### CHRONICLES the life of the Chinese people and reports their progress in building a New Democratic society;

### DESCRIBES the new trends in Chinese art, literature, science, education and other aspects of the people's cultural life;

### SEEKS to strengthen the friendship between the people of China and those of other lands in the cause of peace.

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### PICTORIAL PAGES:

- Friendship Between the Chinese and Japanese Peoples; How China Protects the People's Health; The People's Park, Shanghai

### IN THE NEWS

- Published by the FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS, 20 Kuo Hui Chieh, Peking, China.

### ERRATA

- On the first page of our pictorial, the name “Yoshituo Hirano” in the caption to the upper left-hand corner picture should read “Yoshitaro Hirano.”

- On the same page, the name “Tadao Kudo” in the caption to the lower right-hand corner picture should read “Tadao Kudo.”

### For Peace in Korea

**The** whole world atmosphere has been changed by the agreement to repatriate sick and wounded prisoners of war in Korea. The agreement is a big step towards the termination of thirty-three months of bloodshed in that war-torn country. It opens the way to further action in accordance with the new Chinese and Korean proposal for a solution of the sole question that still holds up an armistice—the issue of prisoners of war. Together with other recent initiatives taken by the camp of peace and democracy headed by the Soviet Union to relax international tensions, this proposal has brought hope to all mankind.

The peoples of all countries have their eyes on Panmunjom. They are pressing with renewed vigour for an immediate cease-fire in Korea because they realise that it is the first and indispensable step towards dispelling the clouds of a new general war. It was to carry out this desire that the Soviet representative in the United Nations made the first move for a truce on June 25, 1951 and that the Korean and Chinese negotiators, by patient and tireless effort over long months, succeeded in bringing about an agreement on all points of the armistice agreement with the sole exception of the repatriation of P.O.W.'s. It was on the last remaining point that the U.S. side insisted on violations of the Geneva Conventions, finally walked out of Panmunjom and vainly tried “military pressure” to gain its aims.

Now that arrangements have been made to exchange sick and wounded P.O.W.'s, the Chinese and Korean proposal provides a quick, fair way to solve the question of the others. The proposal calls for the repatriation, as soon as a cease-fire takes place, of all who insist on going home. Any remaining P.O.W.'s are to be handed over to a neutral state so that the matter of their repatriation can be settled in a just manner. In advancing such a solution, the Korean and Chinese side adheres to the principles of international law which, in the interests of all peoples, is defending against violation. At the same time, it is making a concession as regards the steps to be taken to ensure the peace the people need.

The time has come for an immediate resumption of full-scale negotiations and for the display of a similarly conciliatory spirit by the other side. As Premier Chou En-lai pointed out in his statement of March 30:

> "...subsequent upon the reasonable solution of the question of sick and injured prisoners of war, it is entirely a matter of course that a smooth solution to the whole question of prisoners of war should be achieved, provided that both sides are prompted by real sincerity to bring about an armistice in Korea in the spirit of mutual compromise.”

April 16, 1951
Return of Japanese Nationals

The friendship of the peoples was strikingly demonstrated in the fraternal send-off given to 4,936 Japanese residential evacuees who left for their homeland on March 20—the first group to return under an agreement between the Chinese Red Cross Society on the one hand and the Japanese Red Cross Society, Japanese Peace Liaison Committee and Japan-China Friendship Association on the other.

This event has a special significance because of its background. The Japanese imperialism shed oceans of Chinese blood in the criminal invasion of China that lasted from 1931 to 1945. And today the Japanese reactionaries and militarists, seeking a comeback under the auspices of American imperialism, continue to be so hostile to China that the normal state of war between the two countries has not yet been ended. But a new force, to which the future belongs, has grown up—the friendship of the Japanese and Chinese peoples. The Chinese people draw a sharp, clear line of demarcation between the ordinary men and women of Japan and the reactionary ruling clique which Washington tries to hoist onto their backs.

To the bitter disappointment of the reactionary press, the returning Japanese residents on their arrival gave ringing testimony of this friendship to their own people and the entire world. They have seen the tremendous construction and development in China since the liberation. They have shared its benefits in terms of employment, social insurance and constantly improving conditions of life. They have enjoyed a good life in a country in which the people are building for themselves.

The Chinese people wish their Japanese friends well. They send back with them their greetings to people-loving Japanese and their confidence that no force on earth can obstruct the developing friendship of the two peoples for peace.

ON THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE KOREAN ARMISTICE

Statement by Chou En-lai, Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government

The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, having jointly studied the proposal put forward by General Mark W. Clark, Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command, on February 22, 1953, concerning the exchange of sick and injured prisoners of war of both sides during the period of hostilities, are of the common opinion that it is entirely possible to achieve a reasonable settlement of this question in accordance with the provision of Article 109 of the Geneva Convention of 1949. A reasonable settlement of the question of exchanging sick and injured prisoners of war has clearly a very significant bearing upon the smooth settlement of the entire question of prisoners of war. It is, therefore, our view that the time should be considered ripe for settling the entire question of prisoners of war in order to ensure the cessation of hostilities in Korea and to conclude the armistice agreement.

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea hold in common that the delegates of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers to the armistice negotiations and the delegates of the United Nations Command to the armistice negotiations should immediately start negotiations on the question of exchanging sick and injured prisoners of war during the period of hostilities, and should proceed to seek an overall settlement of the question of prisoners of war.

The Korean armistice negotiations in the past one year and more have already laid the foundation for the realization of an armistice in Korea. In the course of the negotiations at Kaesong and Panmunjom, the delegates of both sides have reached agreement on all questions, except that of prisoners of war. In the first place, on the question of a cease-fire in Korea, about which the whole world is concerned, both sides have already agreed that "the Commanders of the opposing sides shall order and enforce a complete cessation of all hostilities in Korea by all armed forces under their control, including all units and personnel of the ground, naval, and air forces, effective twelve hours after this Armistice Agreement is signed." (Paragraph 12 of the Draft Korean Armistice Agreement.) Secondly, both sides have further reached agreement on the various important conditions for an armistice. On the question of fixing a military demarcation line and establishing a demilitarized zone, both sides have already agreed that the actual line of contact between both sides at the time when the Armistice Agreement becomes effective shall be made the actual demarcation line and that "both sides shall withdraw two kilometers from this line so as to establish a Demilitarized Zone between the opposing forces...as a buffer zone to prevent the occurrence of incidents which might lead to a resumption of hostilities." (Paragraph 1 of the Draft Armistice Agreement.) On the question of supervising the implementation of the Armistice Agreement and settling violations of the Armistice Agreement, both sides have already agreed that a Military Armistice Commission, composed of five senior officers appointed jointly by the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and the Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, and five senior officers appointed by the Commander-in-Chief of the United Nations Command, shall be set up to be responsible for the supervision of the implementation of the Armistice Agreement, including the supervision and direction of the Committee for Repatriation of Prisoners of War, and for settling through negotiations any violations of the Armistice Agreement (Paragraphe 15, 20, 24, 25 and 56 of the Draft Armistice Agreement); both sides have also
agreed that a Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission shall be set up composed of two senior officers appointed as representatives by Poland and Czechoslovakia, neutral nations nominated jointly by the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and the Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, and two senior officers appointed as representatives by Sweden and Switzerland, neutral nations nominated by the Commanders of the United Nations Command, and that under this Commission there shall be provided Neutral Nations Inspection Teams composed of officers appointed as members to the Teams by the afore-mentioned nations. These Inspection Teams shall be stationed at the following ports of entry in North Korea: Sinuiju, Chongjin, Hungnam, Manpo, Sinanju, and at the following ports of entry in South Korea: Inchon, Taegu, Pusan, Kangnung and Kaesong, to supervise and inspect the implementation of the provisions that both sides cease the introduction into Korea of reinforcing military personnel and combat aircraft, armoured vehicles, weapons and ammunition (except for rotation and replacement as permitted by these provisions), and may conduct special observations and inspections at those places outside the Demilitarized Zone where violations of the Armistice Agreement have been reported to have occurred, so as to ensure the stability of the military armistice. (Paragraphs 36, 37, 40, 41, 42 and 43 of the Draft Armistice Agreement.) In addition, both sides have agreed that the "military commanders of both sides hereby recommend to the governments of the countries concerned on both sides that, within three months after the Armistice Agreement is signed and becomes effective, a political conference of a higher level of both sides be held by representatives appointed respectively by both sides to settle negotiations the questions of the withdrawal of foreign forces from Korea, the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, etc." (Paragraph 60 of the Draft Armistice Agreement).

As stated above, in the course of the Korean armistice negotiations, one question alone—the question of prisoners of war—was the subject of the talks between both sides. And even with these talks, the question of prisoners of war—both sides have reached agreement on all the provisions in the Draft Armistice Agreement on the arrangements relating to prisoners of war, except on the question of the repatriation of prisoners of war. Had the Korean armistice negotiations not been interrupted for more than five months, a solution might long since have been found to this issue of the repatriation of prisoners of war.

