

PEKING

April 1, 1958

5

REVIEW

Modernizing Chinese Agriculture

The long-range plan of mechanization, "chemicalization" and electrification (p. 7).

Leaders Must Behave Like Ordinary Workers

Editorial of *Renmin Ribao* defines the correct style of revolutionary leadership (p. 6).

Science Sets New Sights

Why China believes it can catch up with the advanced world levels in science (p. 11).

Northeast China—Heavy Industry Base

Technical Revolution in Embryo, Price Cuts, and other news in **ROUND THE WEEK**

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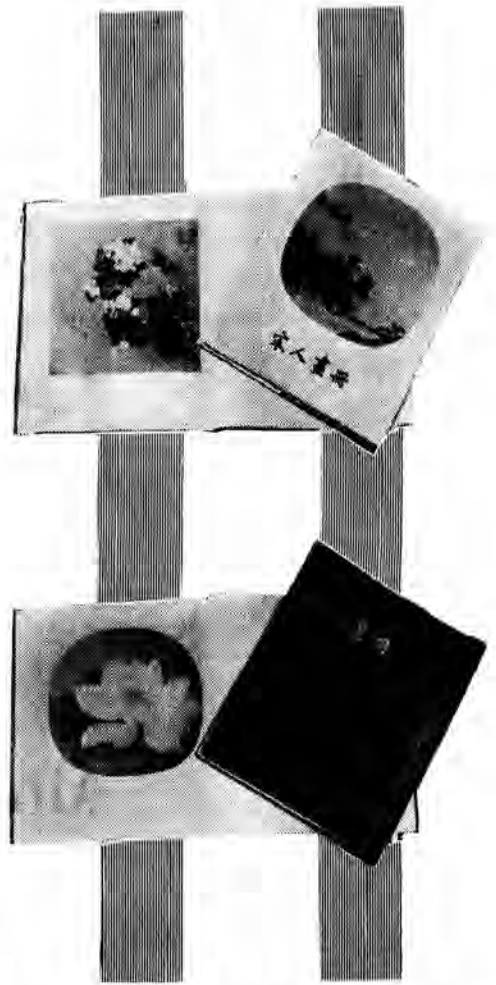
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Agricultural Co-operation in China

by Tung Ta-lin

Packed with essential statistics and facts, this 70-page pamphlet gives the why and wherefore of the tremendous enthusiasm with which China's 500 million peasants have taken to co-operation. The author describes rural conditions after the land reform, the socialist upsurge in the rural areas in 1956 and the important question of co-operation as a pre-requisite of mechanization of China's agriculture.

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(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
NEWS AND VIEWS

April 1, 1958 Vol. I No. 5

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PEOPLE'S China has made considerable headway in building socialism. The successes achieved in so short a time are particularly striking against the background of the inherited state of affairs from which we began after the liberation.

In the course of our progress there have been errors and shortcomings. The reasons are obvious. For one thing, socialism is something new. We are doing something our forefathers never attempted. In some fields we have had to start from scratch. In addition, China is many years behind the highly industrialized countries of the world. To catch up in a brief space of time very difficult and complex problems have to be coped with.

What's a proper estimate of our errors and shortcomings? There are two entirely different approaches. One is to look at the picture of China as a whole, assess the shortcomings in relation to her achievements, ascertain the causes and find ways and means to correct what's wrong. This is the objective way of looking at things for the simple reason that the achievements, in actual fact, far outweigh the shortcomings.

The other approach is to look at isolated aspects of the picture, magnify the shortcomings out of all proportions and conclude that things are in a hopeless mess. This subjective, one-sided way of looking at things reminds us of the familiar story about the blind men and the elephant. Each touched only a part of the elephant and insisted that the animal was anything but an elephant.

Errors and defects do exist in our work. Nevertheless, that does not alter the fact that achievements are predominant and shortcomings are minor. We talk of this as the relation of "nine fingers to one finger." The idea is—if you have hurt one finger you don't ignore it, but you don't behave as if you've lost both hands. You realize you've got nine good fingers to go on working with while you take care of the sick one, and the nine good fingers are the main thing.

Our way is not to cover up errors and drawbacks. The full airing of views in the rectification campaign has helped us to correct defects in our work.

Detractors of People's China have been busy making use of what they consider "muckraking" material which has appeared in the Chinese press to "prove" the tainted picture they have painted of China. Such jaundiced, one-sided reports often backfire.

In this connection, the American propagandist Wallace Carroll in his book *Persuade or Perish* has something interesting to say: "A false story put into circulation comes back in intelligence reports to fool the people who invented it. The sensational U-boat 'victories' which German propaganda exploited in 1941 and 1942 to compensate for the military reverses in Russia fooled not only the German people, but the German intelligence service, which was convinced in November 1942 that the Allies lacked the shipping to put an army into North Africa."

The moral of the story, as we see it, is that you make a fool of yourself when you try to fool the people. It seems to us that Carroll's warning, though made ten years ago, is as timely as ever for those who think they are doing a swell job in deliberately presenting one-sided and distorted pictures of New China to suit their own purposes.

ROUND THE WEEK

Technical Revolution in Embryo

"Yes, the earth is frozen, hard and tough. But we've got picks, which are tougher still. And our hearts are toughest of all. We'll finish the job." This was what peasants of a farming co-op, braving the rigours of winter nights to accelerate the progress of a big irrigation job, told Chou Yang, the well-known Chinese literary critic, when he recently visited a village in Kiangsu Province. These sentiments are shared by peasants throughout the country, who are making good by sheer hard work what they still lack in machinery.

But pluck and drive alone will not make the land yield as much as the Chinese peasants want, fast enough, in these days of high velocity in every field of endeavour in China. There must be modern, labour-saving, top efficiency tools to do the job. This need has already led to the improvement and invention of hundreds of new-type farm tools and transport vehicles. Most of them, like the pumps, suspension cable cars, wheelbarrows on wooden rails, are still rather crude devices compared with the products of modern industry, but they have raised efficiency many times over and have lightened the burden of manual labour to a great extent. They are a far cry from the simple bucket and pole-and-basket affairs.

It is not just one co-op, one village, or one province, that has turned to modernizing its production and transport tools. Many peasants, apart from their daily farm routine, have become blacksmiths, carpenters and toolmakers, from one end of the country to the other. It is a mass movement, a well-defined trend—the beginning of a technical revolution in China's agriculture.

This movement, "grown out of the fertile soil of the socialization of the means of production and nourished by the sunshine of people's democracy," as the *Renmin Ribao* puts it, is rolling along and, as it does, is beginning to fulfil the hopes of 500 million peasants for greater farm yields and villages improved along socialist lines.

At present, the countryside is busy with spring ploughing and sowing. Every co-op finds it can do with an extra pair of hands. There's a lot to do and already in a number of places the question of "labour shortage" is on the agenda. With a rural population of 500 million, "labour shortage" in China may sound incongruous. But what with irrigation, manur-

ing, water conservancy projects, and a thousand and one other jobs to raise output and create a higher standard of living, Chinese peasants today are feeling the pinch of too few hands. The movement for new tools opens great possibilities for solving such labour shortages.

Tools Innovation Committees have been set up by rural Communist Party organizations at all levels to help the peasants in improving tools and vehicles. What is now only a small beginning will develop into a technical revolution in the full sense of the term.

Tools innovation is only one side of the coin. Communist and non-Communist cadres are urged to acquire knowledge of science and technique, to be better equipped for carrying out their jobs.

The provincial Communist Party committee of Yunnan has organized special courses for its leading functionaries, to train them to be "Red and expert at the same time." In current Chinese parlance, "Red" means to be socialist in outlook and "expert" means to be professionally proficient. This is required of all Communist Party and state functionaries.

The beginning of a technical revolution in rural China has brought the question of grappling with science in both town and country very much to the fore.

2,000 Million Books This Year

In today's atmosphere of study and efforts to master science China's publishing houses feel a special sense of responsibility. They have to provide books for peasants as well as townspeople, for the teacher and student in the classroom as well as the worker at the bench.

To rise to the occasion, publishers recently met in Shanghai, under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture, to review their work and map out new programmes. The overriding need to keep pace with other fields of work was recognized by all. Quality was stressed, as well as the importance of meeting the needs of production in time, of dovetailing publishing plans with what industry and agriculture, education and science, want most of all. Provincial houses will concentrate on popularly-written manuals for factory and farm.

Hsinhua, the state book distributors, has planned this year's work with this in mind. It plans to sell two thousand million books, 60 per cent more than in 1957. The biggest increase is expected in

the rural areas where more and more peasants have learned to read and write.

Magazines, too, are improving in the current rectification campaign. *Wen Yi Bao* (Literary Gazette), a fortnightly, for example, is now so popular that it sold out every issue since January of this year. Its latest number announces further plans for improvement. There will be more and timelier reviews of novels and critical studies of individual authors.

China's keen reading audience is making greater demands than ever and publishers of books and magazines have had to get a move on too.

Price Cuts

Wireless sets, alarm clocks, fluorescent light bulbs and a wide range of medicines cost less. The price cuts were announced by the government and are now in force.

The prices for various drugs, including aureomycin and penicillin made in China, were slashed from 8 to 60 per cent, representing a saving of 33 million yuan for the people. It is the sixth price cut for medicines since last year, made possible by a further reduction in production costs and regular supplies from the factories.

China has been manufacturing wireless sets for only a few years. 380,000 sets came off the assembly lines in 1957. But this year the figure is expected to be more than twice as high to satisfy a growing market.

Many of the products now reduced in price were not made in China before at all. Now their output is on such a scale that price cuts are possible.

Electricity from "China's Sorrow"

The Yellow River, known as "China's Sorrow" for the havoc it has wrought down the centuries, will generate its first electric power on April 1, 1961, six months ahead of the original schedule.

At the Sanmen Gorge a huge hydroelectric station is being built. The first concrete has been poured into the foundation of a large dam which will be 90 metres high and will retain a head of water 350 metres above sea level. The river water to be held back here will form a huge reservoir, the biggest in China, second only to the Kuibyshev Reservoir in the Soviet Union, the largest in the world.

When complete, it will remove the threat of floods from 80 million people living on the lower reaches of the river; provide irrigation for 40 million mou of land; produce 6,000 million kwh. of electricity per year, with power sup-

plies to cities in Shensi, Honan and Shansi Provinces.

The Sanmen Gorge project is part of China's multiple-purpose plan to control the Yellow River and exploit its resources for industrial and agricultural uses.

Conference by Telephone

Hsushui County, in north China, has found a new method of leadership — conference by telephone. In this way the county government and the Communist Party organization can confer with the townships and farming co-ops "voice to voice" if not actually face to face.

Many sessions of this type have been held, giving direct and timely guidance to the cadres working at the township level, or in the farming co-ops. During the Spring Festival the county Communist Party committee called a conference by telephone to gather information on farming, on the progress of work, to sum up experiences and use them, in turn, to direct work again.

Conference by telephone saves time, gets quick results and cuts down bureaucracy. It is a blessing to cadres working at the grass-roots levels as they are spared the trouble of travelling to and from the county seat to attend meetings.

This system was introduced in China by the postmaster of Hsushui County and his colleagues. It is done by making certain adaptations to the telephone service and wireless receiving sets and the cost is negligible. This is so efficient and effective that other counties in Hopei Province and elsewhere are sending people to Hsushui to study this system with a view to introducing it in their own localities.

Tatsepao In the Countryside

Tatsepao — opinions written out in bold characters on large sheets of paper and freely posted for everybody to see — have taken root in the countryside. Widely used at first in industrial enterprises, government offices, schools and universities, and later in residential neighbourhoods in the major cities, such as Peking and Shanghai, this popular weapon of socialist democracy is now being wielded by the farm workers.

