

People's 人民中国 China

August 1

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN CHINA AND THE FACTS ON GERM WARFARE

Dr. Hewlett Johnson

MOSLEMS IN NEW CHINA

P. C. Yu

THE P.L.A. MAKES THE DESERT BLOOM

C. Y. Ying

THE LUTAI STATE FARM

Chun Hua

15

1952

*A Day With Monica Felton
In Peking —Hsiao Ch'ien*

ERRATA

On page 7, column 2, line 4 should read: "by a third, but those who had left had simply"

On page 12, column 1, line 3 from the bottom should read: "Shantung, averaged only 0.7 *mou**, after the"

On the first page of the Pictorial, the lower right hand caption should read: "A P.L.A. market-gardener with his crop of cucumbers. The P.L.A. is working to make all its units in Sinkiang self-sufficient in vegetables, fruits and tobacco this year"

On page 32, column 2, line 11 should read: "1949, 50,000 workers established new records in"



People's China

26 Kuo Hui Chieh, Peking, China

This journal appears on the 1st and 16th of each month. Entered as first-class printed matter at the General Post Office of China.

Editor: Chiao Kuan-hua

1952, No. 15

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國內定閱價目表 (平寄郵費在內,掛號郵費另計)

半年 十二期 人民幣四萬八千元 全年 廿四期 人民幣九萬六千元
請就地向 國際書店 定閱

RATES FOR ABROAD

(Postage Included)

	6 months	one year
Australia and New Zealand		Aust. 12/6
Hongkong	HK \$5.00	HK \$9.00
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U.S.A., South America		\$3.50
Canada		Can. \$3.50

Published by the FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS, 26 Kuo Hui Chieh, Peking, China.

The People's Army—An Army of Peace

On August 1, the Chinese people celebrate the 25th anniversary of their army—the People's Liberation Army, on which they relied to win their liberation from age-old oppression and which today stands vigilantly on guard in defence of their freedom, happiness and peace.

Led by the heroic Chinese Communist Party, the people of China created their own armed force on August 1, 1927 to defend themselves from the bloody domination of Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang ruling clique and his foreign imperialist backers. With it they succeeded in overthrowing the rule of imperialism and the reactionaries inside China. Thus they opened the way for the establishment of their New Democratic China. Now the P.L.A. stands as the valiant guard of the Motherland it liberated, a staunch defender of the peace of the East and of the world.

Mao Tse-tung, great leader of the Chinese people and architect of their victorious armed forces, said in 1936 in his book *The Strategic Problems of the Chinese Revolutionary War*: "We study the laws of revolutionary war because we wish to eliminate all wars." In 1938, he called on all the people's forces "to struggle for a lasting peace." (*On Protracted War*). These have been the over-all principles of the People's Army, guiding all its operations.

From its very first day, this army has been the shield of the people from wrong. Composed wholly of volunteers of the people, its interests are wholly those of the people. Its 25 years history has been a heroic and victorious struggle against the slaughter of the people by their enemies both domestic and foreign. From their own bitter experience, the people know what aggression means. Their most ardent desire is peace and freedom from aggression. That is why their army is dedicated to the cause of peace. That is why it has earned the admiration of millions of freedom- and peace-loving people beyond the borders of China.

Today American imperialism is pursuing an aggressive war policy in its mad ambition to achieve world domination. One of the most important elements of this plot is its scheme for the domination of Asia and the Pacific regions. This is a scheme already exposed by facts: the armed aggression against Korea; the armed invasion of Taiwan; the increasing intervention in Viet-Nam; repeated intrusions into China's territorial air with the bombing and strafing of peaceful citizens; the large-scale use of bacteriological weapons against the Korean and Chinese peoples; the prolonging of the Korean cease-fire negotiations by every foul means; the drive to turn Japan into a base for U.S. aggression in the Far East by reviving and rearming the forces of fascism and militarism.... The spearhead of this aggressive scheme is clearly directed at the People's Republic of China. This has created a most serious threat to the security of China and to world peace.

The 475 million people of China have stood up. Strong in their freedom, they will no longer tolerate aggression. They have the reason, the determination and the means to meet aggression in a fitting way. Together with the Korean People's Army, the Chinese people's volunteers who have followed the glorious tradition of the People's Liberation Army in defending the people against armed aggression, have already told the world with their victories: "The insolent American aggressors can and will be defeated." They have demonstrated that the strength of the people, backed by the strength of the world camp of peace and democracy, is fully able to ensure the defeat of any aggression.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army is an invincible force armed with Marxism-Leninism and the teachings of Mao Tse-tung. It is rapidly raising its own cultural level, it is learning the most advanced military science and mastering the use of modernised weapons of defence. It is surrounded by the love and support of the whole people working for peace.

The Chinese people's efforts for peace are daily strengthened by all the great victories of the world camp for peace and democracy, headed by the Soviet Union.

That is why, if the American aggressors refuse to learn the lesson of their debacles in China and Korea and still poke their pig-snouts

into the Chinese garden, only disaster will await them.

Confident that the gains of their revolution are defended by an invincible force, the Chinese people continue to move forward, concentrating calmly and resolutely on their great tasks of peaceful construction.

Sino-British Trade

The consistent desire of the government and people of New China to develop commercial relations with the governments and peoples of all other countries on a basis of equality and mutual benefit is once again expressed in Vice-Foreign Minister Chang Han-fu's July 5 statement on trade relations between China and Britain.

The active promotion of such trade relations, the statement says, "is conducive to the recovery and development of industrial and agricultural production in both countries, as well as to the improvement of the living conditions of the peoples of both countries."

Sino-British trade has a history of nearly three centuries. It once averaged £100 million (U.S.\$280 million) in annual value. But now it has declined to less than 20 per cent of this amount.

This precipitous fall began abruptly in May, 1951, when the British government supported the American proposal in the U.N. Assembly for an embargo against the people's China. The decline was, however, already noticeable as a result of a series of British restrictions in respect to trade with China, instituted since 1950 under Wall Street's incessant pressure in an attempt to strangle China economically and bring Britain's economy under U.S. control.

But China's reconstruction work is far from being impeded. Despite the U.S.-dictated blockade and embargo, she goes on rehabilitating and developing herself into a more prosperous country than she has ever been before. Her foreign trade last year was more than double that of 1950 in value and far exceeds that of the average year previous to the start of warfare in 1937. Today, her trade

with private enterprise countries alone could reach two or three times the highest point it ever reached under the Kuomintang regime.

On the other hand, the British government's policy of trade control and embargo has inevitably brought difficulties to British firms at home and in China, where, due to contraction of business, many of them are being forced to close. Such a policy, it is clear, jeopardises the interests of the British people who, faced with growing unemployment, rising living costs and a declining standard of living, are themselves the best judge of the results of the American policy of blocking their traditional trade outlets.

The common good of the peoples of the two countries, as of all other countries, clearly demands that such a situation must be altered and that trade should flow again. Not long ago, the Chinese and British delegates to the International Economic Conference held in Moscow in April this year concluded an agreement for trade exchange to the value of £10 million (U.S. \$28 million) on either side in 1952. Two months later in Berlin, they signed a pro forma contract to the amount of £6,500,000 for the first instalment of goods to be exchanged.

Following these steps, the Chinese government and people have now reiterated their willingness and readiness to develop trade relations with any British firms or their joint agents on the basis of equality and mutual advantage.

In taking such a frank stand, the Chinese government and people have once more declared to the world that they are against any kinds of man-made barriers to international trade. They stand for the free exchange of goods among nations for the enjoyment of all in peaceful life.

A Fearless Partisan of Peace

The entire Chinese people support the fearless stand of Dr. Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury, in exposing the facts of American bacteriological warfare to the people of Britain and the world.

The Dean added his weighty voice to those of other witnesses to the American crime after several weeks' visit to China in which he travelled to the spots where germs had been dropped by the U.S. air force, talked to the people, made extensive enquiries among Chinese Christian leaders and examined the material evidence. He has continued to repeat the truth in the face of threats to remove him from his post and even to "try him for treason."

The complete moral bankruptcy, the depth of perfidious hypocrisy of the U.S. warmongers and their stooges in Britain and other countries is revealed by the means they have used against the truth the Dean and others have brought. On the one hand, they have trumpeted to their peoples that "no evidence" of bacteriological warfare exists. On the other, they have gone to fantastic lengths to stifle the factual testimony of their own nationals.

This is their "honesty."

The kept press of the warmongers virtually ignored the detailed and damning statements of two American airmen, Lieutenants Enoch and Quinn, who themselves dropped germ-bombs and later told how they did it. The Austrian Professor Brandweiner, who investigated germ warfare on the spot at the head of the Commission of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, was hounded from his university post on American orders. Mr. Jack Gaster, British member of the same mission, encountered a carefully engineered conspiracy of silence on his return. Dr. James Endicott, bringing the evidence to Canada, and the Dean himself, bringing it to England, have been threatened with criminal prosecution in the vain hope of frightening them off from

making it public. At the same time, the U.S. warlords press for an "investigation" by a white-washing team composed of representatives of the miscalled International Committee of the Red Cross who, as a private Swiss organisation, the Dean pointed out, "in South Korea wear American army uniforms and work under army discipline" so that "even the Quakers do not find it acceptable to work there."

This is the "democracy" and "impartiality" of the warmongers.

Even while the British government was menacing one of its own most eminent citizens with the dire penalties for criticising the American crime, it was admitting its own brutal chemical warfare against the people of Malaya, spraying poison on the crops on which millions depend for food. While the fist-shaking against the Dean went on, the U.S. government was exercising what it termed "pressure" on the Korean armistice talks at Panmunjom by killing and wounding over 10,000 civilians, mostly women and children, in the renewed explosive-and- napalm bombing of Pyongyang, continuing to slay the unarmed war prisoners in its camps whom it claimed to be "protecting" against their own desire to go home, making new provocative air attacks on Chinese territory on Antung, once more threatening to use the atom bomb.

This is the "humanity" and "civilisation" of those who impose on the credulous among their own people, telling them that such things as germ warfare are impossible for "civilised, humane, Christian lands."

The world peace movement is mobilising against these crimes. More and more men of courage and eminence, like the Dean of Canterbury, are raising their voices to expose these crimes and denounce their perpetrators. Such men deserve the full support of the people, because they bring them the truth that arms the fight for peace.

China's Christians Support Dean of Canterbury

China's Christian Churches have sprung to the support of Dr. Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury, in his courageous exposure of the truth of American germ warfare against the Korean and Chinese people, for which he is now being attacked by the reactionary press.

Thirty Christian societies in Chungking have issued statements of protest against this persecution of Dr. Johnson. They included the church of England Mission, the Lutheran Mission, the Y.M.C.A. and the Catholic community. Similar statements of support for the Dean have been published by Christian communities in Peking, Shanghai and Shenyang (Mukden). A joint message of support has been sent to Dr. Johnson by 20 Christian bodies in Wuhan and Hupeh province.

The Christian Church in China and the Facts on Germ Warfare

Dr. Hewlett Johnson

Dean of Canterbury

Religion at times serves the purpose of unscrupulous men. Never more so than now, warmongers and financial monopolists, who have no use for the ethical morality of the Christian religion and oppose it ruthlessly when it crosses the path of their interests, now raise the cry through their controlled press, radio and cinema, that Christians are suffering grievous persecution in the U.S.S.R., Eastern Europe and China. They know that the broad masses in Britain and America hold religion in respect and can be readily enlisted against those who seek to persecute Christians. Hence the cry: "Your religion is at stake"; "Your liberties are at stake," with its corollary: "Arm to the teeth to meet the threat."

It was necessary, therefore, to come to China, as I had gone to the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe, and test the truth of the charge and learn on the spot the realities of the situation. Hence the wide range of my travel plan, north, south, east and west—to Peking, Hankow, Changsha, Canton, Hangchow, Shanghai, Shasi, Nanking, Pengpu, Tientsin and Shenyang (Mukden). Everywhere I met the religious leaders of the many Christian Churches, Episcopal, Congregational, Methodist, Baptist, Y.M.C.A., Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and others. I preached in the one-time Anglican, now called the Holy Catholic Church, in Shanghai with three bishops present, in the Methodist Church in Peking, in the Baptist Church in Canton, and in other places.

I had long conferences with Christian leaders everywhere, including Roman Catholics, starting with a three-hour session in Peking, under the chairmanship of the Rev. P. H. Wong, congregational minister and general secretary of the North China Christian Federation. Eighteen directors and leaders in the field of religion in the Protestant Churches were present, including Bishop T. H. Y. Lin, Methodist ministers, and leaders in the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A. and the Salvation Army.

All spoke freely and frankly, often with great passion. This conference left me with the general impression of a vigorous, forward-

looking body of Christian leaders, welcoming a social life much nearer to what they preached than anything they had formerly experienced. In the words later spoken to me in Shanghai by Bishop P. Lindel Tsen, whom I had met in Canterbury at the last Lambeth Conference: "It is easier now to speak openly against vice, against dishonesty or the like than under the Kuomintang. Now I can speak my mind; then it was dangerous to do more than chose an innocuous text and talk generalities around it."

The Christian Church in China, it was explained, needed and had received a surgical operation. Of this they spoke quite honestly, and the full position was explained to me later by Mr. Y. T. Wu, for thirty years executive secretary of the literature division of the National Y.M.C.A. of China, a graduate of Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary in the U.S. and one of the Christian leaders who started the flourishing Christian Reform Movement in July, 1950 and serves now as chairman of its committee which has assumed the leadership of the Christian Church in China.

Missions' Links With Imperialism

Mr. Wu outlined the close links between Christianity in China and Western imperialism, often an unconscious, but none the less real link, since the introduction of Protestant Christianity in 1807. Through a century and a half, this connection was maintained, and contemporary American missionary writings quite openly considered the missionary movement as the cultural spearhead for political and economic invasion. In an earlier article in *People's China*, Mr. Wu gives an historical sketch of imperialistic operations through missionary activities. The ordinary American missionary worker was quite honest. Their attitude was, he describes:

"American civilisation and the American way of life are the best in the world. They are mainly if not totally Christian and must be pressed and spread at all costs—to China and to

the world. Any threat to this priceless possession of the American people is an enemy not only of the American people but of the whole world, including Christianity. It must be wiped out wherever it appears, by peaceful means if possible, but by war if necessary. It is the missionaries' holy mission to accomplish this task.*

Imbued with these ideas, Mr. Wu proceeds, the missionary fitted into the imperialistic scheme of aggression. He lived in a garden compound with modern facilities. He was boss of his church or Christian organisation, in fact if not in name, because he controlled its finance, which came from abroad together with its policies.

The surgical operation which Chinese Christianity needed was the decisive severance once and for all of the Chinese Church from the imperialism of the West. This meant that the Chinese Church must stand on its own feet financially and in organisation.

It was a drastic operation that the Chinese Church has met and survived and, I believe, profited by. The Chinese government has in several respects come to its aid during this period.

Government Aids Churches

It is absolutely untrue to say that the Chinese government has cruelly persecuted the Christian Church or any of its religious activities. Article 5 of the *Common Programme*, of the P.P.C.C., the basic law of New China, postulates religious freedom. Foreign missionaries may remain at their posts if they wish—many do, for example, my friend Dr. Sturtin at Hangchow—providing they do not violate the laws of the country.

