

ON THE HOME FRONT

Tremendous Victory Over Yellow River Floods

FROM July 20 to September 13 this year, seven flood peaks took place one after another on the lower reaches of the Yellow River, registering a big flow volume and high water levels and of long duration. The fifth and sixth flood peaks in late August and early September were the biggest ever recorded since 1958. This threatened the 1,400-kilometre-long dykes along the river.

The great leader Chairman Mao and the Party Central Committee were greatly concerned about the battle against the Yellow River floods. When the first flood peak occurred, the State Council issued an emergency notice calling for strengthening leadership over anti-flood work and ensuring that there were no breaches in the dykes. Leading comrades of the central leading organs also issued important directives in good time. The local Party organizations concerned at various levels, on their part, gave full play to their role as fighting bastions in the battle against the floods. The Party committees of Honan and Shantung Provinces and the Party committee of the P.L.A. Tsinan Units called emergency meetings to study and take anti-flood measures. Their leading members were in the front-line leading the anti-flood work. A mighty contingent of 200,000 flood fighters comprising cadres and the masses in the prefectures, counties and people's communes along the river was organized to take part in the battle. Fighting side by side in the rain, they inspected dykes, checked water levels and did anti-flood work.

In the days and nights of the anti-flood struggle, the militia, commune members and P.L.A. men taking part in it were selfless and fearless. They declared: "We are ready to go wherever there are difficulties, and

no difficulty can deter us. We are determined to conquer the floods. The people will surely conquer nature!" Thanks to their heroic and tenacious struggle, a tremendous victory over the Yellow River floods was won this year.

In the past, all reactionary ruling classes regarded the Yellow River floods as an irresistible natural disaster. But in the eyes of the people armed with Mao Tsetung Thought, floods are no monster which cannot be defeated. While on an inspection tour of the Yellow River valley in 1952, Chairman Mao issued the great call: "Work on the Yellow River must be done well." Over the past 20 years and more, the people living along the river, in response to Chairman Mao's call, have made big efforts to repair and put up dykes and build reservoirs, thus constantly increasing the anti-flood capacity and bringing changes to the Yellow River basin where dyke breaches took place twice every three years before liberation.

The sad news of the passing of the great leader and teacher Chairman Mao came at a time when great victory was won in the anti-flood struggle. Immersed in the deepest grief, the masses of cadres, commune members and P.L.A. fighters working along the river pledged to turn grief into strength, closely rally round the Party Central Committee headed by Comrade Hua Kuo-feng, take class struggle as the key link, conscientiously sum up experience and speed up the process of harnessing the Yellow River. They were determined to do the work on the Yellow River well.

Coal Production Rises Steadily

COAL production has gone up steadily. By the end of August, national total output of raw coal was 4.27 per cent higher than for the same

period last year, while dressed coal and tunnelling footage registered varying degrees of increase. As far as coal mine capital construction is concerned, 32 new pits were completed and put into operation between January and August, with production capacity up by 34.77 per cent compared with the same 1975 period.

The Kailan Coal Mine, the biggest of its kind in China, was seriously damaged by the strong earthquake on July 28. But Kailan's workers said proudly: "The stronger the quake, the harder we work." Ten days after the quake, "anti-quake coal" had been successfully mined at the Machiakou Colliery. At the same time, coal mines in other parts of the country sent manpower and materials to Kailan to help restore production. Many volunteered to shoulder the task originally assigned to Kailan and asked the ministry concerned to give them additional production tasks to ensure the successful completion of the state coal production plan. The Tsaochuang Coal Mine in Shantung Province is an example. With the miners underground striving to turn out more coal to make up for the loss in the quake-stricken area and cadres and workers above going down into the pits to help extract coal, the mine increased its daily production by a big margin. Coal output in Heilungkiang Province has always remained high and stable and the quota for the first eight months of this year has been fulfilled ahead of time.

Since the beginning of the year, leading cadres at various levels on the coal production front have earnestly acted according to Chairman Mao's directive that "management itself is a matter of socialist education" and consciously identified themselves with the workers. Thirteen leading cadres at the Yenyai Colliery under the Tatung Mining Bureau in Shansi Province have averaged more than 100 days a year doing manual work in the past several years, and some have even worked over 200 days. The workers' enthusiasm soared with the

cadres working alongside them. As a result, the colliery's raw coal output last year doubled that of 1965. At the Chaili Colliery under the Tsao-chuang Mining Bureau, leading cadres and office workers have, since the beginning of last year, taken turns to work in the pits, doing productive labour, making investigations and directing production. Its production plan has been overfulfilled every month.

