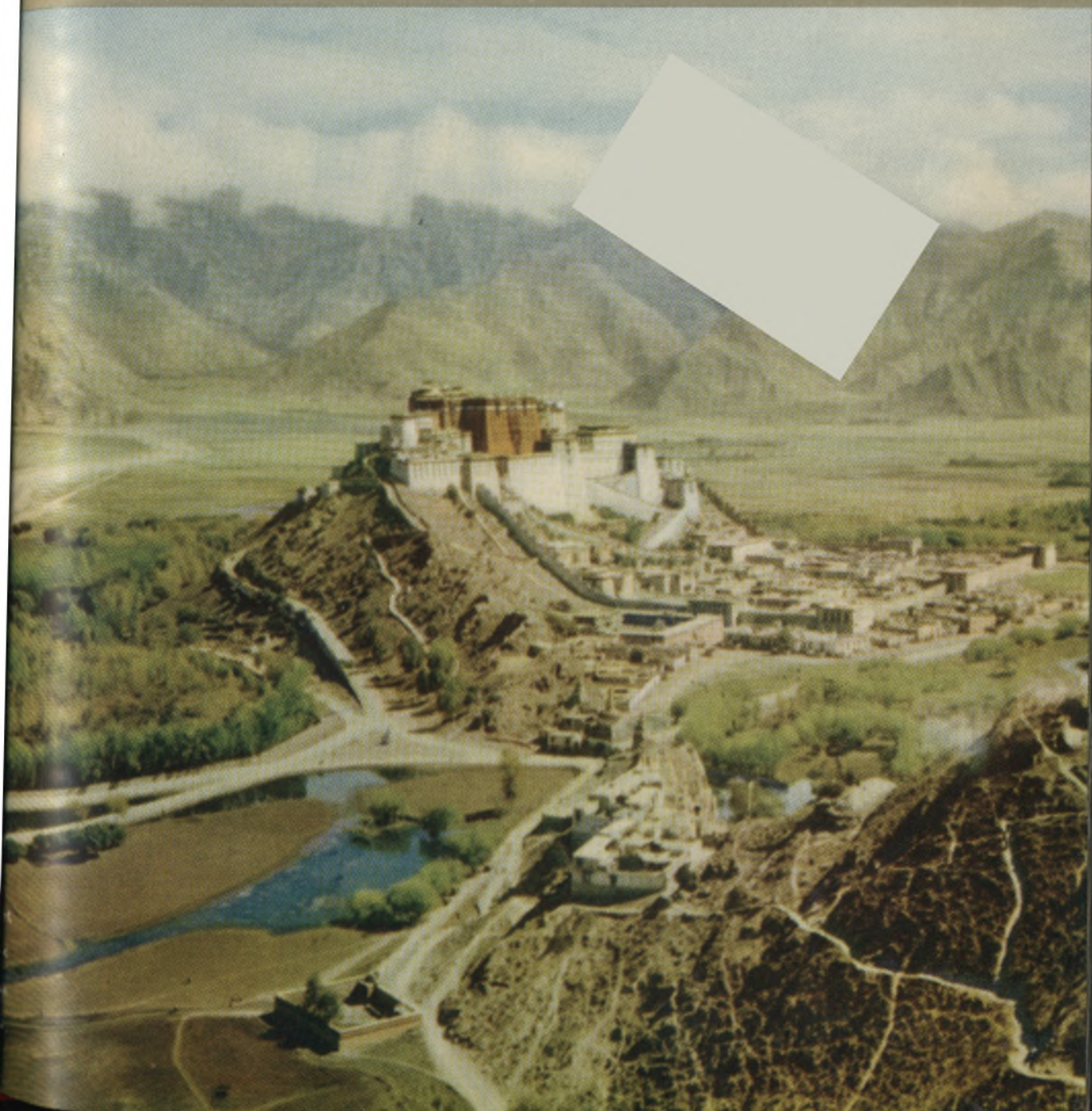


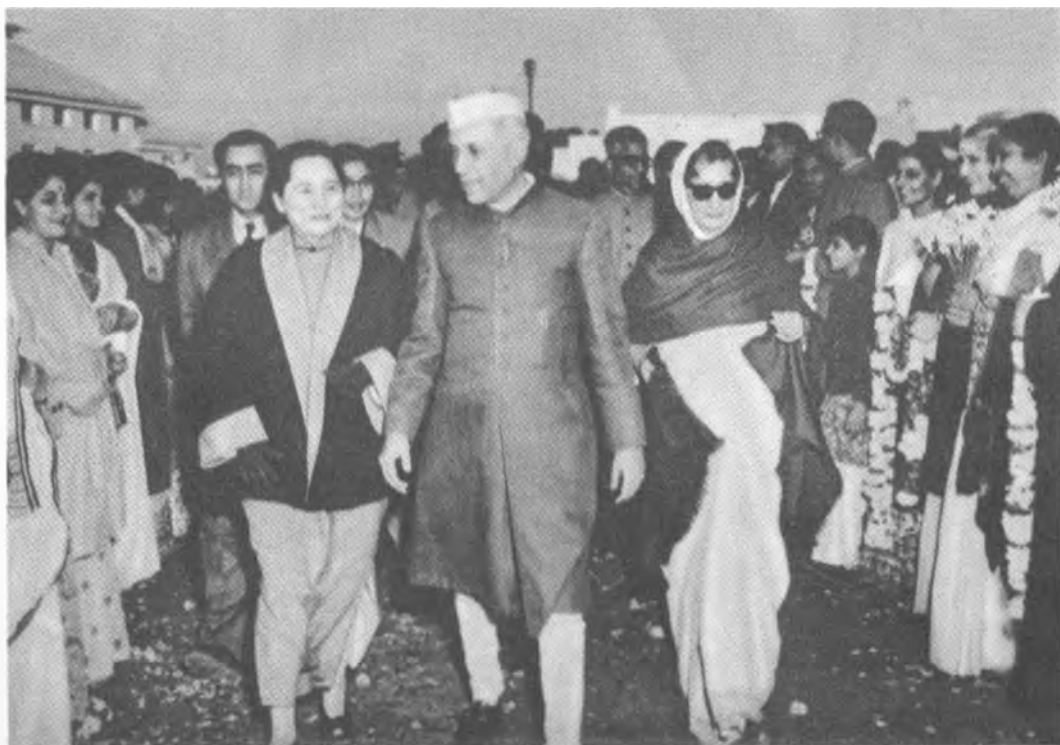
PEOPLE'S CHINA

2



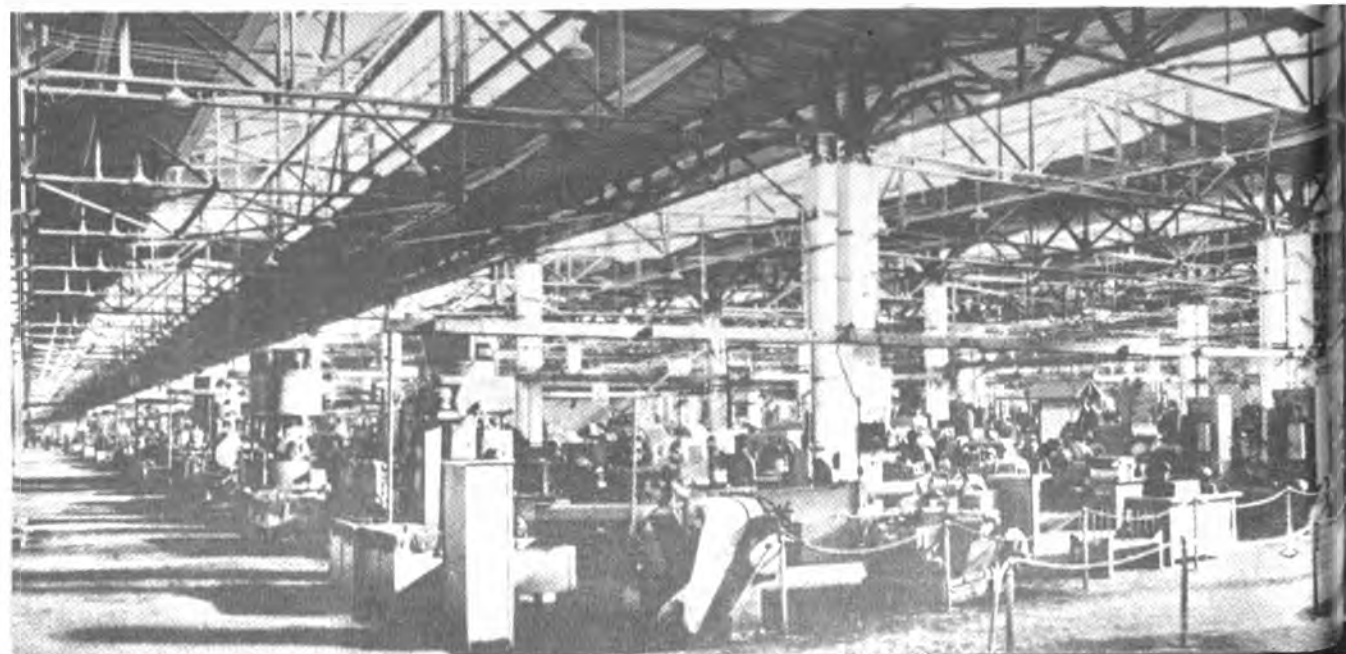
JANUARY
1956





Soong Ching Ling in New Delhi Soong Ching Ling, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Amrit Kaur, Minister of Health, on her arrival in New Delhi as the guest of the Indian Government (Press Bureau of India photo)

China's New Motor-car Works The planned building work for 1955 on China's No. 1 Motor-car Works was finished 56 days ahead of schedule. Several sections, like the chassis shop shown here, are ready for production



PEOPLE'S CHINA

No. 2, 1956

January 16

CONTENTS

A TRIUMPH FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE —“People’s Daily” Editorial . . .	4	sion of 16 States to the U.N.; Sudan: Birth of a Nation	
A NEW STAGE IN CHINESE-GERMAN FRIENDSHIP—Wang En-yuan . . .	6	CHRONICLE OF EVENTS	38
THE HOME MARKET IS DOING WELL —Chen Hsing	10	LETTERS	38
SHENYANG NO. 1 MACHINE TOOLS WORKS (Built Under the 5-Year Plan)	15	PICTORIAL PAGES	19
TIBET BEYOND LHASA (Tibetan Journey — 3)—Israel Epstein . . .	17	Shipbuilding; The Rush to Join the Co-ops; Chaochow Wood-carvings	
RECOVERING ANCIENT CHINESE MUSIC—Yang Yin-liu	26	SUPPLEMENT:	
THE “GREAT WORLD” TRANSFORMED —Huang Pi	30	The Joint Statement of the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of the German Democratic Republic	
CULTURAL LIFE Writers! To the Farms!; Pioneers of Modern Chinese Music; Chrysanthemum Show	33	Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation Between the People’s Republic of China and the German Democratic Republic	
IN THE NEWS	35	FRONT COVER: Lhasa: The ancient Potata Palace overlooks the new Sikang-Tibet Highway (Photo by Alan Winnington)	
INTERNATIONAL: WHAT THE PAPERS SAY Tenth Session of the U.N.; Admis-	36	BACK COVER: A Tibetan primary school in a tent (Painting in Chinese ink and colour by Huang Chou)	

From the Editor’s Desk

In the past year two things stand out: the way more and more of humanity turned to the idea of peace, and the way more and more people set their face against colonialism.

Looking back now, we can see all the more clearly how much good has been brought to the world by the Bandung and the Geneva Conferences. This, of course, comes about as a result of the efforts of peace-loving people working in the belief that nations with different social and political systems can, and must, live side by side.

The recent visit of the Soviet leaders to India, Burma and Afghanistan is an outstanding example of such efforts. The *People’s Daily* editorial, “A Triumph for Peaceful Co-existence,” which we print as our leading article, expresses what the Chinese people feel on this matter.

We believe, too, that the visit to China of the government delegation from the

German Democratic Republic in December is a major contribution to peace. We think you will be interested in the article “A New Stage in Chinese-German Friendship,” and the documents in the supplement.

The birth of Sudan as an independent nation is a fresh victory over colonialism. A brief commentary in our “International—What the Papers Say” column sums up how the Chinese people see it.

One of the most frequent questions which visitors to New China and our readers ask is how we managed to stabilize our market after the appalling mess created by astronomical inflation under the Kuomintang. “The Home Market Is Doing Well” gives the answer and also the picture of the home market today.

In this number you’ll also find “Tibet Beyond Lhasa,” the third and last article in the “Tibetan Journey” series.

A Triumph for Peaceful Co-existence

Editorial in the Peking "People's Daily," January 2, 1956

1955 was a year in which the international forces for peace and the forces of anti-colonialism advanced on a broad front.

It will go down in post-war history as a year of steady success for the policy of peaceful co-existence and closer co-operation between nations; of an unprecedented extension of the struggle against colonialism in Asia and Africa; and of an insistent demand by more and more countries to be allowed to manage their own affairs without interference. All this has been a direct setback to aggressors and proponents of a "policy of strength." Today the determination of peoples to enjoy peace and share in the progress of humanity has become a force which nothing can withstand.

The reports which Bulganin and Khrushchev gave to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. on December 29 on their visits to India, Burma and Afghanistan gave a wonderfully lucid picture of these trends. One cannot read them without seeing the triumphal march of this idea of peaceful co-existence, without realizing that this idea is a great force behind developments in the international situation.

The highlights of the year's changes were the Asian-African and Geneva Conferences, and the "Bandung spirit" and "Geneva spirit" which they gave rise to. The spirit of Bandung and Geneva is the recognition that the independence and sovereignty of all states must be respected,

that nations must, more and more, work with one another, and that international disputes must be settled by negotiation. This spirit which has become part of the outlook of people in all lands who seek peaceful co-existence, is irresistible.

DURING the past year the Soviet Union played a most brilliant part in the struggle to safeguard peace and ease international tension, taking a series of steps to strengthen trust among nations and promote international co-operation. It proposed a universal reduction in armaments, the banning of atomic weapons and the establishment of collective security in Europe. These things are now the common desire of peace-loving people the world over. Soviet-Yugoslav relations have seen a fundamental change. Soviet relations with Finland, Norway and Canada have markedly improved, as have relations with the German Federal Republic. Because of the personal contact which Bulganin and Khrushchev made with the leaders and people of India, Burma and Afghanistan, the Soviet Union's friendly relations with Asian countries entered on a new stage. All this shows that the Soviet Union stands four-square for peace and friendship among all peoples.