Economic severance has come, and the Christian Churches, especially those of American origin, are thrown on their own resources. The American freeze of Chinese assets, and the



Dr. Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury, and Mrs. Johnson with Mr. A. T. D'Eye (left background) at Luchuansun village, south of Peking, where they saw the life of the villages after land reform. Model farmer Ho Fong-chi (centre) is showing his visitors the donkey awarded him as a prize for outstanding work by the Peking Municipal People's Government

war against Korea, clinched that. The Churches rose gallantly to the occasion. The number of their members indeed decreased, perhaps by a third, but those who were left had simply come for what they could get—"Rice Christians" they are called. Their departure was a strength and not a weakness. The government gave generous aid: church buildings and ministers' dwellings are exempt from tax where necessary. The Christian Church survives.

The Chinese Christian Reform Movement, which has grown out of this situation, was begun on July 28, 1950, when forty Chinese Christian leaders issued a statement on the task of Christianity in the new China. This was endorsed almost immediately by 1,527 Christian leaders of various denominations, who called on their fellow Christians

- 1) To support China's new basic law, the *Common Programme*.
- 2) To liquidate imperialistic influence within the Church and guard against plots by reactionary forces to use Christianity.
- 3) To end reliance upon foreign personnel and finance and build up a self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating Chinese Church.

* See *New Life for the Chinese Christian Churches*, Wu Yao-tsung, *People's China*, Vol. 4, No. 11.

The invasion of Korea, the freezing of Chinese assets and now germ warfare have severed the last links with imperialism. The Chinese Christian Church stands at last on its own feet, and by that very fact, as it was pointed out to me, removed a barrier which had separated it from much public sympathy.

So much I learned at the outset in Peking. So much I gathered in every meeting with Church leaders in every city from Canton to Mukden or from Hangchow to Hankow.

I had a long conversation for instance on these points with Bishop P. Lindel Tsen. He kindly put the substance of our talk into a letter from which I extract the following paragraphs:

As to the question of religious freedom, it is clearly and definitely stated in our *Common Programme* that the people have full freedom in religious faith. Under this same principle, the Christian Churches have organised a national committee for the reformation of the Church in the matter of self-support, self-government and self-propagation. . . . The diocese of Honan two weeks ago consecrated an assistant bishop to meet the needs of the growing church in that diocese . . . recently there were new ordinations in the dioceses of Hankow, Honan and Anking, a sure sign of Church progress.

From many other sources could I quote similar testimony, but let this from another member of what was formerly an English Episcopal Mission suffice for the moment. Bishop Michael Chang writes to me:

Fukien can claim to have more churches and Christians than almost any other part of China, and it goes without saying that the Christians in Fukien have likewise been more permeated with the evil influence of capitalism and imperialism throughout the hundred years of our history. Therefore, we are in the midst of a great effort to eradicate all these influences, and to build up a Church belonging to the people of China and workers for their true welfare, a Church which is self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating . . . all the seven bodies of Christians in Foochow have joined this organisation, and we are all now working together.

The Truth on Germ Warfare

One outstanding and decisive cause of the severance of the Christian Church in China of its entanglement with capitalist and imperialist America is, of course, the new germ warfare launched by the U.S.A. not only against Korea, but against Northeast China as well.

And it is precisely here that the Christian Churches in China are able to make a unique contribution to the cause of peace, for the British public at large, and the Church leaders gave

no credence to the charge of germ warfare against the U.S. at the time that I left England in late May. "Merely Communist propaganda; it is impossible that the U.S. could do so monstrous a thing," most said.

I knew, therefore, the importance of a declaration by the Christian leaders in China on the matter, and I made deliberate investigation in each town of my journey as to the attitude of the local Church leaders towards the question of germ warfare, beginning in Peking and ending in Shenyang (Mukden), the very centre of germ attack in Northeast China.

I return now as the bearer of many messages from the Christians in China to the Christians in England challenging them to join the Chinese Christian Churches in denouncing an act of wickedness never equalled before. On the plea of defending "Christian civilisation," an effort has been made to exterminate the Chinese race *en masse*. The "Christian civilisation," which sent medical missions to China to save a small fragment of China's millions from disease, now seeks to eliminate the whole people through disease.

Against that threat, the Chinese Christian Church is absolutely united with the whole Chinese people in resistance. As to the reality of germ warfare, there is no shadow of doubt in the mind of the Christian community: it was evident in Canton as in Mukden itself. But I bear back to England documents proving the truth of what I assert. Let me quote from a few:

Bishop P. Lindel Tsen writes:

As to the facts of germ warfare. I have not been to Korea myself, but I have many personal friends and acquaintances who have been to Korea and Northeast China for the purpose of investigating this most inhuman and un-Christian crime of the U.S. forces. Some of these investigators saw the germ-carriers such as flies, mosquitoes, spiders and other insects in patches moving on the glittering snow-covered ground at a season when usually such insects could not have existed. Moreover, some kinds of insects dropped down were foreign to that part of Korea. During their investigations, some of them saw the actual dropping of such insects by U.S. planes. Amongst the investigators I knew a pastor, Rev. P. H. Wong of Congregational Church, Peking, Madame Li Teh-chuan (widow of the late Christian General Feng Yu-hsiang) and Dr. C. C. Sin of the Seventh Day Adventists Hospital. The integrity of character of these people has not been questioned, so their report has been accepted by the public as trustworthy and genuine.

I would add here that I met Dr. T. C. Wong, now general secretary of the North China Christian Federation, who elaborated in detail what the Bishop had said, describing his own personnel contact with the germs and their origin from American planes.

To continue Bishop Lindel Tsen's letter:

I have a son teaching physics in the College of Technology in Northeast China. His wife wrote us twice that the people in her city were busy catching insects dropped by U.S. planes.

One more testimony must suffice. It comes in a document presented to me by the Christian Churches in Hangchow and signed by twenty-five heads of churches of the various denominations in that city. After relating again the witness of Pastor Wong and the testimony of the two captured American airmen, whose long letters they have seen and whose voices they have heard in Peking, they added:

Many of the Christian medical workers have thrown themselves into the patriotic anti-pestilence campaign. We are prepared to devote all our strength to fight against germ warfare for the cause of world peace and the dignity of mankind.

The letter concludes by saying:

Please tell the Christians in England that we Christians in New China have seen much clearer the light of the gospel in the great revolutionary movement of people's liberation.

On the spot at the Fushun race-course and at a farm between Fushun and Shenyang, we heard the simple and direct stories of those who found these scattered groups of strange insects on the snow on a cold March day. Most impressive to me also was the tale of Yang

Hao-tung, a young Christian woman of the Presbyterian Mission in Shanghai, who is now living in Mukden and was summoned to the spot—an ice-covered tennis court in a residential area of Shenyang. She helped to collect these strange insects of unusual and unknown character, arriving in circumstances which could not be natural and which caused in two cases encephalitis and convulsive death to two children whose infected brains are carefully preserved in the nearby hospital.

The whole story of these attacks of which this is but an incident was vouched for and corroborated by the religious leaders in Shenyang, with whom we held a long session.

The Rev. Sun Peng-hsi, general secretary of the Northeast Synod of the Church of Christ in China, said in particular that he found in his own yard flies unwonted in this part of the county and at a cold season when no flies normally appear at all. The students and teachers at the nearby school were organised to round up these strange flies at this unwonted period.

The Rev. Wong Chen, of the Church of Christ in China, the Rev. Kou Ching-kuang, also of the Church of Christ in China, Mr. Han Shih-chi, chairman of the local Roman Catholic Reform Movement Committee of Shenyang (Mukden), and Miss Chou Peng-yien, vice-chairman of the local Roman Catholic Reform Movement Committee of Shenyang all bore witness to the terrible reality and brutal nature of germ warfare in Northeast China.

Here, indeed, is a challenge to the Christian Churches in England and America.

Peace Conference Chronicle

The Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions

Ghulam Mohammed Khan, Pakistan delegate to the preparatory meeting held in Peking for the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions, issued a press statement in Karachi on July 5 after his return home.

He said the meeting was full of the fervour and spirit of devoted joint effort for fighting the demon of war and safeguarding peace.

"I am convinced," he stated, "that the people and government of Pakistan will support the forthcoming peace conference, might and main, for our young country, Pakistan, has many problems to settle, and peace is what it most urgently wants."

* * *

The Japanese preparatory committee for the peace conference is energetically pressing forward preparatory work. Already, several representatives to attend the conference have been elected. Among them are Ikuo Oyama, member of the House of Councillors, and Yoshitaro Hirano, head of the China Research Institute.

The trade union of Kanagawa prefecture has elected four delegates to the coming conference.

In Tokyo, a special meeting has been held on the conference. Trade union representatives including those from public employees and automobile factory workers were among those who attended the meeting.

Moslems in New China

P. C. Yu

On June 5 this year, Moslems throughout New China marked the end of Ramadan—their month of fasting. They spent their festival day surrounded by a universal atmosphere of mutual help, co-operation and fraternity. State-trading companies and retail shops, state book shops and co-operatives, laid in special lines of goods, gave special discounts to their festival buyers. Publicly operated slaughter-houses prepared a special supply of mutton and beef for the occasion.

In Peking, religious services were held in 49 mosques that morning, with 70,000 Moslems attending, of whom the majority are Hui people. Following the services, messages of greeting were sent to Chairman Mao Tse-tung to tender thanks to him and to the Communist Party and People's Government for the ever-improving livelihood of Moslems since liberation, for the religious freedom which they now enjoy. Festive celebrations simultaneously took place among the various Moslem nationalities at many other places in China, such as the Uighurs, Kazakhs and others in Sinkiang and the Tunghsiang people in Kansu. By special provision of the People's Government, Moslems serving in government offices of all levels, in People's Liberation Army units, factories, schools and other organisations, were given a holiday to go to the mosques and enjoy the festival.

Moslem elders recall from their own experience that it is only since liberation that the Moslems of China enjoy such care and freedom. The Moslem people look into the book of history and see from what oppression they have been freed.

China's Moslem Nationalities

Besides the Hui, Uighur, Kazakh and Tunghsiang people, China's Moslems include Uzbeks, Kirghiz, Tartars, Tadzhiks and Salas. They are concentrated mainly in the provinces of Sinkiang, Kansu, Chinghai and Ningsia. They have their own languages, local customs and cultures. The total number of Moslems in China is about 10 million; and of these, 6 million are Hui people. The Hui people are a distinct nationality. They are

scattered in various regions of the country, but in each place they tend to dwell together in communities. Because they speak the same language and wear the same clothing as the Han* people, they were not recognised as a distinct national minority under the reactionary rule of the past, and they were called the "Han-Hui people." When Chiang Kai-shek was trying to fasten his "Greater Hanism" over the country, the Kuomintang government went to extreme lengths in its attempts to sinicise the Hui people and integrate them with the Hans; it branded them as "nationals who have special customs and ways of life within the country" and discriminated against their religion and customs so as to wipe out these differences by force. Thus prejudice and hostility were instigated between the two nationalities. Reactionary provocateurs, for instance, mocked their Hui neighbours by hanging pigs' flesh on the doors of the latter or bringing it into the shops run by them so as to stir them to violent resentment and instigate riots, in which the reactionaries would bring their gangs into play. The Hui people, besides, suffered under the same yoke of oppression and exploitation as the masses of the Han people. And when their righteous indignation surged up into active resistance, the most savage reprisals were taken against them by their oppressors. In 1928, for example, the Hui people at Hochow, Kansu, rose in arms against the denial of their ordinary rights and the exorbitant taxes imposed upon them. The Kuomintang rulers brought in their troops and massacred more than ten thousand Hui people. Tens of thousands were rendered homeless and destitute when their homes were burned. Three other massacres took place between 1939 and 1941 which resulted in the slaughter of thousands more.

Massacres were the traditional policy of the reactionary rulers in dealing with the "barbarian peoples" who included all Moslems. In 1876 alone, towards the end of the Manchu

* Han—commonly described as the "Chinese" people, the largest national group among the nationalities inhabiting China.

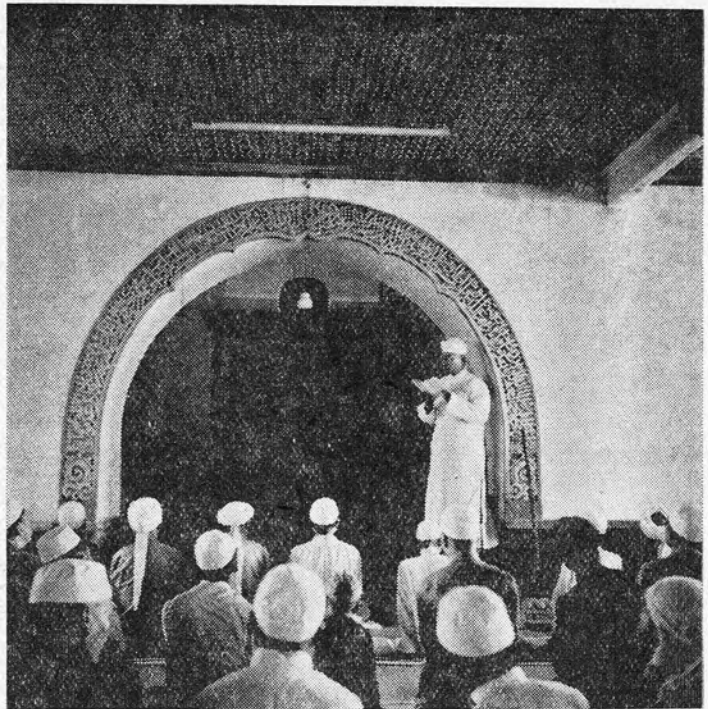
dynasty, more than a million Moslems were killed in Sinkiang. Between 1941 and 1943, under the rule of the Kuomintang, Sheng Shih-tsai, a notorious militarist tyrant in Sinkiang, had on his hands the blood of 100,000 revolutionaries. As a result of a series of bloody atrocities, the 6,800,000 people of the Uighur nationality had been reduced to half that number by the time they were finally liberated.

Moslems' Liberation Struggle

Despite such oppression and brutal measures of exploitation by the reactionaries, the Chinese Moslems, along with the masses of the people, fought for their liberation with undaunted resolution. In the winter of 1944, the Kazakhs and Uighurs in Sinkiang joined forces in an uprising at Ili. They defeated the Kuomintang troops after forty days' fighting and freed several cities in the north-western part of the province.

Moslems of the other nationalities waged similar struggles. In Kansu, the Hui people fought not only against the Kuomintang rule but against the provocations and oppression of Ma Pu-fang, one of the Hui traitors who served Chiang Kai-shek, against whom they rose up in heroic armed struggle.

In their distress, the Moslem people found sure support in the liberated areas led by the Chinese Communist Party. Here they saw for the first time the prospect of their own liberation in co-operation with all other nationalities in China. As early as the start of the War Against Japanese Aggression, the Hui people in Kansu and Ningsia began to move family after family into the liberated border regions. Many of them joined the Chinese Communist Party and volunteered for the Eighth Route Army. In 1938, 2,000 Hui people, in the central part of Hopei province, organised themselves into a Moslem detachment, and joined up with the Eighth Route Army. Under a Moslem commander, they observed their own customs and held their regular religious services with *akhung* officers. Shoulder to shoulder with the other people's revolutionary fighters, they went into battle with a single aim—to defeat the Japanese invaders and to build a new, democratic China



A service in one of Peking's 49 mosques. Chinese Moslems have recently published a stern protest against American germ warfare against Korea and China

composed of a big united family of all its many nationalities.

Similar units were later formed among the Hui people in Shantung, the Taihang mountain area, in East and Northeast China. The tradition was continued as the Eighth Route Army developed into the People's Liberation Army of China. There are many Moslems in the P.L.A. today.

