

People's 人民中国 China

December 16, 1951

CHINA BUILDS A NEW DEMOCRATIC ECONOMY

Ke Chia-lung

PORT ARTHUR AND DAIREN

Chow Hsueh-sheng

FROM BATAAN TO KOREA

Cpl. John L. Dixon, U.S. Army

12

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1951—A Year of Victories

Another historic year ends. New China, standing on the heights of its achievements, looks forward with confidence to the future.

It has been a memorable year. Mighty successes were secured in peaceful construction. Another telling blow was administered to the arrogant American aggressors.

The Chinese people's volunteers fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Korean People's Army hurled the imperialist invaders headed by the U.S. from the very borders of our land back to the 38th Parallel. They secured the peace of China. They gave the warmongers pause in their plans to unleash further aggressions against the people of Asia and the world.

This victory on the battlefield in defence of peace and humanity demonstrated anew that the people's forces fighting for a just cause are strong enough to smash the adventurist attacks of the warmongers. It has profoundly inspired the colonial and semi-colonial peoples in their struggle for freedom and independence. It has heartened the peace-loving peoples of the whole world. Can there be any doubt that the forces of the camp of world peace headed by the Soviet Union are stronger than those of war?

Together with this glorious victory, the Chinese people have continued their consolidation of the people's democracy and their advance to prosperity, under the leadership of Mao Tse-tung.

With the peaceful liberation of Tibet, the whole of continental China has been freed from the yoke of imperialism. With the land reform completed in an area with a rural population of over 310 millions, the age-old feudal system with its tyranny of feudal landlords and poverty has been basically eradicated. The movement for the complete suppression of counter-revolutionary agents of the imperialists will soon be basically accomplished. For the first time in history the people's revolutionary law and order reign throughout the land, giving security to the homes of the people.

These great national campaigns have brought about a great awakening of the people who now see with greater clarity the cannibalistic nature of the feudal landlords, the counter-revolutionaries and imperialists. This awakening is the source of the great upsurge of patriotism which has transformed the face of the country. The labour enthusiasm of the emancipated workers and peasants is unprecedented. Mighty forces of production have been unshackled by the national liberation. Under the leadership of the People's Government and the Communist Party, agricultural and industrial production has reached, or is on the way to reaching, peak pre-

liberation levels. In many branches these levels have been surpassed. It is on this basis that even in its second year the People's Republic has been able to put forth such efforts in national defence as well as raise the people's standard of living so impressively.

By these creative achievements and successful struggles against their enemies the people have still more firmly established their democratic dictatorship.

Nevertheless, the American aggressors have not given up their ill-starred plans of aggression in Asia. This has been shown at the Korean cease-fire talks. They continue to rearm Japan. They still hold Taiwan. They are building an aggressive bloc in the Pacific.

In these circumstances, the Chinese people are not satisfied with the present level of effort at home. What has already been achieved represents only a start on the tasks of New Democratic construction. This is why Chairman Mao Tse-tung in his recent address to the P.P.C.C. National Committee called for increased production and the practice of economy in support of the Chinese people's volunteers as "the central task of the Chinese people today".

As 1952 dawns, the whole nation, united as never before, advances to the further consolidation of its successes and to new tasks. Outstanding among these is the accumulation of the capital needed for the advance to industrialisation. In carrying out this task the New Democratic economy is already showing its superiority over the capitalist system. How do the two systems differ? The imperialist countries accumulated capital by the ruthless plunder of colonial and semi-colonial countries, and by the exploitation of their own working people. The New Democracy on the contrary—following the experience of the Socialist Soviet Union—is able to produce the capital investments for its great economic tasks by raising production and practising economy. In Northeast China, for example, the workers in state enterprises by increased efficiency of labour and fuller use of equipment, by speeding the turnover of capital and lowering costs of production, have by the end of October 1951 created extra wealth for the state equivalent to over ten million tons of grain. Such development of the potentialities of the emancipated toilers plus reliance on fraternal co-operation with the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies constitutes a guarantee of success.

It is such achievements that have made this year of 1951 so memorable in the history of the Chinese people, and to the peoples of the world who know that the strengthening of the New Democracy in China means the strengthening of a great force for world peace.

Beastliness Under the U.N. Flag

No indictment of the war criminals of imperialism could be more damning and conclusive than that contained in the statements by American prisoners of war in Korea, excerpts of which are printed in this issue.

In these statements, the American army stands self-accused of the wanton murder of the Korean civil population and of the butchery of unarmed prisoners of war. It is also revealed as a gang of marauders, thieves and rapists.

Were the acts described the excesses of a lawless and demoralized soldiery, it would be bad enough. The depositions we print, however, make it clear that American commanders actually ordered these crimes. "Our company commander ordered us not to take any prisoners," writes one man. "We were ordered to burn everything we saw, in fact every living thing," writes another.

Several soldiers testify further that the highest U.S. army authorities condoned and encouraged every species of atrocity. In the exceptional cases in which less hardened junior officers were revolted by some particularly foul deed and sent the perpetrators to base for court-martial, the soldiers say, "nothing ever happened."

In short, the voluntary depositions of large numbers of U.S. prisoners of war show that the American command, unable to give its troops any just cause why they should be fighting in Korea, has chosen to manufacture a substitute for morale by egging them on to rob and murder at will. This was the path of Hitler and Tojo.

The crimes the prisoners tell about are American. But let it not be forgotten that they are being

committed under the desecrated flag of the United Nations, which the rulers of the United States, with the connivance of their British and other satellites, have filched and covered with dirt and blood. Their exposure is a challenge to all the people of the U.N. member nations whose governments have sided with the U.S. invaders, but who do not want to bear the responsibility for these crimes, to rise up and demand an end to this vile adventure.

This new unmasking of American imperialism is a challenge to all Asian peoples to redouble their efforts for peace and against imperialist aggression. They may know the enemy they are facing by the following words of a U.S. army private describing the atrocities: "No one thought it was wrong as Korean lives didn't mean anything to the American soldiers who just burned and destroyed everything in sight." Such is the army of the politicians and warmongers who now demand atomic slaughter in Korea, and plan to launch new aggressions in Asia on the Korean pattern.

Why did the American soldiers who made these statements finally speak up? Their words themselves give the clue. The reason was the humane treatment they have enjoyed in the prisoner-of-war camps, which stands in such vivid contrast to that which their own troops inflict on the Korean people and prisoners of war.

The exposures now made must lead the honest people of the United States to turn their wrath against those who have perverted their sons and husbands and turned them into ravaging beasts. The U.S. army boasts that its training camps turn out "killers". The soldier who testified that American troops often committed atrocities "either for excitement or personal satisfaction" accurately described the results. Did any American mother raise her boy for this?

Let every American realise that wars in which people are killed for imperialist profit breed gangsters and murderers. Thus it was in fascist Germany and Japan. Thus it was in the other old imperialist countries which began their careers in bloody colonial wars and are now tottering under the blows of outraged peoples.

Let every mother in Britain, Canada, Australia, the Philippines and other American satellite countries also think on these things.

These revelations will arm the progressive people of the world with renewed tenacity and militancy in the fight for peace. The people have issued due warning to the war makers: the war criminals will not escape the people's justice.



"Police Action"

Cartoon by Jack Chen

China Builds A New Democratic Economy

Ke Chia-lung

During the short space of two years since its establishment, the people's rule has brought about a fundamental change in China's economic conditions.

The system of feudal exploitation in the country's agricultural economy has in the main been liquidated. The semi-colonial character of the national economy, its subservience to the dictates and needs of the imperialist powers, has been ended. The baneful remnants of these backward economic conditions of the past are being rapidly eliminated. Both agriculture and industry have been speedily rehabilitated and the output of their various branches is reaching or has surpassed peak pre-liberation levels. The reconstruction of old enterprises has made great advances. New construction forges ahead. A solid base has been laid for the further development of a prosperous New Democratic economy.

This transformation of China's whole economic structure is the fruit of the victory of the revolution led by the Communist Party. It is of far-reaching importance. It shows that the Chinese people, taking their destiny into their own hands, have defeated and routed the combined forces of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism not only in the battlefield, but in the economic sphere as well. Having won their freedom, they are rapidly building up an economic system which best serves their interests—the system of the New Democracy.

This system has already proved its superiority. It brings about a tremendous release of the hitherto stifled productive forces of society for increased production. It assures that the state sector of the national economy plays the leading role in relation to the other sectors—co-operative economy, peasant and handicraft economy, private capitalist economy and mixed state and capitalist economy—directing them to full development in the service of the people and thus preparing the way for a peaceful and continuous development to Socialism.

Vast Agricultural Changes

In the countryside, the land reform has been completed in areas inhabited by 310 millions. With the exception of areas inhabited by national minorities, it will be completed throughout China's mainland by the spring of 1952.

At one stroke, the land reform has swept or is sweeping away the feudal and semi-feudal system that has for centuries oppressed the peasants, shackling their productive forces. Before the land reform, landlords and rich peasants, who constitute less than 10 per cent of the rural population, owned from 70 to 80 per cent of the land. Poor peasants, farm labourers, middle peasants and others, forming 90 per cent of the rural population, owned the remaining 20 to 30 per cent of the land. Tenant peasants handed over half and in some cases 70 per cent and more of their produce as rent. In addition to many other forms of exploitation, such as forced labour,

this meant that despite their tireless efforts the peasants under the despotic feudal landlord system could barely earn enough to keep themselves alive.

