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The Financial and Food Situation

— Chen Yun

China Increases Her Grain Production

— C. N. Wu

Science in New China

— Coching Chu

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NEW CHINA HAS CONQUERED INFLATION

The victory achieved by the Chinese people on the financial and economic front has been as decisive as that won on the military front. Despite the facts that the War of Liberation is still in progress, that a blockade of the Chinese coast is still maintained under the aegis of the imperialists, and that some parts of the country are affected by food shortages, inflation has been effectively checked and the efforts to balance the budget and to stabilize prices have been crowned with success.

Last December the Central People's Government announced its first budget—a practical budget unprecedented in Chinese history. The balance of payments in the calendar year of 1949 shows a deficit of some 66 per cent, which may be taken to account for the four series of increases in commodity prices which took place during the year. The year 1950 presents a very different story: since the liberation of the entire mainland is basically assured, the Central People's Government has aimed to approach a balanced budget. Budgetary estimates show that state revenue from taxes, public grain, and victory bonds, etc., will amount to 88.5 per cent of expenditure, leaving a deficit of only 11.5 per cent.

Last February the Government again reviewed the situation and found an overall improvement. It was decided that the deficit could be further reduced. The following month the Government announced the Plan for the Centralized Management of the Nation's Finances and Economy in which further measures were set forth for consolidating the control of financial and economic operations on a national scale, with special reference to finance, trade, and currency, in order to stop inflationary trends which had gone on unchecked during the last twelve years. The Government set itself to realize three goals:—

a) to balance revenue and expenditure by economy in spending. Emphasis will be put on four items, namely, the liberation of Taiwan and Tibet (Hainan is now already freed); the ensuring of an adequate standard of living for government cadres, educational personnel and members of the armed forces; the allocation and transport of foodstuffs to guard against famine; and the rehabilitation of the national economy.

b) to effect an equilibrium in the allocation of goods by placing the state trading concerns throughout the country under the unified control of the central authorities. In this way, goods can be allocated and transported so as to even out conditions of supply and demand.

c) to bring about an equilibrium in the flow of paper currency in and out of the state bank. It is the hope of the Government to recall surplus notes to the treasury by means of taxation, the floating of bonds, sales of goods by state trading concerns and an increase in bank deposits. The People's Bank of China is designated as the central organ to conduct such a redistribution of currency.

In the period of less than two months' time since the Plan for the Centralized Management of the Nation's Finances and Economy was put into operation, a great change has come over China's finances and economy. In the first place, a balancing of the budget is in sight. Secondly, as a result of a co-ordinated allocation of goods, shops are now filling up with commodities. As state trading concerns pour goods into the market, merchants are compelled to give up hoarding and try to get rid of stocks in hand. For the first time, retail prices in the shops are lower than those quoted in state trading concerns. It was something of a surprise that a bag of flour produced twelve years ago in Harbin was offered on the Tientsin market. This marked the end of a long period of reliance on hoarding and speculation as a means of earning a living. Taking the country as a whole, prices have dropped on an average of more than 20 per cent. Thirdly, an equilibrium in the recall and disbursement of bank-notes has now been successfully realized: new issues of bank-notes have ceased. Deposits in banks have more than doubled.

Such achievements, as Comrade Liu Shao-chi, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government, pointed out in his May Day address, are unprecedented in the history of China. The people's government has carried out important financial and economic measures and achieved substantial results in a very short space of time.

It is only to be expected that the imperialists are shocked to find China victorious in the battle against inflation and in stabilizing its national

economy. They may resort to propaganda to magnify certain of our difficulties, but their efforts will fail. To quote Vice-Chairman Liu Shao-chi: "Naturally, some sufferings and difficulties are inevitably bound to arise in this period as the new, progressive situation is born. They are like the labour pains just before childbirth." He also noted that "they are difficulties that have occurred in the course of victory and progress. And victory and progress contain within themselves all the factors for overcoming the difficulties. If we can skilfully use these factors and create the necessary conditions, we can overcome the difficulties. Hence, our difficulties are temporary."

New China has definitely turned the corner. Its financial and economic condition is steadily improving. As Chairman Mao Tse-tung pointed out at the Central People's Government Council meeting on April 13: "The financial condition of our country has begun to improve. This is a good sign. However, in order to bring about a fundamental turn for the better in the overall financial and economic situation, the fulfilment of the following three conditions is imperative, namely, completion of agrarian reform, readjustment of existing trade and industries, and considerable retrenchment in military and administrative expenditure by the state. While these measures should be carried out step by step, they can be completely realized. Then, fundamental improvements in our situation can be expected."

The direction of financial and economic developments in China in the months to come is therefore aimed at giving an improving situation a "fundamental turn for the better."

PROLOGUE TO TAIWAN

When the Chinese people learned of the liberation of Hainan, their first thought was to congratulate their compatriots there whose long ordeal under the KMT had now at long last been ended.

The reports of KMT atrocities on Hainan, the usual sickening record of multiplying taxes, corruption, ruthless conscription and despoilation, filled the people of liberated China with the profoundest indignation. As the Island detachment of the People's Liberation Army grew, the local KMT warlords increased their savage persecutions of all who supported the cause of liberation. The brave and eager way the people of Hainan volunteered their aid to the PLA landing parties testified to the depth of their hatred for the American-supported tyrants.

The victorious completion of the Hainan campaign opens a new chapter in the glorious annals of the People's forces. Though they had wiped out 7,500,000 KMT troops on the mainland, their qual-

ities had not yet been tested on the sea. Now within a fortnight since the main landing on April 17, the PLA has planted its triumphant flag atop the Five Finger Mountains.

As Comrade Liu Shao-chi points out in his May Day address (printed as a supplement to this number), the brilliant success of this amphibious operation, ending in the liberation of Hainan, demonstrates the PLA's mastery of the art of sea-borne landings.

The Chinese people are assured of the impending liberation of Taiwan. The Hainan campaign was its prologue.

SALUTE TO A STAUNCH COMRADE-IN-ARMS

The Chinese people are deeply grieved by the death of one of their staunchest American friends, Agnes Smedley.

Miss Smedley, the daughter of a miner, placed her entire life in the service of all peoples struggling to free themselves from imperialist servitude. The end of World War I found her incarcerated in a New York penitentiary, arrested by the American government at British request because of her fearless efforts to help the Indian revolutionary movement. After her release, she worked her passage to Europe where she continued her self-sacrificing support for every anti-imperialist cause. She first came to China in 1928, shortly after Chiang Kai-shek had betrayed China's revolution and drowned it in blood. Without hesitation, she took up the cause of the Chinese revolutionary movement. Later she managed on several occasions to slip through Chiang's cordon into the Liberated Aseas—a feat of considerable personal risk—to share the hard life of those whose fight she had made her fight.

Miss Smedley's talented and emotion-charged writings have served as an important bridge between the revolutionary Chinese people and progressives throughout the world. The ferocity with which General Douglas MacArthur and his ilk have relentlessly hounded Agnes Smedley to her death is an excellent yardstick for measuring her impressive contribution to China's struggle against American imperialism.

The Chinese people will always cherish the memory of this heroic daughter of the American people, whose whole life stands as a monument to the true and lasting friendship of these two great peoples.

THE FINANCIAL AND FOOD SITUATION

Chen Yun

The first question on which I want to report to the Government Council meeting is the financial situation.

The nation's financial situation has taken a turn for the better during the four months since the 1950 state budget was passed by the fourth meeting of the Central People's Government Council, held on December 2 last year. Over 70 per cent of the autumn levy of public grain is already stored in the granaries. With the exception of the southwest area, where public grain is still being collected because of its more recent liberation, all areas of China have collected most of the public grain levy. Income from taxation is gradually increasing in the areas liberated earlier last year. Up to the present time, payment has been received for 72 per cent of the first issue of the Victory Bonds. Personnel lists covering public functionaries and teachers are at present being drawn up. The total personnel in the government, public institutions and army has not yet exceeded the number stipulated in the budget and, moreover, the present number can be further reduced.

During the past four months, many special conferences have been held by the financial and economic departments of the Central People's Government and the 1950 financial and operational plans have been worked out in further details. During these four months, part of the state revenue has been collected. Because of the liberation of the southeast area, income tax returns will be higher than budget estimates made last December. Now expenditures can also be more accurately estimated than at the time the budget was passed. Although a deficit between income and expenditure still exists, it is two-fifths less than the 1950 budget estimate. January and February this year were a period of preparation for the centralized management of the nation's finance and economy and so the financial deficit for that period was still not small. However, starting with March, the deficit will further decrease during the next ten months and a balance may be nearly reached for the whole year's period.

If the income from taxation and Victory Bonds is fulfilled according to plan, if the part of the public grain for sale and the products of the state-owned enterprises can be sold according to schedule and the money thus called back, if there is no important change in revenue and expenditure, then the size of

the bank-note issue required to make up the budget deficit will be reduced to a minimum. The financial and price situation throughout the country will then begin to take a turn for the better.

The people of our country have suffered enough from inflation. If inflation can be checked, thus stabilizing currency and prices, this will conform to the hopes of the people and the economic needs of the state. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the Central People's Government to strive to carry this out.

Even before the conclusion of the war, the state's revenue and expenditure are approaching a balance. For this we must thank the People's Liberation Army, which heroically and swiftly liberated China's mainland; we must thank the army and government personnel, public functionaries, teachers and workers who work strenuously and endure a hard life; and we must especially thank the people throughout the country who enthusiastically deliver their public grain, pay their taxes and buy Victory Bonds. Without these concerted efforts, it would not be possible for our revenue and expenditure to approach a balance or for currency and prices to become relatively stable. Therefore we hope that the people throughout the country and all army and government personnel, public functionaries, teachers and workers will continue their concerted efforts, overcome all difficulties and achieve the further improvement of the financial, economic and price situation which we all hope for. It should be pointed out that this aim is not visionary. It can be fully realized if the people throughout the country and the government jointly exert all their efforts. The chief reason is that, in accordance with the plan we are now carrying out, revenue and expenditure in public finance are approaching equilibrium. This basically differs from last year's situation.

Last year, the financial situation and commodity prices underwent four big fluctuations. Certain fluctuations also occurred in January and February this year. This was because the state's financial deficit constituted two-thirds of last year's expenditures.

During the interim period between the price fluctuations, there were times when currency and commodity prices were comparatively stable. But such stability was transitory. It was not the result of any reduction in the deficit.

On the contrary, owing to the monthly increase in military and government expenditures, the deficit also increased month by month, bringing about instability in currency and commodity prices. The temporary stability which occurred last year may

CHEN YUN is Vice-Premier of the Government Administration Council, and concurrently Chairman of the Committee of Financial and Economic Affairs. This is his report to the Central People's Government Council at its seventh session on April 13, 1950.

be attributed to the expansion of China's liberated areas, which increased the region in which the people's currency circulated, or to the fact that certain seasonal commodities came on the market. Since temporary stability was due to these conditions and not to a balance in the state's revenue and expenditure of public finance, subsequent fluctuations were unavoidable.

At present the situation is different. Revenue and expenditure are nearly balanced, the deficit is reduced to a minimum, and the government has made the necessary preparations to keep certain main commodities on hand so as to regulate army and civilian supplies and market prices.

