

# PEOPLE'S CHINA



## CONTENTS

The Socialist Industrialization of China . . . . .	<i>Tseng Wen-ching</i>
Trade in the National Minority Regions . . . . .	<i>Ma Ming-lo</i>
New Life for the Peasants of Nanhui County . . . . .	<i>Li Chung</i>
Cultivating New Writers . . . . .	<i>Wang Ching-shan</i>
The Party Secretary in the Workshop . . . . .	<i>Wang Ping</i>
Sian — A Changing City . . . . .	<i>Chien Feng</i>
Their First Tractor . . . . .	<i>Lu Ying</i>
The Origin and Development of Chinese Script . . . . .	<i>Chen Meng-chia</i>
CHINA TODAY . . . . .	

FORTNIGHTLY

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Bringing New Year  
Greetings to the  
Family of a People's  
Liberation Armyman

*A painting in  
Chinese ink by  
Liu Tze-chiu*

# The Socialist Industrialization Of China

Tseng Wen-ching

**F**OLLOWING the victory of the people's revolution and the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese people have entered on a new historical period—the period of the transition from New Democracy to Socialism. During this period, the foremost task is the gradual Socialist industrialization of the country.

The work of industrializing China is beset with unusual difficulties because of the backward and weak industrial structure inherited from the past. In old China, industry accounted for only about 10 per cent of the whole national economy. Light industries predominated and such heavy industry as there was, was colonial in character. Many of old China's biggest heavy industrial enterprises were controlled by the imperialists who developed them only to provide themselves with large supplies of iron ore, coal and other industrial raw materials. They built some steel plants in China, but only because they wanted to exploit China's metallurgical resources for their own military needs and considered that it was to their own advantage to smelt Chinese ores on the spot.

The uneven development of industry in China under imperialist domination resulted in a very abnormal situation: the supply of iron ore was greater than the blast furnaces could cope with; the supply of pig iron was greater than the needs of the country's steel industry; while even the small supply of steel was more than the rolling mills could handle. The machine-building industry, the most important of all branches of industry, was most

backward of all. According to 1933 statistics, the output of the machine-building industry was valued at less than 20 million yuan (in terms of the Kuomintang currency, the exchange value of which, at that time, was 3.30 yuan to one U.S. dollar). And most of the machine-building enterprises were not actually engaged in the production of machines; they were limited to repair and assembly work. There were no big, modern industrial plants producing machine tools, automobiles, tractors or heavy-type machines, not to mention complete sets of equipment for any industry.

## Aim of Socialist Industrialization

By Socialist industrialization, the people of China aim to bring about a radical change in their whole national economy, and in the first place in industry—to transform China into a powerful industrialized Socialist state. This means, concretely, to expand the proportion of industry in China's national economy from about 28 per cent in 1952 to 70 per cent; to socialize all the modern industries (the Socialist sector at present amounts to only 50 per cent of all modern industry); to increase the proportion of heavy industry from 44 per cent to 60 per cent of all industry; and to considerably increase the per capita output of industrial goods. Only then will China, by its own efforts, be able to produce the new technical equipment that is needed for the reorganization and transformation of its whole national economy.

The programme of industrialization now being undertaken by the Chinese people is

Socialist in character because it is designed to raise the material and cultural level of the whole people. It has nothing in common with capitalist industrialization which enriches the few and impoverishes the many.

In industrializing their country, the Chinese people hold to the following principles:

### **Priority for Heavy Industry**

ONE. The keynote of Socialist industrialization is the development of heavy industry; this will provide a firm foundation for the industrialization of the country and the modernization of China's national defence. Only when China possesses her own heavy industry can she provide other branches of industry, communications and transport, as well as agriculture, with the equipment needed for their development and reorganization.

The capitalist countries began with the development of light industry, and the process of industrialization in these cases took from 50 to 100 years. The Socialist industrialization of the Soviet Union, on the contrary, began with the creation of a heavy industry and was successfully achieved in about ten years. In carrying out the Socialist industrialization of their country, the Chinese people will follow the example of the Soviet Union, and will certainly complete their task in a comparatively short space of time.

While concentrating their main efforts on the development of heavy industry, the Chinese people will, at the same time, correspondingly develop communications and transport, light industry, agriculture, trade, culture and education. Without this, the expansion of heavy industry would itself be impossible, not to speak of the industrialization of the country and the improvement of the people's living standards.

In expanding the national economy, a certain ratio must be maintained between the output of capital goods and that of consumption goods, to ensure that the rate of growth of capital goods production is greater than that of consumption goods. This means that the rate of growth of the output of the means of

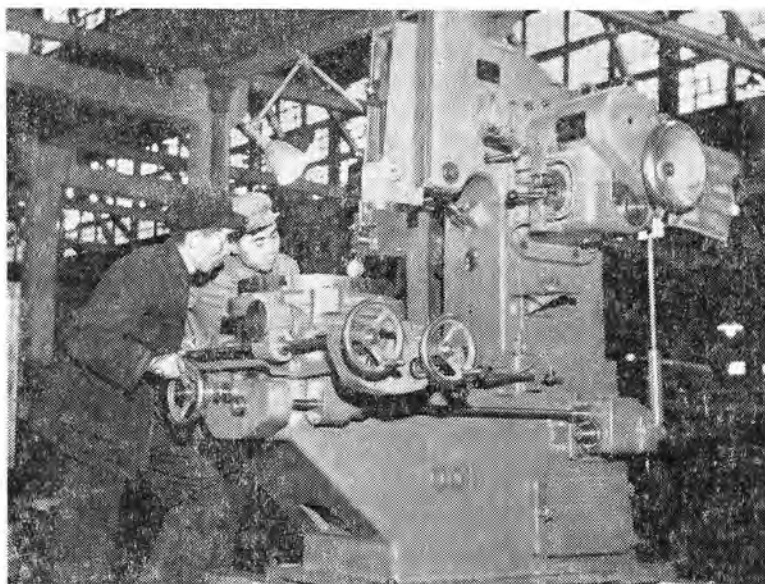
production (capital goods) must conform to the needs of the expanding reproduction of the economy and secure the constant accumulation of national wealth, while the rate of growth of the production of consumers' goods must facilitate the gradual improvement of the standard of living of the people.

### **Growth of Socialist Sector**

TWO. To carry through the Socialist industrialization of the country, China must in the first place ensure the steady growth of the Socialist sector of the national economy. Only in this way can the steady development of the people's democracy be achieved and a firm material foundation be laid for China's transition to Socialism.

The Chinese people are accordingly giving priority to the development of state-owned industry, communications and transport, and of state and cooperative trading. At the same time, they have embarked on the task of gradually bringing about the Socialist transformation of agriculture, handicraft production and private capitalist industry and commerce. All these measures are designed to facilitate the steady growth of the Socialist sector of the national economy.

In order to develop the state-owned industry which is Socialist in character, the Chinese people are devoting their main energies and means to building new industrial enterprises and will expand and strengthen the leading role played by the Socialist sector in the national economy. At the same time, they are working hard to expand and reconstruct existing enterprises. This is because they know that for some considerable time, these enterprises will play the main role in the production of industrial equipment and goods as well as in serving the construction and development of new industrial enterprises through the provision of technical assistance, machines and equipment, qualified cadres and technical workers, and to a certain extent, the capital needed to finance them. In 1952, sixty per cent of China's modern industrial output came from its state-owned industries. Final figures for 1953 have not yet been released, but it was planned that the total value of the output of state-owned industry in that year would be



**Making a final check on a new type of automatic slotting machine built to a Soviet design by workers of the Changsha State-owned Machine-Tool Factory**

increased by 29.4 per cent compared with 1952.

Great successes have also been achieved in the development of the country's state-owned communications and transport, as well as state and cooperative trade. The Socialist sector is growing steadily in all branches of the national economy.

China's Socialist industry is the material basis for the Socialist transformation of her national economy and also its leading force. On the other hand, the development of agriculture and handicraft production along cooperative lines as well as the Socialist transformation of private industry and commerce will in turn facilitate the development of the Socialist industrialization of the country.

### **Worker-Peasant Alliance**

**THREE.** In the process of carrying out the Socialist industrialization of the country, the alliance of the workers and the peasants must be ceaselessly consolidated. Socialist industrialization differs essentially from capitalist industrialization. It seeks to achieve its ends not by the exploitation of agriculture by industry, not by the exploitation of the countryside by the city, but on the basis of mutual support and mutual benefit.

The foremost task in the consolidation of the worker-peasant alliance is the further development of both industrial and agricultural production and, on this basis, the expansion of the circulation of goods and the strengthening of the economic ties between the city and the countryside.

China is paying great attention to the development of agriculture and particularly to the expansion of grain production. It is only by this means that the living standards of the peasantry can be gradually raised, that a steady supply of industrial raw materials can be assured, that the market for industrial goods can be expanded, providing the

means and stimulus for industrial development, and that the production of marketable grain can be expanded to meet the needs of the urban and industrial areas.

The production of grain in China has increased considerably over pre-liberation days. But its production will be increased still more rapidly in the future. By the end of the first five-year plan, it is planned to produce 30 per cent more grain than in 1952. In the period of the second five-year plan, when industry can provide agriculture with large numbers of tractors and adequate amounts of chemical fertilizer and other agricultural aids, grain production will be increased at a still more rapid rate. After the completion of two five-year plans or a little longer, it is estimated that China will be able to produce annually 275 million to 300 million metric tons of unprocessed grain. This represents a 70 per cent increase over the total grain production in 1952. The annual per capita grain consumption will then be about 500 kilogrammes.

### **To Raise Living Standards**

**FOUR.** The realization of the Socialist industrialization of the country will guarantee rising standards of material and cultural life for the working people on the basis of expand-

ing production. The capitalist method of industrialization, which means industrialization at the cost of lowering the standards of material and cultural life of the working people, is incompatible with the political and economic system of People's China.

The first five-year plan stipulates a rate of growth of labour productivity greater than that of the rise in wages. This will ensure the accumulation of capital for the state for the further development of industry and the building up of state stocks. This policy is in complete accord with the basic interests of the working people.

China's first five-year plan, however, provides both for the expansion of production and are accompanying the improvement of the people's material and cultural life. Thus, the purchasing power of the Chinese people increased by about 20 per cent in 1953 as compared with 1952. The rise in the workers' standard of living is an important factor in mobilizing the masses of people to take an active part in national construction and to develop their creative initiative in productive work.

The Socialist industrialization of China is being carried out under conditions inherited from the past in which both the national economy and culture were backward. Moreover, it must begin with the development of heavy industry. In undertaking this great task, therefore, the Chinese people are faced with many exceedingly difficult problems. But they are courageously dealing with these difficulties and are confident that nothing can stop their advance.

### **Rich Resources**

China has very rich and varied mineral resources. This has been confirmed by the results of geological surveys made in 1953, which indicate that these resources are sufficient to supply all the needs of the country's industrialization and the all-round development of industry and the whole national economy.

The capital needed for the country's industrialization comes mainly from the funds accumulated by the state-owned industries

through increasing production and the practice of economy. However, since the proportion of state-owned industries in the national economy is still not large, it is also necessary in the early stage of industrialization to accumulate capital from other sources. These include other branches of the Socialist sector such as transport, domestic and foreign trade, etc., as well as receipts from the agricultural tax and taxes on industry and commerce, and from issues of domestic bonds.

In the 1953 state budget, profits and taxes paid by state-owned enterprises and cooperatives made up 59.79 per cent of total revenue, while proceeds from the agricultural tax amounted to only 14.56 per cent. Taxes paid by private industrial and commercial enterprises amounted to 22.36 per cent of the receipts.

### **Cadres for Industry**

In carrying out Socialist industrialization, the Chinese people have to exert considerable efforts to solve another difficult question: that of training leading personnel for industrial management and construction. The ranks of industrial leaders, engineers and technical personnel are growing daily. They have been reinforced, first of all, by the revolutionary cadres who, following the victory of the revolution, were transferred in large numbers from the countryside and the people's armed forces to work in the cities and in industry. These cadres have quickly mastered business management and industrial techniques, developing rapidly into competent leaders of industrial construction.

The workers and technicians of the existing industrial enterprises constitute the second source of reinforcements for such leading personnel. Since the liberation, many of the veteran workers have developed greater creative initiative and are now playing an important role in production, in the rationalization movement in all plants and factories and in the training of new industrial cadres. Between the founding of the People's Republic of China and April, 1953, over 120,000 workers were promoted to positions of managerial and technical responsibility in various branches of industry throughout the country. An increas-

ing number of advanced workers will be promoted to such leading positions in the future.

As a result of the intensive education given them by the Party and the People's Government, the technical personnel who worked in the country's plants and mines before the liberation have become more politically conscious and patriotic. They now have unprecedented opportunities to develop their abilities and apply their talents to the development and improvement of production.

The industrialization of China is on an extremely large scale and a great number of leading cadres is needed. The training of these new industrial cadres, therefore, is a serious and important task. To keep pace with the development of industry, and particularly heavy industry, the first five-year plan makes special provisions for such training. Various methods are used. In addition to the regular schools, various short-term classes have been established to train workers without taking them from production. This constitutes the third source of supply of leading industrial personnel.

### **Soviet Aid**

Socialist industrialization has tremendous significance for the future of China. Conscious of this the Chinese people are exerting their utmost efforts to ensure its success. At the same time, one of the most important conditions for the successful realization of China's industrialization is the assistance given to the Chinese people by the Soviet Union.

