

PEKING

MARCH 25

1958

REVIEW

Industrializing China: Preliminary Stage

Why Intellectuals Go to the Countryside

An account of the movement of city intellectuals to physical labour in the countryside and its historical background (p. 8).

Democratic Parties Rally for Socialism

The story of the meeting of ten thousand members of the democratic parties and unaffiliated democrats and their Charter for Self-Re-education (p. 10).

Ending the "Four Evils"

Reports on the public health campaign that is now in full swing across the country (p. 16).

SCIENCE, THEATRE, ROUND THE
WEEK AND OTHER FEATURES

北
京
周
報

A THOUSAND MILES OF LOVELY LAND



by
Yang Shuo

This is a novel based on the personal experiences of the author in the Korean war. It centres around the exploits of a detachment of Chinese railway workers who volunteered to fight shoulder-to-shoulder with the Korean people, braving snow-storms and enemy bombings to keep open supply lines to the front. The characters are "ordinary" men and women, but they show a spirit tougher than the steel poured down on them by the U.S. invaders. 236 pp.

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A compilation of first-hand material
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Preface by **MAO TSE-TUNG**

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— Translator's preface

10 illustrations

550 pp.

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PEKING REVIEW

北京周报

(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
NEWS AND VIEWS

March 25, 1958 Vol. I No. 4

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Published every Tuesday by PEKING REVIEW,
Pai Wan Chuang, Peking (37), China
Cable Address: PEKING 6170

Post Office Registration No. 2-521

Printed in the People's Republic of China

Up and Down

PERUSAL of the Chinese and American newspapers, these days, leads to some interesting comparisons. The headlines alone spell out two strikingly different pictures.

In the United States, the "recession," "downswing," "slump," "sag in the economy," or whatever name the American press has for it, is causing a great deal of worry. Unemployment, according to the latest report of the U.S. Department of Labor, rose to 5,186,000 in February — the highest figure in 16 years. U.S. trade union estimates are much higher. At the same time, the index of industrial production is reported by the Federal Reserve Board to have fallen to 130, a decline of 16 points below February 1957. This represents a decrease in production of about 11 per cent.

Meantime prices continue to go up. *U.S. News & World Report* estimates that compared with 1939, the dollar today has a purchasing power of only 49 cents, in terms of the family budget. The Federal Reserve Board's annual consumer survey, as reported by *The New York Times* on March 14, "revealed a marked rise in pessimism about the general outlook."

It is not for us to say what effects the current depression has had in the United States. The American people themselves know best where the shoe pinches. We can only record, from reading the American newspapers, that notes of worry and discontent are multiplying in the United States.

The Chinese newspapers tell a different story. It is the story of the "big leap forward." The total value of industrial output for January of this year was 2.5 per cent higher than the planned figure, an increase of 17.1 per cent over the same period of last year.

The actual performance of New China recalls some revealing predictions.

Nine years ago, when the Chinese People's Republic was founded, the capitalist press predicted insurmountable headaches and difficulties for the new republic. The Chinese Communists, they argued, might have been good soldiers, but could hardly be expected to cope with the country's economic problems. In their view, this would turn out to be the Achilles' heel of the Communists.

How do these predictions look today?

Newsweek magazine, whose hostility to socialism and People's China is well known, is now compelled to admit that New China "is a showcase of progress . . . an example of a former 'semi-colonial' nation which is making good under Communism."

The detractors of New China have not had a change of heart. But they have to change their tune. Since it is now pretty hard to deny China's economic achievements, they have retreated to a second line of argument. China's progress, they say, has been achieved at the expense of liberty and democracy.

Once again, we believe, they are putting their foot into their mouth. The source of New China's strength, as we have already noted in this space, is the simple fact that the Chinese people have become masters of their own destiny. That's why they are displaying such initiative and enthusiasm in their work.

We do not propose to preach a sermon on democracy in China. The objective reader can draw his own conclusions from the facts and data published in our magazine. But we will say this: China's economic progress is the fruit of its new democracy — people's democracy.

ROUND THE WEEK

Election Year

This is election year in China. Elections of deputies to the people's congresses of various levels have begun in different parts of the country. In the coming months deputies to the National People's Congress, to the provincial people's congresses and to the people's congresses at the county level and below will be elected.

Election dates vary. Elections in the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region have already been completed. Hopei and Kiangsi Provinces and the cities of Wuhan and Shenyang are in the midst of their campaigns to elect deputies at the primary levels—district and township.

The term of office for the people's congress at the national level and people's congresses at the provincial level is four years, while the term of office for the people's congresses at the county level and below is two years.

Democracy in Action

Grandad Chu, a vendor in a Shanghai back alley, is a methodical old man. He keeps a little notebook and jots down all sorts of observations. When the rectification campaign began to unfold in his neighbourhood, he turned to his notebook entries and put up 1,250 *tatsepao* (wall newspaper opinions written in bold-face, poster-size Chinese characters) to voice his opinions and make proposals for improving things.

Grandad Chu is just one among millions exercising the right of free speech to the full as the rectification campaign now spreads from government offices, organizations and enterprises to the communities, to the housewives and other sections of the population who are not attached to any organization.

The rectification campaign in the communities has a double purpose. First, it is intended to help the Communist Party and the government carry forward the rectification campaign, which means chiefly to educate the functionaries, especially those working at the lower levels of administration; and secondly, to raise the political understanding of the residents, which means to help the residents educate themselves.

The opinions of every man and woman on how to improve ways of doing things and ways of thinking are being sought out actively. The extension of the rectification campaign to the communities

and neighbourhoods, involving many millions, represents a new stage of development of socialist democracy in China.

At present the campaign is in full swing in Shanghai. Millions of *tatsepao* have been posted. People who couldn't write got others to help them, or expressed their views orally at meetings.

The criticisms and proposals cover a wide field, from the conduct of doctors and nurses and the way hospitals are run to the services of shop assistants and shopping facilities, the work of the police stations, etc. There have been quick responses to the criticisms advanced, much to the satisfaction of the residents, and the airing of views is going forward with still greater force.

This democratic process is proceeding vigorously in other big cities like Peking. Coupled with the campaign already going on in the government offices and enterprises, it is yielding real results. Some examples follow.

Better Services, Easier Shopping

One afternoon customers queued up in front of a barber shop in the eastern suburbs of Peking. But the people in the queue weren't waiting for a haircut. They were waiting their turn for the *yichienpu*—the "Opinions Book," which is a feature in shops in China—to write in their praise of the improved service of the past few weeks. So many people wanted to express their appreciation that they had to form a queue. "Your service is as good as the department store at Tienchiao," (which, in Peking these days, is a household word for excellent services) one of the customers wrote.

Speaking of queues, you see less and less of them. The worst queues used to be at the booking offices—at railway stations and theatres. Now in Shanghai, railway ticket windows are open day and night. This round-the-clock service, which began on March 13, has put an end to queues, to the acclaim of all passengers. In Peking, one of the Peking opera houses outside Chienmen Gate keeps its box-office open 24 hours a day.

Theatres are producing more shows and putting on extra performances in the cities. Troupes take their shows to the factories and the co-operatives. Before, only second and third rate theatrical companies went on the road.

Now top-notch actors and actresses are making personal appearances at the mines and factories and on make-shift stages in the countryside. The Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, which used to be quite sheltered, has broken with its tradition and is now performing for factory workers at their canteens. Yu Yi-hsuan, one of China's leading sopranos, sang at an out-of-the-way small teahouse in Tientsin with a capacity audience of only 200, to the delight of very surprised customers.

Two women hurriedly came into a new shop near the railway station in Wuhan. One had forgotten her toilet articles and the other wanted some warm garment for the trip. They were happy to find a shop open at eleven p.m. They got what they wanted. It is a new type of shop known as the "morning-and-night shop" and is open when other shops are closed—from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 8:30 p.m. to midnight.

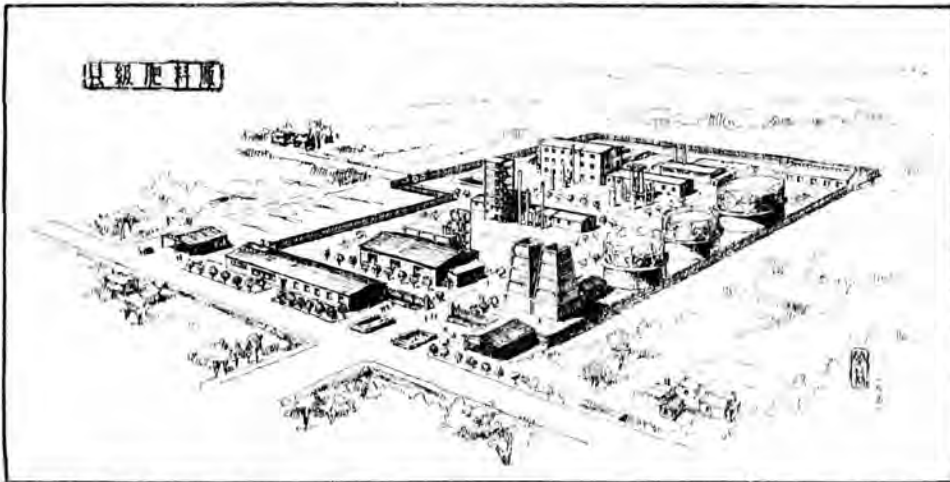
Housewives are grateful to the rectification campaign in more ways than one, because it has made shopping easier for them. Grocers are making the rounds of the streets and grain stores now deliver the housewives' orders to their doorsteps.

Whereas before they had to get out early in the morning and queue up for their meat, they can now buy meat in the afternoon too. The butchers give extra service, cutting up the meat the way the customer desires—slices, slivers, cubes, etc. One housewife was so pleased with the service of the butcher that the first thing she did when she got home was to ask her granddaughter to write "Excellent Service" in bold characters on a piece of red paper to be sent to the butcher.

Industry in Every County

During the past few weeks national and local dailies in China have carried lots of news about the expansion of industries in the localities and their plans for further development. Many of the provinces, municipalities and special administrative regions, which hitherto devoted their main attention to farming, have announced plans to increase the output value of industry in their respective localities so that it will catch up with, and overtake, that of agriculture in six or seven years and, in some instances, in less time.

Kansu Province in north-west China, an industrially backward province, opened 300 new factories and mines in two and a half months' time and plans to build another 3,000 this year. This is indicative of the tempo of industrial expansion in the localities today.



Chemical fertilizer plants, like the model above, will be constructed in counties throughout China. Design by the Nitrogenous Fertilizer Industry Designing Institute of the Ministry of Chemical Industry

Rural China is not what it used to be. It is getting rid of its technical backwardness. The peasant is no longer satisfied with the crude, old tools and wants the products of modern industry. There is a pressure from the peasants for better tools and fertilizer. The policy of integrating the development of major, medium and minor industrial projects throughout the country was designed to meet this demand. The localities are developing medium and minor industrial projects to keep step with the advances of agriculture. The slogan today is "every county must develop its own industries." And the Chinese newspapers are now fond of saying: "Let the flowers of industry bloom everywhere."

To help the localities develop their industries and, in doing so, exploit local resources to the full, the industrial ministries of the Central People's Government are drafting 132 model designs for factories and mines, all of which are expected to be completed soon.

These designs are intended mainly for counties, or areas somewhat larger or smaller. The Ministry of Chemical Industry, for example, has worked out a model design (see illustration) for chemical fertilizer plants to be built in the counties. This type of chemical fertilizer plant occupies a small area, takes only 5 or 6 months to build, costs only 3.5 million yuan (including outlay for a small-sized power station), uses local materials and is easy to operate. It can produce 8,000 tons of chemical fertilizers a year. If half of China's counties build chemical fertilizer plants of this size, it will mean a total output of 8 million tons of fertilizers, as against less than a million at present.

Food industries are also being pushed ahead. In the next five years, tens of thousands of food-processing factories will be built. Most of them will be of

medium and minor size and will be set up directly in the food-producing localities.

In the development of local industries today, the emphasis is for every county to map out its plans—and put them into action—and for the secretaries of Communist Party organizations at the county level and above to "guide industry with one hand and agriculture with the other," instead of using "both hands" to tackle agriculture, as was the case before.

Szechuan Oil Find

On the night of March 15 pandemonium broke loose in Peking's Institute of Petroleum: a rich oilfield had been discovered in the central part of Szechuan Province in south-west China.