The important thing about the Bulganin-Khrushchev visits is the way they have contributed to the spreading of the idea of peaceful co-existence, the spirit

born of the achievements of the Asian-African and Geneva Conferences—and this at the very time when the West was making every effort to confine, or even launch a crusade to wipe out the spirit of Bandung and Geneva.

The Soviet Union sincerely welcomes the emergence of an independent India and an independent Burma, and holds in high esteem the part they play in international affairs. She believes that it is impossible to solve any important Asian question—and not Asian questions alone—without China, India and other Asian countries having their say. She denounces Western colonial rule in Asia, upholds India's justified claim to Goa, and declares that the people of Kashmir and Pushtunistan are right in their demands. She resolutely opposes the SEATO military bloc and the Bagdad pact on the grounds that they aim at destroying the unity of Asian countries, intensifying tension in Asia and providing "legal" justification for sustaining the remnants of colonial rule.

The Soviet Union is sincere when she says she wants to see an enormous industrial development in Asian countries. She is always prepared to give them solid, tangible help. Only a country whose policy is based on Marxism-Leninism can do things in this way. When he was in India, Bulganin said: "Industrial development is the mainstay of economic progress and something without which no country can be sure of maintaining its independence." That tallies with the views held by Prime Minister Nehru, who has, on more than one occasion, emphatically said that India must develop heavy industry as the only way to consolidate the independence of his country. The economic and trade agreements which the Soviet Union has concluded with India, Burma and Afghanistan open up a wide prospect of further economic co-operation between her and them.

It is important that the Soviet Union has strengthened her economic ties with Asian countries, and that she wholeheart-

edly extends them economic and technical help. For Soviet aid is utterly different from "aid" given by Western countries: there is no interference in the affairs of the other country; it is based on mutual benefit and reciprocity as between equals; and there are no political strings attached. It is given to help Asian countries turn themselves from backward agricultural states into powerful industrial ones—certainly not to enslave them and keep them as permanent suppliers of raw materials and permanent markets for finished goods. Soviet aid helps the Asian countries build their national industries and develop their economies on a peace-time footing. Consequently there is a broader basis than ever for friendship between the people of Asia and the U.S.S.R.

This is a friendship which peace-loving people the world over heartily welcome. They believe it makes for the preservation of peace in Asia and elsewhere. But it is far from pleasing certain Western politicians, who wantonly attack the peaceful foreign policy of the Soviet Union and allege that friendly relations between her and the Asian countries "impair" the ties between Asia and the West. That slander Prime Minister Nehru himself has answered. Indian-Soviet friendship, he said, "is not directed against any nation."

Maybe the gentlemen who concoct this nonsense are not aware of their growing unpopularity in Asian countries. If so, they had better ask themselves one or two questions. For instance, on what grounds do you say Portugal should lay hands on Indian territory and treat the people of Goa like slaves? Why do you oppose the righteous will of the people of India? Why are you trying, by hook or by crook, to force Asian countries into SEATO or the Bagdad pact, to divide Asia and imperil Asian security?

Deeds speak louder than words. You yourselves would never have the courage to provide the Asian countries with first-rate industrial equipment and technique, for the simple reason that you want to keep

them backward, to keep them as your source of raw materials, to keep them as your markets, now and for evermore.

ALL of which goes to show that two utterly different political policies are now at work in current international affairs. Peaceful, democratic countries, headed by the Soviet Union, stand for peaceful co-existence between lands with different social institutions and for an end to colonialism. On the other hand, a few Western countries, headed by the United States, still want to cling to their "policy of strength" and uphold colonial rule. Only a day or so ago there were people actually offering up "Christmas prayers" for the restoration of the capitalist system in the People's Democracies of Eastern Europe, motivated by nothing but dreams of once again enslaving the liberated peoples of those lands.

But the way the situation has been changing over the past year is proof positive that the "policy of strength" has been running into heavy weather, which

will get worse with every passing day. The members of NATO and SEATO and the Bagdad pact countries find themselves at the parting of the ways. They have to choose which way to take. Are they to tag along behind a few Western powers headed by the United States? Or would it not be better to embark on a policy of closer co-operation and peaceful co-existence with other countries? If they do not cut adrift from the "policy of strength," they will have to share the consequences of its failure, with all its harmful effects on their national interests, and find themselves condemned to growing isolation in international affairs.

The year 1955 ended in a great triumph for the idea of peaceful co-existence. In all lands those who champion the cause of peace and human progress are proud of the changes that took place last year, are filled with confidence in the future of mankind. The tramp of their feet on the road forward is louder and more insistent. Those who stop their ears to it, who blindly cling to an outworn "policy of strength," will end in ignominy and failure.

A New Stage in Chinese-German Friendship

Wang En-yuan

Our Correspondent

IN the great new Peking gymnasium eight thousand people cheered and applauded. On the platform two Prime Ministers, Chou En-lai of China and Otto Grotewohl of the German Democratic Republic, shook hands and embraced.

Prime Minister Grotewohl, our honoured guest, had just, on behalf of the Ger-

man people, restored to China some of her national treasures—three volumes of the fifteenth century *Yung Lo Encyclopaedia* and ten banners used in the I Ho Tuan ("Boxer") anti-imperialist rising of 1900. German troops had looted them during the eight-power invasion. "German militarists," said Grotewohl, "blood and profit sucking

enemies of the Chinese people, stole these banners. Now German socialists, descendants of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, true friends and comrades-in-arms of the Chinese people, bring them back and place them in your hands."

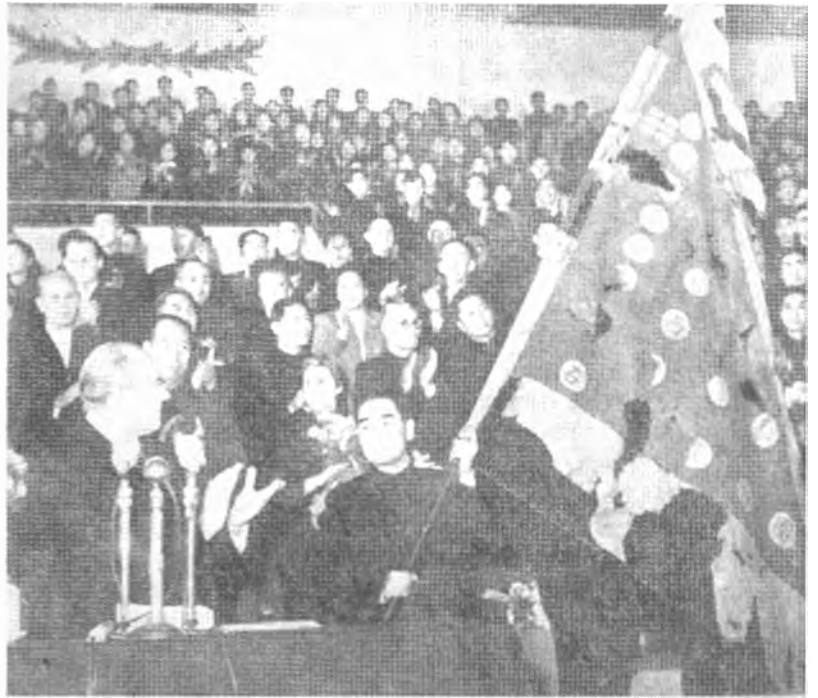
Historic Documents

On December 25, 1955 a Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation was signed, and a joint statement by the governments of the two countries issued, in Peking.* On the same day an agreement on cultural co-operation and another on co-operation in the examination, prevention and control of plant diseases and insect pests were signed.

These documents voiced a common view on the world situation: that peace, both in Asia and Europe, is indivisible. China and the German Democratic Republic agreed to take part in any international action designed to safeguard the peace and security of the world, to consult one another on all important international issues affecting their interests and particularly on questions that concern the integrity of their territories and national security. For instance, China will support the German Democratic Republic's effort to bring about a peace-loving, democratic and united Germany, and democratic Germany will back China's demand to liberate Taiwan and resume her rightful place in the United Nations.

In the joint statement the two countries set their face against colonialism in any of its manifestations, and supported all states and peoples in Asia, Africa and elsewhere upholding and striving for national independence. This unity between China with her six hundred million people and a highly industrialized country in the heart of Europe is hardly likely to please any aggressors thinking of intimidating peace-

*For full texts see supplement.



Premier Chou En-lai holds aloft one of the I Ho Tuan ("Boxer") flags which Prime Minister Grotewohl brought back to China

loving countries in Asia or Europe and jeopardizing world peace.

The friendship between the People's Republic of China and the German Democratic Republic began six years ago. Both were founded in 1949. They established diplomatic relations, and both countries, as Chairman Mao has said, "stand at the forefront of the great struggle against imperialism." In July 1954 the two prime ministers, meeting in Berlin, made a clear statement of mutual support and common determination by the two countries to safeguard peace. In April 1955 the People's Republic of China terminated the state of war between herself and Germany. A few weeks later, at the Warsaw Conference of European Countries on the safeguarding of European peace and security, Peng Teh-huai, Chinese Vice-Premier and Minister of Defence, made a forthright statement to the effect that if imperialist aggressors made war against peace-loving European countries, the people and governments of those countries could count on China's support.

Friendship in Material Form

German-Chinese friendship is manifested in many aspects of the daily life of

the people. At the No. 1 Cotton Mill in Peking, Prime Minister Grotewohl got a particularly rousing welcome, for every bit of the machinery there came from the German Democratic Republic and German experts helped to install it.

Again, on December 7, the day before the delegation reached Peking, the big new sugar refinery at Paotow started up. (See the last issue of *People's China*.) That, too, was built with German help, and German experts are still there helping with production and management.

When the German Prime Minister visited Tsinghua University, Peking, a professor of the mechanical engineering department told him that a good half of the instruments they used came from the German Democratic Republic.

So one could go on. Many German factories are working on orders for China, some of them turning out the whole of the equipment for big new factories. While they were here the German delegation got a cable from the Elbewerk concern in Rosslau reporting completion of the equipment for five Chinese power stations.

We have mentioned only German aid to China, but benefits are not by any means one-sided. Sino-German trade is growing fast: in 1955 it was three times as great as in 1951, and is still expanding fast. China sends Germany minerals, animal and food products, silks, satins and much else, while Germany sends China machinery, machine tools, vehicles, optical instruments, and so on.

Getting Together

Frequent friendly visits and cultural contacts make us feel like next-door neighbours. Peking sports fans have been flocking to friendly contests between a team of German swimmers and Chinese enthusiasts. Chinese cinemas have been showing *Conquest of the Dark Night*, a German film about the anti-fascist struggle inside Germany. Not long ago a group of wind-players from the Dresden State Orchestra and two *lieder* singers delighted Chinese

music-lovers. Over the past few years visits by scientists, artists, men of letters, theatrical companies and sports teams in both directions have run into scores. German films and exhibitions have come to China, and Chinese ones have gone to Germany. Many Chinese books have been translated into German, and vice versa. Chinese students are studying in Germany, and German students in China.

We know how much the German people have contributed to the culture of mankind. The names of Goethe, Schiller, Heine and Beethoven are household words. Marx and Engels are teachers of the Chinese people and of the world's revolutionary workers. And the Germans love our culture. Prime Minister Grotewohl brought Chi Pai-shih, our famous painter, greetings from the German Academy of Science and honorary corresponding membership of that body. A Shaohsing opera company made a great hit in Germany last summer.

Wilhelm Pieck, President of the German Democratic Republic, has just celebrated his eightieth birthday, and a Chinese delegation headed by Chu Teh took part. Incidentally, in 1953 one of the classes in a Peking middle school was named after President Pieck. When he heard about it, the President wrote the children a charming letter in which he said he hoped they would "turn out to be some of the very best students in their free and mighty workers' and peasants' state." That put the kiddies on their mettle, and when Dr. Bolz, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, paid them a visit, he found they had been getting splendid marks both for class subjects and sports.

Over a century ago Karl Marx was warmly identifying himself with the Chinese people's struggle and denouncing the plunder of China by the Western powers. Through the Russian revolution his teachings began to find their way to China. Today China and her six hundred million people, guided by Marx's principles, are on their way to socialism. In Marx's home-

land, too, has risen a state where the working people are in power—the German Democratic Republic.

Such is the firm foundation on which our friendship is built. “The Chinese peo-

ple,” in the words of Premier Chou En-lai, “will guard the friendship between our two peoples as the apple of their eye. To strengthen and promote it will be one of their most important tasks.”

LOST TREASURES REGAINED

The *Yung Lo Ta Tien*—the *Yung Lo Encyclopaedia*—is one of the greatest encyclopaedias that China, or, for that matter, the world has produced. Its 11,095 volumes, all written by hand, were compiled during the first five years of the Yung Lo period of the reign of the Ming emperor Cheng Tsu—that is, 1403-1407 A.D. Its subject-matter embraces politics, economics, law, ethics, ceremonial, philosophy, history, geography, astronomy, mathematics, the industrial arts, biology, medicine, literature, art and much else, and embodies practically all writings on these subjects extant at that time. Until the end of the nineteenth century it was kept in Peking.

In 1900 the imperialist powers started talking about partitioning China. To safeguard China's independence as a nation, Chinese peasants together with handi-

craftsmen and impoverished townsmen formed the I Ho Tuan (known to the West as the Boxers) to organize resistance. An imperialist “Eight-Power Allied Army” launched a dastardly attack on Peking. The I Ho Tuan, hard-pressed by both internal and foreign counter-revolutionaries, failed, but its valiant struggle did at least prevent partition. (See “I Ho Tuan—Anti-Imperialist Patriots” in *People's China*, No. 13, 1955.)

The imperialist troops occupied Peking. On top of the misery this brought to the Chinese people, many valuable books and precious relics of the past kept in the capital, including a part of the encyclopaedia, were lost. Even today stray volumes of the encyclopaedia and other things looted at that time are displayed in libraries and museums in certain Western countries.

Since it was founded the Chinese People's Republic has been gradually recovering its lost treasures. In 1951 the Soviet Union returned eleven volumes of the encyclopaedia which had been in Tsarist hands. Then in August last year it returned a number of I Ho Tuan flags and weapons captured by Tsarist troops to a delegation of Chinese museum workers visiting the Soviet Union. Another three volumes of the encyclopaedia, which had been in the library of Leipzig University, and ten I Ho Tuan flags captured by the German troops, were returned to China last December by a government delegation from the German Democratic Republic. These friendly gestures have made a great impression on the Chinese people and bespeak the profound friendship between China and other countries of the socialist world.