Soviet aid to China in industrial construction is selflessly given on a large scale and on a long-term, comprehensive basis. The Soviet Government has agreed to assist China in the construction and reconstruction of 141 big projects including iron and steel plants, non-ferrous metallurgical enterprises, coal mines, oil refineries, machine-building plants, automobile and tractor plants, and power stations. With the completion of these enterprises, China will have her own heavy industry, and a firm foundation for her industrialization.

The theories of Lenin and Stalin on Socialist industrialization and the practical experience of the Soviet Union in carrying out

Socialist industrialization guide the Chinese people as they industrialize their own country. The Chinese people are giving serious study to advanced Soviet experience and Soviet science and technique. Soviet assistance has helped them to overcome many difficulties in the path to industrialization. An important role in this regard is also played by the support given by the various People's Democracies.

### **Good Start Made**

The Chinese people have only just begun their work of Socialist industrialization, but they have made a good start in this great task. In the short period of three years and more since the victory of the revolution in 1949 up to 1952, they have successfully completed the work of economic rehabilitation. Annual production in all the main industrial and agricultural products surpassed the prewar peaks.

In 1953, the Chinese people launched their first five-year plan of national economic construction, and they have achieved great new successes. According to preliminary figures, the total 1953 value of the output of state-owned, joint state and private, and cooperatively operated industrial enterprises was 106 per cent of the state plan. This is a 34 per cent increase over the corresponding figure for 1952. Advancing on the basis of these achievements, the Chinese people are working to fulfil and overfulfil the state production plan of the second year of the first five-year plan. The total value of industrial output in 1954 will be about 17 per cent more than that of 1953. This in its turn will create favourable conditions for industrial construction in the future.

Under the brilliant leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Central People's Government and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, and with the assistance of the Soviet Union, the Chinese people will, with their own labour, certainly complete the Socialist industrialization of their country. China will then be transformed into a great, Socialist industrial country and one of the most advanced in the world. She will then be able to make still greater contributions in the struggle for peace and democracy and the cause of Socialism.

# Trade in the National Minority Regions

Ma Ming-lo

THE Kuolo Region lies on the borders of Chinghai, Szechuan and Sikang Provinces. It is inhabited by Tibetans, who, for scores of years before the liberation, were cut off from any contact with the outside world and lived a life of extreme hardship.

In May, 1950, the people of this remote region got the best of news: the bloody rule of their oppressor, Ma Pu-fang, the notorious Kuomintang gangster, had been brought to an end, and with him too went the Teh Hsing Hai, his racketeering commercial organization which had robbed the people by buying their local products dirt cheap and selling them manufactured goods at exorbitant prices.

## New Way of Doing Business

It was not long after the establishment of the local people's government that the people of the Kuolo Region got their first experience of trading with the newly established state-owned trading organizations. It soon convinced them that their new way of doing business was wholly in the interests of the people.

When they first heard that a state-owned store had opened in Huangyuan in northern Chinghai, over forty members of an isolated Kuolo village went there with wool, butter and cow-hides which they had prepared to sell. They brought the wool thinking that this would just pay their travelling expenses, but to their surprise, when they sold it to the state shop they got in exchange 40,000 pounds of tsinko\* and vermicelli and rice, 100 bolts of cotton cloth and 50 packs of tea. This was something unheard of. In the past the swindling purchasing agents of Ma Pu-fang's commercial organizations would often demand a

whole sheep in exchange for a cheap cigarette holder. After having profitably disposed of their goods, the Kuolo herdsmen were invited to visit the chairman of the local people's government. This was an invitation which at first caused them some uneasiness. In the old days a visit to a government dignitary meant inevitably that they would have to present him with expensive gifts. But their fears were soon dispelled. The chairman of the people's government not only refused to accept presents from them but, on the contrary, gave them many presents which the Central People's Government's recent goodwill mission to the national minorities had brought for them. Such solicitude, after the ruthless oppression they had suffered in the past, deeply moved them.

This is only one typical illustration of how, from the very day of its inception, the People's Government has been doing its best in helping the national minorities develop their economy and culture. As an important part of this work, it has established a network of state-owned trading organizations. By the end of 1952 the Government had already established a number of special companies and about 1,300 stores, purchasing stations, agencies and processing factories in the regions inhabited by the national minorities. The Government also selected 14,500 experienced trading cadres and sent them to work in these regions; while another 3,600 cadres were trained for this work from among the national minority peoples themselves. The number of state-owned trading organizations and cadres was further increased in 1953. In the first six months of 1953 no less than 183 new trading organizations were established in the national minority regions in the Southwest alone.

The state-owned trading organizations have also organized a considerable number

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\* A kind of green rye.



of mobile trading teams to serve remote districts in the sparsely inhabited regions of the national minorities. The Kazakh Jehomaitula leads one such team. It serves the people living in the Altai Mountains in the extreme north of Sinkiang Province. Most of these people are Kazakh herdsmen, the rest are Uighur, Mongolian and Hui peasants or herdsmen. This is a remote district. The nearest town is 200 kilometres away. The inhabitants formerly had great difficulty in trading their produce for the daily necessities they need. Jehomaitula's team was formed in the spring of 1952. It is composed of four members whose task is to provide a regular supply of daily necessities to the people of 19 mountain villages. The team quickly put its work on a smooth running basis. When the people of the Kekesun district ran short of grain and seed last spring, Jehomaitula's team quickly brought them fresh supplies. When the herdsmen of the Alahake pastures needed tea, the team was able to quickly satisfy their needs. These mobile teams also purchase agricultural and animal husbandry products from the local inhabitants at fair prices. Before liberation one sheepskin could only command one-sixth of a catty\* of tea, but now it can be sold to a travelling team for 28,000 yuan, which is enough to buy half a catty of tea, two catties of kerosene and a box of matches. Members of the travelling teams serve the villages all the year round. Under extremely difficult natural conditions, they work with such enthusiasm that it has earned for them the respect and admiration of all the peasants and herdsmen of the area.

### Trade Volume Increased

Similar mobile trading teams have been organized in other national minority regions. The Tulan, Chinghai Province, mobile trading team covered several hundred kilometres to bring daily necessities to and purchase wool stocks from the Tibetans in the Chumalai

\*One catty equals 500 grammes.



The people of Chehli, capital of Hsishuangpanna Tai Autonomous Region in Yunnan Province, greet the first trucks to open regular traffic on the Kunming-Chehli section of the Kunming-Talo Highway—the first highway ever built to their area—on December 16, 1953

area, which had long been isolated from the outside world.

The staff members of the state-owned trading organizations have worked devotedly to fulfil the task entrusted them by the People's Government—to develop trade in the national minority regions. As a result, there was a 53 per cent increase in the total value of purchases in 1952 as compared with 1951, and an increase of 95 per cent in the amount of goods distributed. These advances were continued in 1953. In Szechuan, Kweichow and Sikang Provinces, there was an increase of 48 per cent in the total value of purchases in the first half of 1953 as compared with the corresponding period of 1952 and the amount of goods distributed was increased by 64 per cent.

To facilitate trade and better serve the people, the state-owned trading organizations have also helped the various national minority peoples to restore their old fairs as well as establish new ones. They have also encouraged local merchants to actively participate in the trading of local products. In 1951, a fair was established in Chaochueh County, in the Yi Autonomous Region of Liangshan, Sikang Province. This was the first re-

gular fair ever held in that area. No longer do the Yi people have to make long arduous journeys over mountains and rivers to the cities to make their ordinary purchases and sales; the state-owned trading organizations now bring large amounts of salt, cotton goods, grain and agricultural implements and other daily necessities to the fair where they also make their purchases of local Yi products.

### **Honest Service**

In the Kuomintang days, it was a common practice among the merchants to cheat their customers—by giving them short weight or measurements and selling them bad goods at exorbitant prices. All that has been ended. Trading personnel of the state trading organizations give meticulously honest service in trade with the people. There are hosts of facts showing the people's unflinching trust in state trading. After selling their goods to the state trading companies, many of them do not think it necessary even to count the money received. Experience has convinced them of the scrupulous honesty of the cadres in the state trading companies.

Thanks to the People's Government's concern over the national minorities and to the industry of the staff members of the state-owned trading organizations, trade in the national minority regions is helping the steady advance in the welfare of the people.

The implementation of a trade policy which is beneficial to the national minorities and the activities of the wide network of state trading companies that has now been established have helped to raise both the quality and quantity of the products of agriculture and animal husbandry of the national minority peoples as well as the special native products produced in those areas. In pre-liberation days, many herdsmen would not even shear their sheep, as there was no available market for wool. Valuable products like sheep's intestines were sometimes either thrown away or used to feed the dogs. Now they can get fair prices from the state for as much of these products as they can procure. This has quite naturally stimulated their efforts to increase the production of such livestock products. In Inner Mongolia, produce from animal husbandry showed a steady decline year after year before the liberation. By 1952, however, there

was a more than 100 per cent increase in production as compared with the situation at the time of liberation. By 1953, in Sinkiang Province there was an increase of 143 per cent in the production of hides as compared with pre-liberation days, a 230 per cent increase in furs of various kinds and a 259 per cent increase in animal casings. In the past, only 75 to 85 per cent of the processed fur in Sinkiang Province reached international standards of quality; in 1952, all furs processed reached that standard. The national minority areas in Southwest China increased the number of special native products that they export from 23 categories to more than 150. Some of them, like musk and certain medicinal herbs, cannot keep pace with the demand.

### **Tea for Tibetans**

The People's Government pays constant attention to the needs of the national minorities, and through the state trading companies, sees that they are adequately supplied with all the goods they need. The rulers of old China turned to their own advantage the fact that tea is one of the necessary and favourite drinks of the minority peoples inhabiting the high Sikang-Tibet Plateau. The Kuomintang bureaucratic capitalists organized in 1939 the Sikang-Tibet Tea Company in Sikang Province to monopolize the tea trade in that region. To secure their monopoly, they placed patrols on the passes on Erhlang Mountain and on Tahsiang Ridge, and strictly prohibited the importation of tea seedlings or seeds into the area. The Tibetans were thus prohibited from planting tea themselves and were compelled to buy it from the Company at excessively high prices. As a result, many poor Tibetans could not afford to drink the tea which they needed to make up deficiencies in their diet and were obliged to use tree leaves as poor substitutes.

In 1950, when the People's Liberation Army entered Sikang, the state trading companies immediately sent a large amount of tea to the areas inhabited by the Tibetans. Tea seeds and seedlings were also supplied to encourage the Tibetans to plant tea themselves. As a result of these efforts the price of tea dropped sharply and the Tibetans are now able to get enough tea for their needs at very cheap prices.

In trading with the national minorities, the state trading companies strictly adhere to the principle of exchange of equal values. In order to stimulate production, the prices of native products have, in general, been raised. Some are now three or four times the old price, and a number more than ten times. At the same time the prices of manufactured goods have been considerably reduced. All this has substantially increased the purchasing power of the national minorities.

The development of local production and this increase of purchasing power has resulted in an increasingly brisk market. The national minority peoples are extending their purchases beyond mere daily necessities—foodstuffs, salt, tea and cloth. The Tibetans in Sikang Province, for instance, are now buying silk fabrics, drill, serge, cigarettes and toilet soap made in Shanghai.

The scene at the fairs is also very different from what it was in the past. Over 160,000 people of various nationalities came to the "March Fair" held in Tali County, Yunnan Province, in the spring of 1953. They included Tibetan merchants from Tibet, Tuchia, Minchias, Yis, Huis and Mohsiehs as well as herdsmen and peasants of the Han nationality living in Sikang and the western parts of Yunnan. During the fair, the Tibetans alone bought more than a hundred thousand catties of tea. Over 1,500 bolts of cloth were sold by a shop in Kunming (Yunnan Province) in a day and

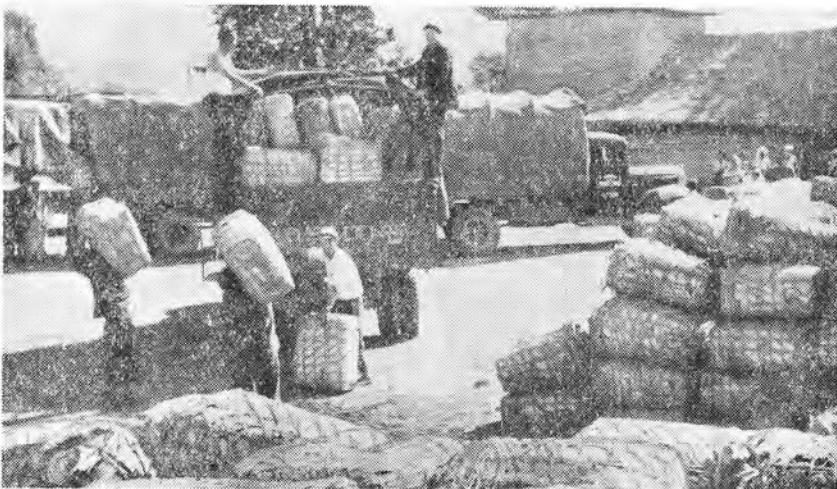
a half. Two stores in the same city also sold two hundred wrist watches in a single day.

The state trading companies supplying the national minorities are also increasing their assortment of goods to keep pace with the growing demands of their clients. Aside from foodstuffs, cloth, and other daily necessities, other kinds of consumer goods are also provided.