The peasants of Chaoyuan County, in Heilungkiang Province, are trying it out — and they like it. *Tatsepao* are hung up not only in front of the county's co-op offices but are also stuck up on improvised frames made of stalks out in the fields for everyone to see and read.

As in the cities, *tatsepao* here are used for criticism as well as commendation, for opinions on relations between co-ops, between one production team and another and criticism of individuals. Members

of one co-op visited another and after reading the *tatsepao* left one of their own, reading:

Your rice sprouts: commendable,

But your sanitation: unmentionable.

The criticized co-op went into action at once to remedy the situation.

At present *tatsepao* concentrate on production problems, but are also beginning to touch on other topics. Once it is taken up by the 500 million peasants — those who can't write can get help from others, as Chaoyuan County showed — this concise, lively and potent form of criticism will do much to shorten the time needed to realize the 12-year National Programme for Agricultural Development.

A Friendly Hand

Builders of the Ming Tombs Reservoir in Peking (discussed in our March 4 issue) began the day on March 24 with a pleasant surprise. Mr. Hassan Ragab, the United Arab Republic's Ambassador to China, had come to the construction site to put in a day's work, so as to express Arab friendship with the Chinese people. The Embassy staff and visiting professors and students from the U.A.R. in the capital came along with the Ambassador. They all spent the day working among the Chinese peasants, soldiers, people from government offices, teachers and students on the job.

Mr. Ragab told the press that he had been looking forward to a chance to do something, however small it may be, to show the appreciation of the Egyptian people for the support given by China's 600 million when Egypt faced aggression.

He was happy he could do this by lending a hand in the construction of the Ming Tombs Reservoir. From the way the reservoir is being built, the Ambassador said, he was convinced that a poor country can be transformed into a strong and prosperous one by relying on the efforts of its own people.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Greater Peking Peking's population is now 5.42 million, the Peking People's Council announced on March 20. The city's area was enlarged from 4,540 square kilometres to 8,770 when five neighbouring counties and one town were incorporated into the city limits by decision of the State Council. The newly-added areas will have the benefit of improved services and facilities.

Green-clad Yangtse Afforestation of the lower reaches of the Yangtse River has been completed. In Kiangsu Province, five rows of willows have been planted for a stretch of 1,000 kilometres.

Semi-Conductor Radios Shanghai has produced the first batch of semi-conductor radio sets to meet the needs of the rural areas where electricity is not yet available.

Coal in Sinkiang Coal deposits estimated at 390 million tons have been discovered in the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region. The coalfield lies within 18 kilometres of the Lanchow-Sinkiang Railway.

Coal in Peking In the western hilly regions of Peking coal deposits estimated at 2,000 million tons were found. At the present rate of consumption, the supply will last Peking for a thousand years.

Lanchow-Sinkiang Railway Tracklaying on the north-west overland railway, connecting Kansu with Sinkiang, will reach the important oil centre of Karamai in the western part of the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region by the end of 1959.

Farm Tools Exhibition A national farm tools exhibition will be opened in Peking in the middle of April.

Arabic Lessons Facilities for studying Arabic have been extended in Peking with the opening of spare-time Arabic courses sponsored by the China-United Arab Republic Friendship Association.



The United Arab Republic's Ambassador to China, Hassan Ragab, working at the Ming Tombs Reservoir

Leaders Must Behave Like Ordinary Workers

We present the text of the "Renmin Ribao" leader of March 26 (slightly abridged)—one of a number that have appeared in the paper during the rectification campaign criticizing bad attitudes and behaviour inherited from the past and defining the correct style of revolutionary leadership.

SINCE the beginning of the rectification campaign quite a number of *tatsepao* (opinions written out in bold characters on large sheets of paper and freely posted for everybody to see) have been put up in the Engineering Bureau of the Ministry of Railways, criticizing the style of work of the director. The most outstanding *tatsepao* were those criticizing the director's bad manners to his subordinates. This is something which deserves attention.

In our society, the leaders and the rank and file are cadres serving the cause of the revolution equally—they are all ordinary workers, and there is no difference whatsoever between them on this score. The relation between them is one of equality, as among comrades and among ordinary workers. Of course, the leaders and the rank and file have different positions. But this is merely a necessary division of labour in the cause of the revolution. And this division of labour differentiates them into cadres of higher and lower rank. This does not contradict their relations with one another as comrades and equals, because today the relationship between the leaders and the rank and file is entirely different from that in the old society. Between higher and lower ranks in New China, unequal relations of aristocrats and commoners, respected people and people held in contempt, do not exist. But it is a deplorable fact that in certain enterprises and offices, inequalities, which are hang-overs from the old society, are still to be found in one degree or another. In the current rectification campaign, we are carrying out a thorough house-cleaning of the phenomenon of inequality carried over from the past.

Bureaucratic Airs

In their *tatsepao* members of the Engineering Bureau criticized the director for being rather stiff with his subordinates, for not listening patiently to their opinions, and for infrequent contact with them. They expressed the hope that he would display a friendlier disposition to his junior colleagues and visit the various sections more often for friendly chats with the comrades. They also criticized the director because he often interrupted the people reporting to him, before they could finish, to express his own views. They requested that in the future he should "keep calm, patiently heed the opinions of those reporting to him and express his own opinions later on."

Those in positions of leadership are ordinary workers. Because they have become leaders their status as leaders often obscures their status as ordinary workers, making them appear extraordinary among the masses.

The case of the Engineering Bureau is by no means an isolated one. Bossy airs of this type hamper the initiative and creativeness of the cadres at the lower levels, who hesitate to speak out fully in the presence of their higher-ups and even "swallow half of their words when they are on their lips." Those in positions of leadership thus become estranged from the actual state of affairs, and become prone to errors of subjectivism and one-sidedness. All this is incompatible with the character of socialist relations of production and hinders development in all fields. During the rectification campaign, this state of affairs cannot escape severe criticism by the masses. Now, more than ever, we cannot tolerate it particularly in the new circumstances when industrial and agricultural production and, in their wake, all other fields of activity, are making a leap forward.

Cleaning Away the Dirt

Since the launching of the rectification campaign, much bossiness has been knocked out. Many of the comrades who were spattered with bossy airs are trying their best to clean away the dirt. The director of the Engineering Bureau of the Ministry of Railways, who was criticized, has already improved considerably in this respect. But, generally speaking, such improvements do not yet have a firm basis. Some comrades have done better than others; and some leading comrades, though they are trying their best to improve themselves, still lack a profound understanding of the cause of such bossiness. That is why it is necessary to draw a lesson from the struggle to rid the leaders of their bossy airs.

Some people in leading positions think that they are more resourceful and more competent than their subordinates, even though they don't feel that they are extraordinary or nobler than their subordinates. If this is not the case, why do they fail to show interest in the opinions of their subordinates and why don't they listen patiently to the reports of their subordinates from beginning to end? If this is not the case, why are they so reluctant to listen to views different from their own? That the leading cadres have a higher political level than the rank and file is a fact that cannot be denied. But this in itself is far from enough if there is to be competent leadership. One of the principal indications of whether a leader is mature or not is whether or not he firmly believes in the strength and wisdom of the masses. Leaders who always think that they are more competent than others have ignored precisely this point; they have broken away from the mass line of the Communist Party and fallen into the trap of subjectivism and arbitrariness. The best method of leadership is to settle differences of opinion through debate. A mature leader never fears different opinions in discussing a problem; what he fears is the absence of contending views as a result of which contradictions are covered up. A

leader who covers up contradictions and fears debate is a leader who knows nothing about dialectics and is subjective. Correct things have no fear of a struggle with incorrect things; only through struggle can what is correct become fuller and more perfect. Besides, the views of a leader cannot always be correct, not to speak of being fully perfect. Turning a deaf ear to different opinions creates the danger of mistakes.

Some leaders, in dealing with their subordinates, prefer to use such simple methods as giving orders and issuing directives. Even when they do seek the opinions of their subordinates, they often merely say, "What do you think of it?" in such a way that the person consulted is not in a position to express his opinions fully. You can't do without orders and directives. But, generally speaking, they should be collective decisions of an organization. In discussing work with his subordinates, the leader must do his best to avoid the manner of giving orders and directives. Otherwise the person he talks to will be conscious of the fact that one is the superior and the other is the subordinate. Such conversation will be restricted. The best way is to talk to your subordinates as you do with comrades of the same position. There should be a man-to-man talk without reservation. You just tell him what your views are and he tells you what he thinks. Ideas should be exchanged and should supplement each other and argue with each other so that the viewpoints may gradually meet. In this manner, your subordinate will feel that he is examining a problem with a comrade, not that there is inequality and a barrier standing between you and him. But the question is: why are some leaders accustomed to discussing problems freely only with those of their own rank and not to discussing things with their subordinates? This is the question that has to be pondered over deeply.

We should also consider the question of rudeness towards subordinates. Some comrades do not agree that this represents bossiness and an attitude of inequality to subordinates. They often say this is

because of bad temper. This argument does not hold water. How many of the comrades who are accustomed to blowing up at their subordinates treat their superiors in the same rude manner? We are afraid there aren't many. In fact, these comrades often think, consciously or unconsciously, that they are superior, that they give leadership to the subordinates and that it doesn't matter if they blow up. Can this be called an attitude of equality? Superiors should be strict with their subordinates and criticize their shortcomings and mistakes in time. But ill-tempered outbursts are an entirely different matter. Serious criticisms keep a person sober and improve knowledge. Outbursts, on the other hand, only make one feel embarrassed and subjected to unequal treatment.

More contact between superiors and subordinates contributes to better understanding and helps remove barriers. There has been considerable improvement in this respect since the rectification campaign began. For instance, many leading cadres now engage in manual labour. They join others in eliminating the "four evils,"* sweeping and cleaning, writing *tatsepao* in the big airing of views now going on, etc. Some comrades showed great determination. Leading cadres at the Pingan pit of the Fuhsin Colliery recently moved to the workers' dormitories. This is a highly commendable move. There are many ways of increasing contact and fostering friendship between superiors and subordinates. The crux of the matter is that a leader, in mingling with the people, should really behave as an ordinary worker. He should consult the comrades on various questions frankly and without reservations. Only in this way will the subordinates confide in the superiors and treat them as intimate, respected and trusted friends. Only in this way will the subordinates pour their hearts out and speak confidentially. Otherwise, all good methods become mere formalities. Even constant contacts would only be the appearance of intimacy, but there wouldn't be a true meeting of minds.

* Mosquitoes, flies, rats and grain-destroying sparrows.

Modernizing Chinese Agriculture

by WANG KUANG-WEI

China's agriculture will be modernized within the next fifteen years. This means mechanization, "chemicalization" and electrification of farm work.

DESPITE China's relative industrial backwardness, a great deal of farm machinery was sent to the countryside during the period of the First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957). It included 1,500,000 two-wheeled, double-share ploughs, 60,000 sowers, 20,000 horse-drawn harvesters, 1,100,000 "Liberation Model" waterwheels, drainage and irrigation pumps with an aggregate capacity of 360,000 h.p.

and a large number of vehicles. In addition, much modern farm equipment was imported, including 22,000 tractors (in 15 h.p. units), 970 combine-harvesters, and 17,000 tractor-drawn implements. These modern machines were used to farm 46 million *mou* of land, about 2.7 per cent of the country's total cultivated area.

