

Revolution Promotes Production

— Fourfold rise in a decade for Shashih's industry

L YING on the middle reaches of the Yangtze River, Shashih in Hupeh Province is a small city of 150,000 inhabitants. Its appearance has changed tremendously and its industry has developed at a faster rate than before the start of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in 1966. The city's total industrial output value has jumped 4.4-fold; the average annual progressive rate of increase is 16 per cent, with the rate reaching 18 per cent in the period of the Fourth Five-Year Plan (1971-75). Textile, chemical, machine-building, electronics and light industries all have attained a certain scale. The variety of products has steadily increased, quality has continually improved and many have reached advanced domestic levels. Since 1966 the city has provided the state with an accumulation six times the sum total of state investments and locally supplied funds during the period. What happened in Shashih is a vivid illustration of the fact that "the current Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution is absolutely necessary and most timely for consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat, preventing capitalist restoration and building socialism" and that "the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution is a powerful motive

force for the development of the social productive forces in our country."

Give Priority to Grasping the Line

Shashih's workers have a glorious revolutionary tradition and a potentially inexhaustible enthusiasm for socialism. However, owing to the influence of Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line before the start of the Great Cultural Revolution, some people failed to see this. Whenever industrial development was mentioned, they sought help through ways like material incentives and putting bonuses in command, thinking that enthusiasm could not be mobilized in any other way. As a result, some people's revolutionary will was corrupted, the revolutionary unity of the workers disrupted and their enthusiasm held back. In the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution workers and cadres used Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought as their weapon to criticize the revisionist line of Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao, the reactionary theory of productive forces and such revisionist trash as material incentives and putting bonuses in command.

Through struggle, the leading cadres raised their consciousness of grasping class struggle and carrying out the Party's basic line. From both positive and negative experience they gained a better understanding that "the correctness or incorrectness of the ideological and political line decides everything." To do a good job in running socialist enterprises and accelerate industrial development, it is first of all necessary to carry out the Party's basic line and firmly grasp class struggle and the two-line struggle in a better way. With their understanding raised, they conscientiously grasped the mass movement to study works by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and by Chairman Mao. Following the example of the Taching Oilfield, pace-setter in China's industry, they organized close to 3,000 workers' groups in the city to study philosophy and a theoretical coaching network with 2,800 teachers.



In a workshop of a bed sheet mill in Shashih.

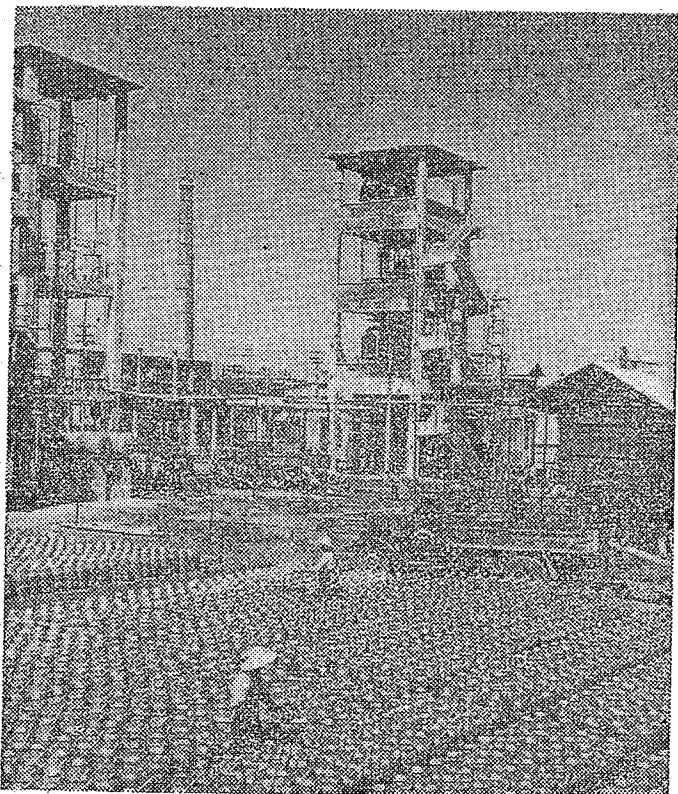
These groups persevered in arming the workers with Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and led them in resisting corruption by bourgeois ideas, overcoming the influence of the small producers' force of habit, and using socialist ideology to occupy all spheres. Theoretical study enhanced the workers' revolutionary spirit to overcome all kinds of difficulties, and the result was they achieved successive victories in industrial production.