The land reform has brought about a revolutionary change in the rural economy. The land used by the landlords for feudal exploitation has been confiscated and distributed among the landless or land-poor peasants. The landlords have ceased to exist as a class.

As a result, there has been a tremendous release of productive forces, an upsurge of labour enthusiasm, leading to better forms of labour organisation and rapid technical improvements in farming. All these factors, coupled with the powerful assistance of the People's Government, lead to the huge increases in agricultural production shown in the following table:

AGRICULTURAL ADVANCES

(With the maximum yearly production, generally 1936 or 1937, taken as 100)

Items	Production in 1950	Estimated Production in 1951
Grains	87.0	92.8
Cotton	83.7	133.0
Tobacco	24.1	130.5
Jute and hemp	114.7	227.1

This rate of recovery and advance is particularly impressive when it is remembered that decades of war and Kuomintang misrule reduced the nation's agricultural production to about three-quarters, and in some places two-thirds, of the 1936 level, the year before the Anti-Japanese War started.

Today, the Chinese people, drawing on their own resources, have enough to eat and enough to wear. They even have a food reserve. In the first half of 1951, China concluded agreements with India to export a total of 516,000 tons of grain to relieve the food shortage developing in that country.

China's rural economy at the present stage is, however, based on the individual economy of peasants. Land and farm implements are in general privately owned. Nevertheless the further development of agricultural economy in this country is determined by the New Democratic nature of the revolution which, led by the working class in close alliance with the peasantry, is the transitional stage towards Socialism. The People's Government has taken a series of political and economic measures that ensure the development of the rural economy to a higher, collective stage. Widespread political education and propaganda is being carried on to show the peasant masses that the New Democratic economic system serves their present and long-term interests best.

Through tax and price policies, the productive activities of the peasants have been integrated into the nation's over-all plans. State guidance has been given by means of bulk purchase of farm produce and loans and other services to cultivators. For instance, when the country needed more cotton in 1951, a call was issued to increase cotton production. Government

loans were granted to those cotton growers who needed funds to expand production. The state-trading organs undertook to buy up all the cotton the growers reaped at prices favourable to them, generally at the rate of one catty (1.102 lbs) of cotton to eight catties of grain. In this way, the target of increased cotton production was reached or even exceeded to the benefit both of the state and the individual peasants.

At the same time, the People's Government has carried on a successful struggle against natural calamities and pests. It has constructed large-scale irrigation works such as the Huai project, and the money it spent in 1950 and 1951 in this sphere is far more than the total spent similarly by the Kuomintang regime during its 22 years of rule.

Moreover, the People's Government has in every way encouraged the development of mutual-aid teams and other forms of agricultural co-operation. This has given swift results, for collective work invariably means higher productivity. In the northern part of Shensi province, for instance, the *per capita* crop yield on land cultivated by mutual-aid teams exceeds that of peasants working singly by 10 to 25 per cent. At present, a large number of peasants have organised mutual-aid teams. For example, in Northeast China, 70 per cent of the peasants are in mutual-aid teams; and in North China, 55 per cent. There are also over two hundred agricultural producers' co-operatives already operating in China. There are still very few state farms and they are experimental in nature. In the Northeast, they cultivate 1 per cent of that area's arable land.

By all these means, in 1951, with the exception of rubber, the country has solved wholly or almost wholly the question of supplies of the main agricultural products and industrial crops.

The chronic bankruptcy of the vast rural areas, of the overwhelming mass of the people has gone for good. The purchasing power of the peasant masses is steadily increasing. The demand for industrial goods rises. The peasants participate in a nation-wide patriotic emulation drive.

In short, the feudal economic conditions of the countryside have in the main been eliminated by the land reform. A New Democratic rural economy

has been created on the basis of the system of peasant land ownership. The leadership of the people's state and the dominance of the state sector in industrial production, foreign trade and other branches of the economy which we shall deal with below, assure the further development of agriculture towards a more advanced stage.

Industrial Reconstruction

The semi-feudal conditions of rural economy held back the production of food and agricultural raw materials and constricted the home market. This, in turn, held back the development of the nation's industrial production which was also strangled by the semi-colonial conditions imposed on it by the foreign imperialists.

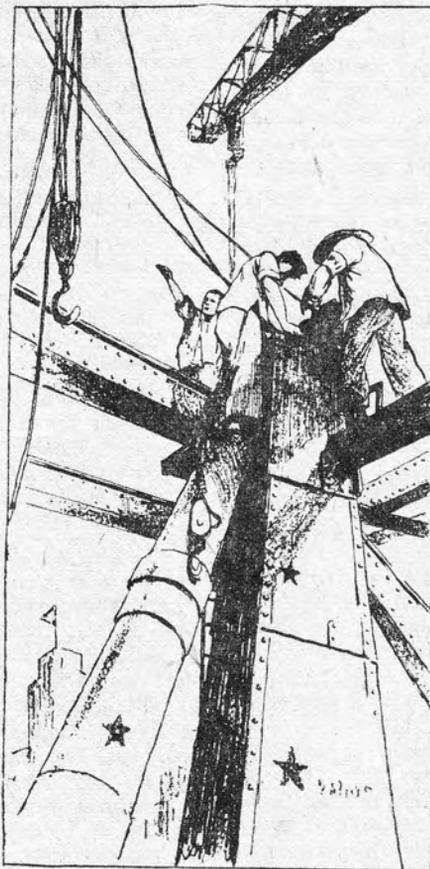
Foreign capital, in fact, completely dominated or monopolised the most important branches of industry. In their heyday, Japanese and British capital controlled the major part of the coal, iron, textile, tobacco and soap industries of the country.

By direct or indirect control, the imperialists and their native agents—the bureaucratic capitalists and landlords—geared old China's industry to the requirements of foreign capitalist interests. Preference was given to the light industries, while the machine-building industry, for instance, was practically non-existent. This was part of a deliberate policy of preventing the country's industrialisation.

Industrial production, concentrated in a few foreign-dominated coastal cities, was not intended to serve the masses but the privileged classes. In 1948, about 3,000 Shanghai factories produced such articles as silks, spring beds, canned food, flavouring ingredients and other goods that were then far beyond the purchasing power of the people.

The liberation drove the imperialists out of China and ended their economic privileges. Industry, which accounts for 10 per cent of the total value of the nation's production, has now been transformed from a weapon with which the imperialists and bureaucratic capitalists robbed the people into a servant of the people. It is being re-organised under the New Democratic system along the following lines.

All enterprises belonging to bureaucratic capitalists and those taken over by them from the Japanese imperialists have been confiscated and have be-



Building our country

Drawing by Mi Ku

come the property of the people's state. The state now produces nearly four-fifths of the total output of heavy industry and one-third of that of light industry. State enterprises already produce one-half of the output of modern factories and works.

Furthermore, the People's Government has done all it can to consolidate this state-owned sector, which is Socialist in nature, by giving it priority attention. It has put heavy new investments in it. There is no doubt that this economic sector will develop quickly into a still more powerful instrument under whose leadership the whole national economy will march forward further along the path of the New Democracy.

The enterprises owned by the national bourgeoisie have been freed from the oppression of foreign and bureaucratic capitalist monopolies. Wherever they are beneficial to the nation's needs and the people's livelihood, they are protected and encouraged by the People's Government.

The discrepancy between the production and distribution of industrial products—an inevitable phenomenon under a semi-colonial economy—has been ended. In the past, for instance, China produced large quantities of iron ore and pig iron for export, but imported nearly all the finished steel products the country needed. Now the whole chain of production from iron ore to finished steel products is co-ordinated. Such co-ordination of industrial production has created favourable conditions for China's future planned economy.

In re-organising the economy, some industries have been rapidly rehabilitated and have even expanded production. Others are only slowly recovering. Still others, not needed by the people, have ceased operations. The manufacture of new farm tools is enjoying an unprecedented boom, for example, while production of luxury goods has greatly declined.

By eliminating its semi-colonial dependence and by re-organisation along New Democratic lines, China's industry has achieved a rapid rehabilitation and expansion, as the following table shows:

TABLE SHOWING THE RECOVERY AND EXPANSION OF SOME MAIN INDUSTRIES IN 1950 AND 1951

(The maximum production level is taken as 100 for south of the Great Wall in 1936 and for Northeast China in 1943)

Items	Production in 1950	Estimated Production in 1951
Pig iron	48.5	64.0
Steel ingot	68.5	97.0
Steel products	67.0	120.0
Cement	65.7	107.0
Copper	253.0	333.0
Glass	119.5	138.0
Soda (caustic)	82.1	244.0
Soda (pure)	97.1	124.0
Cotton yarn	100.3	105.9
Cotton cloth	108.7	113.5
Paper	114.5	155.0
Tyres	66.0	196.0

The basis is thus being laid for the future industrialisation of the country, the pre-requisite for the achievement of real economic independence and a prosperous life for the people.

The rapid rehabilitation and reconstruction of industry have been facilitated by the movement for

democratic management which assures fuller participation of the workers in factory administration. There is a nation-wide upsurge of labour enthusiasm. A recent report shows that 2,222,000 workers have been participating in the patriotic drive to increase production in 1951. More than 24,800 of the rationalisation proposals submitted by the workers were accepted and put into practice during 1950. This resulted in increased labour efficiency, lower production costs, and better and more production. Up to the end of October 1951, workers in Northeast China's state enterprises have already produced extra wealth equivalent to over 10,000,000 tons of grain by more efficient production and economies.

