the course of Peiyang's long history of fifty years! Of course, such building projects, imposing as they are, fall far short of the mark when compared to the rate at which new institutions of higher education are being established to serve the increased student enrolment. This handicap of space is partially offset by a more efficient use of classrooms, laboratories and equipment. Instead of having the laboratories open only part of the day and

only partially utilising equipment, everything is made fullest use of by a system of shifts and in this way much of the wastefulness of pre-liberation times has been eliminated.

Opportunities for All

One of the basic principles of education in the People's Republic of China is the provision of equal opportunities for all young men and women in institutions of higher learning. Formerly, higher education was the exclusive privilege of the wealthier classes. Since liberation the gates of the institutions of higher education are thrown wide open to the sons and daughters of the working people.

As most workers and peasants and their children at the present moment are unable to take regular university courses because of inadequate preliminary education, the government has founded many schools for workers and peasants to overcome this difficulty. Here students take intensified training courses. Graduates from these schools have proved themselves to be apt candidates for university education and have in some cases won high honours in scholastic work. In order to remove the financial difficulties that might bar the way to higher education, the government has, since the autumn of 1952, exempted all

students in institutions of higher education from payment for tuition, board and lodging. How important this is to youths from the working class and peasantry needs no explanation. The Ministry of Higher Education was inundated with letters from students and their parents expressing gratitude for this measure which has made it possible for many youths to acquire a university education which would otherwise have been beyond their reach.

No More Unemployment

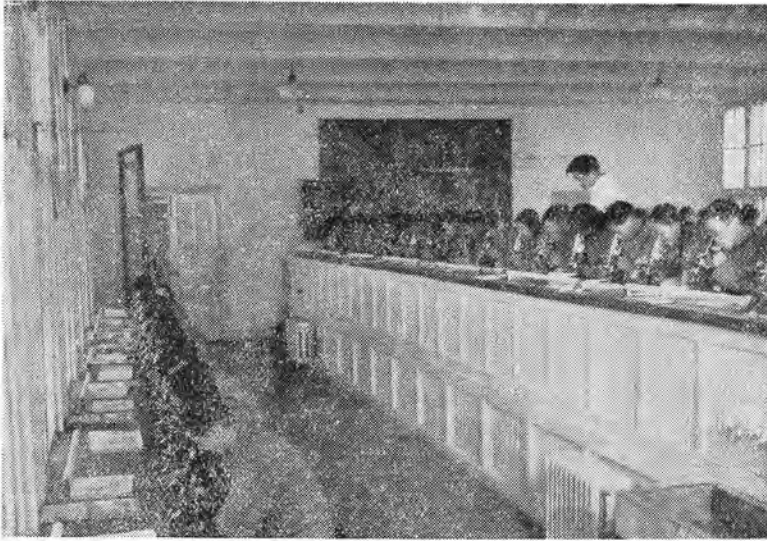
The saying "to graduate from a university is to become unemployed" is now only a memory. In New China, the worry is not that students might be jobless on graduation but that the universities are not turning out graduates fast enough to fill the gaps in our gigantic economic construction. Shortened courses have been devised to answer to this urgent need, and in some cases students have begun their practical work while completing their regular school training.

In New China, each student knows exactly what role he is going to fill in the whole splendid edifice of national construction. Upon graduation each student is allotted the work best suited to his ability. The committee charged with the assignment of students to work handles this delicate job with great deliberation and care. In this matter, besides the students' specialty, many other factors are taken into consideration such as personal interest and preference, family conditions and health. Where it is later felt that the assignment has been wrong for any reason, the student is encouraged to request the Ministry of Personnel for a reconsideration. Since the basic principle in the assignment of posts is to make students happy and useful in the positions they occupy, the committee in charge will try to set matters right.

Teachers are also naturally everywhere in great demand. To overcome this shortage of teachers, most institutions of higher educa-



Students of the Department of Biology, Peking University, hold a group discussion



In the neurology section, Department of Anatomy, China Medical University, Shenyang (Mukden)

tion are giving much attention to the training of post-graduate students and assistants so that they can take up teaching as soon as possible. Even so, the number of teachers still falls far short of the demand caused by the rapid expansion of the educational system since liberation.

It is understood of course that further changes will be necessary to suit the rapidly developing conditions of New China. The stress on quality will become more pronounced in the future.

One of the most remarkable results of New China's revolution in education is the birth of a new atmosphere in all institutions of higher education. Students, teachers and staff have all come to realise that the people are indeed masters of the country. All feel that they are part and parcel of the institution to which they belong and that the well-being and proper functioning of that institution is something inseparable from their own well-being and the success of their work. Therefore everyone watches over his institution with care, and does not hesitate to voice his opinion on its democratic functioning. Where under the old regime students were careless of university property, students today love and take care of university property because it is public property, their property. In the sanita-

tion campaigns, they help clean up the campuses. In the big removals during the reorganisations, they have helped in the work of sorting, arranging and stacking books and specimens, carefully removing precious apparatus. This keen and active participation in the various great national movements and campaigns and in what goes on around them has built up a strong community feeling among students and teachers.

The government has done everything within its power to make the students and teachers better fed and better lodged. The recent increase of teachers' salaries makes their average pay 18.7 per cent higher than in 1951. Furthermore, starting from the fall of 1952, all the teachers and staff in institutions of higher education are entitled to free medical treatment in hospitals and clinics in case of sickness. Since 1952, the government has tried to organise for both teachers and students vacation excursions at greatly reduced rates so that they can get a real holiday and see with their own eyes the gigantic scope of national construction. In the summer vacation of 1952, over four hundred university teachers went on a visit to Tsingtao; from Peking alone 10,000 students went on various excursions.

The Happiness of Service

Visitors to China since the liberation have constantly remarked upon the buoyant vigour of the men and women students of our university campuses. They have often asked why it is thus and have found the answer in the fact that true happiness comes in the service of one's fellow beings. Our men and women students know that they are free to work wholly in the service of the people. Each of them knows that he is contributing his share to the creation of an ideal state in which there will be no exploitation and no unemployment and where all shall live in freedom, in plenty and in peace.

How China Tackles Her Food Problem

Yeh Chou

CHINA is the world's largest grain-producing country. In 1952, she produced 163,750,000 tons of grain. With an annual yield of 50 to 60 million tons of rice, she accounts for more than one-third of the world's total rice output. She stands third among wheat-producing countries, and provides half the world's total output of *kaoliang* (sorghum) and millet.

Nevertheless, from 1721 till 1949 China had to make good a food deficit by importing grain. On many occasions this great agricultural country was faced with an acute, even catastrophic food situation. Under the old regime, millions lived under conditions of chronic semi-starvation. Famines were a regular occurrence. Even while there were surpluses in some areas, people were starving in other areas.

In 1888 grain ranked sixth among China's imports; by 1930 it had climbed to second place, and two years later, it assumed first place.

Such huge grain imports meant the spending of large sums of foreign exchange which could have been used to better effect to buy machines and installations to develop China's industry and modernise her agriculture. They also turned China into a dumping ground for foreign agricultural products, and intensified the crisis of China's rural economy.

The food problem was one of the biggest that faced the Central People's Government when it was established in October, 1949. But three years' experience has shown that this problem can and is being solved.

The greatest interest both at home and abroad has been aroused by the way China has

tackled this problem. What then are the basic food facts in China today?

Some Food Facts

China with a population of some 500 million has an area of 9,597,000 square kilometres, larger than the total area of Europe. Though most of this area is in the temperate zone, the climate in general is dry in the north and rainy in the south. Mountainous areas comprise one-third of the total area; plateaux, another third; and plains and hilly regions the rest. There are also a few deserts including the Gobi. These varied conditions produce a wide variety and large quantities of agricultural products.

China's population is unevenly distributed. In East China, for example, the population density is 260 per square kilometre; in the sparsely populated Northwest, it is only 7 per square kilometre.

Some areas produce more grain than they need for local consumption; others have a deficit. Even in the past the Szechuan Basin in the Southwest already had large annual amounts of surplus grain. But these surpluses, which the reactionary government either did not take the trouble to move out or was incapable of moving, only served to intensify the chaotic decline of local farm prices at a time when huge quantities of foreign rice and wheat were being imported to other areas.

This situation of the lack of balance between local demands and supply of grain is complicated by another factor: the main

cereal consumed by the population of a certain area may not necessarily be the same as that grown in that particular area. East China, for example, grows more than one quarter of the country's wheat, but rice is the staple food of half of the people in that area.

With the steady increase of output, correct distribution of available stocks is the key to the entire problem of food in China.

Raising Grain Output

The Central People's Government has concentrated great efforts in restoring and developing agriculture and raising the grain output. Land reform, the development of mutual-aid and co-operative farming, gigantic water conservancy projects and loans and other assistance given directly to the peasants by the People's Government have helped to raise agricultural production greatly.

In the past three years the output of grain has been increased at an average rate of 15 per cent a year. Last year's grain harvest of more than 160 million tons topped the highest prewar level in 1936 by 9 per cent. With the elimination of speculative hoarding and the proper distribution of available stocks of grain on a large scale, grain was almost equally distributed among the people. This, together with other foodstuffs whose output had similarly increased, enabled the People's Government to basically solve the food problem.

The People's Government, in fact, had actually got the food problem under control as early as 1950, although the grain harvest of 1949 was only 74.6 per cent of the prewar level. This big drop was chiefly due to twelve years of Japanese invasion and Kuomintang misrule, which had reduced agricultural output to three-fourths and in some places to two-thirds of the prewar level. Furthermore, in 1950, grave natural calamities occurred. These affected to a greater or lesser degree over 8 million hectares of farmland with a population of 40 million. The food problem was therefore a serious one in 1950. Under "normal" pre-liberation conditions, there would have ensued



Bumper wheat harvest gathered in a former flood-area of the Yellow River

a major catastrophe, millions would have starved to death—but nothing of the sort occurred.

Efficient Redistribution

To deal with the situation, the People's Government arranged to ship several million tons of grain from surplus areas to big urban centres and deficient areas. Action was so swiftly taken, however, that adequate grain supplies were already made available in every area by the early part of the summer of that year. The actual amount of grain involved in the nation-wide grain reshuffling or redistribution programme of 1950, was only one and a half million tons and the government had a huge disposable surplus still on hand.

Thus for the first time in the past two hundred years, China dealt with her historic food problem with her own grain. At the same time, huge sums of foreign exchange were saved, and grain prices in the surplus areas were kept at a favourable level for growers.