It was in the War Against Japanese Aggression that the Hui people set up their first people's governments in their autonomous villages, *hsiang* and towns in the border region of Shensi, Kansu and Ningsia, and the old liberated areas in Shantung.

After Liberation

The Hui people as well as the other Moslems fought for their liberation on the various battle-fronts, with the greater selfless courage and ardour because they knew that their people in the rear were enjoying the practical fruits of liberation.

During the Liberation War, these Moslem autonomous areas were expanded and consolidated. Immediately after the liberation of Suiyuan in September, 1949, the autonomous

district of the Hui people was set up at Kweisui. Their representatives have been elected to an increasing number of posts in the people's governments of all levels. Where their people constitute the majority of the local population, the local administration is headed by one of their nationality. About 50 Hui people are now members of government councils of various provinces, municipalities and administrative areas. The vice-chairmen of Kansu and Chinghai provinces are of the Hui nationality. Liu Ke-ping, vice-chairman of the Commission of Nationalities Affairs of the Central People's Government, is also of the Hui nationality.

Although the Tunghsiang population comprises only a little over one hundred thousand, they too have an autonomous government of their own at Hochow, Kansu. More than 150 Tadjik cadres are now working in the people's governments. During the old reactionary days, they were never permitted to run public affairs. Among the chairmen of the 80 city governments in Sinkiang province, 67 are Uighurs, Kazakhs, or belong to other Moslem national minorities. The Moslems have also been appointed to the governments of various other levels. Both Poerhan, chairman, and Saifudin, vice-chairman, of the province are Moslems of the Uighur nationality. The Moslems of China are, it goes without saying, fully represented in the People's Political Consultative Conference—the highest governmental body of New China—and its various organs.

Land Reform

It was only when the Moslem people, led by the Communist Party and People's Government, had become their own masters and were able to enjoy the rights of the *Common Programme* of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference—the basic law of the People's Republic of China, that a real change for the better began in their lives.

Like their counterparts of all other nationalities in the country, the Moslem peasants stood in dire need of land. They gave whole-hearted support, therefore, to the land reform. Take one county in the old liberated areas for an example: before land reform, the land owned by each of the Hui people at Ningchin, Shantung, averaged only 9.7 *mou*,* after the land reform, along with the Han people, each of the landless and land-poor peasants there

* Fifteen *mou* equals one hectare.

received more than two *mou*, thus enabling them to raise the productivity of their own land and end the starvation regime of the past.

After liberation, the first concern of the Hui, Tunghsiang and Sala people in Kansu, Ningsia and Chinghai was to recover the land extorted from them, by the militarist Ma Pu-fang and his henchmen. They took this land back, and they have now resettled themselves in their old homes. The recently completed land reform in the Northwest has brought a plot of land to each of the local poor peasants of the various nationalities. As a direct result of the joint struggle for liberation and land, the wounds left by the old enmities instigated by the people's enemies have been healed. In the course of land-distribution, it was usually the case that the peasants of different nationalities showed the deepest friendliness towards each other by offering the better land to others. Thus the age-old prejudices among the Moslems and the Han people have vanished, and solidarity between them has been strengthened.

Livelihood Bettered

In order to improve their livelihood further, the people of the Northwest, both Moslems and Hans, are now working energetically at the tasks of land-reclamation. As a result of long-term neglect, many irrigation systems have been left unrepaired, new irrigation projects under the Kuomintang were left as paper plans and vast areas of land went to waste. In the less than three years since liberation, fifteen major irrigation canals have been repaired and eight new ones constructed in co-operation with the People's Liberation Army. This has facilitated the reclamation of 400,000 *mou* of land. As a result, the farmland area of Sinkiang alone has increased by 24 per cent over that in 1949, and agricultural production has risen by 34.1 per cent. The present irrigation projects, which will extend over the next two years, will bring direct water benefits to an expanse of 5 million *mou* of land. The people of the Northwest are looking forward to seeing the transformation of vast areas of the Gobi desert into a land of milk and honey in the not distant future.

Another stimulus to the working enthusiasm and productivity in this part of the country, which is a centre of China's Moslems, has been the raising of the market prices of

the people's local products. Under the influence of the old reactionary rulers, trade between the local Moslem masses and unscrupulous Han merchants was carried out on the basis of the consistent exploitation of the Moslem masses.

Tadziks and Kazakhs are very largely roving herdsmen who live principally on the sale of the wool they produce. In the old days, they used to sell their wool at prices arbitrarily controlled by treacherous merchants, reactionary officials and the feudal gentry: for 402 catties of wool they got only one bolt of cloth. Now, in doing trade through the people's government agencies, they get more than ten bolts of cloth for the same amount of wool. With a tenfold increase in income, many of them can now afford to lead a settled life. Since liberation, 1,800 Kazakh families in Ashan, scene of the "Ili Incident," have set up fixed dwellings with their attendant advantages, and many of the Tadziks on the Pamir have partly or wholly adopted a settled life.

Improvements have also been made in the livelihood of the urban Moslems. Many pedlars and unemployed in the cities have now been found factory or other fixed jobs. In Peking, the lives of more than one thousand Hui people who suffered unemployment in the past have been transformed during the past year with the steady expansion of industry and trade. Match and gunny bag factories and others have been set up in Tsinan, Taiyuan, Tientsin and various other cities especially to assist the Hui workers.

Education and Culture

Along with poverty and hunger before liberation, China's Moslems suffered from illiteracy just like the peoples of all other nationalities. When the old liberated area in Shantung was set up, none of the rural Hui people were able to read. Through years of systematic educational work, there is now at least one primary school for each Hui village, and more than half of the children of school age are at school.

In Peking, 80 per cent of the Hui children of school age are now in school, compared to only 40 per cent before liberation. The 14 primary schools for the Hui children in the province of Ningsia have been nearly doubled in number and enlarged since liberation so that the number of students has leaped from 1,300

to 9,000, a sevenfold increase. In Sinkiang, 230,000 children of various nationalities are catered for by 1,930 primary schools, while 5,600 study at 30 middle schools. As among all other groups of the broad masses of the people, similarly energetic methods are being made to wipe out illiteracy among the whole adult Moslem population, while the drive for universal primary education goes on.

In addition to the regular universities and colleges throughout the country, which are open to all the people, the Central Institute for Nationalities established in Peking in June, 1951, now has eight branches at Tihua, Lanchow, Wuchang, Canton, Nanning, Chengtu, Kweiyang and Kunming, with a total enrolment of more than 3,500 students including many Moslems. A college exclusively for Hui students has also been set up in Peking, with an enrolment of more than one thousand. Languages, history and the culture of all nationalities in China are studied at these institutes, so that each nationality will understand and respect the customs and religions of the others and visualise a prosperous collective life under the roof of New China's "one big family."

National Languages Encouraged

The Moslems in the Northwest and elsewhere who have their own national languages are no longer compelled to study Chinese (the Han language) as they were before liberation; they learn to use their own languages both inside and outside school. They read books, newspapers and magazines published by themselves in their own languages. In Sinkiang, there are eleven dailies and magazines in the Uighur language and five dailies and magazines in the Kazakh language. Selected works of Mao Tse-tung and other Marxist writings have also been translated into Uighur and other national minority languages.

All this is an expression of the new freedom of cultural life the Moslems have gained. Today, there is an upsurge of cultural life among them, a development of their own traditions inspired by the ideas of the New Democracy. Their creative accomplishments—such as the songs and dances of the Kazakhs and Uighurs—have not only won still wider popularity among their own people but, through the efforts of their cultural troupes, have become general favourites throughout the coun-

try. In Sinkiang, sixty-three theatrical and cultural groups are now giving daily performances of plays, film shows, music and dances to Moslem and Han audiences, enriching their own cultural life, bringing the progressive cultures of other peoples to the Moslem nationalities.

Motherland and Religion

Like all religious people in New China, the Moslems love their free Motherland ardently. Only when they have done their best to safeguard their country can they have their own beliefs and practise their religion without fear of discrimination. This is the reason for

the enthusiastic support given by the Chinese Moslems to the various patriotic movements which have been launched in the country. In response to the calls of the China Peace Committee, the Moslems and Han people in Sinkiang alone contributed a sum sufficient to buy 30 planes for the Chinese people's volunteers in Korea. Over 90 per cent of the people of Sinkiang signed the Stockholm Peace Appeal.

Assured of a better and constantly improving life and freedom of religion today, the Chinese Moslems have recently organised a *hadj* (pilgrimage) to Mecca to pay homage to their Prophet and to take a message of peace to their brethren outside China.

Chou En-lai Warns the U.S. Government

On July 12, 1952 Foreign Minister Chou En-lai made a strong protest against the raiding of Antung on June 11 by eight American jet fighters whose wanton strafing killed and wounded 52 Chinese people.

Chou En-lai pointed out that this raid was another of the "serious, direct acts of provocation, following bacteriological warfare, which the U.S. government has been committing on a large scale against Northeast China." "This is obvious proof," Chou En-lai said, "that the U.S. government has the premeditated intention to wreck the armistice negotiations and expand its aggressive war in an attempt to jeopardise peace in the Far East and Asia." Chou En-lai's note "now specially and solemnly declares that the U.S. government's provocative acts of direct aggression against the Chinese people have created a still graver situation in the Far East. The U.S. government must be held fully responsible for the consequences resulting from this grave situation."

A most serious view is taken of this American raid which took the lives of seventeen children and followed on the bombing of the Suiho power stations on the Yalu river, which have a bearing on the peaceful life of the Chinese people. The Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang, the China Democratic League, the China Democratic National Construction Association, the China Association for Promoting Democracy, the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, the China Chih Kung Tang, the Chiu San Society and the Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League issued statements supporting the Foreign Minister's protest. Trade

unions and other people's organisations and newspapers on a nation-wide scale have added their voice to the protest.

A message from Shenyang (Mukden) states that between February 29 and July 10 American planes made 7,073 flight incursions into China's Northeast territory. Some of the invading planes dropped germ bombs while others on thirty-nine occasions bombed and strafed Antung city and the counties of Antung, Linkiang, Chian, Kwantien, Fengcheng and Chuangho in Liaotung province. Twenty-three civilians were killed or wounded, while twelve houses, one locomotive and two railway coaches were destroyed.

The U.S. government has failed to stop these provocations. American planes have continued their intrusions across the Chinese border. From July 12 to 16, American aircraft flew 489 sorties carrying out strafing and reconnaissance over towns and villages in the Northeast.

Commenting on these new raids, the *People's Daily* wrote: "Provocations cannot intimidate the heroic and powerful Chinese people." It describes the raids as a further threat to peace in Asia and the rest of the world. Addressing itself to the aggressors, the paper warned:

"Your provocative acts will only arouse still greater indignation and opposition among the Chinese and Korean peoples and people all over the world. You will receive your due punishment, and you will never be able to gain what you have vainly tried to get either on the battlefield or at the conference table."

The Lutai State Farm

Chun Hua

Hard by the Chi canal, just over two hours by express train from Peking, lies the Lutai State Farm, the best equipped of New China's state farms south of the Great Wall. It takes more than ten minutes from where a line of tall *huai* trees marks the boundary to drive up the farm's main road, baked to a dusty hardness by the relentless summer sun, to the administration buildings lying in the centre of the green fields; and no wonder, for this immense farm of more than 3,300 hectares (nearly 10,000 acres) occupies more land than the walled city of Peking.

Lutai is one of the many state farms which have been established or will be established in every county throughout China this year to demonstrate to New China's emancipated peasants the superiority of scientific, mechanised farming and collective labour. Now two years old and already past the experimental stage, the Lutai farm is making its influence felt in the neighbouring farms. Its extensive acreage of rich rice fields, sown entirely by machine, a method introduced from the Soviet Union, has been a source of admiration and envy to visiting teams of peasants.

In 1949, only one year after the liberation of Lutai village, the Ministry of Agriculture sent some cadres to the site of a former Japanese farm charged with the task of building a large, modern, mechanised farm on the flat dry expanse of wasteland. In this area the land is low, so low that it is almost level with the sea. The rivers flow as if reluctantly, winding here and there before they deign to discharge their waters into Pohai bay. Once, all this region formed the bed of the sea, but the ocean has since retreated, leaving behind a heavy clay soil, too alkaline for fruitful cultivation.

But the advantage of launching the project at Lutai is that the Chi canal, which flows into the Chin Chung (Golden Bell) river, is close at hand as a source of water for irrigation; besides, there is the possibility of future expansion into the deserted wasteland which surrounds the farm for thousands of hectares on all sides.

From November, 1949, workers, technicians, and local peasants working part time

worked on the barren plain to lay the foundation of the state farm. In April, 1950, six months after they began the task, two large pumping stations, office buildings and homes for farm employees had been completed, ready for work and occupation. In the surrounding wilderness, the outlines of the farm sections were now marked out by the great network of irrigation canals and 16,000 willow and fruit trees. Soon afterwards, the first tractor went to work clearing away the wild growth of weeds and grass.

The farm began with 275 government cadres and workers. There were a score of tractor drivers who had had only a few months of training before they were sent to Lutai. Today, there are altogether nearly 1,300 persons, all skilled in their jobs and thoroughly familiar with the soil they are tilling and enriching.

"When we first came here two years ago," Li Chun-yin, a model farm worker, told us, "the land was uneven and the soil hard. We spent time levelling the ground and found ways of breaking it up fine. Now it is yielding good harvests, and we'll be getting even better results year by year. This year we expect our cotton crop to average 2.4 tons per hectare. Our experimental field will touch the 3.75 ton mark."

Advanced Workers

Li is one of the advanced workers who are helping the farm to beat the local peasant average which stands at only 1.5 tons per hectare. He was elected model worker by his comrades because, by patient study of the section in which he worked, he found a method of preserving moisture around the cotton seeds which raised the germination percentage from 40 to over 85. There are 74 more like Li, young men from all over the country with little or no experience of such modern farming, who have contributed their wholehearted efforts to making the farm a success. Without them, many of the difficulties the infant farm faced would not have been overcome.

One of the difficulties was the conservative outlook of the scientists and the scepticism of some of the workers; the former were hampered by their worship of orthodox bourgeois methods, and the latter, mainly peasants used

to the centuries-old prejudices of the village, were not keen to be "adventurous." The net result was that large-scale cotton planting was avoided on the excuse that the soil was "unfavourable," and rice-planting continued to be done by hand. Again, crop rotation was not favoured because the proposal that two out of the six farm sections should be sown to fodder was claimed to entail "loss of profits" to the farm.

Many technicians and workers did not yet realise that collective labour and machine ploughing of land were not enough to turn Lutai into the model it was intended to be. More had yet to be done before yield per hectare could be raised beyond the local level, before the farm could even begin to exert an influence on the peasants. But the Ministry persisted in the work of re-educating cadres and modernising their methods. Especially during the "3-anti movement" against corruption, waste and bureaucratism, in which they paid particular attention to the criticism and self-criticism of backward ideologies, the staff of the farm began to see that it was not the soil but their conservatism that was to blame for the comparatively poor results the farm was showing.

Influence of Soviet Science

Kung Shin-yu, an agronomist in his middle forties and director of the research team, was one of the technical cadres who thought that the science he had been taught had all the answers. But since he went to the farm, he had applied himself to the study of Soviet agrotechnology and found his ideas change under the influence of the writings of the great Soviet scientist Vassily Robertovich Williams. Guided by the Communist Party and the Ministry, Kung began to apply Soviet methods to the work on the farm.