New Lines in Foreign Trade

An equally fundamental change has been brought about in China's formerly semi-colonial status in the sphere of foreign trade. For more than a century, the country was forced by the imperialists to serve as a dumping ground for their surplus goods and as a supplier of cheap raw materials. Today the customs administration, which was formerly in the hands of the imperialists, has been returned to its rightful owners, the Chinese people. It implements China's own foreign trade policy designed to protect her agriculture and industry and facilitates her economic reconstruction.

This new protective policy fosters imports only of those goods really needed by the country. Non-essential consumer goods are no longer imported. The bulk of imports now consists of industrial equipment and materials. All this stands in sharp contrast with the past.

In 1932, under the reactionary Chiang Kai-shek government, foodstuffs such as rice, wheat and sugar occupied 20.75 per cent of the total value of imports for that year, while cotton, cotton cloth and cotton products took up another 19.88 per cent. This was an extraordinary state of affairs for an agricultural country like China with its vast potentialities.

Four years later, in 1936, the Kuomintang squandered the people's foreign currency reserve by importing manufactured and semi-manufactured goods and textiles to the amount of 76.32 per cent of the total value of that year's imports. Machinery and tools amounted to only 6.37 per cent, and chemical raw materials, for 9.37 per cent of total imports.

From V-J Day in 1945 until their liberation, the Kuomintang-controlled areas were literally flooded with non-essential American imports such as cloth, plastic goods, cigarettes, patent medicines, soap, tooth paste, nylon stockings, lipsticks and even toilet paper. China's home industries were strangled.

All this was entirely changed when the people came to power in 1949. The imports of equipment and raw materials for industrial production have steadily increased both relatively and absolutely. One fact typifies the new principles of China's foreign trade: industrial equipment and materials account for over 97 per cent of this year's imports from the Soviet Union.

On the other hand, the People's Government has been taking all necessary measures to encourage exports of surplus agricultural and livestock pro-

duce, minerals and handicraft products. As a result, the total value of exports in 1950 and again in 1951 has exceeded that in any year since 1931. If the total value of exports in 1936 is taken as 100, then the export index is 134 for 1950 and 160 for 1951. State-trading organisations accounted for 53.29 per cent of exports and 70.52 per cent of imports.

China has also given a new orientation to her foreign trade. She trades more and more with the Socialist Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, and less and less with capitalist countries, which tried to keep her a perpetual semi-colony.

In 1936, the United States took up 22.54 per cent of the total value of China's foreign trade; only 0.35 per cent, a negligible amount, went to the Soviet Union. In 1946, the United States took as much as 53.10 per cent of China's foreign trade. This trend was completely reversed in 1950. Trade between New China and the Soviet Union rose sharply to 23.36 per cent to occupy the first place. Moreover, this new trend continued in the current year, as the following table shows:

CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN 1950 AND 1951

Country	Imports, 1950	Imports, 1951 (estimated)
Soviet Union	19.84%	44.70%
People's Democracies	1.37%	25.33%
Capitalist countries	78.79%	29.97%

Country	Exports, 1950	Exports, 1951 (estimated)
Soviet Union	26.58%	51.51%
People's Democracies	3.87%	26.43%
Capitalist countries	69.55%	22.06%

The significance of this new orientation in China's foreign trade lies in the fact that while capitalist countries employed business transactions as a means of keeping China industrially undeveloped and economically dependent on them, economic co-operation and trade agreements between this country and the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies are based entirely on friendship and mutual benefit. For example, Soviet machinery and industrial equipment has been 20 per cent or more lower in cost than that imported from capitalist countries.

As a result of the above changes, China's foreign trade for the first time in 73 years showed a favourable balance and its total volume in 1950 was the largest since 1931.

In this connection, it is worth noting that the illegal embargo, imposed on New China by the American-British imperialists, has hardly affected her economy. They have again failed in their attempt to frustrate China's drive for economic independence. However, this country will continue to follow the policy outlined in Article 57 of the *Common Programme*, namely, to "restore and develop commercial relations with foreign governments and peoples on a basis of equality and mutual benefit."

This process of rehabilitation, expansion and re-organisation of the rural economy, of industry and foreign trade has also characterised other key branches of New China's economy, which will not be dealt with in detail in this article.

In transport, for instance, the people's state owns all of the country's railways. The freight carried

in 1950 considerably surpassed pre-liberation records. The state owns 41.2 per cent of the nation's coastal and river shipping which was mostly in foreign hands in the past. The state owns 30 per cent of all commercial lorries.

The reform of currency and banking has played a key part in economic reconstruction. For the first time in China's history, the currency system has been unified and stabilised on a nation-wide scale. The inflation that plagued the country for 12 years was finally checked in early 1950. Today the People's Bank has the money market under effective control.

The co-operative movement has made giant strides. Co-operative membership rose from five million in 1949 to 51 million by June, 1951. Co-operative economy, which is semi-Socialist in nature, is powerfully reinforcing the leadership of the state-owned sector of the national economy.

These developments have given the domestic market all the healthy characteristics of advance. Speculation and hoarding have become a thing of the past. Growing national prosperity, stable currency and prices have facilitated a great expansion of domestic trade in which state-trading organisations and co-operatives play a big role. They accounted for 16 per cent of all domestic trade in 1950 and 22 per cent in 1951.

Fruits of Victory

These fundamental changes in the semi-feudal and semi-colonial economic conditions of China have been achieved by the victory and the strengthening of the people's democratic dictatorship. They are the results of the selfless labour of the workers and peasants, the ever firmer unity of the people around the Communist Party and the People's Government and the cementing of their solidarity with their friends throughout the world, particularly the U.S.S.R.

These victories are all the more impressive because they have been achieved in the face of serious difficulties. They have been accomplished while the People's Liberation Army was still completing the liberation of the whole country, while the people were giving mighty support to their heroic volunteers in defeating the attempt of the American aggressors to over-run Korea and menace their country from its northeastern border. They were achieved despite the vicious U.S.-led imperialist attempts to cripple China by an illegal embargo.

The Chinese people have thus been able to deal telling counter-blows to the American aggressors and at the same time make vast strides in the reconstruction and development of their national economy.

Much has already been done. Great improvements have been made in the living standards of the masses. Yet this construction of a New Democratic economy is only at the start of its course. The leadership of the state economic sector must be consolidated and further developed. Economic planning must be strengthened and expanded, preparing for the nation's industrialisation. The other sectors of the economy must be developed still more fully in service of the people. This will ensure still more rapid advances towards the further aims of the New Democracy—lasting peace and prosperity for the people.

New China's Postal Services

Tai Hsiao-chung

In the days before liberation China's Postal Service was the tool of the reactionaries—the feudal landlords, the bureaucratic capitalists and the imperialists.

It was in fact established in this country to serve the imperialist aggressors. After the signing of the Nanking Treaty of 1842 the British imperialists set up postal agencies in the treaty ports and, later, the rest of the signatories to the Treaty followed suit. Later on the Customs Administration began to carry these mails, but in 1898 this Customs Post was separated from the Customs Administration and T. Piry, a Frenchman, became its executive head. All important posts were held by Englishmen and Frenchmen. Even as late as 1922, there were as many as 459 foreign agencies carrying posts. Serving the interests of the imperialists and their agents, their consular officials, foreign merchants, compradors and missionaries, the Postal Service was extended from the ports to the interior. Though the then Chinese government nominally took charge of all the postal services throughout the country, following the Washington Conference in 1922, it was actually left in the hands of the Co-Director-General, H. Picard-Destelan who, with his foreign assistants as the heads of the post offices in the large cities of the country, continued to use the Service for the imperialists. Later, with the defeat of the 1924-27 Revolution the control of the Postal Service fell into the hands of the reactionary Kuomintang. An Army P.O. was organised to aid the Kuomintang in its fight against the people's forces. A censorship of mails was instituted and many progressives fell into its trap, were persecuted, thrown into prison or murdered. The bogus Postal Workers' Union headed by Loh Ching-sze, a secret service agent, was used to help suppress the anti-Kuomintang movements organised by the revolutionary workers and progressives in Shanghai and other cities.

Achievements After Liberation

New China's Postal Service made its debut in 1938 in the liberated areas, when the People's Liberation Army began the war of resistance against the Japanese invaders. Most postal workers were armed in those days for they had to run the enemy blockade and operate in guerilla areas. Many are the tales of their heroism.

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of the Central People's Government was established late in 1949 and took charge of the two services. It is headed by the well-known trade union leader Chu Hsueh-fan. In less than two years, an efficient, nation-wide organisation has been set up to serve the interests of the people.

The length of the postal routes at the end of July 1951 has been increased by 94 per cent as compared with that of 1937, and the number of offices

and agencies already exceeded that of 1949 by 96 per cent. The monthly average of mail matter posted in the first half of 1951 exceeded that of 1949 by 9 per cent which means an increase of several millions of deliveries a month. The monthly average weight of parcels registered an increase of 20 per cent in the above-mentioned period.

To promote mutual understanding and further cordial relations among the peoples of the world, New China's post office exchanges mail with all the nations. Strengthening the ties with the Socialist Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, postal and telecommunication agreements have been concluded with the U.S.S.R., Poland, Korea and the German Democratic Republic.

Expanding Rural Services

Over 80 per cent of China's population are peasants. Special attention is therefore being given to the rural areas and much has been achieved with

the co-operation of the peasants. By July 1951, the rural postal routes had been extended to 692,435 kilometres, with 41,901 offices. In areas where the land reform is in progress or has been completed, the rural posts are being rapidly expanded in order to keep pace with the growing needs of the peasants freed from the landlords' yoke. For example, 2,888 of the 3,927 villages covered by the postal routes in Che-

kiang province after the land reform are visited daily by the rural postmen. There is a large and growing business in remittances handled by the rural post offices. In November 1950, over 120,000 money orders to the value of 4,500 million yuan were issued. By the end of January 1951 the number of many orders issued was doubled with a total value of 11,500 million yuan.