When the news came through over the wireless many of the students were still working away at their *tatsepao* for the campaign against waste and conservatism and quite a few were already in bed. But in a few minutes, to the beating of gongs and even pots and pans, several thousand, including the head of the school and the professors, gathered in the mess hall to celebrate this important discovery which the students aptly described as "China's second Baku." The Karamai oilfields in the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region in the far west are the first.

The Institute's students and teachers had good cause for celebration. Graduates of the Institute were on the survey teams in Szechuan and the discovery opens new vistas for the students and the country as a whole.

This new and rich oil strike lies between Wusheng and Yuehchih Counties. On March 12 more than 40 tons of oil gushed out of a test well in 40 minutes and a similar amount out of another well

the next day. On March 14, 189 tons of oil gushed out from this same well in 2 hours 18 minutes. In another well gas and oil gushed out in plenty. All three test wells were sunk at widely different places in an area stretching over 2,200 square kilometres. According to the Ministry of Petroleum Industry, these gushers are the biggest in China's history.

Television in China

China's first domestically-produced television transmitting set was tried out on March 17 before a group of 400 people in Peking and met with complete success. It will be installed in the 11-storeyed Broadcasting Centre nearing completion in the capital.

The transmitter was designed by Chinese engineers and manufactured by the Peking Wireless Factory with the assistance of Tsinghua University and the research centre of the Broadcasting Administrative Bureau. The manufacture of television transmitting sets is an indication of the progress of China's wireless industry.

Canton, in south China, will begin to transmit television programmes next year. Receiving sets will be installed at 50 points in the city for viewers. The Tientsin Wireless Factory is now producing television receiving sets for the anticipated television audience.

Don't Blame the Editor

A letter to the editor of *Renmin Ribao* and the editor's reply appeared on the back page of the paper on March 18 under the head "Is Anyone to Blame?" The letter was from the author of an article published in a previous issue of the paper. He had been criticized by his colleagues for not being up-to-date with his figures and he appealed to the editor.

In his article he had cited "trains pulling 3,000 tons" but by the time it appeared in print the figure had shot up to 4,000. Then the newspaper was to blame, the author's friends decided, because it lagged behind developments. In these fast-moving days, they said, the newspapers must keep pace too, like everybody else. In this vein, the correspondent wrote to the editor.

In his reply, the editor agreed. He said that newspapers in China must indeed "take bold leaps forward," so as to reflect developments in time. But if they fail, in one instance or another, it only proves the maxim that events move faster than thoughts, that China is going forward at a terrific clip, which is nothing to complain about.

Industrializing China: Preliminary Stage

by KUNG SANG

What is meant by the statement that China has laid "a preliminary foundation for socialist industrialization" often encountered in discussions of China's economy? It means that China has

- * greatly increased the capacity of her basic industries
- * created new industries
- * set up regional industrial centres
- * raised the technical level
- * turned capitalist enterprises into socialist
- * increased the proportion of industrial production in relation to agriculture, while increasing agricultural output.

WITH the successful fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan, China has laid down the preliminary foundation for her socialist industrialization. What is meant by "preliminary foundation"?

Before answering this question, we must first make clear what we mean by socialist industrialization.

A Comprehensive Industrial System

For a vast country like China, with a huge population and rich natural resources it means the building of a more or less comprehensive industrial system. China must be able to produce all the main types of engineering equipment and raw materials to supply the main means of expanding her national economy and re-equipping it technologically. At the same time she must be able to turn out all kinds of consumer goods to maintain a steady advance in the people's living standards.

To reach these objectives, China must first of all achieve an adequate level of development and proper co-ordination of such branches of heavy industry as metallurgy, fuels, power, engineering, basic chemicals and building materials. In modern technology, she must also develop atomic, radio-electronic, and other such industries.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

DURING THE FIRST 5-YEAR PLAN (1953-1957)

Above-norm Projects

Originally Planned  694

Units Actually Under Construction  825

In her socialist industrialization, China adheres to the principle of priority for the development of heavy industry — the centre of her economic construction. Besides the growth of its basic existing branches, special stress is laid on starting up or reinforcing those which China did not possess in the past, or that were very weak. The aim here is a considerable degree of self-sufficiency in the basic capital goods required by a growing economy and by her national defence.

Geographically, owing to her immense area, China's comprehensive industrial system must be based on a number of relatively independent centres to ensure the balanced economic growth and defence needs of the country. Along with this, there must be inter-regional co-ordination and division of labour to bring all productive potentialities into play.

A comprehensive industrial system requires a strong force of scientists and technicians and a high technical level — so that complex tasks in geological prospecting, the designing and building of industrial enterprises, or the designing and manufacture of new products can be tackled independently.

China's way of industrialization is socialist. Therefore her policy has been to develop state-owned industries to the fullest extent possible and to transform private industry along socialist lines. In this way socialist — state and collectively-owned — industry has become absolutely predominant, and will ultimately be the only type of industry in our economy.

Preliminary Foundation

When we speak of the preliminary foundation for socialist industrialization, we do so in the light of the considerations outlined above.

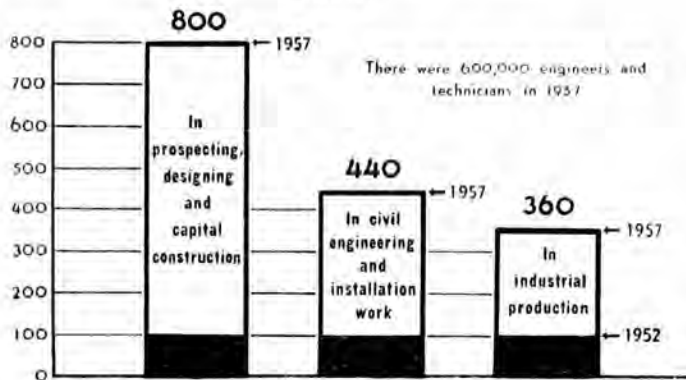
In her First Five-Year Plan, China concentrated her main efforts on the construction of 694 "above-norm" or high-investment industrial projects,* with the 156 designed with Soviet help as the core. Headway was made on 112 of these 156; and 57 are in full or partial operation. At the same time the building programme was expanded. Instead of the planned 694 above-norm projects, work actually went ahead on 825; of which 449 were fully or partially completed and are now in production. All are

* The "norm" of investment in capital construction for heavy industry ranges between five and ten million yuan and that for light (consumer goods) industry, between three and five million yuan.

INCREASE IN TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

DURING THE FIRST 5-YEAR PLAN (1953-1957)

1952=100



large, technically up-to-date enterprises such as old China could never afford to build. Those already operating form the initial sinews of China's new, modern industry.

In these five years, the growth of capacity in various lines has been as follows:

Pig Iron	3,270,000 tons
Steel	2,346,000 tons
Electricity	2,335,000 kilowatts
Coal	61,260,000 tons
Machine-tools	6,223
Motor Trucks	30,000
Synthetic Ammonia	147,000 tons
Cement	2,554,000 tons
Cotton Spindles	1,995,000
Machine-made Paper	237,000 tons
Machine-made Sugar	556,000 tons

Most of these additions exceeded old China's total capacity in the same lines, reached after 100 years of previous industrial development. In steel for instance, old China's peak capacity was less than two million tons; actual output less than one million. But more than two million tons of steel of new capacity was added in the First Five-Year Plan.

The completion of 449 above-norm industrial units not only strengthened China's modern iron and steel, non-ferrous metal, power, coal, petroleum, and engineering industries but also filled many gaps in her old industrial system. Prior to the First Five-Year Plan, her engineering industry could produce only spare parts and small-sized machines. Now, in addition, it can build over 200 new types of machine tools, and complete factory installations for a number of industries. In 1949, there was no Chinese-made metallurgical, mining or power-generating equipment, not to mention aircraft, motor vehicles and tractors. Today China already produces all these things. As late as 1952, China's metallurgical industry could only make about 180 kinds of steel, and steel products to some 400 specifications; by 1957, the range was some 370 kinds of steel and steel products to over 3,000 specifications.

Regional Centres

In the development of regional centres, in the First Five-Year Plan, China practically completed her north-eastern industrial base with the Anshan Iron and Steel Works as its centre. The north-eastern base has all kinds of heavy and light industries in more than ten big in-

dustrial cities; Anshan alone now turns out more than half the nation's steel.

In the same period, existing coastal bases of industry, in such cities as Shanghai and Tientsin, were also vigorously strengthened; Shanghai's total output almost doubled in the five years.

In central China, large-scale construction was started on a new industrial base with the Wuhan Iron and Steel Works as its centre, and in the north, work began on yet another with the Paotow Iron and Steel Works (in Inner Mongolia) as the centre. Construction has also begun in north-west China and, in a more preliminary way, in the south-west and south.

Better Geographical Distribution

The uneven geographical distribution of industry that was a feature of the old Chinese economy has begun to disappear. All this makes it possible for China to develop subsequent industrial construction, in the interior provinces, at greater speed and on a much stronger foundation than was the case in 1952.

In the First Five-Year Plan, besides the erection of new industrial plants, existing units were strengthened and transformed; some were rebuilt or expanded, some readjusted and technologically re-equipped and reformed. This too resulted in a big increase in productivity. During the First Five-Year Plan, total industrial output increased by 133 per cent. The average annual rate of growth was more than 18 per cent.

At the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan, there were great difficulties due to lack of technicians and adequate technical knowledge. Today, after five years' hard work, these have in the main been conquered. The number of technicians in prospecting, designing and capital construction has multiplied eightfold; in civil engineering and installation 4.4 times; in industrial production 3.6 times. By 1957 the technical force numbered 600,000. Thanks to the guidance and help of Soviet experts, a great many of these technicians have acquired full competence through study and training in the course of day-to-day work. Except in cases involving geological conditions and technical problems of very great complexity, China can now design and build her own industrial units, railways and water conservancy projects such as integrated iron and steel works with an annual capacity of 1.5 million tons, coal mines with similar capacity, chemical plants capable of turning out 50,000 tons of nitrogenous fertilizer each year, hydro-electric plants of one million kilowatt generating capacity and thermal electric plants of 400,000 kilowatts. In the manufacture of many major products, China is already leaving the stage of copying foreign blue prints and beginning to design her own models.

Large-scale industrial construction and the rapid development of state-owned industry has gone hand-in-hand with the socialist transformation of private enterprises. By 1956, nearly all capitalist industries had come under joint state-private operation and most of the small and handicraft shops had been organized into co-operatives. This marked a fundamental change in the structure of China's industrial economy. At the end of 1957, of the total industrial output (excluding handicrafts),

state-owned industry accounted for 65.12 per cent; co-operative industry for 3.14 per cent; joint state-private enterprises for 31.71 per cent; private enterprises for 0.03 per cent.

By 1957, reckoned in value, industrial production (including that of the handicrafts industry) had come to occupy 55.5 per cent of the total production of industry and agriculture, as compared to 41.5 per cent in 1952; the output of modern industry had risen from 32.7 per cent of total industrial and agricultural production to 46.4 per cent. Within industry, the output of capital goods rose from 39.7 per cent of total output in 1952 to 52.3 per

cent in 1957, and the output value of the engineering industry from 5.2 per cent to over 9 per cent.

What is more important, during her First Five-Year Plan, China supplied 60 per cent of her own needs in machines and 80 per cent in steel products. This was a very big change from 1952. The achievement was all the greater because the needs themselves had multiplied. The 1957 volume of industrial building and installation work in China was more than three times the 1952 level.

That is why we say China has laid down a preliminary foundation for her socialist industrialization, a good basis for its further rapid advance.

Learning from Life

Why Intellectuals Go to the Countryside

by LI FANG

Over a million office workers from government departments and enterprises have gone to the countryside in recent months. They are going to re-educate themselves by working directly among the peasants.

UP to the early part of February 1958, 1,300,000 office workers from government organizations and enterprises had moved out to the "grass roots," mainly to the villages, the co-operative farms and jobs at the lowest levels of local administration. There they are re-educating themselves by taking part in productive labour and coping with the practical problems facing the local people. All are volunteers. They, and the many times their number who could not go at once, applied for transfers because they have come to realize that such a move is of great benefit to their remoulding and to the building of socialism.

Chinese Communist Tradition

All this is a continuation, in contemporary conditions, of the fine tradition developed by the Chinese Communist Party which had so much to do with carrying the Chinese revolution to victory. In the ten-year civil war between 1927 and 1936 and during the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression, people in positions of leadership and revolutionary intellectuals did their share alongside the mass of the people, in guerilla warfare, in farming and other productive work.