In the past three years, the Central People's Government has redistributed a total of six and a half million tons of grain between the

six great administrative areas. A breakdown of the figures show:

Inter-Area Aid

Grain Redistributed by the State

1950.....	1,495,000 tons
1951.....	1,900,000 tons
1952.....	3,200,000 tons
Total	6,595,000 tons

The above figures illustrate the growing scale of the redistribution programme. And they do not include the amounts redistributed on the provincial and county level within the administrative areas. If we take these amounts into account, the total amount of redistributed grain for 1952 was 16.2 million tons.

Most of the needed supplies of grain were shipped from the grain surplus areas—Central-South, Northeast and Southwest China. In 1952 alone, Central-South China, the country's main rice-producer, shipped over one and a half million tons to other areas.

This huge amount of grain was shipped mostly to meet the needs of urban centres and industrial and mining districts (China's total urban population is estimated at 80 million), of areas where industrial crops were grown, and of those where a deficiency existed. The amount has naturally increased as the total output of grain has increased and there is greater specialisation of crops, etc.

East China and North China, always deficient in grain supplies, were the main recipients. East China with its several big cities and over 150 million people is China's most thickly populated area. In the three years ending December, 1952, some two million tons of grain were shipped to that area. North China, the country's main cotton-producing area with some 65 million people, received 3.5 million tons of grain in the same period from other areas.

Timely Supply

It is still unavoidable that in the vastness of China with its varied climatic and other conditions, natural calamities in some places should cause temporary local food shortages. But because of the timely supplying of grain and other relief measures taken by the People's Govern-

ment, difficulties in affected districts have all been successfully overcome.

Amount of Grain Sold by State Trading Companies

Year	Amount
	1950=100
1951	190
1952	360

The above table shows the steadily increasing amount of grain supplied by the reliable hands of the state trading companies throughout China. In addition, private dealers handled some 20-30 per cent of the total market supply. It is also necessary to point out that there is a steadily increasing demand for better quality grains, especially rice and wheat flour, to replace coarser grains. Rice and wheat in 1949 comprised 49.6 per cent of the total grain output. In 1952, this figure had risen to 53 per cent. This is another indication of the steady improvement of the living standards of the people as a whole.

Other factors must be mentioned in connection with the solution of this ancient problem. Land reform has emancipated more than 400 million peasants for a more active and effective role in agricultural production. It also saved them 30 million tons of grain which would otherwise have gone into the pockets of the landlords as annual rent. In the old days much of this was used for speculation. Following land reform, the peasants not only have a sufficient supply of grain for their own needs, but a surplus which they can sell for cash to reinvest in the improvement of their farms. In addition, as a result of various social reforms, the parasitic activities of grain hoarders and speculators in city and countryside have been ended. All this has contributed to the solution of the food problem.

1953 Redistribution Plan

After meeting market demands last year, the state already had in hand a considerable amount of surplus grain. This is in addition to the grain which will be at the disposal of the state after this year's harvests. This grain is all stockpiled locally in the various districts of the country. It is sufficient to meet most local demands.

The redistribution programme of this year, therefore, will concentrate mainly on supply-

ing the urban centres and grain deficient areas. According to this plan, some 3,880,000 tons, more than double that of 1950, are to be moved between the administrative areas from the grain surplus areas to the deficient areas.

According to official estimates, state organisations in Southwest China alone will have a surplus of over one million tons after meeting market demands up to the end of August, when the autumn harvests will be coming in.

A far larger amount of surplus grain is expected from other areas, including Central-South China, which has always been the main rice-supplier of the country.

To ensure swift and timely delivery of the grain, high priority has been given to its transport. It is estimated that about one million tons are daily on their way to various destinations.

By the end of May, half of the year's total redistribution programme had already been completed. This includes half a million tons of grain specially allocated for those areas, including a small part of East China, and Honan Province, in Central-South China, which were affected by a sudden change of weather in the spring. Wheat in these parts was damaged by frost, but reports from the localities show that

in many of the affected districts, the bulk of the harvest has been saved.

Wheat in the other provinces is in excellent condition. The Szechuan crop, for example, is estimated to be 11 per cent bigger than last year's, and in Shensi, the increase will be 4.5 per cent. This year's total wheat harvest will be about 10 per cent higher than in 1950.

The present food situation in China is well reflected in the stability of the grain market. The following table shows the prices of staples (flour, wheat, rice, millet, corn, *kaoliang*) in seven main cities in China:

Price Index of Staple Grains, May 31, 1953

April 1, 1953=100	
General Index	100.34
Tientsin	100.37
Hankow	101.45
Shanghai	100.00
Canton	100.37
Chungking	100.00
Sian	100.79
Shenyang (Mukden)	100.00

Fluctuations in most major cities were less than 1 per cent, while in three cities, the indices remained the same. On April 1, the market price for one kilogramme of rice was 2,900 yuan in Shanghai and 2,260 yuan in Canton. Two months later, on May 31, the price in these two cities was exactly the same.

In the past, this used to be a time of greatest fluctuation in grain prices.

China advances confidently to the final and definite solution of her food problem. The methods it is employing: land reform, the advance of mutual aid and co-operation to use the most up-to-date methods of farming, industrialisation to supply the equipment for a fully mechanised agriculture, carefully planned redistribution are being developed on the basis of the successful experience of the Soviet Union.

The results already achieved have demonstrated the correctness of this policy and its assured success.



These peasants of a mutual-aid team are using sprayers and anti-locust-larvae insecticide provided by the People's Government

SINO-SOVIET TRADE

Pai Hsiang-yin

AT the end of last March, at a time when the Chinese people were embarking on their first five-year plan and the United States Government was coercing other countries to impose an intensified embargo on China, three new instruments dealing with Sino-Soviet economic co-operation were signed in Moscow.

One was a protocol on trade between the two countries during the year 1953; another was a protocol to the Agreement on Credits to the People's Republic of China of February 14, 1950, and a third was an agreement on assistance to be rendered by the Soviet Union to China in the expansion of existing and the construction of new electric power stations.

The protocols and agreement specify what deliveries of metallurgical, mining, machine-building, power-generating and other equipment the Soviet Union will make to China this year. They also cover the supply by the Soviet Union of industrial and transport materials, modern agricultural machines, pedigree cattle, seeds and other items.

In return, under the trade protocol, China will make deliveries to the Soviet Union of non-ferrous metals, vegetable oils, oil-bearing seeds, meats, tobacco, tea, fruits, wool, jute, raw silk, silk fabrics, hides and other goods.

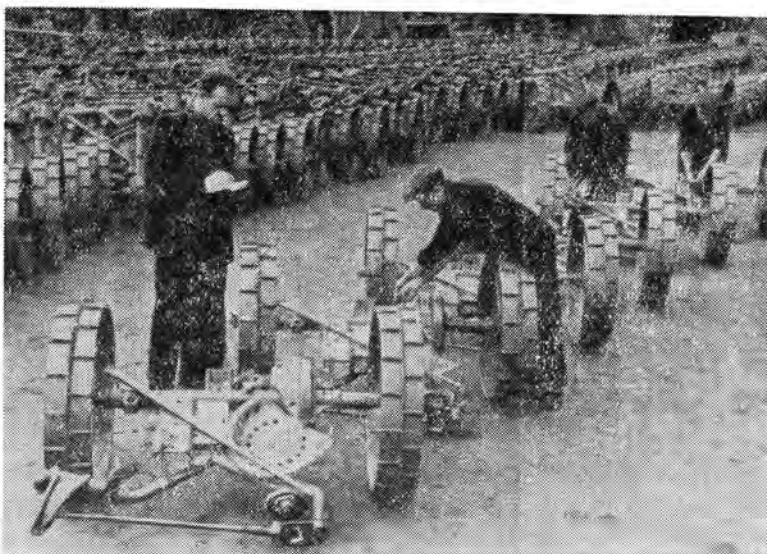
These new developments in the sphere of Sino-Soviet co-operation have further enhanced the friendship and solidarity between the two countries. They inspire the Chinese people with confidence in the success of their planned economic construction, and help them materially to achieve this success.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, Sino-Soviet trade, based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit and friendly co-operation, has accorded with the needs of the peoples of the two countries.

Its growth has been uninterrupted from year to year. By 1952, trade with the Soviet Union had increased to 53.42 per cent of the total volume of China's foreign trade, which in the meantime had also grown.

The increase was particularly notable in the import of industrial equipment needed for China's national construction. Taking the figure for 1950 as 100, for example, imports of mining machinery increased to 257.1, and of drilling equipment to 358.77 in 1952.

Under the newly-signed protocols, Sino-Soviet trade in 1953 will reach much higher levels than in 1952. Already it has surpassed



Mowing-machines at a Soviet machine-building works ready for dispatch to China under the Sino-Soviet Trade Agreement and the Agreement on Exchange of Goods concluded in April, 1950

all previous levels and has reached a volume greater than that of trade between China and any other single nation in the past. Its expansion has played an important part in the economic progress of both countries.

A New Type of Economic Relations

The mutual assistance and co-operation of the Soviet Union and China in the economic sphere is inseparable from the unbreakable, sincere and selfless friendship between them, which is based on the principle of internationalism. It is the kind of co-operation and assistance described by J. V. Stalin in his great work, *Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.*:

The experience of this co-operation shows that not a single capitalist country could have rendered such effective and technically competent assistance to the People's Democracies as the Soviet Union is rendering them. The point is not only that this assistance is the cheapest possible and technically superb. The chief point is that at the bottom of this co-operation lies a sincere desire to help one another and to promote the economic progress of all. The result is a fast pace of industrial development in these countries.

On February 14, 1950, the Sino-Soviet agreement concerning the granting of a credit

of US\$300 million by the Soviet Union to China was signed in Peking. The sum was lent at the low interest rate of 1 per cent per annum. The Soviet Union undertook to deliver to China annually for five years US \$60 million worth of industrial and railway equipment and other materials to be paid for out of the credit. These deliveries, and the dispatch to China by the Soviet Government of a great number of experts and technicians in various fields, have been of the greatest help in the rapid recovery and development of China's national economy, which had been severely damaged by a long period of wars.

Very important, too, is the role of Soviet equipment, technique and experts in the construction of new industry in China. Among the examples of this are the Harbin Automatic Flax Mill (see *People's China*, No. 22, 1952), the first of its kind in the country, and the huge Fuhsin open-cast coal mine (see *People's China*, No. 7, 1953). Drilling equipment supplied by the Soviet Union is being used in many places to explore China's rich mineral reserves.