Spreading the News

In addition to these normal services, however, the Post Office undertakes several other novel services for the people.

Utilising the experience of the Soviet Union, the Post Office undertakes the work of collecting subscriptions to and distributing newspapers. This is held as an important political task and no less important than handling letters. Every effort is made to increase the circulation of the nation's newspapers to bring one or more copies to each village.





In the reading room run by the G.P.O. in Peking's famed Peihai Park

By the end of July 1951, the circulation of newspapers was increased by 278 per cent and that of magazines by 1,166 per cent compared with January 1950. No small part of this phenomenal increase goes to the credit of the Post Office and its carriers.

Postmen visit schools, factories, mines and isolated villages. They speak in the words and dialect familiar to their audiences and relate the current events which most interest them, stressing the advantages of newspaper reading. Rural Postmen in particular have helped by organising reading groups among the peasants, in which one reads the newspaper while the others listen. These reading groups play a big role in keeping the peasants informed of the government's policies and of current events in China and the world. Thus in town and country these little cultural centres are set up, and subscriptions increased. The competition in this work is keen. In some districts, the whole body of workers of the office vie with each other in making record subscription gains. The Kweilin post office, for instance, organised 1,008 reading groups in the month of last May and Tientsin added 983 to its list in August alone. The Shanghai post office set up 600 circulation groups in factories with 2,071 members, and 300 in schools with a membership of 2,000. Through their efforts, the circulation of the magazine *Youth* was increased from 5,600 to 100,000 copies within a few months. These are but a few examples showing the enthusiasm with which the postal workers of New China help spread the news to every nook and corner of the country.

Shopping Through the Post

Another new feature of the Postal Service is the facilities which the people now enjoy in ordering through the Post Office all kinds of goods ranging from handicrafts like the world-renowned Hunan embroidery, Foochow lacquer and Kiangsi porcelain, to all sorts of popular brands of manufactured articles. Delivery is prompt, and good quality guaranteed. Clients are very satisfied with the service rendered and the calls on it are growing, particularly in areas after the land reform where the peasants can now afford small luxuries, such as cakes of

scented soap, machine-made stockings, etc. The peasants can now also sell the products of their subsidiary occupations through the Post Office. As there are more than 40,000 P.O. branches throughout the country, it is able to render great assistance to the co-operative societies in effecting a smooth interflow of goods between city and countryside, especially in those areas where the co-operative societies are still weak.

The volume of such orders handled by the Post Office is steadily mounting. In the single month of July 1951, the Hunan office received orders for 6,804 parcels, and the Kiangsi office for 4,928 parcels of different kinds of goods. Of the goods ordered by the countryside, fountain pens made in Shanghai and stationary supplies top the list. This shows that the emancipated peasants are not only better off, but are also eager to learn.

Finding Lost Relatives

In the course of the eight years' struggle against Japan followed by three years of war for the liberation of China, many families were separated and lost connections with each other. After hostilities ended, and conditions returned to normal, there were many happy reunions, but still there remained many severed ties. In order to help people find lost relatives and friends the Post Office has instituted an information service which uses its nation-wide network of branches and close associations with the people to re-establish lost connections between separated families and friends. The usefulness of this novel department of Post Office work cannot be underestimated.

Publicity

To acquaint the people, particularly the peasants, with what the Post Office is doing, what it can do for them and how they can avail themselves of the facilities offered, the Service has a special department for publicity work with nation-wide branches. It acts through the medium of the press, radio and cinema, by posters, pamphlets and hand-bills. Public opinion is consulted on how to improve the Service. Meetings are organised to gather opinions from people in all walks of life. Special forms of publicity are used in the countryside. Publicity meetings are enlivened by popular folk dances and other entertainments by the cultural troupe organised by the postal workers themselves and have proved a most effective way of publicising the work of the Post Office. Publicity

CORRECTIONS: In Vol. IV No. 10 p. 4 col. 1 para. 3. for sentence in line 7 beginning "Three hundred..." read: "Land reform has been completed in areas with a rural population of 310 millions." On p. 10 col. 1 last para. for 3,950,000 read 245,000; col. 2, para. 2, line 3 from bottom, for 170 billion read 1,700 billion. On p. 11 para. 2, the last sentence should read: "Today, for example, some 55 per cent of North China's peasants are in mutual-aid teams." P. 15 col. 1 para. 2, for 81% in line 8 read 70%; for 81% in line 11 read 73%. On p. 23 col. 2, para. 5 of the table, for 144 read 146. On p. 26 col. 1 para. 1, for 781,754 read 71,754. On p. 27 col. 2 para. 3, line 7 should read: "bosses put no capital into transport and did no work." On p. 28 col. 1 last para. for 1941 read 1951.

In the last issue, Vol. IV No. 11, in the box on p. 13 for 120,000 acres read 120,000 hectares.

work is also done by the mobile service corps with their slogan of "Serve you on the spot". These travelling offices sell postage stamps, newspapers, magazines, accept letters, ordinary or registered, and issue postal orders. They cover a wide field. They are a boon to the peasants particularly in out of the way parts. They extend their services to schools, factories, athletic meets, exhibitions, parks and even to the platforms of railway stations in the large cities for the convenience of travellers.

Owing to shortage of staff, part of this work is done with the assistance of volunteers in off-duty hours in response to the call made through the Trade Union. Shanghai's post office organised 59 publicity corps in June and July of the year with a membership of 879, all of whom were volunteers. The job was done during their free time and they served a total of 45,663 people in two months.

Bright Future

The improvements and achievements of the People's Postal Service during the past two years would have been impossible without this selfless labour and enthusiasm of the whole body of postal workers. The state has given them a new and honoured status in a Service entirely administered by the people for the people. They enjoy security with the full benefits of the *Labour Insurance Regulations*. Conscious of the important part they play in the reconstruction of their Motherland, they launched a nation-wide emulation campaign and have competed with each other for the honour of the title of model workers. In the offices, sorters and clerks have introduced many rationalisation proposals. Nearly every branch has its patriotic pact. Postal workers

have contributed to the fund for planes and heavy equipment for the volunteers in Korea. Many have volunteered for communication and transport work. Women workers on a basis of complete equality with men are now entering new fields of Post Office work. The first seven postwomen took up their jobs in Peking this year. As a result of all these efforts the Service has been greatly improved and revenue increased.

In keeping with the rapid progress the nation has made in its gigantic work of rehabilitation and reconstruction, the postal service has expanded by leaps and bounds in the past two years. Much, however, remains to be done to perfect and streamline the Service to meet the ever-growing needs of the people.

With the completion of land reform throughout the country, with the general prosperity that comes in its wake and the gradual eradication of illiteracy, there will be a still greater demand for postal services. The aim now is to establish in every village an up-to-date post office where a peasant can talk over the wire with, or send a telegram to, his friend or relative in any part of the country, where he can post a letter or place an order for goods or subscribe to any newspaper or magazine.

With the extension of civil air lines and the postal routes covering every corner of the country, all mail will be carried by the quickest means of conveyance and delivery effected with a promptness never seen before. The postal service will thus bring a fully efficient service to the people, fully promoting the political, economic and cultural aims of the New Democracy.

They Find Lost Persons

One of the most appreciated services rendered by the Post Office is that of tracing lost relatives. Much energy, patience and ingenuity are applied by postal workers in carrying out this service.

One man, Wu Ki-shun, lost track of his mother in 1937 during the confusion that arose when his village was invaded by the Japanese. Then only fourteen years old, Wu had to fend for himself, and after many hardships found his way to one of the liberated areas where he joined the army. After liberation, Wu went with his unit to Hofei, Anhwei province, and applied to the post office to help him trace his mother. The post office forwarded the application to Tatung, a city on the Yangtze river, and from there a postal worker was sent to Hoyuchou, the village where Wu and his mother had lived many years earlier. The place had been burned to the ground and was quite unrecognizable from Wu's description, but the postal worker began calling on every Wu listed. Everyone said the old lady had probably been killed in the Japanese bombardment; no one knew anything about her.

Not to be baffled, the postal worker studied the application again and saw that the woman had once taught primary school. He renewed his investigations with everyone connected with the school. Again his search proved futile.

Back in Tatung the postal worker got permission from the city government to search the district education department's file of school teachers. He searched in vain. However, a government cadre who had been impressed by the zeal with which he saw this man working and had inquired what he was doing, wondered whether the person for whom the postal worker was hunting might be an old lady teaching in a school in the village where he lived. He told the postal worker who immediately made for Tungchia village and sure enough the old lady turned out to be the Mrs. Wu for whom he was looking. It happened that Mrs. Wu had changed her name, making it difficult to trace her from the records. After thirteen years, through the diligence of the postal worker, mother and son were brought together again.

From Bataan to Korea

Corporal John L. Dixon, U.S. Army

Recently the United States of America, Britain, Australia and other nations signed what they are pleased to call a "peace treaty" with Japan. They signed it almost exactly ten years after Japanese bombers treacherously attacked the U.S. navy at Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941. These two facts should give us all food for thought—serious thought.

I have a right to talk to my people, the American people, about these things. I have been a soldier in the United States army for ten years. I began to fight Japan a few days after Pearl Harbour. I was a prisoner of the Japanese army for three and a half years. I was in the "death march" of Bataan and came out alive. In 1950 I was sent to fight in Korea where I was captured by the Chinese volunteers. I have seen a lot and learned more.

