

June 10, 1958

15

PEKING

REVIEW

INTRODUCING A CO-OPERATIVE

A short article by Mao Tse-tung published in the first issue of *Hongqi* (p. 6).

Modern Revisionism Must Be Fought to the End

Renmin Ribao editorial on the struggle against the Yugoslav revisionists (p. 7).

At the Export Commodities Fair

A report from Canton on Export Commodities Fair and the business transacted there (p. 10).

Water Conservancy and Irrigation

1 — New trend in water conservancy (p. 11).
2 — Peasant inventions (p. 13).

MODERN THEMES IN PEKING OPERA and a new feature: SIDELIGHTS

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE NEWS AND VIEWS

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報

Just Off the Press

SECOND SESSION OF THE EIGHTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA



Containing the important documents of the session held in Peking from May 5 to 23, 1958, at a time when the Chinese people are entering a new period of socialist construction—the period of technical and cultural revolutions. Full texts of the Central Committee's work report and the resolution on it endorsing the Party's general line for socialist construction, the resolution on the Moscow Meetings of Representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties expressing full support to the Moscow Declarations and repudiating the Programme of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia as a concentrated expression of modern revisionism, explanations on the second revised draft of the National Programme for Agricultural Development (1956-67) and the resolution on it. 96 pp.

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—Translator's Preface



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PEKING REVIEW

北京周报

(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
NEWS AND VIEWS

June 10, 1958

Vol. I No. 15

CONTENTS

ROUND THE WEEK 4

The People Discuss the "General Line";
Peking's New Industrial Sights; Mass
Interest in Theory; Press Costs Less;
Women on the Farms; Bonds by
Local Authorities; Bringing in the
Wheat; Trains Run Faster Too;
Diplomats with a Shovel; The Name
Is Watt

ARTICLES

- Introducing a Co-operative 6
— Mao Tse-tung
- Modern Revisionism Must Be Fought to
the End 7
- Brisk Trade at the Export Commodities
Fair 10
— Our Correspondent
- New Trend in Water Conservancy 11
— Li Chiang
- Peasant Inventions for Irrigation 13
— Yang Min
- Heilungkiang's Victory over Illiteracy 14
— Wu Pin
- A Factory Improves Its Leadership 16
— Wang Mo-chen

SIDELIGHTS 17

CHINESE PRESS OPINION 18

U.S. Economic Crisis; Kishi Fails
Again; Lebanese Against "Eisenhower
Doctrine"; The Passing Show; Guard-
ing Peace in Laos

CHINA AND THE WORLD 20

No Trade with Hostile Kishi; Trade
News; Chinese Aid to Cambodia;
Sino-Vietnamese Bridge; Ici Pekin!
Indian and Nepalese Pilgrims; Sino-
Soviet Scientific Work; Chinese De-
legations Abroad; Cultural News;
Visitors in China

THEATRE 21

Modern Themes in Peking Opera;
New Pingchu Operas; Living News-
paper Revival

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING 22

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Talent Unlimited

OF late there has been much discussion in the Chinese press about freeing people's minds from the shackles of old ideas and out-moded traditions. People are encouraged to topple old idols, to do their own thinking and to speak and act with courage and daring. This emancipation of the mind is designed to help destroy the paralysing influence of surviving bourgeois ideology root and branch and to release the springs of latent strength and inventiveness among the people.

The reactionary rulers of the past did everything in their power to foster a spirit of resignation and acceptance of things as they were, to encourage shameful subservience and timid submission to prevailing authority and to cultivate blind idolatry of the established order. The reason was very simple. They wanted the people to take it lying down and let the ruling clique have things its own way.

Under socialism, things are entirely different. The people have become masters of their own fate. The encouragement of personal initiative and creative spirit liberates the vast stores of the people's talent and advances the cause of socialism.

Two examples show how China's working people are throwing off old ideas and approaching things in a new way.

Eleven groups have been set up in the Chiu Hsin Shipyard in Shanghai to study philosophy. More than two-thirds of the group members are shipbuilding workers and cadres of working class origin who have had only a junior high school education.

Their method of studying philosophy is to integrate theory and practice. They use the knowledge they derive from theoretical writings to solve practical problems in their work.

For a long time, poor planning and bad co-ordination had given rise to a lot of trouble in the shipyard. In the current leap forward, for instance, the supply of raw materials was a big headache. Complaints and recriminations flew back and forth but that didn't solve the problem. After studying Chairman Mao's *On Contradiction*, the workers and the staff adopted a new approach to the problem of contradictions. As a result, instead of simply grumbling about having too many problems to straighten out, and blaming each other when things went wrong they pulled together and solved the problem. Furthermore, study of *On Contradiction* made them understand that they must always be ready to cope with problems because new problems will crop up when old ones are resolved.

Or take a second example. Twenty-one peasant inventors were invited last week by the Farm Mechanization Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science to work as special research workers of the institute. The farming tools and machines made by them aroused widespread attention at the National Farm Implements Exhibition now on in Peking. They are low-priced, well adapted to local farming conditions, and easy to make. In short, they fit in pretty well with the general line — to build more, faster, better and more economically.

Some people may find it hard to understand why ill-educated factory workers are able to study Marxist philosophy with profit and why ordinary peasants are admitted to the Academy of Agricultural Science. But the answer really is no mystery. Once the labouring people have taken their fate into their own hands and freed their minds from the spiritual fetters of the past, their creativity knows no bounds.

ROUND THE WEEK

The People Discuss the "General Line"

These days you are liable to encounter actors and actresses performing skits on street corners, gaily decorated banners with bold Chinese characters and knots of people engaged in discussion in town squares and in the villages. Among the crowds you will find government leaders, generals of the People's Liberation Army, professors, and prominent writers. A nation-wide discussion of the "general line" holds the centre of attention today, and when you say "general line," everybody in China knows that this means the line of building socialism by "exerting the utmost efforts, and pressing ahead consistently to build more, faster, better and more economically," adopted by the Second Session of the Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party.

There is nothing remote or abstract about it, for the people can see it in operation in the big leap forward in every aspect of the national economy. Now this line is being publicized in every conceivable manner to help the people make further strides, consciously, in the socialist construction of their country.

Peking's New Industrial Sights

Peking's response to the "general line" campaign is typical of the spirit and determination of the country to build socialism at the speed and in the manner defined by the recent Party Congress. 1,500 representatives of the capital's industrial workers, at a meeting last week pledged themselves to turn Peking into a great modern industrial centre within the next five years as proposed by the Peking Municipal Committee of the Communist Party.

The plan is to concentrate all efforts on building up the metallurgical and coal industries; to set up a network of electrical machinery and engineering industries; to develop a precision instruments industry and radio industry and a chemical industry. Steel output will reach two million tons per year by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan (1962), and coal output ten million tons. In short, industrial output in the Peking area will increase several fold by 1962 as compared with the present level.

Agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry will also be further expanded now that the city limits have been extended.

At the same time Peking will continue to develop as a centre of education, science and culture. An immense step has already been taken in this direction by planning to enrol all school-age children in the primary schools this year and enabling primary school graduates to go on to secondary schools.

Peking will begin manufacturing motor vehicles, locomotives, tractors and textile machinery this year. In the course of the year it will increase the production of machine-tools from its present handful to 100 kinds. If the present rate of industrial development—an increase of 58 per cent in the first five months of this year as compared with the same period last year—is any indication, Peking is well on the way to the new industrial sights it has set for itself.

Mass Interest in Theory

On June 1 you could see queues in various places in Peking, not for tickets to a Sunday football match or one of the popular exhibitions of new things and ideas, but, strange as it may sound, for the first issue of the theoretical magazine *Hongqi*, which means "red flag" in English. By 3 p.m. all of the 196,000 copies in the city's bookshops and on the news-stands had sold out.

In all parts of the country subscriptions kept pouring into the post offices. By evening the total figure approached the two million mark. Sian, one of the chief cities in northwest China, got 100,000 subscribers the first day. The figure for Shanghai was 200,000. Two days later the number of subscribers in Shanghai had more than doubled again, reaching 430,000. The interest is so great that 1.1 million additional copies of the first issue were run off presses in Shanghai to satisfy reader demand in the east China region.

Hongqi, which comes out on the first and sixteenth of every month, is a theoretical journal published by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. One of the chief characteristics of its articles is the integration of theory and practice. In its introductory words it declares that it will hold high the revolutionary "Red Flag" of the proletariat in the realm of ideas.

The Nationality Publishing House in Peking has announced that the magazine will also be published in the Mongolian, Tibetan, Uighur and Korean languages for the national minorities.

Many factory workers are among the initial subscribers to *Hongqi*. Several workers of the Tientsin factory that makes the well-known "Flying Dove" bicycles put it this way: Chairman Mao's articles are always profound, but we can follow them. There's nothing mysterious about political theory. Workers can understand it.

Press Costs Less

Following the lead of the national dailies, the magazines too are now reducing the price of both subscriptions and single copies on an average of 10 per cent. This, too, is symptomatic of the growing size of mass readership in China.

As the number of people who learn to read and write soars with the unfolding of the cultural revolution, many more people than ever want reading matter. The post offices, which handle the newspaper and periodical subscriptions, are now distributing a record volume of printed matter.

While prices have been cut the press is trying to give its readers still more value for their money. Not only are the number of pages kept intact, but improvements are being introduced in the way of livelier and more interesting contents and make-up. Some are even adding pages. *Beijing Ribao* (Peking Daily), for example, is adding a science supplement every Saturday.

Women on the Farms

Women are playing a bigger role in all fields of work in China as the country strides ahead in its economic construction. In the factories, schools and research centres as well as on the farms, women are making contributions to all of the activities and efforts that are changing the face of China.

In the countryside, women have taken their place alongside the men in the fields, in building dykes and reservoirs, in afforesting the land, in improving and inventing farm tools and in making household furniture. In Lushan County, in Honan Province, for example, women devised the improvement of 171 kinds of farm tools and household furniture and actually made 30,000 pieces of these improved tools and furniture in a matter of three months.

The excellent work done by the women has earned them a lot of praise. Women today not only feel that "they do a job" but that they can do it well, and that the latent strength of Chinese women can be further tapped.

Chinese women have always had a fine tradition of work but the mass movement to improve farm tools and transport vehicles in the countryside has done much

to lighten household duties and provide greater scope for the women. It has also enabled the women to put in more work-days since the introduction of improved tools has increased efficiency many times.

A jingle on the lips of women indicates how they feel about the movement to improve farm tools:

For labour productivity to go up,
You need fast and clever hands.
For big leaps and advances,
You need to lighten your household chores.
For true equality between men and women,
The tools of labour have to be improved.

Bonds by Local Authorities

Beginning next year bonds for economic construction will be issued by the local authorities, instead of by the Central Government as has been the practice for some years. This decision, taken by the State Council at a recent meeting, has been approved by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and promulgated by Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

With the rapid expansion of industry and agriculture, and particularly with the flying starts made in the development of local industries, a change was desirable in the issue of public bonds, so as to carry further the policy of simultaneously developing industry and agriculture, national and local industries, and large, medium and small industrial enterprises and to solve in a still more satisfactory way the question of raising funds for economic construction purposes.

The advantages of empowering the local authorities to issue short-term public bonds for the development of the localities are twofold: it will enable the local authorities to raise funds in the light of local needs and according to the capacity of the people to subscribe, and to raise funds in, and for the use of the locality, thus linking up the issue of bonds more directly with the immediate interests of the people.

Bringing in the Wheat

Thirty million people in Honan Province are out in the wheat fields gathering in what promises to be the biggest harvest ever reaped. A million or so government workers, army men and students have come from the cities to help the peasants bring in the record crop. By June 3 more than 50 million *mou* of wheat land had been harvested, roughly half of the wheat under cultivation. In quite a number of places output was nearly twice as high as last year.