"I was a bit sceptical about the Soviet method of planting rice, especially the close planting method, but I was proved wrong." Kung Shin-yu took us for a tour of the large fields of rice machine planted under his guidance. He spoke to us with the pride of a scientist who has triumphed in his work. Already more than one foot above the water, the young rice seedlings looked healthily green and strong. Kung told us that the harvest this autumn would bring in 13.5 tons per hectare. The experience gained this year would be applied to all the fields next year to raise the

average yields to 5.5 tons and to 11.25 tons in 1957.

The story of this sun-tanned scientist who lives in a humble tent in the field with the workers is worth recounting because he typifies the intellectual who has loyally studied the directives of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. Chairman Mao has stressed that theory must be combined with practice, that technicians must turn to the workers, work with them and learn from them.

"I shut myself up in the laboratory and examined reports and specimens, and was satisfied with just doing that," he told us. "But during the study of the teachings of Mao Tse-tung, I realised that one must change one's ideology if one wants to serve the people. I thought I couldn't do better than go and live among the workers in the experimental station and do things jointly with them." So Kung Shin-yu took his things with him and went to live with the field workers.

"I found it really true that the workers do have a lot of ideas to contribute, and, all in all, I have become a better scientist working closely with the men on the job."

Kung explained that there were several reasons for the expected record yields. Machine sowing has avoided the stage of transplanting, the traditional way of planting rice, and saved labour. Deep, strong roots undisturbed by transplanting produce sturdy plants more resistant to diseases and the ravages of the north wind.

"The Soviet method of close planting gives us 3,000,000-3,750,000 plants to the hectare where the peasants have only 1,950,000 to the hectare. We use a lot of fertiliser, so much that our neighbours said the plants would die," Kung said.

"What do they say now?" we asked. We had in mind the stretches of farmland we passed on our drive from the railway station. In contrast with those of Lutai, they now appeared to us to be sparse and yellowish. In answer, Kung said:

"We have visiting teams of peasants quite regularly now. Those who used to think it a big joke that the 'clever men' were wasting government money trying to plant rice with machines now ask us for advice on how to improve their crop yields. Because of the soil, their individual efforts can only bring them 3 tons per hectare, far below the average in other parts of China."

Talking of soil, we asked Kung about the "unsuitability" of the soil for cotton. He told us that V. R. Williams had said that if anything was unsuitable, it was the planting method and not the soil. Guided by Soviet experience, the farm has, by deep ploughing, close planting, heavy manuring and correct pruning, successfully planted one section with cotton.

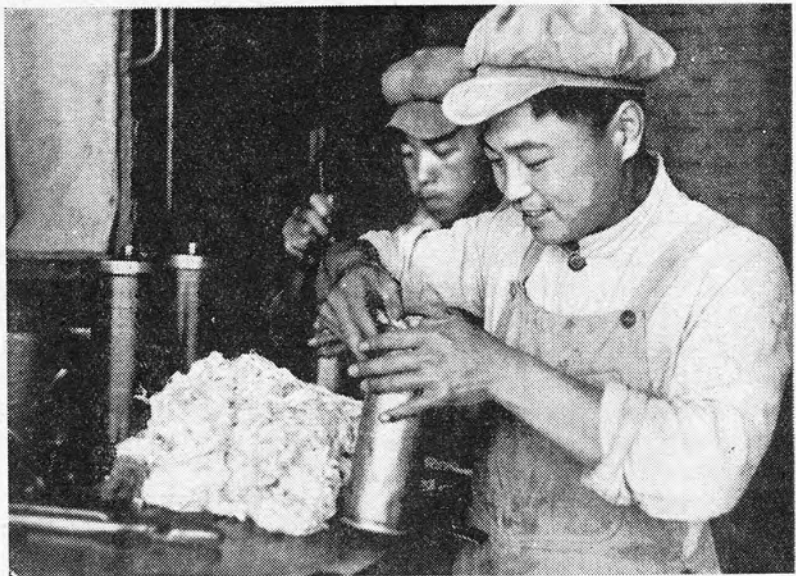
Everyone from director down to the worker in the field takes pride in these achievements of their farm. They are keenly aware that the farm has a great role to play in changing the face of the countryside. One and all take a keen interest in suggesting innovations, and many suggestions have been adopted and brought improvements in the work of the farm.

"Our comrades in the tractor brigade, in the repair shop and in the smithy have made many improvements to the machines," Ma Lien-hsiang, the twenty-six-year-old head of the tractor brigade, told us. He showed us one of the technical innovations made by the drivers and smiths in consultation with the field workers. It was a rice-sowing machine.

"The workers in the field teams complained that the original revolving plates were sowing too deep, and the rows were too narrow," Ma continued. "So we discarded the plates and designed these U-shaped sowers you see now. They put the seeds in at the correct depth and spread them out wider to a width of 8 cm. Now the plants are well dispersed and give better yields."

Tractor Brigade Cuts Costs

Ma's brigade, fully equipped with tractors and combine harvesters, works in co-ordination with the four field teams cultivating on the four sections of the land not lying fallow. Together, they have made many economies. In 1950, the farm used as many as 28 Soviet heavy and medium tractors. Now only six Stalin-80's (93 h.p.) and four NATI's (52 h.p.) are needed for the work. The drastic reduction in the number of tractors was the result of rationalisation proposals centering on better co-ordina-



Many peasants are now skilled workers on the Lutai State Farm

tion work with the field teams and fuller utilisation of tractors. For instance, a driver used to pull only one sowing machine with a NATI tractor, but this spring, during the patriotic emulation campaign, all tried four machines per tractor with the result that the former figure of 1.3 hectares per hour per tractor has been raised to 3.3 to 4 hectares.

Everyone, no matter where he is placed, has a part to play in the campaign for increased production and economy. One of the model workers who has arisen during this period is twenty-two-year-old Wang Hua, one of the despatch clerks whose job it is to record the fuel consumed per tractor and to send fuel to the refuelling stops. By perfect co-ordination with the drivers, accurate records and valuable suggestions, Wang Hua turned his job from a seemingly dull routine into a creative one and saved the farm thousands of yuan in fuel.

In their enthusiasm to lift the records of the farm ever higher, the workers are eagerly raising their cultural level. More than one-third are attending public lectures and meetings organised by the Communist Party branch on the farm. The fortnightly publication of the farm's *The Farm Worker* and the library are equally popular. Many are attending vocational classes run by the trade union. Not only do brigades and teams challenge one another in the popular basketball and volleyball games, but on festival days, play contests are held. One of the most successful productions staged

was *The White-Haired Girl*, in which a girl tractor driver played the leading role.

A factor which contributes much to labour enthusiasm is the democratic management of the farm. It is run by an administration committee on which sit the administration heads and representatives from the office and field workers. By a labour insurance contract, the administration hands a sum equal to 3 per cent of the total wage bill to the trade union for its welfare fund. But there are expenses which are not charged by the administration to this fund. For instance, the clinic, school for children of the cadres and workers, and the radio relay system are all paid for by the administration.

With each year, money and real wages of the workers are steadily rising. Ma, the head of the tractor brigade, has a wife and child. Yet he is able to save one-third of the 256 wage units that he draws each month.

"Wouldn't you like to work on the farm one day?" we asked his wife, who is newly married and is the proud mother of a month-old boy.

"Sure," she said, "I'd like to go out and do something useful. Many are attracted by the tractors, but I'd like to work in the dairy when it's established under the five-year plan."

Five Year Plan

Like everyone else, Ma's wife could not help touching on the five-year plan, which will bring great changes in the farm and further raise the standard of living there. The plan begins next year. It calls for an extension of the farming area to over 13,000 hectares (33,000 acres) by 1957. With improved technique, crop rotation, and animal husbandry, the average yield of cotton will be 5.63 tons in 1957; for rice, 10.66 tons. Some idea of what this means can be seen in the price estimates that the administration has made: cost of rice estimated to be 3,620 yuan per kilogramme will drop to 1,796 yuan in 1957—a decrease of more than half. By 1957, there will be a dairy with 402 pedigree cows; in all, there will be 1,200 head of cattle. Ukrainian white hogs will be imported for the pig section. Fish will be introduced into the canals of the farm. Adding to the facilities of the farm for husking, and polishing the rice, grinding the corn and breaking the bean-cake fertiliser, a vegetable-oil refinery is to be set up. A shelter-belt composed of six

rows of trees will lie along the northern and northeastern borders of the farm.

The steady expansion of the farm will bring corresponding benefits to all employees. At the end of 1953, the farm is expected to make a profit of 2,000 million yuan for the state; and 2,700 million yuan in 1957. There will be a modern hospital with 100 beds and 50 medical workers. Already the improved farm is taking shape before the workers. In the four field sections, buildings are going up: houses for field workers, offices, club houses, garages, and modern pig-sties; to each group will soon be added buildings for clinics and schools. The first batch of 500 students to be trained by the farm annually have arrived and have begun their two-year course of scientific farming, and tractor driving and repairs.

The Farm's Influence

The influence of the Lutai State Farm is clearly shown in the work of Yang Cheng-ju, the model peasant who has become nationally famous because of his astonishing rice harvest of 12.15 tons per hectare. Yang had, as a visitor to the farm, been particularly impressed by the movement of the combines across the vast tracts of land, reaping the harvest, unrestricted by narrow boundaries.

When the chairman of his village urged the peasants to form an agricultural co-operative, Yang Cheng-ju took up the idea right away. He was quick to see that the only way to get richer harvests was to break down the barriers between the little plots of land and increase labour power by the use of modern machinery. Aided by the cadres of the state farm who gave advice in scientific matters such as seed selection, plant diseases and so on, Yang Cheng-ju's co-operative has beaten the national rice record; through the radio and picture stories in the newspapers, it has become known throughout the land.

The success of the Lutai State Farm will have profound repercussions in areas beyond its immediate vicinity. In the vast crescent-shaped territory bordering Pohai bay, peasants will learn of how collective labour and modern methods forced the heavy alkaline soil of Lutai to yield higher cotton and rice crops. There is yet another 400,000 hectares of virgin land in the bay waiting for enterprising peasants to farm by collective methods. Like all model state farms, Lutai indicates the road to a richer future.



In Sinkiang, the P.L.A. adapts its knowledge of machine techniques to large-scale mechanised farming

These Uighur peasants of Sinkiang have ridden far to see how the P.L.A. reclaims wasteland with tractors



People's Army in Production

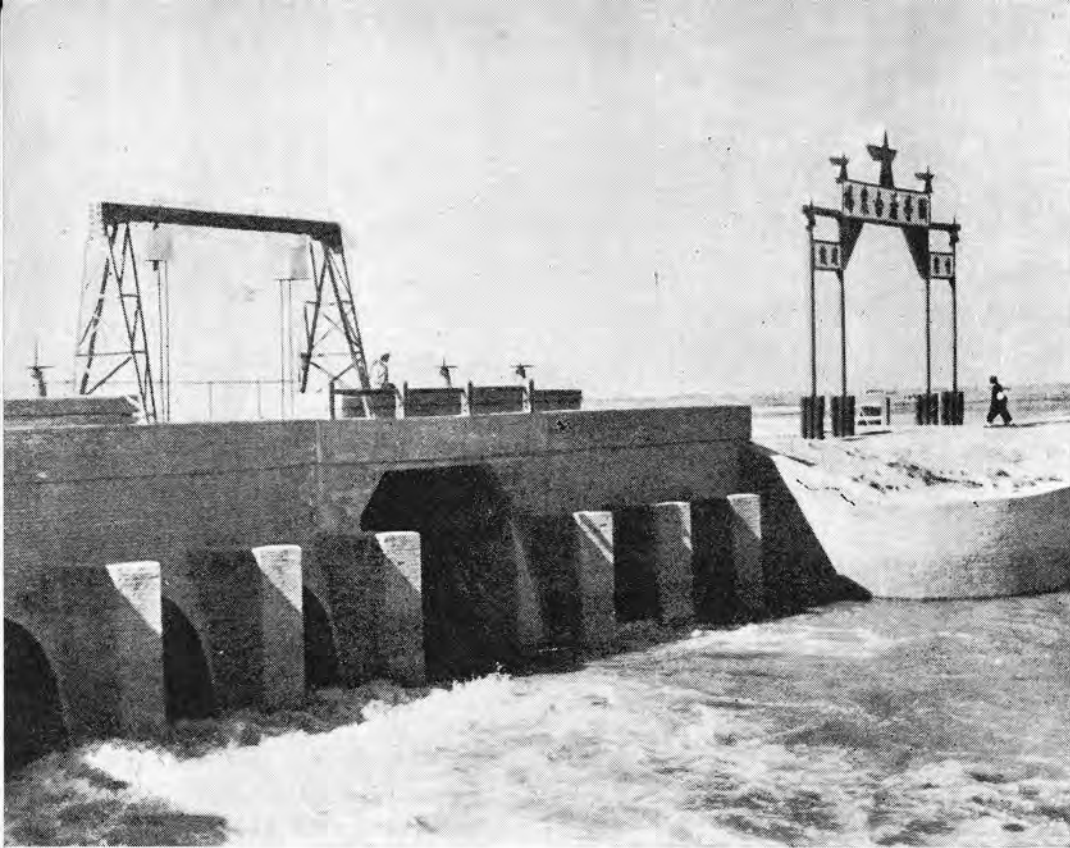
The People's Liberation Army in Sinkiang turns deserts into gardens by its peaceful production projects. It is engaged in irrigation works designed to turn over 330,000 hectares of land into flourishing farms within five years. It is planting forests and building a new city

A P.L.A. market-gardener with his crop of cucumbers. The P.L.A. is helping to make Sinkiang self-sufficient in vegetables, fruits and tobacco this year



P.L.A. men harvesting a bumper cotton crop on their model plantation





The main entrance to the Lutai State Farm with one of the many dams that regulate its irrigation system



This neat building



The farm's well-watered Soviet clo

At the Lutai State Farm

One of China's largest state farms on the shores of Pohai bay

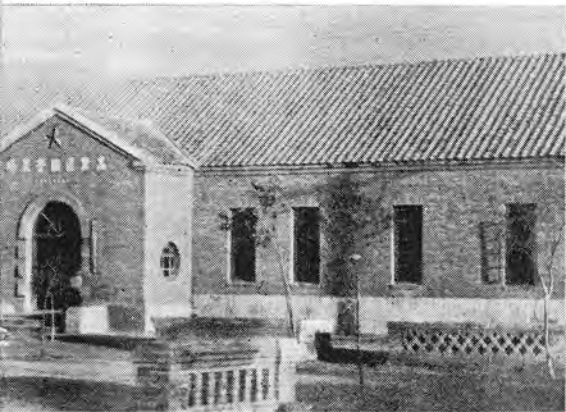
Some of the farm's 1,300 workers pledge higher cutputs in an emulation campaign



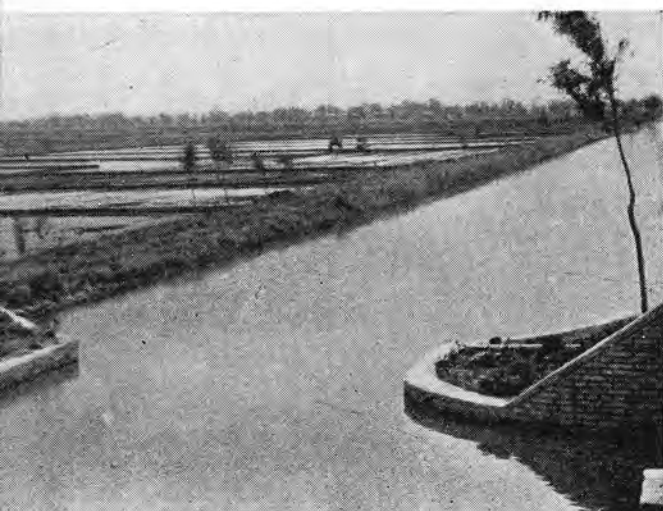
Powerful Stalin-80 tractors help



At a lesson in the farm's vocational school. 500 students a year will study modern farming methods here



houses the farm's trade union office, its library and primary school



red rice fields. Rice here is planted by machines. planting methods give record yields



Part of the farm's machine park of tractors and sowers

cultivate the farm's 10,000 acres



Children of the farm study in their own primary school



Athletes and Artists Of the P.L.A.