In April 1945, towards the end of the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression and on the eve of the War of Liberation against the U.S.-armed Chiang Kai-shek troops, Chairman Mao Tse-tung wrote of the intellectuals who wished really to serve the nation: "They should gladly go to the countryside, take off their school uniforms, put on coarse clothes and willingly take up any work, however trivial; they should go there to learn what

the peasants demand, help to arouse and organize them and struggle for the accomplishment of one of the most important tasks in China's democratic revolution—the democratic revolution in the countryside." Many thousands of intellectuals responded to the call, and helped the peasants with the land reform and the restoration of rural production, thus consolidating the revolutionary bases and leading to the nation-wide victory. The Party's tradition of remoulding intellectuals in production and mass struggles speeded the victory of the revolution.

After the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, even greater numbers of intellectuals helped carry out the land reform and other democratic reforms, in areas newly freed from Kuomintang rule. It was on this basis that the co-operative movement in the countryside was later begun.

Today, with the fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan and the start of the Second, the call once more is, "Go to the countryside and to the mountain areas."

Road to Re-education

The road to rural and other basic work is the road to self-re-education for the intellectuals. Generally speaking, such people have two defects: bookishness, or divorce from practice, and separation from the masses. Without overcoming these defects, they cannot contribute fully to the new socialist society. The best way for intellectuals to gain strength where they are weakest is to take part in productive work and thus to temper and transform themselves. Studying Marxism-Leninism, though certainly a good thing, is not enough. The knowledge so gained needs to be integrated with practice.

To become wholehearted builders of socialism, it is necessary for intellectuals who work in government institutions or enterprises, or who teach in the schools, to learn to unite and merge with the labouring people. In

1939, speaking on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the May the Fourth Movement, Chairman Mao Tse-tung said: "The ultimate line of demarcation between the revolutionary intellectuals on the one hand and non-revolutionary and counter-revolutionary intellectuals on the other lies in whether they are willing to, and actually do, become one with the masses of workers and peasants." Today, Chairman Mao's words apply to all those who have as yet to shake off their bourgeois outlook and replace it with a socialist one.

Work by hand and work by brain are separated in all societies where exploiting classes exist. In the old Chinese society, the status of the scholar was held to be higher than all others. Those who worked by their brains were thought to be destined to govern those who worked with their hands. These ideas, bred by the exploiting classes, still have their bad influence among some bourgeois intellectuals today, who despise manual work and look down on the workers and peasants.

But today the working people are the masters of the country. In China — where the economic basis for the separation of work by hand and by brain has disappeared — the aim is gradually to integrate these two kinds of labour. To encourage educated people to take a direct part in work in the countryside is a first step towards that goal.

Working-class Intellectuals

Intellectuals who have never put their hands to the plough or hammer, and cannot tell two crops apart, will benefit a great deal from taking part in labour. Knowledge of production, and respect for labour as the source of all the wealth of society, is their great lack. Most important of all, participation in labour will help them to understand the needs of the working people, to enter into their feelings and be influenced by their ways of thinking. The intellectuals have nothing to lose but their bourgeois prejudices, their bourgeois views of life and the world; once they have shaken these off they will not be sorry but glad. On the contrary they have everything to gain by tempering and transforming themselves into working-class intellectuals, by getting a socialist view of life and the world, by becoming the kind of intellectuals that socialism needs.

Is the transfer of educated people to work in the countryside "a waste of talent," as is sometimes assumed by those who do not understand how important it is to become one with the working people? It is nothing of the sort. To be a socialist expert or technician, the first thing is to make oneself socialist, to learn to serve socialism, the workers and peasants and to subject individual interests to collective interests. Government servants or technicians who are bourgeois and petty-bourgeois in origin and outlook can use their talents for the interests of the largest numbers of people only when they become socialist-minded.

In the big debates of the rectification campaign and the anti-rightist struggle, the majority of government employees and intellectuals have come to know that they cannot hope to remould their outlook thoroughly unless and until they become one with the working people. They also know that having shed their bourgeois outlook and gained a socialist one they have a useful part to play in

the country's socialist revolution and socialist construction. That is another reason why they respond with enthusiasm to the call "to the countryside and mountain areas." That is why in many government organizations and enterprises, almost everyone asked to be the first to be transferred to rural work.

Socialist Public Servants

The class character of the Chinese state, in which the working people have taken political power into their own hands, requires that its government personnel be guided in all things by the working people, and serve them, not boss them.

The Chinese Communist Party has always directed its attention to training government personnel from among workers and peasants and to remoulding the intellectuals. During the protracted revolutionary struggles in the past, it pursued the policy of selecting the best of the workers and peasants and the best of the intellectuals who stand firmly by them to be leaders and mainstays of the Party and state organizations in various fields of work, representing the hard core of proletarian leadership. The same policy was followed after the People's Republic was founded and the old state structure was replaced by a completely new one.

The more recently recruited personnel of government offices, however, consist largely of young school and university graduates who have never done any productive work nor steeled themselves in practical struggles. Some of them look down on manual work and the workers and peasants, hankering after fame, personal gain and social position. Teng Hsiao-ping, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, in his report on the rectification campaign, said that young intellectuals working in government organizations and enterprises who have not participated in practical struggles and productive work should regard this as a part of necessary schooling from which no one should absent himself. He pointed out that in the future, the Party would select and promote functionaries from among the best of the workers and peasants who have acquired the requisite education, and from among the best of the intellectuals who have steeled themselves in production and struggle and have forged close ties with the working people. Only when this was done, he said, would China have a large number of officials and working-class intellectuals dedicated to the cause of communism and able to stand up to every trial which they may be called upon to face.

The present move affects many government employees and intellectuals who never previously took part in mass struggles or production. Most of them have gone to the agricultural co-operatives to take part in farm work.

As a result of the fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan, farm output increased year by year, and the peasants' life improved. Now the goal is to fulfil the National Programme for the Development of Agriculture (1956-67) which requires a vast increase in food crops, cotton and other principal products. Efforts not only by the peasants, but also by the cities and industries are required to fulfil a plan of this magnitude.

Science, technique and culture used to be city monopolies. To bring them to the rural and mountain areas is a task that government employees and intellectuals

cannot shirk. If each plays his part in helping to wipe out illiteracy in the countryside, that, too, will be of enormous help to the peasants.

The movement of government personnel to the countryside is necessarily connected with the streamlining of government offices, and the cutting down of the number of personnel not directly engaged in production. Over-staffing of some government departments was revealed in criticisms of inefficiency and top-heaviness which came up in the rectification campaign. It involved waste of manpower, hindered efficiency and could easily become

a breeding-ground for bureaucracy. The transfer of manpower to productive jobs is a necessary corrective for this abnormal situation.

The purpose of the transfer, indeed, meets many of the needs of socialist construction. It trains and tempers public servants who will give their best to the cause of socialism. It helps to overcome subjectivism and bureaucracy, the fruit of divorce from practice and from the masses. It helps to strengthen agriculture and lower levels of local administration. It speeds up socialist construction.

Re-education

Democratic Parties Rally for Socialism

ON March 16, ten thousand members of the democratic parties and unaffiliated democrats gathered at a rally on Peking's Tien An Men Square. They demonstrated their determination to give their best to socialist construction and support the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. It was a typical Chinese manifestation with banners, cymbals, drums, gongs and firecrackers.

This meeting of leaders of the democratic parties, people's deputies, distinguished scientists, educators, doctors, engineers, writers and artists, well-known capitalists, and former Kuomintang high officials was presided over by eighty-five-year-old Shen Chun-ju, Chairman of the China Democratic League. They adopted a Charter for the Socialist Self-re-education of Democratic Parties and Unaffiliated Democrats (published on page 11) and a pledge to Chairman Mao Tse-tung which states: "Under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and your leadership we will make earnest efforts to reform our political standpoint and ideology, improve our style of work, devotedly and firmly take the path of socialism and contribute all our knowledge and strength to advance the cause of socialism."

All for the Country

The applause that greeted Shen Chun-ju's opening speech made it clear that he spoke for all those present when he assured the nation of their determination "to follow the Communist Party, to take the socialist road, to learn from the workers and the peasants, to remould ourselves, to change our political standpoint and ideology, and to give all to the country, the people and the Party!"

This meeting was a natural development in the current march of events in China. Li Chi-shen, Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang, explained in his speech that "we are now in a great, new era of socialism. Internationally, the east wind prevails over the west wind. In our country the workers and peasants are advancing fast and working selflessly for socialism. The socialist revolution and socialist construction are going ahead at great speed. All this has greatly

inspired us and helped strengthen our will and confidence in self-re-education."

"At such a time," he pointed out, "while the nation is making a great socialist leap forward, we too must make a great leap forward in political and ideological self-re-education. We must all work hard quickly to turn our bourgeois democratic parties into socialist political parties, to enable us to shed our bourgeois standpoint in the shortest possible time, take up a working-class standpoint, and fundamentally change ourselves into working people."

Kuo Mo-jo, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, an unaffiliated democrat, called on intellectuals to make their full contribution to socialist construction and "to go the socialist way." He said that the great drive in production had started an "atomic chain reaction," that had already stimulated progress in literature and art, science, technology and other fields. Under such circumstances, no patriotic citizen or organization could lag behind.

"This rally to promote socialist self-re-education is timely and meaningful," Kuo Mo-jo continued. "It shows we are determined to be propellers, not retarders, of progress; we want to serve socialist construction."

To achieve this fully, Kuo Mo-jo said: "We must first of all change our outlook and have the right standpoint. We must completely discard our bourgeois ideology and transform ourselves into working-class intellectuals."

Huang Yen-pei, Chairman of the Democratic National Construction Association of China, speaking for the industrialists and business men said that they would surely become real assets to the country once they thoroughly change their original political standpoints and make a contribution to the best of their ability.

This rally was a shattering rebuff to the bourgeois rightists who only last year attempted to usurp the leadership of the democratic parties in order to turn them into bases for anti-socialist activity. That attack fell to pieces under the counter-blows of the people. Far from destroying socialism, it acted as a sort of "political fertilizer" that

fostered the socialist consciousness of the people and accelerated self-re-education among the members of the democratic parties and unaffiliated democrats. The struggle against the rightists showed many more people how necessary it was for people of bourgeois origin to change their old outlooks.

The policy of the Chinese Communist Party and the state towards the members of the national bourgeoisie and bourgeois intellectuals in China has always been to unite, educate and transform them, to persuade them to offer their services to socialism and help them gradually to integrate into the working class. But this process of self-re-education of the bourgeoisie is a long and complex one. It is still far from completion. But the victory over the rightists, and the new socialist upsurge throughout the nation have given a new impetus to it. They have inspired the democratic parties and unaffiliated democrats to promulgate the Charter of Socialist Self-re-education which was adopted at this meeting.

Hastens Transition

This is undoubtedly a landmark in the self-re-education of the social groups represented. It will quicken their transition from one class—the bourgeoisie—to another—the working class.

The Charter demands that they “transform our political standpoint and heart and soul pursue the path of socialism under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.” These democratic parties and many unaffiliated democrats have made a definite contribution to the democratic revolution. A little over two years ago, however, China completed the historic change which ended the private bourgeois ownership of the means of production and went on to socialist, public ownership. This deprived the bourgeoisie of its social-economic base. Historically this means that the democratic parties which represent this class politically have no alternative but to change their standpoint fundamentally, come over to the socialist side if they want to go ahead with the people. This is a necessary development for every-

one of non-proletarian origin. Only so will they be able to advance happily and in unity with the people along the socialist road.

The Charter points out the practical way to effect this change in outlook. It calls on all democrats “to learn from the workers and peasants by taking part in practical work, adopting a correct attitude towards labour and striving to feel and think as the working people feel and think.”

* * *

At the end of the rally, the participants, with drum and cymbal music, paraded along Peking's central avenues. They were led by Shen Chun-ju, Kuo Mo-jo, Li Chi-shen and Huang Yen-pei and other elders carrying banners that proclaimed: “All for Socialism!” “We'll Learn from the Workers and Peasants!” “Support the Communist Party!”

Among the marchers were Hsu Teh-heng, Chairman of the Chiu San Society; Wang Shao-ao, Vice-Chairman of the China Association for Promoting Democracy; Li Chun-ching, Vice-Chairman of the Taiwan Democratic Self-government League; and Chen Chi-yu, Chairman of the China Chih Kung Tang.

Ma Yin-chu, President of Peking University, Professors Feng Yu-lan and Chin Yueh-lin, the scientists Tao Meng-ho, Woo Yui-hsun, Tsien Hsue-shen and Hua Loo-keng were among the scientists and educators who took part in the parade. Fu Tso-yi, Minister of Water Conservancy and Electric Power, and Li Teh-chuan, Minister of Public Health, also marched.