To make sure that "every single grain will go into the bin," which is the slogan of the Honan peasants, work continued into the night. Torches, hurricane lanterns

and pressure lamps lit up the sky, as peasants helped by townspeople scythed through the fields.

In neighbouring Anhwei Province harvesting has already begun on 43 million *mou* of wheat fields. The crop is so good that this year the summer harvest of wheat is expected to be greater than that of last year by 60 per cent, despite the drought that lasted for over 70 days.

In Hungan County, Hupeh Province — an old revolutionary base — 100,000 *mou* of summer crops are expected to exceed last year's output by 80 per cent. Two hundred thousand people of the county are now working round the clock, harvesting the wheat and other crops during the night and planting rice seedlings and other crops during the day. The slogan here is "planting in the sunlight and harvesting in the moonlight."

* * *

In Peking, Chairman Mao Tse-tung has proclaimed the new regulations on agricultural tax adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. As explained by Vice-Minister of Finance Wu Po, under the new regulations the amount of taxes paid by the Chinese peasants will remain generally unchanged for the next five years while output rises. The proportion of tax to farm output will actually decrease each year, leaving more funds for the farm co-ops and for the peasants to raise their personal income.

Agricultural output during the Second Five-Year Plan is expected to go up by at least 60 per cent, while taxes will remain fixed at the 1958 level. As estimated by the Vice-Minister, the actual proportion of farm output delivered to the government as taxes will fall from the 11.3 per cent of total agricultural yield in 1957 to 7 per cent in 1962. This will enable the peasants to raise their standards of living further and will accelerate socialist construction in the countryside by making more funds available in the localities for rural investment.

Trains Run Faster Too

All trains in China now run to faster time-tables. This is one of the benefits passengers have derived from the campaign against waste and conservative ideas and practices launched by the railwaymen.

The Peking-Shenyang express now takes only 11 hours and 30 minutes, slashing 2 hours 25 minutes from its schedule for this 843-kilometre journey. Five hours and eight minutes have been clipped from the Peking-Shanghai run and the 1,484-kilometre rail distance between the two cities is covered in 23

hours 17 minutes. The long overland journey from the capital to the southern metropolis, Canton, is now done in 43 hours 35 minutes instead of the 58 hours 15 minutes of yesterday. And the list of shorter railway schedules saving time and money for both the passenger and the state lengthens.

In the old days the fastest trains in China ran about 50 kilometres per hour and the ordinary ones much slower; now the average is 70 kilometres, with a high standard of safety precautions.

Diplomats with a Shovel

The Ming Tombs Reservoir which is being built by volunteer labour is capturing everybody's imagination and the volunteers embrace all walks of life. The diplomatic staffs of the socialist countries in Peking added their own chapter to the saga of the reservoir. Between the middle of April and the end of May the diplomatic envoys, their wives and staff members of the embassies of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Korea, Mongolia, Poland, Rumania, the Soviet Union and Viet-nam, joined in the construction. They dug and carried earth like all the other volunteers on the project.

Many of the members of the Soviet embassy team had participated in the construction projects of the First Five-Year Plan in the Soviet Union.

When the Korean embassy staff came out to work five members of a shock brigade who had fought in Korea with the Chinese People's Volunteers rushed over to work with the Korean guests. The Korean Chargé d'Affaires told them: "I am very glad to be with you. We fought side by side in the past against the imperialists and now we are working together to build socialism."

Typical of the sentiments of the diplomats from the brother socialist countries was the comment of the Bulgarian Ambassador who said: "We've come to do a little manual work to train ourselves — to build socialism and communism, and to realize our common ideals."

The Name Is Watt

We regret an error in our story "Science No Mystery" last week. In naming inventors who rose from the ranks of the people and made important contributions to science notwithstanding their lack of higher education, the name of Newton was inadvertently included along with Franklin, Edison and Michurin. Newton, of course, was not only a university graduate but a professor at Cambridge. The first name in our list should have been Watt and we correct our story accordingly.

INTRODUCING A CO-OPERATIVE

by MAO TSE-TUNG

The following article by Chairman Mao Tse-tung was published in the first issue of "Hongqi" (The Red Flag), fortnightly theoretical magazine of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. The article "Two Years' Hard Battle Changes a Co-operative," recommended by Chairman Mao, appeared in the same journal. It describes how the peasants of the Yingchu Co-op Farm in Honan Province succeeded by dint of hard work in overcoming every difficulty and improving their lives. Living in a poor, low-lying, alkaline region, they suffered from floods and other disasters nearly every year. Liberation brought better times, but there were serious floods in 1956 and 1957. However the peasants, now organized, succeeded in beating these calamities and increasing their income.

During the nation-wide leap forward in production, which began last winter, the Yingchu Co-op farmers stepped up their sustained effort to win a more prosperous life. They brought irrigation to formerly dry land, turned all their salty, alkaline lowlands into paddy-fields and removed the threat of flood and drought. They plan to raise an average of 800 catties of grain per mou this year, greatly exceeding the target set in the 12-Year National Programme for Agricultural Development.

— Ed.

THE article "Two Years' Hard Battle Changes a Co-operative" is worth reading.

Throughout the country, the communist spirit is surging forward. The political consciousness of the masses is rising rapidly. Backward sections among the masses have roused themselves energetically to catch up with the more advanced and this shows that China is forging ahead in her socialist economic revolution (where transformation of the relations of production has not yet been completed) as well as in her political, ideological, technical and cultural revolutions. In view of this, our country may not need as much time as was previously envisaged to catch up with the big capitalist countries in industrial and agricultural production.

The decisive factor, apart from leadership by the Party, is our six hundred million people. The more people, the more views and suggestions, the more intense the fervour and the greater the energy. Never before have the masses been so high in spirit, so strong in morale and so firm in determination.

The former exploiting classes are reduced to mere drops in the ocean of the working people; they must change whether they want to or not. There are undoubtedly some who will never change and would prefer to keep their heads as hard as rocks till their dying day, but this does not affect the general situation. All decadent modes of thought and other unsuitable parts of the superstructure are daily crumbling. It will still take time to clear this refuse away completely but there can be no doubt that these things will disintegrate.

Apart from their other characteristics, China's six hundred million people are, first of all, poor, and secondly, "blank." That may seem like a bad thing,

but it is really a good thing. Poor people want change, want to do things, want revolution. A clean sheet of paper has no blotches and so the newest and most beautiful words can be written on it, the newest and most beautiful pictures can be painted on it.

The *tatsepao** is a most useful new weapon. It can be used in cities, rural areas, factories, co-operatives, shops, government institutions, schools, army units and streets, in a word wherever there are people. Where it has been used widely, people should go on using it. A poem written by Kung Tzu-chen of the Ching dynasty** reads:

*Let thunderbolts rouse the universe to life.
Alas that ten thousand horses should stand mute!
I urge Heaven to bestir itself anew
And send down talented men of every kind.*

The *tatsepao* have broken the dull air in which "ten thousand horses stand mute."

I now recommend a co-operative to the comrades in the more than seven hundred thousand farming co-ops in the country and to the comrades in the cities. This co-operative, called the Yingchu Agricultural Co-operative, situated in Fengchiu County, Honan Province, really gives us much food for thought. Do the working people of China still look like slaves as they did before? No, they have become the masters. The working people who live on the 9.6 million square kilometres of the People's Republic of China have really begun to rule this land.

* Opinions and criticisms written out in bold Chinese characters on large sheets of paper and posted freely for everybody to see. — Ed.

** 1644-1911. — Ed.

Modern Revisionism Must Be Fought to the End

Following is the full text of an editorial that appeared in "Renmin Ribao" (People's Daily) on June 4, 1958.

THE Second Session of the Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, in the light of the new situation in the international communist movement, pointed out in its resolution on the Moscow meetings of representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties* that "at present, the international communist movement has the important responsibility to adhere firmly to the viewpoints expressed in the Declaration of the meeting of representatives of the Communist and Workers' Parties of the socialist countries, to defend the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism and oppose modern revisionism." "It is the sacred duty of our Party towards the international working class to work, together with the fraternal Parties, for the complete defeat of modern revisionism politically and theoretically, and for the safeguarding of Marxism-Leninism and the unity of the international communist movement on the basis of Marxist-Leninist ideology." Now the fight against modern revisionism, as represented by the programme of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, has begun, but this is only the beginning. To smash modern revisionism completely, both politically and theoretically, this fight must be carried through to the very end.

But is it not "going too far" to deal with the Yugoslav revisionists in this way? Might it not have some unfavourable effect on the international workers' movement and the struggle for peace? These are questions that have to be answered.

Some people may think that even if the Yugoslav programme is revisionist and benefits the imperialists, it is best not to say so clearly to avoid pushing the leading group of the Yugoslav League of Communists to the side of the imperialists. But the fact that the Yugoslav programme represents modern revisionism and helps the imperialists, particularly the U.S. imperialists, is determined not by any criticism from any quarter, but by the programme itself, which is an objective fact. When the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League was drawing up their programme, nobody accused them of being modern revisionists or prejudged that they would bring forth a document which is such an omnibus of revisionism

and levels such attacks on the socialist camp and provides such a shield for U.S. imperialism. On the contrary, even when the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League refused to participate in the Moscow meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties of the socialist countries and came out in the open against the Declaration adopted by this meeting, the Communist and Workers' Parties of the socialist countries still maintained friendly relations with the Yugoslav Communist League and did not enter into argument with it. But all this did not prevent the Yugoslav Communist League from bringing up and adopting its revisionist programme. When the Yugoslav programme patently betrays the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism, what is the result other than damage to the political consciousness of the working class and the labouring people if you do not call the programme revisionist? When the programme of the Yugoslav Communist League and the words and deeds of its leading group in fact help the U.S. imperialists, and when even imperialist journals in the United States declare in no uncertain terms that "Tito's interests, as it happens, run parallel to ours for quite a stretch ahead" and that "we are partners in the only inside job," what is the purpose other than to let Dulles and company laugh up their sleeves if you do not say they are serving the imperialists?

THE fundamental Marxist-Leninist approach is to see all things for what they really are. We do not favour painting the programme of the Yugoslav Communist League and its leading group worse than they are, nor do we have the duty or right to portray them better than they are. It was from this standpoint that the *Renmin Ribao* editorial* of May 5 and the resolution of the Eighth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (Second Session) stated and repeated that, on the one hand, the resolution concerning the Yugoslav Communist Party adopted by the Information Bureau of Communist and Workers' Parties in November 1949 was wrong and there were defects and mistakes in the methods used by the Information Bureau in June 1948 in criticizing the Yugoslav Communist Party, and it was entirely necessary and correct that since 1954 the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union headed by Comrade N. S. Khrushchov corrected these mistakes, initiated improvement of relations with Yugoslavia and adopted a

*See *Peking Review*, No. 14, June 3, 1958.

*See *Peking Review*, No. 11, May 13, 1958.

whole series of measures to this end; while on the other hand, the criticism of the mistakes of the Yugoslav Communist Party made by the Information Bureau in its 1948 resolution was basically correct and necessary. It is unfortunate that the criticism which was necessary and basically correct should have been marred by defects and mistakes in the methods employed; this should be taken as a lesson. But despite an inconsistency between form and content, Marxist-Leninists must of course distinguish between right and wrong on their merits and above all take content into account. The question now is that after the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and other Communist Parties concerned took positive steps to eliminate all the defects and mistakes, the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League is trying to take advantage of the 1948 mistake and the mistakes in methods employed in 1948 to repudiate completely all that was correct in the 1948 criticism and long after the Communist Parties of all countries had stopped mentioning the 1948 resolution, they launched unbridled attacks on this resolution at the League's Congress. As it is, we cannot help but take another look at what was said after all in the 1948 resolution.