A happy group of P.L.A. sportsmen



P.L.A. women athletes passing the reviewing stand at a sports meet of the Central-South Military Area and Fourth Field Army in Chungshan park, Hankow

P.L.A. harmonica players give a group performance



Women members of the P.L.A. reciting heroic ballads to a group of students



A Day With Monica Felton in Peking

Hsiao Ch'ien

On the way from the Peking Hotel, where she was staying, to the Tung Tan Market—a popular shopping centre of the neighbouring housewives—we talked as if we were on the roof of human life, about the urgent questions of peace...the prospects of the Korean cease-fire conference...the growing peace movements in West Europe. With her greyish-blue eyes flashing, she said angrily: "Unless the American government has made up its mind to drag on the Korean war somehow until they are ready for an all-out war, it is impossible to explain the crazy acts that the U.S. air force has recently committed in its indiscriminate bombings of China and Korea."

On a Shopping Tour

Yet, directly she stepped into the market, her eyes were aglow with a new interest. It seemed as if, in a moment, she had descended by a high-speed elevator from the roof of human life down to the workaday basement of everyday tasks. Mrs. Felton, Stalin Peace Prize winner, beloved of the people all over the world, was also Mrs. Felton, a London housewife. Although she did not carry a basket like the other housewives did, she was quite "at home" among them in their Sunday shopping. The Peking housewives were not at all surprised either at finding a European woman with blonde hair and in a white-spotted blue silk frock in their midst.

In the first row of foodstuffs on display, she found basketfuls of chicken, duck and pigeon eggs. Customers picked and chose, and counted the eggs in dozens. Mrs. Felton expressed the delighted surprise of a housewife at the sight of those shiny well-arranged eggs buyable in any number.

On the greengrocery stalls, she recognised many familiar vegetables and fruits: cabbages, spinach, celery, asparagus, potatoes, cucumbers, apples, pineapples, bananas, water-melons, peaches, plums. . . . They seemed to reduce the distance between Peking and London. She was happy to find the cauliflowers and tomatoes which she was most fond of—the tomatoes in season at less than a penny a pound.

A fish stall attracted her attention. She looked with curiosity at the black eels wriggling in a wooden tub. There were many kinds of fish, some white-bodied, some scaly, some bony, some soft and smooth. Each type had a tag with its name and price. In a basket, grey crabs move ceaselessly.

Now it was raining outside. The raindrops pattered on the lead roof of the market. Water ran swiftly down the gutters. The passages became more and more crowded. There were some peasants from the suburbs carrying brooms, brushes, and other handicraft products for sale. To Mrs. Felton, everything was of enormous interest.

A middle-aged, experienced housewife came to the fish stall, and the young sunburnt fishmonger attended to her, his sharp knife ready in his hand. She pointed out to him where to cut the belly of the fish which she had chosen and how to have them boned. She could tell exactly which part was tender and boneless. Mrs. Felton, I could see, would eagerly have discussed this housewifely lore with her, but they came only to the point of smiling at each other with unspoken friendship.

The fishmonger, turning to the wooden tub, picked up a two-foot perch. He pressed the gills with his two fingers and the pink mouth of the fish opened to show its fresh condition. Regretfully she said:

"What a pity! I have no kitchen in Peking!"

We came to a stand on which were hung dozens of plucked chickens and ducks with their heads downward, like stalactites in some limestone cave. Mrs. Felton watched carefully as a woman made her choice.

"Why do you prefer this one to that?" asked Mrs. Felton.

"Look," the woman took up the chicken she chose and pinched the leg with her fingers, saying: "This will tell you whether the chicken is tender or not."

Mrs. Felton nodded understandingly.

We passed the meat stalls with their sides of choice beef, cuts of mutton and pork and

large enamelled trays of kidneys, livers, hearts, tongues and brains. In a quieter corner we saw the entrancing bottles and baskets of the herb and spice merchants and many Chinese delicacies unknown to our guest.

When we came to the canned goods department on the side of the market, she noticed the dried shell fish and tinned bamboo-shoots on the shelves, and the salted fish on the walls. As we left she gave a last approving look at this great array of edibles that were there for the Peking housewife's choice—unworried by rations and shortages of essential foods and with all dealings at reasonable prices "over the counter."

We made our way to the Peking Handicraft Shop by the Hatamen Gate. Mrs. Felton—as who is not?—was soon carried away by the skill which the handicraftsmen of China show in their work. She particularly appreciated the "eight fairies" and *yangko* dancers cut in ivory, and the lacquer ware patterned with designs from the famous Tunghuang frescos. She bought herself a *cloisonne* ash-tray with a Tunghuang design. She recollected that she had seen the exhibition of Chinese art held in London in 1936 and had visited it several times.

But among all these treasures the exhibit on which her eyes lingered longest was the beautifully embroidered portrait of Mao Tse-tung. She told me with pride that the Chinese students who visited Britain last autumn sent her a similar silk-woven portrait of the Chinese people's leader, which she hung in her flat at Westminster.

* * *

We were on the way to the State Department Store on Wang Fu Ching Street. While walking, she spoke of the rising living standards of the people she saw in Moscow. The Soviet women were fashionably dressed. They were particularly interested in Chinese silk fabrics. She was told that when one consignment of Chinese velvet arrived in Moscow, it was sold out in less than a week. In Moscow she had eaten fruits from Israel. She remarked thoughtfully: "How wonderful it would be if we could all trade with each other freely!"

To make one's way into the state shop on a Sunday morning is in itself a demonstration of real tenacity! Workers, students and government employees and People's Army men crowded towards the doors and to the counters where clothing, stationery and cigarettes were

sold. Mrs. Felton moved forward inch by inch.

Leaning against the food counter, she carefully noted the various brands of tinned food displayed on the shelves. She particularly noticed the various kinds of powdered milk both home-made and imported. At a linen counter, she chose three towels. She produced 20,000 yuan and the shop assistant gave her several notes in change. When she calculated the price in terms of pound sterling and found it was less than five shillings, she exclaimed: "Good gracious, I would have had to pay three times as much if I were in Oxford Street."

I asked her why face towels are so expensive in a country like England which is so famous for its textile industry. "It's undoubtedly because the economy of the country is thrown out of gear by the rearmament and trade restrictions under U.S. pressure.... There used to be a line of household goods such as towels classified as utility goods, free of purchase tax. Now that's been abolished, too, and it makes the lives of the poor all the more difficult."

"Isn't that Mrs. Felton?"

"Look, isn't that Mrs. Felton?" someone whispered in the crowd. She was recognised because on the previous day the *Kwangming Daily* in Peking published an interview with her, accompanied by her portrait.

Once she was discovered, people gradually turned their eyes from the counters to this distinguished guest. Many hands stretched out over the shoulders of the others, trying to meet her hand.

"How do you do, peace fighter!"

About ten People's Liberation Army men were choosing some fountain-pens. Hearing the name of Mrs. Felton, they raised their heads. Putting down the fountain-pens, they too extended their hands one by one and clasped hers warmly. Their firm eyes seemed to say:

"We are all working for the same cause of defending peace! We will certainly succeed!"

Mrs. Felton treasures this as a precious moment. She pressed the hands of these defenders of the people. Looking at their young optimistic faces with her greyish-blue reflective eyes, she seemed to reply:

"Yes. Helped by such as you who know international friendship and love peace, peace will certainly win!"

Coming out of the state department store, I asked her if the department stores in London were so crowded at the weekend. She answered: "I wish they were, but it isn't so—people lack the money to buy."

By now, it was raining heavily. But despite it, many customers came out of the store to see her off on the sidewalk. For a moment she stood at the covered entrance of the store. She was closely surrounded by several young Pioneers. Behind them stood a young woman cadre. After asking her how long she had joined the revolution and how she had got along with her work, Mrs. Felton asked:

"Would you go to Korea to fight against American aggression?"

She answered unhesitatingly:

"Every Chinese wherever he may be is ready to fight against American imperialist aggression!"

With a Peking Family

It was nearing noon time. We accompanied her to lunch with some Peking friends living in the northeast part of the city, Mr. and Mrs. Huang. Mrs. Felton afterwards remarked that it was one of the most unforgettable experiences since her arrival in Peking, because it drew her yet closer to the Chinese people.

Mr. Huang is 58 years old now. He is the director-general of the Peking Y.M.C.A. and of a private middle school. He is full of cheerfulness, enthusiasm and vitality. Mrs. Huang is street representative for the fifty families living in this *hutung*. The Huangs have four sons and four daughters. Only three of them are now at home, the others are teaching in schools or working as engineers in the Southwest. With them is Yen-chiu, their grandson.

The Huangs' residence is typical of Peking dwelling houses with a square courtyard and rooms all around the court, small but well arranged. After entering the second gate which is red-lacquered there is the sitting room facing south. Outside, a few bamboos rustle their leaves noisily. Opposite the sitting room is a moon-gate in a wall crowned with thick foliated ivy. From the sitting room one can see the pair of stone lions before the steps outside the dining room which faces north. The



Mrs. Felton and her host

courtyard is decorated with flowers raised by Mr. Huang himself. Most attractive are two pomegranate trees blossoming brightly red and a "Fairy Stick," a long cactus amidst some white oleanders.

The interior decoration is also in typically Peking style. On the long table are some marble and jade trinkets and silver trophies won by the children. A flower scroll by the famous painter Chi Pai-shih hangs on the wall.

"We feel very much honoured," said Mr. Huang, "that Mrs. Felton, so busy with the cause of peace as she is, can spare the time to come to our humble house today. I read from the newspapers that last year you spoke out the truth about Korea in Europe, and you were persecuted by those who hate peace. We believe that all the British people are as courageous and truthful as you. Therefore, today when I shake your hands, I feel as if I have shaken the hands of all the British people!"

Mrs. Felton was touched by this simple but sincere speech. The gap between the hosts and the guest was at once closed.

The conversation then gradually turned to conditions in England.

While talks about Britain were going on inside the room, little Yen-chiu in his wooden sandals was chasing a fluffy kitten in the courtyard among the flowers. The third daughter

walked up to Mrs. Huang and whispered something in Mrs. Huang's ear, she rose and smilingly said to the guests:

"Lunch is ready, please." She then apologised. "The dishes are all cooked by myself. It can't be compared with the skill of the chefs in your hotel!"

Passing through the courtyard, Mrs. Felton showed great appreciation at the flowers. Little mischievous Yen-chiu sat on a stone stool under the grape vines. The kitten by now was a tame captive in his lap.

According to Peking custom, the honoured guest was seated facing the bamboo-screened door. On the table were already set four dishes of cold meats, and before each person, a cup of rice wine.

"To the British People!"

Mr. Huang lifted his cup, bowed and then said:

"Let us drink to our friend Mrs. Felton's health! To the health of the British people! Let's hope they will soon succeed in reaching brightness through the dark labyrinth and advance towards prosperity, towards happiness and peace!" To which toast we all drank with great warmth.

Stewed fish with sauce, fried filets of beef, a joint, fried chicken with pepper... one dish after another of Mrs. Huang's masterly cooking was served. As was natural, the talk turned to meals in Britain.

It was difficult for the youngsters to understand the rationing system in England which Mrs. Felton explained.

Two eggs a week... an ounce of cheese... two rashers of bacon in a country such as Great Britain hardly seemed to make sense.

She then recalled the talks she had with two Chinese women workers the day before and her surprise after comparing commodity prices to see how much the Chinese worker can get for his wages.

"Your price for tomatoes is only one-sixth that of London. Your workers can afford to have plenty of vegetables and fruits. Our English workers are not so lucky!"

Then, she asked Mrs. Huang the price for eggs. Mrs. Huang replied that egg prices varied slightly between the seasons. The best laying season was now past. Just the day before yesterday she was making salted eggs and

she bought 200 eggs. She paid 27,000 yuan for 100*.

Mrs. Felton figured it out herself. Say four pence for an egg, then the same amount of money could buy in England only 27 eggs. But the comparison is meaningless. In reality, each person can only buy three to four eggs per week when lucky, often only one or two for his ration.

After the lunch, hosts and guests returned to the sitting room for fruits. The plate was piled high with sweet peaches as big as fists, and purple plums.

Mr. Huang read from the newspapers about the Dean of Canterbury being persecuted in England. As a Christian, he was very much concerned about it: "Those enemies of peace declared that the Dean has split Britain into two." Mrs. Felton answered with the traditional determination and dauntlessness of the British people in face of tyranny. "The Dean would have scored his biggest triumph if he has split the peace-loving British people from those who are so foolishly toeing the line of the American militarists!"

At this juncture, some one mentioned Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Chang Han-fu's recent statement about trade between China and Britain. She said:

"I absolutely believe in the sincerity of the Chinese people in wanting to trade with us. I can also say that the British people—and the British government as well, are anxious to trade with China. Our delegates to the International Economic Conference told me in Moscow that if only Britain could be allowed to trade with New China, our full employment and prosperity in the next twenty years can be guaranteed. The question really hinges on whether the Churchill government dares to defy the Americans."

"Nothing is clearer than the fact why Britain should trade with China," she added. "The problem of unemployment in my country is getting more and more serious. At first, it only affected the textile industry in Lancashire. Now it has spread to all the industries. The last incomplete figure I saw was 800,000 men unemployed in various degrees."

What Mrs. Felton felt most indignantly about was that, while America does not permit

* About 8 shillings.

China Greet the Japanese Communist Party

The Communist Party of China, in its message to the Japanese Communist Party on the occasion of its 30th anniversary on July 15, expressed warm fraternal support for the Japanese people who are struggling for their independence, democracy and peace.

Pointing out that American imperialism is continuing its occupation of Japan and is reviving Japanese militarism in an effort to turn Japan once again into a hotbed of war, the message noted that "this threatens the people of China and the Pacific area with a new war and will also bring new disasters to the Japanese people."

"The Chinese people feel very deeply for the Japanese people who are suffering so much under foreign occupation and the oppression of a reactionary government," the message continued. "The Chinese people look forward to Japan's becoming independent, democratic, peaceful and prosperous, and to relations between the two peoples being those of neighbours who live in peace side by side, co-operate as equals, mutually benefit each other by trade and have respect for each other."

The Communist Party of China wished "ever greater achievements for the Communist Party of Japan, under the correct leadership of the Central Committee and Comrade Kyuichi Tokuda in the struggle to unite the Japanese people and organise a united national liberation democratic front for securing national independence, democracy and peace."

Newspapers and magazines throughout the country gave prominence to the anniversary and stressed the great need for an independent and friendly Japan which would contribute to peace in Asia and the world. Meetings were held in many cities where the Chinese people expressed their friendship for the Japanese people.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) warmly greeted the 30th anniversary of the Japanese Party. "This struggle of the Japanese people," it said, "is a vital factor for preserving peace in the Far East and has the support of the democratic forces of the whole world."

Messages of greeting were also received from the fraternal parties of Asia, Europe, Australasia and the Americas.

Britain to trade with China, she herself sets up tariff barriers against Britain.