Now inasmuch as the United Nations Command has proposed to settle in accordance with Article 109 of the Geneva Convention, the question of war prisoners and the cessation of belligerency of both sides, and by that, the question of prisoners of war during the period of hostilities, we consider that subsequent upon the reasonable settlement of the question of sick and injured prisoners of war, it is entirely a matter of course that a smooth solution to the whole question of prisoners of war should be achieved. Failing this, it is believed that both sides are prompted by real sincerity to bring about an armistice in Korea in the spirit of mutual compromise.

Regarding the question of prisoners of war, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have always held and continue to hold that a reasonable solution can only lie in the release and repatriation of war prisoners of war, and the cessation of hostilities in accordance with the stipulations of the 1949 Geneva Convention, particularly those Article 118 of the Convention. However, in view of the fact that the differences between the two sides on this question now constitute the only obstacle to the realization of an armistice in Korea, and in order to satisfy the desire of the people of the world for peace, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea pursuant to their consistently maintained peace policy and their position of consistently working for the speedy realization of an armistice in Korea and striving for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question thus to preserve and consolidate world peace, are prepared to take steps to eliminate the differences on this question so as to bring about an armistice in Korea. To this end, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea propose that both parties to the negotiations should undertake to repatriate immediately after the cessation of hostilities all those prisoners of war in their custody who insist upon repatriation and to hand over the remaining prisoners of war to a neutral state so as to ensure a just solution to the question of their repatriation.

It must be pointed out that in advancing this proposal, we by no means relinquish the principle of release and repatriation of war prisoners without delay after the cessation of hostilities set forth in Article 118 of the Geneva Convention, nor do we acknowledge the assertion of the United Nations Command that there are among the prisoners of war individuals who allegedly refuse that repatriation. It is only because the termination of the bloody war in Korea and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question is bound up with the question of the peace and security of the people of the Far East and of the world that we take this new step and propose that after the cessation of hostilities, those captured personnel of our side who, under the intimidation and oppression of the opposite side, are filled with apprehensions and are afraid to return home, be handed over to a neutral state, and that explanations be given by them on the side thereof as to why the question of their repatriation will be justly settled and will not obstruct the realization of an armistice in Korea.

We are convinced that this new step taken by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for terminating the hostilities in Korea is in complete accord with the vital interests of the peoples whose sons are fighting on both sides in Korea and is also in accord with the fundamental interests of the people of the whole world. If the United Nations Command has the good will to seek peace, this proposal of our side ought to be accepted by it.

Peking,
March 30, 1953

MARSHAL KIM IL SUNG AND GENERAL PENG TEH-HUA'S LETTER TO GENERAL MARK CLARK

General Mark W. Clark,
Commander-in-Chief,
United Nations Command:

We received your letter dated February 22, 1953.

Concerning the question of repatriating with priority seriously sick and seriously injured prisoners of war of both sides during the period of hostilities should be made to lead to the smooth settlement of the entire question of prisoners of war, thereby achieving an armistice in Korea for which people throughout the world are yearning. Our proposal that the delegates for armistice negotiations of both sides immediately resume the negotiations at Panmunjom. Furthermore, our liaison officer is prepared to meet your liaison officer to discuss and decide on the date for resuming the negotiations.

KIM IL SUNG,
Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army

PENG TEH-HUA,
Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers

March 28, 1953
The Mutual-Aid and Co-operative Movement in North China

Wang Chien

UNDER the leadership of the Communist Party of China and its great leader Mao Tsetung, the peasants of North China have completed the land reform and up-rooted the feudal land system. On the basis of this achievement they have responded to Chairman Mao Tsetung's call to organise for production by forming mutual-aid teams and producers' co-operative to restore and develop agricultural production.

North China is one of China's old liberated areas. It suffered heavy damage during the war years. As a result, agricultural output in general dropped by 20 to 25 per cent, and in some areas by as much as 40 per cent as compared with the prewar level. This created a serious situation. But in the short space of three to five years, production has been restored and raised considerably. Figures for 1952 show that total grain and cotton production surpassed the prewar records by 11 and 91 per cent respectively. Compared with 1951, the total output in 1952 of oil-bearing crops increased by 34.7 per cent, hemp by 70 per cent, tobacco by 92 per cent and livestock by more than 700,000 head. A big increase in animal products was also registered.

Apart from the basic factor of the completion of the land reform which set free the peasants' productive forces and the resulting upsurge of the peasants' enthusiasm for production, the development of the mutual-aid and co-operative movement has been a decisive factor in the rapid rehabilitation and development of agriculture. The peasants have been shown a broad path to increased production, and China's agriculture has reached a new stage of development.

Nature of the Movement

The mutual-aid and co-operative movement in North China began in 1943. A mutual-aid team or an agricultural producers' co-operative is organised according to the voluntary principle, for mutual benefit. It is a form of collective labour based on private ownership of the land. Its law of development is growth from seasonal to year-round mutual aid, from a lower to a higher form. In North China today there are three types of such mutual aid in agricultural work.

In the first category are the seasonal mutual-aid teams based on the peasants' old practices of labour exchange. This is generally on a small scale and only seasonal. This is because during the busy spring sowing time, the summer cultivation and autumn harvesting, the peasants work collectively at their main agricultural tasks; but when the slack season sets in and there are only odd jobs to be done, they do the work separately and individually.

The second type are the year-round mutual-aid teams. Although it does not drastically change the special characteristics of individual production, it contributes towards relieving financial and social burdens. In this type of team, which is the most advanced, the members pool their labour and animals in common. They are powerful, democratic and non-commercial groups. There is no base for mutual aid because they incorporate private land and break down the individualistic character of work on the small-scale farm. Scientific techniques are applied on a wider scale, and horse-drawn agricultural implements are used and divided according to the amount of labour and shares of land contributed. A definite amount of the harvest is set aside to form a common fund.

Mutual-aid teams have not yet basically changed the character of small and scattered farms, but farm work is to a large extent collectivised and new relations established between members. The use of draught animals, farm implements and labour are all paid for at reasonable rates so that neither peasants with nor peasants without teams of production are placed at a disadvantage.

Mutual-aid teams are therefore superior to individual farming in raising production, and joining them, the peasants are able to enjoy better living conditions.

Agricultural Producers' Co-operatives

The third type are the agricultural producers' co-operatives which are characterised by the contribution of land as shares and the centralisation of management. They are an advanced form of mutual aid because they incorporate private land and break down the individualistic character of work on the small-scale farm. Scientific techniques are applied on a wider scale, and horse-drawn agricultural implements are used, and there is division of labour and cultivation according to type of land. More detailed and far-reaching plans are laid down for agricultural production and also for capital construction involving irrigation, animal husbandry, improvement of the soil, etc. Although private ownership of land is still maintained, crops are collectively harvested and distributed among the members according to the amount of labour and shares of land contributed. A definite amount of the harvest is set aside to form a common fund.

Mutual-aid teams have a form of mutual aid. In some areas, the mutual-aid teams have constituted the basis of a co-operative movement, and membership is free. In other areas the mutual-aid teams have been reorganised into co-operatives, the membership of which is free. The co-operative movement is an advanced form of co-operative and co-operative groups is an advanced form of co-operative. Some of these mutual-aid teams take up subsidiary occupations and thereby increase the members' income. Some teams spend their increased incomes on buying property in common such as farm implements, draught animals, etc. Thus the peasant gets from simple labour exchange to economic co-operation.

From this the socialist character of the agricultural producers' co-operatives becomes apparent. The co-operatives are an advanced form of mutual aid and a transitional stage to collective farming. There are about six thousand such co-operatives in North China. Although not many in number they represent a form of agricultural co-operation full of vitality and with a promising future, which will become in time the chief form of agricultural production throughout North China.

In 1952 more than 65 per cent of North China's peasants and peasant households joined the various types of mutual-aid and co-operative units which totalled around two million. Half of the peasants in North China belong to such organisations, working on a regular and all-year-round basis.

Increases Production

The mutual-aid and co-operative movement has a great transforming influence on agricultural production and rural life.

First, agricultural production and the peasants' income has increased. In 1952, the organised peasants in North China formed the basis of an extensive and protracted campaign which was launched to improve production, renovate farming tools, improve ploughing technique, carry out agricultural capital construction and combat natural calamities. As a result, agricultural production advanced greatly.

Experience shows that the better the
Assuredly, the organisation of mutual aid and co-operation has an obvious effect in forestalling and reducing the process of class disintegration in the countryside. Wherever the mutual-aid and co-operative movement has been conducted well, there the life of the peasants has become steadily improved. Cases of bankruptcy and poverty are rare. Take the counties of Chuann and Shanshi in Shan-shui, for instance. Since the land reform more than ten years ago, class relations in these two counties have remained stable. No case of usury or exploitation has been reported.

The mutual-aid and co-operative movement has not only been well organised, but has also been enthusiastically supported by the peasants themselves. In the new China, where the economic conditions are better than ever before, the peasants have a genuine interest in the development of rural industry and the improvement of their living conditions.