Cheng Chien, Wei Li-huang, Chang Chih-chung and Weng Wen-hao who were formerly high-ranking Kuomintang officers and officials too had their places in the parade.

Many groups carried pledges. One of the most conspicuous was signed by ten people over seventy years of age, all members of the Kuomintang Revolutionary Committee. It said they would become socialist within ten years.

(From Our Correspondent)

Charter for the Socialist Self-re-education of Democratic Parties and Unaffiliated Democrats

Under the inspiring leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the people of our great motherland are moving ahead along the socialist road like “a ship riding the waves with full wind in its sails.” The great victory of the socialist revolution on the political and ideological fronts has ushered in a new situation—a big leap forward in socialist construction. This new situation has given us great encouragement and strength.

We earnestly pledge to work with revolutionary drive so that we may as quickly as possible change ourselves from bourgeois to working people living by our own labour, from bourgeois intellectuals to working-class intellectuals who are both ideologically socialist and professionally expert. We the democratic parties and unaffiliated democrats hereby pledge:

1. To transform our political standpoint and heart and soul pursue the path of socialism under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party;

2. To be loyal to the socialist system, carry out the policies, laws and decrees of the state faithfully, and wholeheartedly contribute our knowledge and strength to the work of national construction;

3. To learn from the workers and peasants by taking part in practical work, adopting a correct attitude towards labour and striving to feel and think as the working people feel and think;

4. To devote ourselves to the study of Marxism-Leninism, the advanced experience, technique and scientific knowledge of the Soviet Union, and implement the policy of “letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend”;

5. To accelerate our fundamental self-re-education so as to provide the conditions for long-term co-existence and mutual supervision, and resolutely to carry out the united front policy in the service of socialism.

We will make the greatest efforts to encourage and support one another so as to guarantee the fulfilment of our pledges.

The Great Debate on the Literary Front

by CHOU YANG

This is the concluding instalment of selections from a lengthy article on the great debate and the anti-rightist struggle that have been going on in China's literary circles, by Chou Yang, Vice-Director of the Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Vice-Chairman of the All-China Federation of Writers and Artists. The first instalment appeared in our last issue.

THE chief arguments of the bourgeois rightists and revisionists against socialist literature and art are to deny or underestimate their achievements, alleging that they are not truthful, that there is no "freedom for creative writing." It is quite apparent, however, that this attack is not simply on literature and art, but on the socialist system as a whole.

Socialist literature is a new form of writing unprecedented in history. Very few literary works in the past took as their main theme the labour and struggles of workers and peasants. The true toilers, who created the material and spiritual wealth of society, were not given the position they deserved by previous writers. Instead, most literature dealt with landlords, nobles, merchants, the bourgeoisie and their spokesmen in the realm of politics and ideas. This was unfair. Socialist literature has brought about a fundamental change in this unreasonable state of affairs. The basic aim of socialist literature is to serve the labouring people. With unbounded enthusiasm it affirms and sings the heroic struggle of the working class. It describes the new human relationships in a socialist society, the new morality and customs, the new men who gradually shake off the influence of the old society, new characters and their fight with outmoded institutions and ideas. No previous literature has made such a powerful affirmation of life and reality as socialist literature, or shown such firm faith in mankind and its future, such faith in the people's boundless creative power. No literature before this has known such complete freedom of thought and feeling, or possessed such optimism, such heroism, and such lofty aspirations.

As a positive method of moral education, our literature is most widely supported and loved. The circulation of a fairly good book runs into several hundreds of thousands, while a good film today is seen by tens of millions. There was nothing comparable to this in the past. Now that the people have become the masters of their culture, they take a keen interest in it and consider it an important and integral part of their own great programme of construction. Writers no longer stand above or outside the people, but among them, for they consider it their sacred duty to have intimate ties with the masses and to write their best for them.

The great achievements of socialist literature cannot be brushed aside. Some bourgeois writers in the West

and some revisionists in the People's Democracies took advantage of the criticism of Stalin made at the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to shout that Soviet literature had "come to a standstill." According to them, socialist realism indicated that Soviet literature had "gone downhill," and socialist realism was a slogan "thought up" by a minority when in fact no such writing existed. Some of them not only opposed the socialist trend in literature, but completely denied realism and dubbed it "out-of-date," carried away by modernism and other decadent schools of thought in vogue today. But their clamour cannot in any way detract from the glory of Soviet literature, and suffices merely to expose their reactionary bourgeois views and prejudices. Soviet literature and art teach and inspire readers throughout the world by means of an advanced world outlook and revolutionary spirit; they have inspired countless thousands to advance towards revolution, and taught countless thousands how to build a new life.

National Tradition and National Style

Chinese literature, under the leadership of the Communist Party, has always taken socialist realism as the soundest principle of writing, and Soviet works as its models. Of course, in learning from the Soviet Union we should not imitate it in a dogmatic or mechanical way, but accept its experience in accordance with our actual situation, using independent judgment and careful analysis. As socialist literature can only grow and flower on its own native soil, it must re-evaluate and carry forward the national tradition and evolve a national style. We have always made efforts in this direction. Because our literature is linked with the most advanced class, ideas and social system, its rate of development during a short period has been unprecedentedly great. The rightists allege that not much is being written today, that we have a dearth of plays, and that we are worse off in every way than before. It is true that the culture designed for landlords, aristocrats and bourgeois gentlemen has not only dwindled but is about to disappear completely. But the culture needed by the working people, far from diminishing, is greater than ever before.

Our new art and literature are gradually spreading to the factories, villages and army. The number of writers who come from working-class or peasant families or are engaged in productive work is continually increasing. Competent writers have also appeared among our national minorities. More and more writing is being done by workers and peasants in their spare time. There are hundreds of thousands of village repertory companies, and the peasants have produced tens of thousands of plays. Naturally the rightists despise work written by the masses, but from the unprecedented scope of popular cultural activities today we can see the future of Chinese literature and art.

We have never been satisfied with our achievements in this respect, however, for they still fall far short of our people's wishes and needs. It is undeniable that today we still have too few good works, and few of our contemporary writers have been able to equal, let alone surpass, our great predecessors. Many of our writers still lack the power to present the essential spirit of this society and age in a highly artistic form. But this is nothing strange. A considerable length of time is required before the literature of a new epoch can attain maturity.

Socialist Literature Is Young

Socialist literature is still relatively young. Barely fifty years have passed in the history of Soviet literature since Gorky published *Mother* in 1907. And as for the new literary movement in China, less than forty years have passed since the May the Fourth Movement; while strictly speaking it is only since the *Talks at the Yenan Forum on Art and Literature*—little over fifteen years ago—that it has clearly and consciously taken the line of serving the workers and peasants and socialism. This is a very short period compared with the two thousand years of feudal literature in China and the four or five hundred years of bourgeois literature in Europe. How can we use the same yardstick to measure the achievements of centuries and those of a few decades? But when our writers gain a thorough understanding of the age in which we live and become genuinely integrated with the labouring people, when they fully master our fine cultural heritage, and when literature has a firm, new mass base, then socialist literature will rapidly overtake and surpass the literature of all previous ages, not only as regards its content but also in respect to artistic form.

Not until 1957 in China did we start a thorough-going and nation-wide socialist revolution on the ideological and political fronts. A mortal blow was struck at the reactionary ideas of the bourgeoisie, the potential strength of our writers and artists and of the new forces in these fields was liberated, the fetters of the old society were removed, the lowering clouds of reaction were swept away, and a broad perspective for proletarian literature and art was opened. We must continue to open up the path ahead, and the work of clearing away the age-old foundations of reaction is not something that can be completed in one year. But the way is basically open for large forces of proletarian writers and artists to advance quickly. We need to build an army and train soldiers in the sphere of culture too. A completely new army is now being formed for proletarian literature and art. This must coincide with the building of an army of proletarian intellectuals, and we shall reap the benefits of both at approximately the same time. Only those who do not understand historical materialism can doubt this.

Socialist literature and art must take over all the finest traditions of past civilization, and our writers must learn from our forbears. But as our literature and art are socialist, their ideological basis can only be the communist world outlook; hence, as pointed out in the *Communist Manifesto*, they must make "the most radical rupture with traditional ideas." Otherwise they will be like those "true socialist" poets criticized in the *Manifesto* who called their work "socialist" when in reality it was bourgeois.

How should we approach the question of truthfulness in literature and art? Without doubt, they must be truth-

ful, for otherwise they have no value and the people do not need them. The question is: What is truthfulness? From what standpoint should writers and artists describe the truth, and what should their aim be?

First of all it should be affirmed that socialist literature and art are the most truthful in the world, because the working class is the most advanced class and it has never been afraid to disclose the truth about life. Only the exploiting classes, who want to hoodwink the people, have to draw a veil over the truth. It is precisely socialist literature and art that give truthful expression to the epic achievements of the masses who, by labour and struggle, change the world and themselves in the process, and describe the complex phenomena of the class struggle and the struggle between the new and the old which impel society forward.

Two Kinds of Contradictions

As everyone knows, literature and art reflect life, and in actual life there are various kinds of contradictions. Marxism teaches us that the chief contradictions are those between man and nature and those between man and man. These two contradictions are expressed in the realm of production and in the class struggle; after classes are abolished, they express themselves as the struggle between the old and the new. Comrade Mao Tse-tung has stressed that when dealing with contradictions in human society, we must be very careful to distinguish between two different types: contradictions between the people and their enemy, and contradictions among the people.

Our literature and art have given us stirring pictures of the people's heroic struggles against their oppressors and exploiters. But an unprecedented task for our writers and artists today, involving a whole series of fresh problems, is that of describing how our people, after becoming the masters of their own fate, find a correct solution to contradictions among themselves, do away with the deep-rooted influence of the old society, determine the right relation of the individual to the collective, enable what is advanced to overcome what is backward, and carry backward individuals forward with them. The solution of these problems needs the help of socialist realist literature and art. And these are precisely the points on which the rightists and revisionists cross swords with us. The dogmatists fail or refuse to see that there exist contradictions among the people; this inevitably leads them to the "no-conflict" theory in literature and art. This of course is wrong. But the rightists and revisionists deliberately obscure or cover up the contradictions between the people and their enemies, misrepresent the contradictions among the people, especially those between the leaders and the led which they consider identical with those in the old society between the oppressed people and the reactionary rulers, and exaggerate points of dispute among the people on questions of right and wrong as antagonistic contradictions.

This is a much graver and more dangerous mistake. They hold that the main task of literature and art is to expose the defects of our society and the seamy side of life. In their eyes, only works of exposure are "truthful," while those which "praise the bright side" of life "disguise the truth" and are "false." What they refer to as truths are negative, backward, static, moribund things. They cannot or will not see the mainstream of socialist

reality, which is vital, powerful, vigorous and advancing, they cannot or will not observe socialist reality from a revolutionary, dialectical viewpoint, and they deny that revolutionary romanticism is an indispensable aspect of socialist realism. They want writers to use a naturalistic method and peer in every corner for shortcomings or abuses, and then to magnify these and display them one by one to dishearten our people and gladden our enemies, to disillusion readers and make them lose faith in the revolution and the socialist system. This is what they mean by "truthful writing." This is their real aim when they advocate "speaking up boldly about life."

Are there shortcomings and a dark side in our society? Of course there are. Shortcomings and a dark side not only exist now but will always exist, for otherwise there would be no progress in history.

Progressive Factors Predominant

In our country at present the system of exploitation has, in the main, been eliminated but the influence of old ideas and customs still persists stubbornly. The economic and cultural standards of the people have not yet been raised sufficiently. The people must still endure and overcome incredible hardships in order to build a new life for themselves. Bureaucracy, isolation from the masses and action against their interests are still to be found. Of course we need not cover up these negative and dark features of life, but we must realize that it is the new, positive and progressive factors in life which are predominant and decisive in our society.

Our literature should expose abuses. Since there are a bright and a dark side in life, literature should acclaim the first, expose the second, and depict the struggle between the two. It should not give a one-sided picture of life. Our literary works should be a weapon to combat all negative things, a weapon for criticism and self-criticism. We are against the "theory of no conflicts." The question is what stand we take and what our aim is when we make exposures and criticisms. Our writers should take the correct stand, distinguish between right and wrong and differentiate clearly between the bright and the dark side. We should not try to include everything we hear, or take such a ghoulish delight in disaster that we touch up or exaggerate the dark side and overlook the bright side, giving readers a distorted view of life and making them lose hope. Our writings should describe the contradictions and difficulties in life, the defects and mistakes. Naturally we can depict failures and losses too, but in such a way as to increase people's courage and confidence in overcoming difficulties, not to make them defeatist or despondent. This is the difference on the question of writing about the dark side of life between ourselves and the rightists and revisionists.