It was already past three o'clock. Most of Peking was enjoying its summer after-dinner nap. But Mrs. Felton was still reluctant to leave.

"Let me just tell you another case to show you to what extent the British people have come to dislike the American warmongers," said she, as she arranged her handbag, getting ready to depart.

"One day a friend of mine was waiting for a bus. Later, two American airmen also joined the queue. When the bus finally drew up, the conductress declared that it was already full and could take one passenger only. My friend got in.

"This made the American airmen furious. They protested to the conductress saying, 'Don't you realise that it was we who won the war for you?'

"The conductress eyed them contemptuously, then said, 'Sorry, I didn't realise that you're Russians!'

"With this, she shut the door and off went the bus."

At that moment, the fourth daughter of the Huangs suddenly ran towards the sitting room from outside the moon-gate. She held a bundle of flowers freshly picked from the courtyard, some multicoloured gladioli and dahlias for the British guest. Mr. Huang put in front of her a satin-covered album. On the cover were written the words: "In Memory of Honoured Guests." Mrs. Felton wrote in it:

"I shall never forget the delightful experience of my first visit to a Chinese house and the inspiration of the wonderful atmosphere and friendly conversation. I shall look forward very much to our next meeting. Monica Felton."

In clear Chinese she said: "hsieh hsieh," meaning "thank you."

Seeing her off at the gate, Mr. Huang spoke for all with deep emotion:

"Bon Voyage! May you be stronger physically and spiritually each day! And wish you continued success in your mission of peace!"

PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT: RICE

This is the first of a series of articles on famous Chinese export products

Rice is China's most important agricultural product. It is grown throughout the country. Today, China produces one-third of the world's rice and is the world's biggest producer of this essential foodstuff.

It is one of the great achievements of the New Democratic economy that from a country that had been importing rice for half a century before liberation, China, within a period of less than two years afterwards, was in 1951 able to export rice to peoples that were in sore need of it.

China's Rice Problem Solved

In old China, agriculture was on the verge of total collapse due to the destruction wrought by continuous wars and the ruthless exploitation of peasants by the reactionary rulers. The output of rice declined every year. The average annual production of rice between 1934 and 1938 was 50 million tons. It fell to about 46 million tons between 1946 and 1948. The reactionary rulers of the past often claimed that China was an agricultural nation. Yet for fifty years before liberation, there was such a chronic and serious shortage of foodstuffs that the country had to depend on imports to "solve" its food problem. Among grain imports, rice alone amounted to more than one million tons a year. The situation was especially serious in the four years after the Second World War.

After the founding of the new China, land reform was resolutely carried out in most parts of the country. The feudal land system of the past several thousand years was destroyed and replaced by the system of peasant landownership. This has greatly stimulated the energy of the peasants and their will to develop production. At the same time, the People's Government has carried through water conservancy projects on a hitherto unprecedented scale, making safe 200,000 square kilometres of paddy fields that had been constantly threatened by floods. Every encouragement has been given to agricultural mutual-aid teams and producers' co-operatives to increase agricultural productivity. Assisted by the government, the peasants are making every effort to improve methods of production and are taking effective measures to prevent drought and other natural calamities.

Thanks to these efforts, the total yield of rice in 1951 exceeded the pre-war 1937 level. The output per hectare has been raised considerably. For example, China's pre-war paddy yield averaged merely 2.25-3 tons per hectare. In 1951, model agricultural worker Yang Cheng-ju of Hopei province raised his output to 12.15 tons per hectare. Model agricultural worker Chen Yung-kang of southern Kiangsu harvested more than 10.75 tons of paddy per hectare. A mass patriotic movement to increase production was launched throughout the country this year. Agricultural mutual-aid teams and producers' co-operatives have challenged each other for higher production. It is expected that this year the country will grow more rice than last year.

Types of Rice

Owing to differences in climatic conditions and the character of soil, rice produced in the various areas of China differs in quality, flavour and colour, and may be classified into three main categories: *keng* rice, *hsien* rice and glutinous rice. The *keng* rice grain is semi-transparent with fine veins. It is bluish or bluish-white in colour. When cooked, it turns deep blue if liquid iodine is added. The glutinous rice grain is somewhat fatter and shorter. It is opaque, of whitish wax-like colour. When cooked, it turns reddish brown if liquid iodine is added. The difference between *keng* rice and *hsien* rice is that the former is semi-transparent, rounder, richer in water content, soft and tasty, whereas the latter is thinner, longer, hard, and dries easily in open air and contains less water.

Generally speaking, rice produced in East and Northeast China is mainly of the *keng* variety. South China produces mainly *hsien* rice. The *Hsiao-chan* rice of North China is the best in quality in the entire country. Its characteristic features are its tall and tough stalks and large and beardless ears. There are, on the average, 250 grains on each ear. The rice grain is full and semi-transparent and rich in protein and fat.

On the world markets, the supply of rice falls far short of the actual needs. Before the war, the total quantity of rice demanded on

the world markets was between 7 and 8 million tons. If we consider the increase in the world's population in recent years, the present demand for rice should be around 9 million tons. In 1951-1952, however, rice-producing countries were able to export only 4 million tons. Although many southeastern Asian countries grow rice, they produce less than half of what is needed.

Exports to India

In view of these circumstances, China, having fulfilled the contract under which food-stuffs were sold to India last year totalling over half a million tons, agreed in May, 1952 to send India a further 100,000 tons of rice. The first shipment of 6,200 tons reached Calcutta by July 5. All the Indian papers frontpaged the news of the arrival of Chinese rice and

described it as a token of true friendship between India and China.

The Bengali daily *Swadhinata* wrote on July 9 that the quick delivery of rice by China is "a symbol of real friendship of China for India." The paper added that Bengal and India, suffering from famine, convey their "sincere greetings to China for the rice; they regard the friendship with China as a valuable treasure." The paper further stressed that the rice from China was of high quality, and that not only was the price fair, but also in order not to make it difficult for India, China had agreed to accept payment in Indian currency, without stipulating any conditions.

These new shipments of rice will, undoubtedly, further strengthen the friendship between the peoples of China and India.

—P. Y.

The P.L.A. Makes the Desert Bloom

C. Y. Ying

In Sinkiang province, in what old-style explorers were pleased to call the "dead heart of Asia," where the rivers lost themselves in sand and ancient cities disappeared without trace, the People's Liberation Army of China is pioneering a great project that is helping to restore this vast region to life, that is making the deserts bloom and raising the living standards of the masses of the people to heights beyond the dreams of yesterday.

This is one of the most spectacular of the works of the P.L.A. of today—an army of production, as well as defender of the people's democracy and peace.

Sinkiang, China's biggest province, has great natural resources. But only now is it possible under the New Democracy to bring those riches to use for the people and solve the difficult problems of irrigation which alone can revive the wasted desert lands. The P.L.A. arrived in Sinkiang in the fall of 1949. Military operations to liquidate the remnant bandit gangs of the Kuomintang were soon completed. Then the P.L.A. turned to construction on the basis of the December 5, 1949 directive from Mao Tse-tung as Chairman of the People's Revolutionary Military Council stressing that the P.L.A. is "not only an army of national defence, but an army of production to help the people throughout the country conquer the

difficulties left behind by a long war and to speed up the construction of a New Democratic economy."

So well has the P.L.A. in Sinkiang fulfilled this directive that in 1951, its units produced an aggregate wealth equal to 1,000,000 million yuan, a sum sufficient to completely equip a modern cotton mill with 300,000 spindles. They achieved this actually with less manpower than in 1950. Considerable numbers of men were absorbed into the newly established factories and other enterprises of Sinkiang. The area sown was also slightly smaller—65,400 hectares or 2 per cent less in fact than in 1950. Nevertheless, the grain output last year was 27 per cent higher than in 1950. Higher yields per hectare were achieved. The corn crop, for instance, reached the record figure of 9.53 tons per hectare, while rice was 9.81 tons per hectare. In addition, they raised 400,000 head of livestock, a 138 per cent increase over 1950.

Revolutionising Farming Methods

Starting on construction work in 1950, the Production Committee of the Sinkiang Military Area P.L.A. Command drew up the over-all plan and established local production committees to carry it out step by step. Each military unit undertook a definite part of the plan. Representatives and labour models met from

time to time to exchange experiences and ideas.

The P.L.A. has revolutionised farming methods in Sinkiang. Instead of planting various crops in small strip plots, as was usual in those parts, they grow only one kind of crop on huge tracts which are farmed collectively and rotate crops each season to restore the fertility of the soil. This vastly simplifies the tasks of irrigation and division of labour. In addition, it enables the P.L.A. to use advanced scientific techniques and mechanised implements, especially after the first year's harvests gave them a surplus with which they could buy more modern farm machinery from the Soviet Union. They also experimented successfully with new implements of their own making. One regiment alone made 25 kinds of such new or improved agricultural tools in 1951. In Tihua and several other areas, they have established experimental farms on which they try out new mechanised farming methods.

These agricultural achievements would have been impossible without water conservancy and irrigation works. Rainfall in Sinkiang is scanty. Reservoirs therefore had to be built to preserve the water of the land-bound rivers which drain uselessly into the sand. A complex system of ditches and larger channels is also needed to carry the water to the land along and beyond the rivers which is rich virgin soil and only needs water to be turned into fertile arable soil.

In 1950, 2 million metres of ditches were dug and repaired; 27,000 metres of dykes and two reservoirs were repaired to supply irrigation for 84,700 hectares of land. In the latter part of the year, the P.L.A. started construction of a large-scale irrigation net-work destined to change over 330,000 hectares of now "dead" soil into fertile fields within a period of five years.

In addition to this vast project, the P.L.A. in 1951 dug over 190 subsidiary ditches; built 2,700 metres of dykes; 4,000 metres of dams; completed three new reservoirs and 85 sluice gates, culverts, flumes and bridges. These works supply irrigation for another 30,700 hectares of land.

But this is not all. To change the desert into a green land has long been a dream of the Northwest people. This dream is now fast turning into reality through the P.L.A.'s irrigation work and its great parallel achievements in afforestation. 1,200,000 saplings, or five times the number of saplings planted in 1950,

were planted in 1951, and the tempo of planting is still increasing. Every regiment now has its own tree nursery preparatory for large-scale afforestation.

Basis for Sinkiang Industrialisation

Such big water conservancy projects necessitated the use of various material supplies and tools. The P.L.A. development of Sinkiang agricultural production has thus called forth the development of many branches of industry. The growth of new industries, however, needs capital investments. Where did the P.L.A. get the necessary capital for these cement works, brick kilns, iron foundries and workshops, engineering works for the repair and manufacture of agricultural tools and machines, and processing plants for farm products? Partly from allocations of state funds, and economies in army expenditure, and partly through marketing their surplus agricultural produce. The profits obtained from these enterprises were then invested in new industrial enterprises on a still larger scale.

The building of a big cotton mill was started in the summer of 1950, for instance. This spring, it is already producing cotton cloth. Steel and cement works, automobile repair shops, hydroelectric power plants and power plants run on coal will be in operation by the autumn of 1952. An open-caste coal mine was started in July, 1951—this will provide sufficient fuel for all factories working this year. During 1951 alone, the P.L.A. in Sinkiang built factory and residential premises with a total floor space of 110,000 square metres. Today, the P.L.A. has its own large complement of specialists in many fields of engineering and construction work.

Army Builds a City

In February this year, the first reports came through that the P.L.A. in Sinkiang was building a whole new city in the steppe, in addition to the many settlements and villages that have grown up in the newly irrigated lands. The new city will cover an area of 14 square kilometres and will be completed in 1956, with the first sections ready for occupation by the end of this year. The whole project has been planned on an imaginative scale. It will revolutionise urban living in Sinkiang. All the roads will radiate like the spokes of a wheel, from the city centre where the administrative buildings will be concentrated. To the south will lie the commercial area near the railway depot. The west will be the main

industrial area. Trees and flower plots will be planted in great numbers to make it a truly garden city. Modern farms will ring the outskirts. Hundreds of dwellings have already been completed; many roads paved and canals dug to improve transportation facilities.

Working in burning heat and in weather at close to 40 degrees below zero, the P.L.A. fighters and their civilian aids have shown extraordinary enthusiasm in their tasks, looking to the rapid progress of the livelihood of the people of the entire region. One out of every five of the cadres and fighters have achieved distinction as model workers on the city project. Rationalisation proposals increased the rate of brick-laying five times since the work began.

The People Reap Benefits

The people of Sinkiang are already reaping important benefits from the pioneering work of the P.L.A. in production. The new irrigated lands have already been mentioned. They have been the soil not only of new crops but of new forms of labour and life. The P.L.A. has demonstrated the benefits of co-operative labour organisation and collective, large-scale mechanised farming. The masses have been quick to see the lesson, and are organising themselves into labour-exchange brigades, and mutual-aid teams—preparatory steps to collective farms. In 1951, there were already 91,000 mutual-aid teams in Sinkiang with 800,000 members, 290,000 of whom were women. As a direct result of better irrigation and methods of work introduced by the P.L.A. and their own co-operative efforts, the Uighur peasants of Hsufu county, for instance, increased their grain output in 1951 by 8.4 per cent over 1950, which was 19 per cent over pre-liberation days. In terms of yield per hectare the whole province shows an increase of 10.4 per cent as compared with 1950 in grain output.

In the first part of 1952, the P.L.A. production committees in Sinkiang met in conference in Tihua to map out their strategy and tactics for construction in the current year. Plans were made to cultivate 107,000 hectares of land; prepare 20,000 hectares for mechanised farming; establish four mechanised farms; produce 110,000 tons of grain (compared to 35,000 tons in 1950); become self-sufficient in fruits, vegetables and tobacco. Cotton acreage will be expanded to supply Sinkiang's growing textile industry. Ten collective farms will be established as models for

the peasants, each with 700-1,000 hectares of land. The conference at the same time set a preliminary target for cultivation in 1953 of 200,000 hectares. In the current year, earthwork totalling 30 million cubic metres and 1 million cubic metres of stonework will be done on the Manass and Ili rivers. Thus, in 1953, another 100,000 hectares of land will be given the benefits of irrigation in this area.

Classes will train more P.L.A. men as agricultural technicians, drivers and livestock breeders.

The four mechanised farms called for in this plan have already been established, and all the necessary buildings completed in a wide expanse of land in the valleys between the Manass, Kaitu, and Toutun rivers and in the steppe land of Chienteh county. Stalin-80 tractors, combines and other modern farm machines are being used here. One of these farms, the August First Farm, named after the anniversary of the P.L.A., situated on the bank of the Toutun river, started winter sowing this past winter. This year, it will use selected seeds of various types of grain from Kansu province and from the Soviet Ukraine. These four farms are showing the way for the organisation of scientific mechanised work on collective farms which will undoubtedly be established by the most progressive peasants of Sinkiang after the completion of the land reform. The P.L.A. has undertaken to supply such farms with aid in tools, machines and buildings. One of the ten collective farms mentioned in the plan has already been set up near Chienteh by peasants of various nationalities.

In addition to these agricultural tasks, the P.L.A. continues its urban and industrial construction. Over 300,000 square metres of factory floor space will be built this year, and 5,000 P.L.A. sappers will be trained as skilled building workers.

Sinkiang, with its one-sixth of China's total area, its rich mineral and forest resources, has enormous possibilities of advance for its growing population of some five million people. The vicious exploitation of the old reactionary regimes and their wastage of water and other resources has kept its people poor. The territory was liberated by the heroic P.L.A. led by the Chinese Communist Party. Now its energetic steps in land reclamation, irrigation, industrial and other productive tasks are playing a major role in liberating its hidden wealth for the service of the people.