Just see for yourself! This resolution criticized the leadership of the Yugoslav Communist Party for having "pursued an incorrect line which represents a departure from Marxism-Leninism," and declared that "the leaders of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia have taken a stand unworthy of Communists, and have begun to identify the foreign policy of the Soviet Union with the foreign policy of the imperialist powers, behaving towards the Soviet Union in the same manner as they behave to the bourgeois states"; that "the leaders of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia are departing from the positions of the working class and are breaking with the Marxist theory of classes and class struggle"; and that "the leadership of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia is revising the Marxist-Leninist teachings about the Party." Are not these the facts? Has not the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League by its own deeds over the past ten years provided additional evidence as to the correctness of this resolution? On such a serious question, can they prove themselves right by repeating "any expectation in any quarter that we shall renounce our principled stands both in international and in internal matters, is only a loss of time"? It can be seen from this that it does not help the Yugoslav revisionists to attack the Communist Parties of various countries by using the 1948 resolution of the Information Bureau; it cannot prevail over the criticism against the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League, but can only overwhelm the leaders of the Yugoslav League of Communists themselves.

UP to the present, the Yugoslav revisionists have not yet made any serious reply to the criticisms expressed by the Communist Parties of various countries, nor can they do so. One of their favourite weapons is to describe this criticism as "interference in internal affairs." This, of course, in no sense represents a serious attitude. For Marxist-Leninists to fight the anti-Marxist-Leninist trend of revisionism is not only unavoidable but a matter of

duty. Waging this ideological struggle has nothing to do with whether the countries concerned are large or small, or with whether the Parties concerned are in power or not. Even where Marxist-Leninists are still a small group under the oppression of reactionary rulers, nobody can deprive them of their right to carry on such ideological struggle. Nor has such ideological struggle any relation whatsoever to interference in the internal affairs of other countries, by force or by underhand means, or to so-called big-nation chauvinism and hegemony. To employ such allegations in order to shift the ground of the argument, and to resort to sophistry and slander is ludicrous. And it is doubly so for the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League to hurl charges of so-called interference in internal affairs. Is it not the Yugoslav Communist League which, in its programme, started talking at length about the internal policies of all the socialist countries (which are also "binding" on them alone) and pinned a series of malicious labels on them? Since the Yugoslav Communist League maintains that "Yugoslavia must not concentrate on herself," why should other countries concentrate on themselves alone? Why should the smaller socialist states neighbouring on Yugoslavia, such as Albania and Hungary, find that even their right to concentrate on themselves is infringed upon by Yugoslavia? What curious logic! Some people behave as if they could, like the magistrate in the Chinese saying, set houses on fire while forbidding ordinary folk to light lamps. But a rebuff brings immediate whines about "unequal positions". . . . Enough of this!

THE Yugoslav revisionists have yet another miserable weapon — they say the sort of things they are doing have been going on for a long time, why should they be criticized for them now? True enough, the revisionist standpoint of the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League has long been there, and that in fact was the basis of the 1948 resolution of the Information Bureau. However, at that time the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League had not yet systematized its revisionist views. Nor did it, after the socialist countries resumed relations with Yugoslavia, state them as systematically as it has now done. From 1954 to the time preceding the Seventh Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, the Communist Parties of various countries on many occasions, publicly or in other ways, argued with the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League. As is generally known, these arguments reached a climax after the 1956 counter-revolutionary uprising in Hungary. Although the arguments failed to change its stand, the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League repeatedly expressed the desire to end the argument and to maintain and even improve friendly relations with the socialist countries and the Communist Parties of the various countries. In November 1957, though it did not participate in the Moscow meeting of the Communist Parties of the socialist countries, the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League joined in the meeting of the 64 Communist and Workers' Parties and in the Peace Manifesto. All this for a time made the Communist Parties of various countries rather hopeful. But the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League once more broke faith and

returned evil for good. Unilaterally it scrapped the agreements between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia reached in the talks held in 1955, 1956 and 1957 on expanding and strengthening co-operation between Yugoslavia and the socialist countries. Unilaterally it forsook the stand taken on matters regarding principles in the international situation expressed in the Peace Manifesto, and put forward an out-and-out revisionist programme. Prior to the Seventh Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, the Communist Parties of some countries gave comradely advice to the Yugoslav League of Communists and suggested that the analysis of the international situation contained in the draft programme, which obviously ran counter to Marxism-Leninism, be deleted. The Yugoslav League of Communists turned a deaf ear to the basic points in this advice. So far from heeding this advice, at their Congress they concentrated their attacks on the Soviet Union which had given them generous fraternal aid and on the socialist countries and the Communist Parties in various countries; but they fawned on and servilely thanked U.S. imperialism, the most ferocious enemy of the people all over the world. So it was only when their prolonged efforts, characterized by patience and magnanimity, proved fruitless, that the Communist Parties of various countries gave this shameful band of renegades the counter-blows it deserves. Now the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League blames others for not adopting a comradely attitude to it and for failing to keep promises. Whom is it trying to fool? What serious-minded person can bear with such fooling?

NOWADAYS the most urgent task facing the people of the world is the defence of peace. Will the fight against the Yugoslav revisionists hamper the people's cause of defending peace? *The New York Times* editorial of June 1 helpfully provides us with an answer. It said: "Unexpected and now unforeseeable developments may produce situations in the months ahead in which other Communist-ruled nations might request our aid and in which it would be desirable for us to grant such request. . . . Certainly the news from Belgrade and Moscow in recent days suggests that the flexibility shown in the past in regard to American aid to Yugoslavia was wise from the point of view of our own interests." Those who do not see the danger of Yugoslav revisionism should give careful attention to this. The United States expects the Yugoslav example to encourage new Nagys hidden in the Communist Parties of the socialist countries, expects that these new Nagys may perhaps bring about "unexpected and now unforeseeable developments" "in the months ahead" and may seize political power and ask for U.S. aid as Yugoslavia has been doing. Although this is an illusion of the U.S. imperialists, it is not difficult to see from it the part played by Yugoslav revisionism in the U.S. imperialists' plans for subversion and the significance of the fight against Yugoslav revisionism for the cause of defending peace. At the same time, it is not difficult to see the difference between Yugoslav revisionism and neutralism in general: ordinary neutral countries cannot serve the purpose of subversion which the United States requires, but often themselves become the target of U.S. subversion. The fight against Yugoslav revisionism is not only to draw a clear-cut line

between Marxism-Leninism and anti-Marxism-Leninism, to let all supporters of socialism recognize the leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League for what it is, and so serve to consolidate the core of the peace forces — the socialist camp and the international workers' movement. It is also to let all supporters of peace recognize the imperialists, particularly the U.S. imperialists, for what they are and see clearly where the danger of war lies. Naturally this is even more obviously in the interests of peace.

BUT to draw a dividing line does not mean breaking off diplomatic relations. The leading group of the Yugoslav Communist League complains that to criticize its servility to U.S. imperialism is to force it to sever diplomatic relations with the United States. This is simply deliberate and dishonest confusion of two different things. Similarly it is bluffing people by saying that the criticism of Yugoslav revisionism by the Communist Parties of the socialist countries means a repetition of the history between 1948 and 1954 and a menace to the diplomatic relations between these countries and Yugoslavia. But this will frighten nobody. The post-1948 history will not be repeated. If the true face of the Yugoslav revisionists is recognized, their sabotage of the socialist camp and the international workers' movement can be stopped more easily. To return to the pre-1954 situation is not right. At any rate, the working people of Yugoslavia hope to take the socialist road and be friendly with the peoples of the socialist countries. Since the socialist countries can maintain diplomatic relations with capitalist countries, why cannot they maintain such relations with Yugoslavia? However, since the Yugoslav leaders themselves do not want fraternal relations with the socialist countries, it is only natural that relations between Yugoslavia and the socialist countries are levelled down to ordinary diplomatic relations, and there is no need for the Yugoslav leaders or anyone else to make a fuss about it. The programme of the Yugoslav Communist League in many places shows that Yugoslavia supports peace. Although this does not show that the programme is Marxist, yet so long as Yugoslavia is willing to do so, we believe the socialist countries will continue to co-operate with it on the question of safeguarding peace, just as they can co-operate on this question with some capitalist countries and certain political forces of the bourgeoisie. In fighting against the opportunists, Lenin once quoted this saying of Marx: "If you must unite, Marx wrote to the party leaders, then enter into agreements to satisfy the practical aims of the movement, but do not allow any bargaining over principles, do not make 'concessions' in questions of theory." This teaching of Marx and Lenin is our guide to action. We hold that modern revisionism must be fought to the end and there can be no room for concession here. But in the future it will still be possible for the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the socialist countries, or the League of Communists of Yugoslavia and the Communist Parties of various countries, to "enter into agreements." Whether this "entering into agreements" will really take place and what kind of "agreements" will be entered into depends primarily on the future attitude of the leading group of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.

BRISK TRADE AT THE EXPORT COMMODITIES FAIR

by OUR CORRESPONDENT

THE spring Export Commodities Fair held in this subtropical city was so successful that an even larger one has been set for October and November of this year. Business amounting to 64 million pounds sterling were transacted during the one-month fair (April 15-May 15) which is considered a good record in comparison with trade fairs elsewhere in the world. Business continued even after the fair was closed and transactions worth another two million pounds sterling were negotiated in a matter of five days.

More than 2,200 business men from different parts of the world attended the fair, which was housed in the newly built Chinese export goods exhibition hall overlooking the Pearl River. Scores of negotiating rooms on the fourth floor, constantly occupied, proved inadequate for the brisk trade. Sponsors of the fair had to make more rooms on the second and third floors available for the visiting business men to negotiate with the 13 joint trading groups organized by China's foreign trade corporations.

China's Exports

At the fair, China's export and import firms did a large volume of business with Hongkong merchants. They also made wide contacts and concluded transactions with business firms in more than 40 countries and regions including India, Burma, Malaya, Singapore, United Arab Republic, West Africa, Britain, West Germany, Italy, France, Canada and Finland. In addition to many traditional Chinese exports, China also sold many new industrial goods, including complete cotton spinning and weaving plant equipment, paper mills, nail-making factories, machine-tools, semi-conductor wireless sets, etc. There was a marked increase in the sales of machine-tools, derricks, various electrical engineering machines, power-generating machinery, mining machinery, and metallurgical machinery. The sale of machine-tools of various kinds increased eightfold compared with the previous fair.

The fair was the fourth of its kind held since the autumn of 1956. A greater variety of export goods, more new products and a general improvement in the specifications and quality of products distinguished this year's fair from past ones.

Available for export were such traditional goods as casings, goat wool, bristles, hides and furs, egg products, tea, silk, porcelain, Chinese medicinal substances, unboiled varnish and handicrafts. There were also many products that appeared for the first time on China's export lists, including varnish, dyestuff and dye intermediates, Diesel

engines, lead ingots, silk and wool interwoven knitwear, ginseng extract and pantocrin, etc.

Quite a few products which China imported until only recently, were available for export. These included saccharine, castor sugar, lump sugar, insulating plastics, camphor Barros, chemical raw materials and chemicals. New products made as a result of technological progress in the course of China's current forward leap, now also available for export, included organic glass, automatic looms, shuttle change automatic towel looms, nylon stockings, bakelite plate, carbide tool bits, knitwear made from artificial fibre, etc. Some of the visiting business men were quite surprised to see that China was ready to export artificial fibres so soon. They had estimated that China would not be able to export this until 1959 at the earliest.

Colourful and attractive toys were on display, most of them operated by electric power. Visitors to the fair took a fancy to them and large quantities of them were sold. There were many rare animals and birds on display, including giant pandas, which were also sold in good numbers.

Customers at the fair were quite satisfied with the prices and the terms of sale. Commodity prices at the fair remained stable and there were no sudden price fluctuations. The terms of sale were flexible in many ways, with different methods of payment for different goods.