In the fields of agriculture and forestry, Soviet machines are employed in the cultivation and harvesting of crops as well as by the lumbering industry. The adoption of drought-resistant high-yield Ukrainian winter wheat has

resulted in bumper harvests in the northeastern plains and in Sinkiang Province. Soviet sheep which produce abundant fine wool are being bred in large numbers in Northwest China and Inner Mongolia. Insecticides and veterinary medicines from the Soviet Union have helped China to successfully combat many plant pests and livestock diseases in the past three and a half years.

Imports from the Soviet Union also include a number of articles of daily use such as petroleum products, paper, piece goods, granulated sugar and other items. Especially in 1950 and 1951, when China's economic recovery was not yet complete, these commodities played an important part in stabilising commodity prices, meeting the demands of the people and enlivening the market. Such imports from the Soviet Union are entirely different in character from the dumping of goods, luxuries or non-essentials in China by imperialist countries during the period of Kuomintang rule. The imports at that time did not meet the needs of the people. On the contrary, they drained China of wealth and destroyed her national industries.

It should also be noted that the development of Sino-Soviet trade has opened up an unprecedentedly vast and reliable market for China's exports. This has stimulated the growth of China's agriculture and of subsidiary rural industries, as well as the steady improvements of their products in point of quality.

The facts given above testify to the truth of the statement made by Liu Shao-chi, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government, that in the economic co-operation between them, "the Soviet Union always gives more help to China..." At the same time, the development of trade has also benefited the U.S.S.R., which has received non-ferrous metals, grain, oil, industrial crops, fruits, meat and various types of consumer goods from China.

Striking Contrast

The prices of goods exchanged between China and the Soviet Union are fixed on the fairest and most reasonable basis. For the Soviet machines and industrial materials she

imports, China pays prices which are generally 20-30 per cent lower than those current in the capitalist world market. The fact that the Soviet Union pays the fairest prices for Chinese exports is also very advantageous to China's economic restoration and development.

No more striking contrast can be imagined than that between the trade policy of the Soviet Union and that of the United States Government, which has used every shameful means to hinder and destroy the restoration and development of China's economy. Not content with sabotaging Sino-American trade, the U.S. rulers engineered, in May, 1951, an illegal resolution of the U.N. General Assembly declaring an embargo against China. The facts of the last two years, however, have shown the complete ineffectiveness and bankruptcy of this scheme. While utterly failing to hinder the rebuilding and growth of China's economy, the attempted embargo has deepened the crisis in the imperialist camp and is aggravating the depression in the capitalist world market.

The international trade of the principal capitalist countries—Britain, France and the U.S.—is dwindling steadily. British foreign trade dropped 7.04 per cent in 1952 as compared with 1951. For France, the drop was 4.26 per cent. If the export of armaments is left out of account, the foreign trade of the United States fell off by 2.41 per cent in the same period.

In the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, the development has been quite different. The consistent Soviet policy of equality, mutual benefit and friendly co-operation in foreign trade has stimulated rapid progress in the economies of China and the other People's Democracies. In contrast to the deteriorating capitalist world market, the new, democratic world market is advancing in prosperity and strength.

Sino-Soviet trade, with its beneficent effect on material progress in both countries, has become a most important factor in the democratic world market, promoting its prosperity and growth. It has further strengthened the economic might of the camp of peace and democracy headed by the Soviet Union.

North Kiangsu Lives Again

The taming of the Yi and Shu Rivers
has brought bumper harvests to the
five million people of Northern Kiangsu

Kao Shih-shan

ON the banks of the Yi and Shu Rivers, the peasants are busy in their fields of waving young wheat and rice. In full confidence that the fruits of their labour will be safe from floods, they are carrying out their plan to beat last year's bumper crops. The new channels they have cut, the sluice gates, dykes and culverts built, have brought the two turbulent rivers under control.

"Only a few years ago," old peasant Li Jui-ting will tell you, "we were threatened with death every time the summer and autumn rainstorms came. Nine times out of ten our crops would be washed away by the waters of the Yi and Shu."

The Yi and Shu basins comprise a fertile area almost nine-tenths the size of Holland. Five million peasants here raise wheat and rice crops. They battled stubbornly for centuries against the scourge of floods whose severity increased since 1494 when the Yellow River, flooding south, silted up the Huai River channel which was formerly the common outlet of the Yi and Shu to the sea.

Causes of Floods

Rising in the high Yimung Mountain ranges in Shantung Province, the Yi and Shu descend swiftly towards the low plain of Northern Kiangsu, Shantung's southern neighbour. Here the flat terrain slows them down, and here they begin to deposit the heavy load of silt they carry from the hills. This has resulted in the steady raising of the river-beds. Periodic floods have occurred when the shallow channels have failed to hold the rivers in spate.

A network of more than forty streams and channels covers the southern Shantung and Northern Kiangsu plains. Some are connected directly as tributaries or sleeves of the Yi and Shu, and all are involved in the common destructive floods. But at the time of liberation, the Yi and Shu were forcing their way to the sea mainly through the Liutang and Tsiangwei Rivers, though some of their waters also drained into the Grand Canal.

During the heavy rains of the summer and autumn monsoons, the total discharge of the two rivers reached 10,500 cubic metres per second, but their two main channels could permit less than 2,000 cubic metres per second to pass safely through to the sea. The rest of the flood waters burst the banks of the main and subsidiary channels and overflowed the land. At maximum flood periods their waters have inundated 12,000 square kilometres of land (more than one-third the size of Holland) up to a depth of two or more metres, bringing sudden destruction and misery to the peasants. Many lost their lives by drowning. Many, with homes, crops and stocks wiped out, were reduced to eating tree bark and leaves. Starvation and disease claimed its victims. In the old days, starving peasants, fleeing their flooded villages, drifted into neighbouring areas seeking work or relief until the land drained sufficiently to enable them to return home.

The period of spate on the two rivers is not prolonged. After wreaking havoc on the farmlands, their waters would drain back into the river courses and then many of these would dry up. But those parts of the surrounding

March past of teams at the opening ceremony at Tientsin's People's Stadium



At the National Basketball And Volleyball Tournament Tientsin, May, 1953

130,000 spectators saw the People's Liberation Army teams carry off the men's and women's basketball and volleyball cups



In the final. The champion P.L.A. team plays the Southwest

Northeast vs. North China



IN CHINA

By raising grain
the prewar (1936)
9 per cent above
big achievements
are glimpses

Members of a Hopei agri-
cultural producers' co-
operative



Three years' bumper crops have put ample stocks in
such local granaries



Shansi peasant
inspect their
seed test fl

Bigger crops boost
trade at Liling
County fair, Hunan

Listening to new
records at a Hopei
co-op creche



CHINA'S VILLAGES TODAY

Output from a low of 75 per cent of peak, on the eve of liberation, to that yield in 1952, China has made in solving its food problem. Here of life in China's villages today.



Scientific farming is now no longer a rarity. Experimental station workers selecting millet seed

Co-operated selected old



Local efforts complement big conservancy projects. This pumping station in Tanyang County, Kiangsu, irrigates 8,500 hectares

Modern Soviet-made combine-harvesters such as this at Chiheng State Farm, Hopei, point the road to mechanisation

Former poor peasants choose gay prints in a typical Hunan village co-op



Children on a visit to the historic Temple of Heaven



Below:
Peng Chen, Mayor of Peking, is guest at a children's party

Bottom:
Huapei Primary School says good-bye to visiting Korean war orphans after a school party



International Children's Day In Peking

Parties and picnics, theatre and cinema shows, free rides on trams and buses—these were some of the ways in which Peking helped all its little citizens enjoy their own special day

Children at a camp-fire meet with Chinese people's volunteers, People's Liberation Army men and workers of Peking



plain which lie lower than the level of the river-beds would often lie inundated as late as winter.

The reactionary Kuomintang regime more than once promised to harness the rivers. Kuomintang officials robbed the peasants of millions of silver dollars in taxes and other levies on the pretext that the work would soon begin. But the floods continued, and the peasants became poorer and poorer. Many of them emigrated from their ancestral homes. It was not until the liberation that it became possible to fulfil the dream of bridling the rivers.

When the P.L.A. Came

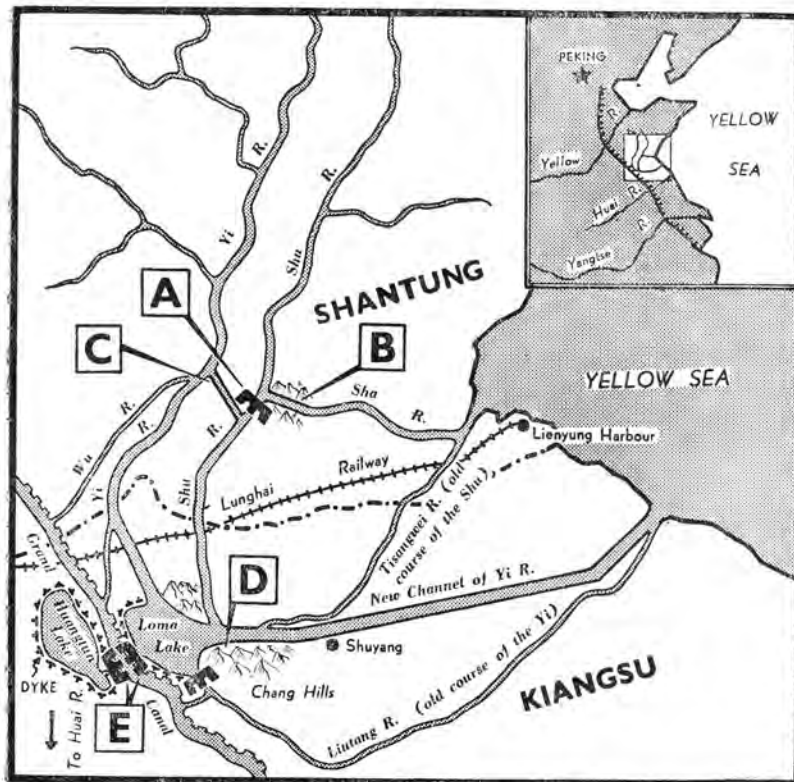
The People's Liberation Army freed the North Kiangsu plain in 1949. Chiang Kai-shek at that time was still in Nanking. The P.L.A.'s main forces had not yet made the historic crossing of the Yangtse to liberate south China.