Northeast China Begins Large-Scale Construction

The beginning this year of planned, large-scale basic construction in China's Northeast marks an important stage in China's progress to industrialisation.

This year in the Northeast, 90 per cent of the total industrial investment of the area will go into new construction. This has become possible because the rehabilitation of war-damaged industry has in the main been completed. The Northeast is the most industrially advanced of China's administrative areas. Its industry produces 55.9 per cent of the total value of its production.

To carry out the big, new tasks, every factory and mine is transferring some of its best cadres, skilled workers and technical personnel for work on the construction sites of new projects. This year alone, 40,000 skilled workers will receive special training for construction work. Departments of building and civil engineering in all universities are taking hundreds of new students. Special organisations have been established by the Northeast People's Government to handle geological surveys, planning, finance, supplies, labour and other problems of the new stage of development.

Simultaneously with this new construction, the total output of Northeast industry will rise by over 40 per cent above that of 1951, which in turn was over 24 per cent above that of 1950.

Rapid Industrial Growth

The post-liberation development of Northeast industry has been remarkably rapid, a brilliant achievement of the industrial workers led by the Communist Party. The task of rehabilitation was tackled immediately on the liberation of the area in 1948. By 1949, using rehabilitated and improvised machinery and equipment, many plants were already producing more than the fully equipped enterprises had produced at any time in the past under Japanese or Kuomintang management. By 1950, more than one-third of all factories and mines were in full operation.

The whole structure of Northeast economy has of course been transformed. The land reform had freed the peasants and led to rapid increases in agricultural production. The growth of both privately-owned and state-owned industry and commerce has proceeded under the overwhelmingly decisive influence of the Socialist sector of the economy.

The key to the enormous labour enthusiasm of the workers which has made the great industrial progress possible at its present rapid

tempo is to be found in the introduction of democratic factory management. The workers are the masters of state enterprises, and they work with unexampled zeal as leaders of the country for themselves and for the people. New rationalisation proposals and inventions are being constantly developed to increase output and make economies. Methods of planning and business accounting have been introduced step by step. By the autumn of 1949, 50,000 new records were established in a production emulation movement that swept through the whole Northeast.

A People's Economy

At the same time, the whole direction of industrial effort was changed. The old colonial economy of serving as an appendage of the industry of the imperialist metropolitan economy was transformed into an economy serving the people's needs both in the present and future. In all this, technical help from the Soviet Union has been invaluable.

By the winter of 1950, sufficient advance had been made in output to intensify the successful battle for quality. This was followed in the second half of last year by a movement to use to full capacity the existing industrial installations to create extra wealth equivalent to five million tons of grain. The workers' counter-plans actually raised this to 16 millions tons of grain—a big reserve for investment in construction. Together with this, workers and cadres acquired an invaluable store of experience in the running of industry.

Thus it was possible gradually to turn more and more of industrial investment into new factories, steel mills, mines and other forms of new construction, with the emphasis on heavy industry. In 1949, investments in new construction took only 25 per cent of the total industrial investment. In 1950, it was 38 per cent. By 1951, it had increased to 80 per cent, and this year, the rate of 90 per cent is reached, thus ushering in the era of large-scale economic construction.

These big increases in productivity and turning to basic construction in the Northeast heralds big improvements in workers' welfare and conditions. Speaking to government cadres in May this year, Kao Kang, Chairman of the Northeast People's Government, stated that wages for workers and staff members will be further raised this year by 10 per cent with a subsidy for rent and communal services amounting to another 20 per cent increase in wages.

On July 13, 1952 the following two statements were issued by Chou En-lai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China:

On China's Recognition of the 1949 Geneva Conventions

In accordance with Article 55 of the *Common Programme* of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, which provides: "The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China shall examine the treaties and agreements concluded between the Kuomintang and foreign governments, and shall, in accordance with their contents, recognise, abrogate, revise, or reconclude them respectively," the Central People's Government has examined "The Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field," "The Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea," "The Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War" and "The Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War," which were signed in Geneva on August 12, 1949, in the name of China.

The Central People's Government considers that the contents of the above-mentioned conventions are basically conducive to a lasting peace amongst all nations and are in conformity with humanitarian principles and, therefore, has decided to recognise them.

The Central People's Government declares, at the same time, that, in connection with these conventions, there are certain principles which the Cen-

tral People's Government deems to be of extreme importance and must insist upon. These principles are, for instance, that the substitute for a Protecting Power shall be subject to the consent of the Power to which the protected persons belong, that the Detaining Power shall not be allowed to be absolved of its liability even after the prisoners of war, or the wounded and sick, have been transferred to another Power, that the protection provided for in the conventions shall be equally applicable to civilian persons outside the occupied territory, and that the prisoners of war who have been convicted as war criminals according to the principles established by the International Military Tribunals of Nuremberg and Tokyo shall not be entitled to the benefits of the convention concerned. The Central People's Government is prepared to make reservations in regard to the provisions relative to these points, at the time of ratification, in order to assure more effective and satisfactory implementation of these conventions.

The Minister of the People's Republic of China to Switzerland has been instructed to transmit the present statement to the Swiss Federal Council by note, for communication to the Governments of the Contracting Powers of these conventions.

Peking, July 13, 1952.

On China's Recognition of the Protocol of June 17, 1925 Prohibiting Chemical and Bacteriological Warfare

In accordance with Article 55 of the *Common Programme* of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, which provides: "The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China shall examine the treaties and agreements concluded between the Kuomintang and foreign governments, and shall, in accordance with their contents, recognise, abrogate, revise, or reconclude them respectively," the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China has examined the "Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare," concluded on

June 17, 1925, and acceded to in the name of China on August 7, 1929. The Central People's Government considers that the said protocol is conducive to the strengthening of international peace and security and is in conformity with humanitarian principles, and, therefore, has decided to recognise the accession to the Protocol. The Central People's Government shall undertake to implement strictly the provisions of the protocol, provided that all the other contracting and acceding Powers observe them reciprocally.

Peking, July 13, 1952.

On Sino-British Trade

On July 5, 1952 the following statement was issued by Chang Han-fu, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China. "Note No. 53 Concerning Sino-British Trade" referred to in the statement was handed to the Vice-Minister by Mr. Lionel Henry Lamb, British representative for negotiations, on April 18, 1952, inquiring into the Sino-British Trade Agreement signed at the International Economic Conference in Moscow. "Note No. 69 on the Suggestions of the British Industrial and Commercial Firms in China to Wind Up Their Business and to Set Up a New Form of Organisation" referred to in the statement is another note handed to the Vice-Minister by Mr. Lamb on May 19. This note declares that nearly all British companies in China are prepared to ask for permission to wind up their business, and that certain influential British companies are planning to establish a new organisation to maintain direct relations with the Chinese authorities concerned in order to continue trade with China, and asks the Central People's Government of China to consider the matter. In his note, Mr. Lamb gave as the reason for these British companies preparing to wind up their business that the business of the state-owned concerns of China is expanding to an "increasing extent." It is alleged in his note that this "is correspondingly reducing the need for maintenance in their existing form" in the case of many British companies. In addition, a statement of similar purport was made by the British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden in the British House of Commons on May 20.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China has already received from Mr. Lionel Henry Lamb, the representative for negotiations of the British government, Note No. 53 of April 18, 1952, on Sino-British Trade, and Note No. 69 of May 19, 1952, on the Suggestions of the British Industrial and Commercial Firms in China to Wind Up Their Business and to Set Up a New Form of Organisation, and has further taken notice of the related statement made by Mr. Eden, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the British government, on May 20, in the House of Commons of Britain.

Mr. Chang Han-fu, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government, considers it necessary to issue the following statement:

(1) The Central People's Government has repeatedly declared: China is willing to restore and develop international trade relations with governments and peoples of other countries, on a basis of equality and mutual benefit; all foreign residents and firms in China, who abide by the laws of the Chinese government, will receive protection from the people's governments of all levels. In accordance with this policy of the Central People's Government, all the private and state trade organisations of China have been and still are striving to establish normal trade connections with foreign industrial and commercial firms.

Since October, 1949, trade between China and Britain has had a considerable revival and development. Consequently, the activities of the British firms in China have gradually become brisk. For more than two years, the private and state trade organisations of China have further signed trade contracts of various forms and contracts for processing and placed orders with foreign industrial and commercial firms in China, among which chiefly are the British.

Recently, at the International Economic Conference, convened in April of this year in Moscow, the

Chinese and British delegations reached an agreement for trade exchange to the amount of 10 million pounds on either side in 1952. On the basis of this agreement, the Chinese and British representatives for trade negotiations signed on June 9, in Berlin, a pro forma contract to the amount of 6,500,000 pounds for the first instalment of goods. All these facts amply prove that the Chinese government and people are willing to develop between China and Britain a normal trade relationship on an equal and mutually beneficial basis.

(2) However, the British government has persistently carried out a discriminatory trade policy against China, thus hindering the establishment of a normal economic relationship between the British people and the People's Republic of China. It will be recalled that since 1950, under the incessant pressure of the United States, the British government has adopted a series of unfriendly measures of control in respect of trade against the People's Republic of China. On May 18, 1951, in the United Nations Assembly, under the domination and coercion of the United States government, the delegate of the British government voted for the preposterous proposal of the United States for an embargo against the People's Republic of China. Immediately afterwards, on June 19, 1951, the British government further declared all the export items to China and Hong-kong to be under the control of special permits. The British government has thus followed the United States government in carrying out the policy of trade control and embargo, hostile to the People's Republic of China, and calculated to obstruct the trade exchange between China and Britain! Since then, trade between China and Britain has abruptly declined in volume.

Under such a trade policy of the British government, British industry and commerce have met with serious but unnecessary difficulties. This is especially so in the case of the British companies and manufacturing firms in China, many of which have been reduced to the straits of retrenchment or closure of

their businesses by the depressed state of trade between the two countries, in addition to their bad management. For some time in the past, they have taken a wait-and-see attitude with anxiety. The government authorities of all levels of the People's Republic of China have taken such measures as the advancing of loans and supplying of raw materials in order to aid them. However, the measures of trade control and embargo taken by the British government have not shown the least sign of relenting, and the resulting difficulties, before which the British firms in China are powerless, have shown a tendency to become increasingly greater, instead of abating in the slightest.

The predicament of the British firms in China is the bitter fruit of the policy of trade control and embargo of the British government. This alone suffices to prove that by following the United States in carrying out the trade control and embargo, the British government not only contravenes but also jeopardises the interests of the British people.

(3) Due protection shall be afforded to the British companies and manufacturing firms in the territories of the People's Republic of China by the authorities of the people's governments of all levels, provided that they abide by the laws of the Chinese government. In case they wish to wind up their business voluntarily, no matter what form of wind-

up they may take, they may apply at the people's government at their respective localities, and the competent authorities will deal with each case according to its own merits and the regulations. In the course of winding up, any question that may arise relating to the termination of services of employees and workers, applications for exit permits, and the disposal of the enterprises, may be expeditiously and reasonably settled on the merits of each case and in accordance with the regulations.

(4) The Central People's Government considers that the active promotion of the trade relations between China and Britain on a basis of equality and mutual benefit is conducive to the recovery and development of industrial and agricultural production in both countries, as well as to the improvement of the living conditions of the peoples of both countries. Therefore, any British company and manufacturing firm, or any such in the territory of China, as well as any organisation jointly formed by the British companies and manufacturing firms, provided that they do not harbour monopoly designs and are willing to trade with China on a basis of equality and mutual benefit, may all approach at any time the private and state trade organisations of China, establish contacts with them, and conduct specific business negotiations with them.
Peking, July 5, 1952.

KAO YU-PAO, SOLDIER-WRITER, TELLS HIS STORY

Yang Yu

His name has become famous overnight. Millions of readers are today waiting impatiently to read his autobiographical novel of 300,000 characters. China's leading newspaper — the Peking *People's Daily*—and many other national papers and magazines have written special articles to introduce this new author, Kao Yu-pao and his work. Yet he smiled deprecatingly, with sincerest modesty, this twenty-six-year-old soldier in the grass-green uniform, when I spoke of him as an "author."

"Comrade, I'm just an ordinary people's fighter!"

The white badge over his left breast pocket sparkled in the sunlight. The ink-black characters read simply and proudly: *The People's Liberation Army of China*.

It was in November, 1947 that a small village named Sun in Liaotung province, North-east China, was liberated by the People's Army. When the first unit entered the village, young Kao Yu-pao, a farm labourer, was repairing a pig-sty. He gazed at the newcomers in wonder as if he saw a dream come true; then he jump-

ed up and shouted: "You've come at last—our poor men's army!"

Son of a poor peasant, Kao Yu-pao passed his childhood as a swine-herd looking after the landlord's pigs on the heath, while his mother and sister dug wild vegetables to feed the family. When he was eight, a good-hearted teacher of the little village school was struck by his quick wits and offered to teach him without fee. But only a few days after he began his lessons, he was forced to leave school by the landlord. "Reading," he said, "will take Kao Yu-pao's mind off the pigs." Next year, poverty drove this poor peasant family from the land to seek succour in the city of Dairen. There, young Kao Yu-pao tried to make a living as a hired labourer, a factory hand, a carpenter But life became more and more unbearable under the rule of the Japanese invaders and their puppets in the Northeast. His grandfather, mother, uncle and a brother all died of poverty, disease and malnutrition in the city. A few years later, only Kao Yu-pao and his father returned to their home village, bare-handed, sad and dispirited.

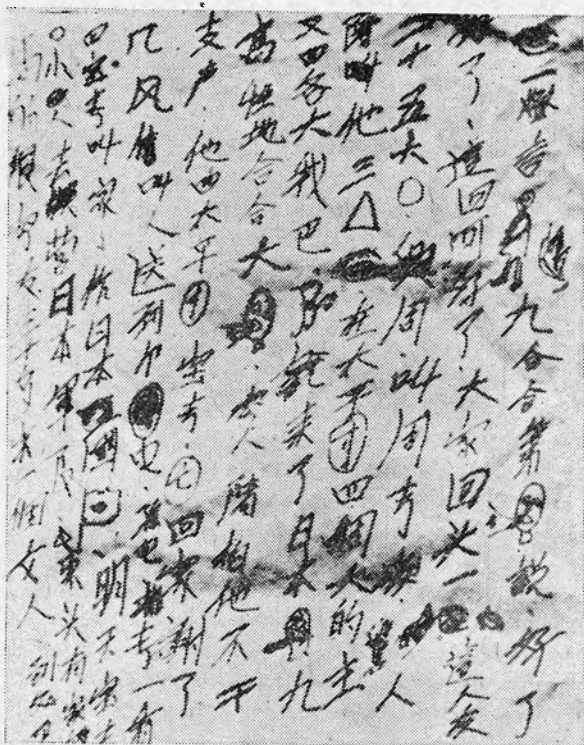
Once again Kao Yu-pao had to labour for the landlord.

* * *

In those bitter days, Kao Yu-pao had one hope that was like a gleam of light in the darkness. He often heard tell about a "poor men's army" fighting the tyrants somewhere, sometimes to the north, sometimes to the east. One day soon, he hoped, they would come to Sun village.

"And finally they did come...the People's Army. They were young men like me. They understood us as if they had grown up among us. When they came, they wouldn't allow the landlords to oppress us people as in the past. They carried through the land reform. The landlords were overthrown. Those who stood in need got land and houses. The peasants stood up! I made up my mind to go with them, because I knew that this was really our own army.