Import

At this fair China was a buyer as well as a seller; this was another new feature of the fair. A large amount of goods was bought in accordance with China's needs in industrial and agricultural production and construction. According to available information, the chief goods ordered by the Chinese trading groups during the fair included steel plates for boilers, steel tubes for boilers, thin steel plate, thick steel plate, artificial silk, wool tops, tanning extract, pharmaceuticals, cog wheels, silicon steel sheets, galvanized iron sheet, and chemicals. Over 20,000 tons of steel plates for boilers and more than 6,000 tons of thin steel plates were ordered.

The visiting business men saw for themselves that China not only genuinely desired the development of peaceful trade but was making real efforts in this field. As construction in China progresses further, she will have to buy a wide variety of goods from abroad and there is always the possibility of large orders so long as the prices and the terms of transaction are reasonable.

The fact that the fair was held in the building of the permanent exhibition of Chinese export goods, proved

quite helpful to the conduct of business. With tens of thousands of commodities on display the exhibition gave the visiting business men a better picture of what China can offer for sale. This made it easier for them to work out or readjust their purchasing plans. In the same building, too, there were postal and telecommunication services, insurance agencies, banking and transport services. This of course facilitated business transactions.

Impressed by the success of the fair, many foreign business men, overseas Chinese traders and Chinese business men from Hongkong and Macao expressed the hope that there would be more such fairs so that they could come again and do further business. Chinese foreign trade firms are now working on the early fulfilment of the contracts signed at the fair. They are also beginning to prepare for the still larger fair to be held later this year.

New Trend in Water Conservancy

by LI CHIANG

Water conservancy work today puts the stress on small projects built with local resources. Flood waters are being stored and turned to good use.

IN the recent nation-wide drive for building water conservancy works on a big scale, the main stress is on small projects, supplemented by medium-sized ones. Large projects, of course, are being built wherever feasible and necessary, but in all cases the first aim is to mobilize local resources in manpower, materials and money for the job. Local efforts, however, are not limited merely to bringing irrigation to individual farms. In many places people from several counties are joining together to harness whole rivers. This has been made possible by the co-operative farm network that now covers the countryside.

In the old days when China's agricultural economy was made up of individual peasants scrabbling desperately for a living on small plots of land, it was impossible to organize large numbers of people on a voluntary basis, with the considerable financial means and materials needed, to undertake conservancy works on any appreciable scale. The individual peasants just could not afford to go in for big-scale capital construction in the rural areas. What with landlord exploitation and other calamities they had a hard enough time as it was, to keep current production going and make both ends meet. Land reform, and co-operative farming with its pooled resources and rational use of land and labour have changed all this.

In sharp contrast to the past the emphasis today in water conservancy work carried out by the people is on the storage of water. The peasants in the thousands of years in the past were afraid of water and tried to get rid of it. During the rainy seasons those who lived near rivers were always busy repairing dykes or channels to drain off water so as to save their farmlands from flood. Flood means starvation and misery. So everybody,

looking to his own interests, sought to keep their own areas clear and threw up works to protect themselves with little regard for the result to others. But when the floods came, these piecemeal calculations usually went by the board and everyone suffered.

Using Flood Waters

After the liberation, the People's Government adopted a policy of attaching equal importance to storage and drainage. It has had good results. Before the individual farms were fully merged into co-operatives there continued to be disputes on water conservancy work between neighbouring areas. But these have now all ceased. With the co-operative movement triumphant throughout the countryside, there is an increasing amount of over-all planning and co-ordination of different local projects based on democratic discussion so as to enable every district to store as much water as possible and make the best use of it. By pooling resources whole rivers have been brought under control, and damage due to floods and waterlogging is being either greatly reduced or eliminated completely.



The water dragon tamed "Before you were boss. Now, you'll do what we say!"

Cartoon by Chen Chin-yen

The Tientsin Special Administrative Region's efforts to drain its low-lying land is a good example of how proper storage of water can reduce floods and irrigate land during the dry spring seasons. The conservancy works undertaken there were designed not merely to drain off water but to store water in detention basins and enable crops to be grown on part of the low-lying land that used to be flooded. The acreage of cultivated land was thus increased. By rearing fish and planting lotus and reeds in detention basins the peasants can actually get bigger incomes than they could if they tried to plant ordinary crops on such low-lying lands. The land where excess water is detained also becomes more fertile through silting and the decay of water plants.

The government has, of course, invested immense sums since liberation on large reservoirs and detention basins along big rivers such as the Yellow River, the Huai, the Yangtse. Such long-term projects will, of course, continue and more will be built where feasible and necessary. But they cannot take the place of those smaller local projects which can be built by local resources and which are adapted to the very diverse natural conditions in China. More wells are needed, for instance, in the north China plains. In the mountain areas, of Shensi or Kansu with their varied topography, a multitude of projects for soil and water conservation have to be built. In the hilly regions in the south, dams, reservoirs, and ponds are the need.

Accent on Small Projects

The water conservancy problem as a whole, therefore, could not possibly be solved by exclusive reliance on large-scale projects. The logic of the present policy becomes self-evident particularly when it is considered within the context of the general line of building "more, faster, better and more economically" for socialism.

Small water conservancy projects don't usually involve complicated designs and techniques. It's easy to select sites. It is also easy to combine work on them with current production and they are usually well within the means of any township or co-op farm. Concentrated on small and medium projects, the collective efforts of China's 500 million peasants will give bigger results faster than if they are concentrated on the building of a few large projects.

Working to this policy with the main accent on small projects, a campaign got going in October 1957 which in eight months increased the area of irrigated land by 399 million *mou*. This figure exceeds the total area of irrigated land at the time of liberation—238 million *mou*; it also exceeds the total amount of land newly irrigated in the eight years from the time of liberation to the autumn of 1957—more than 270 million *mou*.

The harnessing of the Mang River in Honan Province provides a specific example of what can be achieved by a well co-ordinated effort to build small water conservancy projects along an entire stream. Work started in the winter of 1955. By the spring of 1957 three-quarters of the whole scheme had been completed but the results achieved were already remarkable. During the high water season of 1953 the rainfall was 540 mm., the flow of water was 500 cubic metres per second, and 120,000 *mou* of land were flooded. In 1957, though the rainfall was 560 mm., the flow of the Mang River during the high water season

was only 70 cubic metres per second, an 86 per cent reduction compared with the flow in 1953; flooding was eliminated and water usefully stored. With flood and drought practically ended the peasants of the river valley reaped record harvests.

Another example is Hsingtang County, Hopei Province, which has planned to build 1,000 small reservoirs in an area of 600 square kilometres along the valley of the Chu and Kao Rivers; 600 will be completed before the high water season of 1958 sets in. Eight medium-sized reservoirs are also planned. When these projects are completed they will be able to handle even fairly big flood waters on the two rivers in the county.

Local Resources

Since it is well within the means of the co-operatives to finance and build small projects, and most materials for them can be supplied locally, the principle is that state funds should be used only to supplement local resources. In Chia County, Honan Province, the local people themselves undertook everything connected with the building of 64 ponds or reservoirs built there before July 1957. Only one grant was then made by the government for a reservoir to store 2,150,000 cubic metres of water.

In Hsushui County, Hopei Province, the peasants built 174 tanks or ponds in the mountain areas and on the plains in the three months, November 1957-January 1958. Altogether about 300 will be completed before the high water season sets in. This programme and other conservancy works will bring irrigation to all the 800,000 *mou* of farmland in the county, an average of 150 cubic metres of water per *mou*. In this case a few medium-sized reservoirs serve as the key points of a network of small conservancy works. All were built with local resources except for one medium-sized reservoir with a capacity of 60 million cubic metres; this required a government subsidy of one million yuan.

Joint Planning

When members of farm co-operatives go to work on water conservancy projects, they receive the same rate of pay calculated in work-points as they would earn at ordinary farmwork in the co-operatives.

When several co-operatives jointly undertake a project then payment to members taking part in the work and the cost of materials are shared out between them according to the benefits each co-operative gets from the project. When undertaking water conservancy projects in the winter of 1957 and the spring of 1958, Hsushui County adopted the method of unifying all planning, determination of priorities and allocation of manpower. This method which is now being widely applied elsewhere, showed that under suitable conditions it got the work done better and in less time, built up a real socialist spirit among those engaged in the work—and gave the best all round results in use of water and protection from floods.

CHINESE WEIGHTS and MEASURES at a GLANCE

- 1 *mou* = 0.06 hectare or 0.1647 acre
- 1 *tan* (picul) = 0.05 ton or 0.984 hundredweight
- 1 *ch'in* (catty) = 0.5 kilogramme or 1.1023 pounds

Peasant Inventions for Irrigation

by YANG MIN

This is the second of a series on technical innovations in the countryside now on display at the National Farm Implements Exhibition in Peking.

THE irrigation equipment section of the National Farm Implements Exhibition, with its 400-odd exhibits, is a vivid cross-section of the national effort to create new tools for the acceleration of water conservancy works and new water-lifting equipment. These new tools testify to the tremendous outpouring of inventive and creative ideas from farmer-artisans throughout the country.

An interesting example is a foot-peddled earth pounder invented by a Yunnan farmer to make earth dams and embankments (Fig. 1). Operated by two men, it is four times more efficient than the traditional way with eight people working together. By a simple but ingenious device, it can be moved either forward or backward while pounding. Since most of the parts are made of wood, cost of construction is only twelve yuan.

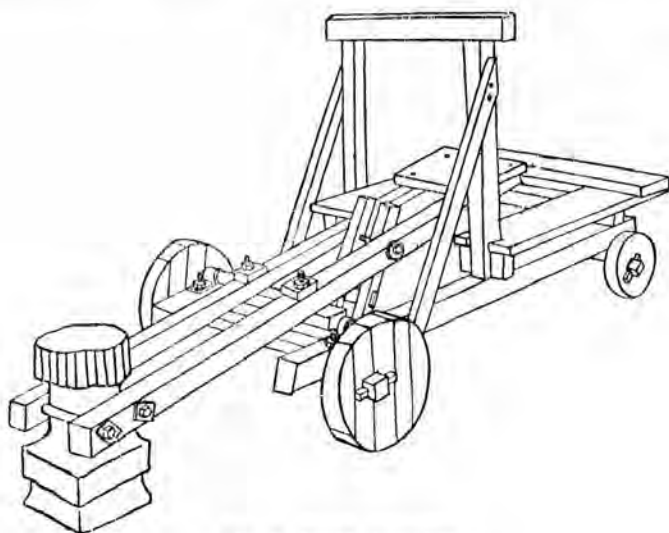


Fig. 1 Earth pounder

Most of the other earth-shifting devices on display are also made of wood or bamboo. Although still manually operated, they use gravity, centrifugal force and friction ingeniously and do the work of several or even scores of persons using the traditional shoulder poles and baskets. Of the various kinds of conveyors, one made by a Honan farmer (Fig. 2) attracts the largest crowds at the exhibition. Its earth boxes are raised by two men winding a wooden pulley. They slide down to the point where they dump their content and then slide back to where the earth is loaded — all automatically. It shifts 200 cubic metres of earth a day a distance of 100 metres or more.

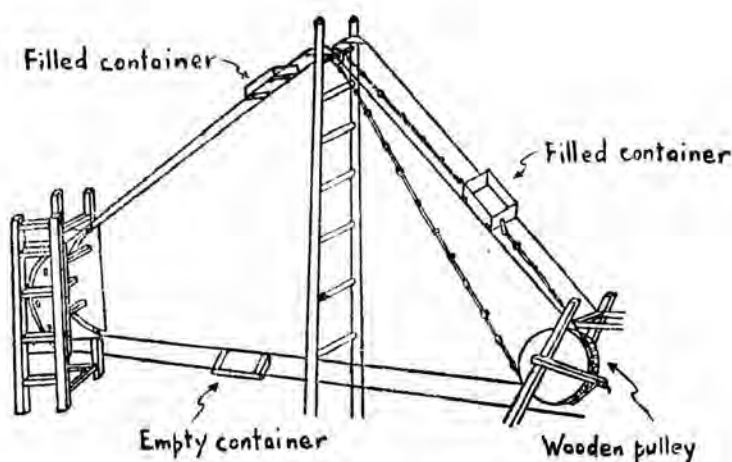


Fig. 2 Self-dumping conveyor

The fact that many of the exhibits came from Honan and Anhwei Provinces is not accidental. These provinces have been victimized by floods and droughts for generations and innovations to accelerate irrigation and flood control were fathered by a sense of urgency. Ho Ting, inventor of the conveyor described above, said that his device had helped dig four lakes in three months, work which would have taken a year by the old shoulder-pole method. "The work forced us to think up ways to do it more quickly." Honan, with the greatest number of innovations, is also the most successful in irrigation work. Its irrigated land increased by 74.94 million *mou* since October last, and now 87 per cent of its land are irrigated.