Thirdly, the development of the mutual-aid and co-operative movement has not only brought about a general improvement in the living conditions of the peasants, but has also helped to bring about a better understanding of the importance of the co-operative movement among the peasants. In many places, the peasants have begun to understand that the co-operative movement is not only an effective way of improving their living conditions, but is also an important means of strengthening their unity and discipline.

In conclusion, the development of the mutual-aid and co-operative movement has been a great success. The peasants have been enthusiastic about it, and have been ready to work hard to make it successful. The government has given strong support to the movement, and has provided the necessary funds and personnel to make it a success. In the future, the government will continue to support the movement, and will work hard to make it even more successful.
"Koje Unscreened"

A complete and documented exposure of one of the most cynical and cold-blooded conspiracies against humanity

Ling Wu-sun

WILFRED BURCHETT and Alan Winnington, the well-known Australian and British correspondents, have written a powerful indictment of the American treatment of war prisoners. Drawn from a wealth of material from various sources, Koje Unscreened presents a carefully detailed account of the events in American-controlled P.O.W. camps in Korea.

The authors are well qualified to undertake this task. They were in Korea during the events which they relate: not only at Pannunjin and the front, but also in the rear, where they interviewed scores of prisoners who had escaped from the Koje terror camp. Chang Kai-shek and Syngman Rhee spies who had worked with the Americans and had been parachuted into North Korea and taken prisoner, and captured United Nations soldiers who had themselves become guards on Koje and taken part in P.O.W. killings. This rich fund of information personally gained, together with a painstaking research into American and British press reports and the relevant admissions of the International Committee of the Red Cross, have created a profoundly convincing and moving book.

As the authors show, the form of "voluntary repatriation" as a propaganda cover for detaining Korean and Chinese prisoners—recommended by the U.S. Army's Psychological Warfare Branch—was gladly adopted by the Truman government as a "ready-made" psychological ploy to "deceive" the public and also as the perfect stumbling block to making any agreement during negotiations possible. On Koje and the other camps, the American Counter-Intelligence Corps had already brought into use Chang Kai-shek and Syngman Rhee agents for the implementation of the high-sounding "Civil Information and Education" programme—under which prisoners were starved, beaten and tortured to make them renounce their countries.

Burchett and Winnington make it clear that the horrifying events on Koje and in the other camps were not isolated happenings but planned as part of a deliberate scheme to delay and if possible to wreck the armistice talks. As the pressure of public opinion increased and the unsuccessful military offensives failed to get the Americans points they demanded at the conference table, orders were given to speed up prisoner "screening" so that the "trump card" of voluntary repatriation could be played. Prisoners were tattooed with anti-Communist slogans. By the end of October, 1951, orders had been given to complete tattooing at high speed. Then when the limit was reached owing to the resistance of the prisoners, "operation blood petition" was ordered. Prisoners were forced to write "petitions" in their own blood opposing repatriation. The prisoners-of-war item on the agenda was fast approaching the stage of discussion and "the orders were to get blood petitions and to get them quickly."

"Towards the end of November," testifies Wang Chia-ti, a P.O.W. who had been a "special agent" of the K.M.T., "the C.I.C. officers, Captain Booth, personally directed the Kuomintang commander of the 72nd regiment, Wang Shun-ching to complete the signing of the blood petitions that night. ... Booth told Wang Shun-ching that he was personally assigned to take the appeal to Ridgway's headquarters on the following day." To seal the loopholes in the American case, "screening" was invented to back up the figures. Koje's subordinates were putting up at the conference tent. Following Ridgway's visit to Koje in November, 1951, screening began in earnest.

Compound 66. "This was the first case we were able to trace of the type of 'screening' that later became universal" the authors write.

This is what Private Thomas James Allan of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment, now a P.O.W. in North Korea, told the authors about a "screening" in Compound 66 in Koje on June 21, 1952. Prisoners were lined up between British and Canadian troops and asked whether they wanted to return to North Korea or remain in South Korea. "If they said they wanted to go back to North Korea," says Allan, "then they were threatened by what would happen to them if they didn't sign their names to the paper that they wanted to stay in South Korea. "If they still refused, then I saw them being hit over the face and their bodies. They had their arms twisted behind their backs and if they still refused then they were taken away in another truck to the 'monkey house'" (A wired cage for the torture of prisoners by American "screening" officers and their accomplices.)

Lance Corporal William Bell of the same Regiment said this of another "screening" on June 12, 1952. "We went into the compound in two lines and threw some tear gas grenades at the prisoners. We were armed with rifles, Sten guns, gas and concussion grenades. This did not have much effect on the prisoners and we were ordered to fire at their legs. We fired about five rounds each. ... I would estimate that there were twenty killed and thirty or more wounded. It is possible that I killed one or more in this action."

But unfortunately for the American Command, the force of its terrorism broke against men with iron determination and unflinching loyalty to their countries—and the hollow mockery of "voluntary repatriation" was dramatically exposed to the world. History will never forget the courage of the dignified, half-starved men who braved machine guns, grenades and flame-throwing tanks to capture the camp commandant General Dodd in May, 1952 to draw attention to their miserable lot and to demand decent treatment.

They gave Dodd and those who negotiated his release a lesson in humanitarianism. The authors quote Dodd who spoke of his captivity after his release: "During my entire stay in the compound I was treated with the utmost respect and courtesy and my personal needs were looked out for." The world is now familiar with the result of the negotiations, but it is
The peasants of New China select their best grain for the payment of the state agricultural tax. They deliver it promptly in a festive atmosphere. Calling it their “Patriotic Grain Deliver,” with songs and to the beating of drums and cymbals, their cavalcades of carts and barrows bearing banners and flags carry the grain and other produce to the government granaries and collecting points. The peasants completed their 1952 tax payments with pride and enthusiasm. This year they see the splendid results of their past efforts—one of the greatest results of their industry and thrift and that of the whole of the Chinese people—the launching of China’s first five-year plan of national construction.

The peasants are happy to pay this tax because they see it returned to them increased a hundredfold in public works and services by a government composed of the true representatives of the people. This stands in vivid contrast to their resistance to taxation in the past, when the reactionary Kuomintang government never succeeded, even at the point of the bayonet, in collecting more than 70 per cent of its estimated agricultural tax revenue.

Owing to the great increase in agricultural production since liberation, each peasant after payment of the 1952 tax, has an average of 50 kilograms of grain more than in 1951. Of their own production China’s peasants today cover their daily needs, lay aside grain for further investments, provide their government in taxes with adequate amounts for current use and reserves as well as for exports to the people of other Asian countries who need grain.

In the Past

Chronic starvation was the lot of the mass of peasants in old China. Each year vast sums were extorted from them in the form of rent, usurious interest rates and taxes. In addition to the burdensome land tax, the reactionary rulers forced the peasants to pay over seven hundred different kinds of levies. The tax bureaus controlled by the local despots and landlords were sinks of corruption. No accurate investigation was ever made into the amount of taxable land. Before liberation, taxation in many places was still based on land tax registers compiled in 1877. Many landlords paid no taxes on the land they owned, while many peasants who had already lost their land were still compelled to pay taxes on it. Some landlords even went so far as to collect the land tax many years in advance.

In 1951, while the war of Resistance to Japanese Aggression broke out, the warlords of Sinkiang had already collected the land tax for 1951! It was no wonder that millions of peasants in that province known as the “Land of Abundance” were impoverished and often forced to sell their children to pay their debts.

The Chinese peasants on countless occasions in the past had risen up against such injustices and extortionate practices. The demand for equitable taxation is an ancient one in China. When it established its first people’s revolutionary bases in southern China in 1927, the Communist Party of China firmly gave effect to this just demand, taking steps to abolish the old land tax system and to replace it with a fair and equitable agricultural tax.

New Tax Policy

With the establishment of one liberated area after another, and finally of the People’s Republic of China, a just agricultural tax system was introduced throughout the country.

The second paragraph of Article 40 of the Common Programme adopted in September, 1949, by the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference stipulates that the taxation policy of the state shall be based on the

How Agriculture Is Taxed in China

Li Cheng-jui

Deputy-Director of the Agricultural Tax Department, Ministry of Finance

U.S. Germ Warfare Continues

Despite all protests and warnings, the U.S. Command is continuing germ warfare in Korea. We print below some of the reported germ bombings in March, taken from preliminary statistics released by the Korean Central Telegraph Agency.

MARCH 1: U.S. planes drop germ-carrying insects, as flies and mosquitoes, and small creatures in Weilam, Gap, Ch’i-ch’o, Ch’i-ch’ang, and Ch’i-ku, North Kanwon Province.

MARCH 2: U.S. forces spread germ-carrying insects on Sanwon, Kumgang County.

MARCH 10: U.S. planes drop germ-carrying insects and disease-infected biscuits and other foodstuffs in Chinch’o, Sinch’o, and T’o-ho, South Hamkyong Province.

MARCH 11: U.S. forces spread germ-carrying insects in Sanwon, Kumgang County. A four-compartment bomb case and blackflies and fleas are recovered in a snow-covered area.

MARCH 12: U.S. B-26 planes drop fleas on Yudong, Tongchon County.

U.S. aircraft drop fleas and mosquitoes on Unchon, Kosong County.