This new equipment has immediately shown its worth. Here is a comparison between farming with fully mechanized and animal-drawn implements, made by the planning commission of the Heilungkiang Provincial Government:

Year	Area investigated (hectares)	Per hectare yield of land farmed by machines (kilogrammes)	Per hectare yield of land farmed with animals (kilogrammes)	Percentage of increase as a result of mechanized farming
1953	198	1,347	1,165	16
1954	1,319	1,827	1,375	33
1955	3,002	1,871	1,497	25
1956	7,529	1,983	1,594	24

North-east China, where Heilungkiang is located, has huge expanses of land with a relatively small population, so farm machines are in particularly great demand there. But they are also needed elsewhere in China. Since the advent of agricultural co-operation, farm production has greatly expanded; there is often a shortage of both manpower and draught animals, especially in the busy seasons. In Heilungkiang Province in 1957, each peasant farmed 55.35 *mou* of land as compared with 50.25 *mou* in 1952. In Hupeh Province the average per peasant is normally 6 *mou* but many actually farm 9 *mou*. As for draught animals, in many places 27 and sometimes even 31 *mou* of land has to be worked by each animal, whereas for intensive cultivation one draught animal is actually needed for every 20 *mou*. So not only the number of draught animals should be greatly increased, but farm machines are also needed to make up the deficiency.

More Farm Machines

But how to speed up mechanization? Clearly the only full answer is development of the engineering industry. In 1952 this industry's output was only 5.2 per cent of the value of China's total industrial output. By 1957 the proportion was raised to 9 per cent (if metal-processing is excluded). The value of farm machines produced was only about 8 per cent of the total value of all machines made in China.

While heavy industry goes ahead during the Second Five-Year Plan, the farm machinery industry will also make a big stride forward, so as to be able to turn out

large numbers of tractors of various types. Many areas have now made plans to mechanize farming in the next five years or so.

It is true that tractors are the mainstay of farm mechanization. But China needs more than that. She has more paddyfields than most countries, her irrigated acreage is increasing rapidly, and heavy rainfall in many areas brings frequent floods and water-logging. So the demand for drainage and irrigation machinery is also urgent. China now employs such machines with a total capacity of 510,000 h.p. By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan producers of drainage and irrigation machinery aim to meet the general needs of the country and ensure that the greater part of China's arable lands is irrigated.

Besides tractors and pumps, the farms need machines for sowing, transplanting, harvesting, and husking; small machines for processing and transporting farm produce; mowers and shearing machines for the pastures; machines for the lumber industry; and special machines for industrial crops and aquatic products.

In designing all these, full consideration will be given to local customs and habits, to geographic conditions and types of motive power available in a given region. Machines driven by wind or water power will be designed for certain places. Because of the lack of oil, Diesel engines will not be manufactured in quantity. Smaller and more mobile power units of a multi-purpose type seem to be favoured.

Old-type farm tools will not be totally discarded. The farmers are constantly making improvements and such improved versions will continue to be manufactured. Even with the progress of mechanization, they will be used for a long time. Small agricultural-implement factories will be set up in every administrative region or county to make them.

Chemicals

Fertilizers and insecticides are the main chemicals used in agriculture.

In 1952 the nation's total output of chemical fertilizers was 194,000 tons; in 1957 it had grown to about 800,000. The industrial advances made in the First Five-Year Plan enable China to equip her own chemical engineering works in the Second. It is quite possible that by 1962 production of chemical fertilizers may reach some 10 million tons a year. When, during the Third Five-Year Plan, the administrative areas and counties generally set up their own local chemical fertilizer plants, China may be turning out more than 30 million tons annually. This will make it possible to bring about the "chemicalization" of China's agriculture.



Here comes the tractor

Woodcut by Ku Hung

Generally speaking, the use of one catty of chemical fertilizer gives an increase of three or four catties in the case of grain or one or two catties in the case of cotton. Chemical fertilizers are also labour savers; 15 kilogrammes of chemical fertilizer are easy to move and they give an effect equal to that of about 1.5 tons of compost, an amount much harder to move.

China is very well situated as regards raw materials for chemical fertilizers. Her coal reserves are rich. She has large amounts of natural gas, ferrous sulphides, salt, gypsum, alum, and phosphorus ores. Interlaced with a countless number of rivers, her water power is inexhaustible.

Although there will be increased production of chemical fertilizer, the use of compost and other organic manures will not be neglected.

Insecticides are another aspect of "chemicalization." The People's Government has made manufacture of insecticides an important item in its plan to develop Chinese agriculture.

Twelve major types of insecticides have been developed. During the First Five-Year Plan, their use freed 1,500 million *mou* of land from insect pests. This gave an estimated saving of 5,750,000 tons of grain and 200,000 tons of cotton.

Research institutes and laboratories are studying various new chemical compounds which promote the

growth of plants. Serums and antibiotics for veterinary use are already being produced in some quantities.

Electrification

Striking progress, as shown below, has already been made in China's power industry. This will help rural electrification.

Growth in China's Electric Power Output

1941	5,960,000,000 kwh.	(record figure in pre-liberation China)
1952	7,260,000,000 kwh.	
1957	19,030,000,000 kwh.	

Eighty million kwh. were consumed in the countryside in 1957. This is still small but a vast advance over the past and a good augury for the future. There are now 360 small rural hydro-electric stations with a generating capacity of 15,000 kilowatts.

Many power stations will be built in the Second Five-Year Plan period. But progress will depend, in large measure, on the building of local hydro-electric power stations and this in turn is being facilitated by the construction of water conservancy works—and there is a great deal of activity just now in this field.

The socialist modernization of Chinese agriculture is an immense task. Apart from the problems mentioned, there are many others such as the improvement of seeds and soils, farm management, afforestation, etc. What we have mentioned merely suggests some of the vast immediate possibilities in the sphere of application of machinery, chemical aids and electric power.

Drought and Flood Control

Honan Makes the Grade

by YANG MIN

HONAN Province will increase its irrigated acreage from 32 per cent of its cultivated area, last autumn, to 70 per cent by the end of May. Since last October the building of small irrigation works in this central province has been going on at an unprecedented speed. In eight months a total of 50 million *mou* will be brought under irrigation. When the target is fulfilled, in May, a rainfall of 200 mm. will no longer cause flood or water-logging in the mountainous and hilly regions, the plains or lowlands while a drought lasting 100 days will not ruin the harvest. In other words, Honan will become the first province in China generally able to control ordinary floods and droughts—a target that the National Programme for Agricultural Development projects for 1967.

As a result of its progress in irrigation works, the province recently revised its annual target for grain output close to one-third higher than in 1957.

Honan is high in the north-west, flat in the central part and low-lying in the south-east. It gets most of its rainfall in three months—July, August and September—often in downpours. This makes for drought during the winter and spring and water-logging in the other two seasons. Historical records of more than two thousand years show that there have been over 900 droughts and floods in Honan. From 1937 to 1945, about one million peasant households every year had to flee famine and a great number of people died of hunger in the calamity-stricken areas.

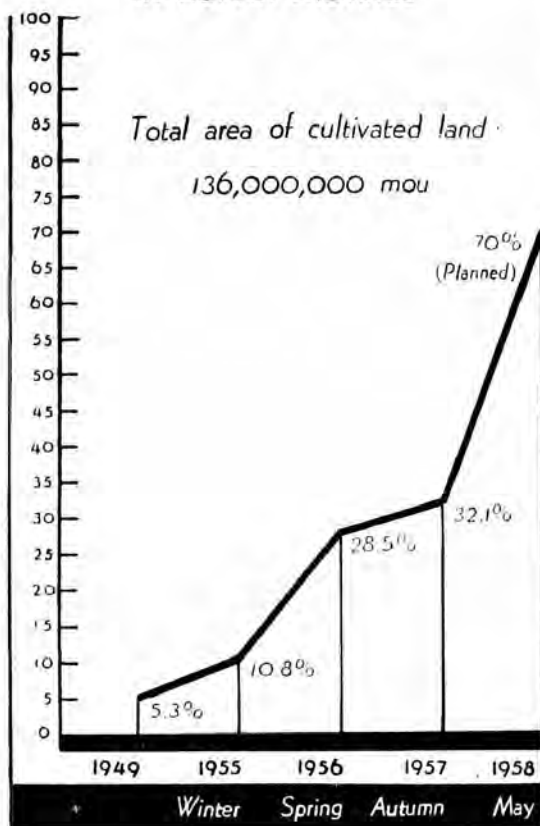
The people are now working to end these two century-old plagues by controlling water. Extensive small water conservancy works will receive the excessive water and put it at the service of the people wherever and whenever the people desire.

The steps taken by Honan and other provinces to achieve this goal follow three principles. First, emphasis is laid on the building of small water conservancy works, supplemented by medium ones. Large works are planned when their construction is deemed both necessary and practicable. Secondly, building of small and medium works depends mainly on the farming co-ops and supplementary state aid is given only to certain projects to help their completion. Thirdly, the main aim of these works is to store water for irrigation. Drainage will be applied only after the needs in an area are taken care of.

When the construction of water conservancy works in Honan was at its height, about 16 million men and women were working in the fields. Honan people invested over 40 million yuan and huge amounts of bricks, hemp and timber in the irrigation works. In the course of construction, numerous new tools that increased efficiency and saved manual labour were devised.

The working people in Honan left no stone unturned to make use of all sorts of water resources. At Kushih, a county in south-eastern Honan, the people built two irrigation canals, each 50 kilometres long. They are linked with 20,000 ponds and 11 old lakes and the whole system is able to store 260 million cubic metres of water. As a result, Kushih is fully prepared to meet flood or drought and its crops will be immune from ordinary natural calamities.

PERCENTAGE OF IRRIGATED FARM LAND IN HONAN PROVINCE



Yuh sien County in central Honan did quite a lot of work in water and soil conservation. By closely integrating these works with present farm production, it was proved that returns in the first year could cover all the costs in this field. People over there are now saying: "Preserve water and soil as you do your life, take care of the hills and gullies as you do your family." Thirty per cent of this year's planned work for water and soil conservation on the hills was completed in a fortnight and they are determined to finish by the end of 1958 what they planned to do in this field in five years.

In the past, people living along both banks of the Yellow River suffered a great deal from the scourge of this river. Today they are turning sand dunes to good use, building water conservancy works and planting rice in previously low land. People of Yuan yang, a county at the north bank of the Yellow River situated in the salt and alkaline lowland, are changing large tracts of their land into paddyfields. In fifty days, they completed over 4 million cubic metres of earthwork, equivalent to half of the earthwork done in the previous ten years. This year, 300,000 mou of land in the county are to be planted with paddy rice and 150,000 mou with dry rice. By next year rice fields will be expanded to 800,000 mou.

The whole of Fengchiu County, which is situated in the sandy region at the northern bank of the Yellow River, is now planting shelter belts, building irrigation canals and turning swamps into rice fields. As they work the members of the local farming co-ops sing this song:

The ten-thousand-year-old harmful river now turns out to be a boon.

All ten-thousand-year-old sand dunes will be planted with trees.

This year we build water conservancy works

To uproot poverty once and for all,

To sow the seeds of plenty and prosperity for all!

Rapidly expanded irrigation facilities enable Honan to plan for much more paddy rice. In three years it will increase its rice fields from 7.2 million mou (in



Watering the paddyfields

Woodcut by Ku Yuan

1957) to 50 million *mou* or 36 per cent of its total cultivated land. When this change-over is completed, 50 million *mou* alone will produce 30,000 million catties of unprocessed rice and wheat, an amount larger than the province's entire grain output in 1957.

This year Honan plans to shift 15 million *mou* to the growing of paddy rice. The success of this programme will set a good example for other areas with similar climatic conditions.

Honan solved the technical problems involved in the change-over in two ways. First it transferred 6,000 experienced rice planters from its rice growing counties and other provinces to the new rice areas. Secondly, it sent an equal number of farmers to learn the art in old rice-planting areas in Honan and other provinces.

Thanks to the expansion of rice fields and other measures to boost farm output, the 1962 grain output in Honan will be more than twice as large as it was in 1957.

