

ON THE HOME FRONT

Shanghai Develops Small Industries

THOUSANDS of small factories have sprung up in Shanghai, China's leading industrial metropolis. They supplement the work of over one hundred big factories, some of which are manned by several thousand and others by over ten thousand workers. These big factories are the backbone of the city's industry.

In line with the principle of "maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in our own hands and relying on our own efforts" in developing industry, Shanghai has since liberation carried out the socialist transformation of enterprises left over by old China and built new ones as well. Step by step it has brought into being an industrial mainstay consisting of a number of big and medium-sized iron and steel works, shipyards, machine building plants, chemical works and textile mills. Meanwhile the masses of the people have been widely mobilized to set up small factories with necessary government help. During the big leap forward in 1958 in particular, small factories mushroomed all over Shanghai.

At present, over 90 per cent of Shanghai's factories are small ones, their 1974 output value accounting for 42.7 per cent of the city's total industrial output value. They have become a force that cannot be underestimated. Such an industrial buildup illustrates how the policy of "walking on two legs" in developing industry works in China — big, small and medium-sized enterprises are developed simultaneously with the accent on small and medium ones.

One outstanding advantage of these factories is that they require smaller investment, bring quick returns and can expand with their own accumulation funds. The Chinling Radio Factory with some 300 workers and staff members is a good example. It was originally a small workshop started collectively by nine housewives with a small investment in 1958 to make

wooden pipes for smoking by hand. Five years later it began processing plastic products for some big factories, and switched over to making electronic products in 1971. The factory's 1974 output value reached eight million yuan, four times that of 1970, the year before the switchover. Dispensing with state investment, the Chinling workers relied on their own efforts to make the equipment needed for the switchover with funds they had accumulated in the preceding years. This is the case with nearly all the other small factories in Shanghai.

Small factories are highly efficient when engaging in specialized production. A dozen or even scores of small factories can help a big one build complete sets of equipment, thus enabling it to provide the state with much-needed large products within a short period. The machine building industries have made rapid headway in Shanghai. One important reason for this lies in the fact that, after a number of old factories have been merged, expanded or transformed to form the backbone, limited funds are mainly channelled into building small factories. In this way, a small electroplating factory and a cutting tools and measuring instruments factory can do the job of electroplating and provide cutting tools and measuring instruments for all the more than 400 factories in the city's machine building industries.

Small factories are suitable for making small batches of new products which require new equipment and technology and for trial-producing high-grade, precision and sophisticated products. Many of Shanghai's products using such advanced techniques as integrated circuit and laser were first successfully trial-produced by small factories in co-ordination with the scientific research institutes and big factories concerned.

Since equipment was scarce and simple in many small factories at the beginning, the workers have made sustained efforts to carry out technical innovations and make the necessary equipment by themselves. As a

result, both technical level and production capacity have been raised continuously. Production in the Shanghai No. 10 Glass Bottles Factory, with 150 on its payroll, used to be carried out by hand. Through three-technical transformation drives in the 1967-74 period, the factory first mechanized manual operations and then brought all machines under electronic programme control. Now with each shift producing 26,000 bottles, the work is 16 times more efficient than before. Workers of this factory also have made 13 electronic control boxes for other glass bottles factories, thereby promoting technical transformation throughout the trade.

Shantung Develops Power Industry at High Speed

POWER industry is developing at a high speed in Shantung Province under the impact of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the movement to criticize Lin Biao and Confucius. The capacity of the newly added generating equipment in the last five years doubles the province's previous total. Its total generating capacity has risen from 11th place in the country to sixth place.

In 1974 alone, Hsintien put into commission two sets of 100,000 kw. generators. The 220,000-volt high tension transmission line from Hsintien to Tsingtao and a 90,000 kva. substation were completed by electricians in the countryside with the help of P.L.A. men. Now powerful current is being sent to Tsingtao to meet the increasing needs of local industrial and agricultural production.

The pressing needs of socialist construction for electricity have urged workers in Shantung's power industry to overcome many difficulties in recent years in the spirit of "seizing the day and seizing the hour." Once when installing a set of generators, they had no overhead crane on hand. The veteran workers managed to use a T-shaped lift instead to successfully put in place big rotors, each four metres long and weighing 21 tons, a job that calls for a high degree of precision. This won praise from their colleagues in the power industry.

Little Red Soldiers Growing Cotton

IN Weinan County, the main cotton grower in Shensi Province, more than 50,000 Little Red Soldiers in all the primary schools in the countryside are taking an active part in growing cotton, using the time devoted to physical labour, after school hours or on holidays.

This was first started at a seven-year school in a people's commune. To make education better serve proletarian politics and to combine education with productive labour, the school's teachers in 1971 led the Little Red Soldiers in growing cotton with the help of local production teams and under the guidance of veteran peasants. They achieved good results.

Their actions received attention from the county Party committee

as well as from cultural and educational departments and cotton growing was soon popularized in all the schools throughout the county. Later, altogether 2,400 cotton-growing groups were set up in the county's 580 rural primary schools to cultivate 386 hectares of cotton. The ginned cotton output in 1974 averaged 1,125 kilogrammes per hectare. Now Little Red Soldiers in their early teens have mastered the basic skills of cotton growing from planting to picking. More important, they have learnt from the poor and lower-middle peasants their good ideas of loving the country and the collective and growing cotton for the revolution.

Another New Power Station

THE Papanhsia Hydropower Station has been basically completed

in a gorge to the west of Lanchow, on the upper reaches of the Yellow River in Kansu Province.

Preparations began in October 1968, and actual construction at the end of 1969. The reservoir, with a 33-metre-high dam, has a storage capacity of more than 49 million cubic metres. The new station will have five generating units, each with a capacity of 36,000 kilowatts. Three have already been installed with a capacity of 108,000 kilowatts.

After commissioning, the station has supplied electricity to strengthen the power grid covering the three northwest provinces of Shensi, Kansu and Chinghai. This is of great importance in better utilizing Yellow River water resources and promoting the development of local industry and agriculture.