Nevertheless, because of the urgency of the need to aid the poverty-stricken peasants of the flood-threatened areas, the People's Government decided that measures had to be taken immediately.

Despite the sheer physical difficulties of the task and the many other difficulties that confronted the new administration, it was fully confident that the support of the peasants throughout the area would ensure success. Construction work started in 1949.

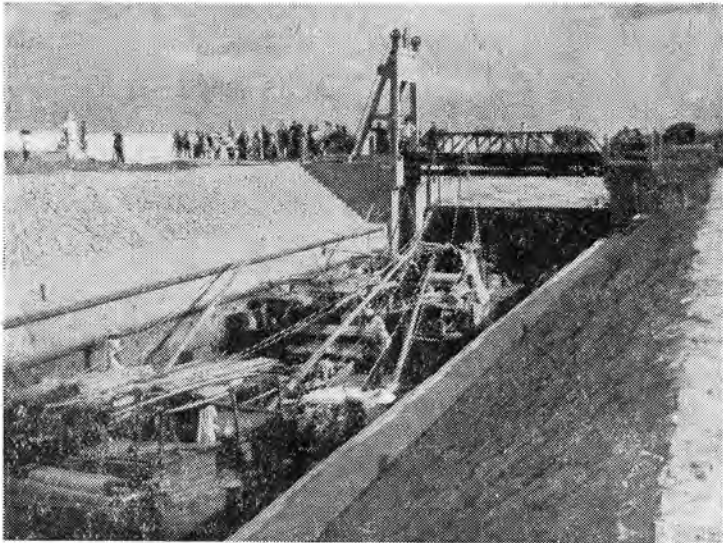
Knowing that the project was for their vital interests and the good of the coming generations, two million peasants in fact volunteered for the work. Their achievements in the three years from 1949 to 1952 are impressive. A new 190-kilometre-long channel—more than twice as long as the Suez Canal—has been cut for the Yi River to run to the sea.

A 14-kilometre canal now joins the Shu to the Sha River. This reduces the length of the Shu by two-thirds. Another canal joins the Yi to the Shu's channel below this canal and the dam which diverts the Shu into the Sha. More than eighty sluice gates, locks and culverts have been built to control the waters of the many streams and channels connected with the two rivers. A new dyke now surrounds Lake Loma, turning it into a huge flood detention reservoir. Over 120 million cubic metres of earth have been excavated in these works. This is more than one and a half times as much as that involved in building the Suez Canal. Some 3 million cubic metres of stone were removed in digging new channels for the rivers, an amount rarely rivalled in water conservancy projects elsewhere in the world. The project was completed in 1952.



A SKETCH MAP OF THE YI AND SHU PROJECT

- A Dam which diverts the Shu into the Sha River
- B Canal connecting the Shu with the Sha River
- C Canal joining Yi to the old course of the Shu
- D Cutting for the new course of the Yi through the Chang Hills
- E Sluice gates regulating flow of water between the Grand Canal and the Loma and Huangtun Lakes



Newly-built lock near Chaohu Village, between Loma and Huangtun Lakes

The two rivers are now calmly coursing down their river-beds and the new channels dug for them by man. These can cope with ordinary flood waters under 8,000 cubic metres per second. When the discharge of the two rivers reaches unusual proportions, its excess flow will be safely detained in the Lake Loma reservoir while a smaller part will flow into the Grand Canal through the Wu River channel. The 40-odd streams of the area protected by a series of dams and sluice gates, no longer feel the pressure of the Yi and Shu waters and are now used for draining out local waters. Supplementary measures of soil conservation and afforestation are being carried out in the upper reaches.

Magnificent Results

These labours have already brought a magnificent return. In 1950 a good harvest of maize was gathered on 500,000 hectares of farmland in the Huaiyen region, southeast of Lake Loma, which had been inundated only the year before. In 1951 the harvests were doubled in that region. The agricultural producers' cooperative led by "Big Spade" Wang, a labour hero of the Yi and Shu project, harvested more than 5,000 kilogrammes of maize per hectare in that area. In 1951, a good harvest was reported throughout the basin of the two rivers. Not a single acre of wheat was flooded last year, and production went up by 20 per cent

over 1951. This year, even better crops are expected.

Two years of good harvests have brought a better life for the peasants. New, solid houses are being built where formerly people feared to build anything more than rough shacks. Farmers wearing new clothes for the first time in decades are now ploughing their fields with newly bought farm tools and draught animals. The whole region is burgeoning with prosperity. Only two years ago, shops had little business to do, and the dull trade picked up only on market days. Now, new stores are appearing to meet the ever-growing demand. In Shuyang, for instance, a city south of the new Yi channel, 151 shops started business in 1952.

Education booms with better crops. The number of boys and girls attending school has doubled in the Huaiyen region since 1949. In 1950 there was only one primary school with 40 pupils in Chuchang *hsiang* (an administrative group of villages). Now there are four more schools and altogether 600 primary school pupils. The number of students in the whole Yi Valley in 1952 was double that of 1950. Adults are attending evening schools in thousands for the first time in their lives. Before liberation, writing paper was hardly sold in the villages. Now, there is a great demand for it and nearly every student has a fountain pen.

The work on the Yi and Shu Rivers has not yet ended. The plans of the People's Government will give a still bigger boost to the standard of living in this important wheat and rice area. The next step is the construction of large-scale water utilisation projects. Four reservoirs will be built on the upper reaches of the two rivers; a large number of irrigation canals will be dug to carry water to drought-threatened areas. In a few years' time, the once wild Yi and Shu Rivers will not only flow mildly and obediently to the sea, but they will generate hydroelectric power and irrigate more farmlands, bringing light and cheap power to the villages, towns and growing industries and still richer crops to the North Kiangsu peasants.

Clean Towns, Clean Villages

A Ceylonese Visitor's Impression of China's Health and Sanitation Campaign

M. G. Mendis

General Secretary of the Ceylon Trade Union Federation



THE great progress made in regard to health and sanitation is one of the chief factors that strikes the attention of any visitor to New China.

Before liberation China's inhabitants died in tens of thousands from epidemics of cholera, smallpox, plague, malaria and other diseases. The slums of pre-liberation China were considered to be the worst in the world.

Today China presents a totally different picture in regard to health and sanitation. It is most amazing to observe how this country has been able to bring about such a great transformation within a period of three and a half years. All classes of people in New China today feel that their country is now free and that they have become the masters of their land. They have become confident that they can tackle all their problems and that it is their patriotic duty to transform this great country, with a quarter of the world's population, with its long history, boundless experience and advanced culture into a mighty and prosperous industrial state.

One of the prime factors essential in the building-up of a strong nation is protection and improvement of the health and sanitary conditions of the people. At the call of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the great leader of the Chinese people, to undertake the patriotic health movement, the people throughout China responded enthusiastically and have performed miracles in the struggle to improve health and sanitation.

The attempts made by American imperialists to extend bacteriological warfare to Northeast China, to spread epidemics and massacre innocent people has proved a dismal failure. This monstrous U.S. action roused the

people's anger. Their campaign in cleaning up cities and villages reached unprecedented intensity.

In Cities

As a visitor coming from Colombo, the capital of Ceylon—which is said to be one of the cleanest cities in the East—I was astonished to observe the perfect cleanliness of the many cities I visited.

The drains and backyards of the working-class houses are no longer dumping grounds for rubbish and refuse from kitchens. Rubbish bins are kept for this purpose, and all refuse is collected and removed.

The streets are kept in perfect cleanliness, and people, in full co-operation with the municipal sanitary authorities, take great care not to throw any waste matter in the roadway. Even the smallest child has got used to the habit of throwing waste matter into the rubbish bins kept all along the streets. In dry weather, water is sprinkled on the streets several times a day to prevent dust.

In Peking, the capital of New China and in all other cities, people are allowed to put-up stalls on the pavements and carry on petty trade. I think this is unusual because there are places in the world where pavement hawking and street stalls are prohibited on the ground that they make the streets unclean and presents an eye-sore to foreign visitors.

But in New China in spite of the hundreds of pavement stalls and hawkers, the streets are perfectly clean. The Central People's Government which has great concern over the livelihood of the people, has allowed them to carry on their trade until the state could pro-

vide them places in new markets which are now under construction in all parts of every city. The state is also gradually absorbing these petty traders in employment in the new industrial undertakings which guarantee them rising living standards.

In Villages

I have travelled extensively in villages in many provinces of China to learn how the land reform has been carried out and to see for myself whether the peasants are satisfied with the conditions that exist today. Along with a few other foreign trade union delegates who attended the Seventh All-China Congress of Trade Unions, I visited a farm known as Yellow Earth Hill, a few miles away from Peking.

We learned from the peasants of the wonderful changes that have taken place in their village since the liberation. In the course of our talk, I was keen to observe the cleanliness of the house and the premises. It was a house built of mud with many rooms and a veranda. I noticed that not only the grown-ups in the family but even the little children observed cleanliness in every little detail. There were three sticks hanging from the wall with small square pieces of wire-netting fixed at their ends. I saw them for the first time, so I asked what they were. The peasants said that they were insect-killers. I asked them whether they have succeeded in killing all the insects in the village. Then they asked me to carefully observe whether I could find any insects. We stayed three hours in the village going from house to house, but I was unable to see a single insect, though I went about with extra vigilance to find even a harmless one.

The peasants and their children in the villages were clean and neatly dressed. I learned that the average peasant who could not make even one suit a year in the past could now make three suits. For this and other reasons, the peasants in New China today can well afford to be clean and neatly dressed.

Some diseases such as itches, malaria and others, which were common and perennial in Chinese villages due to uncleanliness and insect bites, are now virtually non-existent there.

No Mosquitoes and Flies

The most important feature in the nationwide patriotic health movement is the war

declared on mosquitoes, flies, rats and other creatures which carry and spread disease. It is difficult to believe the achievements of the campaign unless one visits China.

The absence of flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches, rats, stray dogs is remarkable. Only once in my trip did I see a fly; it was hanging on a wire-netting window pane in a hotel in Hankow, and it was dead. This campaign has not only assisted in preventing diseases and improving the health of the people but also has greatly assisted in saving vast quantities of grain periodically destroyed by rats and plant pests.

Plague, cholera and smallpox which were so common in pre-liberation times have been practically eradicated as a result of preventive work including the vaccination and inoculation of hundreds of millions of people in town and country.

Hospitals and Health Services

I visited a newly-built hospital in Canton. It was only one of the many hospitals provided for patients in that city, and I found it fully equipped with modern instruments, appliances and drugs. The number of doctors, nurses and attendants provided for that hospital was amazing. A hospital of that size in my country does not have even one-third of the staff of the Canton Hospital.