I would like to tell a story—a story packed with horror, desperate courage and incredible suffering. It is about how I, and thousands of other Americans and British, suffered in the hands of the Japanese imperialists the last time they were a strong military nation. I hope, after reading my narrative, that many thousands of other men who also suffered under the Japanese will come forward and tell their stories. The peace-loving people—and these are all the ordinary people of the world—need to be reminded of these facts. Never again must Japan be allowed to rearm to threaten the peace and security of other nations. We, the common people, can foil the schemes of the imperialist warmongers in our country to rearm Japan.

Surrender to Japanese Fascists

I joined the army on May 1, 1941. I was shipped to the Philippine Islands for basic training and assigned to the Chemical Warfare Branch of the army there. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour, we were told that the U.S. was at war with Japan. A few days after the attack I was transferred to the air corps and put on a machine-gun nest to protect Nichols Field in Manila. Soon two hundred twin-engined bombers attacked our field and stayed there till they had destroyed all the installations. That night we moved out in a big boat and sailed to the peninsula of Bataan. I was transferred to the

Corporal Dixon, RA 19003088, Co."L" 19 Regt., 24 Div. U.S. Army, writes about his life before he entered the army: "My name is John L. Dixon. I was born in Ventura, California, on August 25, 1921. My father fought with the 4th Division in Europe in World War I. My grandfather was Indian-American and my grandmother was English. I am a Mission Indian. I attended school at Sherman Institute, Riverside, California and my home at that time was Palm Springs Indian Reservation. My present home address is 557 Harrison Street, San Jose, California. While at school I was taught two trades, shoe-repairing and baking. I left school at the age of 18. I could not obtain employment in the trades I had been taught and I was forced to take up employment as a farm labourer. The wages I received as a farm labourer were insufficient to keep me so I decided to join the army."

infantry—the 31st Infantry—the only American infantry in the islands.

I fought in the biggest battles, the battles of San Fernando and Lemi. However, the Japanese were too strong for us. A month after the battle of Lingayen Gulf, we were forced to surrender. Shortly before this, General MacArthur had left by submarine for Australia. He claimed President Roosevelt had given him orders to withdraw. It was General Wainwright, who was left in command, who ordered all the troops on the Bataan peninsula to surrender. When MacArthur left, he had said there were hundreds of planes and thousands of troops on the way to help us. We waited and held the ground until it was no longer possible to do so. No help came. All the men were incensed by MacArthur's lie.

We surrendered by running up white flags made from white sheets in the hospital. When the Japanese came in, they pretended to be friends, smiling and shaking hands with us. This was because some G.I.'s still had their rifles and ammunition. Immediately after they had collected the rifles, the Japanese began to get rough, slapping and even killing some of the soldiers.

The Death March of Bataan

The Bataan Death March began on April 18, 1942. The Japanese were going to move the P.O.W.'s to a place called Camp O'Donnell in Tarlac province, 85 miles from Manila. We were all lined up in columns of four and told to march. We were told if anyone broke column he would be shot. We had no food and no water. Even before surrendering, men had been hungry and sick because the U.S. fleet under Admiral Hart was withdrawn to Hawaii, leaving no supplies. Many men fell down and were brutally kicked by our guards. When the prisoners saw muddy water by the roadside, some would break column to drink it—scooping it up with their hands. For doing this they were shot or bayoneted by the guards.

All through that nightmare march I could hear men ahead of me screaming and begging for their lives. As we walked along we passed Japanese

troops who picked up rocks and sticks and threw them at us. Many of the men were so sick from disease, hunger and thirst that they collapsed on the road. These were either shot or bayoneted by the guards.

I was very sick myself with malaria fever and dysentery. Also a wound in my arm was giving me pain. I just walked automatically, under the boiling sun, not knowing when I was going to die. As we walked along that road of death, Filipino people put cans of water and rice balls wrapped in newspaper at the side of the road for us. Some men were lucky enough to grab this food and devour it without being seen. If anyone was seen eating it he would either be shot, beaten or have the food taken from him and thrown on the ground. Many of the men's tongues were badly swollen and sticking out of their mouths through thirst, but they marched on. Those that couldn't march were left to die.

Prisoners of Hirohito

We walked for six days and reached a town called San Fernando. Here the Japanese decided to put some of the wounded on trucks and I was one of the lucky ones. I was taken by truck to Manila to an old Spanish prison called Bilibid. This was the first prison I had ever been in.

On arrival at the prison we were formed into squads of ten. We were told that if one man escaped from a squad, the remaining nine would be shot or beheaded. Some men did escape—their squads were executed. When men who had escaped were brought back we were all paraded to witness the execution.

In this prison we were given two meals a day, of very watery rice and a very small amount of salt. We received no medical attention of any kind. Every day from fifty to a hundred men died from lack of medical treatment and the bad living conditions. These deaths were caused by malaria, dysentery and wet and dry beri-beri. These sicknesses could have been prevented by adequate food. In spite of sickness, the men were sent out to work. If they didn't work they were beaten, sometimes to death, with clubs, poles and rifle butts.

In the latter part of 1943, the American troops pushing up from Australia began coming close to the Philippine Islands. The Japanese moved us to Manila where they packed us into the hold of a cargo ship bound for Japan. On the ship, we got one rice ball a day with a little salt. The voyage was horrible. Many men died and were cast overboard to be eaten by sharks. After eight days we reached Osaka in Japan.

On arriving at Osaka we were put into a train to a place called Negata. Here we were taken to a small building where each man got an overcoat with a number written in it. From then on we were known by numbers, no name. My number was 430. When they wanted me they would call *Yon Hyaku San Ju* (Japanese for 430). When they lined us up, stripped to the waist, outside in the cold to receive

physical examination, the prisoners were so thin it was possible to count their ribs with my finger. They were half-dead and half-alive. This town was extremely cold. During winter it snowed five to six feet. We didn't have medical treatment. Sick prisoners were taken to a shack near the camp and left to die quietly.

Slave Labour for Big Business

All the time we were at this camp, we were made to work for a big Japanese businessman who owned a big coalyard and docks. We unloaded coal ships for him. We worked every day of the year; there was no rest. The food was not sufficient for the hard work we had to do.

During the very cold weather that food would barely keep us alive. As a result, we grew very weak and could not push the heavy coal cars. Our legs could hardly move. Some men fell down, crying for weakness. The Japanese guards would grab them, beat them, and make them carry on working. In the intense cold our hands were frozen and our fingers so stiff we could hardly move them. Still, we worked on.

When work was finished, we ran through the snow to our camp eight miles away. We ran to keep warm. We were glad to pile into the small barn which was our home. There was no heat of any kind. We piled up in the straw on the ground like a bunch of animals, trying to keep warm with the heat from each other's body.

Most of the guards didn't talk to us in English but in Japanese, which we could not understand. If we were told to do something and did not do it because we did not understand, we were punished. So we very quickly learned to speak Japanese.

After three and a half years of hell under the Japanese, I was finally liberated and returned to my



home in America. On my return, I continued my life as a soldier in the United States army.

How I Was Sent to Korea

In 1948, I was sent overseas again, this time to Okinawa. From here, being a veteran of World War II and an infantryman, I was sent to Korea to take part in the so-called "police action" in September 1950. I was transferred to "L" Company, 3rd Battalion, 19th Regiment of the 24th Infantry Division.

On my arrival in Korea, I was genuinely under the impression that we were taking part in a police action which was to restore peace and order in Korea. We were told, and at this time I believed, that North Korea had attacked South Korea. But after a month or so of fighting in Korea I began to see that this was not so. On the first day I joined the 24th Division, I was sent into battle at Taegu, on Hill 300 where we dug foxholes. That evening the North Koreans attacked us with automatic weapons, grenades and mortars. There was a low mist and the North Koreans did not see us. We waited until they were about one hundred yards away before opening fire and repulsed this attack. We also suffered, losing about one-third of our men. The North Koreans continued attacking, night and day. They showed a brave and tenacious spirit, the spirit of men fighting for a cause, just as we had when fighting the Japanese on Bataan in 1942. At first I often wondered why they fought so bravely. But after advancing northward and seeing the destruction of their homes and beautiful cities and the slaughter of the civilians by American aircraft, I realised the reason.

The North Korean troops annihilated whole regiments and companies of American troops. This also brought it home to me that we were not in a "police action" but full-scale warfare. It was after crossing the 38th Parallel that I witnessed the truly wanton nature of the attack on North Korea. I began to realise that these people did not present any threat to the United States, but that we were presenting a very real threat to China by carrying the war to her borders. How would we react if China were to invade our neighbour, Mexico, and bomb our cities on the Mexican border? We would surely not tolerate this and would take immediate steps to eliminate the threat to our homeland. This is exactly what the Chinese volunteers did when they entered the war. They entered the war in defence of their homeland.

Captured by Chinese Volunteers

After advancing north of Pyongyang, we were forced to withdraw by the Chinese volunteers. This was in December 1950. I was taken prisoner by the volunteers on the first of January 1951, when my battalion was dug in on the 38th Parallel. A R.O.K. (South Korean) division retreated and left our flank open. We were unaware that we were surrounded till we saw rifle fire in our rear. We were ordered

to withdraw but it was too late. We tried to fight our way out and rejoin our own troops in the rear. But we came face to face with the volunteers.