Jung Meng-yuan

Three volumes of the *Yung Lo Encyclopaedia*, returned to China by the government delegation from the German Democratic Republic



The Home Market Is Doing Well

Chen Hsing

Assistant Minister of Commerce

ANYONE who ever stayed in old China knows what the Chinese people had to put up with as a result of currency inflation, soaring prices and fluctuating markets. In August 1948, prices were six million times higher than in August 1937. The gold yuan notes issued by the Kuomintang government in 1948 became waste paper within a year. Over a great part of China, the economy was on the verge of complete collapse and living standards fell to an appallingly low level.

Those bad old days are gone for good. People nowadays, both in town and country, find themselves with more money in their pockets year by year. Prices remain stable. More and better goods are constantly coming on to the market. In other words, a stable and ever more prosperous home market benefits production, and people live better.

Measures to Stabilize the Market

But these changes have not just happened. It has meant a hard struggle. When China was liberated in 1949, we took over a chaotic economy and an inflated currency. We had to control the market and get to grips with speculators. The measures we introduced fell under three main heads. First, the People's Government took firmer control of private banks and forbade the buying and selling of foreign currency or gold on the black market. Secondly, we tightened up the controls over the wholesale market in cer-

tain commodities, kept a sharp eye on speculation, and fixed official wholesale prices. Thirdly, whenever prices started to soar because private enterprise was cornering goods or exploiting temporary shortages, state trading companies threw their supplies on to the market and brought prices down again, and whenever the market was flooded, they kept the price stable by appropriate purchases.

With these three co-ordinated measures we began to get the situation in hand, and in no very long time put an end to soaring prices.

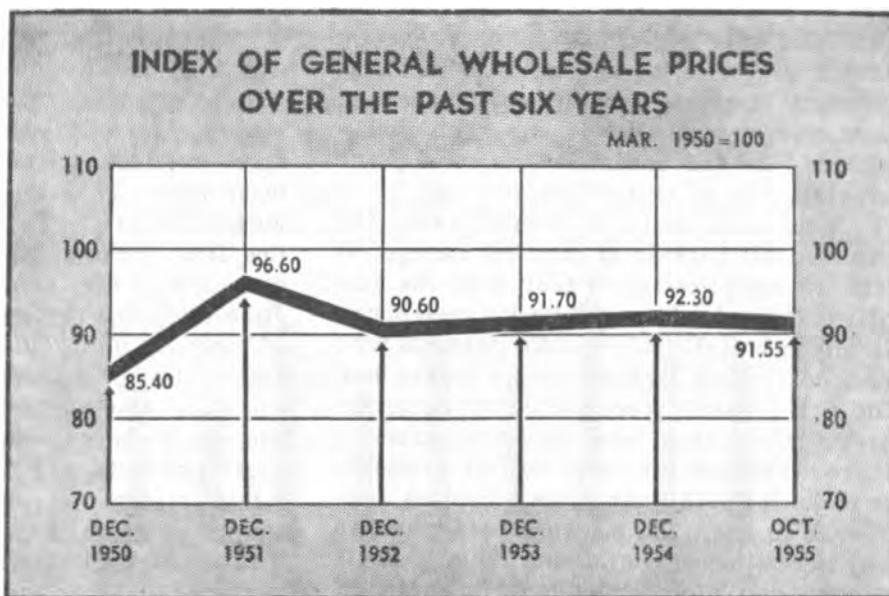
From March 1950 onwards the government started making a great effort to put the national finances under centralized management and stabilize the financial market and commodity prices. As part of this effort it overhauled and simplified the whole system of taxation, issued bonds and took measures to control purchases and loans and the rate at which goods were thrown on the market. Five months later, prices and the financial market were steady all over the country.

In a country with a vast peasant population and a comparatively small industrial population, obviously one of the first things that had to be done was to promote a brisk exchange of goods between town and country. So, from the autumn of 1951 onwards, thanks to the efforts of the government and the peasants, the output of grain, cotton and other staple farm produce has risen fast.

State trading concerns and supply and marketing co-operatives started up all over the country and did a brisk business. In China, cottage and rural industry accounts for quite a big slice of the peasants' income, provided they can market their products, so we organized well-planned exchange between different parts of

the country, and in the process tapped huge, unsuspected resources. In doing this we had two things in view: giving the peasants a greater income and the chance of a better life, and the creation of a huge domestic market for our industrial goods. We organized the selling of the peasants' goods and encouraged industry to produce for the countryside, to lower costs of production and cut prices.

But while it was action by the state that led to this improvement, at the same time private industry was getting more and more active. There was more money in people's pockets and many capitalists thought they were on a good thing. It became apparent that many of them were still dabbling in speculation and a mad race for profits. In 1952, therefore, the government set afoot among private industrialists and traders what became known as the *wu fan* ("five things to fight") campaign. The "five things" were bribery of government employees, tax evasion, theft of state property, cheating on government contracts, and stealing economic information for private speculation. In the old days all these things were taken as a matter of course. Now they were brought into the



open and condemned. This campaign did a great deal to put a stop to double-dealing and bare-faced law-breaking on the part of the capitalists, and also put paid to the old "gang boss" system in the guilds, cheating, feudal practices and other left-overs inherited from the past.

A Constant Stimulus

By 1953 the period of economic rehabilitation came to an end, and we embarked on a new stage, the building of socialist industry. As it got under way it became apparent that the supply of many commodities was failing to keep pace with demand. That was not surprising. The state was spending a great deal on industrialization, education, public health and so on, which made for fuller employment and a greater aggregate amount of wages, and the peasants, besides raising more crops, were also getting rather better prices for their farm produce. That meant that purchasing power, which had risen generally all through the period of economic rehabilitation, now began to increase rapidly. People had more to spend than there were consumer goods and farm implements and supplies to buy. That placed heavier and heavier demands on industry and agricul-

ture, and gave a decided stimulus to both. In the long run, of course, it is just this constant stimulus provided by a socialist economic system that is one of its main virtues. In the meantime, however, the problem had to be tackled.

You could not, in China, tackle the problem of markets at one fell swoop. It was too complicated for that, with the host of small producers and private merchants. In any case well-to-do middle peasants who had not joined farming co-operatives and the rich peasants were somewhat reluctant to sell their grain and industrial crops if there were not the commodities available to make it worth their while. Besides, consumers in town and country would rush to buy necessities if they found them in short supply, and merchants would cash in on the situation by cornering commodities and creating a black market. These were things that, if allowed their head, would have upset the stability of the market.

So, at the start of the first Five-Year Plan, we took three main steps to keep markets stable. The first was to balance our budget and build both financial reserves and stocks of commodities; the second to expand home and foreign trade and foster the growth of state and co-operative trading; and the third was to introduce planned purchase and supply of grain and certain other staple commodities by the state.

Sound Finance

The need for the first step is obvious. If a proper balance is kept between revenue and expenditure, there can be no fluctuation in the value of the currency; and if the state accumulates reserves of materials, they will be available as required and prices will remain steady. China's budgets have balanced for years now and left us with a tidy surplus. In 1953 this surplus was close on 4,300 million yuan, in 1954 over 1,600 million, and in 1955 it was expected to be 1,455.8 million yuan.

Because agricultural output has soared, because improved buying methods have been introduced and more reasonable prices

worked out, from 1954 onwards the state was able to buy more grain, oil-bearing crops and cotton than it planned and has made similar improvements in buying other farm produce. Great progress has also been made in bringing private industry within the orbit of state planning. Statistics from Peking, Shanghai, Tientsin and nine other cities show that at the end of June 1955, 85.3 per cent of the total output of private industry was connected with state orders or processing for the state. So the state now controls the lion's share of the country's main industrial and agricultural products and this is linked to the sound system of planned purchase and supply of grain, vegetable oils, and cloth. This enables the state to keep the market perfectly stable and meet the people's needs.

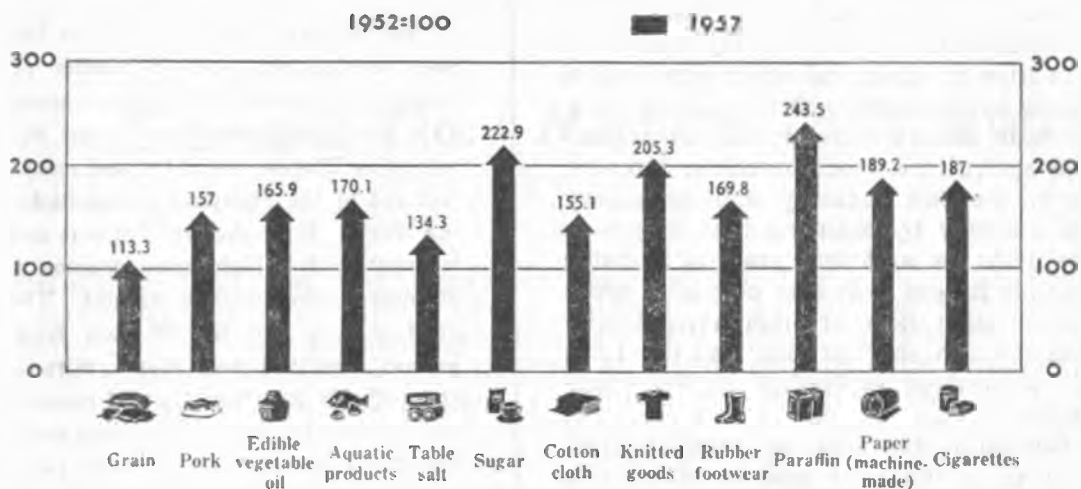
In March 1955 the issue of a new currency wiped out the last memories of inflation. The change-over from the old to the new currency proceeded without a hitch. There was nothing to be apprehensive about and nobody lost a penny. Prices remained unchanged and bank savings registered a general rise. In November last savings deposits in urban banks reached a total of some 1,500 million yuan, 260 million yuan more than at the end of 1954.

Expansion of Trade

If we are to stimulate output, bring greater prosperity to both town and country and keep the market stable, we have to organize a more efficient exchange of goods and expand both home and foreign trade, and to see that, as industry and agriculture grow, their products are made more generally available. The Five-Year Plan will see an increase to a greater or lesser extent in the amount of all the principal goods sold by state and private concerns. During the Plan the volume of retail trade should increase by 80 per cent. There is no precedent in China's history for so rapid an increase in so short a time.

State and co-operative trading concerns are finding their feet and playing a much more important part in internal trade. It

RISE OF RETAIL TRADE IN CERTAIN PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES UNDER THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN



is through them that most industrial goods find their way to the countryside and agricultural produce finds its way to town. In trades where the supply of goods is in the hands of the state and the co-ops (such as grain, vegetable oils and cotton piece-goods), all private shops are working as agents or distributors for the state or co-ops. Department stores, stationers, butchers, tobacconists, chemists, and wine, tea, oil and coal merchants operate largely or wholly as agents for, or distributors on behalf of, the state and co-operatives. These trades are thus brought into the orbit of state capitalism and planning. This has meant a rapid shrinkage of the old free market.

Big as this network of socialist, state-capitalist and private trading concerns serving town and country now is, it is still not big enough to meet all the needs of consumers in the countryside, where shops are few and far between, so thousands and thousands of pedlars organized by the supply and marketing co-operatives are selling industrial products from door to door and buying the output of the peasant small producers—things like poultry, eggs and

hemp—on their rounds. The full use of rural trade fairs also expands trade in the countryside.

In the sphere of foreign trade, trade with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, based on equality, mutual benefit, mutual assistance and co-operation, is growing fast. This has been an enormous help to us in building our socialist industry. Trade with South-east Asia is also expanding on the principle of equality and mutual benefit, and we hope to do far more trade with other capitalist countries.

Planned Purchase and Supply

In China we tackle disparities between supply and demand in a different way from capitalist countries, where laissez-faire methods only too often lead to speculation, cornering of markets, soaring prices and a chaotic sellers' market. We tackle the problem in a socialist way—by the gradual introduction of a system of planned purchase and supply of the important products of industry and agriculture, those most vitally important to the national economy and to the people in their daily lives. This policy means that producers always get a

fair price for their goods, and that consumers get adequate supplies at reasonable prices.

Planned purchase and supply of grain has five advantages: (1) it helps industrial construction by ensuring sufficient grain for the industrial population; (2) it prevents speculation in grain and other agricultural produce by speculative merchants and protects both sellers and buyers; (3) it promotes agriculture, stock-breeding, forestry, fishery, the salt industry and subsidiary rural industry by ensuring that people in these fields get sufficient grain at a stable price; (4) it sees to it that people in areas hit by drought, flood or other natural calamities never go short of food; and (5) it has dealt a blow to capitalism in the countryside.*

Similarly, the planned purchase and supply of cotton cloth and vegetable oils stimulates the production of cotton and oil-bearing crops and gives the consumer better service.

In fact, planned purchase of certain staple industrial and agricultural goods in short supply is a policy which has come to stay, and it is unlikely that we shall drop the planned supply system until such time as supply catches up with demand.

The adoption of the three measures mentioned above had meant that during the first three years of planned economic construction markets have remained as firm as a rock. And because we enjoy this stable market, we are successfully building socialism and gradually raising living standards.

This process will go on. The dawn of 1956 sees a flood-tide of agricultural co-operation in our country, and the transformation of capitalist industry and commerce at a faster tempo. There will be more achievements in the course of socialist industrialization. All this means increased output in industry and agriculture and a tremendous rise in the people's purchasing power. The home market in 1956 will be brisker and more prosperous than ever.

*See "An Important Step Towards Socialism" by Li Chuang, *People's China*, No. 11, 1955.

MADE IN CHINA

25-Ton Turret Crane

Over the past year or two China has been turning out quite a number of heavy-duty cranes of various sorts. This one is a 25-ton turret crane designed by Chinese engineers and manufactured by the Shenyang Bridge-Building Works. It weighs over 240 tons and is capable of a high speed, making a 360-degree turn in three minutes. The 115-foot arm can lift 25 tons from ground level 223 feet high. With a crane of this sort the lifting of massive steel frames for buildings or huge castings for a blast furnace is child's play.



Shenyang No. 1 Machine Tools Works

PERHAPS the thing that most surprised people who attended recent international trade fairs in Leipzig, Lyons, Damascus, Poznan, Plovdiv, New Delhi and Djakarta and the Chinese trade fairs in Tokyo and Osaka was exhibits of machine tools made in China. In old China all the engineering industry could tackle, apart from a very few simple things that she made herself, was the assembly of imported machinery. New China is only just over six years old, and already Shanghai is turning out precision grinding machines; Tsinan, planers; and Kunming, horizontal boring machines. And, of course, there are the 1 A 62 high-speed lathes turned out by the Shenyang No. 1 Machine Tools Works.