MARCH 16: U.S. aircraft drop fleas simultaneously with propaganda leaflets at Yuerp, Hoeryang County.

U.S. aircraft drop rodents at Simin, Tongchon County.

U.S. B-26 aircraft drop fleas, mosquitoes and spiders on a ridge to the north of the positions of the Chinese and Korean forces.

People’s China
principle of giving consideration to the rehabilitation and development of production and the requirements of national construction and that the system of taxation shall be simplified and an equitable distribution of burden be effected. This serves as the general basis of New China's taxation policy.

New China's agricultural tax encourages production. According to the Tax Regulations, anyone who claims virgin land is exempted from paying taxes on such land for three to five years, while anyone who reclaims land which has fallen out of cultivation enjoys from one to three years' remission of taxes with respect to it. This encourages the peasants to enlarge the area they cultivate.

The Tax Regulations also stipulate that in cases where arid land is turned into irrigated land as a result of the peasants' own efforts, the land in question continues to be classed as arid land for purposes of taxation for a period of three to five years. This is to encourage the extension of irrigation.

Subsidiary farm occupations such as livestock raising are also encouraged and at the present time are exempted from taxation.

The Tax Regulations also make clear that by agricultural income is meant the normal annual yield of the land. That is to say, the agricultural tax is assessed according to the normal yield of the land in a specific locality. No tax is levied on any portion of the yield in excess of the normal yield which results from good work and proper management. On the other hand, if the crop falls short of the normal yield as a result of slack efforts in farming, the tax is not reduced. The peasant is thus encouraged to raise his average yield per unit area. In cases of natural disasters, of course, every possible assistance is given the peasants including loans, relief supplies, etc. and, if necessary, remission of taxes.

Big Increases in Output

There has been a steady increase in the area of cultivated land, in the average yield per unit area and in the total agricultural output of China in the past three years. The following table shows the increases in grain and cotton:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Grain (m. tons)</th>
<th>Cotton (m. tons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this period the irrigated area of the whole country increased by 4,000,000 hectares. These achievements are of course mainly due to the change in the system of land ownership and to the extensive campaign for co-operative forms of farming, but the fact remains that the new agricultural tax policy has played a definite role in encouraging production and achieving these remarkable advances in agriculture.

The agricultural tax is collected in New China on a reasonable and equitable basis. In the first year of existence of the People's Republic, in the newly liberated areas, the old land tax levied according to the amount of land owned was abrogated and replaced by a progressive tax based on the agricultural income (normal annual yield) gained by each farm household. The lowest rate of this tax was 3 per cent and the highest 42 per cent. The lower rates were applied to poor and middle peasants, while the rich peasants, and especially the landlords in places where land reform had not yet been carried out, were subject to the higher rates of taxation.

Readjustments in Rates

Under the Land Reform Law (proclaimed in June, 1950) the land of the landlords was confiscated and distributed to peasants who had previously owned very little or none at all. The rich peasants, however, who usually owned twice the amount of land owned by the average peasant, have retained their properties. This changed situation called for readjustments in the progressive rate of taxation. After the reforms the lowest rate was raised to 5 per cent and the highest was reduced to 30 per cent. Nowadys poor peasants in general are taxed from 5 to 10 per cent and middle peasants about 15 per cent. A few rich peasants are assessed at the highest rate of 30 per cent. China's agricultural tax policy thus accords with the general line of development of China's agriculture. It places the proper restrictions on the development of rural capitalism and helps to lead the peasants steadily in the direction of co-operative farming.

 Provision has been made for taxes to be reduced or completely waived in the case of peasants who are suffering under particular difficulties due to lack of labour power (for example, widows with children and no adult bread-winner) or natural calamities. Lower rates of taxation ranging from 10 to 30 per cent below the ordinary rates are paid by those national minorities who are still economically backward and have not yet recovered from the ravages of reactionary rule in the past. Some national minorities have been completely exempted from taxation for a certain period.

Only One Agricultural Tax

The Central People's Government has also made the agricultural tax regulations as simple as possible. In 1950, it decided that local surtaxes added to the regular agricultural tax should not exceed 20 per cent of the regular tax. (There was no limit to surtaxes in old China, and these often exceeded the regular tax many times over.)

In 1952, all surtaxes were abolished. Since then, only a single agricultural tax has been levied on agricultural production. To finance local non-profit-making undertakings such as cultural and recreational activities or the repair of bridges, roads, etc., the local authorities are still authorized, subject to approval of a higher authority, to collect funds from the local populace, provided that this contribution is voluntary and amounts to less than 7 per cent of the agricultural tax.

Payment in Kind

The agricultural tax is mainly paid in kind: more than 80 per cent is paid in the form of food crops; another 10 per cent in cotton, peanuts, and other industrial crops by peasants who grow industrial crops. Peasants living in the suburbs of big cities or near communication centres, however, may, if they wish, pay in money. Such payments account for less than 10 per cent of the total amount of revenue from the agricultural tax.

Delivering Public Grain

Painting by Ko Hsiang-lan and Lin Huen-yen

April 16, 1953
Payment in kind enables the peasants to bring in part of whatever they produce as tax and saves them the trouble of selling their crops beforehand. It also guarantees that the government will have large amounts of foodstuffs and some industrial raw materials at its disposal. This ensures public control over an assured supply of foodstuffs and is an important factor in the stabilisation of food prices. That the twelve-year inflation of commodity prices was halted within half a year after the inauguration of the Central People’s Government was in considerable measure attributable to the policy of payment of the agricultural tax in kind, a system which is well adapted to the present needs of the country.

Peasants Well Satisfied

The peasants actually assessed themselves for taxation purposes.

In the course of the land reform, they themselves made assessment of all arable lands. They graded these lands according to quality and determined the average annual yield of each plot. Land which the landlords had formerly concealed by not registering it with the authorities so as to shift the tax burden on to the peasants was registered, and fields which the peasants had formerly tilled but had not divulged to the grasping tax-gatherers of the reactionary regime, were reported to the People’s Government by the peasants themselves. In the old days, some landowners were exempted from taxation while others, although they had sold their land, were still held responsible for paying the tax on it. Such absurd practices have been ended. As a result, during the past three years, the amount of taxable land registered has increased by 11 million hectares, which is over 12 per cent of all the taxable land in Kuomintang times. This is one of the reasons why in 1953, received 7 per cent more than its original estimate of revenue from the agricultural tax. This was a vivid demonstration of the peasants’ satisfaction with the new tax system.

Lighter Taxes

The peasant’s tax burden is becoming lighter every year. With the help of the government, during the land reform the peasants received 46 million hectares of land. They no longer had to pay an annual levy of land rent to landlords amounting to 30 million tons of grain. They also received and have since then received large amounts yearly in farm credits and numerous improved farm implements. Their income has greatly increased. Great public works, roads, railways, water conservancy projects have been undertaken for their benefit, and their welfare improves day by day.

Since the agricultural tax is assessed according to the surplus and not to the actual yield of the land, the peasant’s tax burden is a constant, and since his actual income rises every year due to increased production, he pays a declining portion of his income in taxes every year.

At the same time, while in 1950 the agricultural tax constituted the second largest item in national revenue (urban taxes being the first), in 1953, though slightly greater in absolute figures than in 1952, it was, due to the rapid increase of industrial production, drop to third place (constituting only 10.99 per cent of national revenue), after urban taxes, and the profits of state operated enterprises paid into the treasury.

The peasants of New China, however, are not satisfied with the gains they have made thus far. Their social perspectives have widened. They see the path followed by the collective farms of the Soviet Union. They want to progress steadily towards co-operative, and after that, collective farming. They want gradually to mechanise their farming. In the coming years the peasants will further develop agricultural production, accumulating the capital needed for the further building of China’s industries, and especially heavy industry, according to the plan of capital, long-scale construction leading to the industrialisation of the country and the development of a powerful agricultural machine-building industry.

The peasants’ unerring and enthusiastic contributions through the agricultural tax have been one of the chief factors in preserving peace for China and speeding up their country’s advance to industrialisation.

Friendship Between The Chinese and Japanese Peoples

Arrangements concluded between the Chinese Red Cross Society and the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Japanese Peace Liaison Committee and the Japan-China Friendship Association have helped the first group of Japanese nationals desiring to return to Japan, totalling 4,936 persons, to leave China for home between March 26-22, 1953.

Chief delegate of the Chinese Red Cross Society, Liao Cheng-chih (first from right) talking with the leader of the Japanese delegation, Tadatsugu Shimazu, and deputy-leaders Toshi Koda and Yoshitada Hirao (right to left)

Director Hsu Jui-shu and staff members of the No. 8 Hospital of the Ministry of Health, Peking, wishing Haruo Kinosita, former nurse of the hospital, a good journey home

Tadakazu Kudo (right), on behalf of the Japanese Red Cross Society, presents a gift to Peng Tingming, Vice-Chairman of the Friendship Society of the Red Cross Societies of China and Japan.
HOW CHINA PROTECTS THE PEOPLE’S HEALTH

In 1952 a health movement on a scale hitherto unknown in human history was started in China. It rid the cities of flies and mosquitoes and made it one of the sanitation-conscious countries in the world. With the coming along it is now being intensified.