"Comrade, I don't know how to describe our P.L.A. It's a big school, a university for every soldier. At that time, the War of Liberation was being waged against the Kuomintang. I joined in several famous campaigns — the



A page from Kao Yu-pao's original manuscript showing pictographs—an eye, a child, a Japanese flag—he invented to take the place of characters which he did not yet know how to write

Liaoyang battle, the battle for Kalgan. Even during the frequent engagements and constant movement, we never stopped our studies. Once our regiment moved from the Northeast to Kwangsi. That was a journey of more than 4,000 kilometres. When we marched, everyone carried a wooden board on his back on which was written the new characters of the day for the one walking behind him to study. That's how I began to learn to read."

When Kao Yu-pao talked about the P.L.A., his eyes shone with pride. He joined the army in 1947, and the next year, at the front line, he was admitted to the Chinese Communist Party. Hardworking, staunch and courageous, he won the title of "Meritorious People's Servant" on eight different occasions.

"Our P.L.A. is like a big family. Everyone in it will tell you the same thing. If somebody's feet hurt him on the march, we would all offer to carry his rifle or heat hot water for him at a rest. If somebody was tired, we felt honoured to carry his load. When we were in billets with the people, we always worked with them in the fields. We were happy to do it. If I can do anything to make others happy, I will always be happy to do it."

Soon Kao Yu-pao found that he had a special talent—story-telling. During the long, tiring marches, his stories made his comrades in the column forget their weariness. Whenever he sat down and began a tale, people immediately gathered round and listened attentively. As a youngster, he had been fascinated by the deeds of the ancient heroes. When he was in Dairen, a professional story-teller had lived next door to his home. Every night the boy stood by the window and listened to the stories until midnight. Now that he had learned to read a bit in the army, every payday, when he could afford it, Kao Yu-pao bought a few picture story books. In this way, he collected more and more stories, but among all his tales, he found that the one that most deeply moved his audiences was his own life story. When he talked about his childhood and recalled the bitter memories of the cruelty of the Japanese invaders, the Kuomintang gangsters and the landlords and the deep misery into which the families of the poor were cast, he saw the tears come to his comrades' eyes; seasoned fighters clenched their fists, indignation burning in their hearts.

There was another good story-teller in Kao Yu-pao's unit—this was Comrade Chih Chih-

yuan, head of its propaganda and education section. Chih made an arrangement with Kao Yu-pao. Every time Kao told a story, he, Chih, would give one too. While Kao Yu-pao told his comrades stories of the ancient heroes, Comrade Chih described the history of the times in which those heroes lived.

* * *

In August of 1949, Kao Yu-pao's unit was stationed in Changsha just after it was liberated. At ten o'clock on the morning of the 25th, (Kao Yu-pao remembers it clearly!) while he was studying writing, he suddenly noticed a child playing outside with a new picture book. It was *The Young Mao Tse-tung*. Kao Yu-pao borrowed it and read it through, deeply moved. The following lines especially struck him: "A question occurred to Mao Tse-tung's mind—why is that the heroes of all the stories I have read are either high officials and great generals or talented young men and beautiful ladies? Why are they never people like honest peasants?" Kao Yu-pao took up this thought. "Why so, indeed?" He opened his bookcase, looked through all the old novels. "Why did the poor, honest man so seldom appear as the hero in books?" he asked himself. Once again he saw the sorrowful faces of his dead grandfather, mother, uncle, brother and others of the oppressed, and the hated visages of the Japanese, the Kuomintang gangsters and the landlords. He determined to write such a book about the ordinary folk. On August 27, he made himself a notebook and began to write.

At that time, Kao Yu-pao could write only a few hundred characters. For two days, he kept on with his task, but, seven times out of ten he was unable to write the words he wanted to use. But whenever he thought of giving up and putting down his pen, he would ask himself why he had been unable to go to school, and his hatred towards the old society made him carry on. He told himself over and over again the advice Lenin gave to the youth: "Study, study and study again!"

Knowing he was studying hard, Comrade Chih encouraged and helped him. Shan Chi, the section secretary, was especially assigned to help him, and they had daily lessons. To speed up his writing, Kao Yu-pao developed a new idea: he made two notebooks, in one he wrote his book with Shan Chi's help; when his tutor was not with him, he wrote in the smaller one. When he came to a character he could not write, he drew a symbol for it. For instance, for the

word *yen*—"eye," he drew an eye; for the word *mang*—"busy," he drew a face with beads of sweat on the forehead. When his teacher came, they would fill in the missing words together. And besides he had the usual difficulties of all authors to contend with. Sometimes he could not recollect a scene, a name. He thought hard, head aching, paced the room and spent sleepless nights. But tenaciously he continued his work, and the book grew steadily.

* * *

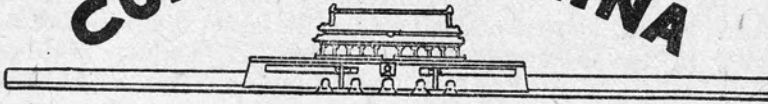
One day in December, 1950, when Kao Yu-pao had already finished several chapters, Comrade Chih asked him what it was he was so busy at. Kao showed him the manuscript. It started with the "September 18th Incident." It described the inhuman sufferings of a poor peasant family of the time. Kao sketched out the rest. It would end with the happy life the central character had found in the P.L.A. "I want the whole world to know about this!" The news soon spread. His comrades in the regiment encouraged him to go on with all speed. Comrade Chih had written on his notebook: "Comrade Yu-pao, I hope you will continue to write and create a novel like *How the Steel Is Tempered!*"

A little more than a year later, in January, 1951, the first draft of Kao Yu-pao's novel appeared on the desk of the editor of *P.L.A. Literature* in Peking. A letter accompanied it: "I want my brothers of the whole country to read it and not to forget those devilish enemies, to grip their rifles and liberate the whole of our country so that in the future a wonderful new China can be built."

Kao Yu-pao was immediately invited to Peking where he discussed his book, chapter by chapter, with experienced writers and critics. He checked over every word, and now he is rewriting it.

"I think I can finish my writing by the beginning of next year. Then I shall go back to my regiment. I had a bitter life in my childhood and youth. Only my mother showed me deep love, but she died long ago. Now in the P.L.A., I find something that takes the place of a mother's love—real comradeship. I am only an ordinary soldier, but I belong to an unusual army. There are endless stories that can be written about this army. If our P.L.A. fighters want to read them, I will go on writing till my light goes out for the last time."

CURRENT CHINA



W.P.C. Resolutions Endorsed

The Chinese People's Committee for World Peace and Against American Aggression has fully endorsed the resolutions adopted by the extraordinary session of the World Peace Council which met in Berlin from July 1 to 6. "The Chinese people," says the committee's statement, "considers that these resolutions—on the German problem; on the remilitarisation of Japan and for a democratic Japan; on the question of the termination of the war in Korea; and on the convocation of a congress of the peoples for peace—fully conform with their wishes and those of all peace-loving people in the world. ... They pledge to strive for their realisation. ..."

Bigger Wheat Yield

China's total wheat yield this year is 15 per cent more than last year. Peasants along the Huai river have full bins after gathering their second wheat harvest since the gigantic Huai river conservancy project was started in the winter of 1950. The average yield was from 900 to 1,000 kilogrammes per hectare, and in some places, it reached 3,800 kilogrammes.

Business is brisk in the towns as peasants buy new farm implements, draught animals, clothes and many daily necessities with their harvest profits.

During the current emulation campaign for increased production, a new wheat yield record was set by Lei Fu-hsi, a peasant in Honan. His yield of 5,708 kilogrammes per hectare on non-irrigated land breaks the previous record of 4,800 kilogrammes per hectare on similar land, which was held by Cheng Hsiao-jen, another Honan peasant.

Good Rice Harvest

Provinces south of the Yangtse river are preparing to reap a good rice harvest. Rice is already being harvested in Kwangtung, Kwangsi, south Kiangsi and south Hunan,

Fukien and other provinces. The yield is generally 10 to 20 per cent above last year's, and in some localities, has gone up by 30 per cent. In Hunan, known as China's rice bowl, teams of government cadres from local agricultural departments have been sent to the countryside to pick the winners in the 1952 nation-wide competition for rice yields.

More Silk

More and better Chinese silk will meet the growing demand at home and abroad this year. State concerns have recently completed purchases of spring silk in East China, which produces more than half the country's silk. Both quantity and quality are above previous years. Cocoon output this spring in East China exceeded by one-fifth the good spring yield last year. This year's output is expected to be twice that of 1949.

In addition to other measures of the People's Government to improve the quality of China's silk and rehabilitate the industry, the price policy of state concerns has played an important role in restoring China's sericulture. Controlled markets and low prices enforced under the Kuomintang regime brought bankruptcy to silkworm-breeders. Now the East China peasants are receiving good prices for their high quality silk, and silkworm-breeding is bringing a new prosperity to the villagers. After selling their cocoons, they are building new homes, buying new clothing and are planting more mulberry trees for an increased silk output next year.

Cinema Plan for 1952

In the current year, the State Film Studios in Peking, the North-east and Shanghai and the Associated Private Film Company in Shanghai are producing from 15 to 20 feature films and 30 newsreels about New China. Twelve newsreels depicting the peaceful construction of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies will also

be produced, as well as 26 documentaries, one animated cartoon and eight or nine educational films. These plans recently received final approval by the Government Administration Council.

In addition to these, 50 films from the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies will be dubbed with Chinese dialogue.

For the first time, many domestically-produced films are to be dubbed in the languages of China's minority peoples and the Cantonese dialect in order to meet the demands of the various areas.

Attendance at cinemas is expected to top last year's record, which was double that of 1950.

Cultural Ties With Hungary

July 12 marked the first anniversary of the *Chinese-Hungarian Cultural Agreement*. Peking's *People's Daily* featured an article on cultural relations between the Hungarian and Chinese peoples written by Erno Mihalyfi, Hungarian deputy minister of People's Culture and general secretary of the Hungarian National Peace Council. Hung Shen, director of the Liaison Bureau for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries of China, also commemorated the occasion in an article in Peking's *Kwangming Daily*.

In the past year, visits have been exchanged by several cultural and other people's delegations representing artists, scientists, trade unionists, women, youth and peace organisations. China and Hungary have exchanged books, magazines, pictures, records and other cultural items. The foundation was laid for the exchange of experts, professors and students, and the translation of books on science, literature and the arts.

News Briefs

An All-Army Sports Meet will be held in Peking on August 1 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese P.L.A. Competitive events will include horsemanship, obstacle races, motor cycling, weight lifting, gymnastics, volleyball, football, basketball, baseball matches, swimming, and track and field events. Competitions will also be held in singing, dancing and juggling.

Mrs. Monica Felton, Stalin Peace Prize winner, gave a report on the women's movement in Britain at a gathering of 800 people, mainly women, in Peking on July 13. She told how International Women's Day this year was commemorated by the National Assembly of Women in Britain, and how the peace movement is being developed in Britain.

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The Chinese people greeted with enthusiasm the news of the release of Andre Stil, editor of *l'Humanite*, on July 18. The Peking *People's Daily* and other papers frontpaged the news.

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China's state-owned coal mines in the first six months of this year achieved an almost two-third increase in coal output. It is 61.6 per cent above the output in the first six months of 1951, 3.9 per cent above the target set by the miners and the mining industry for the period.

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The People's Aviation Corporation of China has been inaugurated in Peking recently. Weekly flights will be resumed between Peking and Chungking from August 1, in addition to the present Hankow-Chungking and Chungking-Kunming services.

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Illiteracy was reduced by nearly 80% in a six-month literacy campaign that has just ended among the Chinese P.L.A. units in South China.

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A special detachment of the garrison units of the People's Liberation Army in Sikang province, equipped with farm tools, has arrived in the Taliang mountain area. It is starting large-scale reclamation work and farms using modern equipment, and will assist the local Yi people to improve their farming methods.

Chronicle of Events

July 8

Chairman Mao sends a message of congratulations on the second conference of the German Socialist Unity Party to Wilhelm Pieck, the party's chairman.

Hsinhua News Agency reports that an autonomous regional people's government was established on July 1

for the Li and Miao people in the western part of Hainan island.

July 9

Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai send messages of greetings to Chairman G. Bumatsende of the Presidium of the Great Hural and Chairman Tsendenbal of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Day.

July 10

Greetings are sent on the occasion of the party's 30th anniversary on July 15 to the Japanese Communist Party's Central Committee by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party.

July 11

The 1952 Sino-Polish Trade Agreement is signed in Warsaw.

July 12

Foreign Minister Chou En-lai issues a strong protest against the provocative raid on Antung by U.S. aircraft which killed and wounded 52 Chinese.

Hsinhua News Agency reports that a trade agreement was signed in Berlin on June 25 between representatives of the China National Import and Export Corporation and "Ostag," Limited, of Bonn, composed of a group of West German industrial and trading companies whose representatives had attended the International Economic Conference in Moscow.

A Chinese cinema workers' delegation sent by the People's Liberation Army leaves for Prague to join the first Army Film Festival of the Czechoslovak People's Armed Forces.

July 13

Chou En-lai, Minister for Foreign Affairs, announces China's recognition of the Geneva conventions of August 12, 1949 and of the "Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous and Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare" of June, 1925.

July 14

Two Chinese delegations leave Peking for Toronto to attend the 18th International Red Cross Conference which will begin on July 26.

The Sino-Bulgarian Cultural Co-operation Agreement is signed in Sofia.

July 15

A protocol extending and revising the "Agreement on Exchange of Goods and Payments between the People's Republic of China and the Czechoslovak Republic for 1951" is signed in Prague.

July 17

Hsinhua News Agency reports that between July 12 and 16, aircraft of the U.S. invading forces in Korea flew a total of 489 sorties in 93 groups over

Northeast China to carry out strafing and reconnaissance.

Nation-wide tribute is paid to the composer of the Chinese national anthem, Nieh Erh, on the 17th anniversary of his death.

July 18

Chi Chao-ting, secretary-general of the Chinese Committee for the Promotion of International Trade, leaves Peking for Vienna. He will attend the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Committee for the Promotion of International Trade scheduled for July 25.

Wang Chih-chieh, representative of the Chinese Railway Workers' Trade Union, leaves Peking to attend the 4th Administrative Committee meeting of the Land and Air Transport Workers' Trade Union International, to be held in Bucharest on July 23.

Six hundred and fifty overseas Chinese arrive in Canton from Malaya. They are the 18th group of overseas Chinese illegally deported by the British colonial authorities.

July 19

A Polish basketball team of 35 members arrives in Peking.

July 22

The National Day of the Republic of Poland is celebrated by the Chinese people.

July 25

The Chinese delegation to participate in the International Olympic Games leaves Peking for Helsinki.

LETTERS

Towards Prosperity

BOMBAY, INDIA

It has been a pleasure for me to have been given the privilege of going through your publication. It is a greater joy to note the astounding strides that China has made towards the prosperity and well being of its common masses within so short a time of its liberation. It has become unquestionable that the one conceivable way of attaining peace and security and happiness for the common man is the road China has shown.

M. GILL

Salute From Italy

TURIN, ITALY

We are proud to receive *People's China* regularly. This magazine is a very good weapon against warmongers. Receive from Turin the best salutations and our best wishes for your heroic struggle against the American invaders and for your aid to the wonderful Korean people.

SECRETARIAT,
Peace Defenders Committee
of Turin



The Chinese People's Red Army---Forerunner of the Chinese People's Liberation Army---crossing the snow-clad mountains on the Long March

Oil Painting by Wu Tso-jen