If in the future small monthly amounts of additional currency should be issued, the main purpose will not be to cover a deficit. This is the basic difference from the situation last year.

The people throughout the country, including industrialists and merchants, have faced inflation throughout the past 12 years. Their way of living and conducting business cannot but be patterned upon the conditions of the past. But it must be realized that conditions are beginning to change. The change from the stable pre-war financial situation to the subsequent inflation of the past 12 years caused profound losses and suffering to the people and to law-abiding industrialists and merchants.

We should also realize that the present transition from a prolonged period of fluctuating currency and commodity prices to a period of stability presents certain difficulties. This is especially true because after 12 years of war, the purchasing power of the people has fallen sharply, and some of the industrial and commercial enterprises have long engaged in speculation.

Therefore, we hope that industrialists and merchants throughout the country will become aware of this change and make necessary preparations to overcome the difficulties arising out of the change. We hope that they will strive jointly with the government to improve the situation. We also hope that those who lived by speculation during the inflation will change their former behaviour and turn to lawful business, so as not to go against the country's interests and their own.

It should be noted that our difficulties arise out of a change from bad to good; therefore the difficulties can only be temporary. A continued fall in prices would not be beneficial to the national economy, and the government will take appropriate steps to stabilize prices if the decline continues.

To readjust revenue and expenditure, to reduce deficits — these are only part of the work of public finance. There are a number of defects in our work which need correction. In financial and economic work there are many important questions still to be solved. For instance: inequities in levying public grain should be corrected; the present tax regulations should be re-examined in the light of actual

conditions and unsuitable ones should be amended; tax levies and Victory Bond subscriptions should be reasonable and appropriate; faulty styles of work among certain personnel in collecting taxes should be corrected; tax collectors should receive training; corruption, embezzlement and tax evasion should be prevented.

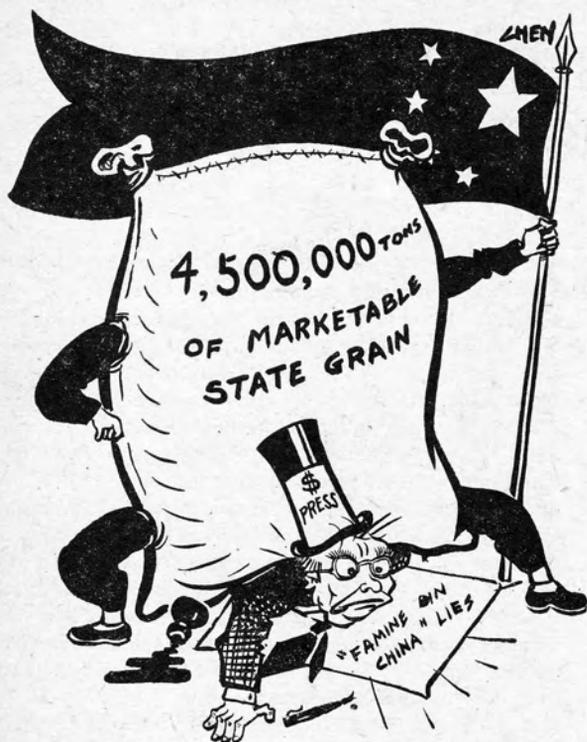
Relations between state-owned and privately-owned enterprises should be readjusted to ensure that the principle of "taking into account both public and private interests" will be embodied in realistic policies and concrete measures. Labour-capital relations in private enterprises should be further improved. The management of publicly-owned enterprises should also be improved. The planning of production and operations in public and private enterprises should be fostered and blindness in business activities reduced.

Therefore, the Committee of Financial and Economic Affairs of the Government Administration Council will in the forthcoming months call certain necessary conferences to formulate certain essential decrees and orders and to focus the work on readjusting industry and commerce. During the six months after the establishment of the Central People's Government, the Committee of Financial and Economic Affairs concentrated on public finance. This was entirely necessary. As a result, the objectives of balancing revenue and expenditure and of stabilizing prices were achieved. Starting now, the work in the next few months will centre on the readjustment of industry and commerce so as to attain certain possible and necessary achievements, as well as on carrying through the present correct policies in our financial work and correcting such deviations as have occurred.

The second question on which I will report to the Government Council meeting is the situation arising from the calamities of last year and our preparatory work in regard to food and relief this year.

Serious calamities occurred last year in many places. The gravity of these calamities was fundamentally the result of the prolonged destruction caused by the aggressive war of Japanese imperialism and the counter-revolutionary war of the KMT reactionaries backed by American imperialism. It was the result of the prolonged destruction of our productive capacity and water conservancy works by imperialism and the KMT reactionaries.

But considering the country as a whole, last year's harvest was not bad. With the exception of a few cases of drought, most of last year's disasters were floods. Quite a few places in northern Anhwei, northern Kiangsu and Shantung provinces in East China, as well as Hopei and Pingyuan provinces in year. Some provinces had more than an ordinary North China, suffered serious calamities. Certain places in Central, Southwest, Northeast and Northwest China were also afflicted, but the average harvest last year was equal to that of an ordinary



by Jack Chen

year's harvest, and some provinces a little less but nearly normal.

Not even in the provinces with seriously afflicted areas were the whole areas devastated, but different sectors were affected to varying degrees. However, it must be said that last year's calamities were very serious. The natural calamities affected to greater or lesser degree 121,560,000 *mow** of farmland populated by 40,000,000 people. The large and seriously affected areas occupied an area of 28,000,000 *mow* and 7,000,000 seriously afflicted people were in need of urgent relief. Since the beginning of winter, the Central People's Government and local governments at every level have been using all kinds of ways to relieve these people and to help them overcome their difficulties.

The two questions now are: (1) As a result of last year's calamity, is this year's nation-wide grain supply insufficient? Will there be great difficulties? (2) Can the afflicted people survive the spring period of food shortage this year?

On the Question of This Year's National Grain Supply

Last year's calamity was very heavy, but, if compared with 1931 conditions when the entire country suffered from heavy floods, it can be said to be comparatively light. According to the 1932 report of the bogus "national government" flood relief committee, 157,850,000 *mow* of farmland were devastated in eight provinces of China in 1931. They

were: 41,780,000 *mow* in Kiangsu, 32,820,000 *mow* in Anhwei, 17,290,000 *mow* in Hupeh, 10,790,000 *mow* in Hunan, 29,300,000 *mow* in Honan, 17,160,000 *mow* in Shantung, 5,470,000 *mow* in Kiangsi, 3,250,000 *mow* in Chekiang. The total number of people affected was 52,710,000.

In other words, the devastated farmland in 1949 was 36,290,000 *mow* less than that of 1931 and the number of people affected was over 12,000,000 less. This means that the 36,290,000 *mow* of land unaffected by calamity differed from 1931 in that this land produced grain in 1949. In calculating the size of that yield, we must take into account the fact that the average post-war yield was lower than that of pre-war 1931, but still the average harvest would not be less than 200 catties** per *mow*. Thus in view of the smaller area of devastation, the yield was 7,200,000,000 catties, or 3,600,000 tons, above that of 1931.

Let us look at the grain supply after the 1931 flood and compare it with the preparatory work in this matter carried out this year by the Central People's Government. In 1932, the year after the flood of 1931, a total of 2,240,000 tons of grain were imported, including grain from Northeast China. Because of the amount of grain imported and the readjustment of grain supply, not only was the food shortage overcome, but in many provinces there developed the phenomenon of peasants being adversely affected by the fall in grain prices. This figures of imported grain should be regarded as important reference material for calculating the grain supply this year after the 1949 flood.

Our preparations this year include sending 1,030,000 tons of grain from Northeast China to areas south of the Great Wall and moving another 200,000 tons from Szechuan province. Because traffic has resumed on the Chekiang-Kiangsi and Canton-Hankow railways, about 300,000 tons of grain can be moved from areas along these railways, whereas in 1932 traffic was not operating on those lines and grain could not be shipped. If necessary, more grain can be transported from Northeast China to places south of the Great Wall. At the same time we are also prepared to import some foreign grain if necessary. Added together, the three above-mentioned items already approach the figures of grain imported in 1932. If the Northeast transports more grain to south of the Great Wall and the import of foreign grain meets with no obstacle, the difference between the two will be even less. This is the comparison on the side of food reserve.

If we also take into account the fact that the area of devastated land was 36,290,000 *mow* less than that of 1931, resulting in the harvesting of 3,600,000 tons more grain, then the food supply this year will not be worse than that in 1932.

It should be noted that after 12 years of war, the productivity of land throughout the country has dropped and the grain stocks held by the people are also smaller. But another fact should also be noted,

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* 1 *mow* equals 0.1647 acres.

** 2 catties equal 1 kilogram.

CHINA INCREASES HER GRAIN PRODUCTION

C. N. Wu

In his recent report to the Central People's Government Council on the nation's financial and food situation, Chen Yun, Vice-Premier of the Government Administration Council, revealed that the quantity of public grain to be marketed amounts to 4,500,000 tons — sufficient to supply one-third of the populations of all cities and towns with food for a whole year; and that there will be no grain shortages, nor abrupt fluctuations of grain prices this year. He also pointed out that the state's revenue and expenditure are approaching equilibrium; that the movement of commodity prices may be stabilized for a long time to come; and that inflation, from which the people have suffered so much, will be prevented from recurring. All this points to the fact that our work in the field of finance and economy has thus far been very successful, and indicates that from now on, we can steadily and systematically push ahead with the nation's economic construction.

In the field of agriculture, we can derive an equally firm confidence from the current nation-wide movement to increase grain production.

Last December, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Central People's Government called a National Agricultural Conference. Taking into account the different conditions prevailing in the old and newly liberated areas, the limitations of manpower, material supplies and physical environments, this

December plan did not include production by the People's Liberation Army units in Kwangtung and Sinkiang provinces and the suburbs of Peking.)

China's pre-war grain output was 284,500,000,000 catties per year (the average of the period from 1931 to 1936). Taking the average of production in 1938 and the period between 1941 and 1945, the corresponding figure for the war years was 239,000,000,000 catties. Last year, because of floods and droughts, the total grain output was estimated at only 225,500,000,000 catties. This represents a decrease of 20.7 per cent from the pre-war level, and of 5.6 per cent from the war-time level. The estimated figure for this year, calculated on the basis of the average year's yield, will be approaching 235,500,000,000 catties. If the projected increases for this year are realized, the total grain output will be raised to 250,000,000,000 catties, which is greater than that for the war years and only 34,500,000,000, or 12.1 per cent, less than the pre-war figure. It is expected that output will further be increased by 5 per cent in each of the coming two or three years. This means that grain production will regain the pre-war level two years hence and will certainly surpass it in the near future.

The accompanying figures show increases planned by the various regions compared with those originally called for by the Central People's Government.

Area	Original Plan	New Quota	Percentage Increase
Northeast China	2,400,000,000 catties	2,848,730,000 catties	18.7
North China	2,500,000,000 "	3,167,900,000 "	26.7
Northwest China	330,000,000 "	334,240,000 "	1.3
East China	3,200,000,000 "	3,506,550,000 "	9.6
Central and South China	1,650,000,000 "	4,470,680,000 "	171.0
Total	10,080,000,000 "	14,328,100,000 "	42.1

Conference set a goal of increasing the nation's grain output by 10,080,000,000 catties, or about 5,000,000 tons.