The patients were provided with all modern comforts and conveniences. The kindness and the attention paid to patients by the staff was something new to me. The conditions obtaining in the Canton Hospital are found practically in all hospitals in China. Millions of workers, students and public servants with their families are already getting free medical treatment in the first steps towards a universal free medical service.

Maternity homes are being established to provide medical aid to mothers before and after childbirth. The Soviet method of painless childbirth is being adopted, giving great relief to women.

Every assistance is given to mothers to bring up healthy children. Nurseries are established on factory premises and farms to look after children when mothers are at work. Here, the children are given milk and

other nutritious food. They are taught games and dancing by trained attendants.

Clinics and rest rooms are attached to all large-scale factories in which workers may take treatment and rest during off-duty hours. Convalescing patients and workers who need long rests to recuperate their health are sent to sanatoria and rest homes. In these institutions, there are libraries, reading rooms and playgrounds for indoor and outdoor games. Modern comforts and vitamin-rich food are given to inmates. We met a worker who had put on 14 lbs. extra weight during his stay in a sanatorium in Shanghai.

A worker from a Shanghai machine and tool factory who was resting in a sanatorium in a suburb of Shanghai told me that he had worked for thirty-five years in factories before the liberation. But he had never got an opportunity to take a day's rest in those days in spite of the fact that at that time he had to work longer hours than today. Before liberation, he added, it was only the factory owners who could enjoy the comforts he was enjoying now in that sanatorium.

Homes for the aged workers have been established. Doctors and nurses are attached to them. Old people without relatives to look after them are leading a happy life in

these homes as the state has provided comfortable living quarters, good food, and facilities for recreation.

Physical Culture and Athletics

Men, women and children all over the republic are paying great attention to the improvement of their physique and health. Every morning, I observed masses of people going into the open air or to the flat roofs of houses to take exercises. In the evenings, people go in for games and sports. Athletic and sports competitions are organised and awards are given to those who achieve success.

Popular health exhibitions, film shows and other educational means are used in cities and villages to acquaint the people with various methods of improving sanitation and general health.

Masters of their country, the people of China, have taken onto their own shoulders the responsibility of solving all their problems, including those of health and sanitation.

With the completion of the national construction plan and the intensification of the patriotic health campaign, People's China will soon rise to the full stature of a robust, prosperous and mighty nation dedicated to peace, freedom and democracy.

Good Wheat Harvests

Good wheat harvests have been reported in most of the areas in the Yangtse River valley and the southern provinces.

In Fukien and Chekiang, the wheat yield is over 10% greater than last year's. Szechuan reports 11% more wheat than in 1952. Yunnan, Kwangsi and Kwangtung have also reported good harvests, with considerable acreage achieving 10-30% increases over last year. The major wheat-growing areas in Hupeh Province have raised their output 20-30%.

Spring-sowing has been completed all over China. On sub-tropical Hainan Island, rice-transplanting was finished by the end of March, and harvesting began in early May.

In East China, which yielded a quarter of China's total grain output last year, the rice acreage has increased by 2% over last year. In the irrigated area of Suiyuan Province in the Yellow River bend, an additional 10,500 hectares have been sown to spring wheat. Ningsia Province also expanded its spring wheat acreage by some 10% over last year.

Cotton-sowing in 15 provinces, including Hopei, Honan, Shensi, Kiangsu and Shantung, was completed between late April and mid-May.

More and better irrigation has helped very much in the timely sowing. The effects of drought have been eliminated in the main by the peasants' efforts in building irrigation projects and other anti-drought measures, and by widespread rainfall since mid-May. Organised efforts against insect pests, cold waves, frost and other natural calamities have produced good results. Most of the winter wheat that was attacked by a sudden change of weather has been saved.

The Steel-Maker

*The story of Meng Tai, a
model worker of the Anshan
Iron and Steel Company*

Hsu Chih



Meng Tai

Drawing by Su Hui

FROM the very moment I arrived in Anshan, I was told, "You must meet Meng Tai." Everywhere I went, I heard of his exploits. No individual worker's contribution had been greater than his in the reconstruction of the great state-owned Anshan Iron and Steel Company. And so at the end of the day-shift, I joined the workers thronging in their thousands out of the workshops of the plant. They walked east towards the quiet and well-built residential district of Anshan City. The broad human torrents separated into smaller streams among streets lined with poplars, and finally disappeared into the rows of neat houses.

I stopped in front of a red brick villa and knocked at the door. Meng Tai opened it himself and with a warm handshake led me into his sitting room. Meng Tai is tall but also stout. He does not look his fifty-six years. A smile always plays around the corners of his mouth. He moves slowly, attentive to those around him. He still speaks with the accents of his native Hopei Province. Talking to Meng Tai, it soon becomes clear why the Anshan

The third of our series of articles on Anshan, China's Steel City, by our special correspondent.

workers hold him in such high esteem. One is immediately impressed by his simplicity and modesty. They go well with the medals he wears on gala occasions, mementoes of his many achievements as an inventor, organiser and selfless worker for the people.

* * *

In his youth, Meng Tai suffered under the lash of landlord oppression. In his early twenties, he came to the Northeast, where he worked first in the coal centre of Fushun for ten years and then for twenty-five years in Anshan. Here he was exploited and oppressed in turn by the warlords, the Japanese imperialists with their puppets, the "Manchukuo" officials, and the Kuomintang reactionaries. It was typical of the times that he, a worker with superb technical ability and a character of the highest calibre, a man who loved his work and his machines, should have suffered constant hunger and humiliation. He lived in a society that was unable to appreciate human worth.

When, in their frenzied retreat, the Kuomintang officials ripped machines apart and carried them away by the trainload to be sold, he felt as if his own body were being cut into pieces. The plants closed. He and his family lived on wild herbs and wheat chaff. He saw his daughters lying inert on the *kang*, so weak from hunger that they couldn't stand up.

Liberation

A few weeks later in the winter of 1948, Meng Tai saw the Liberation Army march into Anshan. A clear, strong voice outside his dilapidated shack called his name—"Meng Tai!"

The liberation forces had immediately set about rallying the veteran workers around

them. This comrade had been sent by the chief of the Anshan personnel section to ask Meng Tai to go to the White Building—the administrative office of the Iron and Steel Company. Meng Tai went. The cadre who received him with great friendliness asked him to take a seat in a big leather chair. In over twenty years of his life in Anshan, Meng Tai had never once entered the White Building, nor had he ever sat on a leather upholstered chair. He dared not take the seat. The cadre had to press him to sit down. Then they talked at length about the possibilities of getting the works going again.

When Meng Tai returned from the White Building, he carried home fifty cattles of food-stuffs as emergency rations. For the first time in many weeks, the family had enough to eat. Rehabilitation work at Anshan would begin soon, but in the meantime, Meng Tai was assigned work at Tunghua in Liaotung Province.

Meng Tai could quickly see that he was living in a new society. He was settled comfortably in his new home at Tunghua, but even so, the management from time to time asked him with real concern: "Is there anything you need?" No! He didn't need anything—life was already fine! For the first time, he knew true happiness—the happiness of labour freed from oppression. Now he truly felt he was living in his own country and that his own people had now become the masters.

He worked conscientiously and gladly. He attended meetings of the trade union. He joined a group for political studies. His sterling qualities were recognised and he was given many responsible tasks to do. He rendered outstanding service as a fitter when the blast furnace at Tunghua was repaired.

Not long afterwards, he was sent back to Anshan. It was like coming home. But the great furnaces were cold and silent. The shops were overgrown with weeds. Anshan was a ruin, but Anshan must be rehabilitated! Meng Tai was more than ready for the job. Because the damage done by the Kuomintang was very extensive, recovery would not be easy. A great deal of new equipment was needed. Lists were made. Orders were sent out for replacements.

Meng Tai's Patriotic Store

It required some time before the orders could be fulfilled, but Meng Tai was not one

to sit around waiting. Walking around the blast furnace, his attention rested on the heaps of scrap metal strewn around. During the puppet "Manchukuo" regime, the workers had not infrequently deliberately thrown away valuable equipment. Under the Kuomintang occupation, whole yards were cluttered up with all kinds of discarded parts, among which not a few were really in perfect shape. Meng Tai thought to himself, "Here are precious supplies lying all over the ground. What a waste!" and he started to search over the scrap heaps for materials which might be useful for repairing the blast furnaces. His initiative stirred his fellow-workers, and soon a large group was sorting over the scrap. After sorting, they repaired their finds. Gradually, a long shed was filled with supplies. When a report of what had been done reached the Company authorities, it started a regular commotion. Meng Tai's store of spare parts, it turned out, was better stocked than the Company's warehouse!

At a mass meeting, the Party secretary formally named the collection "Meng Tai's Patriotic Storage" and threw it open for a one-day exhibition. As a direct result, a mass campaign was initiated in the works for the finding and delivery of salvaged materials. This greatly speeded the rehabilitation of Anshan. Not long afterwards, Meng Tai requested and was admitted to the Communist Party.

One by one the blast furnaces were repaired. Meng Tai's stores delivered large quantities of materials for each repair job. They contained enough materials to repair many blast furnaces. They were still yielding up treasures in mid-1953.

The Hero

This was only the first of Meng Tai's great services to the people's Anshan. Once, he did not hesitate to leap into a two-foot-deep trough of ice-cold water to repair some faulty pipes to prevent them from freezing in winter. On a hot summer day, due to a defect in the working method, a break-out of molten iron suddenly occurred. The molten metal, coming into contact with the water from the cooling system, caused repeated explosions which spread smoke and mist all around the blast furnace. Technicians and workers were at a loss what to do. Meng Tai, with his usual

daring and presence of mind, dashed through the thick mist to the source of trouble and danger. Two other workers courageously followed him. Braving the explosions, Meng Tai descended to near the tap hole, where it was pitch-dark, with water dripping like rain. He found out what was wrong, quickly returned and helped organise repairs, which were successfully carried out in the next two days.