Water-Lifting Tools

To meet the urgent need to raise water for irrigation, machine-building factories throughout the country supplied the countryside with 370,000 h.p. of irrigation and drainage equipment up to the end of April. The target for this year is over 3.5 million h.p. — six times the total capacity at work last year and over 36 times that of 1949, the year of liberation.

Dozens of centrifugal, axial-flow, mixed-flow and water-turbine pumps and gas, steam and Diesel engines are arrayed around a pool at the exhibition. Gas engines are most popular among the co-op farmers, because solid fuels such as coal, charcoal, firewood and even straw or grain husks available over wide areas can be used to produce gas for these engines. On display is a brick and earthenware gas generator which is as efficient as, but much cheaper than, steel generators. It shows the ingenuity of the farmer-artisans who are devising all sorts of things to hasten China's socialist construction.

Another notable device substituting wood for metal, at the exhibition, is a wooden axial-flow pump made by

a farm co-op in Hopei Province that can lift 540 tons of water per hour for irrigation. A water-turbine pumping machine from Fukien Province can lift water for irrigation and generate electricity at the same time. For this purpose, it requires a water head of only 1.5 metres.

Two interesting examples of the marriage of old and new are on display. One is a combination of five traditional wooden "dragon bone" water lifts driven by a gas engine which can lift 351 tons of water an hour, equivalent to a 25 cm. pump but costing much less. The other is a horse-drawn pump using a number of gears for acceleration. This can be adopted where mechanical power is not yet available.

The visitor was most impressed by the water lifts and pumps improvised and innovated by the co-op farmers. For even the 3.5 million horsepower of equipment for irrigation and drainage to be supplied by industry this year will not be nearly enough to meet the requirements. Programmes for the development of agriculture now under way in the various provinces call for 15 million horsepower in irrigation and drainage equipment. The co-op farmers are not standing still, waiting for more machines from the factories. They are creating all sorts of water lifts and pumps on their own. There are 130 specimens from 20 provinces arranged along a circular ditch on the exhibition ground.

Chain and tube pumps are the most common, but there are also suction pumps, waterwheels and trough-like water lifts. They use various methods of drive from hand cranking and foot pedalling to wind power and draught animals. They adapt conveyor belts, fire engines, bicycles, foot-pedalled presses and looms. An interesting exhibit is a double pump, like a children's seesaw, that operates two suction pumps supplying a steady current of water. Two teen-agers can operate it easily.

Low cost, convenience, simple construction and suitability to local conditions are common features of these tools. As the operators sit on saddles or benches, the back-breaking labour of the old type treadmill waterwheels is avoided. An improved "dragon bone" lift driven by an adapted cotton gin has a fan mounted on its frame which works as the lift is operated and provides a cooling current of air for the operator who can read while he pedals the lift.

Simple But Efficient

Compared with modern machines, the tools described above are still rather rudimentary. But they are already far more efficient — from one quarter to five or six times more efficient — than the traditional tools, and fill a crying need. The fact that co-op farmers throughout the country moved 25,000 million cubic metres of earth and brought 353 million *mou* under irrigation in only seven months testifies to this. It is mainly with these tools that Chinese co-op farmers aim at bringing 70 per cent of all cultivated land under irrigation by next spring, thereby ending in the main droughts and floods that have alternately plagued the people for thousands of years.

The mass movement to innovate and improve tools is generated by the farmers' intense desire for the rapid development of socialist agricultural production. It is full of vitality and promises a great future.

As China's steel and power industries are not yet highly developed, the making of large numbers of simple wooden tools by the farmer-artisans eminently suits present conditions. But the steel and power industries are growing quickly. Their insufficiency is only temporary. The present reform of tools is in the direction of semi-mechanization. It will eventually lead to full modern mechanization.

Cultural Revolution

Heilungkiang's Victory over Illiteracy

by WU PIN

THE past two months have witnessed many festivities among the people of Heilungkiang Province. They held meetings, beat gongs and drums and exploded fire-crackers to celebrate their victory in becoming the first province in China to virtually wipe out illiteracy among the younger workers and peasants. The great majority of them have mastered a working vocabulary of over 1,500 characters. They can read newspapers and popular magazines, write letters and short articles, and keep accounts. Now, to consolidate the knowledge they have

already gained and to further improve their literacy competence a movement has been launched in Heilungkiang which called on the people to make a point of reading 100 books and writing exercises with a large vocabulary.

The campaign to wipe out illiteracy in Heilungkiang began in 1948, when the province was liberated. At that time 85 per cent of the population was illiterate. Immediately after liberation and the subsequent land reform, winter schools were opened in many parts of the province. A large number of peasants, both men and women, who

had never received any education at all, attended school for the first time in their lives.

Drives Against Illiteracy

There were three distinct anti-illiteracy movements. In the first one, launched in 1952, the "quick method of learning Chinese characters" was introduced. No less than 1,200,000 people attended special schools for adults established throughout the province. At the time of the second campaign, in 1956, agricultural co-operatives had already been established in Heilungkiang. Taking advantage of the fact that the peasants were now organized, the local Party organizations strengthened their leadership and intensified the work of wiping out illiteracy. More than two million people attended literacy schools and classes during this movement. At that point it was found that nearly 900,000 people in the province had been completely freed from the scourge of illiteracy and 1,400,000 had become partially literate. (People of the latter category could read from 700 to 1,500 characters.)

During the past few months the third anti-illiteracy movement was launched under the slogan "to get rid of illiteracy and qualify for the technical revolution." Two million and three hundred thousand people responded to the challenge and joined the literacy schools and classes.

The guiding principle of the anti-illiteracy work in Heilungkiang was to make it the common task of the people themselves or, in other words, "let the people teach the people." Thus teachers for literacy schools and classes were recruited from among all kinds of people—graduates of primary and middle schools, pupils of higher grades (known as "little teachers"), intellectuals who have recently gone to work in the countryside and peasants who had already learnt to read and write. In this way a huge body of anti-illiteracy teachers came into existence, and in the words of Vice-Premier Chen Yi, "an atomic explosion in culture" had occurred.

This large number of teachers often made individual instruction possible. At the height of the movement there were three million teachers for 2.3 million students. To further hasten the wiping out of illiteracy many teachers not only taught pupils reading and writing, but also helped them with various chores. They helped the women pupils, for instance, to take care of the babies, wash the dishes, sweep the floor, and even prepare food and feed the fowls, so that their pupils were free to concentrate on their studies.

Linked to Production

In many places anti-illiteracy work was linked to the big leap forward in agriculture. For example, the method of close planting that was innovated in Chaoyuan County was widely popularized through a description written as a lesson in the literacy text-books. Thus the pupils could learn how to read and write and at the same time gain knowledge in new farming methods. To make time for both work and study during the busy seasons of the year the peasants combined the study groups and the production teams with literacy teachers assigned to each team. In this way the peasants were taught to read and write in the fields during the rest periods and noon-day breaks.

With literacy a great change has come about in the lives and work of the people. The experiences in Ningan

County illustrate the extent of this transformation. Sung Fa-cheng, leader of a production team in a farm co-op, did not know how to record the work points nor how to keep accounts. On a big sheet of paper, he used to draw many houses to represent the names of the members of the co-operative. When a member had done a day's work he would make a stroke in the house representing his name, and a dot if he had done only half a day's work. As time went on the houses all became jumbles of dots and strokes, making it quite difficult to know the exact amount of work a member had done. The members were dissatisfied with this method of keeping records. Now, after completing a course in the spare-time primary school he is able to keep all the work records clearly and his work has been lauded by every one of his colleagues. Stories similar to Sung Fa-cheng's can be heard throughout the province.

In the same county there are two young carpenters, Tien Cheng-chun and Chang Pao-shan. After becoming literate they regularly read books on agricultural machines. These books stimulated their creative abilities and eventually they invented a device for mixing seeds which is ten times as efficient as manual labour. They also invented a machine for manufacturing granular fertilizers and improved the rice threshing machine.

Cultural Life Enriched

The cultural life of the people of Ningan County has changed profoundly. Reading books and newspapers has become a habit with many of the peasants. Approximately 42,000 copies of newspapers and periodicals are read by the inhabitants of the county. Practically every township and co-operative has its club, library, spare-time dramatic group, chorus, and ball team. Many of the clubs hold weekend parties at which there are playlets and operas, music and dance performances and folk songs. These frequent cultural and recreational activities have changed the customs of the people. Superstitious practices and gambling have disappeared and most of the people have learnt to observe the rules of hygiene. Cases of parent-arranged marriage no longer exist.

However, this is just the beginning of the great cultural revolution. Having achieved literacy the people of Heilungkiang have advanced to the study of science and technology. Vocational, secondary, and primary schools, established by the people themselves, are popping up like mushrooms. Within a few months 139,000 such schools have been established. Among these are quite a number of secondary vocational schools of agricultural mechanization, forestry, water conservancy, and handicrafts. Over 1,100,000 young workers and peasants, who have been freed from illiteracy, have enrolled in these schools.

The increase in primary schools has made it possible to achieve universal elementary education in Heilungkiang Province. Among the 1,941,300 school-age children of the province 1,807,100 are now attending primary schools. This is 93 per cent of the total as compared with 70.9 per cent last year. Universal elementary education has also been initiated among the minority peoples of the province. As a matter of fact the Koreans in the province achieved it three years ago. The school-age children of another minority people, the Olunchuns, who were formerly nomadic, have also all entered school.

A Factory Improves Its Leadership

by WANG MO-CHEN

During the rectification campaign, many people holding leading positions in factories and mines began to take part in actual production work. They followed the example set by rural leaders, who earlier started to cultivate "experimental plots." (See "Peking Review," April 1, 1958.) The idea in both cases is for responsible leaders to try out ways of doing things better personally so that others may profit from their experience. Below we give an example from one plant.

MOST leading personnel in the Fuhsin Machine Repair Works in northeast China are of working-class origin. They really exerted themselves in the past few years, but most of their time was spent in the office. So they began to be divorced from actual production, and to lose their close touch with the workers. This led them to react slowly and inadequately to production snags that required quick attention and action.

After May 1957, when the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party directed leading personnel at various levels to participate in manual labour, those at Fuhsin also began to do physical work on Saturday afternoons. But in the rectification campaign the workers were still critical—saying they still hadn't changed their "style" sufficiently. The cultivation of experimental plots by rural leaders gave them a new idea. At the end of 1957, determined to change their way of work, they went into the shops to give personal leadership in production.

Chang Hung-hsueh, secretary of the factory Communist Party committee, was formerly a turner. He was sent, however, to the steel smelting workshop because it was the key one, supplying all the principal parts needed by other sections. This became his "experimental plot."

Huang Chao-teh, the deputy Party secretary, was formerly a foundry worker. But he went to the major overhaul shop to learn electricity. Things there were not going well, and called for a drastic reform.