### Improved Well-being

The herdsmen on the Mongolian steppes can now get tools such as sheep shears and the beautiful embroideries and worked leather boots that they delight to wear. Herdsmen in the Altai Mountain region, who in the past lived only in *yurts* (felt tents), have now bought building materials from the state-owned stores and built themselves permanent houses. Mongolian girls who had never seen modern mirrors in the past have bought many mirrors from the state-owned stores. Some of the Tunghsiang people in Kansu Province who, for several generations past, could not afford to buy cotton goods in the old days, are now clad in warm cotton-padded clothes. The Tibetan herdsmen living on the southern foothills of the Kunlun Mountains are no longer satisfied with the ordinary chinaware they used to treasure in the past; they want to buy the world-renowned chinawares produced in Chingtehcheng, Kiangsi Province. All these are pointers to the fact that the material and cultural well-being of the national minorities is steadily advancing.

Chulchi, a Tibetan of Kweitech County, spoke for these many millions when he said: "Ma Pu-fang took our very clothes from us, while Chairman Mao clothes us. Chairman Mao is the sun, shining on us warmly." It was a poetic way of paying tribute to the Communist Party of China and Chairman Mao Tse-tung for leading the various nationalities of China into the light of a new day.



These trucks, bringing farm tools, sewing machines, salt, and other necessities to the Tai people, opened traffic on the Kunming-Talo Highway

# New Life for the Peasants of Nanhui County

Li Chung

IN the little over four years since the liberation, the peasants of Nanhui County, Kiangsu Province, like all the other peasants of China, have achieved substantial successes in raising their standards of living and their cultural level.

Nanhui County, southeast of Shanghai, is an ordinary Chinese county south of the Yangtze River. It has a population of 420,000 people, 400,000 of whom are peasants. It was liberated in May, 1949. The warm climate and fertile soil of the County provide favourable conditions for farming, and the peasants cultivate rice, cotton, wheat and other crops.

The peasants of Nanhui County have rid themselves of poverty, the spectre that constantly haunted them in the past. Their living standards are now rising with each passing year. They can afford to eat rice every day, and often have fish and meat. They have put on new clothes and many have built new homes for themselves. Nothing of all this existed for them under Kuomintang rule.

## What Land Reform Gave

As a result of the land reform, the landless and land-poor peasants of the County received 250,000 *mou*\* of land. Before the land reform, these peasants of Nanhui had to give

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The author is the secretary of the Nanhui County (Kiangsu Province) Committee of the Communist Party of China.

\* One *mou* is one-fifteenth of a hectare or one-sixth of an acre.

the landlords an average of eight *tou*\* of rice for each *mou* of rented land. They used to pay the landlords 200,000 piculs of rice annually for the land they rented. Now that the land reform has been carried out, they no longer have to pay anything to the landlords. These 200,000 piculs of rice that they used to give the landlords each year are now theirs to be disposed of as they wish—and a picul of rice is sufficient to feed a peasant for five months.

The peasants are now tilling their own land and they do what they like with the grain that they harvest, with the exception of a little over 10 per cent of it which they give the state as agricultural tax. This has immensely enhanced their enthusiasm for production, which is one of the vital factors of increased production in Nanhui County since the liberation. The annual increase in the crops of rice, wheat and cotton raised by the peasants of the County is valued at 77,024,150,000 yuan, an increase which averages 960,000 yuan for each peasant household.

The land reform smashed the chains that retarded the development of the productive forces in the countryside. The decisive factor in the development of agricultural production now is the movement for mutual aid and cooperation. Mutual-aid teams and agricultural producers' cooperatives are the two forms of productive organization among the peasants of the County. Some of the mutual-aid teams

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\* One *tou* is one-tenth of a picul, which is equal to a hectolitre.

represent the simplest form of mutual aid; others are a more developed form of mutual aid, as mutual aid extends not only to agriculture but to subsidiary occupations as well. These teams work out simple production plans, gradually improve agricultural techniques and devise the simplest form of divisions of labour. Some of these teams buy farm tools and draught animals in common, thus creating a certain amount of collective property.

The characteristic feature of the agricultural producers' cooperatives—which also possess some of the more important characteristics of mutual-aid teams—is that they are based on the members pooling shares of land and the pooled land is used collectively. This form of cooperative makes it possible to cultivate the land on a unified plan, to make best use of the land by planting the most suitable crops and by rationalizing the division of labour still more effectively.

### Organized Peasants' Bigger Yields

The experience of Nanhui County proves that mutual aid and cooperation greatly benefit the peasants and sharply increase their income. It also proves that the harvests gathered by mutual-aid teams are much bigger than those raised by individual peasants, while the cooperatives gather even richer harvests than the mutual-aid teams.

Let us compare, for example, the yield of the fields cultivated by the mutual-aid team led by Sung Chia-chiao, Changkou *hsiang*, and that of the fields cultivated by the individual peasant Yeh Chuan-sheng, a well-to-do middle peasant possessing 23 *mou* of land, a windmill and two pigs.

The mutual-aid team led by Sung Chia-chiao was organized in April, 1951, by 13 households possessing 148 *mou* of land.

The average yield (in catties\*) per *mou* of the land cultivated by the mutual-aid team and by Yeh Chuan-sheng is given below:

1951	Mutual-aid team	Yeh Chuan-sheng
Cotton . . . . .	60	50
Rice . . . . .	320	350
Wheat . . . . .	120	100
	* * *	

\* One catty is equal to 500 grammes.

1952		
Cotton . . . . .	85	65
Rice . . . . .	450	400
Wheat . . . . .	200	150
	* * *	
1953		
Cotton . . . . .	120	80
Rice . . . . .	440	380
Wheat . . . . .	255	200
	* * *	
Average for three years 1951—1953		
Cotton . . . . .	88	65
Rice . . . . .	403	376
Wheat . . . . .	191	150

This table shows us that the mutual-aid team harvested considerably more than Yeh Chuan-sheng. If we take the average for the past three years, we see that individual peasant Yeh Chuan-sheng collected 23 catties of cotton, 27 catties of rice and 41 catties of wheat less than the mutual-aid team on each *mou* of cultivated land.

Agricultural producers' cooperatives in general gathered even bigger harvests than mutual-aid teams. For instance, the agricultural producers' cooperative headed by Chin Yen-ken at Yentsang *hsiang* raised an average of 550 catties of rice on each *mou* of land in 1953. This is 20 per cent more than the amount raised by the mutual-aid team and 30 per cent more than that raised by individual peasants in the locality.

The fields owned by the agricultural producers' cooperative headed by Chin Yen-ken border on the fields of the mutual-aid team led by Fan Yen-chin. The cooperative gathered an average of 550 catties of rice per *mou*, while the mutual-aid team reaped only 471 catties. The cooperative gathered 20 per cent more cotton than the mutual-aid team.

### More Peasants Get Organized

Nanhui County was liberated later than many other areas, but in 1953 it already had 7,967 mutual-aid teams and two agricultural producers' cooperatives, and their combined membership constitutes 56 per cent of all the peasant households in the County. According to 1954 plans, the number of mutual-aid teams will increase to 8,900, and the number of agricultural producers' cooperatives to 40. The

number of peasant households organized will then embrace 70.8 per cent of the total in the County.

The People's Government has given substantial assistance to the peasants of Nanhui County ever since the liberation.

In the past, under the reactionary Kuomintang rule, landless and land-poor peasants who fell into difficulties were compelled to resort for help to usurers, and this was invariably the first step on the road to ruin. The fate of Wang Lai-ken, a peasant of Shuyuan *hsiang*, was a typical example.

One spring, Wang Lai-ken borrowed at high interest a sum of 15,000 KMT yuan from the merchant Huang Chih-ching to buy a cow. When Wang Lai-ken harvested his wheat, its price dropped considerably on the well-stocked market, and he found that he would have to repay the merchant 15 piculs of wheat. Wang did not have such an amount of wheat to spare. He was therefore unable to repay the debt then and so put all his hopes in the rice harvest. But when the newly-harvested rice reached the market, its price also dropped: one catty of rice was worth only one catty of wheat. Thus the rice crop betrayed his hopes and so did the cotton crop after it. By this time, compound interest had increased the debt to the value of 30 piculs of cotton. Wang Lai-ken found himself in increasingly desperate straits. In the upshot, that winter, the merchant took Wang Lai-ken's last 3 *mou* of land and almost all his furniture and utensils. Wang was then forced to work as a farmhand; his wife got herself a job as a nurse maid; his child was temporarily cared for by other people. Thus, the usurer who had lent Wang Lai-ken 15,000 yuan to buy a cow finally ruined him.

The victory of the revolution made the Chinese people the masters of their country. Now, whenever they find themselves in difficulties, the peasants receive timely assistance from their People's Government. In the course of the past three years, the peasants of Nanhui County have received such assistance to the value of 3,600 million yuan, which is equivalent to 18,000 piculs of rice.

The loans granted at low interest rates to the peasants by the People's Bank have enabled them to bring about a substantial rise in

production. Thus, Pan Han-chang, a peasant of Hsinan *hsiang* received a loan of 376,000 yuan in 1953, and with this bought fertilizer, insecticide and sprayers. As a result, he collected a much bigger harvest than before. In a period of three years ending in 1953, the People's Bank advanced a total of 54,000 million yuan in loans to the peasants of Nanhui County.

### Supply and Marketing Coops

The improvement in the living conditions of the peasants of Nanhui County is closely related to the work done by the supply and marketing cooperatives, which the state helped organize. These not only provide the peasants with all the essential means of production and consumption goods, but also buy their crops and other local products at reasonable prices.

How much these supply and marketing cooperatives benefit the peasants of Nanhui County may be seen in the case of Shen Lien-sheng, a peasant of Huangluchen Village. His family consists of four persons. In the past few years, Shen Lien-sheng has been getting all his necessities, such as vegetable oil, kerosene, salt, cigarettes, cloth, soya sauce, etc., at a supply and marketing cooperative. When he counted up his expenses at the end of the year, he found that these purchases at the cooperative had cost him 169,000 yuan less than he would have paid in buying them from a privately-owned shop.

The supply and marketing cooperatives play an important role in providing the peasants with the means of production. This is shown by the following figures, which also indicate how much the prices of farm tools sold by the supply and marketing cooperatives have been reduced:

Name of Farm Tool	Cost in Terms of Rice	
	1949 (before liberation)	1953
Mattock . . . . .	15 catties	10 catties
Hoe for loosening earth . . . . .	50 "	36.7 "
Hoe for weeding . . . . .	30 "	20.8 "
Scythe . . . . .	30 "	16.7 "
Sickle . . . . .	10 "	5.4 "

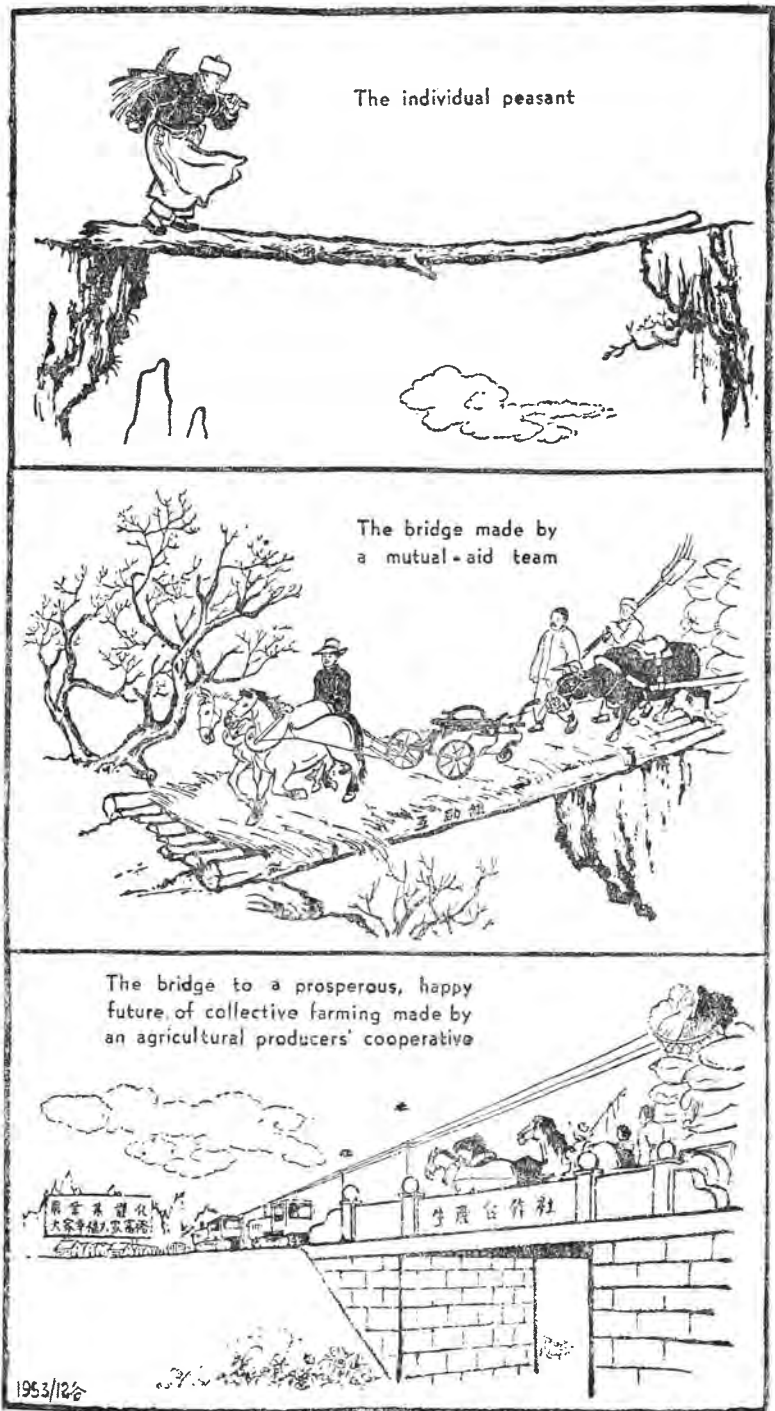
At these prices, the peasants of Nanhui County were able to save a total of 67,324 catties of rice last year.