The Inventor

Meng Tai worked tirelessly. Once he fell sick and was sent to a sanatorium. But he was still thinking about his work. He was planning to install a spray on the dust-catcher, because, while the particles of iron dust precipitated from the blast furnace gases could be carried to the sintering workshop to be reconverted into materials for smelting, the dust which spread when the powdered iron waste and ore were being collected choked the workers on the job and was injurious to health. The spraying device would load the dust particles with water and prevent them from flying about. Moreover, when the dust was loaded into wagons for the sintering shop, it had to be taken to a large sprayer which in fact only wetted the top layers. Meng Tai's innovation would also eliminate this extra work and save transport costs amounting to 1,900,000 yuan a day. When a worker-friend came to visit him, Meng Tai lost no time in describing to him the idea of mounting the spray at the source of trouble—inside the dust-catcher. However, the experiment subsequently made was not successful, and the matter was dropped.

When informed of the result, Meng Tai pondered deeply. "Dropping that experiment means a loss of nearly two million yuan a day," he said. "We can't afford to be so easily put off." He made up an excuse to leave the sanatorium and obtained the doctor's consent to transfer to a spare-time rest home. Then he went straight back to the factory, studied the spray that had been made and saw that it was too small. The next day, he made a bigger one. After further experiments, he finally succeeded. Only then did he go back to continue his rest.

Meng Tai began his career as a riveter. Later he became a tube-fitter. After liberation he was promoted to section chief. His good and devoted work raised him successively to

the positions of technician, assistant engineer, and then from assistant chief to chief of the repair shop. He has innumerable inventions and innovations, big and small, to his credit. Among them are improvements in cooling devices, steam pipes, pig-iron casting machines, ladles, and other machines and parts. He has introduced rationalised methods of work in many fields, saving labour and making it more effective, lightening toil, making it safer. The amount of wealth he has created and the economies he has made possible are incalculable.

By unanimous vote, Meng Tai was elected model worker of the highest rank for the whole city and representative to the First National Conference of Model Workers. All along the route to Peking, he was presented with flowers, cheered and honoured by the people. At the opening ceremony of the National Conference of Model Workers, Chairman Mao Tse-tung sat at the centre of the presidium, beside him sat Commander-in-Chief Chu Teh, and Chao Kuei-lan, heroine and model worker; and next to her was he, Meng Tai, a worker from Anshan. He kept looking at Chairman Mao, thinking to himself, "Here is the man who has delivered the suffering people of the whole of China. Here is the man who has given me strength and new life." Meng Tai made a speech at the Conference, passing on his experiences to others.

* * *

Meng Tai himself only told me half the story, the bare facts. I had to learn from others about his courage, resourcefulness and devotion.

Wherever he goes, people come to him and shake his hand with deep respect and affection. One day I saw him surrounded by Young Pioneers. Somehow I was reminded of a stout old tree in full bloom. I saw him one Sunday afternoon this spring surrounded by labour models of Anshan. They were listening to Meng Tai attentively, pupils of the old hero.

Around them was the panorama of Anshan, of the magnificent results of their work. Among these was the towering No. 8 blast furnace—now fully automatic, the most up-to-date champion smelter of iron for the nation's five-year plan. Beside it the No. 7 furnace was rising, an even bigger giant. All around, new constructions were coming into being shaped by the workers amid the clang of metal, beneath the red flags of honour for work well done.

Return to the Motherland

Huang Ku-liu

SOON after the army trucks passed Chongju, day began to break; the night-birds of the U.S. Army could do little to disturb them now. In the early morning sky, our "silver swallows" were flying swiftly through the drift of clouds overhead, emitting streaks of white vapour, telling the travellers and peaceful people below: "Go ahead. Travel or work without fear. We are protecting you."

The northbound convoy was composed of 28 army trucks with 244 excited passengers—sick and injured personnel of the Chinese people's volunteers who had only recently been repatriated. They sang aloud as if they wanted the planes above to hear their singing.

A young fellow about twenty-two, perched on his kitbag with one hand holding the handrail, cocked his tousled head up. He was in high spirits. "Who'd have dreamt it! Those American devils talked as if they still dominated the air. Now, look at that formation! Our boys are enjoying themselves in the sky. And not an enemy in sight!"

"It's no easy job, lad," said pensive squad leader Chang, sitting at the right side of the young fellow. Nobody knew exactly what he meant: was he referring to their detention in the prisoner camp during the last two years, or to their comrades-in-arms fighting on the front and in the air? He said nothing more and remained silent throughout the rest of the journey. Obviously, he had a lot to think about.

The trucks passed Yangsi, and somebody said: "Another forty miles, and we'll see the Yalu River." Others added: "Within half an hour, we'll be at Siniuju. We can cross the River at ten." "It's been two years! Wonder what's going on at home now?" "The nearer I get to the border, the faster my heart beats."

The young fellow tapped squad leader Chang on the knee and asked: "Squad leader, why don't you say something? Feeling bad?"

After a pause, he replied: "Little Teng, you don't know what I have been thinking: A man can only die once, not twice. I had a narrow escape, I didn't lose my life on Koje Island nor on Cheju. Tell me who saved our lives?" He paused for Teng's reply.

"Our motherland, of course!"

"That's just it! I've been thinking: how can I give everything I have from now on to the building of our motherland."

They talked and talked; asking the driver endless questions. The minutes sped by swiftly. The trucks ahead slowed down. The column came to a halt.

"Siniuju!" Someone shouted.

Korean women in colourful dresses, young and old, mothers and daughters, streamed out from the battered houses along the road and flocked to greet them. They waved their hands; the street was gay with flowers and flags. Many Korean officers and men soon joined them, cheering and rushing to shake hands with their Chinese comrades-in-arms.

At the bank of the Yalu, they were welcomed and waved a warm farewell. The Korean people sang Chinese songs which they knew would make their Chinese friends happy. The melodies and words went deep into the hearts of the sick and injured volunteers. An old Korean woman plucked at Chang's sleeve and slipped small present of sweetmeats into his hands. He looked at her as a son looks at his mother.

A few minutes later the convoy was crossing the Yalu River. Soon they would be on

the soil of their motherland and meet their beloved countrymen. How they had cherished this moment in their hearts during many long sleepless nights in the death camps of the American invaders!

After Two Years

They burst into songs while crossing the swift currents of the Yalu River. Then, they set foot on Antung, the first city of the motherland they saw again since they left home two years ago.

In the city they were almost deafened by the cheers of the people at the welcome meeting. Few can remember what happened during those first moments of excitement when their motherland embraced them again. They felt the overflowing warmth of the masses. They were passed from hand to hand. Flowers, Chinese flowers, were pressed into their arms.

At Antung the repatriated volunteers glimpsed some of the achievements of national

construction. But they also witnessed the destruction caused by U.S. air-raiders. They passed the district bombed by enemy planes on May 10 and 11. The debris at the foot of the Chenchiang Mountain, a beautiful residential area, reminded Chang of the wanton U.S. raids in Pyongyang, Sukchon, Sinanju, Chongju, Sonchon and other cities in Korea.

The hospital at which the wounded volunteers are recuperating commands a lovely view. Nurses helped them out of the trucks and brought them to the quiet, sunny wards. Here they got a good rest after two days and nights of travel. All their wants were seen to. The volunteers were profoundly moved by the sisterly care of the nurses, the meticulous arrangements and the excellent accommodations.

So now they were back, back in the motherland which they loved with all their heart and soul, the motherland they had refused to be separated from even at the risk of life itself. Life was beginning again.

The Buddhist Association of China

At a five-day conference which ended on June 3 held in Peking's famous Kuangchi Temple, Buddhists from all over China formally set up the Buddhist Association of China. Speaking of the establishment of the Association, Hutukotu Chinmeichitsun, of the Kungtehlin Lama Temple in Tibet, said that this was "a wonderful event in the history of Buddhism in China."

The aims of the Association will include the task of uniting all Buddhists in China to participate, under the leadership of the People's Government, in the movement of protecting the country and defending world peace; to help the People's Government to carry through its policy of freedom of religious belief; and to develop the fine traditions of Buddhism.

The Conference elected the Dalai Lama, Panchen Ngoerhtehni, Hsu Yun and Chagan Kogen honorary presidents of the Association. Hutukotu Chinmeichitsun was elected one of the six vice-presidents.

Among the Han, Tibetan, Mongolian, Tai, Sari Uighur and delegates of the other nationalities were 121 leading Buddhists from all parts of the country. They included Living Buddhas, Kanpos, Geshis and Lamas from many ancient monasteries—Zebon, Seza and Gerden in Lhasa and Tashi-Lhunpo in Shigatse, Tibet; Labrang Gomba in Kansu Province; and Pailingmiao in Inner Mongolia. Ministers, monks and nuns from the holy temples on Mount Omei in Szechuan Province, Mount Wutai in Shansi Province and Mount Chihua in Anhwei Province, and many Buddhist laymen from various parts of the country were also among the delegates.

In their speeches at the conference, delegates contrasted the honourable status of Buddhists in New China and the freedom and respect they now enjoy, with the oppression they suffered in pre-liberation days.

The Conference sent a message of greeting to Chairman Mao Tse-tung, expressing the gratitude and respect of the delegates for him and pledging that they would, as Chinese Buddhists, consider it a sacred duty to respond to his calls.

Going to the Cinema

Chang Tien-yi

LITTLE Hung got on the tram-car. She was going to see *The Little Gardener*, a colour motion picture for children.

All her schoolmates had seen the picture when it was shown in March this year. Little Hung had been down with a bad cold then, and her mother forbade her to go. Afterwards, her schoolmates often talked about this picture, and the more she listened to them the more she yearned to see it. She kept waiting and waiting for her chance.

Suddenly one day—it was Saturday, yes, it was only yesterday—*The Little Gardener* cropped up in the theatre advertisements in the newspapers. It was to be shown at 9 o'clock on Sunday morning, and there was only one show. So her hopes were rewarded at last! This time her mother gave her permission to go.

Little Hung stood in the tram-car, flushed and excited all the time. She kept looking out of the window anxiously. The street was full of traffic. The tram seemed to be taking its own time as it moved along slowly, seemingly in no great hurry while it sounded its bell politely.

"Please, move along, please."

"Three more stops..." Little Hung said to herself.

An elderly lady gave Little Hung a tug and pointed to a seat by her side which had just fallen vacant. Smiling at her, Little Hung sat down obediently. Instantly she found in her seat a notebook with a leather cover, a sort of pocketbook which serves both as a looseleaf notebook and as a purse. Her father had one like it, only this one was yellowish instead of brown.

"Auntie, is this yours?" asked Little Hung.

"No, it's not mine."

The author, a well-known Chinese novelist, has written many stories for New China's children.

Holding the notebook high over her head, Little Hung asked at the top of her voice: "Whose is this? Whose notebook is this?"

No one made a claim to it. An old man said: "It must belong to that comrade who just got down from the car."

