

ON THE HOME FRONT

Peking Workers' Theoretical Contingent Growing in Strength

THE Peking workers' theoretical contingent is growing in strength in the mass movement to study Marxism-Leninism and in the struggle to criticize revisionism. It is playing an important militant role.

The contingent is made up of 160,000 workers in the capital; 16,000 of them have been organized in over 2,000 groups for studying special subjects which include philosophy, political economy, scientific socialism, literary and art theory, the international situation, law and history. By last autumn, they had written and brought out more than 170 books, and 1,200 articles written by them had been published in newspapers or magazines.

These theoretical workers have become the backbone force in the Peking workers' study movement. Of the million or so workers in Peking, 800,000 have joined study groups which have been formed in every factory or enterprise. They study works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao's works during their spare time and hold discussions linking their study with the realities of China's socialist revolution and construction. Their activities have the support and help of Party organizations at all levels and professional theoretical workers;

Workers studying theory is a new-born thing that has emerged during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. After being tempered in the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius in 1974 and the movement to study the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat which began last year, the workers' theoretical contingent has now become an important force on the ideological and theoretical front.

In the current struggle to criticize the revisionist line of the arch unrepentant capitalist-roader in the Party Teng Hsiao-ping, they have conscientiously studied the series of impor-

tant instructions given by Chairman Mao and works by Marx, Engels and Lenin. They have written many articles and made a deep analysis of many important questions, such as the character, task, targets and future of the socialist revolution and classes and class struggle during the period of socialism as well as the question that the bourgeoisie is right in the Communist Party.

The Peking workers' theoretical contingent, which has emerged and developed during the mass study movement, in turn helps promote this movement. In the movement to study the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the theoretical group of the No. 5 plant of the Peking Motor Vehicle Repair Company has written over a dozen articles after carrying out social investigations and collecting a large amount of materials. Over the last two years, members of the group have given some 200 lectures to the workers and staff of their own factory to help them in their studies. They have also been invited to give reports at the philosophy and social science department of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and some universities and colleges.

The development of the mass study movement and the growth of the workers' theoretical contingent have contributed to the working class occupying all positions in the superstructure with Marxism-Leninism. The theoretical group of the letterpress printing workshop in the Peking Hsinhua Printing House has carried out studies on special subjects, such as the Chinese currency system, the origin of commodities and the invention and development of letterpress printing. The articles they have written have been commended by the academic departments concerned. This printing house's study group on international affairs has made studies on the economic crises in the capitalist world, the struggle of the people of the third world against hegemonism, and the historical lessons to be drawn from

the transformation of the Soviet Union into social-imperialism. They have written and published some 20 articles and five books on these subjects.

Microwave Communications Trunk Line Completed

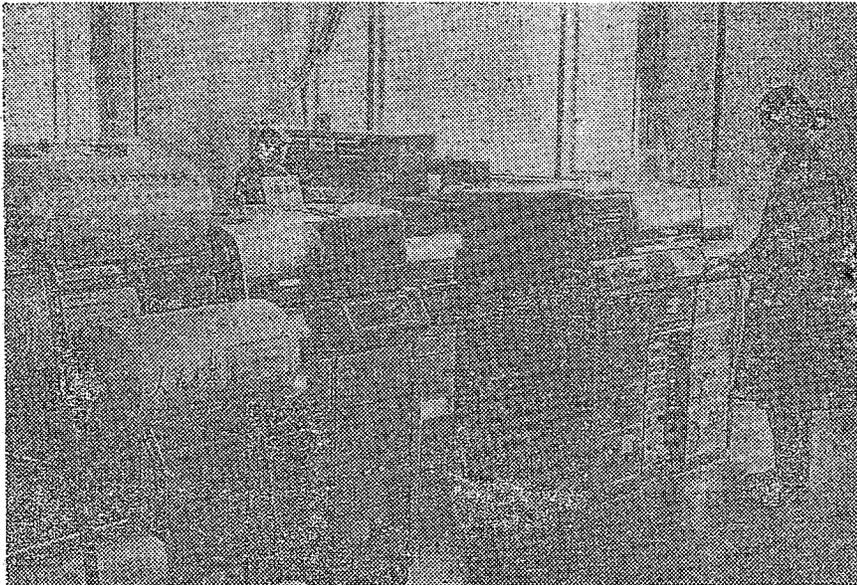
A MICROWAVE communications trunk line linking Peking with more than 20 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions throughout China has been completed. The line is equipped with a 960-channel transistorized and a 600-channel electron tube microwave signalling system — all designed, made and installed by our own efforts.