Seeing this factory today after its recent reconstruction and re-equipping, you would never guess the vicissitudes it had been through. In the shop that turns out parts for the 1 A 62 lathe, which is based on a Soviet job, you see seemingly endless rows of first-rate, brand-new machines, for instance, a huge Soviet plano-milling machine which takes 48 milling cutters and cuts six surfaces at a time, and a multiple boring machine (also Soviet) with 39 spindles—the sort of jobs which perform in a matter of minutes operations which took days with older tools.

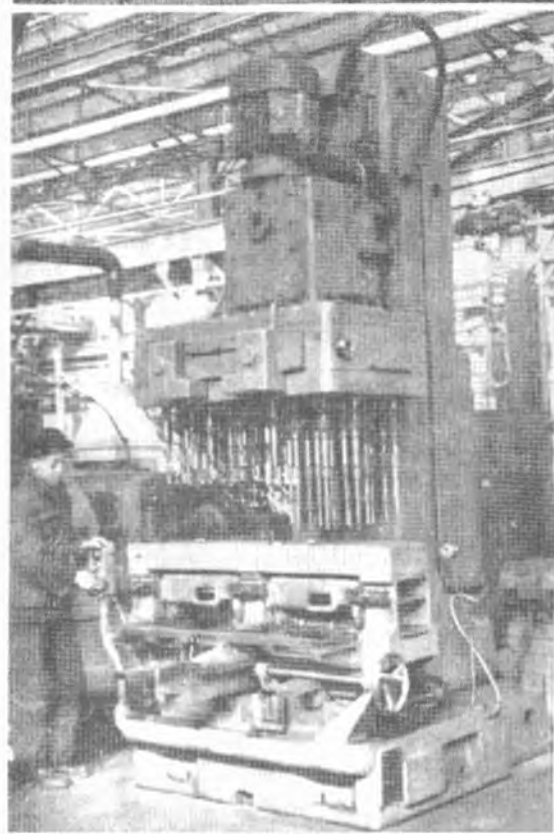
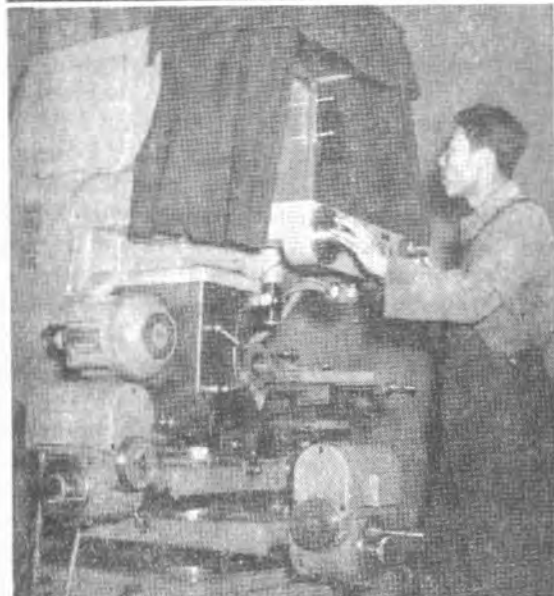
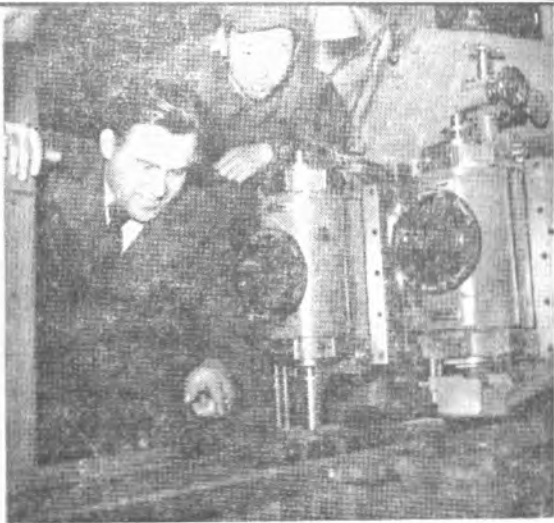
In the past the foundry was a dreadful place where practically everything was done by hand and working conditions were appalling. Now it has been completely re-equipped and almost all the heavy manual labour has been eliminated. The

cupola-furnace now has a self-loading device and is cool and smoke-free even in the hottest weather. Old Hsu Tien-fu, who is 69 and has been in the foundry over forty years, says there is no comparison with the old days when the place was an inferno and workers were always getting injured by molten metal. He refuses to retire. He says he's carrying on till socialism arrives.

During the years of the Japanese occupation, the factory was part of the Japanese munitions industry, on repair work and assembly. In 1947-48, after Japan had been defeated, Kuomintang troops used the place as stables, and when they had finished with it there wasn't a door or a window left whole, or a single machine in working order.

In 1948 the city was liberated, the people took over the factory, and the old workers flocked back. The plant gradually came back to life. The following year, still with only a few dozen dilapidated belt lathes at their disposal, the workers began to turn out new ones. It was no easy matter, because in the past the Japanese had never allowed a Chinese to see a lathe being assembled. Since then, of course, the factory has acquired many new machines from the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia. As early as 1950 it was producing all-gear lathes.

In 1953, the year the first Five-Year Plan started, large-scale reconstruction of the place began. The remodelling was



patterned on the famous "Red Proletariat" machine-tool factory in Moscow, and the plans were prepared by the Soviet State Institute of Machine Designing, which made a point of seeing that China benefited by all the latest achievements of Soviet technology.

Soviet experts were on hand to help during the whole time the reconstruction was in progress, and production continued with never a hitch. By 1953 the place, which was already turning out Soviet-type 1 D 63 lathes, went on to make 1 D 65s, the best machine to date when it comes to turning out shafts, leadscrews and other machine parts.

In March 1954 the Soviet designing institute, which had all along kept a loving eye on the factory's progress and had been informed that certain rationalization proposals were being considered, suggested that the shop which would be handling 1 A 62 lathes should be laid out on lines which had proved highly successful in the Soviet Union.

Their suggestions were adopted, and now this shop, with its several hundred machines operated by four labour sections, is laid out with seven streamlined production lines with crane trolleys above and automatic conveyors below. Billets enter the shop at one end of the line and finished machine parts at the other pass on to the assembly shop. It is really quite fantastic when you consider that in the old days this factory never made a single machine tool. It started making the 1 A 62 lathes last year. They are first-rate jobs and in great demand.

Today the factory is supplying such places as the new No. 1 Motor-car Works and the Penki Iron and Steel Works. These new machines, made in China, are changing the face of industry.

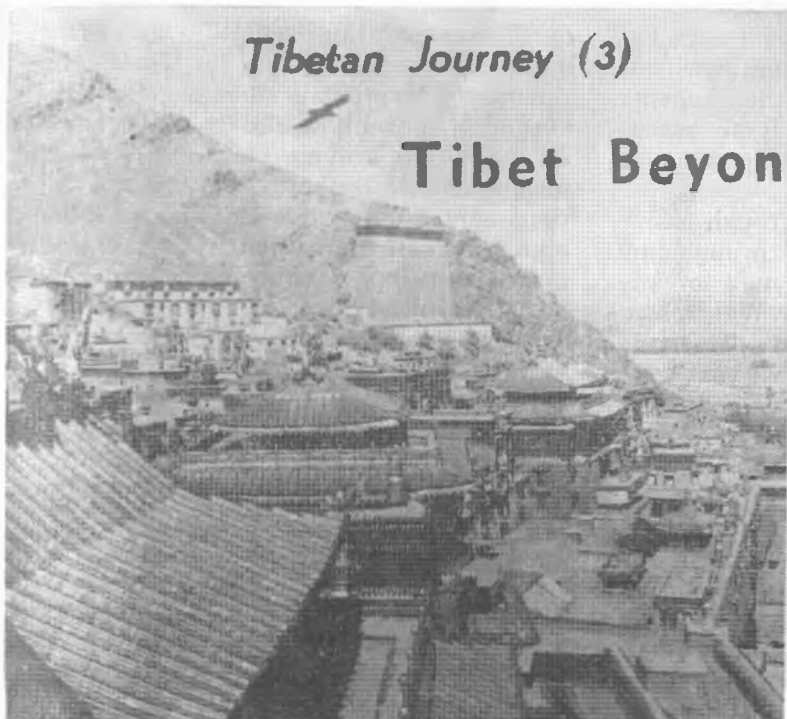
Upper: A Soviet expert gives a Chinese worker some tips on how to make parts for the 1 A 62 lathe

Middle: An optical profile grinding machine in the tool shop. This precision grinder turns out precision tools for other shops

Lower: A multiple boring machine with 39 spindles in the 1 A 62 lathe shop

Tibetan Journey (3)

Tibet Beyond Lhasa



Israel Epstein

LEAVING Lhasa along the new road to Shigatse, we moved through farmland among harvest scenes: golden sheaves stacked in the fields, men and women flailing the grain on the flat roofs of the houses. Then we climbed through a ravine with red-rock walls to the high pastures around Yangbajin. Here thousands of yaks and sheep dotted the rolling sea of grass and shrub—turned purple, brown and scarlet by the autumn—under the snowy rampart of the Nyenchen Tang Lha mountain range. For many hours we did not lose sight of 25,600-foot-high Mt. Chomoganga, one of the world's great peaks. It loomed above us, a dazzling white sugar-loaf of snow and gleaming glacier, jutting into the blue sky.

Startled antelopes streaked away, fast as arrows, at our approach. Huge eagles

This is the third and last of the series "Tibetan Journey." The first article, "On the Sikang-Tibet Highway," was published in *People's China*, No. 23, 1955 and the second one, "In Lhasa Today," in No. 1, 1956.

The picture above shows the Tashi Lumpo Monastery in Shigatse.

hung above in the still air. Once a big grey wolf leaped across the road only a couple of yards in front of our head jeep.

At Markam Dzong

At the pastoral centre of Markam Dzong, the women, busying themselves with rounding up the animals for the night, wore huge picturesque head-dresses studded with shells, semi-precious stones and silver coins. We dined well on yak-milk, so rich that it tastes like pure cream, and on fresh and dried *chura* (cottage cheese), which is an important item of the herdsmen's diet.

The next morning we descended to the brand-new car ferry across the Yalutsangpo (Brahmaputra). The people on the other bank tied white ceremonial scarves, *hata*, to the windshields of our cars. The young women danced in celebration; the *dzongpon* (county head) came down from his castle in full regalia. Around outdoor tables, we were treated with *chiang*, the pleasant, tingling barley-beer of Tibet, from big, graceful earthenware pitchers.

These people had never seen cars before, but their joyful excitement was not just wonder. They knew the benefits modern transport had brought to places further east, which were now coming to them too.

A day of travel, first through semi-desert with sand dunes, then through fine alluvial farmland, brought us to the Nyang River below Shigatse. We crossed to the city on a yak-hide boat. This was the last time anyone had to cross that way. Twelve hours later, when we walked down to the same spot, we saw a steel Bailey bridge which engineers had worked all night to put up. Trucks bringing the prefabricated sections had been our companions on the road's first convoy the day before.

The quick, quiet way in which this last element was moved into place was typical of how materials and skills accumulated from previous experience had made construction easier and faster.

Before the new road, it took ten days or more to travel to Shigatse from Lhasa. We made it in two.

In Shigatse

What one sees first in Shigatse is its great castle, towering above the low sun-baked brick houses in which its 18,000 inhabitants live. The other landmark, half hidden behind a hillside, is the magnificent group of richly decorated buildings comprising the Tashi Lumpo Monastery, religious headquarters of the Panchen Ngoerh-tehni, co-head of the Lamaist faith. Tashi Lumpo is second only to the Potala in Lhasa as a repository of the achievements

of Tibetan painting, sculpture and artistic handicrafts. As always in Tibet, these illustrate devotional themes. But their execution shows how closely the artists observed the life around them, and with what insight and skill they could express emotions and character. The giant 130-foot-high gilt-bronze Buddha at Tashi Lumpo, for instance, is a masterpiece of monumental portraiture which has few equals.

Up to a few years ago, one could have said that these striking sights comprised the chief interest and drama of this old city. Today, however, the drama is elsewhere. We can judge from one fact. If not for the new things, half the city would not be there to see at all. In the terrible Nyang River flood of 1954, great numbers of buildings were swept away by a 25-foot-high wall of water that swept down suddenly. Such a catastrophe, at Tibet's long-unchanged level of productive development, might have meant that the city would not have recovered for decades—if ever. Old Asia is dotted with the ruins of towns which, after lesser calamities, simply shrivelled and died. There is a story full of deep meaning behind the fact that Shigatse today, only a year and a half after the disaster, bears hardly a mark of what had happened.

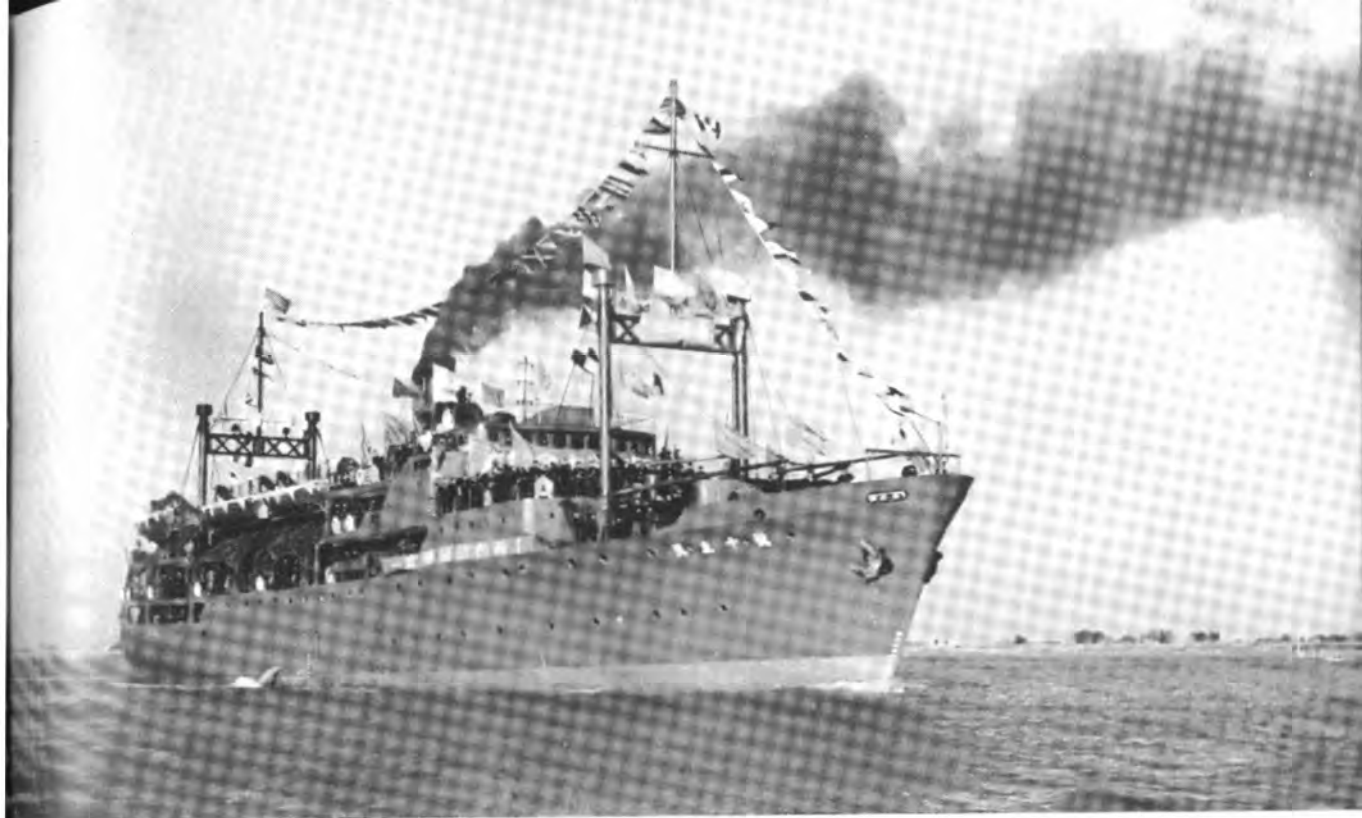
The "Miracle"

The strongly-muscled 47-year-old boatman Topden Gyabo, who had taken us across the river when we first came, told us how he and others of his craft had been brought together by the People's Liberation Army within an hour after the flood struck—and begun saving victims from tree-tops, roofs and the wreckage in the swirling waters. Topden Gyabo had lost his own boat during the flood. The army supplied him with the new one he still uses.