Then several passengers in the tram-car shouted all at once from the window: "Hey, comrade, you've left something behind... comrade!"

Little Hung also waved that notebook from the window, shouting: "Uncle, uncle!"

The man didn't hear them. He had already reached the sidewalk, walking with a black leather brief-case under his arm. He stood still for a moment as if thinking of something, then walked on eastward.

"I'll go and give it to him."

Little Hung edged her way through the passengers and jumped down when the conductor was just going to close the door.

The tram started to move on. Several pairs of eyes looked at Little Hung with concern. Then the tram swept past her with a thunderous roar.

Standing on tiptoe by the side of the street with the notebook in her hand, Little Hung looked ahead. Then she walked along the sidewalk and stood on tiptoe again, looking as hard as she could. But the man was lost among the crowd. She ran several paces eastward and jumped up so as to see better; the man was still nowhere in sight.

"Maybe I've got too excited and lost my head again?" She was about to run forward when she hesitated and stood still.

Indeed, had it not been for all this rush and had Little Hung looked around with a little more care, she could easily have seen a man carrying a black leather brief-case and walking slowly on the opposite side of the street. The

man was turning towards the south. Judging by his looks, he seemed to have no idea at all that he had lost a notebook. He was somewhat taken aback to find a little girl wearing a red scarf running after him and shouting: "Uncle, you've lost something!"

He stopped short and looked at her with curious eyes, as though he could not make head or tail of the situation. Little Hung put her hands behind her back, trying hard to recover her breath.

"You just got down from the tram?" asked Little Hung. "See if you've lost anything."

The man first looked curiously down over his hands and clothes, then he looked around, blinking his eyes and thinking hard, as if he were guessing a riddle. He fixed his eyes on Little Hung, as much as to say:

"I give up. Tell me what it's all about, please."

"Have you lost something, say, a notebook?"

"A notebook?" He passed the brief-case from his left hand to his right hand and fumbled in his left pocket.

"Here it is. You see, I didn't lose my notebook."

"Maybe you have two."

"No, I have only one."

Little Hung was annoyed.

"Do you mean that this notebook belongs to some one else?"

Without further ado, Little Hung turned around and began to run.

"Hey, little friend," the man called. Something had suddenly occurred to him. Stopping her, he said, "I forgot to thank you. Although what you've picked up isn't mine, I must thank you all the same."

* * *

Where should she go she herself had not the faintest idea at all. How childish she was! True, when she was small she had always made a mess of her work and Teacher Chen had spoken to her mother about it more than once. But now, the summer vacation was over and she had been promoted to the fifth grade; in other words, she was now a pupil of the up-

per classes. If she hadn't exactly become an adult, she was at least a big girl. And big girls don't mess things up except when they are doing something very urgent—say, going to see a very very good film, for instance.

Little Hung recalled what her teacher had once said to her: "Little Hung, what do you think you should do? Think it over carefully first." And always, the more excited she became, the more composed her teacher would appear and the softer would his voice become. Strange to say, Little Hung would then stop fussing and become calm too.

So now she began to think things over carefully: "Where did that man who lost his notebook get down from the tram? How could I know? Anyway it's impossible to find him here at this halt. What shall I do then? I'll take this notebook to school... No, better give it to the local police station and it'll only take me

Publications for Children

Nearly 42 million copies of more than 2,300 kinds of children's books have been published in the past three years. More than 500 Soviet books for children have been translated. Story books like *Uncle Volunteers and the Little Korean Girl*, *Gifts for Stalin*, and plays like *When the Peaches Are Ripe* are special favourites.

Chinese children have three newspapers of their own: the *Chinese Pioneer*, a weekly published in Peking with a circulation of more than 760,000; the *New Pioneer* of Shanghai and the *Young Pioneer* of Hangchow. They have five magazines: *Good Children*, a weekly published in Shenyang with a circulation of 94,000; the *Red Scarf* of Chungking; the *Children's Era* and *Little Friends* of Shanghai and *New Children* of Canton.

In January this year, China's first children's publishing house was set up in Shanghai. The All-China Federation of Writers has formed a children's section devoted to writings for youngsters. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs has collected a great deal of material specially written for children in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies and will translate and publish a large selection.



It was an admission ticket. For what occasion was it intended?

Drawing by Chung Ling

five minutes at most. But wait! Let me have a look at the notebook first and see what's in it."

Many of the pages in the notebook were filled with words written very closely. "Like the one papa has," she thought, "this must be a working diary containing at the same time study notes." In the pouch attached to the notebook there was a roll of currency. She took it out and was about to count it when a piece of light blue paper suddenly fell to the ground. It was an admission ticket. For what occasion was it intended? Nothing was mentioned on the ticket; nor did it say anything about the place. It was stamped with a round seal in blue colour, but the characters of the seal were illegible to her. The date was clearly set for that very day and the time was ten o'clock in the morning. She could read on the ticket these words: "Admission for one person only. No transference allowed." In one corner of the ticket was written in ink: "To Comrade Wang Fen."

"Ha, ha! Now I've got it. I can put in a few lines in the *Young Pioneer* weekly gazette to look for this comrade. When he reads it he can come to the police station here and claim back his notebook and this admission ticket as well. But then, it is clearly written on the ticket that the meeting will be held at ten

o'clock this morning, and Comrade Wang Fen needs it to attend a meeting—perhaps it's an important meeting. What shall I do?"

Time passed away, second by second, minute by minute, and Little Hung still couldn't think what to do.

"This is really a difficult problem. I should like to put it before everybody for discussion and ask my schoolmates to give their opinions. I am sure there would be all kinds of proposals and suggestions."

Little Hung seemed to hear two boys arguing it out. One of them said: "Who told Little Hung to pick up the notebook in the tram? If she hadn't..."

The other boy immediately retorted: "Then in your opinion Little Hung shouldn't have bothered to have picked it up. According to your opinion, she should have said: 'It's none of my business; I'd better run along and play carambole.' And you think it doesn't matter a bit even if it should fall into the hands of some wicked person? But Little Hung is not that kind of a girl, she is a Young Pioneer."

"Pooh," shouted the first boy. "Of course that's not the right thing to do. What's the fun of playing carambole! But, remember, Little Hung is not going to play carambole, she is going to see the film she has been expecting for such a long time. It is a very good picture, and a very interesting one too. The point is, that there is only one show. Now you see what I mean?"

"Please tell me then, which is more important: Comrade Wang Fen's attending an important meeting or Little Hung's going to see a colour film?"

"Of course both are important," the first boy replied. "As a matter of fact, Little Hung can go and ask her schoolmates whether they have seen this picture. They are sure to reply

Young Pioneers

China has 7 million Young Pioneers. Established in October, 1949, this organisation is for children from 9-15 years of age. Its purpose is to develop the children to become good citizens, to teach them to love the people and labour, to be patriotic, to take on active interest in science and protect public property. It provides its members with many opportunities to learn of the life of the country. They visit factories, state farms and great construction sites. They meet outstanding people in many fields—model workers, combat heroes, actors, writers, artists and musicians.

Many have been invited to spend their summer vacations in the Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria and the German Democratic Republic.

They take part in many outdoor activities: camping, picnics, swimming, boating in the summer, hiking and ice-skating in winter. They are enthusiastic model-makers. Among their favourite pastimes are chemical experiments and gardening.

The New Democratic Youth League of China gives direction to the Young Pioneers' organisation and provides personnel to guide its work.

that they have all seen it. Then she can say to them, 'Very well, please do me a favour and have this serve-the-people task done for me.' She can give the notebook to them and go to see the film herself."

"Then maybe Little Hung will first ask you to do this favour for her..."

"Oh, no. I'm going to the park with my elder brother. There are so many schoolmates, why ask me? Go and explain the matter to the others, they are sure to give their help."

The second boy quickly followed up the argument and said: "It all amounts to this then: 'Since I'm going to see a colour film and enjoy myself, I've no time to do anything in the service of the people. You, my schoolmates, had better do it for me. But, remember, you mustn't go to the cinema nor go to the park with your elder brother, you should do it for me, and do it well. I shan't care about it any more.' Is that what you mean?"

"You win, I won't argue with you. Do as you like. Anyway Little Hung is here alone and she hasn't done anything yet. If she bungles things, she is not going to get any demerit for her behaviour, and if she does her work well she is not going to get any prize either...."

Then the boys and girls would all shout out: 'Bah! You are not qualified to be a

Young Pioneer. Our Teacher Chen has told us: 'Even when you are alone, you must act as if ten eyes are watching you and ten fingers are pointing at you. You must take the initiative, do whatever is required of a Young Pioneer and do it well till you have succeeded.' That's what our Little Hung is like."

"Yes, that's what I am like," Little Hung said to herself. "I must find Comrade Wang Fen before ten o'clock."

* * *

That's how it turned out that Little Hung could not go to see *The Little Gardener* that day. But she was very happy because she finally found Comrade Wang Fen, an elderly lady who was probably older than her own mother.

It happened this way. Little Hung calmly looked into the notebook and saw several names and addresses. She visited the house of one of them which was nearest, but the person was not at home. She went to another house where the people helped her to contact Comrade Wang Fen by telephone. When she came she held Little Hung's hands warmly in her own, and was so moved that she could hardly find words to express her feeling. Finally she said: 'Young friend, you haven't told me your name yet.'

"I'm a Young Pioneer," replied Little Hung.

1953 National Basketball- Volleyball Tournament

Li Yu-wen

THE 1953 national basketball and volleyball tournament, held from May 2-13 in Tientsin, attracted 130,000 spectators to its 311-game programme. They saw the People's Liberation Army carry off both the basketball and volleyball titles in the men's and women's games.

From the stands came cheers in many languages—Chinese, Uighur, Uzbek, Korean, Tartar.... Many members of the national minorities and returned overseas Chinese were among the spectators and competitors.

In contrast to the slow, cautious basketball played in the last national tournament in 1951 when East China beat North China 33:25 to carry away the championship, speed and sharp-shooting made up the pattern of play of all the winning teams in the present tournament. The People's Liberation Army beat East China 136:90 in the final.

East China set the previous highest score in 1951 when they defeated the Northwest 71:40. Today, the game is played at such a terrific pace that the present tournament produced some astonishing scores. The Railwayworkers beat North China 141:110; the P.L.A. beat Central-South 173:89. In a regular shooting spree, the armymen overwhelmed the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region 182:56.

The same aggressive tactics marked the women's basketball series. North China scored 137 points in a game with the Northwest.