Recent reports from various areas have brought us encouraging news: the production quotas called for by the government will not only be fulfilled, but surpassed by 4,450,000,000 catties. This means that the nation's grain output will be increased this year by 14,530,000,000 catties, which represents a 44.1 per cent increase over the original target. (The

Including army production in Sinkiang, Kwangtung and the suburbs of Peking, the aggregate total of increases projected by the various regions is 14,530,000,000 catties or 44.1% above the original target as previously stated.

In its December plan, the Central People's Government set a rather moderate goal for Hupeh, Hunan and Kiangsi provinces in Central and South China. This was because these three provinces were but newly liberated, and furthermore, suffered from floods last year. While Honan, a province in the same area, was required to increase its grain produc-

C. N. Wu is Vice-Minister of Agriculture of the Central People's Government.

tion by 650,000,000 catties, the three afore-mentioned provinces were required to raise production by only 1,000,000,000 catties. Of this amount, 200,000,000 catties were allocated to Hupeh, 500,000,000 catties to Hunan and 300,000,000 catties to Kiangsi. Hupeh, however, has raised its quota by 510,000,000 catties (256%); Hunan, by 920,000,000 catties (184%); and Kiangsi, by 310,000,000 catties (104%).

These three provinces were once the main rice-producing centre of China. They have 150,000,000 *mow* of fertile crop lands. Although the agrarian reform has not been completed, the peasants' livelihood is steadily improving as a result of rent reduction and the liquidation of local despots. They are eager to produce more. There is thus good reason to believe that their goal will be fulfilled. And, "with a bumper crop reaped in Hunan and Hupeh," as an old saying goes, "there will be no food shortage under the sky."

Basis for Grain Increase

When the Central People's Government adopted the plan of increasing grain output by five million tons, it based the programme on the following conditions:

(1) Of the 1,400,000,000 *mow* of land under plough in this country, 600,000,000 *mow* in the old liberated areas has been redistributed through the agrarian reform. The yield of the most part of this land is to be raised by 10 per cent. This accounts for a total increase of 6,000,000,000 catties.

(2) The development of water conservancy, prevention of pest damages and plant diseases, distribution of better seeds, expansion of state farms and reclamation of wasteland are expected to result in an increase of 1,000,000,000 catties.

(3) The extension of protection from flood to 50,000,000 *mow* of land which were inundated last year should raise the yield per *mow* by 60 catties as compared with 1949, and give a total increase of 3,000,000,000 catties.

On the basis of these calculations the Ministry of Agriculture called on the old liberated areas to raise their production level 10 per cent above that of 1949. In areas where conditions are relatively more favourable, efforts should be made to restore production to the pre-war level; and in areas affected by droughts and floods, the production level should be raised as much as conditions permit.

The newly liberated areas, in general, are required to maintain the level of 1949. Where conditions are relatively more favourable, production should be raised somewhat, but those newly liberated areas struck by natural calamities are only expected to overcome the effects of floods and droughts so that production can be resumed.

In response to the call of the Central People's Government, the authorities in various areas and provinces throughout the country successively called

conferences to devise concrete plans for increasing agricultural production. The decisions were then handed down to the lower administrative levels until every village and every family had drawn up its own programme. In addition to such production conferences, all the areas, provinces, administrative districts and counties made further preparations covering all aspects of the production drive through such organizations as the All-Circles People's Representative Conferences, peasant representatives' conferences and local economic conferences. Meanwhile, many specialist meetings, such as water conservancy conferences, farming technique conferences and conferences of labour heroes and model workers, have been convened in different parts of the country to further intensify preparations.

The latest surveys have shown that in general, the old liberated areas in North China will be able to attain the pre-war production level this year; and that a number of villages will even surpass it. According to statistics taken in the Hsingtai Administrative District, Hopei province, 67 per cent of the villages fall into the former category and 33 per cent in the latter. In Shansi province, 33 counties will be able to attain the pre-war level this year. It is generally estimated that, with a few exceptions, the pre-war level will be attained by 1951 in all areas of the country where land reform is carried out, and that a considerable number of districts will even surpass it.

The following is an account of what the emancipated peasants, especially those in areas where land reform has been completed, are doing in this mammoth production drive.

The old liberated areas are required to increase the use of fertilizers by 15 per cent this year. In Shansi province, for instance, the peasants in 43 counties have prepared during the last two months 3,200 catties of manure for each *mow* of land, which represents 75 per cent of the total amount to be used this year. In Northeast China, it was in the past customary among the peasants not to use fertilizers. But this year, fertilizer is being applied on an increasingly large scale. In the best districts, manured land now comprises over 90 per cent of the total area under plough; and in average areas, 50 to 60 per cent.

Farm Tool Situation

According to statistics taken in 19 counties of Shansi province, the peasants have thus far repaired or made 100,000 agricultural implements. Reports from Chahar province show that 140,000 farming tools have been manufactured. In Northeast China, 20,000 pieces of entirely new farming equipment and 40,000 improved implements are being put into use. To popularize the use of new horse-drawn tools in selected areas, the Ministry of Agriculture has established 42 farm-implement stations in North

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SCIENCE IN NEW CHINA

Coching Chu

Modern science was only introduced into China within the past 40 years. The first scientific research institution, the Geological Survey of China, was founded by the Peking government's Ministry of Industry in 1916. Six years later, the Science Society of China established a biological institute in Nanking. About the time of the May Fourth Movement in 1919, the National University of Peking took the lead in appealing for the nation-wide promotion of science. Gradually scientific research gained a footing in the universities. Associations devoted to various branches of science, such as the Chinese Geological Society, the Chinese Physical Society, etc., were founded one after another. The Academia Sinica was established in 1928, and the National Academy of Peking in 1929.

In the 31 years since the May Fourth Movement, China has produced a few talented scientists who have made individual contributions to the study of science and are now internationally known. But, generally speaking, a survey of how much they have promoted the people's welfare, or what contributions they have made towards the advancement of science in general, would reveal relatively slender results.

The reason why past scientific research in China reaped only a meagre harvest can be traced to political and economic factors. The reactionary KMT government never gave science much encouragement, and regarded science as something having merely a decorative function. Scientific research could hardly make any headway in view of the fact that government grants for research institutes were barely sufficient to cover the living expenses of the scientists. After 1937, the Japanese imperialist invasion compelled universities and research institutions to abandon their original locations and seek refuge in the interior of China. Many of their valuable instruments and libraries were either destroyed or scattered in the course of successive Japanese air raids.

However, a part of the blame must be laid at the door of the scientific institutes themselves. Many contradictions and shortcomings existed within scientific circles. Among the most prominent was the sectarianism which prevailed inside scientific organizations and the confused ideology of science for its own sake that was professed by most scientific workers. And since Chinese scientists had received their education from the capitalist countries, most of them made a cult of individualism. They considered the quest for abstract truth to be the sole purpose of their work. They felt that they had completely fulfilled their duty as scientists if they selected a subject in their

own field of learning and studied it to the best of their ability. This meant, in the end, that everyone could do exactly what he liked and no one was responsible for anything. They never realized the simple fact that, in the last analysis, they relied entirely upon the peasants and workers for their research funds, nor did they feel under the least obligation to the labouring masses. In order to secure an all-round improvement of the work and life of the Chinese people, scientific research must be directed to meet the needs of agriculture, industry and public health. What, then, shall we take as the new direction of our scientific development in order to remould our policies for scientific research and achieve our aim thereby? Firstly, by joining theory with practice, we must direct science along lines that actually serve the masses of peasants and workers. Secondly, we must organize our collective scientific efforts to solve the most urgent and vital problems that are confronting us. And thirdly, we must train up a large number of new scientific workers in preparation for the construction of a modern and industrial China.

These three tasks can only be achieved through nation-wide and long-term planning. The Soviet Union is the sole country in the world where the advancement and popularization of science has been carried out in a planned and successful manner. J. D. Bernal, Professor of Physics at the University of London, wrote in his book *The Freedom of Necessity* (published in 1949):—

"For the science of the future, socially directed planning will be an absolute necessity; the type of that planning we can see already in the Soviet Union. It was only through the conscious application of Marxist theory that it was possible to build, on the narrow foundations of czarist science, the vast integrated and vital organism of modern Soviet science. In a generation, a nation of illiterates is becoming a nation of scientists, and this has been proved both in peace and in war."

China, a predominantly agricultural country, is even more backward in its industrial production, mass education and general living conditions today than Russia was before the October Revolution. It will be, therefore, an extremely difficult task to raise production step by step, to eliminate illiteracy and to construct a new China. However, the people's government has stressed the importance of advancing learning in general, and of developing scientific research in particular. Although Taiwan is yet to be liberated and we are still facing economic difficulties in 1950, our government's budget covering expenditures in scientific research has already doubled the KMT government's pre-war allocations for scientific research.

The government formed a new Academia Sinica last October by combining and further expanding the old Academia Sinica in Nanking and the

COCHING CHU is Vice-President of the Academia Sinica, Peking. He was former Director of the Institute of Meteorology, Nanking, and from 1936 to 1943, President of the National Chekiang University.

National Academy of Peking. In the half-year since then, the 24 national research institutes under those two academies have been reorganized and amalgamated into 16 research institutes. Each institute now has its own individual sphere of responsibility and has been assigned its role in the nation's overall construction programme.

In physics, for example, the two former institutes, one in Peking and the other in Nanking, had never in the past differentiated their work. Now they have been combined and reorganized into two new institutes. One is called the Institute of Modern Physics, specializing in the study of such broad, fundamental subjects as atomic energy and cosmic rays. The second, the Institute of Applied Physics, will mainly devote its energy to optical research. It has already manufactured optical parts for 500 microscopes and 200 theodolites. It maintains a department for designing and grinding optical lenses. In the future, it will co-operate closely with optical lens manufacturers in order to ensure an adequate national supply of optical instruments. The Institute of Applied Physics has also devised a new method for making quartz piezoelectric crystals for frequency stabilization in radio broadcasting.

Similar readjustments have been made in the field of biological research, in order to eradicate former duplication and arrive at an efficient division of labour. Shanghai and Peking used to have five different biological institutes that worked independently in their separate but overlapping fields. Now these five organizations have been amalgamated into three institutes, each with its own clearly-defined sphere of responsibility. The first is the Institute of Experimental Biology in Shanghai assigned to studying embryology, cytology and physiology by means of physical and chemical principles. The second is the Institute of Hydro-Biology, also in Shanghai, specializing in the study of fish and other aquatic life. This Institute recently established two experimental stations: one at Tsingtao to study marine biology, and the other at Wusih, on the Taiho Lake in Kiangsu province, to study fresh-water fish. The third of the new biological organizations is the Institute of Systematic Botany, located in Peking, which will co-ordinate the work of Chinese plant taxonomists who are engaged in the study of China's flora. Special emphasis will be placed on the study of economic plants, such as medical herbs, pasture grass and plants which yield latex for making rubber. Two scientists from this Institute have been sent to Mukden and Harbin to help the northeast provinces to set up their botanical institutes.