By their infantry tactics, I could see that the Chinese volunteers were well schooled in the art of war. They fought very heroically, just as the North Koreans had. The volunteers knew what they were fighting for, we did not. Our platoon commander was killed in action. The volunteers fired over our heads to indicate to us that further resistance was useless. The only course open to us was to surrender. I threw my rifle upon the ground and raised my hands above my head. The Chinese volunteers came toward me smiling in a friendly manner. They shook my hand and said in English, "Do not worry, we are friends." These were the same men who had fought with us only a few years previously against the Japanese imperialist troops. It is a tragedy that events since the cessation of World War II have made us fight each other.

Just before I was captured, some of my buddies had remarked, "They are surely going to kill us now." But I was certainly surprised when, instead of killing us, the volunteers shook our hands and gave us cigarettes. I was very relieved that my worries about being killed were unfounded. I was taken to a Korean village and put into a warm room to sleep and given warm food to eat.

"What a Difference!"

Shortly afterwards we began our march north to our present prison camp. We had to march because the railways had been bombed and road transportation was very difficult. But what a difference between this march and the Bataan Death March! We marched about ten or twelve miles a day, with halts for rest. When we stopped for the day, we were put into warm rooms and given plenty of hot food to eat. We were given tobacco and the volunteers shared their tobacco with us. Also they took precautions against air-raids on our behalf. The Chinese volunteer guards even shared their clothing with some of our men who were cold.

We marched at night because it was feared our own aircraft would attack us by day. We slept during the day. During this march, I very often thought of the Bataan Death March when I had been a prisoner before. There is just no comparison. We were treated with consideration and kindness by the volunteers and the spirit existing between us was cordial and friendly. They had told us that when we laid down our arms we would be friends, and this was certainly so.

If any man fell sick, he was left in good hands until he was fit to resume the march. Some who had bad feet rode on bullock carts. Many times I thought of what we had been told by our American officers back on the front lines. We had been told that if we were taken prisoner we would either be killed or very badly ill-treated. I have since

(Continued on page 25)



Cotton-picking on a farm in Shensi province. Mutual-aid teams raise production, speed up harvest work

COTTON FOR THE PEOPLE

China's textile industry has been transformed. Freed from imperialist domination, it is now working for the people. The problem of raw materials has been solved by the peasants' enthusiastic response to the call of the People's Government to expand cotton acreage. In 1950, cotton yarn production was 16 per cent and cotton cloth production 7.3 per cent above the 1936 level. Enough cotton textiles are produced to meet the nation's urgent needs.



After sale to the co-operatives and state-trading agencies, cotton is baled for delivery to the factories



A model worker in the spinning department



Waste per worker of the previous fig- tion costs. The g

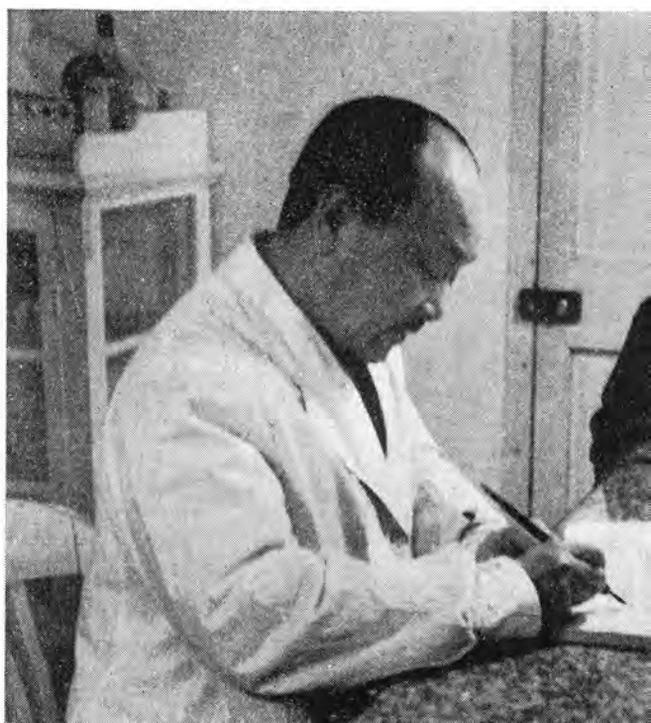
During a break workers relax with popular magazines



A MODEL COT

The Heng Yuan Cotton Mill in Tientsin is a m
Workers and owners work together to increase pr
management conferences meeting with this aim h
in increased efficiency and in improving quality
owned mills operate 60% of the spindles in China's
orders provide 78% of the

Free medical service is provided f





day has been reduced to one-tenth
 ure in a campaign to lower produc-
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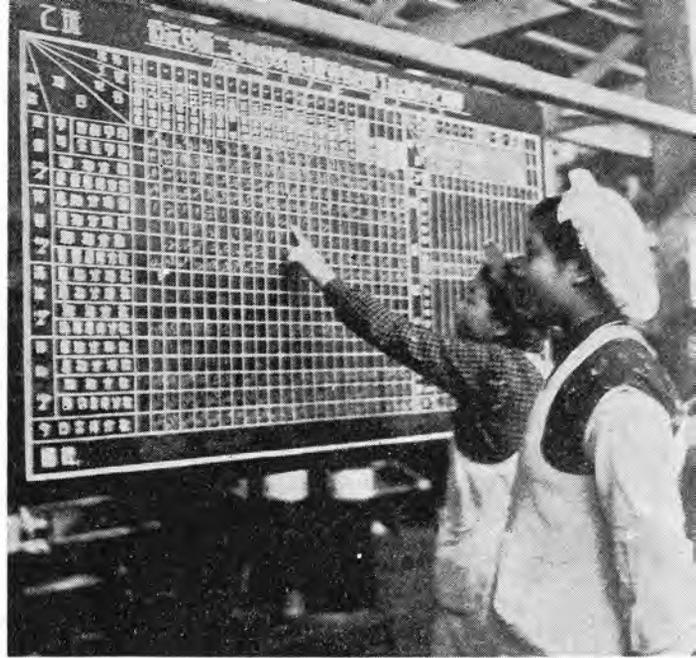
TION MILL

del privately-owned enterprise.
 duction for the nation. Worker-
 ve produced remarkable results
 and raising output. Privately-
 new textile industry; government
 business.

r the workers



A keen eye is kept
 on production re-
 cords



Workers compete for
 the red flag given
 for production re-
 cords. This is a
 prize-winning team



Finished products
 leave the mill in a
 steady stream



HO CHIEN - HSIU is a Model Spinner at the No. 6 State Cotton Mill in Tsingtao. She was awarded the title for cutting waste down to 0.25 per cent of total yarn spun (one-sixth of the average rate of waste), and doubling the number of spindles she was able to tend from 300 to 600.

Ho Chien-hsiu did not accomplish this through extra strain or longer working hours, but through improved working methods and care of the machines.

The 17-year old Model Spinner has now devised a new method of work which will save the country millions of dollars. Deep patriotism which she wished to express through a contribution to the movement to resist American aggression and aid Korea was the motive which inspired Ho Chien-hsiu's achievement.

Today leading workers of the industry, trade union leaders, technicians and model workers from all other textile centres are visiting Tsingtao to study Ho Chien-hsiu's methods and apply them in their own localities.

Port Arthur and Dairen

— Travel Impressions —

Chow Hsueh-sheng

My south-bound train raced down the Liaotung peninsula leaving Mukden far behind. It was already late autumn. The peasants were busy harvesting in their rice and *kaoliang* fields. The air grew warmer as we approached the tip of the peninsula.

Here lie the two well-known harbours, Port Arthur and Dairen—twin cities whose names are always linked. High voltage transmission lines over the rich yellow fields and towering chimneys on the horizon proclaim the might of an industrial centre.

I spent about a fortnight in Port Arthur and Dairen. I talked to many people and tried to learn of how they lived and what they thought and felt.

In Dairen I made friends with Wang Chao-tah, a model worker in the No. 18 Northeast Engineering Works and he offered to be my guide. On a Sunday afternoon walk Wang asked me to visit the Park of Labour which had been built by the voluntary efforts of many workers during their holidays. He spoke with warmth of the pleasure he got from sitting by a pond he himself had helped build, enjoying the beauty of the lotus flowers and dozing sometimes in the shade of the trees. Many workers spend their evenings in this park playing games and listening to popular songs. "The young people like dancing here in the open-air dance floor," Wang said.

That Sunday, as on other Sundays, the cinemas were crowded. To buy tickets for *The White-Haired Girl*, the popular film that won a special international award, people hurried to join the long queues which began forming four hours before the time of showing. The rest centre of the power plant workers, the Mao Tse-tung Club and the People's Cultural Palace—each providing amenities for 1,500 to 2,000—were, as always, crowded with workers playing billiards, reading, attending band practice or participating in other club activities. Football fans packed the modern stadium watching with excitement a strongly contested game between the Soviet and Dairen Youth teams.

Workers' Rising Prosperity

I noticed that the people wear clothes of very good material. In fact, I did not see a single person wearing clothes that had been patched. Most of the passers-by in the busy streets wore leather shoes, and some women workers wore silk stockings. It was obvious that the working people were now able to buy what formerly could only be bought by the privileged class.

I had to squeeze my way through the aisles of the largest department store in Dairen which is state-owned. Shoppers were in and out all the time, busy with their winter shopping. This state store

is so busy that it records an average of 26,000 customers a day. From the badges they wore, I found that most of the shoppers were workers and employees of the various steel works, machine plants, glass works and textile mills.