Whereas many veterans shared the lime-light with newcomers in the 1951 games, youth definitely predominated in the 1953 tournament. Some 80 per cent of the tournament competitors were youth ranging from seventeen to twenty-five years of age. The champion P.L.A. teams were all-youth contingents.

The stadium crowds reserved particularly

enthusiastic applause for the model workers, peasants and students among the players.

Tsao Chi, outstanding left guard of the Railwayworkers' women's basketball team, a lathe-turner, is four times winner of red banners in emulation campaigns; Li Yu-ke, eighteen-year-old forward of the North China women's basketball team, a senior at the Paoting Public School, has been on the honour role as the best student of the class for every term since her first year there. Pedicab driver Huang Fu-yen, captain and a great player of the Central-South volleyball team, and wharf stevedore Liu Er-chu, tall, sharp-shooting centre-forward of the East China basketball team, won cheers for their brilliant courtcraft.

The Central-South volleyball team, made up of four peasants and two workers and the rest students, won third place after the P.L.A. and the runner-up, Southwest China. They played with so much spirit despite their defeat at the hands of the armymen that the stadium crowd gave them a tremendous, standing ovation after the game.

Returned overseas Chinese and national minorities athletes also played impressively in the tournament. In the exhibition games of badminton, Lu Su-hsia and Lu Su-chin, two sisters who came back to China from Indonesia, paired perfectly to win for Central-South China the women's badminton doubles title.

In a forum held on May 7 where team coaches exchanged experiences, the P.L.A. team coach praised Soviet training methods, which, he said, accounted for the team's all-round basketball superiority.

In addition to regular basketball drills, he had his players practise sprints, high jumps, long-distance running and gymnastics. Lectures on good sportsmanship and clean tactics also played an important part in his training routine.

IN THE NEWS

Children's Day

Over 600 representatives of Peking's school children met on May 31 with many young friends from abroad at the Peking Theatre to celebrate International Children's Day which falls on June 1. Hundreds of other children enjoyed the puppet show *Three Little Rabbits*, performed for the first time by the Puppet Theatre established this year specially to entertain children under ten. For teen-age boys and girls, the Children's Theatre presented a Soviet play, *Your Comrades Are With You*, a portrayal of school life in the U.S.S.R.

In Peking, children had priority in all parks on June 1. Asa, the 14-year-old newly-arrived Indian elephant, displayed its tricks in the city's zoo in honour of the day. Open-air theatres in the parks put on Peking opera and acrobatic shows. All cinemas gave free cartoon shows to children. Mobile film teams went out to nearby villages. There was free transport

for children on 35 specially reserved street cars and 13 buses.

In Shanghai, a new Youth Palace was opened on the eve of Children's Day, with a 373-item exhibition of "Young Scientists' Inventions." Children in 12 Wuhan nurseries received presents of toys from the municipal government. School children in Nanking celebrated the day with visits to convalescing heroes of the Chinese people's volunteers, and at get-together meetings with the People's Liberation Army men, model workers, scientists and writers.

In Shenyang, Tientsin, Sian, Yen-an, Tihua, Lanchow, Chungking, Lhasa, Canton, in other cities and villages China's children of all nationalities celebrated their own festival with equally great gaiety.

Progress in Construction

Construction continues in every part of the country. While industry takes first place, workers' houses, hospitals, schools, theatres,

etc., are also being built in great numbers.

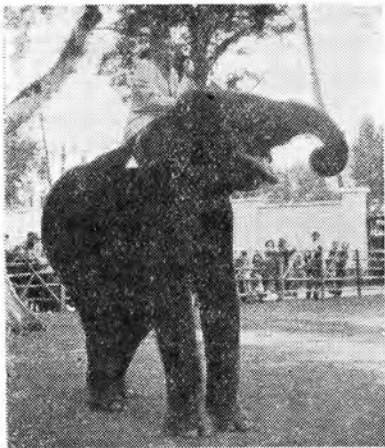
In Northeast China, the scale of construction this year is 84 per cent larger than last year's. Besides the heavy industrial construction under way at Anshan, Shenyang and Harbin, many vertical and inclined shafts and open-cast workings are being developed in coal fields at Penki, Fuhsin, Chihsi and Liaoyuan. Existing farm implement works are being expanded, and one such factory will be built. Fourteen colleges and institutes of higher education are also being expanded. A new engineering college to accommodate 8,000 students is under construction in Dairen. The Northeast Institute of Geology is being expanded in Changchun.

In North China, work is in full swing on 31 construction sites, including factories, hospitals and living quarters in Tientsin. Three new textile mills are under construction in Hopei Province, one of China's major cotton-producing areas. In Hopei also, 26 hospitals will be built or renovated; 255 middle schools will be enlarged.

In Southwest China, many construction projects are under way, including a steam power plant and an ore-dressing plant in Yunnan Province, one of China's largest tin-producing areas.

In East China, three Shanghai colleges are being enlarged and a new one is being built. This year alone, 28 high schools in Shanghai will be expanded or built. In Chekiang Province, work has been started on 83 construction projects, including workshops, schools and houses. Sanatoria, rest homes and hospitals receive special attention; over one-third of the province's building projects are going up in the lovely resort of Hangchow.

In Central-South China, construction is in progress on many projects. These include power plants, a shipyard and cotton mills as well as universities, technical institutes, hospitals and workers' houses. The biggest textile mill of Central-South China and a large electrical appliance plant are under construction in Hsiangtan, Hu-



Asa, a 14-year-old elephant, is a gift from the Indian Premier Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to the Chinese children. She was formally presented by H. E. N. Raghavan, Indian Ambassador to China, to Ting Hsi-lin, Vice-Minister of Cultural Affairs and Chairman of the Sino-Indian Friendship Association, at a ceremony in the Peking zoo on May 30, which was attended by Vice-Minister of Foreign

Affairs Chang Han-fu and many children. Asa weighs one and a half tons. A new elephant house has been built for her at the Peking zoo. She was one of the special attractions on June 1, Children's Day.

nan Province. In Chengchow, Honan Province, a modern steam power plant is being built.

In Northwest China, the ancient city of Sian, capital of Shensi Province, is being renovated and modernised. The sewage system already laid out has greatly improved sanitation. Building has started on 10 colleges and technical schools, as well as three large hospitals. In the city centre, the Bell Tower, dating back to the Ming Dynasty (A.D. 1368-1644), is being renovated. A stadium with a seating capacity of 100,000 is being constructed near the Small Wild Goose Pagoda, a relic of the Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618-907). Over 1,370,000 trees have been planted throughout the city.

Health Care for Minorities

Before liberation, medical services were practically non-existent among China's national minorities. Today, health services for them are being steadily expanded. Medical teams assigned to these areas are also training medical personnel from among the national minority peoples themselves.

In Tibet, following the establishment of the People's Hospital in Lhasa, each major city and town is setting up hospitals or clinics.

In the Tibetan Autonomous Region of Sikang Province, 639 Tibetan and other national minority health workers have been trained in mother and child care, modern midwifery, epidemic prevention work, nursing, pharmacy. This year, 11 hospitals will be built to serve the 20 counties of the region. The Yi people in the Liangshan Autonomous Region in Sikang Province, too, have a modern hospital now for the first time, and a yet larger one is being built.

In Kwangsi Province, more than 60,000 Chuangs, Miaos, Yaos and people of other nationalities have been receiving free medical treatment. The medical team which began work there in January last year has also trained many minority people to render part-time service in health, midwifery, vaccination and anti-malaria work.

The 72 counties of Kweichow Province inhabited by national

minorities now have 176 clinics, 35 mother and child care centres and 338 delivery centres. From among these people, 5,185 have been trained to do vaccinations and midwifery.

Hospitals have been set up in various counties of the Miao Autonomous Region in the western part of Hunan Province. More than 800,000 people have been vaccinated free of charge. Smallpox, which used to be prevalent, is now eliminated.

Yangtse Hydroelectric Power

Two tributaries of the Yangtse River in Southwest China, the Tatu and the Mapien Rivers, will be harnessed to provide hydroelectric power on a large scale. This decision follows a joint three-month survey conducted by the Yangtse Water Conservancy Committee and the Southwest Hydroelectric Survey Bureau.

The Tatu is a large and torrential river and the Mapien is an important waterway leading inland from the borders of Sikang and Yunnan Provinces. Though only 7 kilometres apart, at their nearest point, the two rivers have a difference of 80 metres in water levels. If linked up by tunnel, the powerful flow of water produced can be profitably used to produce hydroelectric power.

Plans are also being made to improve these two rivers for transport, to eliminate floods and develop the rich mineral resources in their valleys. Five sites have been selected for the building of dams.

Save the Rosenbergs

Since the U.S. court fixed the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for the week of June 15, decent people throughout the world are redoubling their efforts to save the innocent couple. "The legal murder of the Rosenbergs, at a moment when people throughout the world, including the American people, are raising their voices for peace, clearly reflects the fear and hatred of the U.S. ruling circles have for peace," writes the Peking *People's Daily* in its June 2 editorial, calling for fresh efforts to make justice triumph.

Letters protesting against this intended murder have been flooding into the Chinese press in the last few days. Workers, peasants, students, businessmen, writers, artists and housewives are among those who have written, collectively or individually, supporting the world-wide protest movement.

Chinese professors and staff members of universities strongly support the struggle of American educators and the American people for the release of the Rosenbergs. The faculties of Peking University and Peking Agricultural University and 33 professors of biology of 25 universities, who are currently in Peking have issued statements expressing their support.

CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

May 22

Notes on implementing the plan for Sino-Bulgarian cultural co-operation in 1953 are exchanged.

Notes on implementing the plan for Sino-Hungarian cultural co-operation for 1953 were exchanged in Peking on May 19, Hsinhua News Agency reports.

May 23

The second anniversary of the peaceful liberation of Tibet is celebrated.

May 25

The Korean armistice negotiation meetings are resumed after an 8-day recess requested by the U.S. side. They recommended that both delegations enter into executive session, and the Korean-Chinese side agreed.

A Sino-Polish trade and payments agreement for 1953 is signed in Peking.

June 1

International Children's Day is celebrated in China.

June 3

The Buddhist Association of China is established in Peking.

June 5

A Sino-Finnish barter and payments agreement for 1953 is signed in Peking.

A trade agreement between the China National Import and Export Corporation and the French Trade Delegation headed by De Plas is signed in Peking.



Reading Grandpa the News

Drawing by Chiang Chao-wu