Old Wangdui and his wife, a poor couple in the suburbs, related how their home had collapsed and they lost all their property. After-

A convoy of trucks on the Lhasa-Shigatse Highway





The "Democracy 10" launched last November

SHIPBUILDING

With the rapid development of heavy industry and the help of the Soviet Union, China can now, for the first time, build her own sea-going and big inland cargo and passenger vessels

Yang Kuei-hua, a woman welder working for the Dairen Shipbuilding Company



The Rush to Join the Co-ops

As 1956 begins, some 60 per cent of China's farm households has joined agricultural producers' co-operatives. There is good reason to expect that by the spring, semi-socialist co-operation in farming will be the general rule



Yen Ping-sheng and his wife join a Hupoh co-op, taking their cow and farm tools

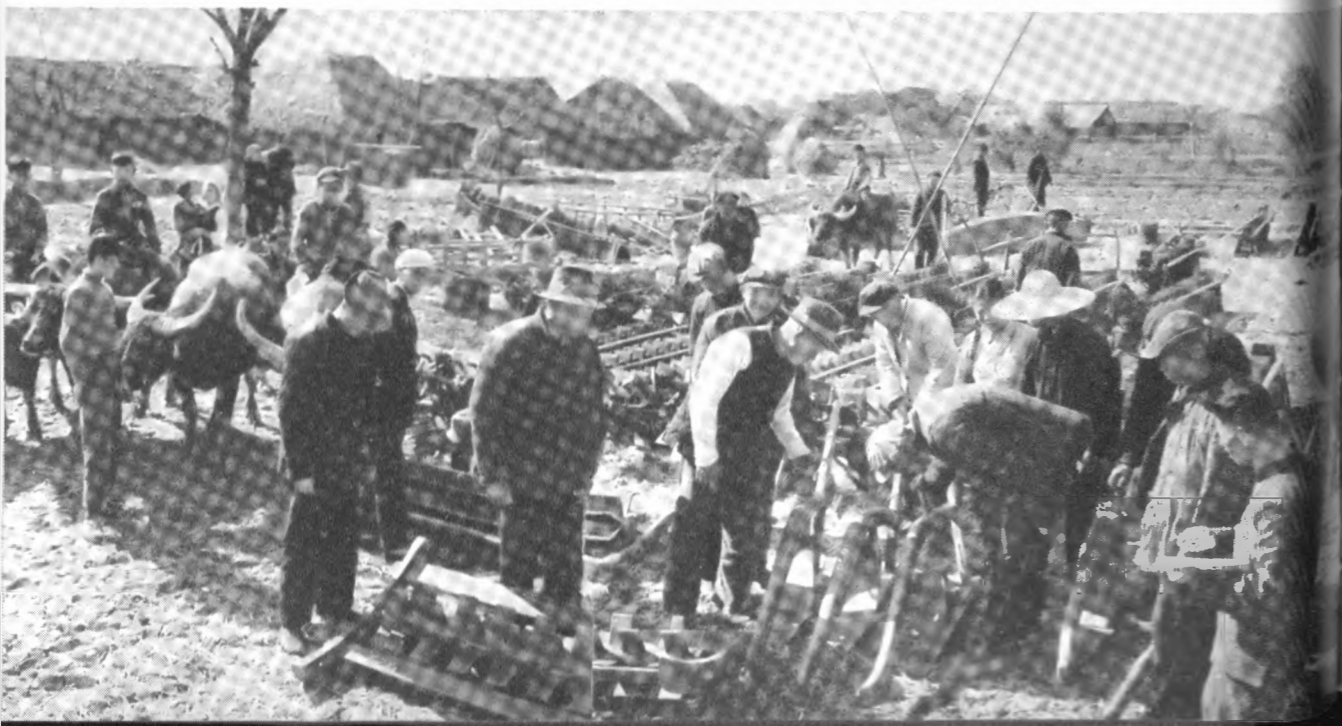
Checking farm implements which the peasants have put into a new co-op in the villages of Linying and Hsinteh of Wuhan



This scene in Huangshanmutien in suburban Peking shows peasants bringing their land certificates to join a co-op



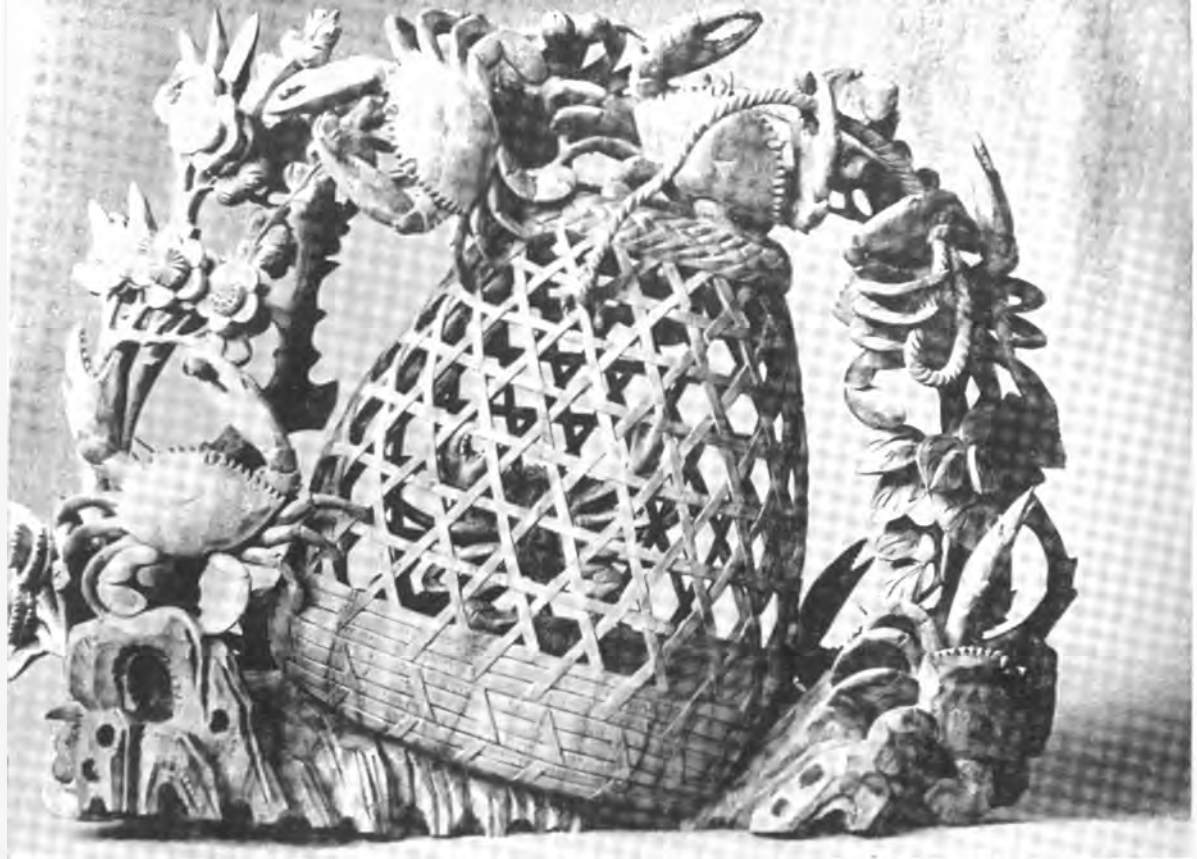
Practically the whole of Hsichin Village in Heilungkiang has gone over to co-operative farming and is now busily reclaiming more land to get still bigger yields



Members of a co-op in western Szechuan put their extra money into the co-op; they know it's a good investment

All over the country people are being trained to run the co-ops. An accountancy class in Hopei





Crabs

Chaochow Wood-carvings

Wood-carving has been done in and around Chaochow, in the province of Kwangtung, for hundreds of years. With a growing market and the encouragement of the People's Government, this fine handicraft has taken on a new lease of life



Two famous Chaochow wood-carvers, Chang Chien-hsuan and Chen Shun-chiang, in their studio

Phoenix in bamboo grove

wards, they had thought they would die as beggars. But the army men had given them clothes off their own backs, tenting material to provide temporary shelter, and food. And later the soldiers brought back some of their belongings, which had been salvaged from the flood and carefully kept for identification.

Sonam Dorje, a peasant from near by, received us in his farmhouse standing among an abundant crop. He had rushed back from a trip to the city to find that his old dwelling had been washed away, and that his 15-year-old son Lhaba, and all his cattle and sheep, had been drowned. The remaining 14 members of his big family were stranded on a hillside, where they sat without shelter, hungry and weeping with despair. On the fourth day, when the water subsided, hope came in the shape of Central People's Government personnel and local officials. They made detailed inquiries about the losses of each sufferer, and distributed vouchers entitling every man, woman and child to 13 lb. of barley to be collected immediately from a warehouse.

Soon after, Sonam Dorje's two sons and two daughters-in-law received work on the new Shigatse-Gyangtse road, and earned the unheard-of sum, for Tibet, of 6 or 7 yuan a day.

This was not all. The 800,000-yuan grant the Central People's Government made for area-wide flood relief covered the future as well as the present. In the early spring of 1955, Sonam Dorje and other peasants were called together and asked how much free seed they required for sowing. "I put in for only a little because I was afraid my needs would seem too great," he said to us. "But they themselves raised the amount after asking how much I had planted before. They said they didn't want a single inch of farmland to remain unsown this year." This peasant family rebuilt its house with the help of a loan. Road-work earnings were used to buy new animals: five yaks, three dzo (a cattle-yak cross which is

stronger and gives more milk) and a flock of sheep.

The way this family recovered was the way all Shigatse recovered.

New Things

Apart from relief, a great deal has been done in Shigatse in the way of production loans. Gajan Tsamju, a carpet-maker who works in his own home, explained that five people in his family are skilled spinners and weavers. But they always used to be short of capital to buy wool. In the past money could be borrowed only in small amounts, at 5 per cent a month interest, and after giving presents and security to the lender. The result was that the whole family would sometimes weave only one rug a month, while the younger members went out for unskilled work to get food.

In 1952, after the liberation, the People's Bank announced loans for handicraftsmen at 1 per cent monthly, with no security required. Gajan Tsamju took 100 yuan, and immediately bought wool for it. He put his whole family back to work, making and selling 12 rugs in a month. Since then he has taken and repaid more loans, and kept busy all the time. "I never earned in my whole life before what I have spent just for our personal needs in these last three years," he said. To prove it, he showed us a trunkful of clothes including a 60-yuan wool gown he got for his wife, and opened another box in which he still kept the tattered rags the family wore before liberation.

Many craftsmen and labourers live in the 50 family-units of public housing, the first in Tibet's history, which were erected in Shigatse soon after the flood. There is no rent to pay. The only qualifications for tenancy are that one must be a working person who has too ramshackle a home, or no home at all. We visited some of the residents in the simple but warm, dry and spacious houses. Baima, a weaver, told me that when they were being put up, ordinary people could not believe that

they could live there: the rumour was that they were for government personnel. "Now we know Chairman Mao has given us homes," he said.

The ancient marketplace at the foot of the castle has a new look, with long rows of freshly-built covered stalls. Since the liberation, the number of shops in Shigatse has doubled. Now that the road is through, trade should become still more brisk.

Today the city is looking forward to the building of a power station, which will soon be undertaken to provide its first electricity. A very big state farm, 13½ square miles in area, is growing up near by. Most immediately important of all, surveys have been completed for water conservancy works along the Nyang River, to protect the city from floods.

The Panchen Ngoerhtehni

Politically, Shigatse had suffered for many years from the effects of strife fostered within Tibet by imperialism and the Kuomintang. When its people talk of the benefits of the liberation, they never omit a thing that is very important to them—the reconciliation of these conflicts which made it possible for the Panchen Ngoerhtehni to return to the city in which his predecessors had lived from of old.

After a dinner at which we were the Panchen's guests in his fifteenth century palace, he spent a couple of hours with us. Like the Dalai Lama in Lhasa, he told us how impressed he was by his visit to inland China, and since it was not his first he was able to make comparisons from past personal experience. "We noticed that no place in the motherland was the same as before, as if a new world had come into being," he commented. "This has instilled in us a greater confidence that we can build well for a new Tibet."

Another point he made was that the Agreement on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet, signed between the Central People's Government and the local government of Tibet, had been most

scrupulously observed and that "tremendous results have been obtained." Among these results, he said, "not only have the living standards of the Tibetan people been improved, but a solid foundation for the successful attainment of future happiness has been laid."