Under the guidance of the principle of bringing into play the initiative of both the central and local authorities, small coal mines throughout the country have developed rapidly and output has swiftly increased. They have played an important role in fulfilling the national coal production plan.

Academic Reports by Workers and Peasants

A SYMPOSIUM on sand control was recently held in Lanchow, northwest China, by the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The first of its kind since the start of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in 1966, it was attended by 130 representatives from Peking and Shanghai and from provinces and autonomous regions where there are many deserts, such as Sinkiang, Chinghai, Kansu, Ningsia and Inner Mongolia. Forty-one per cent of the treatises submitted were from ordinary workers and peasants. Eight were read at the symposium, 6 of which were delivered by worker-peasant representatives. This shows that since the start of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution the monopoly of scientific research by a few experts and scholars has come to an end.

The Gobi and other deserts take up 13 per cent of China's total land area. In the 26 years since the founding of New China in 1949, the working people of various nationalities have planted trees on 666,600 hectares of sandy land. They have also grown grass on one million hectares to check sand encroachment and brought several million hectares of

shifting sand under control. In addition, they have built oases by bringing another two million hectares under irrigation. The result is a basic change has taken place in these areas where, as the local people aptly described, "the onslaught of wind and sand forced the people to retreat" in pre-liberation days.

At the symposium, the worker-peasant representatives spoke about their achievements and experiences in controlling sand. Clear-cut in political content and lively in language, their papers were written from a materialist-dialectical approach, with new ideas and innovations in science and technology.

A representative from the Wushenchao People's Commune in Inner Mongolia summed up a method of planting trees, shrubs, bushes and grass to bring 6,600 hectares of shifting sand under control. The Wuhsing People's Commune in Sinkiang's Turfan adopted a variety of measures to combat sandstorms and extend the land under cultivation, thus greatly increasing grain and cotton output. Using seven different methods to move the sand with water, the Yulin Prefecture in Shensi Province leveled sand dunes to build farmland and expand the irrigated acreage by 13,300 hectares.

The symposium was presided over by a three-in-one leading group made up of worker-peasant representatives, who formed the mainstay, leading cadres and scientists and technicians. Half of the leading members were representatives of national minorities, like Abdul Rayimu from Sinkiang and Sechin Dalai from Inner Mongolia. During the symposium, 20 papers were examined and finalized for publication, 13 of which were prepared by worker-peasant representatives or grassroots units working on sand control.

Kwangsi's Chemical Fertilizer Output Multiplies

CHEMICAL fertilizer industry in the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region in south China has

made rapid progress since the Great Cultural Revolution. Compared with 1965, total output in 1975 increased 5.7-fold, and that of nitrogenous fertilizer 74-fold. In the first six months of this year, the region fulfilled its production plan 15 days ahead of schedule, with the output 6.8 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of last year.

Chemical fertilizer industry was non-existent in pre-liberation Kwangsi. After liberation, the people of the autonomous region, adhering to the principle of "maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in our own hands and relying on our own efforts," made full use of local resources and set up chemical fertilizer plants in a big way. By 1958, the year of the big leap forward in socialist construction, over 30 had been built. With a still faster development in the past ten years following the start of the Great Cultural Revolution, there are now 147 medium and small ones. Run by counties or communes, small plants making nitrogenous and phosphate fertilizers are distributed in all parts of the region. In the Yulin Prefecture in southeastern Kwangsi, there are deposits of phosphate and troilite ores. During the Cultural Revolution, the local masses have been organized to prospect for and extract minerals. As a result, more than 50 sites have been discovered and exploited, thus greatly increasing the supply of raw materials. The 1975 chemical fertilizer output in the prefecture was more than 20 times the 1966 figure.

All enterprises in the various prefectures have organized three-in-one combinations of workers, cadres and technicians in developing chemical fertilizer production. They have made technical innovations in equipment and technological processes and popularized them. Over the past few years, chemical fertilizer plants in Kwangsi have promoted the development of production by completing over 30 important items of scientific research.