The other research institutes are also adopting their programmes to the agricultural, industrial and medical needs of the country. The Institute of Organic Chemistry in Shanghai, for example, has helped the East China Bureau of Agriculture and Water Conservancy in the preparation of an organic mercuric fungicide which will destroy spores that

attack cotton and wheat. The Institute of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, located also in Shanghai, helped the People's Medical Company to develop a process for crystalizing heat-resistant penicillin. The Institute of Geology at Nanking has sent field teams to Northeast China and West Hupeh to prospect for iron and coal. The Peking Institute of Geo-physics is giving a short half-year post-graduate course to train a staff of experts who will later go to Northeast China to search for new mineral deposits.

Science in China is no longer something that is detached and stands aloof from the general public. It has been harnessed for the benefit of the farmlands and factories—thus linking theory with practice; even though the fundamental aspect of research is never forgotten in the planning.

To show how effectively theory and practice may work together, we will cite an example. The southern part of Hopei province and the northern part of Honan province, which are now incorporated into the newly-formed Pingyuan province, comprise one of the most important cotton-producing areas of China. For some years, an estimated 1,500,000 acres of cotton land in this region has been heavily infested with cotton aphid (*aphis gossypii* Glover), known as the melon aphid in America and Europe. This pest reduced crop yields by about one-third. In the past, entomologists believed that this cotton aphid lived above the ground on some host plant throughout the year.

After Peking's liberation, the North China People's Government invited Dr. Chu Hung-fu, of the Institute of Zoology, and his assistant to go to the infested district to make a study of these parasites. After some months of travel and research in both Honan and Hopei provinces, they discovered that although the cotton aphid can exist on more than 120 kinds of host plants in north China, it generally lives during the winter on a kind of weed called *Ixeris Chinensis Versicolor*.

In winter, the aphid does not live above ground, but clings to roots five or six inches below the earth. It is only in March or April that the aphid comes out of the soil and migrates to the young cotton plant at the first opportunity. Now that the life-cycle of this parasite is known, the possibilities of exterminating the cotton aphid become greatly enhanced. The Academia Sinica, in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture, has launched a fierce campaign against this pest. Prevention measures are being tested in the Hopei-Honan area, and if found successful, will be later tried in other parts of China.

But Academia Sinica and its component institutes are incapable of advancing science in China by itself alone. Only through the co-ordinated efforts of all ministries, universities and other scientific institutions, acting under the guidance of a systematic long-range plan, can this aim be achieved.

The Central People's Government is now devoting great energy to the task of organizing

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THE MAY FOURTH MOVEMENT

Ping Chien

For three decades the Anniversary of May Fourth has given a renewed inspiration and encouragement to the progressive forces of China. For the feudal and reactionary cliques it was a day to dread. Long before the actual date, the reactionary ruling group, whether of northern warlords or Chiang Kai-shek's gang, would mobilize all their police forces to block the gates of factories and schools and cordon off the main thoroughfares. Black Marias combed the streets to round up revolutionary suspects. Bayonets and machine-guns were arrayed to suppress the popular demonstrations. Since that day in 1919, reaction has employed every devilish means at its disposal to erase this red-letter day from the political calendar of the Chinese people. All its attempts failed ignominiously. May Fourth has remained a day of revolutionary re-dedication and remembrance.

This year workers and students again paraded on the Tien An Men Square where 31 years ago on that historic occasion their predecessors demonstrated against imperialism and feudalism and were attacked and arrested by a ruthless police force. But this year, for the first time, their joyous demonstration of youth and revolutionary zeal was greeted by the leaders of their own government. The May Fourth Movement marked the dividing line between the old and New Democracy in China — this is the reason for the reactionaries' fearful hatred for this day. It sounded the knell of feudalism and imperialism. It armed the Chinese people with an invincible weapon — Marxism-Leninism. Taking place 19 months after the great October Revolution in Russia, it was a powerful response by the Chinese people to the clarion call of Socialism from their great neighbour, the Soviet Union. The May Fourth Movement was thus fundamentally a part of the world proletarian revolutionary tide.

First Major Clash

There are people outside China who describe this Movement either as a purely cultural one (hence the epithet "Renaissance of China") or merely as a protest by the Chinese students against a particular act of foreign policy. Such narrow and pedantic interpretations, however, are warranted neither by the events that led up to the Movement nor by the developments which issued out of it.

The immediate cause of the Movement was of course the notorious Twenty-One Demands which the Japanese imperialists had forced the traitorous warlord Yuan Shih-kai to sign and to which the Western imperialist peace-makers in Versailles had treacherously acquiesced. On May Fourth, 1919, five thousand students in Peking raised the first outcry against this imperialist scheme for dismembering China. They staged classroom strikes; demon-

strated through the city and held mass meetings at the Tien-An Men. Many were arrested. When they stormed into the houses of the traitors, many more were arrested. But in the end, with the students' action increasingly supported by the masses, the warlords were compelled to retreat and refuse to sign, in the name of the Chinese people, the unjust Versailles Treaty which would have legalized Japan's pretensions and turned China into its colony. This was the first major clash between the new revolutionary youth movement and the powers of coercion of the reactionary regime. It ended in a victory of the people over the tyrants.

Literary Monopoly Ended

The May Fourth Movement truly opened a totally new chapter in the culture of modern China. It dethroned the stilted and exclusive literary style which feudal culture had canonized over the centuries and in its stead established the vernacular as the general literary medium. This democratization of style and content marked a revolution not only in literature but throughout the new cultural movement. In the upshot under the leadership of Lu Hsun, and guided by the teachings of Mao Tse-tung, culture was wrested from the monopoly of the few and returned to the broad masses of the people.

But deep behind all this was the widespread and intense hatred of the Chinese people for domestic feudalism and the invasion of alien imperialists. This hatred was further reinforced by the new vista of Socialism that appeared over the northern horizon of China. A positive goal was disclosed which the Chinese people were now determined to attain. And at the same time they gained the instrument by which that goal could be attained — Marxism-Leninism.

Until the May Fourth Movement, the leadership of the Chinese revolution was in the hands of the bourgeoisie. The main trend of political thought was to copy and catch up with Britain and America, by which was meant transplanting to China the whole paraphernalia of their capitalist system with its "parliamentary democracy." Now the October Revolution showed the Chinese people the bright alternative. At the same time, as a result of the Imperialist War of 1914-1918, China's industries enjoyed a temporary boom. The numbers and class consciousness of the Chinese proletariat grew proportionately. It nurtured dependable leaders of the revolution.

The May Fourth Movement was carried forward by a united front composed of the revolutionary petty bourgeois and bourgeois intellectuals and Communist intellectuals. It was led by the latter. It received the powerful support of the working class movement. As a result of the nation-wide strikes organized by

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The Nation's Capital Rejoices on May Day

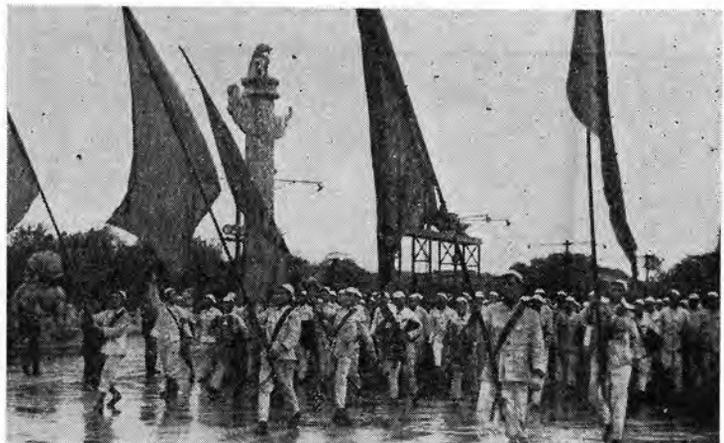
Chairman Mao Tse-tung returns the demonstrators' salute. With him are: (l. to r.) Commander-in-Chief Chu Teh; Liu Shao-chi and Chang Lan, Vice-Chairmen of the Central People's Government; Chou En-lai, Premier of the Government Administration Council; and Li Chishen, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government



Workers enter the famous square of the old "Forbidden City"



Air Force servicewomen march past the reviewing stand



200,000 persons ignore rain to demonstrate international solidarity

THE PEOPLE'S ARMY FIGHTS



A canal is dammed with sandbags, the first step in building a new irrigation system



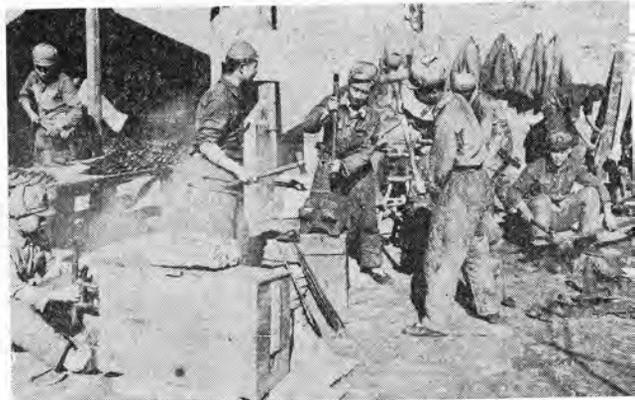
The surveying began in winter



Ploughing up former wasteland with



Milling flour for the army mess



In the workshop, spades are forged. . .

ON THE PRODUCTION FRONT



Each unit raises sheep, cattle



PLA troops protect the people from floods and foe



retrained cavalry horses



Battle oath — this time for production



... and hafted by the army, too



At work, he also learns a new trade

Youth Celebrate Their Day



On May 4th, 80,000 youth parade past Tien An Men, the main entrance to the former imperial palace



The Soviet Youth Delegation and cultural troupe, seen above at a welcoming rally, joined in the Youth Day celebrations. On left: Feng Wen-pin, Secretary of the China New Democratic Youth League, and N. A. Mikhailov, General Secretary of the Leninist Young Communist League

The People's Army Turns to Production

Chen Tan

China is today a land of great change. Even the courses of rivers are being altered and the barren mountainsides are turning green with new-planted forests. Deserts and great tracts of wasteland, abandoned during 12 years of war and famine, are being gradually webbed with irrigation networks and broken to plough.

The People's Liberation Army, whose heroic achievements laid the foundation for these changes, is undertaking an increasingly important role in transforming the face of China. Although it has a long tradition of part-time production, the PLA has launched a production campaign this year that is unprecedented in scope and character. No longer is the sole aim to reduce the people's tax burden and to raise army living standards—though these remain factors in the programme. Today the main aim is to help put the nation back on its economic feet and to speed the process of industrialization.

At present, only rear area units are assigned to this task. With the liberation of Taiwan and Tibet, all the PLA's 5,000,000 men can join the all-out assault on the production front. Army production, like state production, strengthens the socialist sector of the national economy. Therefore the PLA's long-term production campaign will be of inestimable significance in hastening China's transition from New Democracy to Socialism.

* * *

The army group's headquarters for its great production offensive had a distinctly front-line atmosphere. Huge topographical military maps covered two walls from floor to ceiling. Little red flags bearing army unit numbers marked the position of our forces. But the enemy in this East Hopei sector was no longer the KMT, whose troops had all been encircled and

disarmed by this same army group more than a year ago. Today the enemy was Nature; the task was to harness its tremendous but undisciplined forces and make them serve the local population.