The supply and marketing cooperatives buy the peasants' crops and the products of their subsidiary occupations at reasonable

prices. According to statistical data collected in Tsaolu *hsiang*, the supply and marketing co-operatives paid 157,600 yuan more than private merchants for a hog (on the hoof, weighing 200 catties), 26,000 yuan more for a picul of wheat and 111,400 yuan more for a picul of cotton.

Since their establishment in the last two years, the supply and marketing cooperatives in Nanhui County bought 617,593 piculs of wheat and 719,958 piculs of cotton. In 1952 and 1953, they bought 34,091 hogs. Thanks to this, the peasants have freed themselves from the clutches of speculating private merchants and have increased their income by more than 101,654 million yuan.

All these facts and figures illustrate the fundamental changes that have taken place in the economy of the villages in Nanhui County. They show that considerable improvements have been brought about in the living conditions of the peasants with resultant benefit to their cultural life.



**BRIDGES**—a cartoon showing the superiority of mutual-aid teams and cooperatives over individual farming

By Mi Ku In the "Liberation Daily," Shanghai

# Cultivating New Writers

Wang Ching-shan

IN 1950, a year after the liberation, the first study and training centre for young authors ever to exist in China's history, the Central Literary Research Institute, was founded in Peking. It was under the guidance of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The first class, which graduated last year, consisted of 53 young writers of an entirely new type. Seven of them were workers from the factories, two were peasants and 39 were revolutionary cadres, fighters and political workers of the People's Liberation Army.

At the end of 1953, the centre became the Literary Institute of the Union of Chinese Writers, the responsibility for it passing to the hands of that organization. Since its founding the main task of the Institute has been "to train young literary cadres capable of faithfully carrying out Comrade Mao Tse-tung's line on literature and art." This is the line of service to the workers, peasants and soldiers—the vast majority of the people.

## Studying Socialist Realism

The overwhelming majority of the graduates are new writers. Some had already shown their talents for writing and came on the recommendation of the Union of Chinese Writers. Others had been working in industry, agriculture and the army. As a rule, they had had rich experience of life and struggle but little or no chance to develop their literary and artistic talents. In the Institute, they enjoyed facilities both for self-education and improving their writing techniques. Under the guidance of leading figures in the Chinese literary world, among them the well-known writers Ting Ling, Chang Tien-yi and Tien Chien, they have been studying the theory of Socialist realism and familiarizing themselves with a large selection of outstanding literary works, Chinese and foreign, classic and contemporary.

The weekly schedule at the Institute includes regular hours of political studies on the basic theories of Marxism-Leninism, the works

of Mao Tse-tung and current policies of the Communist Party and the Central People's Government. At the same time a considerable portion of time is devoted to the study of classical Marxist-Leninist works on literature and art, including Mao Tse-tung's *Addresses at the Yen-an Forum on Literature and Art*. The purpose is to enable the students to apply Marxist-Leninist theory in their writing. Chou Yang, noted Chinese literary critic, has said on this subject: "If an author wishes to describe real life in his works, he must have not only experience of life but the faculty to observe, study, analyse and comprehend its different phenomena."

To give effective help to the young writers, systematic lectures on Socialist realism have been given by Chou Yang and other critics like Chen Chi-ya and Feng Hsueh-feng, writers like Ting Ling and poets like Ai Ching. The main part of the students' time is occupied by individual study, as well as collective discussions and actual creative work.

An important discussion, for instance, arose out of the criticism by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party of the film *The Life of Wu Hsun*. This film, which was made in 1951, erroneously ascribed a progressive character to a feudal "philanthropist" of the 19th century whose real objective was to divert the peasant movement of his day from its true aims. In the discussions on the film, the influence of bourgeois ideology in literary works was exposed, as were the wrong tendencies of abstract generalizing and writing by formula. Another collective discussion of great importance centred on the study of the section on the role of Soviet literature and art in Comrade Malenkov's *Report to the 19th Party Congress on the Work of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks)*.

## Learning From the Classics

The Institute devotes much attention to the history of literature—of Chinese classical



literature, Chinese new democratic literature since the May Fourth Movement of 1919, Soviet literature and world literature. China's ancient literary heritage is a splendid one; to absorb it critically is regarded as the responsibility of every writer in China today. The students, therefore, studied the classical works of each period from the *Book of Odes* (5th century B.C.) to the fiction written at the end of the Ching (Manchu) Dynasty (1664-1911). There was special concentration on the works of Lu Hsun, founder of the new Chinese literature. Among contemporary novelists, the students studied the works of Mao Tun, Ting Ling and others.

A six-week course was devoted to the outstanding classic *Shui Hu* (translated into English as *Water Margin* and *All Men Are Brothers*), written by Shih Nai-an during the Yuan (Mongol) Dynasty (1280-1368). Every student was required to read and study the novel carefully. The instructors also prepared an outline on the main questions to which attention was to be directed: the subject-matter of the book, its treatment of characters, its writing technique and its social significance as realistic literature. Then the outline was distributed to the students who re-read the book with special reference to the points it raised. A survey was also made of appraisals of *Shui Hu* given by Chinese writers and public figures. When all this had been done, discussions were held in small groups under the guidance of the instructors. Later, unsolved questions were passed on to a big group for a two-day discussion in which an important conclusion was drawn: that the main content of *Shui Hu* was the rebellion of the peasantry against the feudal ruling class and its realism flowed from the fact that the conflict between these two classes was the chief historic contradiction of the period and that the author took his stand with the working people, i.e., the peasantry.

In the course of this process, four lectures were delivered by Nieh Kan-nu, an authority on the book, concerning the main questions set



Students holding a group discussion in the courtyard of Peking's Literary Institute

forth in the outline, followed by another by the noted Marxist critic Feng Hsueh-feng, who spoke on "What we should learn from *Shui Hu*." Feng Hsueh-feng's lecture helped the students understand why the classics should be studied. Finally, each student summed up his own ideas under the heading: "What I Myself Have Learned From *Shui Hu*."

The works of the great poets Chu Yuan (340-278 B.C.) and Tu Fu (712-770) were also studied.

### Study of Contemporary Writing

Lu Hsun's *True Story of Ah Q* was another of the books that were seriously discussed.

In addition to the works of Chinese writers, the students' reading list included works of classical Russian writers and Soviet writers. Among them, *The Debacle* (also known as *The Nineteen*) by Fadeyev, *Storm* by Ehrenburg, *Harvest* by Nikolayeva and the poetical writings of Mayakovsky and Isakovsky were most popular with the students. This list also included the works of European and American writers: Shakespeare, Heine, Hugo, Whitman and others. The Institute has a library of more than 40,000 volumes, most of them literary works.

The young writers paid close attention to every new literary publication in China and other countries. They also made contact with writers from different parts of the world. Personal visits to the Institute were made by the Korean poet Han Sul Ya, the Brazilian novelist Jorge Amado and the writers Stephan Hermlin and Jan Petersen of democratic Germany. At the Union of Chinese Writers, the students also met the noted Soviet literary figures Ilya Ehrenburg and Nikolai Tikhonov, the Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet and the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda. These encounters left an indelible impression on them and greatly inspired them in their creative work.

All in all, these students were given facilities for work and study which Chinese writers of the past could not even dream of.

### New Type of Writers

All the graduates of the Institute are literary workers of a new type, coming from the masses of the people. Chao Chien, for instance, was an automobile repair worker for twenty years. He came to the Institute after having had several short stories printed in the trade-union paper *Workers' Daily*.

Among the graduates of the first class at the Institute was Chen Teng-ko, formerly a poor peasant who could hardly read or write. In 1940, Chen joined the New Fourth Army, which then operated in the rear of the Japanese lines in the lower Yangtze Valley. It was as a soldier of this revolutionary force that he became literate and began his career as an author. His novel, *The Living Hell*, describes the guerilla warfare of the people of northern Kiangsu Province, of which he is a native, in the period of the Liberation War.

Some of the other graduates had also written novels and short stories which have gained wide popularity. Hsu Kuang-yao's book, *Fire Over the Plain*, is an inspiring account of the bravery of the people's fighters in the central part of Hopei Province. Wang Hsueh-po's *Pao Shan Joins the Army* describes how the rural people rose to resist the invaders in the first phase of the Anti-Japanese War.

Ma Feng's story, *Marriage*, deals with the peasants' new life after liberation.

In their two years at the Institute, the writers made many trips to acquaint themselves with new developments in the life of the country. Some went to factories, some to villages, some to the Chinese People's Volunteers in Korea. Each of them was required to turn in a piece of creative writing each term. In the course of his studies, Chen Teng-ko completed a new novel, *Sons and Daughters Along the Huai River*, describing the people's guerilla struggle against the Kuomintang in that region. Wang Hsueh-po and Chang Hsueh-hsin collaborated on a play, *Gate No. 6*, dealing with the life of stevedores in Tientsin. This was later made into a successful film.

On graduating in March, 1953, all the young writers enthusiastically joined in the construction of their motherland. Chen Teng-ko went back to the Huai River where he had lived for many years during the war. He was amazed and overjoyed to see the great dams and other water-control works being built there for the people's benefit, and took up work as a political instructor of a construction team. Other graduates were dispatched to various construction sites of the first five-year plan and to the rural areas.

### Fresh Reinforcements

In September, 1953, a fresh group of students arrived. Malchinhu, from Inner Mongolia, is the author of the story *On the Kolchin Steppe*, which has won wide acclaim among readers. Chang Chih-min is a young poet of the People's Liberation Army. Ku Yu wrote the well-known short story *New Ways of Doing New Things*. Kuo Ting-hsuan is a young woman textile worker from Chungking.

The development of these fresh reinforcements on the literary front in New China confirms the words of Mao Tun, Chairman of the Union of Chinese Writers, who said at the All-China Conference of Writers and Artists last year that the future of Chinese literature depends mainly on the new writers emerging from the ranks of the workers, peasants and soldiers. To train and equip these reinforcements is the honourable task of the Institute. The young writers of New China have a clear understanding of the responsibility they are taking up. They will create works of Socialist realism which are worthy reflections of the realities of this great age.

## Workers and Peasants Get Together

As part of their celebrations at the traditional Spring Festival, China's workers and peasants arranged many friendly get-togethers which further strengthened their close, fraternal unity



Villagers give a warm welcome to a visiting delegation of Tientsin workers



A woman worker of the Tientsin State-owned No. 6 Cotton Mill explains her work to a group of peasants from the city's suburbs

A friendly discussion between members of an agricultural producers' cooperative in Laikuangying *hsiang* near Peking and workers from the North China General Agricultural Machinery Works

The Peking Industrial Model Workers' Delegation presents a new type of horse-drawn plough to the members of the Yin Wei-chen Vegetable Producers' Cooperative



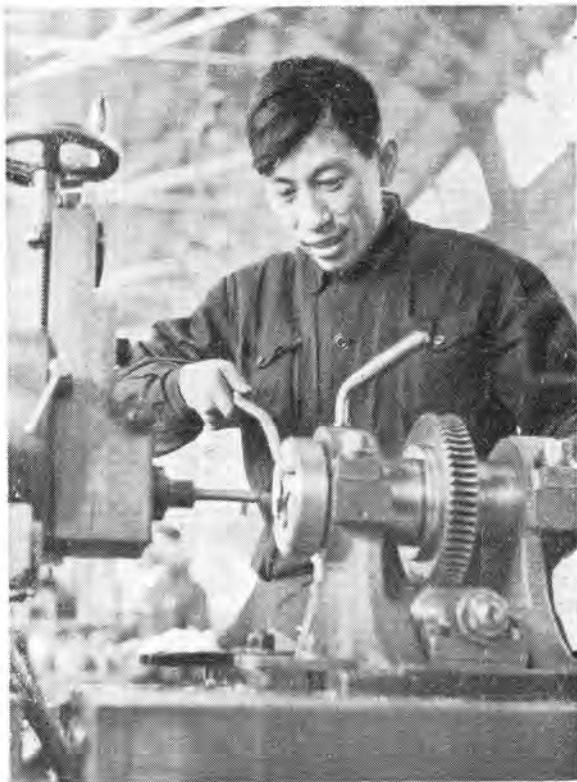


Workers completing installations in the foundry of the State-owned Chingwei Textile Machinery Works in North China, the first up-to-date works of their kind in China. They finished their work 10 days ahead of schedule

# ON THE F INDUSTRIAL C



Two women welders on the construction site of the Taiyuan Power and Heat Plant

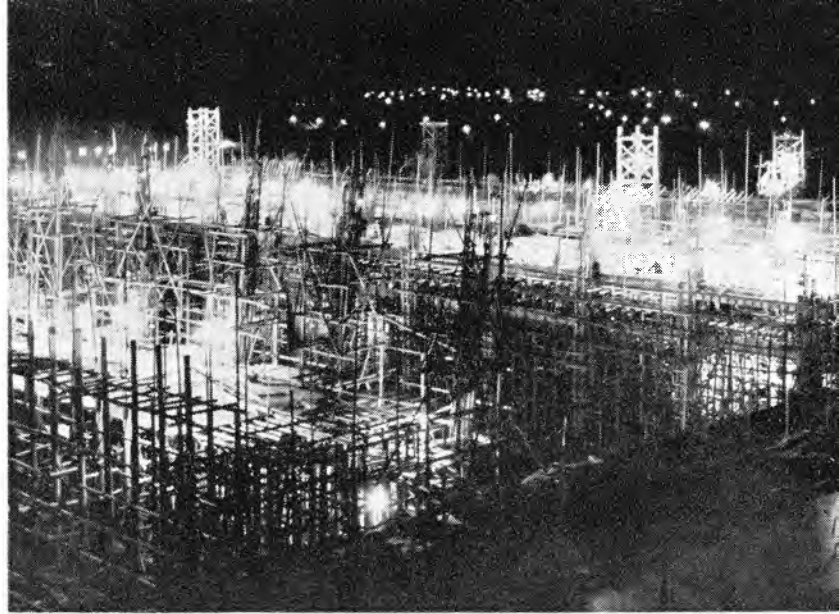


A typical representative of China's inventive worker: Wang Chung-lun, model worker of Anshan, completed a four-year quota of production in 1953. He has improved eight kinds of production tools



The emulation campaign to increase production in every plant and factory in China. Members of a fine-yarn shop of the Tientsin State-owned No. 1 increase produc

# FRONTS OF CONSTRUCTION



Winter night work at the construction site of the Taiyuan Power and Heat Plant in Shansi Province

Ting Chin-kang, a lathe-operator at the Shanghai State-owned Steam Turbine Works, has raised his labour productivity by 300 per cent since mastering the Soviet worker Kolesov's method of lathe-operation



Workers of the No. 1 blast furnace of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company, who have fulfilled their annual production plan 49 days and 6 hours ahead of schedule, reading a letter of congratulations from the plant administration



and practise economy is in full swing  
the Wang Yu-shen brigade in the  
Cotton Mill discuss their plan to  
on





A tractor-driven plough demonstrates its speed and efficiency compared with the old wooden plough



Peasants from neighbouring districts watching a demonstration of mechanized ploughing by the Chiaohsien M.T.S.