A fully equipped anti-epidemic volunteer column ready for action in an area infected by U.S. planes.

A trio of planes spraying insecticide on an area infected by U.S. planes.

The principle of the health and sanitation campaign is prevention is better than cure.” Groups of civilians like these in a Peking suburb have cleared all mosquito-breeding grounds around China’s big cities.

Wei Ai-ying, a model sanitation worker of Hotze County, Shantung Province, gave anti-epidemic injections to 1,230 villagers in 14 days. She was one of thousands trained.

Modern hospitals such as this one for Yentian textile workers provide free medical service to workers.

In a factory clinic of the Northeast, regular health check-ups and mass radiology aim to forestall disease.

Modern preventive medicine has been brought to all the many nationalities of China. Government medical personnel giving anti-epidemic injections to Uighurs of Sinkiang Province.

“Strengthen the Patriotic Sanitation Movement” by Feng Tsung-chun.

In the tail of this poster by
The People's Park, Shanghai

The old Shanghai race course, 35 hectares in extent, once an exclusive preserve of imperialist gamblers, has now been turned into a splendid people's park and square for the use of the people.

Tasting the delights of the ferris-wheel in the children's corner

Anshan Arises Anew

China's Steel City is being rebuilt and equipped with the most modern automatic installations to produce iron and steel for her first five-year plan.

Hsu Chih

Anshan was a typical colonial enterprise. It did not work for the people's needs, but for the people's destruction. The Japanese capitalists and militarists used its production only for their imperialist aims. Anshan's iron and steel provided the sinews of war for the Japanese armies invading China. By 1941, Anshan steel was being turned against the British and American people and all the other peoples in Asia and the Pacific area.

Anshan was built to earn the maximum profits out of cheap, expendable labour. The ore dressing mill was like a ring in Dante's Hell. Many workers fell victims to the grey ore-crushing machines on which all safety precautions were missing. The coke ovens, blast furnaces and open hearth furnaces devoured not only raw materials but also the workers. Not a single worker in the small bar mill had escaped injury from the red-hot metal, which, under these conditions, was the enemy of man instead of the malleable servant of his will and interests.

The workers of Anshan are famed all over the Northeast for their revolutionary spirit. Every big movement for liberation has had participants from Anshan. Now they showed...
In honour of the 35th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the workers of the No. 5 Martin furnace established a new record on November 8 last year by completing one smelting of steel in 8 hours and 19 minutes. During the rest of the month, which was marked as a special month of Sino-Soviet friendship, a big production campaign was launched, in the course of which the workers of the No. 4 Martin furnace cut this time by two hours and ten minutes, simultaneously increasing the amount of steel per square metre of hearth area from 7.05 to 11.08 tons. This new record considerably surpassed the efficiency of similar open hearth furnaces in capitalist countries and approached the average levels attained in the Soviet Union.

In 1949, the output of the Anshan Iron and Steel Company was only 10 per cent of the highest production level of the past. By 1953, output rose to 80 per cent, while in 1955 it will considerably surpass all previous figures. But today, beating old records has no longer regarded as anything out of the ordinary. The workers of Anshan have gone further—a new Anshan is rising that is a model of technical efficiency for the whole of the country, with the newest types of mechanised and automatic production processes brought into use.

Big New Plants

The workers' enthusiasm is fired by thoughts of the splendid future before them. They are building a gigantic new rolling mill and a seamless tube mill and reconstructing the No. 8 blast furnace. When the rolling mill is completed, its annual output of steel products will be sufficient to build fourteen modern steel plants as large as all the Anshan works. Its annual output will be enough to build six tractor factories each with a yearly production of 40,000 tractors. The value of its annual output will exceed a fifth of the yearly production of more than 32 million farmers of Northeast China. If the seamless steel tubes produced were to be linked together, they would extend from Heilungkiang in the extreme north of China to Hainan Island off her southern coast. The new blast furnace will produce enough iron each day to make 60,000 ploughshares. It will be operated by a foreman sitting in the control room, reading the recording meters, watching the signals and working the various electric switches. Raw materials will be automatically transported to the furnace and hoisted into place. The testing rod will gauge whether the furnace has been fed sufficiently and transmit the information to the foreman through the recording meter.

The two mills and the blast furnace will be fully automatic. The workers in the mills will direct operations merely by supervising the machinery, checking the signals, and pressing electric switches on the control-boards.

These builders of a new world are self-confident; they are buoyed by optimism, they have the clan and vitality of creators. They are the heroes in a wonderful new story. They are engrossed in the most arduous work, but they are the happiest of men.

The two mills and the blast furnace are three of the projects scheduled for completion in 1953. Chinese workers had never before seen such machinery and equipment as arrived from the Soviet Union. Nor had they imagined what high precision was required for installing automatic machines.

One would need an enormous canvas to portray fully the grand scale of the construction site, and the high spirits and enthusiasm of the people there. The vastness of it all and the hum of machines ting over men; and yet man dominates the whole panorama in his power and magnificence. The various projects are going ahead at record speed. The blast furnace project has been completed, a greater part of the work on the seamless tubemill has been completed and the rolling mill is also more than half finished.

A Socialist Industrial Giant

Yet this is only the beginning of the story of the new Anshan. The preliminary plans for the Company, drawn up with the aid of Soviet experts, run into 129 heavy volumes.

The winter school at the Anshan Iron and Steel Company trained skilled workers in various professions for Anshan's capital construction. A teacher instructing a young excavator-operator.

The original Anshan steel works was an industrial enterprise with out-of-date equipment. Productivity was low, and it was geared to the needs of the Japanese imperialists, seeking only to plunder China's wealth—more pig iron was produced than steel and more steel than steel products. Anshan was transformed by the liberation into a people's steel works whose products suit the needs of the Chinese people. Anshan is becoming a modern socialist steel city equipped with the most advanced techniques. With first-rate mechanised and automatic installations of the latest design, labour productivity will be raised four and a half to five times, while steel production will increase sixfold. It will be able to turn out any type of steel desired. The amount of ore mined will correspond to the capacity for turning out pig iron; steel will be produced in quantities the capacity of the processing shops can handle.

Over a hundred big projects are included in the plans of the new Anshan. While the work is already well advanced or completed on three of these, the rest will be got under way at a fast rate within the next few years.
From Gamblers' Resort
To People's Park

Li Yu-wen

In the heart of Shanghai is the People's Park—a centre of culture and recreation for the six million people of China's biggest city. Its facilities include a public park, a museum, a grand concourse for demonstrations and a Hall of Sino-Soviet Friendship.

The property was finally returned to the Chinese people when it was taken over by the Shanghai authorities on August 27, 1953. The work of turning this infamous gambling site into a people's park began immediately.

The property had been a gambling resort since the turn of the century, when the British had turned it into a centre of gambling and opium dens. The Shanghai government decided to transform it into a public park, and work began in 1950.

The park was officially opened on May 1st, 1951. It was the first public park in Shanghai, and it quickly became a popular destination for both Chinese and foreign visitors.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the park underwent further expansion and improvement. Today, the People's Park is one of the largest and most popular public parks in Shanghai, covering an area of 9.2 hectares.

The park features a variety of attractions, including a large garden, a waterfall, a lake, and a monument to the people's heroes. It is also home to a number of cultural and historical buildings, including a theatre, a library, and a museum.

The park is a symbol of the Chinese people's struggle for freedom and democracy, and it remains a popular destination for both locals and tourists.
supply of illustrated books written in simple language but rich in educational content on many subjects.

To the east of the Park is a concert hall, an open-air stage and a swimming pool. The new public park, which is eighteen hectares in extent, is encircled by a creek and beautified by artificial hills, pond and bridges of Chinese design. Walkways along the sides is a long, winding, covered walk built of the famous "Plum Garden" stone from Ningpo in Chekiang Province. Spacious children's playgrounds are equipped with swings, merry-go-rounds, sand pits and other things which all kiddies love.

The Hall of Sino-Soviet Friendship, housed in a palatial building with large red pillars, includes a movie theatre and a picture gallery. Here the working people of Shanghai can see what life is like in a socialist country and learn from Soviet experience how to industrialise their country and advance their agriculture. Here too they can learn how the Soviet people are working for world peace.

On big occasions like National Day and May Day, the Shanghai people, marching in a hundred abreast, file through the grand concourse of the Park. They demonstrate their joy in the freedom and peace they have won, the building of a new country where all that is, is for the people.

**New Trade Agreements**

A protocol on trade for 1953 between China and the Soviet Union, a protocol to the Agreement on Credits to the People's Republic of China of February 14, 1950, and an agreement concerning the assistance to be rendered by the Soviet Union to China in the expansion and construction of power stations were signed recently in Moscow.

These protocols envisage further development of trade between China and the Soviet Union. In 1953 the Soviet Union will deliver to China equipment for the metallurgical, mining, engineering, chemical, power and other industries, supplies for industry and transport, modern agricultural machines, pedigree cattle, rice, vegetable oil, glass, hearth seeds, meat, tobacco, tea, fruit, wool, jute, raw silk, fabrics, hides and other goods.