We learned more about these results from the Kampo (Clerical Officials') Conference Committee. This body assists the Panchen Ngoerhtehni in the administration of Shigatse and its dependent areas, as the Kashag or council of Kalons assists the Dalai Lama in Lhasa. At the time of liberation, the committee members told us, the area's herdsmen and merchants were faced with a crisis because there was several years' backlog of unsold wool, for which foreign firms offered a ruinously low price. Soon after liberation, the Tibet Trade Company, newly established by the state, bought up the entire supply at a very good rate—helping the entire economic situation greatly.

Since the liberation, the Kampo Conference Committee, assisted by the Central People's Government, has set up 14 county schools. Other innovations include a hospital and an experimental farm as in Lhasa, a theatre troupe, and mobile moving-picture projection teams. Interest on old debts owed by the working people has been remitted, and the burden of compulsory payments somewhat lowered. At the same time, the cultivated area has grown, and production of both agricultural and pastoral products has gone up.

The Shigatse area is participating fully in the preparations to set up the Tibet Autonomous Region.

Visit to Gyantse

From Shigatse we drove to Gyantse, 57 miles away. The highway is wide and, a rare thing in this region, flat. In building it, many thousands of sufferers from last year's flood, which swept the whole valley, also rebuilt their own economic well-being. This, and constantly growing understanding of the importance of modernization, was responsible for the

speed of construction, which we were told was double that of Tibetan road-workers east of Lhasa. We drove the distance in an easy two hours (by animal it takes three days). There were crops and houses in all the fields, showing how well the area had recovered.

Gyangtse, the centre of a rich agricultural region and of Tibetan carpet-weaving, has strong patriotic traditions. The shell-scarred, thick-walled citadel that overlooks it is a shrine to heroism: here Tibetan fighters, armed only with matchlocks, withstood a two-month siege by foreign invaders who had modern artillery, in 1904. Here too is the thousand-year-old Palkhor temple with its white-and-gold *chorten* (pagoda-like building of religious significance) that is famous all over Tibet.

Among all Tibet's cities, Gyangtse was the worst-hit by the flood of 1954. The waters had rushed into the Nyang River from a near-by mountain lake, into which millions of tons of ice had toppled from a glacier. They had overwhelmed the city in the dead of night. But though the effects were greater than in Shigatse, 80 per cent of the destroyed and damaged houses have been completely rebuilt and life is again normal and active.

A local representative of the central authorities described the work of rehabilitation in great detail—the distribution of 500,000 lb. of grain for food and an even greater amount for seed, the gift to the people of 24,000 yards of tenting materials and large amounts of clothing. But one phrase from his talk stuck, above all, in our minds.

"It was hard to organize food, shelter and work," he said, "but that wasn't the heart of the job. The real victory was to dispel shock and apathy, to awaken and maintain hope."

As we entered Gyangtse, the first visitors to come by the motor road, we found hope to be its main keynote. It is this long-absent stimulus which gives energy to all Tibet, as it moves to catch up with history.

● In the world of sport, recent visitors to China have included a Soviet track and field team and a swimming team, a track and field team from the German Democratic Republic, and the Rumanian national men's volleyball team, all of which have had friendly contests with Chinese teams in many cities.

● A delegation of Egyptian journalists headed by Abdel Monem Mohmoud El-Sawi has been visiting China since last December. In December, too, came a delegation from the International Assembly of Moslem Youth.

● A delegation from the Federation of Yugoslav Journalists, headed by Mr. V. Prpic, Director of the Tanjug Agency, is now touring China.

● While the government delegation from the German Democratic Republic was in China, the National Peking Library presented the Humboldt University in Berlin with a set of the famous *Annals of the Twenty-four Dynasties*. In the past few years the Peking Library and libraries in the German Democratic Republic have been exchanging books and periodicals in large numbers. Ten thousand books were exchanged in this way in the first six months of 1955 alone.

● A Polish cultural delegation headed by Adam Rapacki, Minister of Higher Education, has been in Peking, where it discussed plans for cultural co-operation between China and Poland with the Chinese Government.

● An exhibition of Rumanian folk arts—the biggest sent abroad since the Rumanian People's Republic was founded—is now drawing crowds in Peking.

● An exhibition of Chinese fine arts was recently held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. At the same time an exhibition of Bulgarian folk art was being held in Shanghai.

● The Central Theatrical Institute and the Central Song and Dance Company of China recently sent a selection of presents to the Indian Academy of Music and Drama, including Chinese musical instruments, scores and books on Chinese drama and opera.

Recovering Ancient Chinese Music

Yang Yin-liu

ARCHAEOLOGICAL remains and ancient records show that music was being cultivated by the Chinese as early as the close of the third millennium B.C. Among the musical instruments of the Shang dynasty (c. 1562-1066 B.C.) is the beautifully carved sounding-stone of extraordinary size. By the fourth century B.C. there already existed systematic expositions of the philosophy of music and its effect on social life. Somewhere about 650 B.C. musicologists determined the pentatonic scale on strings, and a hundred years later the twelve semitones were given names. By this time over eighty different types of instruments were in use, and a vast amount of music had been composed. Such was the wealth of material that Confucius was able to draw on some three hundred folk songs for the selection he made in 484 B.C. and incorporated in the *Book of Odes*. In one of the chapters of the *Hsun-tzu*, a book probably written during the period of the Warring States (403-221 B.C.), is a number of references to music. The works of the famous Chu Yuan (340-278 B.C.) include quite a number of lyrics which were sung to the musical accompaniment of dances.

These are but a few references to ancient Chinese music. The tradition was continuously enriched throughout the

ages by later musicians, artists and literati. It has been preserved and handed down in the shape of musical manuscripts, pictures, statuettes, poetry and essays. Many lovely songs have also been preserved by folk artists of town and countryside who sang them to their countrymen and handed them on, generation after generation.

Research Then and Now

But with all this wealth of national music it was very difficult to carry out systematic and comprehensive research in old China. It was hopeless to think of making any real achievement in this field of art. Take my case as an example. I began to study ancient Chinese music about fifty years ago. At first I studied with a famous musician, who accepted me as his pupil on the strict understanding that I should study under no one else and accept him as my only teacher. Later on I tried to make a collection of ancient songs and ballads, only to find that many of them were the private property of curmudgeonly individuals who refused to let others have even a glimpse of them. (After liberation, with so many examples of public spirited service around them, private collectors spontaneously volunteered to make their treasures available to the people.) Again, in studying the music of certain composers and trying to settle various knotty points of musical theory, I badly felt the need to discuss the subject with experts, but could

The author is Vice-Director of the Institute of National Music of the Central College of Music.



Kuan Ping-hu of the Institute of National Music working on the interpretation of an ancient lutanist air

find no one willing to co-operate. Besides, it was a hard job to earn a living, and for a time I had to abandon my hobby for more lucrative work.

Soon after liberation, my musical work took an entirely new turn. In the spring of 1950 I was invited to work in the research department of the Central Musical College. I made contact with many specialists in ancient music and we frequently held informal meetings to discuss the various problems that cropped up in the course of research. The college authorities never tired of inviting specialists in other fields—historians, archaeologists, philosophers and so forth—to help us. Everyone told what he had discovered about ancient music in the course of his own work, and was often able to throw light on things that had puzzled us. The college arranges regular recitals by folk artists, and pays the expenses of the field-workers it sends out for musical research among the people.

In the college the study of ancient music was but one facet of the curriculum. But the scope of our work went on broadening, and in 1954 the government established the Institute of National Music.

It was the first time in China's long history that such attention had been paid to the national music. There is a department specializing in the study of ancient music.

The collection, collation and publication of old music and information and material about it go on apace. So far we have edited something like 140 compositions and 160 short tunes including songs, excerpts from ancient opera and pieces for solo or concerted instruments. They include 80 pieces for the *chin*, or lute; a collection of extended airs for the *pi pa*, or balloon guitar; 13 large pieces for wind and stringed instruments, with a most distinctive style of their own; and 11 pieces for percussion instruments and 13 pieces for stringed instruments.

Old Compositions Rediscovered

Perhaps I can say a few words about one or two of the old compositions which we have discovered and revived.

The lute air called *Yu Lan* (The Lonely Orchid) is one of great antiquity, said to express the melancholy of Confucius, living in a time of turmoil, cold-shouldered and unappreciated by his contemporaries. The tune exists in a Tang dynasty manuscript handed down by a lute player of the sixth century. But for the last thousand years, no one had been able to play it. Many people in the past studied the tune, but none contrived to decipher it, and it remained unplayable. Since liberation musicians have put their heads together, and there are now many experts working on it, at least two of whom can now give a fairly authoritative performance.

Another famous lutanist air, *Kuang Ling San*, was certainly known before the third century A.D. It tells how Nieh Cheng, a hero of the period of the Warring States, lost his own life in killing a wicked minister. A fifteenth-century printed

edition of the score which survived was long withheld from musicologists by the private individuals into whose hands it had passed. After liberation it was made accessible to the general public. Specialists began to make a close study of the different editions, comparing it with other works of the same period, comparing various texts to see what light they might throw on the notation, and hunting up other authorities. They also studied the problem of stopping and playing the instrument, and gave a series of concerts to interested circles. At present there are three players who can perform this piece on the ancient lute.

With all this collective effort and help from colleagues, I have been able to make one or two small discoveries of my own. It was thirty years ago that I began to study Chiang K'uei (c. 1155-1230), a famous Sung poet and composer. He was assuredly a creative musical genius. His *tzu* (odes) were the only Sung poetry whose accompanying notation is available. Reading between the lines of his verse, you can see that he was a man imbued with a burning patriotism. Strangely enough, he did not express these feelings in strong, energetic tunes, but in melancholy, almost pathetic ones. Perhaps this reflected the general temperament of the literati during the Southern Sung dynasty, a period noted for national debility and prostration.

But till recently Chiang's system of notation was a complete mystery. All efforts to solve it failed, and for centuries none had been able to sing his airs. By 1947 my studies had started to bear fruit, and I managed to throw light on certain problems. Others, however, remained as murky and insoluble as ever, and there was no relevant reference material to go on. For a time I had to stop work on them.

Then, in 1953, it happened that the college sent a small group of comrades, including me, to Shensi to study the "drum music" of the peasants. To hear and witness their performance was exciting enough, but something else was more exciting still. We were able to examine

the music from which the peasants played their parts. I was astounded: the way they indicated the notes was practically identical with Chiang's long lost notation!

To think of it: a problem which scholars had been racking their brains over for centuries, and the peasants held the key to it all the time! It was just rule of thumb to them! My discovery proved an open sesame to the reading of Sung musical scores. Today we can decipher Chiang's notation without much difficulty. We print one of his songs in modern notation. (See illustration on page 29.)

Both words and music of this song were written in early 1187. Chiang was then travelling east from Hankow by boat, and the song was written as he was passing Nanking. China was then in the throes of war, and the ruling class utterly effete and incompetent. Chiang saw this with his own eyes, and his heart was filled with the sadness and foreboding which he poured into his songs and poems.

We spent only a fortnight in Shensi, but managed to see some 120 artists. When they heard that the college had sent us from Tientsin, they were highly enthusiastic. Some of them came thirty miles or so to see us. They not only performed for us but helped us master the system of notation. They brought from their homes over seventy books of music, of all shapes, sizes and materials, in which were written about a thousand airs. We were allowed to copy freely, and some presented their private collections to the nation.

Recording Ancient Tunes

Old songs and ballads are always coming to light. In this connection I should like to tell the story of Ah Ping, one of my early music teachers. I first became acquainted with him when I was ten. At that time he was a Taoist priest, well versed in ancient music. He taught me to play the balloon guitar and the *san hsien*. (*San hsien* means three strings, which is a fair description of the instrument.) But my father was conservative to a degree, and

杏花天影
Hsing Hua
(An Ode)

宋 姜夔詞曲 1187
K'uei of Song

綠低揚 鶯鶯滴 想 提著
 Lü sou ti fu yun yang p'u. Long, long
 Sad to the stream.

當時 喚 流 又 轉 愁 眼 與 春
 Tao - yeh. ch'ou yen yu chun
 At the oars I rest a .

風 持 去 倚 闌 梳 鏡 少 駐
 Feng ch'ü. Tai ch'ü. yi lan jiao keng shao chu
 while but all seems so mourn - ful to - day.

金陵 路 鶯 吟 燕 舞 昇 樹 水
 Chin-ling lu. ying yin yan wu. sheng ch'ao shui
 Nan - king's far. Though sweet birds Chin - hual a.

如 人 最 苦 滿 汀 芳 草 不 成
 chih jen tsui k'u. Man ting fang ts'ao pu ch'eng
 lone my woe. Green are the broad ri - ver's

歸 日 暮 更 移 舟 向 甚 處
 kuei. Jih mu kang yi ch'uan shen - ch'u? ward go?
 banks. but how shall I home

"Hsing Hua Tien Ying," an ode with music from a collection of songs and ballads made by Chiang K'uei, and the same, in modern notation

杏花天影

丙午之冬發汴口丁未正月二日道金陵北望淮楚風日清淑小舟挂席容與

綠低揚鶯鶯滴想提著

當時喚流又轉愁眼與春

風持去倚闌梳鏡少駐

金陵路鶯吟燕舞昇樹水

如人最苦滿汀芳草不成

歸日暮更移舟向甚處

he approved neither of Taoist priests nor of itinerant musicians, and the upshot was that he turned Ah Ping out of the house and I lost all trace of him.

Then in 1950, during the college summer vacation, I was sent to my native town, Wusih, to take down old songs and ballads sung by the people. The college paid all

Tradition says that Wang Hsien-chih, a famous calligrapher of the Tsin dynasty, bid his sweetheart Tao Yeh farewell at a ferry on the Chinhuai at Nanking, and that they both wrote poems on the occasion. The place is still called Tao Yeh Ferry.

expenses and equipped me with a recording machine. On arrival in Wusih I set out to find my old teacher, not only to renew acquaintance with one to whom I owed much, but in the hope of recording some of his performances. But alas! he had suffered so much in the old society that he was no longer a musician: he had become a blind man, poor and desolate. He had, of course, long since had to get rid of the instruments he used to play.

I borrowed some for him, and after some practice his old art began to come back to him. We recorded five instru-

mental pieces which Ah Ping said he had learnt from his teacher. They were: *Ta Lang Tao Sha* (Waves Washing the Sand) and *Chao Chun Chu Sai* (Chao Chun Went to the North). Chao Chun was a famous Han dynasty beauty who was married to a northern nomad chief. Both of these are *pi pa* (balloon guitar) solos. The other three pieces are all solos for the *erh hu* (two-stringed violin): *Erh Chuan Yin Yueh* (The Moon Reflected in the Erh Chuan Pool), *Ting Sung* (Listening to the Pines) and *Han Chun Feng Chu* (The Cold Spring Breeze).