Woman tractor-driver Wang Hsiufen (*left*) of the Chiaohsien M.T.S. teaching two members of an agricultural producers' cooperative the technique of using tractor driven plough

## A Machine and Tractor Station Helps the Peasants

The Chiaohsien Agricultural Machine and Tractor Station, over 70 km. west of Tsing-tao, Shantung Province, was established in the spring of 1953. Its fine work quickly convinced the local peasants of the advantages of using mechanized farm tools and of the need for cooperative farming

Members of an agricultural producers' cooperative bring their thanks with a bowl of tea to the M.T.S. tractor-drivers working in their fields



# The Party Secretary In the Workshop

Wang Ping



Chi Hua-lu

I MET Comrade Chi Hua-lu, the secretary of the Party branch in one of the workshops of the Wu San Works in Northeast China, during a visit I made to that plant. He enjoys the universal respect of the whole staff as a fine Party leader. I seldom found him alone. When he came to the workshop, he was sure to be called by someone to discuss some affair or other, or it would be a talk with someone at his own desk or by the desk of someone else. Even when we were taking a snack in the canteen or buying cigarettes in the cooperative, his appearance on the scene was immediately greeted by the men and women who would crowd around and ply him with questions about production, politics, social work, living conditions, or any other of a dozen topics.

It had become a habit with the cadres, workers and staff of the workshop to seek his advice or exchange opinions with him whenever any problem cropped up.

There are more than a thousand workers and staff members in the workshop. Each one has his own experience in life, his own special habits and character. They have different technical skills and vary considerably in political development. Many of them are model workers, progressive and go-ahead, others are more or less backward and conservative. In the van are the members of the Communist Party and of the New Democratic Youth League, and the most active members of the trade union. These men and women rally the advanced section of the workers and staff members around them and

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The author is the special correspondent of the *Northeast Daily News*.

set an example in work and living for the main body of the workers in the shop.

## Rearing Advanced Workers

Realizing the great educational value of a good example, Chi Hua-lu sees to it particularly that advanced workers are trained up in every section of the workshop; they set the standards for work in the shop and help the backward workers get ahead. He knows that these backward elements are still under the influence of old ideas and traditions, so that, in order to raise them to the level of the more advanced workers, it is necessary to educate them with the utmost patience. Able leadership has not infrequently succeeded in making the advance of one backward worker the start of a general advance for a whole group.

I will give an example which explains why Chi Hua-lu pays so much attention to the training and coaching of advanced workers in the shop.

During February and March, 1952, things were not going well. Too many sub-standard products were being turned out, the rate of wastage rose, and fulfilment of the production plan was seriously endangered. Chi Hua-lu was immediately alerted, and he pushed forward the training of advanced workers, as a fundamental means of educating the mass of workers and giving a new spurt to production.

From talks with the workers, he learned that Chang Hsi-ho was an energetic young worker with a keen sense of responsibility.

He seldom turned in sub-standard products. Chi Hua-lu studied Chang's production record. It showed steady progress without irregular fluctuations. He made friends with him and would often talk with him or persons connected with him in one way or another. He visited Chang at home and got to know him well, both on and off the job. He learned that Chang's father had fought with the United Anti-Japanese Army of Northeast China against the Japanese occupation and had lost his life in the War of Resistance; Chang's uncle had died from a beating which the Japanese had given him in a vain attempt to extort a "confession" from him. Chang himself had worked as an apprentice in the Antung Machine Works after the liberation of Antung, his home town, from the control of the Kuomintang reactionaries. He had been working there when the American invaders launched their aggressive war in Korea. Like every other patriotic worker, he had burned with anger at this brutal American attack on the Korean people and their threat to China; he had worked as hard as he knew how to back up the struggle against the American aggressors. Later he was transferred to the Wu San Factory. In his chats with Chi Hua-lu, he had shown how eager he was to raise production, but he knew that in order to do this, he must first, through the help of other people, improve his technical knowledge and skill.

Chi Hua-lu knew by now that Chang really was willing to devote himself wholly to his work. He could see that though Chang lacked experience, with proper guidance it was possible to turn him into a first-rate worker. On Chi Hua-lu's suggestion, the management appointed several veteran workers and technicians to help Chang master the techniques of production. The trade union made it possible for him to participate in political and cultural studies. Chi Hua-lu also paid constant attention to Chang's housing and living conditions.

With this assistance, Chang's production index soon showed a sharp rise. He became a model not only for his own shop but for the entire plant. Finally he was elected one of the model workers of the Shenyang municipality.

This story of Chang's advance was not an isolated case. As a result of the education and

the many-sided help given to the workers by the shop management, the Party and the mass organizations in the plant, many advanced workers began to appear in the various sections of the workshop. It was not long before a movement was under way among the workers to emulate this advanced guard, to improve the quality of production in general and successfully fulfil production plans.

### Unravelling Difficulties

The Party gives effective leadership in the struggle for new things. It is indefatigable in the educational work which enables the entire body of workers and staff of the shop to overcome difficulties and advance triumphantly to new production achievements. It helps the more advanced workers by supporting their initiative in introducing new and better methods; it educates the backward workers by constructively criticizing their backward viewpoints and working methods and helping them onto the road of advance.

One day, two workers, Li Feng-lai and Tien Fa, asked the shop manager to let Tsao Chi-ching, a 52-year-old veteran worker with a name for progressiveness, resume production work at the machines. They said that their section was lagging behind in production both as regards quantity and quality, and that a lead given by some well-qualified worker would help to improve the situation and ensure the fulfilment of the plan.

The shop administration studied this seemingly reasonable request, but came to the conclusion that there was a catch in it somewhere. There were good grounds for this suspicion. Everyone knew that Li had quarrelled with Tsao during a class in the workers' night school, because the latter had proposed that the class should take two lessons together instead of the usual one. Li had said then that Tsao knew he was not a bright pupil, and so had made this proposal on purpose to give him trouble in keeping up with his classmates. The teacher at the time had assessed things somewhat differently. He believed that Li was not so much worried about his school work as he was determined to seize on this opportunity to damage a model worker's reputation. As secretary of the Party branch, Chi Hua-lu had a talk with Tsao. "I don't know what Li Feng-lai was driving at," said Tsao Chi-ching. "I felt that he had no reason whatsoever to attack



me at the night school. So I was particularly angry when he abused me. What hurt me most was the fact that a 52-year-old man like myself should be so humiliated by a young man."

Chi Hua-lu decided to have a talk with Li himself. He happened to meet Li the next day and wasted no time beating about the bush.

"How old is your father?" he asked.

"My father's dead," replied Li.

"And suppose he were living now?"

"Why, he'd be about 48 or 49, I think," replied Li.

"Then, Tsao Chi-ching is actually older than your father. How could you insult him like you did the other night?"

"It was my fault," admitted Li after a long pause, fumbling for an answer. "I shouldn't have abused him."

"But why did you abuse him?" the secretary pressed for an explanation.

"He only wanted to learn more himself and had no consideration for others..."

"Why not come out with the truth? I think there's something more!" But Li would give no other reply.

Chi Hua-lu asked Li to come to his office, and they continued their talk. At first Li swore that he had concealed nothing. "But think it over again," said the secretary. "How did you become a skilled worker? Wasn't it because of the fact that the Party called on the old workers to teach and give their knowledge and experience to you young workers? Wasn't it because the Party has educated the workers with advanced ideas and so enabled all the workers to master the advanced working methods of the best workers? Wasn't it because the Party has given you constant help in your studies? Think of our future. We are already on our way towards Socialism. Yet you are not only unwilling to learn from the model workers but you abuse them and try to humiliate them. The model workers are our vanguard in our advance. Without them it would be impossible for us to fulfil the task before us. I don't know who taught you to speak like that and made you insult one of our best workers that way. I simply can't believe that those mean words came from your own mouth."



**A group of workers and staff members belonging to a rationalization proposals committee of the Wu San Factory which studies and deals with workers' proposals to improve production. Every workshop in the plant has such a group**

The secretary's speech had the desired effect on Li. "Alright, I'll confess," he exclaimed.

### **The Advanced and the Backward**

It had happened like this. Some time before, Tsao had proposed that three or four veteran workers be relieved from work on the machines on the production line and put in charge of repair work and teaching the younger workers. In this way, each young worker could be put under experienced leadership and would be able to tend two or three machines. This would greatly increase the efficiency of labour and rationalize the use of equipment. Tien Fa, another veteran worker, however, opposed this proposal. He said that it would make a lot of difficulties; with several people giving them advice the young workers would get confused, not knowing who was right and who was wrong. Hearing this, Tsao had exclaimed: "Difficulties! Difficulties! But the working class is not to be frightened by difficulties! It's by overcoming difficulties

that we'll accumulate capital for the building of Socialism."

Tien was considerably put out by this, for he thought that Tsao had made him lose face in front of the youngsters.

Later on, Tsao's proposal was put into effect. It gave good results and Tsao received a prize. This, too, caused some dissatisfaction among some of the backward workers, including both Tien Fa and Li Feng-lai.

One day Tien Fa happened to be together with some of his friends, and they were grousing over these events. Tien Fa suggested: "That Tsao Chi-ching has a flair for making proposals, all right, but I'd like to see how he works on a machine now!"

Someone agreed with a "I'd just like to see him."

"His eyesight is poor," Tien continued. "When he works on the night shift, he's sure to produce waste. Let's see how much of a model he'll be then when that happens."

"You're right," said Li Feng-lai. "Let's ask the management to send Tsao back to work on the machines."

Having told the whole story, Li frankly admitted to Chi Hua-lu that their main object had been to lower Tsao's prestige.

It was clear that Tien Fa was the mastermind behind the whole affair. Chi Hua-lu praised Li's frankness. Li also promised to make amends by working hard and learning from the model workers.

Then Chi Hua-lu had a talk with Tien Fa.

Tien was an old worker, but extremely backward in his ideas. Chi explained things to him with the utmost patience. He reminded him how Tsao had taken care of him and looked out for his welfare. "When you were hard up in the old days and had nothing to eat, who was it that helped you?" he asked, and answered himself: "Tsao Chi-ching! And when you were in the hospital that time, who was it that visited you most often? Tsao Chi-ching again! Now you are staying in the night sanatorium, but who was it do you suppose that insisted that you be sent there?" Tien was nonplussed and shook his head. "Again, Tsao Chi-ching," continued the secretary. "It was he who made the proposal to the trade union. Other people wanted to send young worker Wang Ke-wen there. But he

said: 'As Tien Fa has just recovered from an illness and is still weak, we should send him first.' Now you know how good Tsao Chi-ching has been to you."

"Secretary Chi, don't say any more, it was all my fault. . . ." Tien said with real remorse and shame.

"Don't you realize that Tsao is an outstanding representative of the working class?" the secretary continued when Tien had calmed down. "He was trained by the Party. It was the Party that taught him to do as he did. The Party works to unite the workers for efficient production and for the building of Socialism. You've been a worker for ten years or more. You too can become an advanced worker. Don't haggle like a small merchant and become green-eyed with envy at other people's success. Work honestly and industriously, emulate the advanced workers and try to catch up with them!"

Some time later, the Party secretary asked Tsao: "How's everything going now — smoothly?"

"They are on good terms with me again," Tsao said with deep satisfaction. "Tien Fa even came to visit me at home the other evening. I told Li Feng-lai that if he works and studies well, we're going to help him enter college and become an engineer. . . . I know it's the Party that cleared all this up."

Not long after this, Tsao was promoted foreman, Tien Fa became his right-hand man, and they work together in the most friendly and harmonious manner.

### A Question of Ideology

Secretary Chi Hua-lu is a farsighted as well as a keen-eyed leader. He keeps himself well informed on production conditions in the shop. He is familiar with all the workers and knows their strong points and their shortcomings.