Creative Freedom

How should we regard the question of freedom in writing? In our country, literature, art and science enjoy full freedom. The policy of "letting a hundred flowers blossom, a hundred schools of thought contend" is an important guarantee of this freedom. Our country provides the most favourable conditions for the publication of literary and other books. According to our Constitution, the state restricts or prohibits only those writings which

are against the people, the Communist Party and socialism, because these are detrimental to the basic interests of the people. But the rightists want freedom to publish just such works.

We want a socialist and not a bourgeois literature; we want literature to serve the mass of the labouring people and not a minority "upper class." This certainly restricts the freedom of bourgeois writers, rightists and revisionists. They cannot trumpet their bourgeois reactionary ideas or write freely against the Party, the people and socialism. Such works are condemned and opposed by the masses. But working-class writers and those willing to serve the labouring people find their freedom extended, not restricted. Their socialist outlook and noble devotion to the cause of socialism and the labouring people enable our writers to shake off the bonds of the bourgeois individualist world outlook and establish close ties with the people, whose lives and struggles provide them with an unlimited source of material for writing. This is true freedom in writing. A writer does not feel free when he is fettered by bourgeois individualism and unfamiliar with the life of the labouring people. He can write only about himself or the handful of individuals round him, and therefore his freedom is limited. Only when he is at one with his age and people will he achieve a genuine and abundant freedom.

The writer should have complete freedom in the choice of his theme, form of presentation and artistic style. We advocate writing about workers, peasants and soldiers, but this does not mean writers may not write on other themes according to their own experience, special qualifications and interests. We hold that socialist realism is the best method of writing, but we can only advocate it and encourage writers to improve their understanding of Marxism-Leninism and strengthen their links with the labouring people, so that socialist ideas become a living part of them. We cannot simply issue orders and enforce the use of socialist realism. Socialist realism can only find expression in the course of actual writing; it cannot be wished into being by writers. As to artistic style, we encourage variety and originality.

So far I have outlined the main divergences between our literary line and that of the rightists and revisionists. This divergence is clearest and sharpest in the views on the relation between literature and politics.

The revisionists strive to divorce literature from the political task of the revolution. The dogmatists oversimplify the matter and believe that as long as our politics are right our art will be good. They ignore the special characteristics of writing and the importance of artistic technique. Their formula, "politics equals art," in point of fact does away with art and is certainly wrong. The revisionists' formula, "art equals politics," subordinates politics to art and in practice subordinates revolutionary political tasks to counter-revolutionary politics under the cover of art. The dogmatists believe that Marxism not only embodies but can be substituted for methods of creative writing. By substituting the whole for a part they tend to lead writers away from the path of realism.

The revisionists, on the other hand, believe that methods of creative writing can embody or even take the place of Marxism. They are in fact substituting a part

for the whole in order to lure writers away from the correct political line. The right formulation is that made by Comrade Mao Tse-tung: "Marxism can only include but not take the place of realism in literary creation." Though the dogmatists' view is the opposite of that of the revisionists, their approach to the question is equally metaphysical and one-sided; alike they regard politics and art as one and the same or in opposition to each other.

The Unity of Politics and Art

Marxists regard politics and art as the unity of opposites, and the target which they strive to reach in their writing is "the unity of politics and art, the unity of content and form, and the unity of revolutionary political content and the best artistic form." The correct thing is to judge all works by unified political and artistic criteria, but with the political criterion taking first place.

The struggle between the proletarian line and the bourgeois line in our literature and art can be traced back a long way. The proletarian literary line went through a period of immaturity, and doctrinaire, sectarian and various other mistakes were committed. It was not until Comrade Mao Tse-tung's *Talks at the Yen-an Forum on Art and Literature* in 1942 that a solid theoretical basis was laid. Later developments fully testified to the correctness of this line. Doctrinaire mistakes still need to be overcome, but at present greater danger lies in revisionism. Revisionism is a reflection of bourgeois trends within the ranks of the working class. The characteristic of revisionism is that under a Marxist banner it opposes Marxism and the leadership of the Party on the pretext of opposing "doctrinairism and sectarianism." The main substance of the revisionist line is the denial of the noble purpose of literature and art, which is to serve the labouring people and the revolutionary political task; the denial of the class character of literature and art in a class society; the negation or distortion of the national cultural tradition; the denial of the need for the ideological remoulding of writers, and of the leading role of the Party in literary work.

Victory in the struggle against the rightists in the fields of literature and art has cleared the path ahead for the smooth advance of our socialist literature and art. We must consolidate this victory. There is an upsurge now throughout the country in production and construction. We must try to take a great stride forward too in literature and art. Our people, inspired by the spirit that moves mountains and drains seas, are engaged in the great task of changing the world and changing history. Their splendid enthusiasm for work and their revolutionary fervour are finding irresistible expression in every field of activity, and must of necessity be appropriately reflected in the special realms of ideas—literature and art. As the labouring people create material wealth they are also creating spiritual wealth. The urgent demand for culture on the part of millions of workers and peasants is unprecedented, and they are vigorously taking up various types of spare-time cultural activities. If we wish to forge ahead in our literature and art, we must integrate them more closely with the masses on an ever-increasing scale. Both as regards volume and quality, our works of literature and art must be able to meet the requirements of the people.



Back home to the people

Cartoon by Ying Tao

Comrade Mao Tse-tung long ago told the writers that they "must for long periods of time, unreservedly and wholeheartedly go into the midst of the mass, the mass of workers, peasants and soldiers; they must go into fiery struggles." Now tens of thousands of leading functionaries and intellectuals have gone to the villages or to the mountains to take part in physical labour or work in offices at the grass-root levels. Many writers and artists, too, are streaming towards the villages and factories to strike roots there and live with the labouring people for years to come. It has now become a fundamental principle of our literary life that writers should be one with the workers and peasants in their work and struggles for long periods at a time.

Working-class writers and artists should study hard. We must master both the Marxist world outlook and a high degree of skill in our own craft. We must study Marxism-Leninism, learn from the people and from the great heritage and fine traditions of China and the rest of the world. We must learn not only from books but mainly in struggle, through practice and friendly rivalry and debate. Our writers and artists must be bold in their creative work and in their thinking; they must have the courage to break rules and conventions, to create new things, to be innovators, to have imagination and to criticize. To produce works not unworthy of this great epoch is our duty, and a task we must not shirk. Let us see that we carry it out with flying colours.

Ending the "Four Evils"

A mass campaign for an all-round improvement in public health and personal hygiene is in full swing in China. Its emphasis is on eliminating the "four evils" — rats, flies, mosquitoes and grain-destroying sparrows. Reports from various parts of the country show that the aim set in the National Programme for Development of Agriculture to wipe out these four pests within the twelve years 1956-67, can be achieved well ahead of time. By March 21, 32 counties and 18 municipalities had practically completed the job. The following notes give some idea of how the campaign is going.

SOMETIMES it seemed that what Chungking needed was another Pied Piper. Before the liberation, this largest city in Szechuan was infested with rats. Besides the normal health hazards they created, their marauding raids on granaries and shops destroyed vast amounts of food; they bit people in their sleep, and were even known to kill babies. Within a few years after the liberation, thanks to a vigorous health campaign, over a million and a quarter rats were killed — but this only dented the rat population.

This year Chungking residents determined to make short work of the remaining rats. A general offensive was launched. The people were organized for action. With poisons, traps and sulphur fumigants, 1,080,000 rats were killed in a seven-day battle. A mass attack on all fronts left the rats with no escape. Every night some 20,000 people — shock troops of the campaign — put down rat-poison at strategic points in a house-to-house strategy and the next morning removed the poisoned rats or untouched baits. The drainage system was a key point of the attack. When this was being fumigated, every house and home co-ordinated to blockade all exits. When a sample fifteen of the treated pipes were examined not a single live rat was found.

* * *

In the Countryside No less spectacular results in this campaign have been achieved in the countryside. Lihsien County, Hopei Province, set going a two-month sanitation campaign last winter. Now every village of the county has rid itself of flies and mosquitoes, and you can hardly find a sparrow or a rat-hole.

In the last two years the county has carried out three intensive campaigns to wipe out the "four evils." The last drive mobilized 150,000 people to make a clean sweep of the remaining rats and sparrows. In addition to the usual measures, pigsties, latrines and animal stalls were cleansed and myriads of fly larvae were destroyed. More than 23,000 dark rooms and vegetable cellars were treated

with insecticide to destroy mosquito survivors of the winter.

To consolidate their achievements every village and household concluded "good health pacts." Inspections and comparisons were subsequently made every two weeks.

* * *

Local Plans Urban Chungking and rural Lihsien are only two examples of the way the present sanitation campaign is being carried on. Because of such spirit as they exemplify, target goals for eliminating the "four evils" in various localities of the country have been revised time and again. Shantung, for instance, decided to end the "four evils" within five years, but only recently 44 counties and cities in that province announced they would fulfil the plan by the end of this year. Honan Province planned to do the job in three years, but has now set a new aim — to finish it by May Day this year and become the first province in China to be free of the "four evils."

Various districts have added their own particular pests to the four recognized "evils." Shanghai plans to wipe out bed-bugs, snails — the hosts of schistosomes (or blood flukes) — and cockroaches. Other localities have added lice and fleas.

* * *

Emulation Friendly competitions have been going on between different municipalities, counties, villages and streets. Successful competitors swap experience with their "rivals." Peking was the first city to propose a competition with Shanghai and Tientsin. Lushun-Talien (Port Arthur and Dairen), in challenging Tsingtao — a model city for health work — decided to cut the time for the job from three years to one and sent a delegation to Tsingtao to learn how the latter keeps ahead in the campaign.

* * *

Pleasanter Living, Better Work Elimination of the "four evils" makes life pleasanter and speeds up production. It has cut absenteeism due to sickness. In the villages it has been linked up with the collecting of manure, the building of irrigation works and other constructive farm tasks. In suburban Peking, the peasants mix city night soil with the garbage layer by layer and then seal the dumps so formed with earth. Fermentation starts which raises its temperature to 70° C. This method kills two birds with one stone: it improves the manure and kills the fly larvae. The peasants in the southern suburban rural area of Peking have also repaired four ditches of stagnant water, which were notorious mosquito

breeding grounds, and converted them into ponds to breed fish.

* * *

Chairman Mao Gives a Lead In January, Chairman Mao Tse-tung personally made the rounds of Hangchow to inspect health work there. Spotlighting the importance of wiping out the "four evils," the news spurred sanitation work all over the country. Leading personnel everywhere are giving a personal example. In Shanghai, at the very beginning of the campaign, the secretaries of the *municipal* Communist Party committee and the vicemayors led over a thousand government employees into the battle. They threw their weight into city districts where sanitation work lagged most seriously. Together with the local people they cleaned privies, dug out fly larvae, moved away garbage and cleansed drain pipes. This shock treatment worked wonders. Within a few days, four million people had joined in the work.

* * *

Campaign Has Its Heroes This campaign too has its heroes and heroines. Tsai Yueh-ying of Wuhan has helped organize children in her street into model fly swatters. As the leader of other local efforts, she has accounted for 330 rats and millions of flies over a period of three years. She has been commended five times as a model health worker for her district and municipality.

The press has widely carried the story of Liu Chen, a 138-year-old man in Shansi who joined the campaign with forty members of his family. They pledged themselves to catch forty rats and sparrows each and collect a joint total of 1,380 *tan* of manure before March 20, Liu's birthday.

Yu Chiao-chang, another model, a worker at the Kueiyang No. 3 Secondary School, has a battery of 110 rat traps and after work, baits them near the rats' favourite haunts. He has run up a record of 48 rats a day, with a total of 10,200 rats from April 1956 to the present. Now he is aiming to make the street he lives in rat-free.

Eighty-five-year-old Chang Teh of Peking has developed such uncanny skill that in one winter he trapped 30,000 sparrows with nets, with his brother Chang Ming close behind with 20,000, and is passing on his skill to many eager learners.

* * *

Scientific Guidance Scientists, technicians and other specialists in pest control are naturally playing a key role in the campaign. Shanghai has over twenty specialists in entomology, parasitology and public health acting as a team for technical guidance. Doctors and nurses in its various districts have organized themselves to serve as on-the-spot advisers.