When I entered the room, the Chief-of-Staff was seated at the head of a long, glass-topped conference table. Before him lay a sheaf of progress reports from various field command posts. The blueprint of an elevated concrete reservoir was spread out across the lower end of the table, where a group of staff officers were discussing a technical engineering problem.

The Chief-of-Staff, whom I had not seen since Tientsin's liberation, wasted no time on formalities or reminiscences. "What do you think our men have done now?" he said as he shook my hand warmly. There was a note of intense pride in his voice as he continued:

"You know the East Ying River project, where we are digging a section of the new canal? Well, we had calculated that it would take 10,000 men three months to dig this 3.23 kilometre stretch. After all, it means moving 6,000,000 cubic metres of earth. But our troops have been at work now for two weeks, and they are upsetting all our careful planning. They've talked the job over, and now they are confident they can finish it up in 50 days instead of 90. What do you think of that?"

"And just look at this," he continued, taking my arm and drawing me over to the charts and graphs lining a third wall. "Here's the record of our 29 big army farms—that's only counting the farms of more than 1,000 *mow*. Just look, not a single one is lagging behind schedule. Here's the Nth Regiment—finishing up spring planting a week ahead of its plan."

But perhaps even more impressive than the record of achievement documented in these blue and red crayoned lines was the military efficiency and precision with which the staff headquarters was directing this vast, complex production campaign. The walls of the room revealed at almost a glance the current rate of production at the army group's paper mill, the previous week's catch of its fishing fleet, its progress in reclaiming 120,000 *mow* of wasteland, the number of farm tools being turned out at the army's machine shop, and current daily output in a score of other enterprises.

All this wide variety of productive activity had been set into motion only five months earlier. On December 5, 1949, Comrade Mao Tse-tung, as Chairman of the People's Revolutionary Military Council, issued a directive calling on the People's Liberation Army to become "not only an army of national defence but an army of production to help the people throughout the country to conquer the difficulties left behind by a long war and to speed up the construction of a New Democratic economy." This directive instructed the army to undertake long-term construction projects, placing main emphasis upon "increasing the wealth of the society and state through labour." It prohibited the army from engaging in commercial transactions or undermining the interests of civilian production. Produce not needed to supply the army's own needs could only be sold to state trading corporations, not on the open market. Chairman Mao then went on to give clear and detailed guidance on how to launch and conduct the production mass movement in the army ranks.

The commanding staff immediately went into action, first carrying out extensive preparations just as it would before a major battle.

Meetings to discuss Chairman Mao's instructions were held at all levels so that every person in the entire army group could fully grasp the significance of the task ahead. These meetings also produced hundreds of suggestions from the ranks on how to complete the assignment more efficiently, once again proving the PLA saying that "10,000 brains are better than one."

Production Organization

While the troops were being ideologically mobilized to tackle this entirely new line of duty, the army authorities were setting up the necessary organizations to lead the production drive. With the help of the Communist Party branches, production committees were organized at each level from the company up. These were entrusted with responsibility for planning and supervising the campaign. Production co-operatives were set up under each committee to put the plans into practice and to handle day-to-day matters. The production committee at the army group headquarters level, with the army commander as its chairman, was vested with top authority for the unit's entire production movement.

After a month of democratic discussions involving everyone from the orderlies to the highest commanders, the broad outlines of the year's production plan had been hammered into shape. By this time, the division of labour between the various army units had also been determined. Within the next two months, each unit made detailed plans and preparations for completing its assignment on schedule — again relying heavily upon democratic discussions in drawing up this plan of action. Meanwhile Communist Party members completed individual production plans for the year and formed mutual-aid groups with non-Party members. The slogan of the day became: "We are heroes in fighting — now we must be heroes in production."

By March 20, all the preliminaries had been completed. The production campaign was officially launched on that day with a Grand Review, again just as if the army

group were setting off for battle. The soldiers lined up for inspection, carrying both their weapons and tools — and it was hard to say which had been polished the most. In keeping with front-line tradition, the ceremony ended with the troops taking an oath to fulfil the task assigned to them.

The army group's 1950 plan consisted of four general categories of work: (1) Agricultural production designed to lay the foundation for large, scientifically-run and highly-mechanized army farms of the future which, together with state farms, will pioneer the way to modern collective farming in China. (2) Industrial and handicraft production, starting modestly to accumulate experience in this brand-new field of army activity but with the ultimate goal of processing the bulk of the army's agricultural output. (3) Civil engineering projects essential to national reconstruction and flood prevention. (4) Small-scale, spare-time production aimed solely at raising living standards within the army.

Reclaiming Land

According to this plan, the army group will reclaim 120,000 *mow* of wasteland and raise crops conservatively valued at 21,230,651 catties of millet.

Reclaiming land around the western coast of the Gulf of Chihli is not just a matter of running a plow through the soil. From Shanhai-kwan, where the Great Wall runs into the sea, to the mouth of the Yellow River, in northern Shantung province, stretches a vast, flat expanse of alkaline wasteland — an area as bleak and barren as the surface of the moon. Until recent centuries, this whole region was submerged under sea water. In order to cultivate such land, the top soil must first be washed clean of alkali by flooding the area with running water for several weeks. Afterwards, the fields must be flooded once a day to prevent more alkali from rising up from the subsoil. This means that there must be a constant supply of water, and that it must be harnessed by a

system of canals, dams, reservoirs, irrigation ditches and gates.

New Rice Supply

There are 4,000,000 *mow* of such alkaline wasteland in the area where this army group is stationed. Within three to five years, according to preliminary draft plans, at least one-fourth of this land will have been turned into a green garden of rice capable of adding more than 500,000,000 catties of grain annually to the nation's larder (over one-seventh of the expected grain harvest in the whole of North China this year). What proportion of this gigantic programme will be borne by the army and how much by civilian government agencies is not yet determined. As one high-ranking officer told me with the customary frankness of the PLA:

"It will all depend on how efficiently we can handle this year's job of reclaiming 52,888 *mow* of such alkaline land."

The army group has also contracted to handle a part of the East Hopei water conservancy project, contributing 1,817,000 man-days of labour. In 1951, after the completion of the whole project involving the waterways of seven counties, 1,300,000 people will have been freed from the floods that have annually recurred in this area for the last half century. The government pays the army for its share of the work on the same basis that it pays civilians, and the army group expects to net 10,924,680 catties of millet for its labours.

Plans for industrial and handicraft production include operating 14 brick kilns, a uniform factory, a flour mill, a salt refinery to serve the unit's nine large salt farms, an egg-processing plant, a vegetable oil press, etc. An iron workshop was set up to turn out most of the shovels, hoes and horse-drawn plows that the soldiers are now using on the land. A handicraft unit wove the wicker baskets for removing earth on the canal-building projects. The army also produced the sacking for the sandbags they use in constructing dams and dykes. It bought up a bankrupt

paper mill which is turning out paper from rice straw, and three more paper mills will be opened this year. A cannery will soon be set up to process the 1,000,000 catties of fish that the army group expects to catch this year with its 17-boat fishing fleet. This type of production, according to the 1950 plan, will turn out goods valued at 12,343,486 catties of millet by the end of the year.

Own Food Supply

In addition, each of the army group's component units has undertaken to raise enough food supplies to cover its needs for six months. Approximately one-twelfth of the land brought under cultivation has been set aside for this purpose. The various units are also raising livestock and poultry, starting up bean curd production and engaging in other similar activities to improve their mess.

All of these multiple activities are being launched without any additional burden on the Chinese taxpayer. In the latter part of 1949, this army unit conducted a stringent economy drive and managed to save up a substantial part of its monthly government allocation. Then when the production campaign was initiated, the government paid the army group one month's salary in advance, on the understanding that the sum would be made up by the end of the year. In this way, the government was able to assist the production movement without altering the national budget. After the army's production co-operatives were set up, shares were offered to the troops which would be redeemed with interest after autumn harvest. Most of the soldiers invested at least one month's pocket allowance, amounting to six catties of millet. By these various ways, the army group accumulated more than 18,000,000 catties of millet as its working capital.

This year's production is expected to net the group 36,000,000 catties of millet after part of the expenses have been deducted. (The heavy initial investments will be amortised over a three-to-five year period.) In accordance with Chairman Mao's

instructions, 40 per cent of this amount will be distributed among the soldiers who have engaged in the work. The men may send their share of the income home to their families or use it as they wish. The remaining 60 per cent will be divided into three equal parts—one part will be reinvested to expand production; another will be used to cover the army's daily expenses, thus lightening the people's tax burden next year; and the third will be handed over to the government as taxes.

Although this military unit is being transformed into "an army of production," it must also maintain its great traditions as a steeled and highly-disciplined "army of national defence." While 75 per cent of its personnel will engage in production until autumn harvest time, the remaining 25 per cent are preparing an intensified military training programme for the coming winter. These preparations include sending many men and officers to military academies so they can learn more about modern mechanized warfare.

Battle-line Spirit

One of the most noteworthy aspects of the army production campaign is the battle-line spirit with which the revolutionary soldiers have plunged into their new tasks. The prevailing attitude is summed up by a popular slogan that has come up from the ranks:

"We can endure everything—our aching shoulders, blistered hands and tired legs—because these hardships are the starting point for benefitting millions of people in East Hopei!"

Most of the PLA soldiers come from peasant homes and they welcome the chance to get back to the soil. This is reflected in the hundreds of poems, commonly known as "plow poems," which the soldiers compose themselves and paste on their farm tools—thus keeping alive their front-line tradition of making up "rifle poems" to paste on the butts of their guns. A typical "plow poem" goes:

Hoe, hoe, old friend of mine,
We have parted since I joined
the army.

Today we are hand in hand again.
Let us unite as one
For the glorious task of production.

Army Life Retained

Many other features of army life are carried over into the production battle. Wherever large units are concentrated, long straw mat barracks mushroom up and turn the site into a regular military encampment. As always, the soldiers rise at 5 a.m. and manage to fit 2½ hours of study into their day's routine. Work-hours are fixed from 8 to 4, with an hour out for lunch and rest. Evenings are largely given over to meetings for discussing the work, and to newspaper reading, games and theatrical performances. And it is also common for the soldiers to voluntarily help the local peasants on their fields during the evening's free hours.

The troops are displaying their customary initiative in devising ways to handle their work more effectively. Someone on a canal-digging project suggested, for example, that each squad should keep track of the loads of earth it carried by dropping a bean in a bowl at the end of every round-trip. This method has spread through all work brigades and is now the basis for heated competitions between various units as to which can move the most earth in a day. Another soldier found an ingenious way to pad the sharp upper-edge of a spade with an old shoe sole slipped down over the handle. This suggestion not only saved the feet of the diggers but also saved their good shoes, which had been rapidly cut to pieces when they pressed the spade into the ground with their foot.

The scene of an army work project resembles a carnival. The army band turns out, filling the air with militant, fast-tempo rhythms. Army cultural teams stage skits and *yangko* dances during the rest periods. Wall papers, or "ground papers" in areas having no convenient walls, give a vivid running account of progress achieved, of the outcome of the many competitions that spontaneously arise and of different production experiences.