The protocols and agreement were signed by A. I. Mikoyan, Minister for Internal and Foreign Trade of the U.S.S.R., and Ye Hsi-chun, Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Financial and Economic Affairs of the People's Republic of China and Li Fu-chun, Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Financial and Economic Affairs on behalf of China.

A Sino-Hungarian Barter and Payment Agreement for 1953 was signed in Peking on March 30. Under this agreement, which envisages an increase of 31 per cent in the value of trade between the two countries as compared with 1952, Hungary will provide China with machinery, telecommunications equipment and other general commodities; China will supply Hungary with minerals, soya beans, grain, and other agricultural products and general commodities.

The agreement was signed by Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade Hau Hauchhan on behalf of China, and E. Sofranko Hungarian Ambassador and head of the Hungarian Trade Delegation on behalf of Hungary.

**Good-bye, Japanese Friends!**

**How a Group of Japanese Residents Left for Their Homeland**

Our Correspondent

T**HE** Kuo Min Hotel was one of Tientsin's three largest hotels specially reserved for Japanese resident leaving China for Japan following the recent agreement arrived at in Peking between the Chinese Red Cross Society and three Japanese public organisations. Everything was ready to accommodate the first group of travellers at the port of embarkation—from the specially prepared clubroom down to the last 40 pounds of ravioli (a soup made of bean paste which is a great favourite among the Japanese), that Tientsin could offer.

Soon, the first bus flying the flag of the Red Cross Society of China drew into the courtyard of the hotel and pulled up near where we were waiting with its horns blaring, as if the driver was determined to make us notice he had arrived. He was not the only one to be in a holiday mood. The passengers that tumbled out of his car had the air of excitement that all travellers have: men hurried after their luggage (some had as much as a carload of it); mothers were busy with their children.

But soon everything was in order. The luggage was stored away and the travellers settled down in the hotel until, a few days hence, they would board the first ship for home.

In this group there were railwaymen, nurses, engineers and clerks. Some wore kimono, some western-style clothes and some the blue uniform of Chinese government employees. All were excited over the prospect of going home after so many years' residence in China.

They were particularly touched by the reception that Tientsin gave them. Sueo Wakasa, an engineer, told me of an instance which showed the complete absence of ill-will on the part of the Chinese towards individual Japanese, despite the terrible suffering that militarist Japan had caused China during the past decades. On the street in Tientsin one day, Wakasa was stopped by a man who had noticed his arm-band with the inscription "Japanese National Leaving for Homeland."

"So you are going back" the stranger asked with a smile. "Well, good luck to you! I hope you will visit us again in the future. We people of China and Japan respect each other, and should help each other."

Wakasa has a four-month-old daughter. While in Tientsin she had a bout of pneumonia. The medical unit specially set up for the home-going Japanese by the Red Cross Society of Tientsin rushed her to hospital where she was given priority treatment by Tientsin's foremost specialist. These were only two of many acts of hospitality shown the returning Japanese by
Many others had left, said Fujii, but the U.S.-launched invasion of Korea had caused a shortage in ships that prevented Japanese nationals from going home.

On March 22, we boarded special coaches on the train for Hai-kang Harbour, and in two hours we drew up alongside the Hakuryu Maru (3,397 tons) and the Hakusan Maru (4,351 tons), specially sent from Japan. In a short while, these ships would take our Japanese friends on their homeward journey. As we were saying good-bye, all of us were filled with the conviction that the people of China and Japan have always been and will remain friends.

Talks on the Return of Japanese Nationals

Arrangements for the return of Japanese nationals to Japan were finalised in Peking on March 5 this year. The talks, which began on February 15, were conducted by a delegation of the Red Cross Society of China led by Liao Cheng-chih and a delegation of the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Liaison Committee of the Japanese Peace Committee, and the Japan-China Friendship Association, led by Tadasugu Shimazu.

In an interview with the Hsinhua News Agency on December 1 last year, an official of the Central People's Government stated that there were about 30,000 Japanese residents in China and that the Government would aid them to return home to Japan. This offer naturally did not refer to the war criminals, including those who had joined the Chiang Kaishek and Yen Hai-shan brigades after the capitulation of militarist Japan. All Japanese P.O.W.s, except those still retained by the Chiang and Yen brigades, it was made clear, had been repatriated before the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

The Japanese delegation formed of the representatives of the above-mentioned organisations arrived in Peking on January 31 this year to discuss shipping arrangements and other specific problems in connection with the return of the Japanese nationals to Japan. The talks were conducted to the satisfaction of both sides. Tientsin, Chinhua, Nanking and Shanghai were designated as ports of embarkation. The Red Cross Society of China offered to meet all travel expenses, board and lodging of the returning Japanese, except the time of assembly up to the time of embarkation. Shimazu accepted the proposal.

This was not the first time since the Japanese surrender that Japanese nationals were leaving for their homes. Since the liberation of China in 1949, many had returned. Fujii told me about the case of Yoshio Higashi, who had worked with him in the same department. Higashi was a railway engineer and would have willingly stayed on to help in the restoration of China's railways, but his wife and children were in Japan. So he asked to be reunited with his family, although he was able to remit money to them. The railway administration helped him.

Until about July this year. However, if after that time other Japanese nationals in China wished to return to Japan, facilities would be given them to do so.

In his speech at the opening of the negotiations, Liao Cheng-chih stated that Japanese residents in China had received the full protection of the People's Government; their incomes had increased in keeping with the general improvement of life in China. They communicated freely with their homeland, and had no wish to make a permanent home for their families there. He estimated that there were many Japanese nationals who wished to return to Japan and also others who wished to remain in China. Many had, in fact, returned to Japan after the war, and others remained in China.

He expressed his heartfelt thanks for the sincere assistance rendered by the Red Cross Society of China.
The Fruits of China

Kao Shih-shan

China is a land of fruits. Tropical fruits—pineapples, bananas, coconuts, lichees and their smaller, sweeter version, the longan—grow in the south. Apples, pears, grapes, persimmons; peaches, plums, apricots and Chinese dates grow in the north. North or south, strawberries and other berries grow in profusion. While temperatures in the North-east are dropping below 40 degrees Centigrade, the orchards of Kwangtung Province are green and fruits are ripening. Favourable natural conditions and the Industrious labour of skilful fruit-growers have produced over a thousand varieties of fruit trees in China. Throughout the four seasons of the year, China's fruit markets have a rich supply. In Peking or Shanghai you can eat China-grown oranges, tangerines, watermelons, pomelos and pomegranates.

China is the "ancestral home of fruit trees." Fruit orchards were planted here several thousand years ago. Centuries of cultivation have produced varieties of fruit as good as or even better than, any in the world. There are over a hundred varieties of citrus fruits in China. The much-advertised California Sunkist oranges are far inferior to many Chinese oranges. The sugar-acid ratio in Sunkist oranges exported to China is 8:1; in the case of Kwangtung-grown Hainui oranges, it is 20:1. A Sunkist contains only 35.7 per cent of juice, while a Hainui orange contains as much as 55.3 per cent. Yet the Hainui is by no means China's finest orange. Kwangtung's Pung oranges are superior in colour, flavour and taste. "They are the world's best" as a Soviet fruit expert put it.

Not only did China develop its own fine fruit trees; many excellent varieties have been imported from abroad. Some varieties of apples were brought to China about seventy years ago, and now they are planted over half of China, north of the Yangtze River. These apples have not only retained their original qualities but have also been improved in one way or another. Apples in fact have now become one of China's major fruit products.

Fruits are grown not only "in the farmers' back yard" as a side occupation but on a large scale. Orange or apple orchards often cover areas of thousands to tens of thousands of hectares. Grapes are grown in Sinkiang, China's westernmost province, and elsewhere in a belt stretching from Shantung Province on the eastern coast. In many places, vineyards spread in all directions as far as the eye can see. One can walk from village to village under endless vines rich with clusters of luscious fruit.

Legends About Fruit

The Chinese people are fond of fruits and have many interesting legends about them. At the Mid-Autumn Festival when fruits are most plentiful, the peasant tradition was to offer sacrifices of pears, bananas or grapes to the moon. The ceremony over, the whole family would sit down together and eat heartily of the harvest. When Peking residents celebrate the Spring Festival—the Chinese lunar New Year—the whole family eats apples, for the word "apple" in Chinese is pronounced ping kuo and the word "ping" is the same as in ho ping (peace). It is a symbol of the hope that the whole family will have peace in the coming year.

In the old days, as soon as a bride stepped down from her sedan-chair, she was given two apples. The marriage bed is decorated with sprigs of plum lichees, round longan, pomegranates with their many seeds, and dates (in Chinese the word for "dates" is also pronounced the same as the word for "early"). These are symbols of blessings to the young couple—wishes for a peaceful, happy and fertile union, producing a round and plump baby at an early date. At birthday parties, peaches are considered to be the most suitable gift. The old customs are still popular, though today they have new meaning—the wishes they represent have never been more alive in the hearts of the people.