Science Sets New Sights

by LING YANG

The forward leap in production in China urgently requires a similar leap in science. Can scientific research and development, so recently backward, forge ahead and quickly catch up with world standards? There is full confidence that it can — with the present favourable conditions.

THE economic plan for 1958 as passed by the National People's Congress calls for a 14.6 per cent rise in total industrial output (by value) compared with last year. Since its adoption in February, the movement for a "big leap" in production has evoked stepped-up plans in localities, factories and mines everywhere in the country. Industry, therefore, will go forward much more rapidly than anticipated. Moreover, many areas have undertaken to fulfil the National Programme for Agricultural Development for 1956-67 well ahead of time — in seven, six or even fewer years. Everyone is racing with time now, leaving old targets far behind. The whole people is on the move. This is the main feature of China today.

Technical Revolution

As production makes its big strides, a technical revolution is needed. Old tools and methods must be replaced by modern ones. Many of the 40 articles in the National Programme for Agricultural Development concern technical measures. In industry, such things are even more important.

In its technical revolution, China must master and apply, as soon as possible, the advanced scientific and technological knowledge of the Soviet Union and other countries. It must also undertake creative research in accordance with its actual conditions, develop its own scientific heritage and sum up the experience of the people in production.

The purpose is to enable the most urgently needed branches of science and technology to approach or catch up with advanced world levels by the end of the Third Five-Year Plan (i.e. in 1967). At the same time scientific and technical knowledge are to be spread broadly among the workers and peasants.

To ensure a leap forward in production, it is also essential to develop philosophy and the social sciences. These are important in studying the laws of socialist con-

struction and the correct handling of contradictions among the people. They are important in combating bourgeois ideology and in raising the people's socialist consciousness.

Advances in production push forward scientific development. The latter, in its turn, helps production forward. Such is the relationship of the development of production and science.

In the eight years since liberation, scientific work in China has made great progress. But its foundation in the past was so weak that it still lags far behind the objective needs. There is still no adequate survey of the country's natural resources; many important problems arising in industry and agriculture have not been studied; many major branches of science in China are still very weak, some are non-existent. It is a herculean task to change this situation radically, and catch up with the advanced countries in science.

Nevertheless, there are also many favourable conditions that ensure the rapid development of Chinese science. First of all, it now has a clear goal. Early in 1956, China worked out her long-range 12-year plan for the development of science and technology, through the joint wisdom of several hundred scientists and with help from the Soviet Union and other fraternal countries. A similar "perspective plan" was drawn up for philosophy and the social sciences. In the past, few Chinese scientists had long-term research plans of their own. And there was nothing like a nation-wide plan for scientific development. A radical change has taken place — research is no longer haphazard.

The next step is to organize the efforts of scientists to achieve these goals. The Planning Committee for Scientific Development, set up under the State Council in 1956, has done a great deal in the past two years to help various scientific research institutions to co-ordinate their activities.

Gains in Recent Years

Actual scientific work accomplished in China in recent years has also prepared the way for a real leap. The Chinese Academy of Sciences and other scientific research units have already done much to implement the most urgent measures included in the long-range plan.

Active research has been launched in some new fields such as atomic energy (work in this field is being carried

out on a fairly large scale), semi-conductors, low-temperature physics, computing technics, VHF (very high frequency) technics, automation, titanium metallurgy, fluorine chemistry, etc. Much more than before is being done in sciences closely connected with national construction such as calculus mathematics, mechanics, inorganic chemistry, microbiology, geobotany, mammalogy, fish ecology, seismology, geo-chemistry, etc. There have been considerable advances in metallurgy, petro-chemistry, high polymers and antibiotics.

China's natural conditions have been studied intensively. Large-scale resource surveys have been conducted. Basic theoretical research, the study of philosophy and social sciences have all moved forward.

More Scientists

In the meantime, in the past few years China's corps of scientists has grown bigger and stronger. The Chinese Academy of Sciences alone had a staff of 5,239 in 1952; by 1957 it had 17,335. In 1952, its research personnel was 1,292; by 1957 it had 5,506. In 1952, there were 317 senior research workers and technologists in the Academy; by 1957 there were 746, while the number of assistant research workers rose from 314 to 755. The number of junior research workers in the Academy rose fastest of all, from 661 in 1952 to 4,005 in 1957 — i.e. more than sixfold. The number of research institutes has also increased. In 1952 there were 31 directly under the Chinese Academy of Sciences; by 1957 there were 68. A great deal of equipment and apparatus has been installed in these institutes. Today, the facilities in some of the research institutes of the Academy of Sciences are as good and up-to-date as in some scientifically advanced European countries.

What has been done may be regarded as a preliminary foundation for the realization of the 12-year scientific plan.

In the outlook of scientists, too, there has been a change favourable to organized advance. The rectification campaign is now going on among them. It will certainly serve as a powerful stimulus to the development of Chinese science. Many scientists have criticized bourgeois ideas still present in their minds, such as placing one's personal interest above the public need, going after personal fame and gains, reluctance to help and co-operate with each other. They have begun to uproot such ideas, strengthened their socialist outlook and become keener in their work.

The Shanghai Institute of Experimental Biology is one illustration of the effects of this turn. Formerly, in its work, groups or sections were set up to accommodate persons. Without taking the needs of the state into due consideration, almost every senior research scientist set up a separate unit according to his speciality or his personal interest. Things went so far that two research fellows studying the same subject each went his own way without consulting the other. During the rectification campaign scientists of the Institute resolutely got rid of such individualist ways which wastefully dissipate strength in research. Now the whole Institute has been divided into four groups each with a major problem to investigate.

The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science is another example. It has proposed to co-operate in the fullest way with all agricultural colleges and schools, as well as with all the agricultural extension centres through-

out the country. Now work in this field can be carried out in a planned way, to serve the needs created by the forward surge in agriculture.

The last factor in ensuring the leap forward in science, a very important one, is selfless Soviet aid. China, at the time of liberation, was scientifically backward. If she had had to start everything from the very beginning, she could never have set herself the goal of catching up with advanced world levels at such a rate. Fortunately she did not have to labour under such handicaps. In atomic studies, for instance, China had no base at all. But in the past few years, thanks to help from the Soviet Union, she has not only built a 7,000-kilowatt atomic reactor of the heavy water type, the biggest in Asia, but also trained a group of her own research workers in this branch. In the field of rare metals, in which Soviet achievements are universally recognized as the world's most advanced, China is able to make use of Soviet production research in her own increase of variety of output in the Second Five-Year Plan.

Sino-Soviet Co-operation

In October 1957, the Chinese Government sent a scientific and technical mission to the Soviet Union; similar delegations were also sent by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Academy of Agricultural Science and the Ministry of Higher Education (now merged with the Ministry of Education). The delegations spent three months collecting the opinions of corresponding Soviet organizations on China's scientific plan and discussing how further to strengthen over-all Sino-Soviet co-operation in scientific and technical research.

In December 1957, the Chinese and Soviet Academies of Sciences made a detailed arrangement for co-operation. In January this year, an agreement was concluded between the governments of the two countries. It provides that during China's Second Five-Year Plan (ending in 1962), 122 important scientific and technical problems will be studied jointly by Chinese and Soviet scientists, or by Chinese scientists with Soviet aid. In 1958 alone, the two Academies will be working jointly on 89 subjects, and 288 senior Soviet specialists will come to work in China. Similar co-operation agreements were signed by the Soviet and Chinese Academies of Agricultural Science and Ministries of Higher Education.

At the meeting of the Planning Committee for Scientific Development held recently in Peking, its chairman, Vice-Premier Nieh Jung-chen, called on all scientists working in research institutes, higher educational institutions and elsewhere to do their best to help the leap forward in science. He said that every region in the country should make its own plan for scientific development and that Communist Party committees at all levels, down to the county level, should take the helm in this work. Many scientists spoke at the meeting. They expressed confidence and determination that the "perspective plan" can be fulfilled and a "leap forward" in science achieved.

CHINESE WEIGHTS and MEASURES at a GLANCE

1 *mu* = 0.06 hectare or 0.1647 acre

1 *tan* (picul) = 0.05 ton or 0.984 hundredweight

1 *chin* (catty) = 0.5 kilogramme or 1.1023 pounds

Experimental Farm Plots

— A Way to Improve Leadership

by TAO LI-WEN

Members of the Chinese Communist Party and functionaries of China's government are making a special effort to improve their ways of tackling problems. This is one of the aims of the Party's current rectification campaign.

In this connection, the name of Hungan, a small county in Hupeh Province, has become almost a household word. It succeeded, after several years' hard work, in getting a remarkable increase in agricultural output. This was mainly due to the fact that Party and government leaders there improved their "style of work" by taking a personal part in farm work and its technical improvement—a method now known throughout China as "working an experimental farm plot."

FARM yields in Hungan County shot up spectacularly in 1957. Its average grain yield per *mou* rose to 834 catties—116 per cent over its 1952 average and 18 per cent more than in 1956. This exceeded, ten years ahead of schedule, the target of 800 catties per *mou* set by the National Programme for Agricultural Development.

What's more, 163,000 *mou* of the county's farm land, 44.3 per cent of the total, yielded 1,000 catties of grain per *mou*. For peanuts, the yield was 625 catties a *mou*, an increase of 71.6 per cent over 1955 and 31.9 per cent over 1956. For cotton, it was 50 catties a *mou*, 56.3 per cent more than in 1956. Its livestock too showed a big increase over last year. The total income from agricultural produce of the county in 1957, including that from subsidiary occupations, was 142.6 per cent greater than in 1956. In other words, it more than doubled in the course of a single year.

In 1956, Hungan's first year of co-operative farming, 90 per cent of its 732 co-ops increased their yields. In a small number, however, output stayed the same or even dropped. But in 1957 every co-op reported an increase; and in 106 co-ops the increase ranged from 30 to 50 per cent. The total income of co-op members increased by about 40 per cent compared with 1956.

Imaginative Effort

All this was no gift from heaven. It was achieved by hard, imaginative effort. It was, in large measure, the result of a better "style of work" among Party and government workers. With their good leadership the Hungan peasants were keener on the job, improved their farm techniques and successfully fought natural calamities.

Before October 1956, members of the county committee of the Communist Party seldom went out to the villages and farms—they were content to sit in their offices doing paper work. People joked about them:

"They like to work in the offices and not in the fields; they like to visit prosperous co-ops, not lagging ones; they like to talk with government and co-op officials but not with the peasants."

During their first year as co-op farmers, the peasants naturally had no experience of working in the new way. Apart from that, many leading functionaries held aloof from the people and some mistook their preconceived ideas for the facts. That was why, in their first year, output dropped in no less than 10.7 per cent of the co-ops. Only 30 per cent showed an increase, and this ranged from merely 5 to 10 per cent—not more.

Drastic Measures

In the winter of 1956, however, the county committee, in line with the directives of the Central Committee, took measures to reform its method of leadership and style of work. The most important of these was transfer of functionaries at higher levels to the "grass roots." Fifteen of the abler officials of the district Party committees were transferred to serve as secretaries of Party branches in backward townships; 195 capable functionaries of township grade were sent to 176 backward co-operatives, to work there for several years with responsibility for definite tasks. In the co-ops themselves, over a thousand people who had been doing administrative work were sent to production teams in the fields. In this way the leadership of the co-ops was strengthened and brought closer to practical tasks.

Members of the county Party committee themselves paid regular visits to the farms. In some cases Party committee offices were moved from their normal centres to key localities in the drive for higher outputs.