* * *

Children at It The children too have proved themselves to be a force to be reckoned with. In Shantung Province alone, 18 million children and other young people have been taking part in the drive since last winter. They have organized 120,000 teams for "shock work,"



With mice and sparrows out of the way,
Scarecrows and cats just pine away.

Cartoon by Hua Chun-wu

"reconnaissance" and "action," with an emulation campaign between them on grown-up lines. The youngsters are also zealous propagandists. Young Pioneers in Peking, Tientsin and other places took to the streets and lanes in their winter holidays to give publicity to a "non-spitting" campaign.

* * *

And Soldiers Too Army units have also entered the battle. Their marksmen have become the sworn enemies of sparrows to such effect that in certain places sparrows take wing at the mere sight of a uniform. The troops have also proved themselves adept at "tunnel warfare" in the battle against rats. Officers and men of an army unit stationed in Inner Mongolia go to nearby fields in their spare time to dig out rat-holes. In two weeks, they killed more than 3,200 rats and found over 16,500 cabbages of maize and soya beans in the rat-holes, enough to feed 200 pigs for two months.

* * *

Much has been done, but this is a long-term fight to teach Mother Nature to mend her ways. For thousands of years the Chinese people were on the defensive in the never-ending battle against the "four evils." Now they are on the attack. The "four evils" will become active with the advent of spring. But things will never be the same again for them. Their days are numbered!

THEATRE

Three Lucky Stars

A tale of modern factory life, a satire on the discomfiture of the cold war enthusiasts and their satellite-phobia, and an interesting revival of a pre-liberation drama are among the theatrical offerings in Peking.

The three lucky stars in the four-act comedy of that name, produced by the China Youth Art Theatre, are three young workers at the start of their careers. They are good friends, all learning their trade from the same veteran worker. Yueh Ming is kind-hearted and honest, brave and imaginative. An Tai is handsome and capable but a bit vain and given to self-complacency. He is not "good at helping others," one of the qualities expected of a forward-looking young man in a modern Chinese factory. Hsiao Huang is a former wai and thus past colours his actions. He is mischief-loving, sometimes distrustful of others, keen-witted but not over-anxious to study. These are the live ingredients of a comedy woven around the course of a socialist emulation drive and a supplementary theme of young love.

The three find themselves on opposite sides in the campaign. But in a socialist emulation campaign the winner should swap good ideas, if necessary, to enable the loser to catch up; society is the real winner. The campaign is thus also a moral emulation. It quickens the participants' inventive faculties and tempers their moral qualities at the same time. An Tai becomes less individualistic; he lends a helping hand to his comrades in the competing team. Hsiao Huang gets to understand the value of friendship better, and also that one must study hard to master new techniques; mother wit is not enough. The older workers also learn to shed their conservatism and individualistic outlook of caring only about their own affairs. As Yueh Ming says in the third act: "... All of a sudden it dawns on me how wonderful things are! Everyone is working for everyone else; they understand one another perfectly. . . . Sometimes people find themselves at odds and seem to be quarrelling. Black clouds gather and it looks like rain. Then there's a gust of wind, a roll of thunder . . . and nothing unpleasant is left. It wasn't a real storm, after all. . . . They were only arguing to get a better job done than before. . . ."

It is true: Life has changed so fast in China that Yueh Ming's "moment of truth" is something that most people in the audience have experienced already or will be helped to experience by this often moving portrayal of life today.

The theme of young love involving the two boys An Tai and Yueh Ming and their girl friend Chun-ni, is another intertwining thread that acts as a lyrical counter-point to the main theme, further revealing the characters of the heroes and the qualities that "win" today in China. Chun-ni is not sure which boy she loves. Yueh Ming loves her but feels that he should step down in favour of his friend. His selflessness is rewarded. In a delightful scene touched with light comedy Chun-ni absent-mindedly embroiders a dove's wing half a foot too long as she listens to her mother extolling Yueh Ming's good points.

Mrs. Shih, Chun-ni's mother, anxious to get her husband's opinion on her prospective son-in-law, pops the question while he is busy at work. He can't be bothered at the moment to answer, so he jestingly cries: "I'll marry her off to the best worker in the factory!" He happens to be speaking near the factory intercom which hasn't been switched off and the "edict" goes out on the broadcasting system. Then the phone is kept abuzz while one after another pledges are handed in from mischievous contenders for the honour of best worker and the hand of Chun-ni.

Though they can't all marry the same girl the names of Yueh Ming, An Tai and Hsiao Huang go up on the roll of honour emblazoned on red stars of merit.

Poor American Baby Moon

This is an entertaining one-act political satire built around the resounding flop of the first American "Vanguard" satellite. It is a tailor-made theme for satire: the raucous tub-thumping of the cold war mongers and the devastating let-down. The author Chen Pai-chen, a veteran playwright, with his team of collaborators, has hit a new note for the Chinese theatre with this pungent political theme. It exposes the link-up between the U.S. satellite launching programme and the cold war, the undercurrents of inter-service plots, the jostling for position of the big financial and industrial monopolies anxious to get at the swill of the government's armament pork-barrel . . . and the repercussions of the "flopnik" on this structure. The stool pigeon in the play gives the punch line: "It's Eisenhower and Dulles themselves who put the jinx on this satellite!" Eisenhower and Dulles—representatives of capitalism that today hampers the development

of science and retards the advance of man's productive forces.

Some of the humour is subtle, some of it slapstick; but the audience is soon set in a mood to enjoy both. It's a serious theme, but this surely is the stuff of satire: jingoists, warmongers and man-haters parade in their brief role as statesmen and are shown up as the clowns and failures they are in attempting to bluster socialism out of existence.

Three Beauties

Tien Han's *Three Beauties*, now restaged by the China Youth Art Theatre, was first produced in 1947 and then ran successfully in Peking, Tientsin, Shanghai and several other cities. This new production is one of a series to mark the establishment fifty years ago of the first modern drama troupe in China, the Spring Willow Association. Tien Han is one of the veterans of those early theatrical days. The *Three Beauties* tells of three women with different social backgrounds drawn together by a common fate during the Japanese occupation of Shanghai. Liang Jo-ying, a college graduate, has a mind "to do something useful for society," but falls for the temptation of a life of luxury as the mistress of a banker. After a bitter disillusionment she returns to her early youthful enthusiasm and takes up the struggle against the invader and the reactionaries. Li Hsin-chun sticks to her post as an underground revolutionary fighting against the Japanese in the terror-stricken city. Liu Chin-mei, a woman textile worker ground down by poverty and unemployment, is a lone rebel until she too sees that only organized struggle against the enemy can succeed. The eve of V-J Day finds them united on the banks of the Huangpoo.

Tien Han, greeting this revival, hoped that it would help recall to some who might have forgotten what difficulties beset those who defended progress in those dark days and how they fought under the leadership of the Communist Party against oppression and suffering. In its new production the China Youth Art Theatre puts the emphasis, as it should, on the revolutionary struggle of the Shanghai populace as the matrix of the struggles of the three heroines.

It also divides up the action into twenty scenes linked by an announcer's commentary. This has enabled the producers to reduce the number of sets to a minimum and shorten the intervals between scenes. Some of the commentaries are a bit too long, but, on the whole, the device is employed successfully. The forty and more performances given in Peking proved that it was a popular production.

CHINA AND THE WORLD

Chinese People's Volunteers Withdraw from Korea

The first contingents of the Chinese People's Volunteers leaving Korea under the present withdrawal plan are now arriving back in China. As the first trains took them from their stations, thousands of Koreans came to see them off. Big crowds gathered at the bridge at Sinuiju, where the trains cross the Yalu River boundary. Marshal Kim Il Sung, leader of the Korean people, personally visited the headquarters of the withdrawing C.P.V. units to speak to the Volunteers.

There were many moving scenes as Koreans said good-bye to Chinese Volunteers who had become as close to them as members of the family. This comradeship between the Chinese and Korean peoples was built up in the tense days of the defence of the Korean Democratic People's Republic against the brutal attack of the American Army and the Syngman Rhee puppets. It has grown during the armistice, as the Volunteers have stood on guard with the Korean People's Army against the possibility of renewed aggression, and also thrown themselves into the task of helping to reconstruct devastated Korean towns and villages. They have helped to build bridges, factories, houses, irrigation channels and reservoirs and lent a hand at farm work. During the past seven years they contributed nearly five million workdays to build, among other things, 4,107 bridges, five reservoirs and 3,768 dykes with a total length of 346 kilometres.

Originally, they had planned to contribute 300,000 workdays this year to help the Korean people in building and production before their withdrawal; but now the C.P.V. headquarters has sent out a call to overfulfil this quota by 200 to 300 per cent.

The Volunteers went to Korea to fight against the American aggressors in the interests of peace. Now, again in the interests of peace, they are withdrawing. By the end of April, 80,000 will have left Korea for home. Before the year is out, all of them will be back in China.

Sino-Yemeni Treaties Ratified

The Sino-Yemeni treaties of friendship and commerce and the agreement on

scientific, technical and cultural co-operation were ratified by Chairman Mao Tse-tung on March 20.

Concluded in January this year during the visit to China of the Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister the Crown Prince Seif al-Islam Mohammed al-Badr, the agreements opened a new stage in Sino-Yemeni relations.

The Treaty of Friendship lays down that the two countries shall base their relations on peace and lasting friendship, guided by the five principles of peaceful co-existence. The Treaty of Commerce mutually assures the two countries most-favoured-nation treatment in trade relations. Under the Agreement on Scientific, Technical and Cultural Co-operation, China will send to the Yemen experts and technicians, supplies of machinery and whole sets of equipment. She will also help train Yemeni technicians in Chinese colleges and enterprises; all this without any conditions attached. China will also grant the Yemen 70 million Swiss francs as a credit without interest charges for construction of a motor highway of about 500 kilometres, a cigarette factory, glass factory, tannery, aluminium ware factory, sugar refinery, textile mill, cannery and handicraft factories.

TRADE NEWS

Farm Machine Imports Up

There will be a big increase in China's imports of farm machinery, fertilizers and tractors this year. Orders placed abroad by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Trade already exceed all last year's imports by 50 per cent.

Pumps, fertilizers, and machinery for chemical fertilizer plants are in greatest demand, but orders for tractors and combine harvesters, insecticide, seeds and pedigree animals have also increased.

Most of the imports come from the Soviet Union and the European People's Democracies, but orders have also been placed with firms in capitalist countries.

A trade protocol signed in Tirana on March 12 arranges for a greater volume of trade between China and Albania in 1958. Albanian oil, copper and cotton piece goods will be exchanged for Chinese tin, silk, woollen cloth, paper, tea and rubber tyres.

Under the 1958 trade and payments protocol signed in Sofia on March 13, China this year will exchange tin, silks, tea, asbestos, tyres, spinning machines and chemicals for Bulgarian lead, zinc, ammonium nitrate, tobacco, penicillin and cotton cloth.

Mr. Sidney G. Sloan, Chairman of the "Forty-eight Group," an organization of British business firms, is here in Peking on a visit.

Direct Peking-Tokyo radio-telephone and radio-photo services started on March 20. Telephone calls can now also be made between other major Japanese cities and Tientsin, Shanghai, Wuhan and Canton via Peking and Tokyo.

CULTURAL NEWS

Chen Chung-ching, Secretary-General of the Commission for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, is currently visiting Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Hungary and Rumania to discuss implementation of the cultural agreements with these countries in 1958.

A Chinese mission headed by Minister of Education Yang Hsiu-feng is visiting the Soviet Union. The mission has just completed a tour of Poland and Germany, where it visited universities and other higher educational institutions.

A Chinese opera and dance troupe will take part in the International Drama Festival due to open in Paris on March 25.

In Brief

A Chinese fraternal delegation is attending the Thirteenth Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party in Ulan Bator. It is headed by Ulanfu, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung sent a message of greetings to President Habib Bourguiba on the second anniversary of Tunisia's independence.

Li Yi-meng has been appointed Chinese Ambassador to Burma.

SPORTS

China will not take part in the 1958 Asian Games to be held in Tokyo this May. A spokesman of the All-China Athletic Federation told Japanese reporters in Peking that it was not possible for the People's Republic of China to participate because certain quarters were attempting to use the Games as a means of furthering the plot to create a situation of "two Chinas."

When the Asian Games were instituted in the twenties, China was an active participant.

M. Paul Jannidis, President of the Greek Table Tennis Association, arrived in Peking on March 17 for a tour of Chinese cities.

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Closer Sino-Polish Relations

The Peking press frontpaged news of the arrival on March 20 of the Polish government delegation headed by Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Piotr Jaroszewicz.