Destruction and Rehabilitation

There was a decline in China's fruit production in the years immediately preceding liberation of the country. Fruit orchards need large capital investment and careful management, but the landlords who lived on the rents from them neither invested heavily nor looked after the trees scientifically. The peasant fruit-growers, on the other hand, though working hard to improve their trees, lacked capital. In consequence, the fruit trees suffered seriously from diseases and pests and their output steadily declined.

In addition, orchards were frequently and openly robbed by the KMT and Japanese troops, and trees were cut down for firewood. Numerous orchards were destroyed in this way.

During the years of reactionary Kuomintang rule, ruthless exploitation ruined the peasants, and fruit farming suffered accordingly. City dwellers too could less and less afford to buy fruit. U.S. interests, operating with the connivance of the KMT regime, monopolised what remained of the export market and squeezed the primary producers to secure their profits.

Liberation reversed this process of decline in China's fruit-growing. Through the land reform, tenant growers and landless labourers received the orchards which they had so long cultivated for others. But in their destination, they lacked the capital and means for rapid rehabilitation. The People's Government made loans available to them, sent them specialists to combat diseases and pests, and introduced new improved varieties and methods of grafting and planting.

The People's Government's efforts in promoting the cultivation of fruit among peasants working with the enthusiasm of emancipation were chiefly responsible for these record harvests. In the fruit-growing areas, there was better irrigation, better control of diseases and pests, more fertiliser. The People's Government extended loans to the peasants for these purposes. The peasants themselves were able to provide more capital out of their savings from the better economic conditions they have enjoyed since liberation. Government loans to orange-growers in Kwangtung Province, totalled over 200 million yuan, and this was used for the purchase of fertiliser.
growers in Shantung Province received special loans for sprayers and insecticides. The further spread of modern scientific methods of grafting and pruning is also having increasing effect. The name and methods of the famed Soviet agronomist Michurin are becoming increasingly well known among the fruit-growers of China.

Bumper Crops

During the past three years remarkable increases have been achieved in output in China's main fruit-growing areas, the harvest of 1952 were on the average 50 per cent higher than in 1951. In individual cases the increases were as much as 250 per cent.

The apple crop surpassed the previous year's record by 50 per cent. Liaotung Province in Northeast China, one of the outstanding apple-growing areas, harvested 71,000 tons of apples, 50 per cent more than in 1951.

Even bigger increases were gained by the orange and tangerine orchards of the country. Szechuan Province, China's main citrus fruit area, surpassed its highest prewar crop level. Kiangtung Province in that province harvested 280 per cent more fruit than in 1951. Tangerine-growers of Hwangyen County (Chekiang Province) got their best harvest in decades. The harvest of the famous sweet tangerines and kumquats of Kiangsi Province, Central-South China, was one and a half times bigger than in 1951.

Laiyang pear trees in Shantung Province produced a crop 30 per cent bigger than in 1951. Turfan, Sinkiang Province, had 35 per cent more seedless grapes for drying than in the previous year.

Growing Demand

The rapid rehabilitation and development of China's national economy and the general greatly increased the popular demand for fruits by the state trading organization, fruit cooperatives and private merchants, the exalted fruit market, buying and selling at reasonable prices and helping the peasants in marketing, improved communications and many exhibitions of city and rural products have greatly assisted the interflow of trade. In the past only the emperor and his courtiers in Peking could eat the lichees which were then transported from Kwangtung Province by pony express. Now in season they are available to the ordinary residents of the capital at reasonable prices.

In 1952 on National Day the amount of fruit sold in Peking worked out at an average of more than six kilograms of fruit per family, or about three pounds of fruit per person, 112 per cent more than in 1951. A feature of the trade, not unusual for other big northern cities, is that the amount of southern fruits—oranges, bananas, pineapples, coconuts, etc.—has increased and that many big co-operatives have established fruit departments to deal with the increased turnover.

Fruits exports are also growing, as the following table shows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Oranges</th>
<th>Apples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Year: 1940</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>204.7</td>
<td>146.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>322.99</td>
<td>216.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953 (planned)</td>
<td>504.58</td>
<td>285.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Does not include apple exports by private merchants.*

Considerable quantities of fruit are also canned, fermented to make wines or other beverages or preserved in various ways. The market at home and abroad for these products will certainly also increase. Peking's preserved fruits especially have received many international awards. With the increase in fruit production, both preserving and canning industries are being expanded.

And all of this is only a beginning. There are suitable fruit-growing land, particularly on the slopes of hills covering an area bigger than the present acreage under orchards. The expanding economy of China is creating an ever bigger market for fruit. China's fruit-growing peasants are looking forward confidently to bumper harvests and bigger markets. They understand how valuable an addition they are making to the health, wealth and happiness of the nation.

A Sunday in the Country

The stars were still twinkling when Lao Wang got up. He pulled on some clothes, mumbling quietly to himself: "Sunday again! How time flies!"

"Why, what do you do specially on Sundays?" I asked from the snug warmth of the kang.

"Oh, one thing and another," he replied. "It's a rest day for us co-op workers, but it seems to go pretty quick."

This was a surprise to us. Tsai, the press photographer, and I had only arrived in the village the night before after three years in the cities, and here already we heard about such a big change in village life. In the old days, the peasants took a holiday only at the New Year and one or two other big seasonal festivals. How did this all come about? What did they do with their Sundays? We pried Lao Wang with questions (he is the busy head of the village agricultural producers' co-op) until finally he suggested that we take a look around and see for ourselves.

We set out after breakfast. It was a bright clear day. The sun had risen over the rim of the plateau, and the shadows of trees etched sharp shadows like wood-cut prints on the ground. A light breeze spread the scents of the ripening harvest. The singing of birds and chirping of crickets echoed through the sweet fragrant air.

The land bordering the village was laid out in vegetable plots for the members of the co-operative. There were potatoes and green beans. Huge golden-ripe pumpkins lolled on beds of straw under the autumn sun. Several members were working in groups of twos or threes on their own plots. A middle-aged woman in a new deep-blue cotton frock was picking tender, juicy beans, gathering them by large handfuls into her bamboo basket. Flowering around her was a little girl wearing a hat made out of a large pumpkin leaf. The girl had shiny black plaits bedecked with wild flowers, and as she skipped along, the flowers fluttered and danced like butterflies around her slender shoulders.

Rich Crops

"While we're out here, let's take a look at the crops," Lao Wang suggested. He led us along a narrow path that climbed a steep slope. At the top, fields of rich crops lay spread out in front of us. It was a handsome sight beyond our expectations. The kangling stood firm in the field like saplings in a forest nursery. The maize had grown ten feet and more. Luxuriant tassels hung from bursting cobs. It was a fine crop of maize, and there was ten mou of it.

"Such millet!" he exclaimed, as we moved on further to a new field. Loingly, he fingered a golden ear and placed it on his open palm.

"We'll get more than 1,000 catties a mou," he said. "That's a big lot over our quota."

"What's the quota?" asked Tsai.

"Well, we only planned for 850 catties a mou!"

Lao Wang had reason to be proud. One hundred and seventy of the village's 220 families belonged to the co-operative. They sewed more than 1,700 mou of land to suitable crops and 700 mou to wheat. This year, the average produce of all crops per mou of land would amount to 530 catties.

"Before the war, in 1947," explained Lao Wang, "the harvest average was about 165 catties, and in 1948, it dropped to less than 130."

35
“That was a very thin time,” he reminisced.

“At the end of the war, why, there was hardly a thing left standing. All the same, this is not an easy place to farm.”

And he was right. As the morning wore on, we saw something of the difficulties. Yaoshankou Village was fairly typical of other villages in this one-time revolutionary base in the Taihang mountains*. Situated on a high shoulder of loess, the village was surrounded by tortuous gullies, so many that we could not find all the world tell by which we had come the last evening. During the fighting against the Japanese, this labyrinth of gullies had been a perfect defence against the enemy who were always beaten back with heavy losses. However, what was an advantageous terrain in the past had now become a serious obstacle to production. The tracts of cultivated land which seemed at a distance to lie beside one another, we now found to be sometimes as far as one or two miles apart. One had to cross gullies, clamber up cliffs, or scramble gingerly down steep mountain paths to reach one field from another. No horse, let alone cart, could possibly have managed some of these paths, so the farmers had to carry every heavy burden of manure, soil and crops on their backs. The scarcity of local water sources presented an even greater problem. For drinking water, the farmers had in the past depended on the summer and autumn rainfalls which they had stored in underground cellars.

The Co-op

“Of course, we’ve got our reservoir now,” said Lao Wang. “So our worst problems are over. That’s one of the advantages of the co-op. We can manage all sorts of jobs now that we could never have tackled single-handed in the past.”

Our talk was interrupted by the sound of voices. A lively group of young people were laughing and calling out to Lao Wang. “What’s this?” said one. “You come to inspect our work even on Sundays?” “What would you like to buy?” said another. “I’ll pick out anything you fancy!”

The young people were on their way to an urban-rural trade exhibition and fair at Faflungchen, a town two miles from the village. It was quite a big affair. In addition to trading in livestock and industrial and local products, there were two performances given by the local opera companies.