This was all to the good, of course, but some functionaries still failed to get to grips with the job and the situation. When Wang Shu-chang and Teng Kai-chih, two local Party officials, came down to one farm on an inspection tour, they hung about on the borders of the fields, with "city" shoes on. The peasants were irritated. "Get out of here, you play boys," one shouted. "You're only breaking the ridges of our fields!" When Chang Ching-tien, deputy secretary of the county Party committee, heard about this, he said, "The peasant was right, he had good reason for scolding. It's because we don't join in farm work. Unless we do, we'll never be able to give real leadership in production." So Chang bought himself a hoe and went to work in the fields; all the other county functionaries did the same. Soon 11,000, from all levels, were helping on the farms. This brought them shoulder

to shoulder with the peasants, who worked with more keenness.

Working in the fields all day was a good thing, but the functionaries found it still didn't enable them to grasp the whole situation. A mere taste of production wasn't enough to teach the peasants how to work better.

Key to the Problem

It was Cheng Peng, first secretary of the county Party committee, and Ku Chung-teh, director of its department of rural work, who found the key to the problem.

In March 1957 Cheng Peng, with Chu Yi-hung, director of the county technical station, chose a small one-mou plot at one of the co-ops as an "experimental farm" for peanuts. They enlisted the help of two men experienced with this crop, Chin Lao-wu, a production team technician, and Chin Pi-chuan, a well-to-do middle peasant. By combining modern agricultural methods with the accumulated know-how of veterans of local farming, they were able to work out and put into practice a number of new ideas. These included the application of fertilizers before sowing, mixing of the seeds with nodular bacilli, and close planting.

The local peasants had frowned upon applying fertilizers before sowing. But Chin Pi-chuan's experience proved it could raise productivity by 25 per cent. The efficacy of close planting was also doubted. Most peasants thought it wasn't worth the extra work it demanded. But some of the older men stood up for it, and reported they themselves had got a threefold or even tenfold crop with it. Cheng Peng and his colleagues decided to try out these methods and the result was amazing.

The news that the Party secretary was himself working an "experimental plot" soon spread far and wide. Party and government functionaries of districts and townships came to have a look. Cheng Peng showed them his results. Seeing is believing and the visitors, deeply impressed, went back home to set up their own "experimental plots" for various crops. Such demonstrations and on-the-spot discussions in the fields have also proved

to be a fine way to promote new ideas, and "field conferences" have spread as another feature of the new way of leadership.

The most important effect of Cheng Peng's "experimental plot," however, was on the peasants. It broke down their old set ideas about farming and encouraged them to go in for new techniques.

After studying Cheng Peng's experience the county Party committee decided that the "experimental farm," as a leadership technique, should be widely promoted. So in 1957, no less than 1,151 of the 1,470 county, district, township and co-operative functionaries in Hungan started similar plots. On all of them, the per-unit-area yields exceeded those of the co-ops where they were located. Quite a few set up new records. They became a powerful factor in the agricultural advance of the whole county.

All Hupeh Province then took the idea up. The news soon travelled beyond it and attracted nation-wide attention. Many provinces followed suit, and the same idea was adapted to industry and other activities (see round-up on the next page).

Far-reaching Effects

The "experimental farm" approach has a significance beyond boosting production; it ushers in a change in the working methods of Party and government personnel.

The "experimental plot" is an effective way of cleaning up "bureaucratic airs," and strengthening the links between those in leading positions and the masses. The Chinese Communist Party was born among the people and during its more than thirty years of existence it has always maintained its intimate ties with the masses. It was mass support that brought them to victory. The Party has constantly warned its rank and file members to guard against any separation from the people.

But some have forgotten these instructions and have let themselves be influenced by the bad bureaucratic style of work of the old society. Instead of being modest, they become conceited. They are content to work in their offices and seldom think of going out among the masses. The present rectification campaign is directed against such bad practices.

The cultivation of "experimental farm plots" has proved to be a very effective way to combat bureaucracy. Many functionaries of Hungan County were once reluctant to go out to the fields; when they did, they found that "while their bodies were in the fields, their minds remained in town." But now things are changing. After working side by side with the peasants in the fields for some time their feelings are with them—"now our minds are on the fields." They are serving the people body and soul.

The cultivation of "experimental farm plots" has proved itself as an excellent method of work. It puts a quick end to subjectivism, to dreaming things up in one's head instead of basing one's views on objective reality. This is another goal of the rectification campaign. Chairman Mao Tse-tung has stressed that "the two methods which we Communists should employ in carrying out any task are, first, the linking of the general and the specific

On Methods of Leadership

By Mao Tse-tung

The method of leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, as many know, is the "mass line." It has contributed greatly to the success of China's revolutionary struggles, and of her socialist construction today. This pamphlet, written by Mao Tse-tung in June 1943, gives the basic principles of the "mass line." It shows it as the opposite of bureaucratic leadership, in which touch is lost with the people and with the real state of affairs.

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Round-up

"Experimental Farm Plots" Across the Country

Mastering Technique

All the 1,800 official personnel in Liuyang County, Hunan Province, who have duties in connection with agriculture, from the secretary of the county Communist Party committee down, till their own "experimental plots." Almost everywhere one sees wooden signs in these fields, with all kinds of data on them.

In Kiangsi Province no less than 20,000 state functionaries are experimenting not only with farm crops but also in forestry, pest-prevention, and pig-breeding.

In Szechuan, Party and government personnel responded eagerly when the provincial Party committee called upon them to master the essentials of agricultural science within three years—by attending lectures and working on the "experimental farm plots" under the guidance of veteran peasants. This is to enable them to help push average crop yields to 800 catties a *mou*, the target set by the National Programme for Agricultural Development.

Women Champions

Women are right in there too. In Huangkang, Hsiaokan and Chingchow districts, all in Hupeh Province, at least 22,600 are experimenting on 22,000 *mou* of land. They are known on the job for their devotion to work, extreme care and eagerness.

Among the many who have set up crop records are a team led by Chou Ting-ying of the Shouyi Co-op which succeeded in raising 1,430 catties of cotton a *mou*, and Peng Hsueh-ying. The latter took a poor piece of land at the foot of a hill, which used to yield about 800 catties of rice per *mou*, and made it produce a record 3,190 catties!

In Factories and Mines

The administrators of five cotton mills in the industrial city of Wuhan, on the mid-Yangtse, have adapted the "experimental plot" principle to their own problems. Experimental "spots" have been set up in the workshops, at every segment of the manufacturing process from start to finish, where the factory Party secretaries, managers, engineers and trade union chairmen do production jobs, study working methods and look for ways to improve technique.

The leading personnel of the big railway wagon and carriage works in Harbin, north-east China, found still another way. Every Wednesday they left their offices and went to work in the shops. Mornings they participated in production; afternoons they helped to solve various problems that had arisen in the shops.

Two shops were specially picked as "experimental plots"—one led in production and the other lagged. Here, senior members of the managerial staff took shifts in every

section. After working for some time they met to discuss why the one was ahead and the other behind. Thus they helped all the other shops to see their own problems more clearly, and move ahead more quickly.

This method helped overcome inefficiency in the casting workshop which had long been a bottle-neck in the factory.

The system was applied to mines last November in the Hoshan Colliery, Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region. A special section in the pits was set aside for work by leading functionaries, including the director and Party secretary of the mine. Each spends four to six hours a week digging and transporting coal, so as to understand more about production.

In Shanghai, the managers of many factories took on jobs in the workshops for so many hours each week. So good were the results that the Shanghai City Committee of the Communist Party, on February 12, instructed all Party secretaries and deputy secretaries, factory directors and vice-directors, trade union chairmen and the Communist Youth League secretaries in factories and enterprises to set aside a half-day each week for productive work. All are required, within a definite period, to master a skill and the scientific knowledge connected with their respective factories.

Functionaries of the municipal and district Party committees are also to participate in actual production in basic units under their charge.

Experimental Hospital

To improve ways of work, the Ministry of Public Health in Peking has decided to set up "experimental plots" under its own jurisdiction. The Minister, Vice-Ministers, and members of its leading Party organ will each leave their offices for four months of every year to make field studies in areas of endemic disease, public health organizations at the grass-roots and the medical colleges. Heads of departments and bureau chiefs, will go to work in basic units by rotation. "Experimental plots" will be established in a county in Hunan Province in south China, in north China, and the hilly regions of Shensi Province, where department heads and bureau chiefs of the ministry will temporarily head the local public health sections or hospitals. In Peking, City Hospital No. 6 is to be an "experimental workshop" for leading personnel.

Experimental Fishing Boats

To give better leadership in the fisheries the Communist Party and government officials of Chapu, on the coast of Kwangtung Province, are putting out to sea in "experimental fishing boats." Their aim is to find ways to get a bigger catch than the local fishing co-ops and then spread the new methods.

and, second, the linking of the leadership with the masses." To carry out a plan those in leading positions should give practical and specific leadership, first do it in one place, in order to show others how it should be done, and then spread it to other places. Without specific leadership there can be no real leadership. Hungan is a good example of concrete leadership.

By bringing together the modern, scientific knowledge of the agricultural technicians, the experience of veteran

peasants and the proper, down-to-earth guidance of the functionary, old conservative ideas were cast aside, new techniques were introduced, and crop yields increased. By working closely with the peasants, the functionary is able to listen to the voices of the people, draw on their collective wisdom, and thus avoid subjectivism. It is the "mass line" in action.

Within the ranks of New China's functionaries there are many who have gone through the fires of the revolu-

tion. They are well-tempered, loyal to the socialist cause. Great attention is now focussed on the need for people who are both "Red" and "expert." To build socialism in China large numbers of such people who are not only politically and ideologically loyal to the socialist cause but are equally well-versed in technical know-how must be trained.

The Hungan functionaries have shown the way to be experts. By working on their experimental plots they came to grips with farming and farming technique and are now able to tell people how to do things better.

It is no surprise that the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party attaches great importance to this. In a notice issued on February 14, calling on all Party organizations to discuss and learn from the experience of Hungan County, it says: "The cultivation of experimental farm plots is a method by which bureaucratism and subjectivism can be thoroughly overcome. It can clean up 'bureaucratic airs' and enables cadres to go to

the masses and lead them. It can show cadres the way to become both 'Red' and 'expert,' and to bring about the integration of politics and technique. The entire membership of our Party should effect the integration of politics and technique. We shouldn't be 'practical people' who have lost their bearings, nor should we be empty-headed politicians." "Therefore," the notice continues, "the spread of the experience of cultivating experimental farm plots to all fields of work throughout the country is one of the fundamental measures for the fulfilment of the tasks of the rectification of the Party. Aside from those cadres who are engaged in agricultural work and who should widely cultivate experimental farms, other comrades who are working in the fields of industry, communications and transport, finance and trade, culture and education, and comrades in leading positions should seriously study the method of cultivating experimental farm plots, in connection with the characteristics of their work and draw up the required conclusions in order to clean up 'bureaucratic airs' and gradually become both 'Red' and 'expert.'"

Vanguard Area

Northeast China—Heavy Industry Base

A considerable portion of the industrial plants built in old China were in the north-eastern provinces. After liberation the existing industrial foundation there was put to work to help the rapid development of production all over the country. Early in the period of the restoration of the national economy (1949-52), while rehabilitating the industries in that region which had been badly damaged by the Kuomintang, the People's Government also prepared for large-scale new industrial construction there. During China's First Five-Year Plan (1953-57), north-east China became a centre of such building in which the state invested heavily, organizing the whole population to give it support.

New Giant Units

In north-east China, over 150 big industrial units, in the above-norm investment category,* were constructed. They included China's first seamless steel tube mill, motor car works, and heavy rolling mill, expanded facilities for the Fengman Hydro-electric Power Station, and the new Haichow open-cast colliery. All went into production during the First Five-Year Plan. And many other big factories and mines will be completed early in the Second Five-Year Plan.

* The norm of investment in capital construction for heavy industry ranges between five to ten million yuan and that for light industry, between three to five million yuan.