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PEKING'S MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION

Chen Jo-chung

In Peking's greatest May Day demonstration — the first in China since the establishment of the People's Republic — over 200,000 of its workers, soldiers and citizens, undeterred by torrential rain, marched on Tien An Men (Gate of Heavenly Peace) Square in an impressive salute to the international workers' day. There on Peking's "Red Square" they greeted Chairman Mao Tse-tung and his colleagues of the government and leaders of the democratic parties and people's organizations, who cheered them in response from the rostrum above the main entrance to the old Forbidden City.

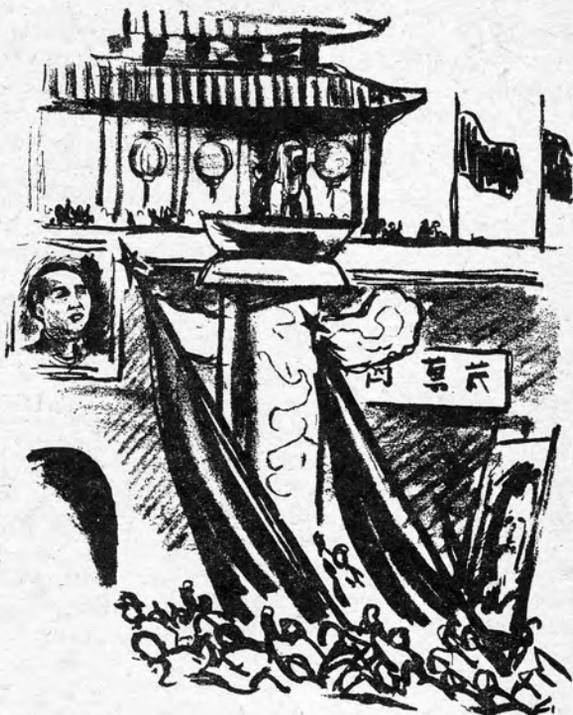
From early in the morning the organized columns of the people converged on the square and took up their allotted places to await the opening of the parade. At three o'clock precisely, salvos from the People's Artillery echoed like thunder from the heavy clouds that overcast the sky. Peking's Mayor Nieh Jung-chen spoke through the microphone to the waiting thousands.



"We are here to celebrate the unprecedented strength and growth of the world camp for peace and democracy headed by the Soviet Union; the great victory of the Chinese people's revolution and the great victory of the Chinese labouring people." As he ended, the first contingent of the People's Liberation Army entered the square from the Eastern Gate, to the music of the massed band.

At the centre of the big square the parade marches past the massive red-walled Tien An Men at the middle of which is the rostrum of the revolutionary leaders. Flanking the gate itself are two stands for the leaders of the democratic parties and groups and for guests and the diplomatic corps.

The site is one of extraordinary and typically Chinese beauty. The surrounding red walls, the glistening yellow tiles of the triple-roofs of the Tien An Men, the marble balustrades of the Forbidden City, the spring green of the trees, the multi-coloured masses of people, waving flags, banners and symbols, the portraits of revolutionary leaders, formed an ever-changing pattern under the clear light of Peking's sky. The clouds which lowered and the downpour of rain added an overtone of strength not only to colours and forms, but brought out a spirit of determination not to be daunted by the elements. This was felt by everyone present. It was as if these masses had spoken: "Today we



At Tien An Men

Sketches by Jack Chen

demonstrate our solidarity with all the toilers of the world. Our enemies are watching. They will rejoice if we flinch before a mere rainstorm."

Men of the PLA led the parade. Units of the Air Force were followed by women's service detachments in neat khaki uniforms. All wore the new style of khaki hats with the black peaks that have now replaced the informal cloth caps of the PLA in its early days. Renewed bursts of cheers from the spectators and the reviewing stands greeted each contingent. The representatives of the armed forces were followed by the columns of the workers. A massed band of more than 500 drums and cymbals brought a new exhilarating rhythm to the militant music of the brass bands. The blue, red and yellow costumes of the players gave added brilliance to the huge red silk banners of the Peking Trade Union Council. These surrounded large portraits of Chairman Mao and of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. Through the microphone the voice of Mao Tse-tung could be heard greeting the workers of Peking and a great shout answered him:

"Long Live Chairman Mao! Long Live Stalin!"

Often accompanied by their own bands of massed drums and groups of *yangko* dancers, the metal workers, railwaymen, printers and miners filed past their leaders. The municipal workers in their blue summer uniforms formed a solid mass of marchers, linked arm in arm, twenty abreast and 10,000 strong. Workers from the Changhsingtien Railway Depot proudly carried their tools with them. A huge model shoe preceded those of a Peking rubber shoe factory.

If the parade of the troops was notable for soldierly precision and dignity of bearing as they passed the review post in the pouring rain, the march of the workers was characterized by the human and spontaneous warmth of the greetings to their leaders. Each group gave a special hurrah for Chairman Mao and were delighted to cheer his response. Many carried their children astride their shoulders as they marched, waving their bouquets of flowers, flinging their caps into the air as they cheered. One veteran postal worker was so intently scrutinizing the face of Chairman Mao through a pair of binoculars that he straggled way behind his advancing column.

When the marchers saw the representatives of the working class of other countries on the platforms, there were renewed cheers, shouted with an enthusiasm that was clearly meant to express this brave and warm-hearted people's unity with the world-wide struggle against oppression.

There was real joy in the response of "Wan Sui Wan Wan Sui!" (Long May He Live!) that greeted every call for cheers for Chairman Mao. There were constant ovations for the delegation of Soviet Youth and for the Indonesian Trade Union delegation which was present.



Faces turned upwards as fighter planes flew overhead in formation. Voices from the rostrum led the cheer: "Long live the People's Air Force!"

The columns of workers were followed by representatives of the peasants, by the students and contingents from many popular organizations. There were white bearded old men and women with the pitiful bound feet of another era walking in step with the youth of today. Girls and boys danced with verve to the rhythm of the *yangko*.

Towards the late afternoon, just as the students entered the square, the weather relented. The sky turned orange and then red. A rainbow arch appeared. As night

fell the procession continued through the square, gay with flood lights and lit by a full moon. It was after eight when the final columns passed Tien An Men and Peking, capital of the new China, ended its mighty demonstration of solidarity with the masses of all China, of its famous and historic cities, Canton, Shanghai, Nanking, Chungking, Mukden, of its towns and villages arrayed in their millions with the working class of the world in an invincible camp of peace and democracy.



THE MAY FOURTH MOVEMENT

(Continued from page 12)

that date when the movement of progressive intellectuals merged with the revolutionary masses, the main body of revolutionary intellectuals in China became and has remained a reliable ally of the proletariat.

It is true that on the right wing of the Movement there was a group of bourgeois reformists represented by Hu Shih, which opposed the genuine progressives led by the revolutionary martyr Li Ta-chao, harbinger of Communism in China. But the revolutionary intellectuals waged an uncompromising and victorious struggle against the sabotage of the reformists. This is a characteristic feature of the cultural history of China during the past thirty years.

From the very beginning, Hu Shih, leader of the reformists, stood for compromise with the reactionaries. He confessed that "in July, 1917, when I first came back to China, I resolved to keep away from politics for twenty years." He found "all this talk of Guild Socialism and Marxist Socialism, class warfare and surplus value, irksome." He was against solving social problems fundamentally because "that would mean passing a death sentence on re-

formism." Once in a while he would write a gentle essay pleading for a merciful government. Finally Chiang Kai-shek made him his henchman and the American imperialists have hailed him as the "democratic individualist" *par excellence*. Hu Shih's traitorous career is a telling record of the unprincipled and opportunist role played by those bourgeois intellectuals who did not accept the leadership of the proletariat in the revolution. Their reformism has climaxed in complete political and moral bankruptcy.

Li Ta-chao stands opposed to this American hireling as an example of a staunch and consistent Marxist. This pioneer of Communism in China even then prophesied the victory of Bolshevism and of the people. He was uncompromising in his fight against feudalism and imperialism and for that struggle he willingly sacrificed his life. But the torch of Marxism-Leninism was taken up and borne forward by his brilliant and devoted follower, Mao Tse-tung. Two years after the May Fourth Movement, the Communist Party of China was founded. Thenceforth, the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal struggle was given an increasingly well organized leadership. (Continued on page 23)

CURRENT CHINA

April 26 — May 10, 1950



The Capital Rejoices

Three days after Peking's biggest May Day parade, 80,000 of the city's youth marched past the Gate of Heavenly Peace to celebrate China's Youth Day, May 4th. For five hours, contingents of soldiers, workers, students and other groups of young folk, marched, danced and sang their way across the quarter-mile square in a kaleidoscope of brilliant colour. They hailed the victory of the aims put forward by the May 4th Movement 31 years ago and pledged themselves to struggle for peace. The parade was reviewed by Liu Shao-chi, Vice-Chairman of the Central People's Government, government officials and the Soviet Youth Delegates.

Soviet Youth Delegation

The delegation of Soviet youth, headed by N. A. Mikhailov, General Secretary of the Leninist Young Communist League, has been working through a full programme of meetings, parades and entertainments. Among the 24 delegates are Stakhanovites, writers and artists. Performances by the artists who accompanied the delegation have drawn huge crowds of young people.

China's Youth League

The New Democratic Youth League of China, now one year old, had, by February, a membership of some 1,800,000. It now has a great number of branches in factories, villages, schools and the armed services. Many League members are labour heroes, model farmers, outstanding students and gallant soldiers. The League sponsors every sort of educational, artistic and athletic activity and also leads the work of the 470,000 members of the Chinese Pioneers' Corps.

Hainan Campaign Concluded

Hainan Island was completely liberated when the People's Liberation Army entered Yulin, largest port in the south, on April 30, two weeks after the main landings on the 17th.

All organized KMT resistance in the north had been smashed by April 24, and the PLA drove south in two prongs along the eastern and western coastal highways to plant the people's 5-star flags in the far south of the island six days later.

The Third Field Army, entrusted with the task of liberating Taiwan, has sent delegates to Hainan to study the successful operations there.

New Union Law

The Government Administration Council has published a draft trade union law for public discussion which defines the legal status and functions of trade unions in China's New Democratic society. This draft, which will later be sent to the Central People's Government Council for approval, gives genuine protection to the Chinese trade union movement for the first time in history. It gives trade unions the right to represent workers in the management of public enterprises as well as on labour-management consultative councils in private enterprises. All enterprises must pay into the union treasury a sum equal to 2 per cent of their pay rolls.

A Quarter's Achievements

China's peaceful reconstruction has made remarkable achievements during the first quarter of the current year, according to statistics recently released by the government.

Irrigation. More than 60 per cent of the nation's 1950 water conservancy projects were completed during the first three months of the year. Some 3,000,000 peasants, in government pay, threw up 210,000,000 cubic metres of earthworks in February and March. This year, dykes along sections of the Yangtze, Yellow, Huai and other rivers will be raised one or 1½ metres above the highest 1949 flood levels.

Coal Production. State collieries have beaten the government target for the first quarter of the year by 5.5 per cent. Manchuria exceeded its quota by 11 per cent, and Central-South China by 3 per cent.

Railways. By March, China's railways had budget surpluses, had fulfilled their transport plans, paid \$32,000,000,000 in business taxes and invested considerable sums in new installations. This was made possible by efficient management, though passenger fares are far lower and freight rates only one-sixth of those imposed under the KMT regime.