Soon after they went down to the workshops, the factory leaders signed on, under contract, as apprentices to the master workmen and the technicians. They learned the actual job from the former and its theoretical side from the latter, and submitted to regular tests in both. They worked in the shops 16 hours a week, alternating on the day and night shifts in order to keep in touch with more workers and claimed no privileges or exemptions of any kind. The Party secretary swept floors, carried iron and coal and hauled out slag just like the others. The workers were immensely gratified, treated them as ordinary members of their group and spoke freely whatever they had on their minds.

Soon after taking their places on the job, the leading personnel began to concentrate on the main problems in the shops to which they were sent. For instance, seeing that the moulding was too slow to keep pace with the electric furnace in the steel smelting shop, and so held up the whole process, Chang Hung-hsueh began to help the workers find ways to break the bottleneck — by prompting

them to get over their conservative ideas. The number of moulds for casting coal-trolley wheels made by each man per shift jumped from 30-40 to 70-80.

Deputy Secretary Huang Chao-teh too was successful. Last year, the repair of electric shovels in the major overhaul shop was often behind time and the work poor, so there were many complaints. This year, the shop undertook to repair electric shovels in 30 days. The workers wanted to cut it to 20, but some senior officials in the factory doubted whether it could be done. Deputy Secretary Huang, who had his "experimental plot" in this shop, backed the workers. The Party committee decided to try to put the proposal through. As a result, the repair was completed in only 11 days. The workers were excited, and thought up ways to reduce the time to 6 days. The once backward shop became a pace-setter.

The leading personnel of the factory, while cultivating their "experimental plots" also organized the technicians to join in pushing various improvements. In the previous year, a trial had been made with the method of asphaltting the furnace floor. But the first time it burned out, and so people got panicky and dropped the idea. Party Secretary Chang, basing himself on what he had learned from his "experimental plot," insisted that this was a good method, though imperfect. He personally went to Fushun to learn from a factory that used it. Some technical difficulties still stood in the way of spreading it—so he tackled these with some of the junior technicians and the shop foreman. Tried once more, the method proved to be a complete success: in the course of a year the furnace needed three less repairs than the year before, and yielded 120 tons of steel more in a year.

Besides taking a direct part in production and pushing technical reforms, they learned to concentrate on the central task at any given period and dealt promptly with questions involving principles and policy.

Deputy Secretary Huang helped the political study group leader in the shop where he worked to organize self-criticism during the rectification campaign and educated the workers in fighting waste. The way this shop conducted the anti-waste campaign was adopted by the others, bringing the drive to a high point in the whole plant. Party Secretary Chang helped the steel smelting shop to increase output, while at the same time attaching importance to the quality of the products, and the workers' health.

As a result of several months' participation in manual work, the top personnel of the factory acquired some production skills and improved their art of leadership. In the past they were seen in the shops so seldom. Now they are with the workers on the job, and, with their families moved to the workers' living quarters, thus building ever closer friendship.

That is why the efficiency in turning out some major products of the factory has increased by 4-5 times in a few short months.

SIDELIGHTS

Study While You Work. The No. 1 state-owned cotton mill in Tientsin has blazed a new trail in giving workers a secondary school education — while they work. Two hours out of their 8-hour shift every day are given over to study during which they get 75 per cent pay. The courses offered are language, physics, chemistry, mathematics, elementary engineering, mechanics, etc. They will finish the 6-year secondary school course in three and a half years' time, whereas the old evening school system would have taken eight. In eight years, the workers say, they will be able to finish a university course. "When that day comes," they say, "we'll have really made the 'turn over' — a Chinese idiom which stands for fully emancipated."

Just a Change of Ideas. At the Tungtsu post office, in the eastern part of Peking, clerks help elderly people, or those who cannot write, fill in forms. This breaks a long-established post office rule in force since 1878. Before the rectification campaign this post office had a brusque way with the customers and there were not a few complaints. The campaign made the staff see and understand the meaning of serving the public, and a great change was effected. The staff now even helps people stamp envelopes and wrap up parcels. One customer couldn't believe his eyes. He asked one of the clerks at the counter, in a whisper, if there had been a change of staff. The clerk answered: "No, just a change of ideas."

Ming Tombs Rhapsody. Tien Han, the veteran playwright, inspired by the construction of the Ming Tombs Reservoir, is finishing a new play entitled *Ming Tombs Rhapsody*. The theme is built round the Ming Tombs, the time of their construction in the past, how they are today, and what they will be like in 20 years' time. The characters that fill the stage 20 years from now do not talk about the international situation but the interplanetary situation.

The Youth Art Theatre has begun rehearsals and will take the play to the builders of the reservoir at the construction site for its opening night.

Self-Reliance. China has succeeded in making automatic pile cutting machines for the first time. They are used for cutting velveteen and corduroy, and increase output elevenfold as compared with

hand-cutting. Two such machines were ordered from Japan and another forty were to be imported, but since the Kishi government is bent on tearing up the Sino-Japanese trade agreement, these orders were cancelled. Workers at a Shanghai factory put their heads together and the first Chinese automatic pile cutting machine was made. Experts consider the quality of the new Chinese machine better than that of the Japanese machines.

Chance Encounter. Many young people like to go out, from time to time, to put in a day's voluntary work on the farms or construction sites. The following sketch and conversation gives some idea of the contemporary mood:



She: Sorry, but I won't be able to see you this Sunday.

He: Me too! I've also got something on.

Both: Fancy meeting you here!

Yen Kua

China's Biggest Sugar Refinery. China's largest sugar refinery is coming up at Putien in the seaboard province of Fukien. It will be completed by the end of 1960. Daily capacity will be 400 to 450 tons of granulated sugar, which is twice the output of the Overseas Chinese Sugar Refinery in Kwangtung, at present China's largest. Alongside the main project a paper mill, a solvent workshop and an electrolytic salt plant will be built to turn out by-products and a 39-kilometre double track railway will be laid to facilitate transport. Partial operation will begin next year.

Drinks and Smokes. 64 Wangfuching Street is the address, just a stone's throw from the big department store on Peking's

main shopping thoroughfare. It's one of the new shops in town and it specializes in alcoholic drinks, cigarettes and tobaccos. Sixty different brands of Chinese cigarettes are regularly on sale and 200 different types of Chinese wines, spirits and liquors from different regions of the country are stocked. On the day we visited the shop the attendant voiced regret that only 190 varieties were on the shelves, because ten types had sold out, and he added that the shop stocked only a selection of the many varieties available in China, far from all. The shop includes a handy snack bar which serves the most famous drinks by the glass — and of course the cold meats, shrimps and other tidbits which usually go with drinks in China.

First Electric Loco. The Machine-Tools Plant in Shansi Province has turned out China's first electric locomotive. It weighs 80 tons, draws twenty 50-ton coaches, and has a top speed of 70 kilometres per hour. A government order for 20 of these electric locomotives has been placed with the plant.

Telecommunication. A new radio transmission station for international telecommunication services went into operation in Peking on June 3. Five powerful radio transmitters were installed, four of them made in China and the other in the Soviet Union. When the construction is completed, it will provide international radiogram, radiotelephone and radiophoto services between Peking and the capitals of the socialist countries in Eastern Europe and with a number of countries in Southeast Asia.

Chemical Centre Expands. Kirin Province in the northeast is China's first modern chemical centre. The plants there are being expanded to manufacture new kinds of chemicals such as synthetic fibres, synthetic rubber, synthetic gasoline, plastics. More than 20 workshops will be built to enlarge the dyestuffs plant where the expansion scheme is expected to be completed by the end of 1959. When these workshops are in operation, they will produce some 200 kinds of dyes for making chemical fibres, plastics and mixed cotton and linen fabrics. All equipment is designed and made in China.

Busy Port. The north China port of Tientsin handled a record volume of cargo in May. In the last ten days of the month, about 30 vessels were in port daily, which is also a new record. The New Harbour of Tientsin will be enlarged, and No. 1 Wharf is being renovated to handle vessels up to 10,000 tons.

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

U.S. Economic Crisis

The present crisis in the United States is a cyclical crisis of capitalist over-production and the beginning of economic crisis throughout the capitalist world, writes Chang Wen-tien in his analysis of the U.S. economic situation carried in the June 1 issue of *Hongqi* (Red Flag). As signs of this crisis, the author lists the sharp decline in industrial production, particularly in the steel and other heavy industries, prolonged over-production in agriculture and the sharp rise in unemployment.

Causes of the Crisis

Under capitalism such cyclical crises of over-production are inevitable. Those factors which created the post-war boom in America have now turned into their opposites and brought on the crisis.

The arms drive was an important factor in the U.S. boom, but this led to a one-sided expansion of production and abnormal growth of the productive forces. The huge increase in military expenditure directly increased the tax burden on the people. The average amount taken from each individual American for military expenditure has increased in the past few years from seven dollars in 1929-1930 to about 250 dollars. This has reduced consumer purchasing power and slowed the production of consumer goods. This in turn inevitably reduced the production of the means of production.

The expansion and renewal of fixed capital was another major factor in the U.S. post-war boom. But the rise in consumption capacity did not keep pace with the expansion of productive capacity; a surplus of productive capacity resulted. According to published U.S. estimates productive capacity in post-war America showed an average annual increase of 8 per cent, while the average annual increase in the volume of production was only 3 per cent. The American economy was chronically operating under capacity. The process of renewal of U.S. fixed capital has now practically ceased. This is why the present crisis will probably be more severe and protracted.

A decisive element in the U.S. economic crisis is the fact that the income of the working people has fallen, their purchasing power declined and the domestic market dwindled relative to the vast expansion of production and productive capacity.

Inflated credits have also turned into a factor shrinking the domestic market.

Since the post-war expansion of the American economy was always out of line with the purchasing power of consumers, monopoly capital resorted to credit sales, instalment buying and other means of inveigling consumers into drawing on future purchasing power and so maintain and stimulate the home market. The "boom" in the U.S. was largely built on this unstable foundation. By the end of the first quarter this year, debts incurred by the American consumers amounted to over half of their annual income. Inflated credit measures are less effective now and, in fact, are boomeranging to deepen the crisis of over-production. Moreover, the demand for American goods has fallen steadily on foreign markets.

The talk of the ruling circles in the United States about "anti-crisis" measures is to a large extent merely meant to create "optimism," to give a psychological boost to the people, the article shows. With many bourgeois politicians it also has another motive—to win public support and undermine their political opponents, but they all hanker after using the crisis to stage an offensive against the living standards and democratic rights of the working class.

The American monopolies set great store by arms expansion as an anti-crisis measure but since the present economic crisis occurred at a peak in military orders, what hope is there of new orders reversing the trend?

Revisionist Theory Exposed

Bourgeois scholars and modern revisionists have laid particular stress on the "super-class" nature of the state, its "role as a regulator," its "economic functions" and "the factor of planning" in the stage of monopoly capitalism. But, as we have seen, the monopoly capitalist state can find no way out of the crisis, and the measures it has taken are only intended to shift its disastrous effects on to the working people. Faced with this deepening crisis, how has the monopoly capitalist state played its "role as a regulator" and performed its "economic functions"? Where is its so-called "super-class" nature? Is the "factor of planning" strengthened or has the state of anarchy worsened? The present situation completely exposes the fraudulent "theory" of modern revisionism.

Those countries which have the closest economic ties with the United States, and are most dependent on it, are being most

quickly and directly influenced by its current crisis. Canada, closely tied to the United States, is the first to follow it into economic trouble. Japan, economically dependent on the U.S. is also getting into difficulties, and so too are the Latin American countries whose economies are basically controlled by American monopoly capital.

Sharpening Contradictions

As the U.S. economic crisis worsens and spreads through the capitalist world the struggle for markets and spheres of influence is sharpening among the imperialist countries. American monopoly capital is trying hard to shift the effects of the crisis to other capitalist countries and, taking advantage of their economic difficulties, tighten its grip upon them.

The United States and other imperialist countries are also intensifying their efforts to intervene in and plunder the colonies, semi-colonies and other economically under-developed countries. This inevitably leads to sharpening conflicts between these countries and the U.S. and other imperialist countries and the further growth of the anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist movements. This is especially clearly seen in recent events in Central and South America which were regarded as the "dependable rear" of the United States.