Map by Su Li

As a result of the establishment of new branches of industry and the expansion and modernization of existing ones, north-east China's industry is no longer of the colonial type, as in the past. Today this economic region turns out a variety of metal products, complete equipment for many types of industrial plants, basic chemicals and all kinds of fuels from the rich local resources. Be-

fore liberation the important industries were in Liaoning Province, in the south of the region; in the First Five-Year Plan, Kirin Province in its central area, and Heilungkiang in the north also assumed industrial importance.

Iron and Steel

In the First Five-Year Plan, north-east China's iron and steel output grew very quickly, as did that of steel products and high grade alloy steels which the country badly needed. In 1957, it produced 3.7 times as much pig iron as in 1952; 3.7 times as much steel; about four times as many steel products.

Forty-one big new or renovated units were added to the state-owned Anshan Iron and Steel Works, centre of the north-eastern industrial base, between 1953 and 1957. They included six automatic blast furnaces, ten coke ovens, two steel plants, eight rolling mills and seven ore-dressing and sintering plants. As a result of their completion and improvements in production techniques at Anshan, China's output of iron and steel products increased greatly in quantity and variety in her First Five-Year Plan. This helped the nation carry out its programme in geological prospecting, the construction of factories, mines, railways and bridges and current production.

The non-ferrous metals industry, always a weak link in China in the past, also made considerable progress in the north-east.

On the basis of the development in metals, branches of the engineering industry of tremendous significance to the technical re-equipment of China's national economy have grown up in the north-east.

The heavy engineering plants of Liaoning Province can now make mining, ore-dressing and metallurgical equipment, giant forges and presses and heavy vehicles used in factories and mines. During the First Five-Year Plan, industries in this province produced the essential equipment for three of Anshan's new automatic blast furnaces. When the giant Fularki Heavy Machinery Works in Heilungkiang Province is completed under the Second Five-Year Plan, complete equipment produced in the region will include that for giant rolling mills.

In the current plan period, the up-to-date No. 1 Motor Car Works in Changchun will broaden its range to include many types of vehicles, including lorries, ambulances and passenger models. A large number of new steam locomotives made in Dairen, and of up-to-date wagons and coaches from the Tsitsihar Works will be running on China's railways. Shipbuilding in Dairen is being expanded, and the yards there will turn out 10,000-ton ocean-going vessels.

In Shenyang, factories manufacturing wire, cables, transformers, switch-gears, etc. were completed in 1957. Together with new plants in Harbin, which make electric-power generating equipment, they enable China to build giant thermo- and hydro-electric power stations without resorting to imports.

The chemical industry centre at Kirin, relying on by-products of the iron and steel works in the north-east for its raw materials, went into production in 1957 — marking an important change in the country's situation in this regard. It will be further expanded, creating a comprehensive base for basic chemicals used in the manufacture of fertilizers, plastics, synthetic fibres, synthetic rubber



Making steel ingots

Etching by Chen Hsiao-nan

and high grade dyestuffs and laying a foundation for the organic synthetic chemical industry in China.

Fuel and Power Industries

Alongside the iron and steel and other heavy industries, the fuel industry in the north-eastern provinces was also greatly expanded in the past five years. The Fushun, Fuhsin, Hokang and Shuangyashan collieries have greatly increased their output. In the First Five-Year Plan, more than ten power stations were built in Fengman, Fushun, Fuhsin and Kirin among other places. The Liaoning Thermo-electric Power Plant — biggest of its kind in China — is now under construction. The north-eastern synthetic petroleum industry produces a large part of China's crude oil.

The building materials industry in the region has made much progress, conforming to the needs of large-scale economic construction there.

The Kiamusze Comprehensive Paper Mill, now completed, is able to provide all sorts of paper for industrial use.

The timber and sugar industries of the north-east have also grown considerably.

The total industrial output (by value) of the north-east region, not including that of handicrafts, had increased by 144 per cent in 1957 as compared with 1952, an average annual rate of growth of 19.5 per cent.

With the fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan, north-east China has turned into a powerful industrial base for the nation. In the Second Five-Year Plan, it will supply the main iron and steel products, machines and other heavy industrial goods needed for the building of new industrial bases in central, north, north-west and south-west China — speeding up the industrialization of the whole country.

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

Refuting Robertson

"Robertson's claim that the U.S. 'military posture' in Asia is directed against China alone is an obvious smokescreen," *Renmin Ribao* stated in a March 23 commentary which point by point refuted the attacks made on the Chinese People's Republic by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Walter Robertson in Washington on March 20.

"One has only to review developments after World War II," the commentary said, "to see how often the United States has invaded the countries of Asia and intervened in their domestic affairs. It spent 6,000 million U.S. dollars arming the reactionary Chiang Kai-shek clique for civil war in China; it gave several thousand million more dollars to help the French colonialists in their war in Indo-China and another 1,500 million dollars to help the Dutch colonialists in their attack on the Indonesian people. Its aim is to turn these areas into an American sphere of influence and American colonies.

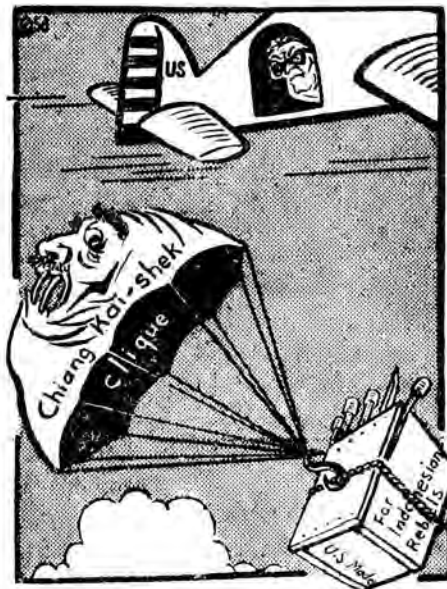
"To maintain this same 'military posture,' the United States has patched up the SEATO and Bagdad blocs which are not only directed against the socialist countries but have, in fact, become instruments of its large-scale colonial aggression in Asia. This is proved by Washington's plan to use the Bagdad bloc to invade Syria and its use of SEATO to interfere in the internal affairs of Indonesia. The United States has established a multitude of military bases and stationed troops permanently in many Asian countries; it also often holds military and naval manoeuvres in Asia and the Pacific. All this is a threat to the Asian countries, first of all to the countries under U.S. 'protection,' and also to other Asian countries adhering to the policy of independence and peace. The fact that most of the U.S. weapons given the Indonesian rebels were smuggled in via the Chiang Kai-shek clique in Taiwan is convincing proof that the United States' 'military posture' in Asia, including its military activities in Taiwan, is directed not only against the Chinese people but also against the people of all other Asian countries."

"Robertson's wild charge that China constitutes 'the only threat' to the independence of the Asian nations' is sheer calumny," the paper continued. "Since the very first day of her inauguration, the People's Republic of China has con-

sistently carried out a good-neighbour policy of peace. China is one of the initiators and a faithful follower of the five principles of peaceful co-existence; she has always respected the independence of the Asian countries. . . . Even U.S. Con-

gressman Saund, following his visit to South-east Asia last year, had to admit that he had found no evidence of a 'Communist threat' in South-east Asia, not even in Indonesia."

Referring to Robertson's attack on the Chinese people in connection with the Korean question, the paper stated that "on their own initiative the Chinese People's Volunteers have already begun their withdrawal from North Korea. This



Just a bit of "anti-subversion" work
Ke Chao-chuan in "Gongren Ribao"

peace move is acclaimed throughout the world. Now the Asian peoples are asking: When will American troops leave South Korea?"

In Hitler's Footsteps

"The Adenauer regime is following in Hitler's footsteps," declared *Da Gong Bao* (March 27), commenting on the Bundestag's decision to arm the West German forces with atomic weapons.

"This West German move sounds a warning to all who love peace.

"Adenauer, flouting world opinion, has turned a cold shoulder to the Rapacki plan for a denuclearized Europe and the people's demand for a summit conference. All this is because he wants West Germany to have atomic armaments."

Renmin Ribao (March 22) described Bonn's insistence that the German ques-

tion be discussed at the summit as "echoing an old tune from Washington."

"The unification of Germany is a domestic issue for the Germans themselves. It can only be achieved by the two German states through negotiation," the paper added.

Whither Britain?

"Harold Macmillan has said many nice things about the summit conference," *Da Gong Bao* noted on March 21, "but now Whitehall has turned round and announced full support for the American stand on the agenda issue, although it is well aware that this American proposal actually puts obstacles in the way of convening the conference. . . . Increased vigilance by the people is obviously called for."

Pointing out that Macmillan's recent talk about "deterrent strength" and waging atomic war against the Soviet Union will not win the Conservative Party the popularity which recent by-elections show it to be losing, the paper declared: "Facts have proved that the armaments' drive and war preparations can only worsen the economic situation and aggravate the political crisis in Britain. British public opinion has pointed out that without peace, the country is doomed. For her own good if for nothing else, Britain should take positive steps to bring about the summit conference."

U.S. Obstructs Journalists

U.S. obstruction is the real reason why an exchange of Chinese and American correspondents does not take place, declared *Renmin Ribao's* commentator on March 23. He was refuting the allegation by a State Department official that China was to blame for failure to bring about such visits.

Tracing the history of this case, the commentator recalled that "In August 1956, and on successive occasions China approved applications by American correspondents to visit China. But they were prevented from coming by the passport ban imposed by the U.S. Government which wished to keep the American people in the dark about the true state of affairs in China. In August 1957, the U.S. State Department, under critical fire both at home and abroad, finally announced that it would issue passports to a limited number of American journalists on an 'experimental basis,' stating publicly at the same time that it intended to make use of these correspondents to collect intelligence in China. The State Department also arrogantly laid it down as a condition for approval of the American correspondents' visit that China should not demand reciprocity. . . .

"In an effort to promote mutual understanding between the Chinese and American peoples, the Chinese representative at the seventieth Sino-U.S. ambassadorial meeting in Geneva proposed an agreement 'to give permission, on an equal and reciprocal basis, for correspondents of the other side to enter their respective countries for news coverage,' but this too was rejected by the United States."

Renmin Ribao's commentator characterized as "meaningless" the State Department's extension of the validity of passports of American correspondents wishing to visit China and its talk about welcoming visits by Chinese journalists, unless it changes its arbitrary and arrogant attitude and settles the question of mutual visits in accordance with international usage and the principles of equality and reciprocity.

Okinawans' Victory

"Despite their despicable tricks, the U.S. occupation authorities failed to stop the advance of the democratic forces in the recent Okinawan elections," wrote *Renmin Ribao's* commentator (March 26).

In their attempt to undermine the election campaigns of democratic groups in Okinawa and offset anti-U.S. sentiments the American authorities on the island resorted to all kinds of underhand manoeuvres. One of their most shameless frauds was to broadcast a news bulletin in the name of Radio Peking, stating that a spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry had declared that China would "never give up its sovereign rights over the Ryukyu Islands."

Refuting this slander and defining China's position with regard to Okinawa, the commentator referred to Premier Chou En-lai's statement on the U.S.-British Draft Peace Treaty with Japan and the San Francisco Conference on

Mind You Don't Catch Cold!

Answering questions of American correspondents on the economic situation in his country, the West German Economic Minister, Ludwig Erhard, said in Washington he was rather pleased that the "too hectic climate" in the West German economy had "cooled down a little."

January this year saw a drop of 7 per cent in export orders for West German factories; production of machine-tools went down 19 per cent for the first time since the last war; mountains of unsold coal are piling up in the industrial Ruhr, and the unemployment figure climbed to 1,325,000. Cool?

Free World...

