

ON THE HOME FRONT

Thriving Camera Industry

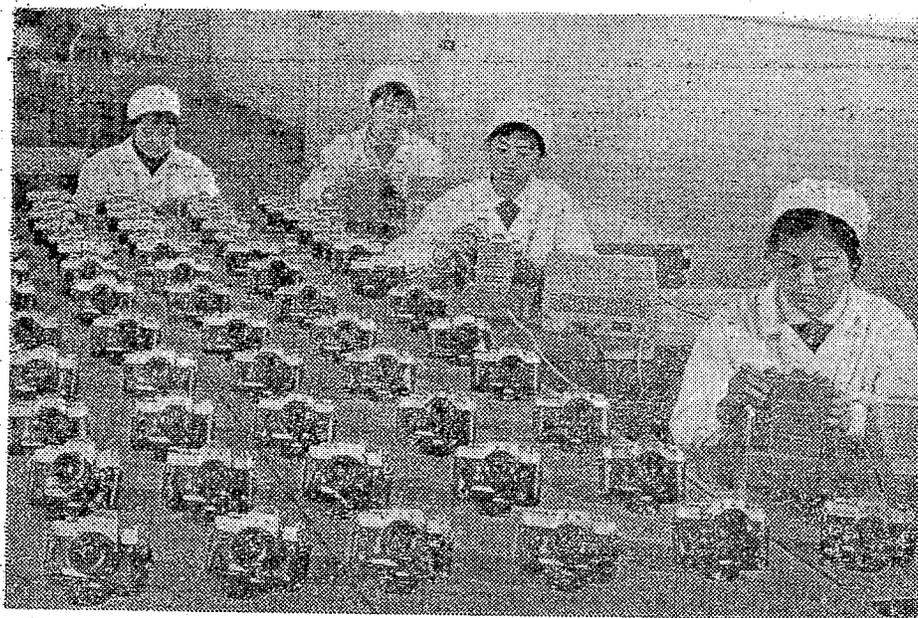
CHINA'S camera industry has been developing by leaps and bounds and a number of camera factories and workshops have been built. Total output of cameras in 1975 was 13 times that of 1965, the year prior to the Great Cultural Revolution, while varieties increased fivefold. Special sophisticated cameras for use by news photographers and scientific researchers have also been successfully trial-produced and put into serial production.

China began making cameras in 1958, the year of the big leap forward in socialist construction. But owing to the interference and sabotage by Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line, development was tardy. During the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, workers, cadres and technicians in the industry criticized the revisionist line. This helped them raise their political understanding and fired them with lofty proletarian aspirations and revolutionary enthusiasm.

In 1973, when the Harbin Electric Meters and Instruments Factory was given the task of trial-producing cam-

eras, its workers and staff members immediately swung into action. They built workshops while learning to master the techniques needed. After a little over three years' efforts they successfully trial-produced the "Panda" camera which, having proved to be of good quality and up to the required standard after tests, has been put into batch production.

Over the last few years, technical innovations and improvements have been made through the efforts of "three-in-one" combinations of workers, cadres and technicians and of the producers, scientific researchers and users. Over 1,000 innovations have been made by camera factories in Shanghai, Tientsin, Tantung and Harbin. A large number of high-precision and high-efficiency equipment for special purposes have been turned out, and 14 kinds of special machine tools for processing complicated camera parts have been put to use in some factories. Machine tools designed and made by the Shanghai No. 5 Camera Factory have raised efficiency dozens of times. Old methods for processing lenses have mostly given way to new techniques and productivity has gone up more than 30 times.



"Panda" cameras made in Harbin.

A New Coal Base

A NEW coal base has been built in the Holan Mountains in the eastern part of the Ningsia Hui Autonomous Region. This is another achievement of the Great Cultural Revolution and the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius.

Adjoining the grasslands of the Alashan Left Banner to the west and the Yellow River to the east, it has a rich deposit of many kinds of coal.

The place was sparsely populated in the past. Today, however, there are many pits and a dozen or so big and medium-sized factories serving the coal industry. On the grasslands in the vicinity of this mining area, there are over 30 "May 7" farms with vast tracts of land crisscrossed by irrigation channels and protected by shelterbelts. This coal base is a socialist new-type mining area on the plateau in northwest China, which combines industry with agriculture, integrates city with country, facilitates production and is convenient to the people's life.

Eight pairs of big and medium-sized shafts and an open-pit have been built and four coalfields have been opened up, thereby initially forming a comparatively complete coal-mining system embracing engineering designing, shaft construction, installation, coal dressing and machine building. Its raw coal output in 1975 was 2.4 times that of 1965. Spurred on by the struggle to beat back the Right deviationist wind to reverse correct verdicts, targets for coal production, machine building and construction for the first four months of this year were all met ahead of schedule; with coal output hitting an all-time high.

The completion of this coal base is of great importance to promoting the economic development of remote border provinces and regions in northern China. Before the Great Cultural Revolution, it mainly produced coal for the locomotives on the Paotow-Lanchow Railway line. Now it produces more than ten varieties of coal for over 350 industrial enterprises producing iron and steel and chemical fertilizers in Kansu, Ningsia and Inner Mongolia.