The Polish Government Delegation

Head of the delegation: Jaroszewicz, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Members: W. Trampeczynski, Minister of Foreign Trade; B. Jaszczuk, Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission; J. Olszewski, Head of the Economic Department of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party; J. Kole, Vice-Minister of Finance and Z. Keh, Vice-Minister of Heavy Industry.

Welcoming the Polish delegation, the press gave prominence to Vice-Chairman Jaroszewicz's statement at the airport that his delegation would discuss with the Chinese Government economic questions of common interests and that friendly talks would help strengthen and develop mutual economic and technical co-operation.

Renmin Ribao editorially declared on March 20 that the two countries will redouble their efforts to "strengthen friendly relations, unity in the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union and the cause of world peace. . . . China and Poland are both socialist countries; their relations are grounded solidly on their common belief in Marxism-Leninism and the common goal of building socialism and communism. During the past several years, there has been a steady growth of political, economic and cultural ties between the two countries. The Polish people have always supported China's struggle to maintain her national sovereignty and world peace. They have given brotherly help to our socialist construction . . . and for this generous aid from our Polish brothers we are truly grateful."

Guangming Ribao expressed confidence that the visit of the Polish delegation would help to strengthen Sino-Polish friendship and stressed that socialist construction in both countries are integral parts of the general advance of the socialist camp.

Da Gong Bao praised Poland's recent contributions to the relaxation of international tension and the upholding of European and world peace, particularly the Rapacki Plan for an atom-free central Europe. "This greatly enhances the international prestige of the Polish People's Republic," it wrote.

Soviet Democracy

"Another brilliant victory for Soviet democracy" is how *Renmin Ribao's* March 20 leader described the results of the recent Supreme Soviet elections in the U.S.S.R.

Enumerating the advances made during the four years since the last elections to the Supreme Soviet, the editorial stressed the importance of measures to increase the responsibilities of the Republics in economic affairs and reorganize industrial management; the large-scale reclamation of wasteland; and the great scientific and technical achievements symbolized by the launching of the sputniks.

"The Supreme Soviet is also a standard bearer of world peace," the editorial pointed out. "It has continued to make important contributions to world peace and human progress. Its resolutions calling for disarmament and the prohibition of atomic weapons have played a most important part in further relaxing international tension and consolidating world peace."

Showing that Soviet democracy is genuine democracy of a kind unknown in capitalist countries, *Renmin Ribao* cited some telling facts: "In the United States, no less than fifty qualifications unreasonably limit the voting rights of the people. In the Soviet Union, deputies to the Supreme Soviet are directly elected by citizens of the whole country. . . . In the United States, Negroes and other national minorities are much discrimi-

nated against in voting. Whereas in the latest U.S. Congressional elections, only 57.3 per cent of the people of voting age cast their votes, 99.97 per cent of the electors in the Soviet Union took part in the present Supreme Soviet elections. Again, over 60 per cent of the 1,378 Soviet deputies are either workers or peasants, the rest being working intellectuals; women constitute 26.4 per cent of the deputies. A look at the composition of the present American Congress shows that more than half the congressmen are lawyers, and one-fourth of them are either big business men or bankers. Not one single seat in Congress is held by a worker or a peasant who represent the overwhelming majority of the population of the United States."

Space for Peace

The Soviet proposal to ban the use of outer space for military purposes and liquidate military bases on foreign territory is "another serious test of the sincerity of the United States as regards peace and the summit meeting," wrote *Renmin Ribao* in its commentary on March 17.

Washington is well aware of the fact that the Soviet Union is at present the only country in the world in possession of space-sailing ICBMs ready for use, the commentator pointed out. "It has therefore raised the question of the peaceful use of outer space as a stumbling block to bar the summit meeting. According to their own logic, the ruling clique in the United States reasoned that the Soviet Union would not be willing to give up her military supremacy in this field and would therefore reject this proposal. This, they thought, would play into their hands by giving them an opportunity to accuse the Soviet Union of lacking sincerity for peace and placing the blame on the Soviet Union for the failure to hold a summit conference. But this diplomatic trick has misfired."

Calling attention to the fact that the United States has more than 200 military bases on foreign territory all of which



In orbit

Chung Hsiang and
Kuo Yuan in
"Shijie Zhishi"

are directed against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, the commentator asserted: "The Soviet Union is fully justified in making the proposal for the removal of all military bases in foreign countries while agreeing to consider the question of prohibiting the use of outer space for military purposes. The world should not only be free from the threat of war from outer space, but also from war threats on the surface of the globe as well."

South Carolina Incident

"American planes carrying nuclear bombs are a serious threat to all countries over which they fly; they carry the danger of death," *Da Gong Bao* (March 15) commented on the A-bomb that was dropped from an American plane on Florence, South Carolina.

That incident had again underlined the madness of U.S. atomic war policy, the paper said. "These American nuclear-bomb flights are intended to poison the international atmosphere and threaten peace, but first and foremost the threat is to the American people and the countries which permit such flights over their territories." For, the paper asked, "Who is to guarantee that there will be no repetition of the South Carolina incident and that the next nuclear bomb let loose will not explode?"

Noting that the incident had already caused a stir in the West, the paper concluded: "People everywhere are calling for action. They will not sit back and wait for A-bombs to fall on their heads."

The Case of Liu Lien-jen

The irresponsible attitude of the Japanese Government in the case of Liu Lien-



"Till death do you part . . ."

Ke Ming in Shanghai "Xinwen Ribao"

jen, the Chinese peasant abducted to Japan during the last war (see *Peking Review*, No. 3, p. 20), is scathingly criticized in the Chinese press.

"The Chinese people are watching closely to see how the Japanese Government is going to handle this case," wrote *Renmin Ribao's* commentator on March 17. "Many civilians were seized and sent to Japan by the Japanese militarists during their war of aggression against China. They were enslaved and many brutally murdered. Our government has repeatedly asked the Japanese Government to account for such acts but no reply has ever been received. When Liu Lien-jen's case was brought to light, the Japanese Government failed to do the minimum expected of it. Failing even to express its regrets to this Chinese victim, it threatened him with prosecution as an illegal emigrant. What a contrast there is between this hostile attitude and the humanitarian treatment accorded by the Chinese Government to Japanese nationals in China!"

Da Gong Bao (March 18) was also sharply critical of the Kishi government. "Pressed by public opinion, Kishi has said that Liu Lien-jen will be sent home at an early date, but the

Japanese Government hasn't yet made clear what responsibility it will assume in this case. Such an irresponsible attitude cannot but rouse the Chinese people's indignation."

Both papers expressed appreciation for the deep concern shown by the Japanese people in this case and for their generous help to Liu Lien-jen.

Save Khosrow Ruzbeh

Peking papers give prominent play to messages from Chinese trade unions, women, youth and other mass organizations supporting the Iranian people's efforts to save Khosrow Ruzbeh and other Iranian patriots from the death sentence passed on them by the Teheran military court.

"The death sentence passed on Ruzbeh is a shock to all honest people," wrote *Renmin Ribao's* commentator on March 15.

"Iranian patriots, among whom Ruzbeh is outstanding, have been fighting heroically to free their country from imperialist enslavement and set it on a path in keeping with its national interests."

CORRECTION: Last week's "The Passing Show" erroneously refers to a report by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the General Accounting Office of the U.S.A. It should have read - a report by the G.A.O. to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

THE PASSING SHOW

The Perfidy of It!

Ministerial brows were clouded at the recent Manila Conference of SEATO powers. A British Commonwealth diplomatic source (quoted by Reuter) described the proposals to reduce armed forces in both parts of Viet-nam and Korea and the appeal to turn Asia into an atom-free zone as "current Communist moves" and "threats poised over the heads of the SEATO ministers."



Why can't warmongers be allowed to go about their affairs in peace, begad?

When Is an Embargo Not an Embargo?

(Stage directions by the editor; dialogue by A.P.)

Scene: The U.S. Senate Banking Subcommittee hearing, March 13.

Senator Fulbright: Will not our embargo be largely nullified if Japan enters into a trade agreement with Red China?

Marshall Smith, Department of Commerce official (with hauteur): China does not produce any real amount of exports and therefore has little means for the purchase of imports!

Senator Fulbright (brightly): In that case why then should America go to the trouble of maintaining the embargo?

Marshall Smith (darkly): It's a political matter.

Senator Fulbright thereupon disappears in a cloud of words.

SCIENCE

Achievements of 1957

China is making steady progress in atomic research. With Soviet assistance she has practically completed construction of her first 7,000-kilowatt atomic reactor of the heavy-water type, the biggest in Asia, and a 25 million-electron-volt cyclotron. A pressure-type electrostatic accelerator, a high voltage multiplier and a beta-ray spectro-meter, all essential equipment for atomic research, have also been built.

In the field of semi-conductors, important for the radio and electronics industries, China's scientific industry has caught up with international standards in extracting pure (99.99999%) germanium. It has also succeeded in the trial production of semi-conductor diodes and triodes.

These are only a small though important part of the major scientific achievements in 1957, reviewed by Wu Heng, Deputy Secretary-General of the Planning Committee for Scientific Development at a recent meeting in Peking. Other highlights of this review showed the widening range of China's scientific work.

Surveys In addition to large-scale surveys of the Yellow River and Yangtze River valleys, draft development plans for the Huai River and Liao River valleys have been mapped out and general plans drawn up for developing the Yangtze and Haiho valleys. The comprehensive investigation of the Heilungkiang River valley was continued by joint Chinese-Soviet teams of scientists. Scientific teams continued investigations into plant life and agricultural possibilities in northern Sinkiang, Yunnan and Kwangsi.

New rich deposits of coal, iron ore, oil, manganese, copper, lead, zinc, aluminium and molybdenum ores were found in wide-ranging surveys. Salt lakes in the Tsaidam Basin in Chinghai Province were found to be rich in boric, potassium and other salts.

Power In the field of hydro-electric power Chinese engineers designed the 580,000-kilowatt hydro-electric power station being built on the Sinan River in Chekiang. This is bigger than the Fengman Power Station in Kirin, north-east China, hitherto the nation's largest. They designed and built hydraulic turbine generators of 15,000-kilowatt capacity. They also designed the giant thermal power plant in Liaoning and high tension transmission lines of 220 kilovolts.

Metallurgy Metallurgists succeeded in devising methods to extract the rare earth elements from iron ores at Paotow, where a new integrated steel works is being built.

So far as the coefficient of utilization of blast furnaces is concerned (volume of furnace in cubic metres required to produce one ton of iron in 24 hours—an important index of the technical level) China has created a record of 0.696, with a national average of 0.757. This greatly surpasses the average level reached in the United States and Britain.

Synthetic Oil By using an iron instead of a cobalt catalyst in making synthetic oil, chemical workers were able to raise output to 191 grammes from every cubic metre of $\text{CO} + \text{H}_2$ as compared with the international level of 150 grammes, and cut production costs by more than 50 per cent.

Agriculture A number of high-yielding strains of rice, wheat and cotton were widely introduced and new methods to prevent and combat crop pests and animal epidemics developed.

Medicine In addition to the success achieved in fighting schistosomiasis, a simple way of treating brucellosis was worked out. A new type of influenza virus and a new strain of avirulent bacterium *pestis* were discovered. International standards were reached in surgical operations for cardio-vascular diseases and for tuberculosis in bone joints.

A plant called *Rauwolfia verticillata* discovered in south China was proved to be conducive to lowering blood pressure, and new antibiotics against tumours and viruses were found.

Research Centres Last year, thirteen research institutes were set up or enlarged under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and about 20,000 professors and teachers in universities and colleges and large numbers of engineers were drawn into research work.

The Academy of Agricultural Science was established and preparations were made to set up a new academy of medical science.

Some scientific institutions were moved to industrial centres or got into direct contact with agricultural co-operatives in order to link their research work with practical production problems.

Supplies of books, papers, laboratory instruments and materials were also improved with the help of the government.

Is There a "Snow Man"?

The "abominable snow man" is most likely a bear, but it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that it is a "snow

man" after all. This is the opinion of Pei Wen-chung, the noted Chinese paleontologist and discoverer of Peking Man.

In view of the present geographical distribution of the primates, he argues in a recent article written in collaboration with two fellow scientists, it appears highly improbable that an animal more closely approaching man than the gorilla or chimpanzee could exist on the high Himalayan ranges and the Pamir plateau.

Furthermore it would be very difficult for higher primates to live in such conditions, where plants and small animals are few and far between.

On the other hand, the Himalayan black bear, with its great vitality, could survive in such conditions by hunting other animals looking for food there. Legendary descriptions of the "snow man" walking, standing on two legs, and so on, could also apply to the Himalayan bear.