Relief Work

Relief and welfare work in China will be unified under the Chinese People's Relief Association, formed on April 29. The new body incorporates the former Chinese Liberated Areas Relief Association and other organizations. It will continue the policy of helping the people in crop-damaged areas mainly by providing work of a socially useful character. Soong Ching Ling (Madame Sun Yat-sen) and Tung Pi-wu, Vice-Premier, were

elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association. Soong Ching Ling (Madame Sun Yat-sen) and Tung Pi-wu. Vice-Premier, were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association.

Here and There

Grain Reshuffle. The transport of grain ordered by East and North China from Central-South China has been 92 per cent completed.

Workers' Education. Illiteracy among industrial workers will be wiped out in three to five years under a plan announced by the All-China Federation of Labour.

Scientist Returns. Noted geologist J. S. Lee, who is also Vice-President of the Academia Sinica, has returned from England to work in China.

Evacuation. The S.S. "General Gordon" sailed from Tientsin on April 30 with 690 foreign nationals on board. This completed the exposure of American lies that the Chinese government was delaying the departure of U.S. nationals.

Worker Director. Famous labour hero, Liu Ying-yuan, has been appointed director of the Peking Power Plant.

Oil. A National Oil Conference has laid plans to restore China's oil industry in three years and to develop the rich oil resources of the Northwest.

Army Veterans. Thousands of partly disabled war veterans are settling in Manchuria to farm land given to them by the government.

International

America. Seventy Chinese died as a result of wanton violation of maritime law and delay in rescue work by the U.S. vessel "California Bear," after it rammed a Chinese ship in Pohai Bay on April 20.

France. Telegrams protesting the dismissal of Professor Joliot-Curie from his post as High Commissioner for Atomic Energy have been sent by several Chinese organizations.

Sweden. Mr. Torsten Ludwig Hammarstrom has been appointed Swedish Ambassador to China and General Keng Piao as Chinese Ambassador to Sweden.

U.S. Air Aggression

The American Government is spending US\$40,000 to repair the Kim Po airfield, near Seoul, as a base for B-29 long-range bombers. In January, five other airfields were constructed in South Korea. Chiang Kai-shek has asked Syngman Rhee to permit his American-supplied war-planes to use these bases in attacks on northern China.

America's great interest in building Korean military air-bases to replace those lost with the liberation of Tsingtao and Shanghai is further explained by the confessions of two U.S. Army airmen. E. C. Bender and W. C. Smith landed a reconnaissance plane in the Shantung Liberated Area in October, 1948. They have stated that "the objective of the flight was to reconnoitre the railways . . . (and) . . . to discover what construc-

tional projects were underway in Laiyang. . . ." The flyers were recently released after they repented their act of military aggression.

Claire Chennault has been active behind the scenes in organizing an "international air brigade" to be placed at Chiang Kai-shek's service. N. Castle, former U.S. Air Force captain and commander of this 'brigade,' was quoted by UP as saying: "If the State Department continues its 'hands-off' policy toward the group, it will be activated by July." He added that American F-51, B-25 and British Lancaster planes are being made "available" for his collection of American, British and Canadian desperadoes. Volunteers are being recruited, Castle noted, with enticements of U.S. Air Force wage scales, "plus 30 per cent hazard pay."

MAY 4th MOVEMENT

(Continued from page 21)

Now under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, vanguard of the proletariat, the Chinese people have emerged victorious, thrown off the yoke of imperialism and the age-old shackles of feudalism.

The seed of New Democracy sown 31 years ago by the May Fourth Movement can now ripen to maturity. The aspirations symbolized by that day can now be fully realized. The foreign policy of national betrayal has been ended forever. A new people's culture has been born. The great revolutionary unity of China and the U.S.S.R. has been cemented by solemn treaties. The revolutionary intellectuals have now truly merged with the proletariat and the people in the gigantic task of constructing a New Democratic China prelude to the advance to Socialism.

ARMY PRODUCTION

(Continued from page 19)

On the day I visited the canal project, the skies unloosed a torrent of rain that turned the work site into a swamp of mud. The men kept right on working as usual. I asked one of the soldiers carrying a heavy load of earth why the work did not stop when conditions were so bad.

"There are a number of reasons," he said. "To stop work before receiving an order to do so would be a gross violation of the labour discipline that we are all pledged to observe. In addition, we have signed a contract with the government in which we agreed to continue working whenever possible. And as you can see, it's still possible."

This is the kind of determination and high revolutionary discipline which has won China's revolutionary war. Today it guarantees the success of the PLA's great new campaign on the production front.



May Fourth Celebrations

Two Historic Rooms

In commemoration of the 31st Anniversary of the May Fourth Movement, Peking University has restored to their original form the two historic rooms in its Red Brick Building where Mao Tse-tung and the late Li Ta-chao once worked.

In 1918, Li Ta-chao moved into his office as Chief Librarian of National Peking University and it was from these two small adjoining rooms in the east corner of the Red Brick Building that this proletarian thinker, and the only matured Chinese Marxist of that time, directed the May Fourth Movement and waged the ideological struggle against the bourgeois reformist Hu Shih and other disrupters of the Chinese revolutionary movement. It was here that Li and the youth around him organized the Marxist Study Group whose members later became the backbone of the Chinese Communist Party on its foundation in 1921 at Shanghai.

Arriving in Peking from Hunan at that time, Mao Tse-tung was introduced to Li by a friendly professor and was offered and accepted a post in the Library. The two small rooms which he shared with Li are once again furnished as they were thirty years ago. There are the immortal librarian's writing desk, the long table around which the first Chinese Marxists conferred, the small three-drawer desk

on which Comrade Mao worked, the rattan easy chair and book cases. On the wall are a photo of Li Ta-chao, specimens of his calligraphy and correspondence and an order issued by the then Minister of Education "to suppress the Communist Li Ta-chao's dangerous activities."

In the room in which Chairman Mao had worked are his portrait bust, photos, his manuscripts and collections of his published works. The two rooms are open to the public and there is a lively interest in this place where the early pages of the new revolutionary China were written.

Scientific Democracy

Following the ceremony to inaugurate the two Memorial Rooms, Peking University held a series of commemorative lectures, meetings and entertainments. On May 2, devoted to science, Professor Hua Lo-keng, the mathematician, gave a comparison of American and Soviet science. He drew a vivid picture of two worlds in which science develops in opposite directions. Falling into the hands of monopoly capital, atomic energy in the United States is developed to destroy mankind. In the Soviet Union in the hands of the people, it moves mountains and changes the courses of rivers, serving mankind.

Professor Hua drew the lessons for China in this comparison. "The banners of Democracy and Science were first lifted in China on May Fourth 31 years ago. With the birth of New China, we have achieved democracy. Our task today is to develop science. Let us set to it with a will!"

Youth Exhibition

A comprehensive exhibition of historical materials on the Chinese youth movement held in Peking's Chung Shan Park shows vividly how the glorious tradition of China's youth in the fight for democracy and national liberation has been valiantly maintained by a united front of young workers, peasants and intellectuals.

At the entrance to the exhibition is the famous inscription from Chairman Mao Tse-tung: "A Spark Can Kindle a Mighty Conflagration!" There are pictures of Li Ta-chao and his young friends of the early revolutionary days in the Marxist Study Group and also of the members of the Awakening Society organized in 1920 by Comrades Chou En-lai and Teng Ying-chao. These are soon followed by pictures of the great Peking-Hankow Railway Strike participated in by the youth in 1923 which was already a flame that scorched the warlords.

Ever since the May Fourth Movement, China's youth has been in the midst of the revolutionary struggle, and the exhibition gives numerous examples of the heroism and selfless sacrifice of the youth throughout the years of revolution and war until the victory of today. It shows the youth playing its part in the work of reconstruction and points the lesson that these victories could not have been achieved without the strength of unity and the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.

KMT TERROR AGAINST CHINA'S STUDENTS

	1945-1946 (Sept.-Aug.)	1946-1947 (Sept.-Aug.)	1947-1948 (Sept.-Aug.)	Total
Students Dismissed . . .	624	1024	780	2428
Wounded	362	758	727	1847
Arrested	138	1267	2050	3455
Killed	19	15	69	103

This is one of the many graphic displays of statistics at the Youth Exhibition in Chung Shan Park, Peking.

THE FINANCIAL AND FOOD SITUATION IN CHINA

(Continued from page 7)

namely, that because of the 12 years of inflation, most of the urban population had bought and stored certain amounts of grain in order to reduce losses from currency inflation. In addition, with regard to the consumption of food, because of the poverty brought about by prolonged warfare, there is elasticity in the people's food consumption. In times of high grain prices, people generally eat coarser cereals and cook them with more water.

In order to ensure the people's food supply throughout the country, the government is transporting and reshuffling grain. On the one hand, considerable quantities of public grain are transported to the communication lines by every possible means from places with surplus grain but poor communications. On the other hand, in order to reinforce the grain supplies of the devastated areas and big cities, public grain is being transported from provinces where last year's harvest was good and where there is usually surplus grain for transport to other regions. However, no more grain is being removed from these areas than in previous years.

Results Balance Costs

The cost of moving grain is high. In many places transportation charges exceed the price of the grain. On the average, the cost of transporting grain is equal to its price. But although the cost of transportation is high, the transport fees have gone to the afflicted people and the surplus labour force in the rural areas.

Such grain shipments are necessary for the country as a whole and also benefit the peasants in areas with surplus grain. If state public grain were not transported to the devastated areas and big cities, but were sold in surplus areas in competition with the peasants' grain, prices would fall sharply, causing losses to the peasants. Furthermore, when there is a grain shortage in the big cities, the costs of industrial goods increase. This not only creates difficulties for the urban people, but also creates distress among the peasants in surplus grain areas who must exchange low-priced grain for high-priced industrial goods.

The aim of the government in reshuffling grain is to transfer it from out-of-the-way areas to communication lines where it can readily be transported here and there. Only by such co-ordinated readjustments can we supply the good needs of the whole country.

Big maritime cities such as Shanghai, Tientsin and Canton have long been relying on the import of foreign grain. This year they will be supplied with grain from within the country. Many people are worried that grain shortages may develop in the big cities as a result of the coastal blockade. It is our view that — with the exception of certain individual ports, now temporarily blockaded, which may experience temporary food shortages this year

because of exceptionally poor inland communication facilities — all the big cities such as Peking, Tientsin, Shanghai, Canton, Wuhan and Nanking and other large centres in the various provinces will have necessary food supplies.

The amount of public grain alone to be sold on the market (including grain to be delivered after the wheat harvest but not including figures for Northeast China) equals 9,000,000,000 catties, or 4,500,000 tons. The total urban population in China does not exceed 90,000,000. This 4,500,000 tons can supply one-third of the population of all cities and towns with food for a whole year. For the state to move such huge quantities of grain into the cities is unprecedented in the history of China.

On the Question of Relieving the Inhabitants of Devastated Areas

There are 12,000,000 *mow* of devastated land in Liaoshi and Jehol provinces in Manchuria, affecting 2,600,000 people, and the Northeast People's Government is now carrying on relief work in these regions.

The Central People's Government has made the following allocations for various relief measures in afflicted areas south of the Great Wall:

Immediate relief grain — 340,400,000 catties.