Once, Peh Shang-hsin, a technician, brought several rejects into the shop manager's office. "Li Yu-tang," he said, as he put them on his desk, "is turning out a lot of rejects again." The manager, looking up, asked Peh why he had not spoken to Li Yu-tang himself about this on the spot. But Peh evaded a direct answer.

The next day, Party secretary Chi came to technician Peh to discuss some questions

concerning production, then he pointed at the rejects on the desk and asked, "How come?" Peh explained the cause of the waste and also the bad effect this would have on production. Secretary Chi listened attentively. When Peh had finished, he thanked him and said: "Now I understand. What you have just told me should be told to every worker in the factory who turns out sub-standard products. That way, we'll bring down the number of rejects."

Peh was a bit huffed at this. "Ah, I see," he said, "the secretary has come here to enlighten me."

"And also to learn," said Chi. "You are the only technical expert in the shop and you have more technical experience than anyone else. If you tell the workers what you have just told me, what will their reaction be? They will surely say: 'Technician Peh is really concerned about our progress. He's helping us raise our technical level.'"

"But it seems you are afraid of criticizing the workers to their faces! You don't want to criticize people like Li Yu-tang, who have serious shortcomings. Of course, I know what you have on your mind. You think: 'If I call on the workers to improve the quality of their work, they wouldn't like it, especially the job-workers. So why should I offend them?' This is what you think, isn't it? But you are quite wrong. The workers of today are not what they used to be in the old days. Do you know what the workers are most concerned about these days?"

### **Wrong Conception Exposed**

This sudden question left Peh at a loss for words. But Chi answered himself: "One of the things that they are most concerned about is the raising of their technical level. They know that it is only by raising their skills that they can raise production and consequently their living standards. Nowadays there is a widespread emulation campaign to increase production and practise economy, and with the start of the first five-year plan, the workers are more anxious than ever to improve their skills. Now you don't want to offend them, and so you don't dare to criticize and educate them. You want to shovel an unpleasant duty onto the manager or the foreman. You want to be a 'good chap.' But your wanting to be a 'good chap' according to the old conception is ruin-

ing others, and above all you are ruining yourself!"

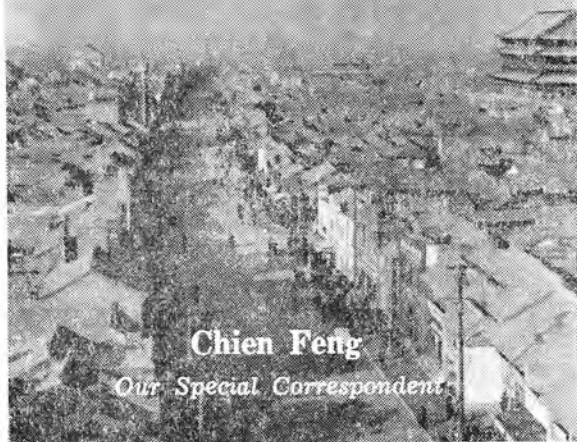
Then the Party secretary explained to Peh the real harm that his attitude was causing. He said: "It's true that three or so years ago the majority of the workers and staff called you a 'good chap.' But you'll notice that only a few of them think that way now. And these few are taking advantage of your weakness to do things which seem profitable to themselves but harm the work of the plant. It's quite natural that you've lost prestige because the political consciousness of the workers and staff has been raised. And you still want to be considered a 'good chap'! If you continue to refuse to shoulder your responsibilities as you should and always keep silent when you should speak out on these questions of improving production, the workers will think that you are not doing your duty and you will have no prestige left to speak of. From now on, don't hesitate! Point out frankly anything that is harmful to production; that is your first duty as a technical expert in this plant. Whatever opinion or proposal you put forward, so long as it is correct, will be accepted by the manager and by us all. You will be supported by the Party as well as by all the workers!"

Not long after this talk, secretary Chi heard a foreman say: "Wonder of wonders! Technician Peh has criticized Li Yu-tang to his face!"

\* \* \*

The entire body of workers and staff members of the Wu San Works are now studying the general line of policy for the nation's gradual transition to Socialism. This study is teaching them a lot. They see better what lies on the road ahead, and it has given them a new enthusiasm in their work. In response to Chairman Mao's call, they are all studying the advanced experience of the Soviet Union. Chi Hua-lu, the secretary of the shop's Party branch, is the organizer and leader, the soul, of this movement of study and education among the workers. Loyalty to the Party and to the people, keenness in observation, a sympathetic knowledge of the conditions of all the workers and staff, with a thorough understanding of their needs and wants—these are the qualities Chi Hua-lu displays as a political leader of the workers and staff in this workshop.

# SIAN — A Changing City



Chien Feng

*Our Special Correspondent*

**O**UR train, speeding westwards, passed Tungkuan—the traditional gateway to Northwest China, and we entered Shensi Province. A long and spacious plain, criss-crossed with irrigation canals, spread before us. Only far to the left of the railway could I still see a range of mountains looming vaguely in the dusk. Sian—the capital of the Northwest Administrative Area, surrounded by wheat and cotton fields, was not far away.

We sped on across the eastern end of the famed Kuanchung Plain that stretches 400 miles to the west. A big river, the Wei, cuts through it from west to east and irrigates thousands of hectares of fertile land.

## Capital of Eleven Dynasties

Two thousand years ago, Sian was the site of the capital of the ancient Chinese state which then covered present-day Northwest China. From the time King Wu of the Chou Dynasty made it his residence, it was the capital of no less than eleven dynasties over a period of nearly 1,000 years. In those ancient times the emperors called the city Changan, meaning Eternal Peace, expressing their wish

that it would always remain in security and tranquility in their hands.

Even today on Sian's outskirts, you can see the ruins of the city walls built in the Han and Tang Dynasties. Sian has many other historical remains which remind one of the rich culture of ancient China. Here you can find the Tayen Pagoda—a seven-storey structure built more than a thousand years ago; numerous stone tablets with inscriptions carved in the hand-writings of famous calligraphers; the majestic Bell Tower and Drum Tower. Here, too, you will find the grave mounds of emperors rising as high as small hills.

Under Kuomintang rule, Sian decayed. It became a backward, forlorn provincial town with hardly any industry.

I visited Sian for the first time fifteen years ago. Then it had only two factories worth seeing—a textile mill and a flour mill. They were equipped with a motley collection of machines from Japan, England and Germany.

The city itself was made up of huddled rows of low, gray-coloured tile-roofed houses. Water-sellers fetched water from the river outside the city and hawked it for sale. The only means of communication inside the city were carts drawn by horses or oxen. On rainy days, the streets turned into muddy quagmires. In the rainy season, the slums were often inundated, as there was no drainage system.

For quite a considerable period before its liberation, Sian was a military base of the Kuomintang reactionaries. It was from here that they organized their offensive against the Shensi-Kansu-Ningsia Border Region and its centre, Yen-an. Even at the most critical stage of the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression, Chiang Kai-shek had about 500,000 troops concentrated here in his attempt to lay siege to the Yen-an area, which was the headquarters of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

## Sian Today

It was now dark. I opened the carriage window, but everything was cloaked by the night. We were drawing near to Pachiao Station, a place near Sian. Some distance to the left of the railway, a flood of electric lights suddenly came into view. A brightly-lit five-pointed red star appeared high in the sky,

evidently installed on the top of some large building.

"Sian! Sian!" one of the passengers exclaimed with delight, pointing at the star.

The carriage conductor told me that it was in fact installed on the newly completed building of the Sian Power Plant. This, he added, was modernized and automatic and had many times the power of the old one. Machines were automatically replaced in case of breakdowns, ensuring uninterrupted functioning of the plant.

Passing out from the palatial Sian station, I found that the grim-looking city gate I had seen there fifteen years ago had disappeared. In the old days, to reach the centre of the city, one had to trudge for a long distance along a narrow dusty road past that gate. Now, the moment I left the station, I found myself in a wide, concrete-paved square. It was as bright as day under a galaxy of floodlights; and from here, a broad, straight asphalt thoroughfare—Liberation Avenue—led to the centre of the city. Neon signs of many different colours twinkled over the shopfronts.

### A Growing City

On the pavements, factory and office workers, housewives and merchants walked as briskly as shuttles on a weaving machine. In the short space of four years since the liberation, the population of Sian has increased from 550,000 to 760,000. Sian, in addition to being the political centre for North-west China, with its many national minorities, has gradually become a big industrial area. The power plant we saw on its approaches is only one of the many large new plants that have already been or are being constructed. Several new textile mills have been built here by the People's Government, and in 1953, the amount of locally produced cloth was more than five times that produced annually before the liberation. A modern shoe factory recently opened here can turn out a pair of shoes every 30 seconds. Quite a number of other factories, including heavy industrial plants, are under construction. Bright

clusters of lights shining in the darkness showed where building work was in progress day and night even in the depths of winter.

At daybreak next day, I was awakened by the beating of gongs and drums and the sound of many voices shouting slogans. Throwing on my clothes, I made my way down into the street and found a gay demonstration of nearly a hundred persons passing. In the lead were young peasants carrying red flags and playing their drums and gongs, while women and old men brought up the rear. Behind them came a line of carts loaded with sacks of grain. They were peasants from a village in the Sian suburbs going to sell their surplus grain to the cooperative. They carried lengths of red bunting with the slogans:

"Sell your grain to the state!"

"Increase the production of grain to support industrial construction!"

"Work hard for the Socialist industrialization of the country!"

I walked with them and struck up a conversation with one of the peasants. "In the old days," he told me, "when we had harvested our crops, the grain merchants would come to our village to buy grain and force the poverty-stricken peasants to sell at knock-down prices. Later, when we had used up our own stocks of grain, they would come back and sell to us at inflated prices. This year we are not going to sell our grain to any private



The Tayen Pagoda—a famous historical monument in Sian, built over 1,000 years ago in the Tang Dynasty

traders. Now that the state fully controls the sale of grain, we're not afraid any longer of running short. We peasants understand that now the government is building all these many factories, we must sell all our surplus grain to the state so that the workers can have plenty to eat."

Later that day, Chang Ching-fu, an engineer of the Sian City Construction Committee, took me to a newly built seven-storey hotel. I met many people in the vestibule and corridors. Several belonged to the various national minorities which live in Northwest China. There were also a number of the Soviet experts who have come to help us in our economic construction.

We went to the top of the building by lift, and a magnificent panorama unfolded itself before our eyes. On the outskirts of the city, there was a forest of scaffolding on the many construction sites, while inside the city, new buildings stood out above the low, old-styled houses.

"That building in construction, over there," explained Engineer Chang, pointing to the left, "will be an up-to-date theatre. The big building going up on its right will house the trade union organization." His arm swept around the horizon: "Over there will be a stadium with seats for 100,000 people. The old Bell Tower that dominates all the buildings in the centre of the city is under repairs, too. Southwest of the city is the new water works."

### Story Behind the Water Works

Engineer Chang recounted to me the story behind these water works. Sian's people formerly got their water from two sources: one was the wells inside the city; the other was the river outside. The water from the wells was bitter, but the water fetched from the river a considerable distance away was expensive. Plans to build a water works were made as long as twenty years ago. The Kuomintang government entrusted the task to a U.S. company called William Hunt. The company made sure of its pay for the plans and for buying building materials, but made such slow progress that, at the time of liberation, even the water tower was unfinished. Sian citizens protested bitterly against this sharp practice on the part



**A corner of New China's first automatic shoe-making factory in Sian. It produces a pair of leather shoes every 30 seconds**

of the American firm and demanded that the municipal government look into the matter. The Kuomintang officials, however, tried to shield the U.S. charlatans, and the people had to go on using either the bitter water from the wells or the high-priced water from the river. It was only after the liberation of Sian that the People's Government forced the U.S. company to disgorge its ill-gotten gains. The municipal people's government finally completed the water works in 1952, and now the people in Sian enjoy good, cheap, chemically purified water."

"If you go up to see that water tower," concluded Engineer Chang, "you'll find the lower part of it is gray-coloured, while the upper part is white. Nearly twenty years went by between the building of those two parts!"

### The Old and New

Leaving the hotel and passing out of the city through its southern gate, we came to the beautiful spot where the Tayen Pagoda stands. This, according to the records, was built for the monk Yuanchwang so that in complete seclusion he could devote himself to the trans-

lation of the Buddhist scriptures. This famous monk, on the orders of the emperor, had set out from Sian in 682 A.D. to travel to the west. He went by way of Sinkiang Province and Central Asia, and after safely overcoming incredible hardships, reached India. Seventeen years later, he succeeded in bringing back more than six hundred scrolls of the Buddhist scriptures, and it is said that on returning to Sian, he devoted himself for the next nineteen years to the work of translation.

We went up to the top storey of the tower, and from this new vantage point, Engineer Chang pointed out to me the many cultural and educational institutions that are rising in this neighbourhood: the Sian Normal College, the Party School of the Northwest Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Russian Language School, the Schools of Petroleum Mining, Highway Building, and Banking, and several technical secondary schools. It is in these schools that the people are being trained who will transform this great, old Northwest into one of the foremost and most prosperous parts of our country.

Looking north from this tower, we could see Sian spread before our eyes—a multitude of buildings, both ancient and modern. It is said that, in the Tang Dynasty, the city was

about twice as big as at present, and that this tower was then well within the city limits.

“In the near future, Sian will cover a wider area than in the Tang Dynasty,” Engineer Chang told me. “Last year, with the help of Soviet experts, we began to make our basic plans for the new Sian. Now they are nearly completed.”