Some of these airs are mentioned in ancient records, but nobody has yet been able to find out their origin. Every one of them is beautiful in itself and masterly in structure.

When I left Wusih, Ah Ping promised that the following year he would make recordings of all the songs and ballads he could play: they ran into hundreds, and no one had ever shown any interest in them before. But that winter, alas, this real artist, who had had such a raw deal from society in old China, passed away, and most of his art with him. The five pieces he did record have been transferred to discs

which are frequently broadcast, to delight and edify all lovers of China's ancient music.

This national music, that already retrieved and that which is still coming to light, is continually enriching New China's cultural life. It will from now on be heard not by tens or even hundreds, but by all. In 1954, a touring company was organized which took China's ancient folk music to all the large cities in the country. They were heard by well over a hundred thousand people and were everywhere warmly welcomed. One of the lute players told me enthusiastically: "Probably more people heard the lute on this tour than had heard it for several thousand years."

The old music is no animated corpse, but has once more a thriving life of its own. Contemporary musicians are studying it, drawing inspiration from it and using it as a basis for new compositions of their own. The air *Kuang Ling San*, which I mentioned earlier, has been supplied with an orchestral accompaniment. Music for stage and film is now making use of folk songs and ballads. Our beloved national music is playing an active part in creating the music of a new age.

The "Great World" Transformed

Huang Pi

LOOKING south-eastward from the People's Park you can see a landmark of the night sky in downtown Shanghai—a star shining ruby red above a horizon already crimsoned by neon lights. Keeping it in view through all the turns and

The author is a correspondent of the Shanghai *Hsin Min Pao*.

twists of the road, I at length arrived at the main entrance of the People's Amusement Centre, whose five-storey tower it crowns. From the halls beneath it I could hear the strident clash of theatrical cymbals. An oversized Chinese lantern at the entrance lit up eight large characters, Chairman Mao's maxim—*Pai Hua Chi Fang, Tui Chen Chu Hsin*—Let flowers of all kinds

blossom side by side; weed through the old to let the new emerge! Theatre bills alongside showed how the Centre lives up to its motto. Seventeen troupes take turns performing both classical and modern plays in its eleven theatres.

A Great Fun Fair

The Centre, however, is more than a convenient gathering together of playhouses. It is a fun fair-cum-people's club as well. In the vestibule, a row of distorting mirrors is a never-ending source of joy to the children. In the shooting gallery I found a couple of People's Army men holding the attention of a small crowd by potting bull's eyes with every shot. Near by, a group of young workers were trying to best each other at the Try-Your-Strength Machine. Dozens of ping-pong and car-ambole games were in progress. Stalls selling inexpensive goods and refreshments were doing a brisk business.

All the theatres were full and the audiences were obviously vastly enjoying themselves. On the ground floor next the recreation room and shooting gallery are a cinema and a theatre where Peking opera was being performed. In an open-air courtyard a group of acrobats was the centre of attraction. Upstairs there were other operatic performances in various local styles, as well as jugglers and conjurers, and *la hsi* musicians who can make their fiddles sound like singing voices.

The current attraction at the Yangchow Opera House on the first floor was *Liang Hung-yu*. This is an historical play about a patriotic woman general in the time of the Sung dynasty (960-1279) who defended the country against the invaders from the north. Ku Yu-chun, the actress who won a first prize at the East China Theatrical Festival in 1954, was playing the leading role.

Old Shanghai in Miniature

I'd been to the "Great World," as it was known, in the old days. It was notorious then as a "Shanghai in miniature" with all its dirt and graft, thievery and corruption.

It was in 1949, just before Shanghai was liberated. Gaudy advertisements covered the walls. Prostitutes wandered under the dim lights, heavily powdered and rouged as if trying to hide their haggard looks. There were tens of thousands of these unfortunate women in Shanghai at that time. Petty thieves, spivs with tight trousers and trilby hats, ruffians of every description jostled through the corridors. My friend, an old Shanghai resident, who accompanied me said: "Look out for your pockets!"

The theatres catered to what was called "public taste." All progressive plays were banned of course. The Kuomintang censors however were quite content to see plays extolling feudal ideas, or loaded with superstition and pornography.

The "Great World" was peopled on every floor with swindlers of every description. Fortune-tellers offered to tell your fortune by just looking at your face. The coffee was a watery brew that seemed innocent of the principal ingredient. If you went to the manager to complain, as like as not you'd get beaten up for your pains by his chuckers-out.

The "Great World" had been opened in the then French Concession in 1916 for the express purpose of dulling the minds of the customers and robbing them of their money. Actors and actresses were forced to toe the line. The petty swindlers themselves were merely the victims of the chief scoundrels and the social conditions which made the whole place possible.

The Change

The transformation of the "Great World" began with the liberation of Shanghai, but it was not possible to completely transform the place overnight. It was not until July 1954 that the people's government of Shanghai took it over finally and re-organized it from top to bottom. The staff, both old and new, disliked the old name because of its evil associations and the bitter memories it evoked. So it got its new name—the People's Amusement Centre.

How bitter those old memories are I learnt from Ku Yu-chun, the Yangchow

opera actress. It was difficult to believe that this young woman with her pleasant face and easy manners had gone through such misery. Her father had been a wharf worker; her mother made a living plaiting straw sandals, and she, at the age of five, had begun to help by peddling the sandals on the streets. But things went from bad to worse. Faced with starvation, her parents sold her so that at least she'd live. She never saw them again despite every effort she has made to trace them. Her new master trained her to be an actress. But it was far different from the happy time that young actors and actresses in training enjoy today. Beatings and clouts were nothing unusual. "In those days," she told me, "an actress was fair game for anybody! Ruffians used to come and sit in the stalls with their collars open and their hats askew, sprawling around as if they were at home. They'd shout out during the performance: 'Ku Yu-chun—give us a song!' And I'd have to sing. Otherwise they'd be sure to make trouble. I hated it, but there was no way out. All I could do was hope that I could marry out of the profession."

The days of humiliation ended with the liberation. Ku Yu-chun was freed from virtual bondage. Her very real talent for acting began to blossom. She attracted attention with her performance of the heroine in the episode "An Encounter at Chinshan" from the opera *The White Snake*. It is a spirited and appealing interpretation of the White Lady going to Chinshan to rescue her lover, and determined to oppose the machinations of the evil recluse Fa Hai who tries to separate them. It was for her acting in this play that she received a prize. The episode was also filmed. This was a new and hitherto undreamt of experience for her.

The new audiences at the Centre are utterly different from the old. There are no more hooligans and bored seekers after vicarious sensation. Most of the theatre-goers today are working-class people, People's Army men, students and ordinary Shanghai residents. The new society has created a new morality, a new value is

placed upon art and artists, and it encourages artists to give of their best.

Even Curtain Calls Are New

Every artist in the Centre can tell you a similar story to Ku Yu-chun's. When I visited the Shaohsing opera troupe the performance was just over and the cast was taking its curtain calls. One of the company exclaimed to me: "Even curtain calls are something new. I remember that the first time after the liberation when the curtain went down at the end of the show the audience stood up and applauded us no end, we didn't know what to do. None of us knew how to answer a curtain call!"

On the third floor I found a puppet theatre performance in progress. I learnt that the puppet masters were mostly men from the villages who had first taken up this art as a side-line. They had tried out their first shows at the country festivals. Later, leaving the poverty-stricken villages, they tried their luck in the towns. In the old days they would put on their shows in the streets or squares inside a rough cloth tent. They slept in the open air, huddled together in the winter for warmth. Now that vagabond life has ended. They have regular employment with regular wages in their own theatre with special lighting and amplifiers.

As I went in their dolls were doing a lively *yangko* dance, an item learnt in 1954 in Peking at the National Puppet Show Festival. They were clad in gay silks and satins and were extraordinarily lifelike. The puppet masters' fingers seemed to itch with a gaiety that was transmitted to their dolls.

It was this spontaneous brightness that contrasted so much with the dull, forced "entertainment" of the old "Great World." The staff are well aware of this transformation and are immensely proud of it.

As I left I heard someone who was obviously a stranger to the city ask the doorman somewhat hesitantly: "Is this the 'Great World'?"

The commissionaire answered: "Comrade, the 'Great World's' changed. This is the People's Amusement Centre!"



Cultural Life

Writers! To the Farms!

The co-operative movement which is sweeping the countryside has become one of the most important themes of the day. Writers have responded immediately to its stimulus. Their Writers' Union has launched the slogan "Writers! To the Farms!"

In the past month scores of them, novelists, poets and journalists, have gone out to the rural areas. Many have gone to work among and with the peasants for protracted periods, to get a deeper understanding of the changes taking place in the villages.

Chao Shu-li, author of the *Rhymes of Li Yu-tsai* and *Changes in Li Village*, has only recently completed his long short story about the co-operative farm movement, *Sanli Gorge*, but he has already returned to the Shansi villages which he has described so well.

Chou Li-po, whose novel, *The Hurricane*, gave such a vivid picture of land reform in the north-east, has returned to his native Hunan to take part in the co-operative movement. Liu Ching, too, has for the past two years worked in the Shensi areas where he fought in the War of Liberation, the theme of his fine novel, *Wall of Bronze*. Li Chi, a poet, has recently gone back to the countryside in Kansu, where he worked during the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression. His long poem, *Wang Kuei and Li Hsiang-hsiang*, is based on Kansu folk songs.

Chen Hsueh-chao is staying on in Chekiang, where she has been writing about the tea-pickers, and Hsieh Ping-hsin, the writer

of children's stories, has gone to the Fukien countryside. This is a new field for her, but, like other writers, she wants to broaden her knowledge of the new China.

Hundreds of other writers will be going to the villages this winter and next spring. They include Tien Chien, the poet, Chen Chi-tung, a veteran revolutionary and author of the popular play based on the Long March, *Across Rivers and Mountains*, as well as young writers like Li Chun, who has already written some of the best short stories on China's new countryside.*

Several full-length books on the agricultural co-operative movement have appeared in the past two years. Some, like Chao Shu-li's *Sanli Gorge*, have really helped the country understand the changing countryside and been a big help to the peasants in their advance along the new path of socialist agriculture; others have been rather facile attempts to describe things of which the authors themselves had but the most superficial knowledge. The inevitable result has been that they have fallen back on stock characters and situations. The new villages are very different from those of only a year or so back. Most of the literature about the rural areas of China is already completely out of date. That is why there is this urgent need for the writers to get out again to the countryside to grasp the full significance of the new life rising there. The Union of Chinese Writers is providing as many of

*His short stories, "Not That Road" and "Old Man Meng Kuang-tai" appeared in *People's China*, No. 6, 1954 and No. 2, 1955.

its members as wish with facilities to do so.

Pioneers of Modern Chinese Music

Last month in Peking's Capital Theatre we had an evening of music by Nieh Erh and Hsien Hsing-hai. It confirmed once more the brilliant talent of these two young musicians who met so untimely a death.

Once more we heard their songs that quickly became part of the people's musical life, sung thousands of times in demonstrations, on the march, in bivouac and school—every note of it our own music, music of the people, close to us and to our time—as well as their orchestral compositions.

First came six choral songs by Nieh Erh—*Graduation Song*, a vigorous call to youth, and then songs of workers based on their work songs, like the *Song of the Stevedores* that begins with the almost inarticulate grunt of hauliers and grows into a full-throated, passionate revolutionary call. These and the children's choruses — *Newspaper Boys* based on the rhythm of small hurrying feet on a city pavement, and *Breaking Stones*, a song of child workers—epitomize the spirit of Nieh Erh. He belonged to the revolutionary youth of China. Like Mayakovsky, he found new rhythms in the life of his day, rhythms that came out of the staccato slogans that moved his time.

These songs were followed by compositions arranged by Nieh Erh for orchestras of Chinese instruments—the *erh hu*, the drums, cymbals, *pi pa*. One was a lyrical tone poem, *Lake Tsui*, the second a gay dance, authentic in its feeling for folk ballad music. All these songs and orchestral pieces glowed

with the attractive, radiant personality of Nieh Erh and his militant, courageous, optimistic spirit. He had in truth the common touch.

Hsien Hsing-hai had closely comparable qualities. As this concert showed, he had a well-grounded knowledge of musical technique and could write subtle and complex harmonies. The scale of his creative work is broad. He took his themes from the same sources. His music—his songs of ploughmen and women in the production campaign for the people's forces, his songs of guerrillas—are filled with immense confidence and revolutionary optimism. Many of these works foreshadow the grand and moving *Yellow River Cantata*.

Following a series of six of his songs, the performance of the third movement of his first symphony, entitled *National Liberation* and dedicated to Chairman Mao, aroused keen interest. The themes of this movement are based on folk melodies. The first theme is taken from the dragon boat festival, aptly symbolizing the navy; a kite-flying theme typifies the air force; and one from a lion dance, the people's army. Each creatively described the growing strength of the people's forces.

The People's Liberation Army choir and orchestra gave the *Yellow River Cantata* a spirited performance. It was written and performed for the first time in Yen-an in the darkest days of the Japanese invasion, and it is not difficult to understand the tremendous impact it made on its hearers and the deserved popularity it has enjoyed ever since. Throughout one feels the great swelling flow of the mighty river symbolizing the spirit of the Chinese people in a great crisis of their history. This is

undoubtedly the most important composition produced at that time.

The audience was already enthusiastic—it would have encored every work if it had had its way—and it gave orchestra and singers an ovation.

This is the first time we have heard so representative a concert of the music of these composers in Peking. It is as alive today as when they wrote it. It is a shining example for Chinese musicians today who are striving for socialist realism in music.

Chrysanthemum Show

The second Peking chrysanthemum show opened in early November in Chungshan Park, Peking. Ten thousand plants in 700 varieties were exhibited. Several new varieties were seen by the public for the first time, including over a hundred rare blooms, several sent from Shanghai, Nanking and other cities, and many cultivated by private growers. The new pale yellow "Willow Threads" chrysanthemum with its thin, tubular petals remains in full bloom for two months. Another variety has light magenta blossoms over a foot in diameter when fully out. An amazing range of colour has been achieved by growers. There are now several of the once rare green and light brown varieties, with names hardly less exotic than their forms: "Swan's Dance," "White Pine Needles," "Long Pearly Screen" and the "King of Chrysanthemums."

An exhibition adjoining the show provides a wealth of material—pictures, charts, explanations, lantern lectures—both for the novice and expert in an art that has a history of over 2,000 years in China and still attracts new devotees.