Transmission of television, facsimiles, telegrams and telephone message is now being carried through this trunk line between major cities from the eastern seaboard to the plateau in northwest China and from the Changpai Mountains in the northeast to the Pearl River in south China.

The trunk line is made up of multi-radio channels. Each radio channel of one signalling system has 600 or 960 voice channels, or is capable of transmitting television. The Peking Television Station now transmits through the microwave communications system coloured and other television to stations in more than 20 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions across the country.

Now readers in remote areas can read *Renmin Ribao* on the day of issue as the newspaper pages are transmitted by high-speed facsimile apparatus through this new line.

Microwave telecommunications is being developed in China amidst the fierce struggle between the two lines. China began to do research in this field and trial-manufacture equipment in the late 50s. But imperialism kept its techniques secret while the Soviet revisionist renegade clique tore up agreements and contracts and recalled all its technical experts in a vain attempt to check our progress. Workers and staff members at the postal and telecommunications departments, breaking through their blockade, succeeded in making the 60-channel electron tube microwave



The high-speed facsimile apparatus in the Peking Telecommunications Bureau.

signalling equipment. When they started to trial-produce the 600-channel electron tube microwave signalling equipment in 1964, Liu Shao-chi and his followers advocated servility to things foreign and the doctrine of trailing behind others at a snail's pace. The workers and staff members firmly implemented Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and, racing against time, successfully made the equipment by hard work and self-reliance within three years.

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius opened a broad road for the expansion of microwave telecommunications in China. Workers and staff members in the research institutes, factories and units concerned began in 1969 to study and build the 960-channel transistorized microwave signalling equipment which is of a higher level in techniques as well as in the degree of automation. At the same time, work got under way on a large scale to construct microwave communications trunk lines.

By conscientiously studying the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Chairman Mao's works and deepening their criticism of the revisionist line of Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao, workers and staff members of telecommunications departments further raised their level of consciousness in class struggle and the struggle between the two lines and

in continuing the revolution. They brought into full play the three-in-one combination of workers, cadres and technicians, overcame many major technical difficulties, solved the problems involved in high-precision manufacturing processes and succeeded in making the 960-channel transistorized microwave signalling equipment with Chinese-made parts and components.

Salt Lakes

THERE are numerous salt lakes in China. Tibet, Chinghai, Sinkiang, Inner Mongolia and some other provinces and regions are studded with them; the Tibet Autonomous Region alone has several hundreds. The Chaerhhan Salt Lake in Chinghai, the biggest discovered so far in China, covers an area of over 5,000 square kilometres, and contains enough salt to supply the world population for over 1,000 years.

Salt lakes are rich in resources. Potassium, boron, lithium, bromine and dozens of other elements can be found in the salt water. Some of these have already formed big natural mines and become a rich storehouse for the inorganic industry. Salt is not only a necessity of life but also indispensable raw material for the chemical, metallurgical and rubber industries, and agriculture as well.

China has a long history of extracting salt from lakes, beginning as

early as over 2,000 years ago. However, owing to the monopoly over salt resources by the reactionary ruling classes dynasty after dynasty, they remained largely undeveloped and unused for a long time.