As they passed on their way, Wang looked after them with amused affection. “They’re a happy lot,” he said. “When I was their age, I was working as a farm labourer for a landlord. I even had to work on New Year’s Day, let alone Sundays. As to treating myself to a day’s outing, that was simply unheard-of.”

We ate our noon meal in the home of a young member of the co-operative, Han Chin-mu. He insisted on sitting on the kang, which was covered with a gay new woollen blanket. He passed me a bowl of steaming noodles garnished with cabbage, apologising: “I went to see the show. I didn’t know I’d have a guest for lunch, so I’m afraid you just have to take pot-luck.” For a moment, I thought he was merely being polite, then I realised he was quite sincere. Noodles was a dish reserved for festivals in the past. Now it was accepted as a normal everyday meal.

I was surprised to learn that he had come to the village as a refugee as recently as 1947. “You have such a comfortable home,” I said. “You must have had a good harvest.”

“No, it’s the same with all of us,” he said. “Our life is getting better every day.”

He told us about another peasant with a family of five, whose income in 1960, before the producers’ co-operative was formed, had been barely 2,800 catties of grain a year. In 1961, after joining the co-operative, he received 5,200 catties for his share of the autumn harvest. Last year, his income was 5,900 catties of grain, more than double his original income, and his younger brother was able to give up his work to go to a primary school.

After visiting the co-operative’s two experimental plots in the afternoon, we began, to understand more fully the reason for the village’s rapid advance. One plot was used for seed-selection and testing and the other for trying out new farming methods. The co-op cultivates all land under an over-all plan, using each plot for the crop it is best suited for.

People’s China

Better care was given to crops, with more fertiliser and moisture. All seeds used in the year’s sowing had passed the test for superior quality. Many new farming methods have also been adopted for general use.

Village Reading Room

On our way from the plots, we dropped in on a village reading room and library in Kutaol hamlet, one of three libraries recently opened in the village. It was in a big house, well furnished, with the books set in a long T-shaped table. More than ten young men and women were engaged in their books. The librarian told us that the village reading rooms usually had forty to fifty readers every day.

“We have more than 700 books,” he said, “and 57 newspapers and journals. Of course,

Leaving the library, we headed over the hills. “You must see Nankou,” said Wang. “That’s a favourite spot for our people on a Sunday.”

It was not long before we heard peals of laughter and voices. Clambering down a slope, we came on a colourful scene. A jet of clear water gushed from a cleft in the rocks into a stream. Along both banks, men and women were washing clothes. Garments of many colours were spread over the grass and rocks, looking like flowers in full bloom. Children played catch beneath the trees. A group of boys were throwing stones into the stream, trying to disturb the frogs. Not far from us was a young peasant of twenty or so vigorously washing a woman’s print frock.

“Washing for your wife? That’s a model husband!” said Lao Wang with a smile.

“And why not?” retorted the lad. “We’re equality between men and women! If she has time to spare, she helps with the washing. Today I’ve plenty of time, so I do hers!”

But in spite of his words, he turned rather pink, and everybody burst out laughing. A young man and a young woman who were washing garments together opposite him laughed loudest of all.

Photographer Tsai took a quick snapshot of the happy scene.

The young peasant, who by now was crimson, lost no time in making his comeback.

“And what about yourselves?” he laughed to the young couple, who were known to be in love. “You’re in the photograph together—aren’t you a proper pair of lovebirds? How’s that going to look in the newspapers, hey?”

A gale of laughter rang out anew, louder and more glibly. Its cheerful sound reverberated throughout the valley.

Lao Wang, head of the agricultural producers’ co-operative at Yaoshankou Village, compares the big ears of the co-operative’s improved millet with the thin ears grown by an individual peasant on a neighbouring plot.

There are still quite a number of our people who have not yet learnt sufficient characters to be able to read, so we help them out by arranging reading groups, where people who can read fluently read aloud to others. These groups are very popular.”

April 16, 1953
IN THE NEWS

Nation-wide Support for Chou En-lai’s Statement

Enthusiastic support for Premier Chou En-lai’s proposal on the Korean armistice negotiations is being voiced throughout the country. At one Mo-jo, a statement by the China Peace Committee, said that Premier Chou En-lai’s proposal on the question of reorganizing the P.O.W.’s completely conforms with the vital interests of the Chinese and Korean people and the common interests of the peace-loving peoples all over the world.

Leaders of China’s popular mass organizations and democratic parties, professors, leading members of the various religious communities, overseas Chinese, prominent writers and artists, leading industrialists and professional people have all hailed the statement as a practical expression of the desire for peace of the Chinese and Korean people and of all peace-loving peoples. Many industrialists have written to the press supporting this new step towards peace in Korea, but at the same time, they have urged their government to redouble their efforts for the achievement of peace in Korea or to launch fresh aggression.

Anshan Expansion

Thousands of workers, college students, and industrial engineers are continuing to come forward from every corner of the country to work in Anshan, the center of China’s industrialization. Orders for construction projects and machinery and for machine-building industries all over the country. Seventy-five factories in Shanghai and other cities have signed contracts with the Anshan Iron and Steel Company to supply equipment and material.

Shan Iron and Steel Company. An additional 65,000 hectares of land from the state and will be cleared out from 1953 to 1955. More than 160 technical schools and training factories have been set up. The training programme will not only meet the needs of Anshan but also serve the iron and steel industry.

Pig Iron Records

Twice as much pig iron was produced in China in 1952 as in 1950. All major iron smelting plants can now produce first-grade pig iron for making steel.

Fish Raising

China is planning for a record fish-raising season this year. The catch has already increased by 1,300,000. All its services are in demand. A factory for the production of fish meal and fish oil is being built.

Women on the Railways

Two dozen women are working in China’s railway system this year. Women working as conductors, engineers, and dispatchers are among the many women workers who have become nationally famous. Miss Kuan-ying, a poor fisherman’s daughter, who became a woman locomotive driver, and Sun Hsiao-chu, China’s first woman engineer are examples.

New Crops for Sikkim-Tibet

This spring, wheat, peas, potatoes and some other crops will be grown in the first year on the Sikkim-Tibet border. New experiments have been made by the state farms there and peasants are equipped with up-to-date agricultural machinery imported from the Soviet Union, and will be commissioned this year.

There are 120 state farms in the areas inhabited by national minorities in Sikkim, Yunnan, and Kweichow. It produces more than 1,000 different kinds of timber, many of great technical importance, and has its own paper industry alone. For the past three years, the province produced 76,000,000 tons of bamboo culis and wood pulp.

A 500-kilometre-long shelter belt has been started along the Yellow River in Ningxia Province. This will help to conserve water and soil and the preservation of moisture in the Yellow River valley.

Ancient Music Revived

Chinese music of 800 years ago was recently heard by Western musicians. It was rediscovered music which had been thought to have been lost and was actually preserved in the living culture of Tibet. The chief instruments are the woodwind and small brass gongs made in 1955. Tibetans have been playing the music to the accompaniment of traditional music. Some of the finest musicians are helping the monks to learn the art of music.

In recent months, the number of new songs has increased. Fine new strains of what was before the Soviet Union and North China have been initiated.

Farms in the Soviet Union and North China have been initiated.

A new heavy machine-building plant is being built in Tsingtau, Shansi Province, North China’s industrial centre. This will be the largest single factory plant of its kind in China. When completed, it will be capable of building large heavy rolling mills, large electric equipment and heavy cranes.

Inner Mongolia is making remarkable progress in establishing agricultural producers’ co-operative societies and will exceed last year’s total, and 1952, and is estimated to have 1953, its production is 45,000,000 tons, of which 30,000,000 are gains in the Chinese and 5,000,000 in the Soviet Union.

For the first time, the Chinese have produced their own porcelain. The Chinese and French have now established a joint porcelain factory near Beijing.

Agricultural appliances are being bought from the Soviet Union. The Chinese have also bought a number of tractors from the Soviet Union.

In the last five years, the Chinese have bought 2,500 tractors from the Soviet Union. The Chinese have also bought a number of tractors from the Soviet Union.

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April 1

Hainan reports from December, 1952 to February, 1953, the people’s forces, 36,500 in size, have destroyed 1,282 enemy planes.

The first All-China Folk Music and Dance Festival opens in Peking.

April 3

V. V. Kuznetsov, Soviet Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, presents his credentials to Chairman Mao.

The Central Electoral Committee issues a directive announcing that elections of the local people’s congresses will be held on May 10.

Two delegations from the Ministry of Civil Engineering of the Central People’s Government leave Peking to attend the Polish Architects Conference scheduled to be held from April 11 to 13.

Chronicle of Events

March 26

The Peking Daily prints reports of several events, including a regional tournament of North China, a regional tournament of North China, and a regional tournament of North China.

April 5

Japan sends a message to the U.S.A. expressing its intentions for peace, and the U.S.A. agrees to the proposals of China.

May 10

North China News Agency reports that the Chinese people have set up a new democratic government, the People’s Republic of China.
Message From the Motherland

Drawing by Ku Yuan