He described to me in detail how they had done their planning in accordance with the principles of Socialist construction. “We naturally think the same way as our Soviet friends do,” he said. “Plans must be made with the needs of industrial production at the centre of our attention. It is on that basis that we have planned the new Sian.”

And good production, of course, must take into consideration the health and convenience of the inhabitants. A canal will be built to supply water to the ponds in the parks and gardens of the city. The old one-storey houses will be gradually replaced by well-equipped multi-storey buildings. A green belt will be planted around the city, and the area around the Tayen Pagoda will be turned into a large park.

Engineer Chang said with happy conviction:

“The new Sian will be one of the most beautiful and best-built cities in New China.”

## *Their First Tractor*

Lu Ying

SOME seventy kilometres west of Tsingtao, looking north from the Tsingtao-Tsinan Railway, you can see a red-tiled building—this marks the Chiaohsien Machine and Tractor Station. It was established in the spring of 1953 and its deputy-director, Wang To, recently described to me how it does its work.

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The author is a correspondent of the Shanghai *Liberation Daily*.

“Not so long ago, the peasants here couldn’t even imagine what a tractor looked like. They said: ‘We’ve seen railway trains on rails, and automobiles on roads, but a tractor that rides all over the fields—never!’”

“And now?” I interposed.

“Of course, things are different today,” Wang To replied. “Our first tractor showed off its paces at Ho Ping (Peace) Village. We weren’t sure then what the soil conditions were

like. We were afraid that deep ploughing might harm the crops, so we ploughed a furrow only 12 to 15 centimetres deep. Even so, the peasants were more than satisfied with our work. They all had the same comment: 'That tractor does a good job! It works fast, and ploughs deep and even!' Since then, the peasants throughout this district are all for tractors!

"We've been serving the agricultural producers' cooperatives in many villages around here. Last autumn, we ploughed over 140 hectares of land for 25 producers' cooperatives in this county."

\* \* \*

At the end of autumn last year, the M.T.S. sent its first tractor to help with the field work at Hsiaowangko Village. Nearly the whole village turned out to welcome it. When it came in sight, there was a joyous shout of "The tractor, the tractor!" There were cheers and the beating of gongs and drums. As soon as it stopped, it was completely surrounded by people anxious to study it at close quarters. A member of the local agricultural producers' cooperative presented the tractor-drivers with a red banner of greeting. On it was inscribed: "Harbinger of Socialism!"

Then the tractor-drivers switched off the engine and gave talks on all the advantages of working with a tractor. As they went on, the young villagers beamed with happiness as they imagined themselves at the wheels of the tractors, taking the place of the old wooden ploughs handed down from their forefathers. But the older generation was still sceptical: they were curious to find out how the tractor would really do the job.

Presently, the tractor engine roared again, and off it went, rumbling into the fields. The excited and curious peasants watched closely how the stiff, dry earth was easily turned up by the five-bladed plough, and they marvelled: "This is a wonderful thing!"

Hsiao Pei-ming, the coop chairman, felt the clods with his hands and measured the depth of the furrow—ten fingers deep! "Such ploughing will surely bring good wheat crops," he said.

"In all my 77 years of life, this is the first time I'm seeing how a machine can till the

land," exclaimed Hsiao Fang-chu, another peasant, with deep emotion.

The peasants, especially the old women, were amazed to watch the woman tractor-driver Wang Hsiu-fen at work. They pointed at her and exclaimed:

"Look at that girl, how able she is!"

A peasant by the name of Yang Hsiu-shan was at that moment ploughing in a neighbouring field with a donkey-drawn plough. When he saw that the tractor had done in a jiffy, a job that would take him half a day to finish, he too stopped working and made his way to the front of the crowd. He wanted to have a good look at that tractor.

More and more onlookers came; peasants from neighbouring villages, passers-by. . . . Praise of the tractor was on everyone's lips. The old people were no longer sceptical.

\* \* \*

The agricultural producers' cooperative at Sungchiapotze Village is several kilometres from the Chiaohsien Machine and Tractor Station. It had signed a service contract under which the M.T.S. undertook to complete the winter ploughing for the coop by November 22. But it was already the beginning of December, and the tractor had failed to show up.

A gale blew. The sky was dark with wildly scurrying clouds; the fields were covered with a thin layer of snow. Winter had definitely settled in, and the members of the cooperative were worried. How could the ploughing get done in such cold weather and with the earth frozen?

It had so happened that just when the M.T.S. was about to dispatch a tractor to Sungchiapotze for the winter sowing, it received an urgent request to send a tractor down to tour three neighbouring counties where the cadres and peasants had never seen a tractor before. As a result, only two tractors were left in the station and the original schedule of work had to be changed.

At long last, however, the tractor arrived at Sungchiapotze. It was December 5. The drivers, braving the cold, worked in the fields at top speed. It took them only one day to plough the last 6 hectares of land that the



members of the cooperative had not ploughed themselves. Without the help of the tractor, it would have taken them more than five days to do that job.

\* \* \*

Discussing the work of the tractors after they had ploughed the land at Hsiaowangko Village that autumn, Sun Yung-chang, a member of the local agricultural producers' cooperative, said: "That tractor really works wonders. But the trouble is that our fields are too small for it to work in. See how it kept on having to turn and turn around to make those short furrows. It lost time working like that!"

Tsui Fang-chen, another member, added: "We'll have to pool our little fields to form one large field so that the tractors can do their work better."

It was quite true. In working on the fields of two small agricultural producers' cooperatives, the tractor was cramped for space to manoeuvre. Most of the fields on which it worked were less than a hectare in size and even the biggest was less than two hectares. Some of the fields of these two cooperatives stood side by side, but the tractor had to plough them separately because they belonged to different cooperatives. The coop members had noticed the disadvantages of this, and at a meeting of one of the cooperatives, Li Tsin-yuan, a team leader, said: "That tractor-drawn plough is far superior to the wooden plough, but it would be better yet if it had a larger field to work in." Another member, Hsiao Pei-hsiang, supported him with: "If we could only get the land pooled together it would speed the work up a lot."

Others shared this view. Someone added: "We have tractors working for us this year and soon we'll have combine-harvesters. It's silly having those powerful machines working on such tiny plots!"

The tractors have come to stay. Not only the peasants in Hsiaowangko Village but all the villagers who saw the ploughing by tractor felt the same way—to be really efficient, mechanized farming meant large-scale farming.

\* \* \*

When the first tractor appeared at Hsiaowangko, there was one young person who

could hardly take her eyes off it. Yang Chi-fang hung around it as long as her work would allow her, and determined then and there that she wanted to be a tractor-driver.

In 1953, the Chiaohsien M.T.S. opened a class to train tractor-drivers, and Yang Chi-fang was one of the first to join. After a brief spell of intensive theoretical training, she got practical instruction from Chang Yu-ching, an experienced tractor hand. Finally, the great day came when she took her place in the driver's seat for independent work. She held the wheel, pressed the starter, and the engine hummed with rhythmic precision. Forward moved the tractor under her firm direction. Yang Chi-fang felt a surge of happiness in her heart. She looked back at the rich soil furrowed by the five-bladed plough. Her dream had come true!

\* \* \*

In 1948, the Chiang Kai-shek bandit troops had launched a ruthless attack against the liberated areas in Shantung Province. It had been a bitter blow to the peasants of this district. It was then that the Communist Party had called on the peasants to organize and do all they could to help the people's forces in the fight against the reactionaries. At a meeting, Shih Chi-chen, a Communist, had told the peasants: "Now we have only wheat bran and wild vegetables to eat. Our life is hard. But we can win our freedom if only we organize well enough. Then it won't be long before we'll plough our fields with tractors. Then we'll have fine crops indeed. A better life is ahead of us. We'll eat our fill of fish and meat, and steamed bread made of white flour!"

At that time few of them had really believed that Shih's words would soon come true. But today, the peasants realize how right he was. I was told about that incident by the peasants of Ho Ping Village.

On that very day, too, I saw the tractor beginning the winter sowing for the village. I walked down a broad country road. There I saw the tractor busily at work, moving back and forth across the field. Members of the cooperative were organized into brigades collecting the stubble of last season's cotton. Songs of happy labour sounded across the yellow earth.

# The Origin and Development Of Chinese Script

Chen Meng-chia

*Research Member of the Archaeological  
Institute of the Academia Sinica*

**T**HE Han nationality is the most numerous of the nationalities in China, and in the course of its historical development, which covers several thousand years, it has created an extremely rich culture. Its national language, the Chinese language, as we are accustomed to call it, and its script are, therefore, the most widespread in the country.

Archaeological data proves that the Chinese script is one of the most ancient in the world. Towards the end of the 19th century inscribed tortoise-shells and fragments of the shoulder blades of oxen were unearthed in large quantities in the Yellow River Valley—the cradle of Chinese culture—in Anyang County, Honan Province, at a place which Chinese archaeologists have ascertained was the site of the capital of the Yin Dynasty from the 13th to the 11th century B.C. The ancient inhabitants of this area believed that these tortoise-shells and bone fragments possessed magic powers and that through them a diviner was able to communicate with the spirit world. In this method of divining, a piece of tortoise-shell or the bone of an ox was heated over a fire until cracks appeared on its surface. The shape of the cracks enabled the diviner to “read the future.” His prognostications were then written on the same piece of shell or bone.

Judging from the inscriptions made on such fragments by the official diviners of Wu Ting, a king of the Yin Dynasty in the 13th century B.C., Chinese writing had already taken shape and become highly developed at that time. We can thus state with certainty that even before the 13th century B.C., that is, more than three thousand years ago, the

Han people already had a fairly well-developed written language, the predecessor of the one that is used now.

## Hieroglyphic Characters

In its earliest form, Chinese writing consisted of picture-characters, or pictographs, an actual drawing of various phenomena and objects in nature. These were the basis on which Chinese writing was developed. Typical examples of this category of characters are 日 (*jih*) and 月 (*yueh*), the modern variations of the old forms ☉ and ☾ respectively, representing “sun” and “moon.”

There are many reasons why Chinese writing uses pictographs or characters instead of developing a phonetic script.

The Han language, though widely used, has many diverse dialects. This was partly a result of the obstacles to communication which existed in the old days over the vast area of the country. The common written language, however, provides the Han people with a medium through which they can communicate with each other despite the dialect barrier. Although people in differing localities have different pronunciations for the characters, they read the same meanings into them. The “respect” paid to the Chinese characters by the rulers throughout the long feudal period, with the view to maintaining the ruling class monopoly over education, consolidated the position of the script.

The development of Chinese writing is connected with the characteristics of the spoken language. In the ancient Chinese spoken language, there were a number of monosyllabic

words. Therefore, the Chinese characters, each of which represents an individual unit of meaning and has its fixed form, were an important aid to distinguishing them one from the other.

Furthermore, the Chinese spoken language lacks inflections, prefixes and suffixes; its words do not change with tense, number and person. For this reason, each Chinese character which expresses the meaning of a word can be used as part of a compound with others. Whatever its place in a sentence, the Chinese character never changes its form; and practically never its sound. In learning a Han character one must study its form (design), its sound (pronunciation) and its meaning.

### Categories of Characters

The development of the Chinese script has been a systematic process. More than 1,800 years ago, Chinese scholars came to the conclusion that the characters could be classified into six groups, and this analysis was further developed by Hsu Shen, a celebrated philologist of the Han Dynasty, who in 121 A.D., after studying the history of the development of Chinese writing, completed a dictionary of Chinese characters. This work, entitled the *Shuo Wen Chieh Tzu* (An Etymological Dictionary), was the earliest dictionary in the world. Hsu Shen analysed more than 9,000 characters according to their forms, sounds and meanings and worked out a relatively accurate system of classification. According to this system, the Chinese characters are classified into the six categories of: (1) indicative or self-explanatory characters; (2) pictographs; (3) phonetic compounds; (4) suggestive compounds or ideographs; (5) synonyms with similar sounds; and (6) borrowed characters. All later palaeographers, have taken this classification as the basis for their research work.

Today, however, Chinese scholars think it more appropriate to group the characters into only three categories: pictographs, borrowed characters and phonetic compounds. These three types of characters did not appear simultaneously, but grew up in the course of the development of Chinese writing.

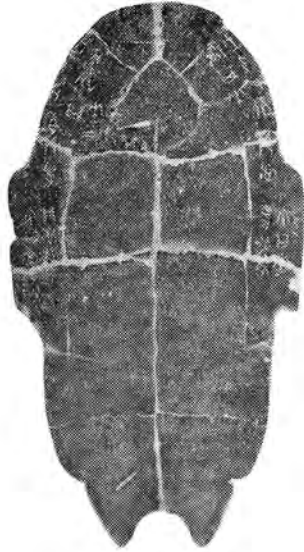
The pictographs were the first to take shape, as this order suggests. But in the wake

of the development of social production, many new ideas sprang up which could not be expressed by the pictographs. Hence the "borrowed characters." A "borrowed character" is a pictograph which has the same sound as that denoting the idea to be expressed, and is therefore borrowed to represent the latter. For instance, 我, (pronounced today as *wo*) originally the picture of an ancient weapon, was used to represent "I" (the first person singular) because both words were similar in sound.

However, the borrowed characters had a drawback in that they could give the required sound but they were not able to express the required idea in full. This difficulty was overcome by placing alongside the character indicating the sound another character indicating the meaning. In this way a large number of so-called phonetic compounds appeared. For instance, the old variation 河 of 河 (pronounced in the old days as *ke*) meaning "river," consists of a pictograph 氵 (*shui*) on the left, depicting running water, with a sound-character 可 (*ke*) on the right. There are endless possibilities for the invention of such compound characters. They continue the traditional system of the representative or pictographic script and reveal the close relation between the spoken and the written language. They constitute the largest of the three categories of characters and account for more than 80 per cent of the written Chinese vocabulary.