American imperialism is floundering in a severe economic crisis and a morass of contradictions. Mao Tse-tung long ago described American imperialism as being "outwardly strong and inwardly brittle," as a "paper tiger." Once again the facts bear out the truth of this.

Seeking a way out American imperialism is intensifying its armaments drive and war preparations, obstructing the relaxation of international tension and ruthlessly interfering in the domestic affairs of other countries. The peoples must be vigilant therefore against the possibility of the aggressive American clique acting like a desperate, cornered animal, against possible U.S. provocations and adventures. At the same time, however, it must be recognized that the forces of peace are definitely stronger than those of war: the present international situation is definitely unfavourable to the imperialist forces of aggression and war.

Kishi Fails Again

"Kishi's claim to victory in the Japanese elections is quixotic," writes Li Chun-ching, an expert on Japanese affairs, in an article in *Shijie Zhishi* (June 5). Kishi's party won fewer seats in this election than in the previous five elections. Compared with the last election his Liberal-Democratic Party lost

CHINA AND THE WORLD

No Trade with Hostile Kishi

There is absolutely no possibility of resuming Sino-Japanese trade so long as the Kishi government remains hostile to China. A leading official of the China Committee for the Promotion of International Trade made this point crystal clear in a recent interview with the Hsinhua News Agency.

He described as a "shameless fabrication" the statement of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, reported by Jiji News Agency, that China was "flying a kite" for resumption of trade with Japan.

China's attitude, he stressed, had already been explained in detail by Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Chen Yi in his May 9 statement on Sino-Japanese relations (see *Peking Review*, May 13, 1958).

TRADE NEWS

A Sino-Norwegian trade agreement was signed in Peking on June 4. It provides for the exchange of a wide range of goods and grants each signatory most favoured nation treatment in custom duties and shipping.

A barter contract under which China will sell 150,000 long tons of coal to Pakistan and use the proceeds to buy Pakistani cotton was concluded by the two governments in Karachi on June 3.

Peking goods are now being sold to more than forty countries, including Canada, Italy, Switzerland and the Netherlands. This year, it plans by doubling the total value of its exports compared with last year, to sell abroad as much as it sold in the entire period of the First Five-Year Plan.

Two-thirds of its exports are manufactured goods such as electronic tubes, radios, theodolites, chemical reagents, pianos, etc.; handicrafts and other local specialties make up the rest.

Yeh Chi-chuang, Chinese Foreign Trade Minister, is in Poland to attend the opening ceremony of the forthcoming Poznan Fair.

Trade representatives and commercial counsellors and officials of 18 countries

recently made an extensive tour of China.

The tour, sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Trade, included a number of industrial cities and enabled visitors to study at first hand many Chinese export commodities.

Chinese Aid to Cambodia

The Supreme Council of Planning and National Development of Cambodia has decided to allocate part of the funds received in Chinese aid to economic construction. Allocations include 5,326,000 riels for a radio station and 1,300,000 for a dam. It has also decided to distribute Chinese aid commodities to consumer co-operatives, to be sold to villagers at very low prices.

Last year, the Cambodian Government allocated 50 million riels of Chinese aid for the development of agriculture and the construction of public buildings.

Sino-Vietnamese Bridge

Chinese and Viet-namense workers have completed a 124-metre-long bridge over the River Peilun, linking Tunghing in Kwangtung Province with Moncay in the Viet-namense Democratic Republic. Named "Friendship Bridge," its construction was financed jointly by the Chinese and Viet-namense Governments.

ICI PEKIN!

RADIO PEKING initiated its daily French language service on June 5. The two half-hour programmes, which are timed at 19:30-20:00 and 21:30-22:00 hours (Paris Time), can be heard on 19 metres at 15060 kilocycles or 25 metres at 11650 kilocycles. It features news, commentaries on the international situation and reports on life in China.

Indian and Nepalese Pilgrims

A friendly reception from local Chinese authorities and improved transport facilities awaits Indian and Nepalese pilgrims and traders entering Tibet through the Himalayan passes.

Now is the time of Buddhist pilgrimages to the holy places to honour Buddha's birth and entry into Nirvana.

Lamas of the Tibetan Region of China are also going on pilgrimages to Banaras and Sarnath in India.

Sino-Soviet Scientific Work

Antibiotics Research: China is delivering various kinds of soil to the

U.S.S.R. to enable Soviet scientists to study and cultivate new antibiotics. The Soviet Union, in return, will pass on to China all results of this research and any newly discovered antibiotics. Soviet specialists in this field will also come to visit and work in China.

Eclipse Observation: Chinese and Soviet astronomers obtained important data for the further study of the sun's chromosphere and sun-spots as a result of joint radio observations of the annular solar eclipse on April 19.

The scientists set up two observation posts equipped with radio telescopes in Hainan Island, south China, considered one of the most favourable places to view the eclipse.

Studying Mars: Chinese and Soviet astronomers from the Nanking Purple Mountain Observatory and the Kharkov University Observatory have agreed to conduct simultaneous observations of the planet Mars this autumn when it makes its closest approach to Earth. These observations are expected to provide new knowledge about the Red Planet.

Chinese Delegations Abroad

The Chinese Communist Party has sent a fraternal delegation headed by Tung Pi-wu, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, to attend the Seventh Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

A delegation led by Chang Yun, Vice-President of the Chinese National Women's Federation, is in Vienna to attend the Fourth Congress of the Women's International Democratic Federation.

A delegation from the Chinese Bureau of Religious Affairs is visiting Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

CULTURAL NEWS

The Chinese colour film *Girl Basketball-Player Number Five* is enjoying a big success in Moscow.

The Rumanian comedy *The Lost Letter*, written by the 19th century writer Caragiale, was recently performed by the Wuhan Drama Theatre. This is its first performance on the Chinese stage.

Visitors in China

Dr. Joseph Needham, Chairman of the Britain-China Friendship Association and Fellow of the British Royal Society.

An Albanian delegation headed by Vice-Minister of Agriculture I. Reka.

THEATRE

Modern Themes in Peking Opera

Can Peking opera and other local forms of traditional Chinese opera handle modern themes successfully? Chinese theatrical circles are debating the theory and practice of this problem. Some local forms of traditional opera, such as Shanghai opera, were bolder about tackling this problem and, as a matter of fact, began putting on plays with modern themes quite some time ago. Peking opera troupes have been experimenting with new ideas and new plays, but the recent production of *The White-Haired Girl* produced by the China Peking Opera Theatre and the Yenming Peking Opera Company is the first production which deals with a modern theme with modern people.

Peking opera has an age-old tradition. Emerging out of still older forms of Chinese drama, it inherited the repertoire of its predecessors and in its formative years during the middle of the Ching dynasty (1644-1911), it synthesized its various constituent elements to produce what is now "typical" Peking opera.

Crux of the Problem

By the time it had grown to maturity its system of highly stylized artistic conventions had been extended to cover every aspect of stagecraft. As it is today, its style of acting closely approximates to the dance; every gesture of every typical character is strictly stylized. Hence the difficulty of producing operas on modern themes in this medium: it has no ready-made conventions of costume, make-up, speech or movement for the portrayal of industrial workers, collective farmers, men of the People's Liberation Army or other modern types. A PLA commander in the traditional Peking opera get-up for a general would be the last word in anachronism. This is the crux of the problem for the Peking opera actor: how to devise a whole new range of characterizations, with their accompanying music, song and appropriate costuming that will not do violence to the essential genius of the art. Change there must be, but where should it stop or, for that matter, start?

The unusual artistic form of Peking opera is derived from its cultural origins which are of great age and from the content, the themes of its plays which are invariably historical. The whole system of acting has been perfected through long practice and a ceaseless process of

discriminating artistic refinement. In producing plays with modern characters the Peking opera artists expect that there will be some rough edges and inconsistencies in their characterizations and general treatment, but they are confident that rigorous criticism and a similar continued process of refinement will enable them to evolve techniques capable of faithfully projecting the thoughts and feelings of people of modern China in the idiom of their traditional art.

The experimental production of *The White-Haired Girl* is a bold step in this direction. The costuming can be described as stylized modern dress. No more "scenery" or props are used than is usual in Peking opera. What striking innovations in singing, gesture and dance movement there are, are on the whole neatly integrated into the matrix of the traditional Peking operatic airs. When Hsi-erh (played by the well-known actress Tu Chin-fang) reaches the river bank in her flight from the landlord's house, she sings the aria *Wo Yao Huo* (I Want to Live) to a melody borrowed from the Hopei *pang-tzu*, a type of local opera. The insertion of this melody and style of singing in the general context of Peking opera is effective and artistically justified. If it heralds a similar use of other local operatic airs in Peking opera it is an innovation of considerable significance.

Li Shao-chun, a well-known Peking opera actor, gave an excellent performance in the part of Hsi-erh's father. In the scene where he is forced to sign the deed making over his daughter to the landlord in settlement of his debts, he uses the Peking opera convention of *kuei tieh*—moving forward on his knees in a series of jumps. It is a peculiarly apt movement to express the abject humiliation and distress of the old man.

Peking opera has a remarkably rich store of stylized movements and it is already clear that the imaginative use of these in modern plays will be, alongside the invention and evolution of new movements and gestures, an important element in the adaptation of Peking opera techniques to new themes and subject-matter.

Enter the PLA

The problem of representing a PLA man on the Peking opera stage has been tackled and found at least a partial solution in the play *Capture of the Bandit Tso Shan Tiao*, (otherwise translated as *The Capture of the Hawk*) adapted from the novel *Lin Hai Hsueh Yuan* (*In the Snowy Forest*), one of the best of recent novels dealing with the Chinese People's Liberation Army. It describes how an outnumbered PLA detachment in north-

east China wipes out a gang of bandits in league with the Kuomintang reactionaries.

Capturing bandits means, of course, fighting, and Peking opera with its military plays has a wealth of stage fighting experience and acrobatics to draw on. This gives a propitious and spectacular start to the Peking opera treatment of the episode of capturing Tso Shan Tiao, one of the most dramatic incidents in the novel. But this is not all. The actors playing the roles of the PLA commander and platoon leader, succeed in using the musical idiom of Peking opera to project the characters of these men with such success that the audience rose to applaud the duet they sing when Yang, the platoon leader, leaves for the dangerous attempt to enter the bandits' lair in disguise.

The production of *The White-Haired Girl* paved the way for the adaptation of Peking opera to contemporary themes. *The Capture of the Bandit Tso Shan Tiao* followed less than two months later. *The White-Haired Girl* production was decided on at a time when writers and artists in Peking were discussing how to participate in the movement to bring about a big stride forward in culture corresponding to the "big leap forward" taking place in other spheres of life. The Peking opera troupes then undertook to increase the number of performances they were giving and also to emancipate their minds from conservatism. One of the results of this was their determination to tackle new themes—and the production of *The White-Haired Girl* resulted.

New Pingchu Operas

A number of new productions have also appeared in *pingchu* opera, a local operatic style of Hopei and northeast China, which is exceedingly popular in Peking. One of them is another version of the *Capture of the Bandit Tso Shan Tiao* and another two interestingly enough, are also based on modern novels: *Sanliwan Village*, by Chao Shu-li, about the growth of a collective farm and *Home* by Pa Chin, the story of the decline and fall of an old feudal family in the early years of the century. *Pingchu*, which is a younger theatrical form less firmly set in its ways, and therefore a more adaptable medium than Peking opera, has been for several years now characterized by the up-to-date nature of its productions. *The Little Son-in-Law* first produced in 1950 dealt with the new marriage law. *The Clever Girl Liu* and others also dealt with new country themes. But these new operas are more mature in conception, and some critics feel that the various elements that go to make up *pingchu*—dialogue and characteristic *pingchu* melodies, etc. have been

more fully and happily integrated. The experience in dramatizing these first-rate modern novels seems to be a fruitful departure. They provide a new source of semi-processed dramatic material which is enriching the *pingchu* repertoire both in content and form.