Grain payment for water conservancy work relief projects — 345,640,000 catties.

Grain agricultural loans — 94,800,000 catties.

Grain invested as capital in co-operatives — 120,000,000 catties.

Grain payment for those taking part in transport work — 200,000,000 catties.

Grain payment for cloth manufactured by inhabitants of devastated areas — 126,350,000 catties.

Unhusked grain loans for peasants to be repaid after wheat harvest — 145,000,000 catties.

Relief grain allocated by local governments — 160,000,000 catties.

The above eight items total over 1,532,000,000 catties, or 766,000 tons. If necessary, this amount can even be appropriately increased.

1932 Relief Picture

Let us look at the "Economic Year Book of China" and see how much flood relief grain was used in 1932. According to the report of the flood relief committee of the bogus "national government" of that time, the following amounts were spent:

Relief grain — 320,400,000 catties.

Grain for work relief projects — 600,000,000 catties.

Agricultural loans and seeds — 100,000,000 catties.

Total — 1,020,400,000 catties, or 510,200 tons.

Of this amount, at least 300,000,000 catties, or 150,000 tons, did not reach the devastated areas, the same source revealed.

According to the earlier-mentioned data, the population in the afflicted areas this year is over 12,000,000 less than that of 1932. However, relief grain allocations are 255,800 tons more than in 1932 and the afflicted areas will get all of this grain. Furthermore, under the reactionary KMT rule,

corruption and embezzlement were commonplace in relief work, whereas the people's government never allows corruption among relief work personnel.

Our method of relieving the inhabitants in afflicted areas is to organize the inhabitants in production to enable them to save themselves. The relief grain issued by the government is used to help the inhabitants of the afflicted areas to engage in various types of production. It is not issued simply as relief, without mobilizing the people for production.

If we conduct our work well and carry on energetically, it will be completely possible to help the inhabitants in the afflicted areas overcome the spring food shortage period.

Difficulties Being Overcome

The inhabitants of the afflicted areas are in distress and the people in general also have a hard life. This is the result of more than a century of imperialist aggression in China and the long reactionary rule of the KMT. Precisely because of this, the people throughout the country, having defeated Japanese imperialism, were determined to overthrow the KMT reactionary rule swiftly and establish their own people's government. The victory of the People's Liberation War and the formation of the Central People's Government and people's governments of various levels have created the prerequisites for remoulding the national economy. The people throughout the country understand this and are working with the government in a concerted effort to eliminate the enemy remnants, to rehabilitate the economy and to overcome all difficulties.

The imperialists are rejoicing at others' misfortunes. The handful of reactionaries in island exile are also dreaming of a so-called food crisis on the mainland. Let them dream. Rain has been reported from Northeast China, from North China and from Honan and Shantung provinces (with the exception of Kiaotung Peninsula in Shantung) and the wheat harvest is promising. The peasants throughout the country are starting spring planting. Those who rejoice at our distress and hope that we shall have a food crisis are doomed to disappointment. Contrary to their expectations, we shall not only overcome all our calamities but, moreover, we shall stabilize grain prices for the first time in years.

CHINA INCREASES HER GRAIN PRODUCTION

(Continued from page 9)

and East China and has recently expanded the former tractor training class into a regular school. Over 450 graduates from the school have been sent out to work on mechanized state farms in various provinces. Meanwhile, orders have been placed for over 1,000 Soviet-made tractors in order to develop the state farms in various places in a planned and systematic manner.

The water conservancy work this year is centred around the prevention of floods and drainage of inundated land. In areas affected by drought, the

emphasis is laid on irrigation by building canals. Work has been started on all projects scheduled for this year. It is certain that agricultural production can be resumed in most parts of the distressed areas.

In North Kiangsu, for instance, 770,000 peasants led by 22,000 cadres are working on several large-scale water conservancy projects. The colossal task scheduled for this spring involves the removal of 68,250,000 cubic metres of soil. The major part of the work is expected to be completed before the summer rainfall again swells the unruly rivers in the North Kiangsu plain. Completion of this spring's work will extend flood protection to 5,500,000 *mow* of grain fields and 2,000,000 *mow* of cotton fields, and at the same time, will alleviate the flood menace on 22,000,000 *mow* of fertile land along the Yangtze River and the Grand Canal.

Meanwhile, the peasants in various places are working vigorously under the overall guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture on a great number of programmes, such as building canals, dams and reservoirs and sinking wells. Large numbers of water-wheels are being built to be loaned to the peasants. In the administrative districts of Paoting, Shihchia-chuang and Tinghsien, all in Hopei province, for instance, 18 big canals are being cut. In Chahar province, the government is sponsoring the construction of four big canals and the peasants themselves are digging 460 small canals. These dam and canal-building projects in various provinces form a gigantic undertaking unexampled in recent decades.

Prevention of Pests and Diseases

The Ministry of Agriculture convened a North China Farming Technique Conference last February, which considered the prevention of pests and crop diseases. It was decided to increase the production of insecticides and to set up permanent anti-pest and anti-disease stations in severely infected areas. The various provincial governments are intensifying efforts to teach the peasants preventive techniques and organizing mass campaigns to exterminate harmful insects. When pests attacked crops in Hopei province last March, an inspection corps comprising 800 cadres from various administrative levels was immediately organized to help the peasants combat the pests and assist their spring cultivation. The Ministry of Agriculture has also imported large quantities of insecticides and equipment to guard against further outbreaks of such disasters.

Details about relief for distressed peasants have been given by Vice-Premier Chen Yun in his report, but it should be noted that already the unprecedentedly large sum of 1,532,000,000 catties of grain has been allocated for relief.

Aided by the local governments, the peasants in the various distressed areas are resuming production. Surveys made last winter showed that the peasants, led by the local governments, had drained 80 percent of the flooded land and planted it to

wheat. This spring, the government again called on the distressed peasants to sow crops of early-ripening varieties. In ten counties of eastern Hopei province, for instance, spring wheat has been sown on 400,000 *mow* of land; and in southern Anhwei province, on 2,000,000 *mow*. In addition to a large area of spring wheat the distressed peasants in North Kiangsu have planted over 1,000,000 *mow* to vegetables.

To attain the goal of the production drive, it has been decided in various areas that activities throughout the year will centre around grain and cotton production and that the emphasis will first of all be laid on rehabilitation, as the basis of further development.

In the vast countryside where land reform has been completed, the peasants have entirely freed themselves from feudal exploitation. In the newly liberated areas, the peasants have taken on a new lease of life as a result of the reduction of rents and interest rates, the suppression of local despots and the equitable allocation of taxation. Since they know that the future belongs to them, the emancipated peasantry are eager to work hard and produce more. It is anticipated that the quotas set for the various areas will not only be fulfilled, but will be surpassed.

The figures in this article are based on the latest available data. Some of them, therefore, differ considerably from those given in the article "Chinese Agriculture in Speedy Rehabilitation" which appeared in the third issue of this journal. — Ed.

SCIENCE IN NEW CHINA

(Continued from page 11)

Chinese scientists. In July, 1949, the government convened a preparatory meeting in Peking to lay plans for an All-China Conference of Scientific Workers. Since early last December, many ministries of the new government have held national conferences to discuss such subjects as food production, steel production, soil conservancy, fuel, fisheries, etc. Specialists from all sections of the country met at these conferences to draw up detailed plans for their future work.

When the KMT government was in power, such meetings of scientists and other specialists merely resulted in a batch of resolutions that were never executed. The situation is entirely different today. Now these conferences are not convened until careful preparatory work has been completed. Only proposals that can be put into effect are placed on the agenda. After the meeting, its resolutions and decisions are quickly and efficiently carried out. For instance, at the end of last February, a group of geologists was called to Peking. It required only two weeks to map out the 1950 programme and allocate responsibility for the field work for various regions to different scientific units. Within one month and half after the meeting closed, 80 geologists were en route to Northeast, Northwest and Central China to study the geological structure of these areas and to prospect for iron, coal, oil and non-ferrous minerals.

In addition to encouraging the systematic and collective advancement of science, the people's government is also doing much to popularize scientific knowledge among the masses. The Bureau of Popular Science, under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, staged a large popular science exhibition in Peking during the lunar New Year holidays which attracted an attendance of more than 100,000 in 12 days. The government has mobilized scientific workers to launch many new technical journals, to give lectures and broadcasts popularizing science, and to go to the factories and the countryside to learn first-hand about the practical problems that need solution.

The advancement of science in China presents us with still another urgent task—the training of scientific cadres. For instance, the reconstruction of Northeast China is well under way now, only a year and a half after its complete liberation. But in every field we are confronted with a shortage of well-trained scientific workers as well as technicians and engineers. There is hardly one specialist with a medium or high level of technical training to every 200 ordinary workers. Even though the Northeast government is trying to remedy this situation by securing the services of specialists from all parts of China, the shortage cannot be entirely overcome in view of the limited number of such experts in China. After Taiwan is liberated, the whole nation will immediately embark on large-scale reconstruction programmes and then the demand for scientific and technical personnel will be even more acute.

Therefore, the government is drawing up plans to establish many new educational centres in the near future, and it lays great stress on the need to expand the scientific departments in our existing universities and colleges. The government also plans to set up extensive educational facilities in the field of popular science. In addition to preparing for a nation-wide campaign to eradicate illiteracy, the Ministry of Education of the Central People's Government is planning to open many workers' and peasants' schools, offering short courses in science and technology.

As the Common Programme of the Chinese People's PPC declared, the love of science is one of the five virtues which every patriotic Chinese should cultivate. To love science means that one must acquire a scientific approach to all problems. In dealing with any matter, whether it is one's own purely personal affairs or that of national administration, such as the restoration of communications, the stabilization of commodity prices, etc.—things must be regarded from a scientific viewpoint, and must be handled with in a scientific way. Science in China is like a transplanted fruit tree. It languished in the unfavourable climate of the past. But now the climate has changed for the better and the soil has become fertile. Therefore, it will soon strike deep roots, and in due time it will burst into beautiful blossom and bear magnificent fruits.

RADIO PEKING

Radio Peking, the New China Broadcasting Station's International Broadcasting Service, transmits daily the following programmes of news and commentaries:

		GMT		Peking Time
Japanese	10:00 — 10:30		18:00 — 18:30	
Indonesian	10:30 — 11:00	„	18:30 — 19:00	„ „
Amoy dialect	11:00 — 11:30	„	19:00 — 19:30	„ „
Ke Chia dialect	11:30 — 12:00	„	19:30 — 20:00	„ „
Viet-Nameese	12:00 — 12:30	„	20:00 — 20:30	„ „
Cantonese dialect	12:30 — 13:00	„	20:30 — 21:00	„ „
Standard Chinese	13:00 — 13:30	„	21:00 — 21:30	„ „
English	13:30 — 14:00	„	21:30 — 22:00	„ „
Siamese	14:00 — 14:30	„	22:00 — 22:30	„ „
Chao Chou dialect	14:30 — 15:00	„	22:30 — 23:00	„ „
Burmese	15:00 — 15:30	„	23:00 — 23:30	„ „

News in Chinese at dictation speed for Overseas listeners is broadcast daily at 08:30 GMT

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19.92 „ :	15.06	„

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