Referring to the statement by the Soviet scientist Pronin suggesting that the "snow man" stole a rubber boat and carried it five kilometres upriver and by a Chinese film director that the "snow man" stole beef at night, Professor Pei says that a bear would be quite capable of such actions.

Footprints and "eyewitness" accounts also could not prove the existence of the "snow man." The footprints of the hind paws of the Himalayan black bear can be mistaken for those of a man. When a bear stands on its hind legs, especially when it is going to seize food or preparing to fight, it looks like a man from a distance or in bad light.

On the other hand, from the paleontological standpoint, it is not impossible that a special kind of higher primate may live on the Himalayan mountains. Many kinds of higher primates lived south of the Himalayas in the geological age.

The "giant ape" and "ape of antiquity," for instance, have lived in China's southwest, in Yunnan and Kwangsi. It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the successors of a branch of these higher primates retreated to live above the Himalayan snow line and developed into the much-talked-of "snow man" after living for a long period under such conditions of ice and snow.

Cotton Research

Systematic research to raise cotton yields, output and quality is playing a major part in the drive to provide the wherewithal to clothe China's increasingly better-clothed population.

Over 50 cotton experimental and research centres now working in the coun-

try have already produced a dozen new varieties suitable for different areas. Some of these are exceptionally promising and will be grown more extensively.

Hsueh No. 209 variety, bred by the Hsueh Agricultural Experimental Station, Kiangsu Province, was tested in 20 districts in the Yellow River cotton region. It gave an average yield 24.4 per cent higher than control varieties. It has a staple of 31.1 mm. and is the most promising new variety.

Long Staple No. 3, bred by the East China Research Institute of Agricultural Science by distant vegetative hybridization, is a new variety of Sea Island cotton. Experimental plantings in Kwangtung Province and Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region have given good results.

Other improved varieties are also being used on a wide scale. The area planted with them has increased from around 4 million *mou* in 1949 to over 80 million *mou* in 1957, which was 95 per cent of the total area sown to cotton.

This is only one of several measures being taken to increase cotton production.

Research centres have also been making experiments as to the most suitable number of plants in a given area and how they should be planted, and are now able to give valuable advice regarding this problem in relation to different areas and soil conditions. Many research centres have found that the sowing time can be put forward to an earlier date than that usually accepted, and confirmed that autumn ploughing helps to increase yield.

Autumn ploughing is widely being used throughout the country.

At the First All-China Cotton Experimental and Research Work Conference recently held in Peking, cotton research workers planned to select forty to fifty new varieties of Upland cotton, and four to five new varieties of Sea Island cotton during the Second Five-Year Plan. They will also work on key production problems in various areas, and find out reliable ways of producing 200, 300 or more catties of ginned cotton per *mou* to promote high yield production on large areas. This year nation-wide experiments on chemical fertilizers, irrigation and drainage, and green manure will be also started in relation to cotton production.

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

— Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc. —

Programmes are subject to change. Where dates are not listed, consult theatre or daily press.

PEKING OPERA

● **WU TSE TIEN**, the story of the concubine of the Tang emperor Tai Tsung, who later became the first woman ruler of China. With Wu Su-chiu, famous Peking opera actress.

Mar. 25 at 7 p.m., Kwangho Theatre

● **THE WHITE-HAIRED GIRL** A special presentation of China's most famous modern opera in Peking opera form. It is based on the actual story of a peasant girl who, forced to flee to a mountain wilderness from landlord oppression, returns to the world of man after liberation. The all-star cast includes Tu Chin-fang, Li Shao-chun, Yuan Shih-hai and Yeh Sheng-lan.

Mar. 25-28 evgs., at People's Theatre

THEATRE

● **A DOLL'S HOUSE** Ibsen's famous play produced in Chinese (under the title of *Nora*) by the China Youth Art Theatre.

Mar. 28-31 at China Youth Art Theatre

● **THE TEA-SHOP** A new play by well-known playwright Lao She staged for the first time. The atmosphere of the old society subtly reflected through the different fates of habitués of a famous old Peking tea-shop. Directed by Chiao Chu-yin and Hsia Shun. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

Mar. 29 & 31 at 7:15, Capital Theatre
Mar. 30 at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Capital Theatre

● **MISTRESS CLEVER**, a favourite folk-tale of the Chinese people. A fairy steps out of a painting to wed a poor wood-cutter. The envious emperor who tries to abduct her is foiled by her magic, and the couple lives happily ever after. Produced by the China Children's Theatre.

Mar. 25-27 at Peking Theatre

● **LOST A SHOE, A GARDEN ON THE SEA, PROSPECTIVE SON-IN-LAW, SAN CHIANG-HAO** Four one-acters produced by the Central Drama School. The first three are love stories in a contemporary Chinese setting, the last the story of a guerilla leader during the Anti-Japanese War.

Mar. 27 at Hai Tien Workers' Club

BALLET

● **VAIN PRECAUTIONS**, the ballet by P.-L. Hertel produced with the help of V.I. Tsaplina, Merited Artist of the R.S.F.S.R., and per-

formed by students of the Peking Ballet School.

Mar. 29 at 7:15 p.m., Tienchiao Theatre
Mar. 30 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m., Tienchiao Theatre

An Evening of SONGS AND DANCES

*Chinese folk songs and dances — by the Song and Dance Troupe of the Central Experimental Modern Opera Company

*Peking opera numbers including *Fight at the Crossroads*, *The Peony Pavilion*, *Yen Tang Shan*, etc., by the Shanghai Peking Opera Company

March 27 & 28 at 7:15 p.m., Tienchiao Theatre

FILMS

● **RIDING THE STORMY SEAS** How three lovely—and determined—young girls succeed in becoming China's first women river pilots. Produced by the Shanghai Chiang Nan Film Studio. In colour.

Mar. 25 Children's Cinema, Mar. 26 Chung Wen Workers' Club, Mar. 27 Peking Theatre, Mar. 28 Sheng Li, Mar. 29 Capital Cinema, Peking Workers' Club, Mar. 30 Chiao Tao Kou, Tungzu Workers' Club, Mar. 31 Hsin Chieh Kou

● **THE JOYFUL SOUND OF THE FLUTE** A returned veteran helps a group of poor peasants set up a farm co-op despite the conservative ideas of a local official. Produced by the Shanghai Hai Yen Film Studio.

Mar. 25 Chung Wen Workers' Club, Mar. 26 Ta Hua, Peking Theatre, Mar. 27 Sheng Li, Soviet Exhibition Centre Cinema, Mar. 28 Capital Cinema, Peking Workers' Club, Mar. 29 Chiao Tao Kou, Tungzu Workers' Club, Mar. 30 Hsin Chieh Kou, Mar. 31 Kwangan Men, Hsin Chung Kuo

● **THE DARK BEFORE DAWN** The adventures of a guerilla detachment in the Kuomintang rear during War of Liberation. Produced by the August First Film Studio.

Mar. 25 Peking Workers' Club, Mar. 26 Chiao Tao Kou, Tungzu Workers' Club, Mar. 27 Hsin Chieh Kou, Mar. 28 Kwangan Men, Hsin Chung Kuo, Mar. 29 Chung Yang, Mar. 30 Kwangho Theatre, Mar. 31 Children's Cinema

● **A NEW FOOTBALL**, a coloured puppet film. The story of a little boy who won't share his new football with others and finds you can't play football with a one-man

team. Together with the short, *Chinese Pottery and Porcelains*.

Mar. 25 Children's Theatre

Mar. 26 Capital Cinema, Hung Hsin

Mar. 27 Children's Cinema, Hung Hsin

● **SONG OF THE PHOENIX**, tells the story of a "child-bride" of the old society who becomes head of a co-op in the new. With many new Chinese songs.

Mar. 26 Sheng Li, Soviet Exhibition Centre Cinema, Mar. 27 Capital Cinema, Peking Workers' Club, Mar. 28 Chiao Tao Kou, Tungzu Workers' Club, Ta Hua, Peking Theatre

CONCERTS

The Central Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: Li Teh-lun

Sitson Ma: *Voice of the Forest, Love Song and Night* (from the symphonic suite *Forest*)

Wu Tseng-yung: Suite on Themes from Eastern Mongolian Folk Songs

Mozart: Concerto in D Major for flute and orchestra

Rimsky-Korsakof: *Sheherazade*

Soloist: Li Hsueh-chuan (gold medallist at the Fourth World Youth and Students Festival in Bucharest)

Mar. 30 at 10 a.m., People's Theatre
Mar. 30 at 7:15 p.m., Capital Theatre

SPORTS

● **NATIONAL FIRST-DIVISION FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS** Peking, 1957 national champions, v. Chengtu Physical Education Institute, runner-up in the 1957 second-division championships.

Mar. 30 at Peking Stadium

● **BASEBALL**, selection trials for Peking city team.

Mar. 30 at 9 a.m., Ti Tan Stadium

● **CITY GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS**
Mar. 29 & 30 at Shih Cha Hai Gymnasium

CHESS

● **WEI CHI (GO) CONTESTS**—Exhibition matches between Huang Yung-chi, 1957 East China champion, and Peking chess-masters Kuo Ti-sheng, Tsui Yun-chih, Chi Tseng-chu, etc. Everyday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. till April. All chess-lovers welcomed.

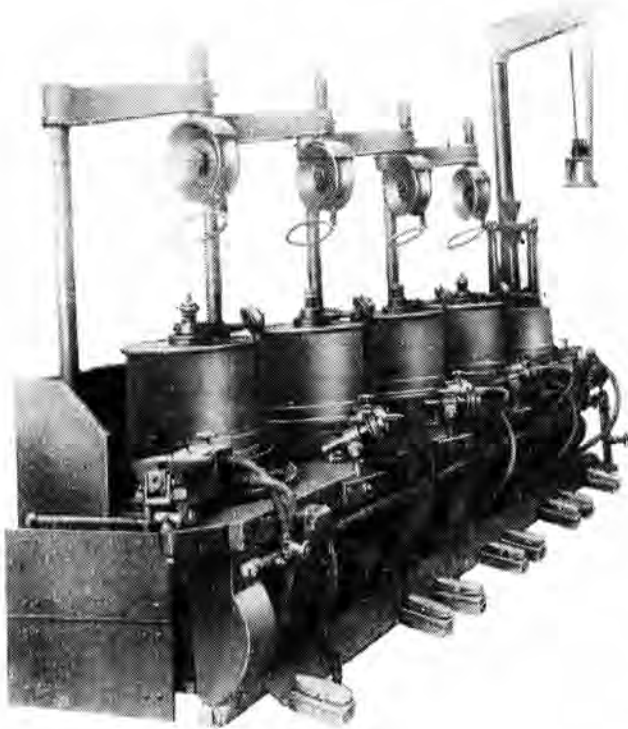
At the Peking Chess Research Society

BOATING

Spring is here! Boating on the lakes in Peihai Park and Shih Cha Hai, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and at the Summer Palace, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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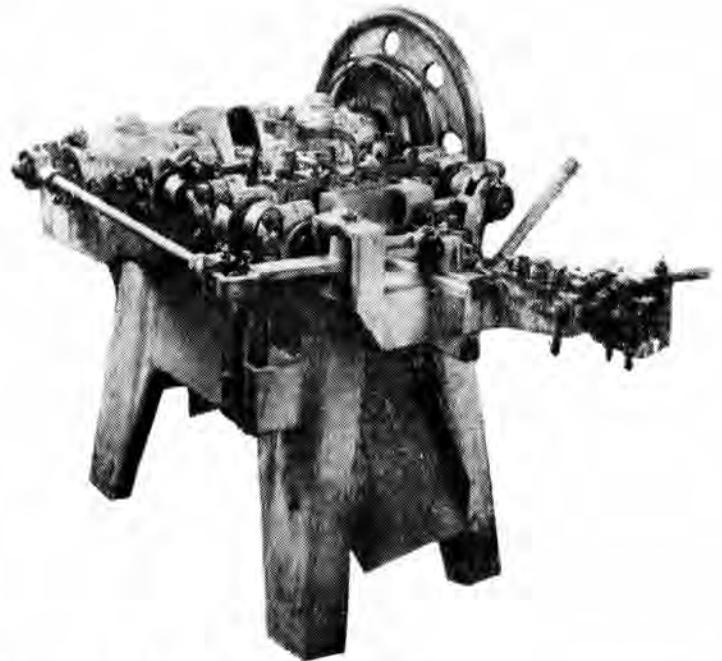
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