Encouraging Young Mathematicians

The Chinese Mathematical Society is to run a series of mathematical competitions in Peking and other large cities in 1956. The committee in charge includes Professors Hua Loo-keng, Fu Chung-sun, Tuan Hsueh-fu and nine more noted mathematicians.

The competitions will be open to senior students of middle schools. Would-be competitors will first test their knowledge on problems set out in a pamphlet prepared by the committee. They will then take preliminary tests in their schools from which the successful candidates will go on to the municipal competitions. The winners of these will get prizes and the title of "Champion Mathematician." The first competition in Peking will take place in March and April this year.

* * *

Type-setting Reform

From time immemorial the characters of written Chinese have been written from top to bottom and from right to left. This order was taken over when printing was invented and has been used ever since books and newspapers first appeared in China. On January 1, 1956 the leading Chinese national newspapers replaced the traditional vertical columns with type set horizontally.

This sweeping reform paves the way for eventual adoption of the new phonetic script which is being devised for the Chinese language.

The Peking *Kwangming Daily* was the first of several newspapers to make this switch-over in January 1955. It has now been followed by the Peking *People's Daily* and *Workers Daily*, the Tientsin *Ta Kung Pao* and several more important papers in provinces and cities.



IN THE NEWS

A Year Ahead of Time

Most of China's key industries feel there is a pretty good chance of completing or practically completing their part of the Five-Year Plan this year instead of next, and the various ministries responsible are taking vigorous steps to fulfil their targets ahead of schedule.

For three years now the Ministry of Heavy Industry has been well ahead on its annual plans, and the production figure it has set for all industries which come under it for 1956 is roughly 99 per cent of the figure originally planned for 1957. The Ministry of Coal Industry plans to reach 96 per cent. The Ministry of Building Construction and the First Ministry of Machine Building Industry also reckon to complete their tasks ahead of time.

The Five-Year Plan called for the laying of 2,538 miles of new track. At the end of last year only 870 miles remained to be laid, so the likelihood is that this will be finished this year and more new lines started on.

The Anshan Iron and Steel Works is working to complete the Five-Year Plan in four. Three Shenyang factories (including the big pneumatic tools factory), the Shanghai Steam Turbine Factory and six others in that city, the Chungking Machine Tools, and factories all over the country are challenging one another to fulfil their plans in four years or just over.

More Off the Land

Last December the Ministry of Agriculture called a national meeting to discuss agricultural work. Bearing in mind the phenomenal growth of co-operative farming, the meeting felt it could justifiably set new targets for 1956. The revised target for grain is 195.8 million tons—over 6 million tons heavier than the figure originally set for 1957, the last year of the Five-Year Plan. There is actually a feeling that this is a conservative figure, and that some extra effort might bump up the figure by another million tons. The new target for cotton (ginned) is 35 million cwt., 2,706,000 cwt. heavier than the original 1957 target. In the case of cured tobacco, tea and tussler silk, too, targets for 1956 have been set higher than the original 1957 ones.

In 1955 China's output of grain and cotton beat all known records—179 million tons and 28 million cwt. respectively. They both surpassed the targets for 1955—grain by 0.8 per cent and cotton by 9 per cent.

Better Postal Services in the Country

The length of regular postal delivery routes in the Chinese countryside has gone up from 373,000 miles in 1950 to over 800,000 today. In the old days rural post offices were few and far between. Now there are close on 7,000, plus another 80,000

“sub-post-offices” organized by the local authorities and people, who elect a local post-master or post-mistress to handle mail and subscriptions to newspapers and magazines (which in China are commonly distributed by the post office).

The posts and telecommunications authorities are working on a seven-year plan to bring the telephone service to every *hsiang* (lowest rural administrative unit) in China, which will be a particular boon to the farming co-ops. In the province of Hopei every fully socialist farm co-op will be on the phone before the year is out.

South Korean Impudence

On December 25, 1955 South Korean navy vessels made an attempt to seize and shelled Chinese fishing vessels on the high seas and kidnapped a Chinese fisherman. A spokesman of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointed out on December 28 that the South Korean navy had violated principles binding on all countries on the high seas. That was a serious provocation of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese Government has lodged a strong protest.

Uruguayan Official Visits Peking

Premier Chou En-lai received Mr. Mauricio Nayberg, Consul of the Orient Republic of Uruguay in Hongkong, on December 16 last. The two sides exchanged views on the question of trade between their two countries and expressed the desire for friendship between their peoples.

During his stay in Peking, Mr. Nayberg had signed a joint statement with Lu Hsu-chang, Assistant Minister of Foreign Trade of the People's Republic of China.

It expressed a desire to promote trade between the two countries and the desirability of a trade agreement between the governments.

Foreign Trade News

On December 31, 1955 in Beirut was signed a trade agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Lebanon. China is to provide Lebanon with machinery, iron and steel products, telecommunications equipment and materials, building materials, chemicals, medicines, textiles, farm produce and other products, while Lebanon will provide China with sugar, tobacco, vegetable oil, sacks and other items. Both countries are to give one another most-favoured nation treatment, and each has the right to establish trade representatives' offices in the other's capital.

* * *

On December 29 last year the Governments of China and Burma signed in Rangoon a 1955-56 protocol for exchange of goods. The protocol provides that China will buy 150,000 tons of rice from Burma while Burma will buy from China various products equal in value to the rice she sells. Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the way the last trade protocol signed in November 1954 was executed.

* * *

The Chinese trade fair held in Tokyo and Osaka in Japan was visited by 1,900,000 people during the 32 days it was open in October and December last year. As many as 210,000 people came to see it on a single day. The Chinese delegation attached to the fair held trade negotiations covering a wide range of topics with thousands of representatives of Japa-

nese industrial and business firms whose interest in trade with China was stimulated by the fair.

* * *

A Danish trade delegation headed by Axel Gruhn visited

China from November to December last year. In Peking, the delegation conducted extensive negotiations with China's different import and export companies, and trade agreements were signed.

International

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

Tenth Session of the U.N.

Reviewing the situation of the tenth session of the United Nations General Assembly, Observer, in the December 24 issue of the *People's Daily*, comments: Thanks to the efforts of many nations, the spirit of the Bandung and Geneva Conferences really had made gains. Certain people, it is true, still tried to turn the Assembly into a weapon in the "cold war," as they had done in previous years. But on this occasion they were shocked to find that they were not getting their own way to anything like the same extent.

As a result, the admittance of sixteen countries to the U.N. was a notable triumph for the cause of international co-operation. The Assembly's resolution on the setting up of an international atomic body brought international co-operation on the peaceful use of atomic energy a step nearer.

Feeling against colonialism reached unprecedented proportions. The Soviet Union, the People's Democracies and the Asian and African countries represent a mighty force against colonialism, but on this occasion they received welcome reinforcements. Several Latin-American and some European countries—

Greece, for instance—resisting U.S. pressure, came out openly against colonialism on certain issues. This left colonial powers like the United States, Britain and France, isolated. Representatives of many countries bitterly denounced the way national-liberation movements were being bloodily suppressed, and demanded an end to the evils of colonialism. The thorny issues of Algeria, Morocco and West Irian were, despite opposition, included in the agenda; and although the Assembly later on decided to postpone discussion on them, that did not mean any let-up in the struggle waged by the anti-colonialist countries.

Another noteworthy point was that, despite obstruction and threats from the U.S., Britain and some other countries, the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, by an overwhelming majority resolved to insert in the draft covenant on human rights an article on the right to self-determination.

In contrast to previous sessions, said Observer, the United States on this occasion found it hard to sway the Assembly. This was particularly evident in the election of a non-permanent member to the Security Council. The United States did everything it could to undermine the prin-

ciple of equitable representation by areas. The vacant seat rightly belongs to the Eastern European countries, but the U.S. was set on getting the Philippines elected; yet, after more than thirty inconclusive ballots, Yugoslavia was finally elected.

Nevertheless, said Observer, the session was still far from measuring up to its functions.

First and foremost, the United Nations could not be expected to function satisfactorily as long as the People's Republic of China was kept out of her lawful place. Secondly, the United States, Britain, France and other countries used every means in their power to obstruct discussion on the Soviet proposals to further reduce world tension and develop international co-operation, and, worse than that, forced through a resolution of their own which actually sought to prevent any general reduction in armaments and prohibition of atomic weapons. Again, no progress was made on the Korean question because of the unreasonable demand by the United States that discussion should take place in the absence of representatives of the Korean Democratic People's Republic and the People's Republic of China.

The tenth session of the General Assembly to some extent reflected important trends in the present international situation. The policy of defending peace and national independence pursued by the Soviet Union, China, India and other countries won more support; the contradictions within the Western bloc became more acute; more countries adopted an independent and neutral policy.

The session showed that the United Nations could fulfil its role better if a majority of countries truly desired international

co-operation. People have every reason to expect peace-loving countries in the United Nations to redouble their efforts to make it a truly representative and universal world organization for peace and international co-operation.

Admission of 16 States to the U.N.

The Chinese press welcomed the admission of sixteen more countries to membership of the United Nations. All papers pointed out that this was the result of concerted efforts by most of the nations at the General Assembly, and particularly the Soviet Union.

An editorial in the Tientsin *Ta Kung Pao* on December 16 called the event a victory for the "principle of universality." "Only by accepting as many nations as possible can the U.N. become a truly representative organization and play a bigger part in preserving international peace and security."

Observer, in the *People's Daily*, also praised the Soviet Union's efforts. It had become easier, he said, to see who was being stubbornly obstructive on the membership issue and who was sincerely working for the admission of more nations. The admission of new members, he continued, was a blow to America's attempt to go on dominating the U.N.

Regret was generally expressed that the Mongolian People's Republic and Japan were not accepted. As Observer pointed out in the *People's Daily*: "The cause of this failure is known to all. By giving Chiang Kai-shek's clique orders to veto the application of the Mongolian People's Republic, the United States exposed itself as a stiff-necked opponent of peaceful co-existence and

international co-operation. But this cannot wipe out the existence or prevent the growth of the Mongolian People's Republic. America's obstinacy also barred the way into the U.N. for Japan. Japanese public opinion is fully justified in denouncing the United States and Chiang's clique."

On December 16 the *Kwang-ming Daily* commented: "We earnestly hope that all countries that support the principle of universality in the United Nations will continue their efforts to bring the Mongolian People's Republic, Japan and other qualified countries into the U.N. during its next session."

The *Ta Kung Pao* of December 17 said that Chiang Kai-shek should be ousted from the U.N. immediately. The fact that he and his gang were at America's beck and call and were used as a tool to wreck world peace was proved on this occasion up to the hilt. In the past, certain countries perhaps thought that restoration of the People's Republic of China to its rightful place in the U.N. was a problem that concerned China alone. They could now see that it concerned not only China, but many other countries and world peace as well.

Sudan: Birth of a Nation

Sudan's declaration of independence was front-page news in the Chinese press. All newspapers devoted leading articles to the occasion and printed Premier Chou En-lai's message of January 4 to the Sudanese Prime Minister, Ismail el Azhari, announcing China's recognition of Sudan as an independent state and her desire to establish diplomatic relations.

"The Chinese people," said a *People's Daily* editorial on January 5, "warmly greet the birth

LETTERS

Some Theoretical Works

I am a Scots working man and, as in the past, I derive most satisfaction from those articles dealing with the struggle of the Chinese working people to build up a mighty heavy industry.

Next in importance I would single out for mention the contributions made to your magazine by industrial workers and peasants in which we become familiar with their qualities of shrewdness and tenacity.

Their material and cultural life has improved markedly since the liberation. They are fortunate indeed to live in a period of great change in their country, namely its coming transformation into a modern industrialized socialist state; therefore the coming year will be rich and rewarding for them.

I am sure some of your readers like myself would like to read occasionally one of the theoretical works by a leader of the Chinese Communist Party. The one that springs to my mind in this respect—"On Contradiction" by Chairman Mao Tse-tung, published in 1952—is a good example of what I mean.

There is a period in your recent history, to me a period whose importance seems to be overlooked here in Britain, of the important developments which took place in north China during the anti-Japanese war and the later resistance to the Kuomintang. This period, it seems to me, is not dealt with adequately.

J. MCCALLUM

Edinburgh
Scotland

of the Republic of Sudan. They sincerely hope for the steady growth of friendly relations between the two countries. Both our peoples regained their independence after long colonial oppression by the imperialists. That common bond should do much to bring us closer together."

Many papers stressed the international implications of Sudan's independence. As the *People's Daily* said, the winning of independence, despite all the pressure and obstruction the colonial powers brought to bear on her, showed that the day of reckoning for colonialism, in Africa or anywhere else, was not far distant. The *Kwangming Daily* saw in it one more proof that the righteous struggles of all oppressed colonial peoples are, sooner or later, crowned with victory; it would be an encouragement to all, particularly in Africa, who were still fettered.

The press also reported Mr. Azhari's statement that his country would treasure its newly won independence and preserve neutrality in international relations. This determination—to quote the *People's Daily* once more—means a great deal to the cause of peace. Based as it is on the confidence and pride of a resurgent nation, it would find a quick response in the hearts of all who fought to maintain their countries' independence.

CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

December 16—A Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman declares that the United States has violated the agreement reached between China and the U.S. on the return of civilians,

and that such violation must stop.

December 19—Academy of Chinese Medicine in Peking opens.

December 22 — Third National Broadcasting Conference closes. It drew up a plan to extend re-diffusion services in the Chinese countryside, and decided to work towards bringing this service to all villages, agricultural producers' co-operatives and part of peasant households within seven years.

December 25—Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation between the People's Republic of China and the German Democratic Republic signed in Peking. And the two governments issued a joint statement.

The Han River highway bridge at Wuhan completed.

December 27 — Hydroelectric station at Kwanting Reservoir in Hopei Province completed. This is the first automatic hydroelectric power station designed and built by Chinese specialists with Chinese-made equipment.

December 29—Reconstruction of the Shenyang No. 1 Machine Tools Works is complete, and the plant goes into operation.

December 30 — Ernest Krogh-Hansen, first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Norway to the Chinese People's Republic, presents credentials.

December 31—After a ceremony marking the start of through traffic on the railway linking Mongolia, the Soviet Union and China in Ulan Bator, capital of the Mongolian People's Republic, the first through goods train leaves Ulan Bator for Peking.

Sino-Lebanese trade agreement signed in Beirut.

Editorial Board, "People's China," 26 Kuo Hui Chieh, Peking, China

Published by the Foreign Languages Press, Peking, China

Entered as First-Class Printed Matter at the General Post Office of China

Printed in the People's Republic of China

0025 17 1955



Clear the road!

Cartoon by Fang Cheng



A Tibetan primary school in a tent

Painting in Chinese ink and colour by Huang Chou