The store's cloth sales are really impressive. In the second quarter of 1951, 3.28 times more cloth was sold than in the corresponding quarter of 1950, I learned from the local press. Another fact indicative of the rising prosperity of the workers is that this year they are buying 116 per cent more fine cloth and 37.4 per cent less coarse cloth. These figures compare the period from January to September 1951 with the corresponding period in 1950.

As a result of the rising purchasing power of the masses and the development of trade, the total sale of goods this year in the state department store will be almost four times 1950's total. Private shops in addition sold as much in the first seven months of this year as they did in the whole of 1950.

Wang Chao-tah told me that since 1949 not only had prices kept steady but the workers' pay had increased. For instance, in the second quarter of this year, the average wage increased 26.5 per cent over that in the third quarter of 1950. Then, there are more and better houses. On one of our walks, Wang Chao-tah showed me the reinforced concrete flats in which the dockers lived and the fine villas of the railway workers. Formerly the flats, and the villas with their neat gardens, were occupied by high Japanese officials. The newly-built quarters for unmarried workers from the Chingchow and the Dairen textile mills are really magnificent buildings. The workers pay no rent for these homes; neither have they any water or electric bills to meet.

After the Liberation

Wang Chao-tah and the four hundred thousand other people in the twin cities are naturally happy and proud of their cities and their rich, creative life. But it was only a few years ago that they became masters of their own destiny. In 1895 these two excellent ports of Port Arthur and Dairen fell into the hands of the Japanese imperialists. In 1897, they were taken over by Tsarist Russia but later, in 1905, fell into Japanese hands again. During the 40 years of Japanese rule the people led a bitter existence. Especially after Pearl Harbour, conditions became so bad that the population was forced by the Japanese to live on rationed flour made of wild nuts and wear rationed clothes made from bark. Years of colonial education had made many young people completely ignorant of the history of their own mother country.

On August 22, 1945 the Soviet Red Army liberated the long-suffering cities. But just when the people

were beginning to start building their own new life, the Kuomintang reactionaries, with the aid of the American imperialists, began a blockade of the area. From 1946 to 1947 the cities suffered from a shortage of raw materials and foodstuffs. The markets were dead and no goods came to or went from the cities. The Soviet Union, however, came to their aid with food, raw materials and machinery shipped from the U.S.S.R. The Kuomintang blockade ended with the freeing of the Northeast by the People's Liberation Army. Communications were resumed and the cities swiftly began rehabilitation of their industries and commercial life.

In accordance with the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance signed in February 1950, administration of the cities was turned over to the People's Government of China. Those factories, shipyards, port installations and power plants etc. which were formerly administered by Soviet authorities have been turned over to the People's Government. The Soviet armed forces still remain at the jointly operated naval base for the purpose of assisting China to preserve peace in the Far East but, as laid down in the Treaty, they will withdraw completely after an over-all peace treaty with Japan is signed or not later than the end of 1952.

An Elected Mayor

Since 1947 the people's representative conference for Port Arthur and Dairen has been regularly convened for the discussion of municipal affairs. People from all walks of life are represented at the conference and the government's policy is discussed and approved during the sessions. At the session held in April 1951, the mayor and members of the government council were elected. Wang Chaotah, my enthusiastic guide, was elected one of the twenty-five council members as a representative of the workers.

Wang is popular because he is an advanced worker in industrial production. Since 1950 the team he leads has been creating new records one after the other. Every target set by his team has been exceeded, and from September 1950 to May 1951 they cut waste down to zero. Wang's team naturally became the "banner" (or model) for all the workers of Port Arthur and Dairen.

The development of Wang's factory can give us a fairly good picture of the rehabilitation of industry in Port Arthur and Dairen. It has double the number of workers compared with the number during Japanese rule. Now for the first time it is producing precision engine lathes. It is building more modern shops. Three, equipped with Soviet-made machinery, have just been completed. Working in one of these shops, Wang's team trebled its production by adopting high speed cutting methods learned from the experiences of the Soviet workers.

There are now 294 teams in Port Arthur and Dairen which are modelled after Wang's team. They lead industrial production and are pushing it to a still higher level. Model workers Liu Li-fu of a machine shop in Port Arthur, Chao Kuei-lan of

the Dairen Chemical Works and Liu Mao-yu of the Dairen Glass Works are also outstanding model workers known all over China. They are honoured because of their selfless labour and their devotion to the cause of building up an industrial China.

Soviet experts have played a noteworthy role in the reconstruction of the twin cities. They not only give advice unreservedly on technique but also work hard to train directors, engineers and technicians from the ranks of the workers.

Workers Into Engineers

In the six years since the Japanese imperialists were shipped out of Port Arthur and Dairen, more than three hundred workers have been trained to be shop managers, technicians, directors and even engineers. These men together with the skilled workers form the backbone of industrial production. In the old days, it must be remembered, the Japanese imperialists would never allow any Chinese, much less a worker, to hold positions of responsibility.

Chiang Mao-lin, chief engineer of the Dairen Railway Works, is one of these builders of New China. Chiang told me that he was formerly a welder. After liberation he was taught by a Soviet engineer by the name of P.A. Kruglyansky who worked together with him in the shop. Kruglyansky, a frank, jolly fellow, also came from a worker's family. He spoke a little Chinese sandwiched with Russian. The reverse was true with Chiang. So the two understood each other quite well and got on famously. Kruglyansky taught Chiang engineering theory at least an hour a day. But Chiang learned mostly through practice with Kruglyansky's guidance. Chiang's respect for his Soviet teacher was very great. He told me that once while he was walking with Kruglyansky in the plant he had picked up a banknote which had dropped out of Kruglyansky's pocket and given it back to him. The Soviet engineer said "Thank you" but shook his head as if in disapproval. Chiang was puzzled. "I picked up the money for you and you aren't pleased," he thought. Then Kruglyansky picked a small piece of metal from the floor and asked Chiang: "What's this?" "A gear, of course," replied Chiang. The Soviet engineer shook his head. Chiang knew his answer was right and was more puzzled. Then Kruglyansky said:

"You pick up money that falls from somebody's pocket. But you don't notice the money that is scattered on the ground. These machine parts, however old or rusty, are your country's wealth!"

That was the way Kruglyansky trained Chiang, teaching him not only technical knowledge but also the Socialist way of thinking in the management of industry. Today in Chiang's busy railway plant, there are ten engineers and 32 shop managers and vice-managers who were trained from the ranks just like himself.

High enthusiasm on the part of workers and fraternal aid from the Soviet experts are two key factors that stimulate production in Port Arthur and

Dairen. In the first half of 1951 production was 59.5 per cent over that for the first half of 1951.

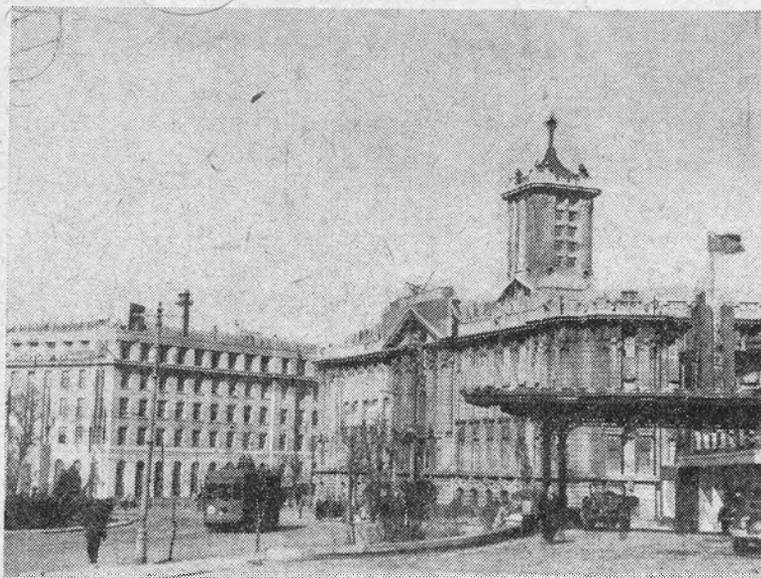
With the flourishing of industry so vanishes the shadow of unemployment. At the time of liberation there were eighty thousand unemployed. This year there are practically no unemployed in Port Arthur and Dairen. However I did see some people waiting at the Labour Bureau. They did not look like the sort of jobless that you see in the newspapers from England or America looking down and out and wearing shabby clothes. Officials at the Bureau told me that these well-dressed "unemployed" were mainly office messengers and nursemaids who were now applying for jobs as industrial workers.

The growing industries are demanding more and more labour, and women as well as men are responding to the call. Women tram drivers and lift operators are a common sight already but there are now women welders, travelling-crane operators and lathe turners. Tien Kuei-yin, for example, is famous throughout China as the first woman locomotive driver and is a model worker. Of the 23,760 women workers in Port Arthur and Dairen, 1,387 have mastered techniques in heavy industry. I saw a woman worker at the Industrial Exhibition in Mukden just before I visited the twin cities demonstrating to thousands of visitors advanced high-speed cutting methods on a Dairen-made engine lathe. Her enthusiasm and skill were impressive. I asked her where she came from. She pointed proudly to the "Advanced Team" badge pinned on her coat and said: "My name is Hsiao Kao. I belong to the Wang Chao-tah team in Dairen." That was how I first came to hear of Wang Chao-tah.

"Love Life, and Fight for It"

Port Arthur and Dairen have paid great attention to education and the problem of literacy. Today no school-age children are kept outside the school gates. In the primary and middle schools, students now total 149,411—an increase of one hundred thousand over 1942. In March 1949 the government announced that illiteracy would be wiped out in two years. By the end of March 1951, 70 per cent of the illiterates graduated from literacy classes; each had qualified to read one thousand characters, could write simple letters and all could read the special papers printed for workers.