The Shashih Diesel Engine Plant is a good illustration. Though it used to give its workers various kinds of bonuses, it could not fulfil its production tasks satisfactorily and had remained backward for a long time. In the course of the Great Cultural Revolution, the leadership set right its ideological and political line and upheld the principle of putting politics in command. Consequently the workers' enthusiasm for socialism increased and the plant changed. Spurred on by the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius, they made more than 20 pieces of special equipment to support farm mechanization without additional funds, buildings or workers, and succeeded in turning out a type of 120-h.p. diesel engine in three months. This shows that to develop industry it is necessary first to grasp the line and spark the revolutionary spirit of the workers and staff members. When the line is right, invincible strength can be brought about by relying on and mobilizing the masses.

Shashih's industrial base was poor and favourable conditions for industrial development were lacking. Some deemed it impossible to "expect a phoenix to fly out of a hen's roost" and therefore they believed industry could move ahead only when the state provided investment, equipment and manpower. During the Great Cultural Revolution the masses and cadres criticized the world outlook of the coward and the lazy, servility to things foreign and the doctrine of trailing behind at a snail's pace, thereby enormously enhancing the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard work.

The Shashih Quartz Glass Factory, to cite another example, was developed from a small factory making wine bottles and lamp shades. Its backward conditions in production were indeed a cause of worry, and whenever any proposal for bringing about a change was raised, the leadership looked for help from above. The factory witnessed little change for more than a decade. The Great Cultural Revolution stimulated the workers' lofty aspiration to change this backwardness through self-reliance. They transformed an old room near the entrance into a workshop and produced more than 100 kinds of quartz glass products urgently needed by the country through technical innovations and reforms and tapping potential. Output value went up at an annual progressive rate of 46 per cent.

This example shows that the decisive factor is people, not material. Good and bad conditions are relative and temporary and can be transformed. "In given conditions, a bad thing can lead to good results and a good thing to bad results." As long as the line is right and as long as the principles of self-reliance and hard



Shashih Farm Insecticide Factory products ready for delivery to the countryside.

work are adhered to, a weak base and unfavourable conditions can be turned to advantage and a "golden phoenix" can emerge from a "hen's roost."

Strength derived from examples cannot be underestimated. With this glass factory as a typical example, the city's Party committee organized workers and staff members of other plants to visit and learn from it. This helped everyone understand that the masses have a potentially inexhaustible enthusiasm for socialism and that the key lies in whether or not the leadership is adept at discovering and tapping this enthusiasm. Spreading the experience of this typical example pushed industrial development forward in the city. More than 80 per cent of the newly developed factories in Shashih over these years were built by self-reliance and started production with indigenous methods and simple equipment.

First Task—Supporting Agriculture

What should be the orientation for developing local industry? To firmly carry out Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, do everything by keeping the people's interests and the needs of the revolution in mind and put support for agriculture in the first place, or to put profits in command and do one's job according to the amount of profit obtainable? There always have been sharp struggles between the two lines in the course of developing Shashih's industry. As the city is on the Chianghan Plain where grain and cotton are produced in abundance and as its industrial raw materials and markets mainly depend on the rural areas, it should

have devoted more effort to developing industries that support agriculture. However, because of the interference by Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line before the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, some people unilaterally went after profits and output value. Products in support of agriculture thus failed to increase rapidly.

Since the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius, the cadres and masses have criticized putting profits in command and the idea that supporting agriculture means incurring losses. This further raised their consciousness of implementing the general policy of taking agriculture as the foundation and industry as the leading factor in developing the national economy. They arrived at the understanding that when industry serves agriculture and speeds up its development, the former will have a firm foundation for its own development. This is particularly so in a small city like Shashih. If its industry does not serve agriculture, there cannot be a rapid expansion of industry itself. The development of industries that support agriculture is not merely an economic question. It also is a political question because it helps realize agricultural modernization, gradually reduce the differences between city and country and consolidate the worker-peasant alliance and the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Once people have a clear idea about industry supporting agriculture, their enthusiasm in turning out products in support of agriculture also is enhanced. For example, the city's rubber plant previously only made rubber-sole shoes with cloth uppers, but it now also makes tyres for tractors and hoses for farm use, and the petrochemical plant in Shashih has succeeded in producing an emulsifier for farm use from rosin. Output value of products supporting agriculture in the city today is 6.4 times what it was in 1965, and varieties have increased from 22 to 74. Insecticides, chemical fertilizers, diesel engines and instruments and meters for farm use were not produced in Shashih before, now they are being turned out in increasing quantities. Instead of being a hindrance, as some people alleged, the expansion of industries that support agriculture has promoted the development of industry as a whole.