Under the guidance of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line after liberation, the people of our country have adhered to the policy of maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in our own hands and relying on our own efforts and thus made possible the rapid development of saltworks together with related scientific and technical undertakings. The contingent of scientific and technical personnel has been further broadened especially during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius. A large amount of work in relation to salt lakes has been done in the field of geology, mining and the chemical industry. Factories have been set up in many regions, and the resources of the salt lakes have been exploited and comprehensively utilized in a big way, raising the quantity and quality of the products year by year. In 1975 the national plan for crude salt production was overfulfilled 80 days ahead of schedule. The output increased eightfold over 1949, hitting a record high. The Chinghai Chaerhhan Potassium Fertilizer Plant set up during the socialist big leap forward in 1958 has adopted a new technique in extracting potassium, and realized mechanization. In 1975 the output of potassium fertilizer was 21 times that of 1965, the year before the Great Cultural Revolution. Formerly some factories could produce only crude salt, but now they are able to produce potassium chloride, bromine element, metallic magnesium, iron trichloride and many other chemical products.

Sinkiang Adopts New Written Languages

NEW Uighur and Kazakh written languages have been popularized since 1965 in the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region on China's northwest frontier, where minority peoples live in compact communities. This has promoted cultural and edu-

educational development in this region and raised the educational level of the labouring people. Both new written languages have become powerful weapons in waging revolutionary struggles.

The clearly formed letters of these new languages, which are convenient for use and study, not only enable people to acquire a quick mastery of vocabulary, but provide favourable conditions for modernization of typewriting, printing and communications. With the adoption of them, the rate of literacy has gone up more than 20 per cent as compared with that when the old written languages were used. Through diligent study, some workers, peasants and herdsmen, who were illiterate before liberation, can now read books and newspapers. Many cadres at the grass-roots level have enhanced their educational attainment and improved working ability, thus making greater contributions to both revolution and production. Popularization of the new written languages has helped strengthen the ties and unity among various nationalities.

The Chinese Communist Party and People's Government have shown great concern for the development of cultural undertakings of the people of various nationalities. While stipulating that minority peoples

have the freedom to use their own spoken and written languages in line with the Party's policy towards nationalities, the Party and the People's Government have also spared no effort to help the national minorities reform their written languages on a voluntary basis.

Some five million Uighurs and 700,000 Kazakhs live in the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region. The Uighurs, whose history records the use of the Turkic and several other written languages, had gradually adopted a script based on the Arab alphabet since the 11th century. The Kazakhs, too, had naturalized an Arab alphabet-based language for several hundred years. These languages, though to some extent playing a positive role in history, fell far short of the needs of the fast developing socialist revolution and construction, because they were too difficult for ordinary people to learn, write and use.

What with the social, political, economical and cultural developments today and what with the development in the languages themselves, it became necessary to reform the old written languages. This was the inevitable trend in the development of the Uighur and Kazakh written languages and the pressing demand of the people as well.

Workers and staff members of minority nationalities throughout Sinkiang are actively learning and using the new written languages, and they are eagerly joined by many of their Han counterparts. As a result, the majority of the cadres and intellectuals of Uighur and Kazakh nationalities as well as over 50 per cent of youngsters and adults in Sinkiang have learnt the new languages.

The new written languages are fast gaining popularity. Now all Sinkiang's schools use them in compiling teaching materials and in various other pedagogical activities. They are also introduced widely in society on seals, door plates, tickets and bills, certificates, slogans, trademarks, wall newspapers and telegrams. The four volumes of the *Selected Works of Mao Tsetung* and a number of works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin have been translated into the new Uighur and Kazakh languages and published, and circulated in large amounts. Books in both new scripts account for 69 per cent of the total published by the Sinkiang People's Publishing House, while the new Uighur and Kazakh language editions of *Hongqi*, *Sinkiang Daily*, *Nationality Pictorial* and *Sinkiang Literature and Art* are now available.