At least 40 million people in the United States—nearly one-fourth of the population—have been investigated for one reason or another, said Donal MacNamara, Dean of the New York Institute of Criminology, in an interview with the *New York Post* on March 5. "More than 250,000 people are employed in the private investigating field and the number is rising steadily," added this expert of 25 years' standing in the field of prying into other people's affairs. He listed among this army of snoopers, the FBI, police, intelligence security agencies, congressional and state legislative committees, private employers, anti-communist organizations and many others.

"Wire-tapping, listening at keyholes, peeking through transoms, taking pictures surreptitiously, following people in relay teams" are some of the "techniques" used.

The Americans have a word for it: "Don't look now, but I think you're being followed!"



August 15, 1951 in which he pointed out that the separation of these islands (the Ryukyus and Bonins) "from Japan has never been provided for in any previous international agreement." To show where the sympathies of the Chinese people lie, the commentator cited the support which the Chinese press gives to the demand for Okinawa's return to Japan.

Show-off at Bangkok

The public display of a "Matador" guided missile by the U.S. Air Force in Bangkok on the Thai Royal Air Force Day was ridiculed by *Renmin Ribao* (March 26) as a "show-off which will frighten no one."

The United States has long plotted to turn Thailand into its atomic base in South-east Asia, the paper asserted. Though it failed to realize this at the Manila Conference, it has not ceased to put pressure on Thailand, the exhibition of the "Matador" being its latest effort.

"This U.S. scheme has already evoked strong opposition in Thailand," *Renmin Ribao* reported. "Both before and after the Manila Conference, many public figures in Thailand have expressed strong opposition to the establishment of any type of U.S. rocket base on Thai territory. . . . They declare that what Thailand needs is not war but friendly relations with other peoples."

"Today in Asia and elsewhere in the world, there is a vigorous campaign against Washington's preparations for nuclear war."



Stepping stones

Mi Ku in "Wen Hui Bao"

CHINA AND THE WORLD

Sino-Hungarian Trade

Not long ago, Budapest received a long distance phone call from Peking. It was for a supply of sugar beet seeds urgently needed to raise a bigger sugar crop in China this year. Though the order came rather late, the Hungarian trade authorities rushed arrangements and three days later, carloads of seeds were on their way to China. This was typical of the prompt service Hungary gives to trade transactions with China.

In the Sino-Hungarian trade protocol concluded in Peking on March 21, Hungary undertakes to fill bigger orders for Diesel engines, water pumps and tractors to help China's big leap forward this year in industry and agriculture. Following up a Hungarian suggestion, China has also placed orders for deep well-drilling machines and equipment for pumping stations suited to China's mountain regions.

During the past eight years, Hungary has sent China a large amount of equipment and goods including complete installations for power stations and radio transmitting stations, tractors and combine-harvesters, lorries, buses and Diesel locomotives, micro-wave and other radio equipment and scientific apparatus. Chinese shops are also selling Hungarian medical instruments, pharmaceuticals, cotton textiles, granulated sugar and other consumer goods.

Driven by Hungarian technicians, a convoy of Hungarian lorries arrived in Lhasa in the summer of 1956. They had been specially designed for driving on the high plateau and mountain roads of the Kangting-Tibet Highway. Many other Hungarian specialists have come to work in China to help train technicians in the use of Hungarian equipment.

China, on her part, is supplying Hungary with large quantities of raw materials for heavy and light industries, minerals, canned foods and fruits. In the dark days when the counter-revolutionaries were causing trouble in Hungary, China gave unstinted political and economic support to the Hungarian people.

These two-way contacts are typical of the close co-operation existing between the socialist countries.

Canton Fair

Visitors and customers will see a greater variety and quantity of goods than ever before at the Canton Export Commodities Fair which opens on April 15. Thirteen thousand types of goods will be on display. They include animal products, tea, foodstuffs, chemicals, household goods, silks and other textiles, metals, instruments, machine-tools and other engineering products. Many items will be goods which China only recently began to produce.

Started in 1956, the Fair is a twice yearly event at which transactions worth scores of millions of pounds sterling are negotiated. Foreign buyers at the Fair choose not only from the samples exhibited, but can discuss their specific needs, prices and specifications with Chinese technical and business representatives on the spot.

A new feature this year is that Chinese representatives will also be on hand to discuss transactions with foreign traders for imports into China.

Business firms in more than 30 countries are already in touch with Fair authorities.

* * *
A Chinese iron and steel mission is now holding discussions in Tokyo with seven major Japanese iron and steel companies and trade organizations regarding implementation of the Sino-Japanese steel barter agreement signed in Peking in February.

Joint Scientific Research

Electrical Equipment An agreement for joint research on electric power equipment employed in the damp, tropical parts of China was signed at a recent international conference in Peking.

The Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic, which signed the agreement with China, will send to this country samples of various types of electro-technical equipment and related chemical-engineering and petroleum products to be used by experts of the six countries for testing and research. Findings will be shared by all signatories. Other socialist countries not present at the conference may join in the research programme upon agreement with the Chinese Government.

* * *
Ocean Survey A joint Chinese-Soviet-Korean oceanographical survey of fishery resources in the East China and Yellow Seas has now been completed.

Sailing on five ships—three Chinese and two Soviet—scientists of the three countries spent three months investigating physical conditions and marine life in

these waters and their chemical composition. Winter fishing grounds were discovered during the expedition.

The work was done in accordance with the agreement for joint fishery, oceanography and limnology research in the western Pacific signed in Peking in 1956.

Chinese Artists in Japan

The 64-member Chinese song and dance troupe which is to perform in Japan early this month is one of the most distinguished Chinese artistic groups to visit that country since the 1956 tour of the Peking opera company led by Mei Lan-fang.

It is headed by Lu Chi, the well-known composer and Chairman of the Union of Chinese Musicians; its programme of dances, songs and instrumental music includes solos on the *ku chin*, an ancient Chinese musical instrument, by Cha Fushi, musical adviser to the troupe.

The 50-day tour is jointly sponsored by the *Mainichi Shimbun*, one of the largest Japanese newspapers, the Japan-China Cultural Exchange Association and Japan-China Friendship Association. Performances will be given in Tokyo, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe, Fukuoka, and Yawata.

Chinese Art in U.S.S.R.

A Russian translation of *Shih Ching* (Book of Odes), China's oldest collection of poems, has just been published by the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

* * *
Three of the four volumes of *Selected Chinese Poems in Russian*, edited by a leading Chinese poet, Kuo Mo-jo and the Soviet sinologist Fedorenko, are now also available in the Soviet Union. The fourth volume now in preparation includes eighteen poems by Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

* * *
The Chinese play *Thunderstorm* by Tsao Yu was staged for the first time at the Moscow Pushkin Theatre on March 22. The classical drama *West Chamber* and the fairy tale *Indigo Flower* have already had successful Moscow runs.

* * *
To date, editions totalling some 23 million copies of books by modern and classical Chinese writers and selections of Chinese folk literature have been published in the Soviet Union. Books by Lu Hsun, Mao Tun and Kuo Mo-jo have the largest sales.

* * *
Thirty-six Chinese feature films have been released in the Soviet Union since 1950. *The White-Haired Girl*, most popular of them all, was seen by 15 million people.

CINEMA

New Films Festival

Cinemas in China's bigger cities are currently running festivals of new films produced last year in home studios. Peking's lasted from March 22 to 31. The twenty-one festival features, documentaries, scientific and educational shorts strike a contemporary note on many themes: revolutionary guerilla warfare during the War of Liberation, running to earth American and Kuomintang subversion on the mainland, problems of the younger generation, building co-op farms, industrialization and much else.

The Dark Before Dawn, an August First Film Studio production, takes us back to the days in 1946 when Chiang Kai-shek, backed by the Americans, plunged the country into civil war barely a year after the eight-year struggle against the Japanese invaders had brought victory and peace to China. It is the story of a small guerilla unit left to pin down the enemy in the Tapiéh Mountains, while the main forces prepare for a counter-offensive. The situation soon gets grim for the guerillas, but they "swim among the people like fish

in water," and come through to be there at the victorious end of the campaign.

Soul of the Sea (Hai Yen Film Studio of Shanghai) is by many critics considered one of the best pictures produced last year for its characterizations. It shows the Kuomintang reactionaries in all their senseless brutality, arrogance and cupidity, and it is a good sea yarn as well about revolt on the high seas.

Before sailing from Shanghai with the fleeing Kuomintang forces, Chen Chun-kuan, a sailor on the Kuomintang corvette *Kulang*, hears about the comradeship ties that exist between officers and men in the People's Liberation Army. He passes on this information to his mates and it makes a big impression on them particularly when they contrast it with their own lot under the Kuomintang brasshats. When they reach Taiwan, they see for themselves how the people are treated by the American G.I.s and the Kuomintang. Outraged by their experiences, when their ship is sent to blockade the Yangtse, they mutiny and take it into liberated Shanghai.

Two of the eight feature films in the festival are in colour. *Flames on the Border* (Changchun Film Studio) is set against the colourful background of China's south-western border region where the Chingpos, one of the national minorities of China, live. To help the farmers increase their crops, the People's

Liberation Army unit quartered in the area offer to help them build a reservoir. This offer seems too good to be true to one of the Chingpo leaders made suspicious by long acquaintance with Kuomintang duplicity. His suspicions are fanned by an astute Kuomintang special agent and an ugly situation is created between the local people and the Liberation Army. How the Chingpos find out who their real friends are takes the film to an exciting climax.

Riding the Stormy Seas (Chiangnan Film Studio), also in colour, is a fast-moving, cheerful tale of how three young girls join the first batch of Chinese women merchant marine officers.

Other feature films shown during the festival include *Song of the Phoenix* (Chiangnan Film Studio) and *The Joyful Sound of the Flute* (Hai Yen Film Studio), both about the co-operative movement in the countryside; *Secret Watch in Canton*, another Hai Yen film which tells how agents sent by the U.S. and the Kuomintang are trapped and brought to justice; and *A Herdsman's Son Comes Home* (Changchun Film Studio) which shows how the people of Inner Mongolia are building socialism.

Among the documentaries, scientific and educational shorts is *Sanmen Gorge*, showing the start of work on the dam which is a first instalment of the great plan to harness the Yellow River.

Ballet

Japanese Troupe in Peking

The performance of *The White-Haired Girl* by the Japanese ballet troupe led by Mikiko Matsuyama gave us something intrinsically new. We saw with interest and pleasure excerpts of classical ballet danced to music by Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev and Asafiev, but we were particularly delighted and deeply moved when we saw *The White-Haired Girl*. In this translation of the famous Chinese opera into the idiom of the classical ballet, the Japanese artists danced with a feeling, understanding and vitality that held our attention from tragic opening to triumphant finale.

Mikiko Matsuyama was trained at the Nichi-Geki Theatre and danced with the Tokyo Ballet Company. She formed her own ballet group in 1948. The influence of the Russian ballet school is strongly felt in her work. After attending the World Peace Congress in Helsinki in 1955 she visited the Soviet Union on her way home and took a long look at the ballets there. She visited China that same year.

On returning to Japan she wove the various creative strands she had studied into the repertoire of her troupe. Its performance of Asafiev's *The Fountain of Bakhchisarai* was awarded a prize at the drama festival sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Education in 1957.

The programme presented in Peking reflects these interests of the troupe. *Les Sylphides* is a series of *divertissements*, solos, *pas de deux* and *pas de trois* danced to Chopin's music, a *Prelude* and *Nocturne*, *Mazurkas* and *Waltzes* supported by the whole *corps de ballet*. The excerpt from *The Fountain of Bakhchisarai* was danced with verve. Here, as in *Les Sylphides*, the troupe showed great ingenuity in its production. Sets, lighting, costumes were fully adequate though modest when compared to the lavish scale of the

great ballet companies. So it was too with *Peter and the Wolf*, Prokofiev's charming musical fable.