A careful study of the large numbers of objects dating from the Yin Dynasty such as carvings, oracle bones, bronze vessels, pottery, stelae and bamboo slips which have written inscriptions on them has enabled scholars to chart the evolution of Chinese writing from its earliest forms. The ancient script shows few changes from the reign of Wu Ting till the end of the Yin Dynasty. The succeeding Western Chou (1027-771 B.C.) Dynasty carried on the ancient traditional style of writing and enriched it with many new phonetic compounds and borrowed characters. The rulers of the Western Chou Dynasty, by establishing dependent feudal dukedoms, extended their domination over a vast area from the Great Wall to the Huai River Valley. Their vassals took chroniclers to their fiefs, and thus the Chou script, which was also the traditional

script of Yin, was spread over the length and breadth of ancient China. In the Spring and Autumn Period (770 - 481 B.C.), when the rule of the Western Chou existed only nominally, the traditional Yin-Chou characters were adopted by the new states of Wu, Yueh and Chu, which arose south of the Huai River.



Left: A piece of tortoise shell used for divination in the 13th century B.C. (Yin Dynasty) with characters recounting the "oracle"

Middle: "Greater Seal" characters carved on stone drums of the Warring States Period (4th century B.C.)

Right: Characters engraved on a stone tablet of the 8th century (Tang Dynasty). This type of character, called the "clerkly" hand, has been in use from the 2nd century A.D. until the present

In the period of the Warring States (481-222 B.C.) iron implements came into use and the social productive forces were greatly enhanced. This stimulated the development of culture in general, and further developments took place in the evolution of the written language and its script.

When the Period of the Warring States was ended by the unification of China under the state of Chin (221 B.C.), the Emperor Shih Huang of the Chin Dynasty, in order to unify the system of writing throughout the country, decreed that the "Lesser Seal" (or Chin script) should be adopted as the standard for writing throughout the country. At the same time, he banned the simplified script in which scholars of the Warring States used to write their books. (This style was later called *ku wen* or "ancient writing" by the scholars of the Han Dynasty.)

The "Lesser Seal" script of the Chin Dynasty had been adapted by the Chin state from the traditional characters of Chou times. It was of a stiff official style and was therefore difficult to write. As a result of national unification, both the military and civil institutions of Chin were enlarged, and the amount of official clerical work increased. The "Lesser Seal," therefore, could no longer suit the needs of the time, and it gave place to the *li* script, a simpler form of writing

already in vogue among the lower officials. The "Lesser Seal" was reserved for important documents; all others were written in the *li* script.

During the Han Dynasty, which succeeded the Chin in 206 B.C., the "Lesser Seal" script was less and less used and later on was practically replaced by the *li* script. From the *li* script was later derived the "clerkly" script, which came into existence in the Eastern Han Dynasty in the second century A.D. and is used to this day.

### Five Stages of Development

Summing up the foregoing, it may be said that, excluding the earliest pictographs, the development of Chinese writing can be divided into five stages:

(1) The ancient script of the Yin and Chou Dynasties (from the 13th down to the 7th century B.C.). This was very close to the early pictographs in form.

(2) The "Greater Seal" script of the latter part of the Western Chou Dynasty (8th century B.C.). Developed from the preceding type, most of the "Greater Seal" characters

are simplified in form though some are even more elaborate than their predecessors.

(3) The "Lesser Seal" script of the Chin Dynasty (the end of the 3rd century B.C.), a more simplified form than the "Greater Seal" script.

(4) The *li* script of the Chin and Han Dynasties (from the end of the 3rd century B.C. down to the 3rd century A.D.), a simplified form of the "Lesser Seal" script. This is characterized by straight lines and sharp turns instead of the curved lines and round corners of the "Lesser Seal." In this stage of their development, Chinese characters began to assume the "square" shape which they have today.

(5) The "clerkly" script dating from the Eastern Han Dynasty (A.D. 25-220) onwards. Here the *li* script has freed itself from various remnant complexities of the "Lesser Seal." The only difference with the *li* script is that, being better systematized, clearer cut and better proportioned in form, the characters of this type, as a general rule, finally take on a square outline.

The "clerkly" script, which was first used in the 2nd century and made the authorized official script in the Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618-907), has remained almost unchanged to this day.

### Urge for Simplification

During the period from the Yin Dynasty down to the feudal Chin and Han Dynasties, continual efforts were made to systematize and unify the form of the Chinese script. As a result of this the development of Chinese writing was accelerated. However, in the long succeeding period of feudal rule, the ruling classes made education their monopoly and the masses of the people were denied access to learning and cultural development. The written language—the repository of culture and the means of spreading it—was, as a rule, the exclusive possession of the ruling class.

At various times, despite the many obstacles put in their way by the feudal rulers, the Chinese people did much to bring about simplifications in the form of Chinese writing. A great number of abridged characters were

invented. These were first used in handwriting and later introduced into printing. For example, in the *ku wen*, a local script prevalent at the end of the Spring and Autumn Period, in the states of Chi and Lu (which occupied parts of present-day Shantung Province) 禮, *li* (ceremony) with its 18 strokes was changed to 礼, consisting of only six strokes, thus saving much time in writing. Many of the inscriptions on the stone images of the Wei, Tsin and the Northern and Southern Dynasties from the 3rd century down to the 6th century A.D. were carved in abridged script, which became more and more popular following the Tang Dynasty. A great many abridged characters have been found in the printed copies of stories and ballads in the Sung, Yuan and Ming Dynasties. The fact that such abridged characters have been popular for more than a thousand years testifies to the persistent demand of the people for a simpler form of writing.

More than three thousand years have gone by since the beginnings of Chinese writing. During this long period, many splendid literary works have appeared and found their places in the people's treasury of culture. The *Book of Odes*, the poems of Chu Yuan, *The Chronicles of Szu-ma Chien*, the great novels *Water Margin (All Men Are Brothers)* and the *Dream of the Red Chamber*, to name only a few, are all written in the Han or Chinese characters.

With the liberation, the broad masses of the Chinese labouring people, now masters of the new nation, have eagerly set themselves to study their culture and their great literary heritage from the past. The increasing consolidation and strengthening of the people's democratic political power during the last four years has enabled the people in ever-increasing numbers to learn to read and write by means of the Chinese characters. With the rapid development of New China's economy and culture, the Central People's Government has called upon scholars throughout the nation to make a comprehensive and careful study of the question of improving the Chinese script so as to make the written language a more efficient instrument for the service and education of the people and to pave the way for linguistic reform when conditions permit.

# CHINA TODAY

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## Elections in Peking

In Peking, by January 24 this year, the election of deputies to the capital's district people's congresses had been completed in districts with a population of about 1,600,000.

The elections in Peking are not being held simultaneously in all districts, but by stages. Elections were first held in the Hsitan District, and the experience gathered there was drawn on as elections were held in other districts of the capital.

The people of Peking have participated actively and enthusiastically in the elections. In the districts where polling has already taken place, over 98% of the electorate cast their votes. In many factories, government offices and educational institutions, 100% of the eligible voters cast their ballots.

The results of the elections have demonstrated the unprecedented unity of the people of Peking rallied around the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Government. Of the 1,290 deputies elected, 30% are workers. The voters showed their confidence in the candidates who were members of the Chinese Communist Party and representatives of the working class. Other elected deputies are teachers, doctors, artists, members of the national minorities and people of religious circles, businessmen and industrialists. The general elections are now being held in the suburbs of the capital, which have a total population of about 1,200,000.

## More Electric Power

China's electric power industry is being steadily expanded in the course of the first five-year plan.

The 370-km.-long high-voltage transmission line in the Northeast, one of the main projects of the plan, was commissioned ahead of schedule on January 23. It will provide at cheap rates adequate amounts of electric power for many industrial enterprises and large populated centres.

Last year, three new thermo-electric power stations were commissioned in Sian, Urumchi (Tihua) and Chengchow. The Taiyuan Power and Heat Plant is now under construction, and Chungking's new power station will be commissioned in the next 2 to 3 months.

The electric power industry overfulfilled its 1953 plans for capital construction, for power generation and for saving raw materials and practising economy. The power generated by the newly-built power plants and new installations in old plants amounted to 19.2% of the total power generated by all the old state-owned power stations in the country.

## China's Second Steel Centre

The spring of 1954 will see the start of large-scale expansion of the Tayeh Steel Plant in Hupeh Province. This will be the first stage of the building of China's second great iron and steel base in Central China projected by the first five-year plan.

By the end of 1955, the Tayeh works will have large new open-hearth furnaces and electric furnaces, a rolling shop and a forging and pressing shop, giant steam hammers, a hydraulic press, and adequate facilities for the supply of gas, steam, water and electricity.

On the completion of the project, the Tayeh works will be

able to produce a large assortment of high-grade steel products.

The Tayeh Steel Plant is situated in a region rich in natural resources. Recent surveys have located abundant mineral deposits. Iron ores are of excellent quality and the deposits are suitable for open-cut mining.

## Sino-Soviet Trade

A protocol on the exchange of commodities between China and the Soviet Union for 1954 and another on the supply of commodities in 1954 by the Soviet Union to China based on the Agreement on the Granting of Credit to the People's Republic of China of February 14, 1950, were signed in Moscow on January 23.

According to these protocols, the Soviet Union will supply China with many commodities, including metallurgical, mining and power-generating equipment, motor vehicles, tractors, agricultural machinery, building machinery, rolled steel, non-ferrous metal products, petroleum products and chemicals, etc.

China in her turn will supply the Soviet Union with non-ferrous metals, soya beans, vegetable oils, tea, tobacco, wool, raw silk, hides and other goods.

## Sino-Indonesian Trade Pact

The trade agreement between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Indonesia signed in Peking on November 30, 1953, has been ratified by the governments of the two countries.

According to the agreement, the governments of the two countries will adopt all appropriate measures to promote and develop trade

between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. It will remain in force until the end of 1954 and may be extended by mutual agreement prior to its expiration.

The agreement lists the export commodities of the two countries which will be traded. Those to be exported from China include machinery, industrial chemicals, paper, textiles, knitted goods, coal, minerals, animal products and medicinal substances, etc. Those from Indonesia include cattle hides, sugar, coffee, pepper, coconut products, rubber, quinine, fibres, timber and handicraft products, etc.

### Worker-Peasant Get-Together

Beginning with the new year of 1954, many activities have been organized to further strengthen the friendly links between the urban and rural areas. There have been many exchanges of visits between workers' and peasants' delegations, particularly during the Spring Festival — the Chinese lunar New Year which was celebrated at the beginning of February this year.

During the holidays, many peasants' delegations visited factories in Peking to get better acquainted with the workers, their conditions of life and work and also with the processes of industrial production. The Peking Trade Union Council organized a workers' delegation to visit the "Red Star" Collective Farm in Peking's suburbs. This was one of the many workers' delegations which paid visits to the villages. Workers and peasants celebrated the Spring Festival at a big get-together held at the Peking Working People's Palace of Culture on February 5.

In the Northeast, workers of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company organized three delegations, led by the model workers, Meng Tai, Chang Ming-shan and Wang Chung-lun, to visit local agricultural producers' cooperatives. They were given a warm welcome by the peasants. At the same time peasants' representatives from Anshan's suburbs and peasants' delegations from all the Northeast provinces were invited to visit the big plants in Anshan.

These exchanges of visits and other measures to strengthen the worker-peasant alliance which were arranged in many areas have helped both workers and peasants to fully realize that the close alliance and unity between them is the guarantee for the successful building of Socialism in China. After visiting the factories, the peasants have expressed their determination to increase agricultural production in order to support industrial construction with more foodstuffs and industrial crops. Workers' representatives have pledged the peasants to produce more farm tools, chemical fertilizers and other industrial products needed to improve the livelihood of the peasants and to increase agricultural production. Many workers and peasants have arranged to enter into a comradely labour emulation for increased production.

### Writers and Artists Support General Line

The All-China Federation of Literary and Art Circles and its affiliated organizations—the Union of Chinese Writers, the Union of Chinese Dramatists, the Union of Chinese Musicians, the Union of Chinese Artists and the Association for the Study of Chinese Folk Songs and Ballads decided at a

recent conference that in 1954 their work should be organized in accordance with the general line of policy for the transition to Socialism laid down by the Communist Party and the People's Government.

The Federation will ensure that all members seriously study the general line, and will arrange for them to visit factories, villages and industrial construction sites; to hold regular talks with model workers in industry and agriculture and with combat heroes of the People's Liberation Army. In cooperation with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Federation will also hold a series of popular song, drama and film festivals at which awards will be given for outstanding performances and works.

The tasks of the Union of Chinese Writers are to foster the development of Socialist realism in the creative work of the writers of China, to direct its members in the study of classical literature, particularly the realist literature written after the May Fourth Movement, and to popularize famous literary works among the masses of the people.

The Union of Chinese Dramatists, the Union of Chinese Musicians, the Union of Chinese Artists, and the Association for the study of Chinese Folk Songs and Ballads have called on their members to create new works which reflect the nation's transition to Socialism. The Union of Chinese Artists has, in addition, made plans to organize the production of a series of drawings depicting the history of the people's revolution. The Association for the Study of Chinese Folk Songs and Ballads will publish a new *Selection of Chinese Folk Songs and Ballads*.



THE CHRYSANTHEMUM  
(A peasant scissor-cut)