Adjustment of Relations Among People

As a result of interference by Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line prior to the Great Cultural Revolution, industrial management at that time stifled the workers' initiative and creativity. The criticism of the revisionist line of Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao during the Great Cultural Revolution helped develop new socialist relations among people. Since the movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius and especially since the movement to study the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the Shashih City Party Committee has gone a step further to study and apply Chairman Mao's theory that "the basic contradictions in socialist society are still those between the relations of production and the pro-

ductive forces and between the superstructure and the economic base." It educated the cadres to firmly foster the idea of wholeheartedly relying on the working class, took the lead in restricting bourgeois right and criticized the ideology of bourgeois right. The city Party committee also educated the workers to truly realize their status as masters of the country and the enterprises and continually raise their sense of responsibility as such. All this tremendously improved relations among people, particularly those between the leadership and the masses, and enhanced the workers' enthusiasm to consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat and vigorously build socialism.

Putting proletarian politics in command, cadres taking part in physical labour, workers participating in management and forming three-in-one groups comprising leading cadres, workers and technicians all constitute an important aspect in handling well the relationship between people in enterprises. Since the Great Cultural Revolution started, the city's enterprises have set up such mass organizations as workers' management groups at various levels, conferences of representatives of veteran workers, and have selected management personnel for the various shifts and groups—all to facilitate workers' participation in management. More than 770 outstanding workers in Shashih have been promoted to posts in leading groups at different levels. At the same time, leading cadres at the city and bureau levels have adhered to the system of dividing themselves into three equal groups, with one group going to the factories to take part in physical labour and sum up experience, another group doing investigation and study and the rest in charge of daily office work. Leading cadres at the factory level also adhere to the system of taking part in productive labour.

Cadres participating in labour and workers taking part in management are thus organically integrated and this has brought about a lively situation in which cadres show concern for the masses and give them proper guidance and leadership while the masses cherish the cadres and exercise supervision over them. The workers have commented: When the Eighth Route Army entered the cities after liberation, the cadres visited our homes, chatted with us and integrated with us. Later, the revisionist line of Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao throttled and suppressed the workers' enthusiasm and separated us from the cadres. The revisionist line was criticized during the Great Cultural Revolution and the cadres have returned to be with us again. Sweating together and thinking in the same way, the more we work the more vigour we have.

Technical Innovations Through Co-operation

The Great Cultural Revolution has also promoted big socialist co-operation among enterprises and advanced the communist style. Because of the influence of the wrong line, some enterprises had departmentalism and were unwilling to tackle joint tasks. In view of this situation, the Shashih City Party Committee took

class struggle as the key link and unfolded among cadres and masses during the Great Cultural Revolution the study and discussion of the question whether one should take the interests of the whole into account or stick to departmentalism and whether one should consolidate and develop the socialist system of ownership or weaken it. This raised their enthusiasm for socialist co-operation.

In the mass movement to learn from the Taching Oilfield in industry, the city has paid attention to overall planning and strengthening the leadership. As to technical innovations and transformations, the city has a comprehensive plan, while every factory has its own long-term plan and every workshop its goal of struggle. Plans have been mapped out for each period specifying the major direction of mass endeavour and the key projects to be completed through concentrated efforts. Breaking the confines of different trades, they organized co-operation on a large scale to tackle diffi-

cult technical problems. More than 30 such co-operative campaigns were organized in the city over the last few years.

Since 1973, the city has adopted more than 5,200 technical innovations and transformations, made or renovated over 640 pieces of special equipment and turned out more than 100 new products or varieties. Some factories have introduced new techniques and technological processes, including electronics and fluidics. The workers have said: "When we undertake items involving co-operation, our factory's output value and profit may sometimes be affected. This seems to be a minus. But we have in this way helped fraternal factories boost production. This is a plus. As socialist co-operation creates new productive forces, it always turns out to be multiplication." Thanks to mass socialist co-operation, Shashih has achieved notable results in technical innovations and transformations and in rapid industrial development.