Living Newspaper Revival

Peking is by no means the only theatrical centre that is introducing innovations. The Yueh Chu Tuan (Shao-hsing Opera Company) of Hangchow has for some time now been in the van of the movement for dealing with contemporary themes, so it was not surprising when it led the way in the present significant revival of the "living newspaper." These short, poster-style plays were first used extensively during the war against the Japanese invaders and

were a potent propaganda weapon. *Drop Your Whip!*, an exciting playlet about the Japanese invaders and the resistance, and one of the most famous "living newspaper" plays of the war years, was performed countless times. Almost all the theatrical companies had it on their repertoire at some time or another and it was a favourite with amateur groups as well. It stirred and encouraged millions in the struggle to defend China.

In the surging socialist advance of New China, the Yueh Chu Tuan has led the revival of the living newspaper technique chiefly as a weapon for propagandizing socialism and socialist morality. Many other companies have followed suit, organizing special mobile troupes to carry the plays into the streets, the people's clubs and cultural centres and setting aside a certain amount of

time for these pungent shorts in their theatres.

The revival of this theatrical form with its revolutionary traditions is one of the answers of the professional stage to the call for more creative entertainment and closer links with the people and contemporary events. The "living newspaper," which in Chinese tradition encompasses the whole range of theatrical techniques from satire, through slapstick comedy, melodrama and tragedy, is being used now, as in the old days, to react rapidly and with equal facility to contemporary international and domestic events. They are also proving to be a challenge and a school to dramatists, producers and actors, bringing them into head-on contact with present day reality and the needs of a popular art.

—FENG TZU

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.

LOCAL OPERA FESTIVAL

Theatre troupes from Shanghai, Wuhan, Honan, Hunan and Fukien are in Peking for a month's visit. Below we list some of their new operas on contemporary themes.

▲ **CHOU YANG KOU VILLAGE** — the Honan Yuchu Opera Company.

June 10 Tienchiiao Theatre

▲ **LIU HU-LAN** — the Honan Yuchu Opera Company.

June 15 Peking Theatre

▲ **SOUND OF WAR DRUMS ANNOUNCING SPRING** — the Hunan Huaku Opera Company.

June 10 & 11 Ta Chung Theatre

▲ **THE RED PEAR BLOSSOMS** — the Fukien Experimental Mingchu Opera Company.

June 11 & 12 Tienchiiao Theatre

▲ **MOTHER** — the Shanghai Huchu Opera Company.

June 13-15 Ta Chung Theatre

▲ **LIU CHIEH-MEI** — the Wuhan Chuchu Opera Company.

June 13 & 14 Tienchiiao Theatre

PEKING OPERA

▲ **UPROAR IN HEAVEN** Monkey Sun Wukong fights the gods of thunder and lightning and other celestial deities who want to subdue him. Performed by students of the China Opera School.

June 15 matinee at the China Opera School Theatre

PINGCHU OPERA

▲ **SNOW IN MIDSUMMER** One of Yuan dynasty playwright Kuan Han-ching's representative tragedies. The unjust execution of a young widow exposes the corruption and injustice of the officials of the times. Produced by the Peking Pingchu Opera Company.

June 11 matinee and June 13 evg. at Min Chu Theatre

▲ **PRAYING TO THE MOON** The romantic tale of a young couple whose marriage is broken up by a mercenary father and how they finally become reunited. Produced by the Peking Pingchu Opera Company.

June 14 Min Chu Theatre

THEATRE

▲ **BREAKING THROUGH** A new play on technical revolution. The action takes place in a chemical factory where advanced socialist ideas break through backward conservative ones to achieve the seemingly

impossible. Produced by the Peking Experimental Theatre.

June 11-15 Changnan Theatre

▲ **CAPTURING THE WEI HU MOUNTAIN** Adapted from Chu Po's novel *In the Snowy Forest*. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

June 10-16 Capital Theatre

FILMS

(Foreign films are dubbed in Chinese, unless otherwise noted.)

▲ **THE DARK BEFORE DAWN** A detachment of PLA soldiers, left by the main forces to carry on underground work in the Kuomintang occupied Tapleh Mountain area, successfully evades the clutches of the enemy and does its bit for the liberation of the whole country. Produced by the "August First" Film Studio.

June 14-18 Soviet Exhibition Centre Cinema, Chung Yang, Kuangan Men, Chiao Tao Kou

June 15-17 Hsin Chieh Kou, Peking Workers' Club, Ta Hua

June 14-20 Children's Cinema, Sheng Li, Peking Theatre

▲ **NICHOLAS NICKLEBY** British production of Dickens' novel.

June 11-13 Kwangan Men; June 11-15 Ta Hua, Peking Theatre; June 12-14 Chiao Tao Kou

▲ **SEARCHING THE ACADEMY** Film version of the well-known Kwangtung opera about a servant girl who escapes from bondage and hides in the academy. Friends come to her aid and she finally finds freedom and happiness. In colour, starring the noted Kwangtung opera actor Ma Shih-tseng and actress Hung Hsien-nu.

June 10-13 Chiao Tao Kou; June 10-12 Ta Hua; June 11-15 Hsin Chieh Kou, Chung Yang

▲ **A SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS** Soviet screen version of the Goldoni comedy.

June 10-14 Sheng Li

▲ **RED GLOW OVER KLADNO** Adapted from Antonin Zapotocky's novel of the same name. An epic of the Czech workers' movement in the early 1920s.

June 10-13 Capital Theatre

EXHIBITIONS

▲ **EXHIBITION OF THE PAOCHI-CHENG-TU RAILWAY, YINTAN-AMOY RAILWAY AND THE YANGTSE RIVER BRIDGE IN WUHAN** Sponsored by the Ministry of Railways. Mon. to Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sun. 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. till June 25 at the new building of the Central Museum of Natural History in Tienchiiao.

▲ **EXHIBITION OF INDIAN CHILDREN'S PAINTINGS** Jointly sponsored by the

Chinese People's National Committee in Defence of Children and the China-India Friendship Association. Daily 8-11 a.m. and 3-8 p.m. till June 15 at Peihai Park.

SWIMMING

OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS NOW OPEN:

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Mon.-Sat. 9-11 a.m. 12:30-2:30 3:30-5:30 7-9 p.m.

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Admission:

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20 fen for the afternoon and evening sessions

The Tao Jan Ting Swimming Pool

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Admission: 20 fen

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WHAT'S ON IN THE PARKS

SUMMER PALACE

* **SWIMMING** — in the Kunming Lake 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. * **BOATING** — rowboats and Chinese pleasure boats * **SIGHTS** — the magnificent palaces of former emperors and vast collections of antiques and curios in the exhibition halls

Admission: 10 fen Daily: 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

PEKING RADIO HIGHLIGHTS

(The stations are listed as follows:

I — Central People's Broadcasting Station — 1st programme

II — Central People's Broadcasting Station — 2nd programme

III — Peking People's Broadcasting Station)

Selected Foreign Music

June 10 Chopin (5:55-6:30 a.m. I); modern Rumanian music (1:15-1:45 p.m. I); excerpts from Puccini's *Madam Butterfly* (9:20-10:20 p.m. III)

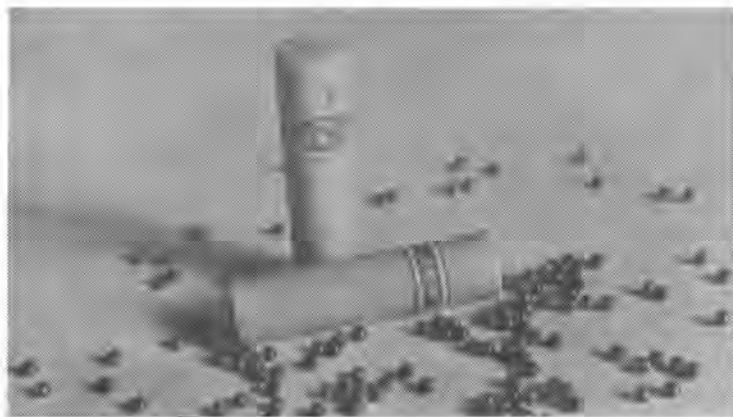
June 11 Hungarian viola solos (9:30-10:30 a.m. II); Korean music (6:00-6:15 p.m. II); Indian folk music (10:45-11:10 p.m. II)

June 12 Vocal and piano solos by artists of the German Democratic Republic (2:00-3:00 p.m. II); Viet-namese music (6:10-6:25 p.m. I)

June 13 Shostakovich (5:55-6:30 a.m. I); French music (7:30-8:30 a.m. II); Scriabine, Glinka (10:45-11:30 p.m. II)

June 14 Light music from the U.S.S.R. (7:30-8:00 a.m. II); Albanian music (6:10-6:25 p.m. I); music the world round (6:25-7:00 p.m. I); Grieg (10:05-10:45 p.m. II)

June 15 Polish music (6:15-7:00 a.m. II); Indonesian folk music (7:25-7:50 p.m. I)



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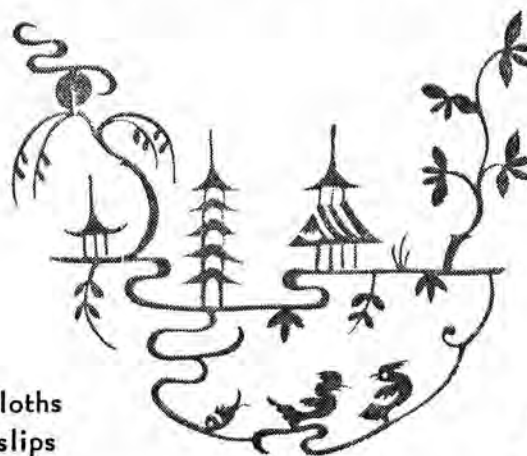
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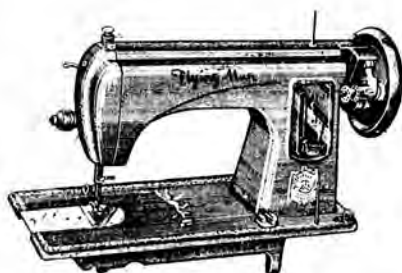
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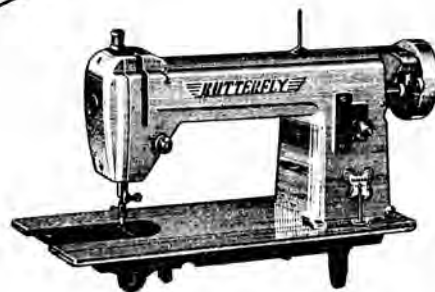
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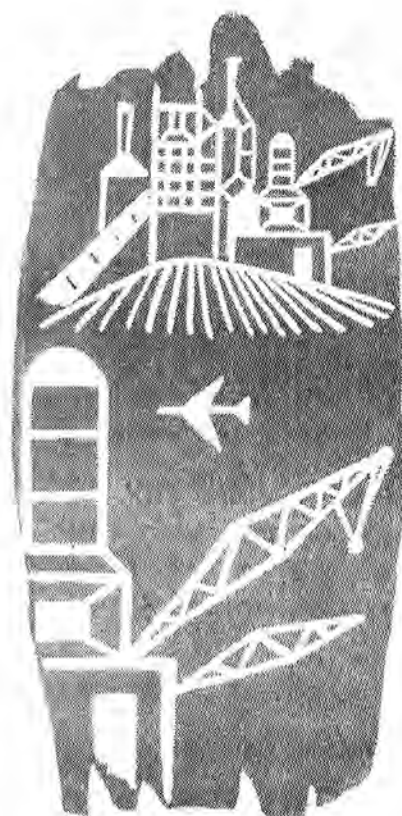
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