Troupe and audience found each other completely with the opening bars of *The White-Haired Girl*. First produced in February 1955 at the Hibiya Public Hall in Tokyo it gives the essence of the famous Chinese opera.

Miss Matsuyama immediately won our sympathies as Hsi-erh, the heroine. In the concentrated action of ballet we sensed and saw her gay, free, brave spirit, her love for Ta-chun, her fear and humiliation in the landlord's house and her radiant happiness in reunion with her love. Taneo Ishida made a fine Ta-chun. Yasuo Komori was the very epitome of a sensual, brutal, arrogant landlord. The choreographer's imaginative use of *yangko* dance movements in the villagers' dance evoked spontaneous applause.

Peking audiences appreciated the way this Chinese drama was transposed into the new medium. *Yangko* became ballet, but retained its national flavour; there was no incongruity in seeing Hsi-erh, a Chinese peasant girl, *en pointes*, any more than there is in seeing *Giselle*, the French peasant girl, dance in this way.

The Matsuyama company gave twelve performances in Peking and is now going to Chungking, Wuhan and Shanghai on a six-week tour.

Y.M.



BOOKS

Album of Sung Paintings

The Sung dynasty is regarded by many as the golden age of classical Chinese painting. During its three hundred and twenty years from 960 to 1279 A.D. a host of painters produced an astonishing number of great works. The influence of their art is potent to this day. The *Sung Dynasty Album Paintings* in two volumes, jointly compiled by Cheng Chen-to, Chang Heng and Hsu Pang-ta and published by the Chinese Classic Art Publishing House in Peking, will be invaluable for those who wish to make closer acquaintance with this art. It contains a hundred reproductions of the same size as the originals. Forty-four are attributed to thirty-two painters. The rest are by anonymous artists. Though not all can be said to be the most important works of the Sung dynasty, they do represent the various schools of that period and give a revealing glimpse of the achievements and general trends of Sung painting.

The first volume covers the period from the Northern Sung dynasty to the end of the reign of Kuang Tsung (960 to 1194 A.D.). The second contains paintings from the time of the Emperor Ning Tsung to the end of the dynasty (1195 to 1279 A.D.). All these "album" paintings are small (the album is 15 in. by

12 in.), and were made for decorative purposes. The square ones were designed for screens, while the round ones were sometimes used for screens but mostly for fans.

The subject matter is very varied, ranging from landscapes and genre subjects to birds, insects and flowers. But, whatever the theme, it is handled with superlative skill and sensitivity. Many of these miniatures transcend their actual size, and give an impression of spaciousness. Yang Wei's *Peasants at Work* shows a stretch of paddyfields, a farmstead, distant hills, a nearby pond and a small bridge with scores of peasants busy harvesting rice, drawing water, threshing, pounding husks, carrying grain to the barn, or making haystacks, while their landlords stand at ease, enjoying the scene. Despite their diminutive size, each figure in this painting is a live person, and the whole a vivid commentary on the life of the time. Men and horses in Chen Chu-chung's *Tending Horses by the Willow Stream* are also minute but every gesture is true to life. Chang Hsun-li's *Fishing Boat in Spring* reproduces all the charm of the lush valley of the Yangtse. Ma Yuan's *Plum Tree and Wild Ducks* is another world in miniature. Plum trees by the river and rocks; wild ducks playing on the water, spreading ripples all around them. A duck which has fallen behind is flapping its wings in a frantic effort to catch up with the others.

Up to now the masterpieces of Chinese painting have not been easily accessible to the general public. Although there is a fine collection of classical paintings in the Peking Palace Museum and this has been open since liberation, people in other parts of the country and many artists who wished to study and copy them have hardly had a chance to see them. Hence the many requests from painters and art lovers for good reproductions. Loose-leaf facsimiles published by the Museum and the meticulous coloured wood block copies made by the Jung Pao Chai Studio have to some extent answered these needs, but the album

under review gives the general public its first opportunity to acquire a series of fine reproductions of paintings of a whole period, systematically selected and with a scholarly introduction.

Cheng Chen-to, well-known for his work in the history of Chinese art and literature, provides a foreword giving a brief history of Chinese painting in general with a detailed analysis of its development in Sung times. He is also responsible for the annotated list of paintings. Supplements containing the table of contents, foreword and annotated list in English, Russian, French or German are available for buyers abroad.

Reprints of Modern Literature

The May the Fourth Movement in 1919 was a turning point in the history of modern China. It marked the beginning of a new stage in the Chinese people's struggle for liberation. In the years that followed, the country was swept by a new cultural movement that produced many fine novels, short stories, plays and poems reflecting the aspirations of the people in their revolutionary struggle against feudalism and imperialism, and the consciousness that this struggle was linked with the destinies of the working class. Most of these works, however, have long been out of print and are difficult to obtain. But many of them are of key importance in any study of modern Chinese literature. It is for this reason, and as part of the policy of "letting a hundred flowers blossom," that the People's Literature Publishing House in Peking is bringing out reprints of the best products of the May the Fourth Movement and after.

The *Collected Works of Chu Chiu-pai*, the noted critic and one of the pioneers of China's new literature, have already been published in four volumes. The first four volumes of the *Complete Works of Lu Hsun*, standard-bearer of the new cultural movement, have already been brought out, with the rest to follow shortly. The *Collected Works of Kuo Mo-jo*, running into twelve or fourteen volumes, will be published in full in the next three years. Kuo Mo-jo, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, is known as an historian, poet and playwright. Five volumes of his collected works have already appeared.

The collected works of Mao Tun and Pa Chin, two of the best-known novelists of China, will also be published by the People's Literature Publishing House. Mao Tun's collected works will come to



Plum Tree and Wild Ducks
By Ma Yuan (Southern Sung dynasty, 1127-1279 A.D.)

twelve volumes, and Pa Chin's to fourteen; they will all be published before the end of 1959.

The Mao Tun collection includes all his literary works produced in the past thirty years, re-edited by the author himself. They are compiled chronologically and classified under different heads: novels, plays, prose writings and literary criticism. Each volume carries a photograph of the author and a reproduction of a page of his original manuscript.

The novels will be published in seven volumes. The first contains *Eclipse* (a trilogy comprising *Illusion*, *Wavering* and *Pursuit*); the second *Rainbow*, *Three Companions* and *The Road*. The third

will be his masterpiece *Midnight*. The fourth *Many-sided Relations* and *The Story of the First Stage*. The fifth contains *Corrosion*, and *Frosted Maple Leaves As Red As Spring Flowers*. His short stories will take up the sixth and seventh volumes.

The Pa Chin collection will include the author's writings since 1927, and will also be compiled chronologically. The fourteen volumes will total about four million words. The first volume contains four long-short stories: *Ruin*, *New Life*, *The Dead Sun* and *The Dream of the Sea*. The second contains another four long-short stories, and the third the *Trilogy of Love*, comprising *Fog*, *Rain* and *Electricity*. The fourth, fifth and

sixth volumes will each be a full-length novel: *Family*, *Spring* and *Autumn*. Pa Chin has taken a personal hand in the editing and made some important changes both in language and in content.

The works of other novelists like Lao Sheh, Chang Tien-yi, Yeh Sheng-tao and Yu Ta-fu are being collected and edited, and some of them will be out next year. New editions of the collected works of Chu Tzu-ching, a noted essayist, and the complete works of Wen Yi-to, the poet and scholar who was murdered by the Kuomintang in 1945, will be published. Selected works by the novelists Wang Tung-chao, Shen Tsung-wen, Hsu Ti-shan and others will also be published by the People's Literature Publishing House.

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

— Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc. —

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

PEKING OPERA

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

April 1 at *Chi Hsiang Theatre*

April 2 at *Chungho Theatre*

April 4 at *People's Theatre*

● **UPROAR IN THE CAPITAL** Five Chinese "Robin Hoods" wreak havoc on the evil-doings of the corrupt officials in the capital of the Sung dynasty. Lots of acrobatics by China's leading "wu sheng" (warrior-type) Peking opera actors Chang Yun-chi and Chang Chun-hua.

April 5 & 6 at 7 p.m., *People's Theatre*

PINGCHU OPERA

● **CHASTISING THE FAITHLESS HUSBAND** The story of a husband who leaves his wife for a high official's daughter, and discovers that his new bride is none other than his former wife.

April 5 at *Ta Chung Theatre*

● **FAMILY** Adapted from Tsao Yu's stage version of Pa Chin's famous novel. The conflict of the old and the new as represented by the tyrannical head of the Kao family, a loyal supporter of the old feudal ethics, and the younger members of his large family, who break away to seek a new life. With Hsiao Pai Yu Shuang.

April 6 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.,

April 7 at 7 p.m., *Ta Chung Theatre*

THEATRE

● **THE TEA-SHOP** By Lao Sheh. A new play by the well-known playwright staged for the first time. The atmosphere of the old society is subtly reflected through the

diverse 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.

April 1-7 at 7:15 p.m., *Capital Theatre*

● **THE STORY OF LIU CHIEH-MEI** The true story of a poor peasant who comes to realize that the capitalist road is the wrong road. Produced by the Hupeh Modern Drama Troupe.

April 1-7 at *China Youth Art Theatre*

PUPPET THEATRE

On the same programme:

● **PIGSY**, the immortal character from *Pilgrimage to the West* and his comic adventures.

● **LITTLE SHEPHERD**, the story of a village lass who meets a shepherd and what transpires.

● **MISTRESS CLEVER**, the story of a beautiful fairy who marries a poor wood-cutter. With choral accompaniment.

Produced by the China Puppet Art Theatre.

April 1-5 at the Tienchiao *Tan Kuei Theatre*

CONCERTS

Visiting Rumanian Artists

S. Simaneti, soprano, Merited Artist of the People's Republic of Rumania and State Prize Winner

V. Jianu, flutist, Merited Artist of the People's Republic of Rumania and State Prize Winner

Professor R. Negrenu, pianist and music critic

In a programme of Rumanian folk music, Mozart, Gluck, Puccini, Verdi, etc.

April 4 (for place of performance consult the *Beijing Ribao*)

FILMS

● **OLIVER TWIST** J. Arthur Rank's production of Dickens' novel now dubbed in Chinese by the Shanghai Film Studio.

April 1-4 *Peking Theatre, Soviet Exhibition Centre Cinema, Children's Cinema*

April 5-7 *Chiao Tao Kou, Kwangho Theatre, Tungszu Workers' Club*

● **THE SONG OF THE PHOENIX** 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.

April 1-4 *Chung Yang, Sheng Li*

April 5-7 *Ta Hua, Soviet Exhibition Centre Cinema, Hsin Chieh Kou, Hsin Chung Kuo, Peking Workers' Club*

● **LOVE IN BERLIN** The love story of an auto worker in West Berlin and a girl in East Berlin, and how they settle the problem of their future home's address. A Defa Film production from the German Democratic Republic.

April 3-4 *Hsin Chung Kuo, Kwangan Men, Kwangho Theatre, Peking Workers' Club*

● **LET ME DO IT** A Czech comedy about a printer and his social activities.

April 1-6 *Soviet Exhibition Centre Cinema, Hsin Chieh Kou, Sheng Li, Chung Yang*

● **BEL AMI** Coloured French film adapted from Maupassant's short story of the same name.

April 5-7 *Ta Hua, Chiao Tao Kou, Peking Theatre*

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1:30 p.m. 3:00 4:30 6:00 7:30

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● **APRIL INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FIXTURES IN PEKING** - friendly internationals between Chinese and 1) visiting European champion Hungarian table tennis team, 2) visiting Soviet gymnasts, 3) visiting Ceylonese Football Team, and 4) visiting Mongolian Football Team.

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