A well thought out cultural network serves the twin cities. They possess 92 cultural clubs and 240 libraries. There are also 483 cultural "stations", places where people can read popular books, attend elementary lessons and talks in the evenings. Many workers have organised brass bands and amateur dramatic troupes. An amazing proof of the genius of the common people flowering in the air of libera-



The Port Arthur and Dairen Trade Union building in Sun Yat-sen Square, Dairen

tion is the fact that six hundred songs and five hundred short plays have been composed by the workers themselves.

On the last night I was in Dairen I got a ticket from the Port Arthur and Dairen Trade Union to attend one of the regular shows put on for workers and government cadres in the Cultural Palace. Tonight the Soviet Red Army Troupe was to perform a play dramatising the struggle of the well-known Czechoslovak Communist hero Julius Fuchik, the immortal author of *Notes from the Gallows*.

The People's Cultural Palace is a building of marble and granite designed by a Soviet woman architect. The slabs of stone that make up its imposing structure were taken from the tombs of the Japanese warlords. The Palace has a splendid ballroom, a dining hall, a drawing room, and a theatre to seat more than 1,500 persons.

I sat in the theatre among workers from the workshops and offices. After a short and moving overture the curtain rose and there stood before us the figure of Fuchik. Bathed in a violet light the great fighter for peace and freedom looked like a dauntless statue, standing against the background of red tapestry. In his prologue he recited in a deep vibrant voice: "I love life and I fight for it. I live for the happy life and will die for it, not feeling any pain...."

When I left the theatre with Wang Chao-tah it was already midnight. Sun Yat-sen Square lying in the silvery moonlight appeared unusually bright. The theatres and cinemas discharged their audiences into the quiet streets, and the trucks and trams were busy taking people back to their homes. I was listening to the happy songs of groups of theatre-goers when Wang suddenly broke his reverie. "Yes, comrade," he said. "We live a happy life indeed. Those dark days shall never come back. Love life. Yes, and fight for it."

How We Treat the P.O.W's

Wang Yen-lin

A Chinese Volunteer Fighter in Korea

After a fierce counter-attack on the banks of the Han river, I was assigned to escort a group of American prisoners to the rear. They were all elated when they realised we were walking northward.

During the first lap of the journey we were under constant shelling. The prisoners were afraid they might be hit and quickened their pace. But some had been wounded and others were hobbling from chilblain and lagged behind. We told the group to slow down to a pace where the wounded could keep up. To our surprise they were quite unwilling to do this, complaining bitterly and suggesting that the wounded be left to fend for themselves. All they cared about was that they themselves should cross this dangerous area as quickly as possible.

"It's their hard luck," one of the G.I's said sarcastically. "No reason why we should stick our necks out for them."

"Yes," another husky youth chimed in, "each man for himself, survival of the fittest."

"Such things are not permitted here," one of our comrades cut in abruptly. "We don't want to hear any more of that stuff. If allowed to fall behind, these men would die of hunger and cold or might be hit again by the shells." We pointed out that the shelling was not as bad as it might have been, and that we would do everything possible to get them all safely to the rear.

Their grumbling subsided, but they did not change their attitude. When some of the wounded fell by the way, too weak to go any further, some of their companions fell to cursing them, and even kicked them hard-heartedly. They hoped that we would now abandon them.

We sharply reprimanded the men behaving in this way and ordered two able-bodied men to carry each of those who were unable to walk. There were still five wounded men uncared for. Without hesitation, four of my comrades stepped forward with me and we each hoisted a G.I. onto our backs. The man I carried sobbed like a child. We carried them in this fashion for ten kilometres.

Some of the Americans who had acted so badly felt ashamed when they saw what we did, and they mumbled apologies to the wounded.

At a busy river crossing we counted the prisoners and found that some were missing. We worried about them when they did not turn up at the village we stopped in that night. But at dawn someone knocked at my door, pushing it slightly open. It was the missing prisoners who had lagged behind and got lost. "We were afraid we would not be able to catch you up," they said. I explained that it would not have mattered which unit of the Korean People's Army or Chinese volunteers had found them. "We all have the same policy: good treatment towards prisoners of war," I said.

In battle, we give no quarter. But the moment an enemy soldier lays down his arms, he becomes a prisoner of war and is treated humanely and leniently. We are fighting for a just cause and we have no reason for revenge. The treatment of prisoners is a serious matter, and when a volunteer is recommended for decoration, his record in treatment of prisoners is investigated. This is regarded as much a part of his war conduct as heroism on the field of battle.

We have provided our P.O.W's with hospitals and medical care as well as recreational facilities. And they are free to write to their folks at home. We have built them air-raid shelters to protect them from bombs dropped by their own planes. And even though we are sometimes short of food on the front, we give newly-taken P.O.W's our own concentrated rations. Many of them have been deeply affected by the real friendship they have found and have publicly expressed their gratitude to the Koreans and Chinese for the good treatment they have been accorded.

中國人民志願軍司令部彭德懷

- 寬待政策，妥為
進行下列四項保證：
1. 保證生命安全，
 2. 不沒收私人財物，
 3. 不虐待，不侮辱人格，
 4. 受傷者給予治療。
- 此令



論國籍，應本我軍
之司令部，並切實

우유, 이음료, 과일, 고기, 채소, 곡물, 기타 식량
의 공급을 원할하게 보장하며, 특히 겨울철에
따뜻한 옷과 모자를 제공하며, 병상과 의자를
제공하며, 필요한 의료 서비스를 제공하며, 특히
부상당한 자에 대해서는 특별한 관심을 기울여
치료할 것이다.

一 生命의 안전을 보장한다
二 개인적 소유물을 몰수하지 않는다
三 인종, 민족, 종교, 정치적 신념을 모욕하지
않는다
四 부상당한 자에 대해서는 특별한 관심을 기울여
치료할 것이다

김일성
조선민주주의인민공화국
군사령관

ORDER
The BEARER, regardless of nationality or rank, is to be treated in accordance with our policy of leniency to prisoners of war and escorted to the nearest local headquarters of the Korean People's Army or the Chinese People's Volunteers. He is to be guaranteed:

1. Security of life.
2. Retention of all personal belongings.
3. Freedom from maltreatment or abuse.
4. Medical care if wounded or ill.

KIM IL SUNG,
Supreme Commander, Korean People's Army
PENG TEH-HUAL,
Commander, Chinese People's Volunteers

Soldiers of the "U.N." invading forces in Korea who lay down their arms find their way to safety with safe-conduct passes such as that reproduced above

American Soldiers Describe Own Atrocities In Korea

The following statements, describing atrocities committed by American troops in Korea, were written by American prisoners of war and handed to a member of the International Medical Corps of the Red Cross Society of China. Further comment on these statements will be found on page 4 of this magazine. The names of the writers are withheld to protect them from reprisals by the American government.

From Pfc. , 1st Cavalry Division

I came to Korea on the 6th of September 1950, and went into action right away. I was on the Taegu front and my job was bazooka man in the 1st Cav. Division. We went through hundreds of villages, looting and killing and the G.I's would take anything they wanted. Women were often taken out and mistreated, old women being no exception. Many people were rounded up and shot without any trial or hearing, without even a briefing from the South Korean interpreter. In some cases G.I's would go into houses and set fire to them for no reason at all. In one village near Taegu, a whole battalion went into the houses looting and stealing, and then set the houses on fire. Most of the people were shot in cold blood, but this was a common occurrence, even though it was horrible to see. No one thought that it was wrong as Korean lives didn't mean anything to the American soldiers, who just burned and destroyed everything in sight.

Another instance was in the town of Sariwon where we stayed for three days. There I saw horrible sights and I once came across two G.I's raping a pregnant woman. Quite a few G.I's went out to look for women. These two had forced their way into a house and grabbed hold of the woman. She tried to resist, but was powerless, and the G.I's raped her. Cases like this were very common.

Once a G.I. grabbed hold of a young Korean girl, who was a school-teacher, in broad daylight and tried to rape her. A nearby guard called and told the attacking G.I. to leave her alone, but the G.I. got mad and started shooting at the guard.

There were many cases of the G.I's stealing the people's chickens and eggs, and often they would kill cows, burn up rice fields, and tear up houses for firewood. All these things were done by the G.I's with guns in their hands, and they would do it either for excitement or personal satisfaction. The officers would never try to prevent anything like this, because it was just an everyday occurrence. The tendency of the officers is to force all the blame for these crimes on the South Koreans and the average G.I. is made to believe that the Koreans are to blame for his being in Korea, without knowing that he was sent here by his own government.

We American soldiers were never told what this Korean war was about, except that it was to prevent Communism from spreading, and to safeguard America. We were also told that we would be shot if we were ever captured....

I see that all we did here was to destroy the lives and property of the Korean people. This would never be stood for at home, but yet the G.I's keep doing it on orders from above....

From Corporal , 24th Division

I landed in Korea on July 4, 1950. One of the worst things I ever saw was when some North Korean prisoners were buried alive or beaten to death. It was in October 1950, after we left South Korea on our way north. The officer appointed some Koreans to be M.P's and do the dirty work. These M.P's would take and beat the North Korean prisoners so that they would have to be helped away. Sometimes they would break the prisoners' arms or legs or even worse than that. . . . I was a runner and once when I happened to be taking mail to an outpost I heard an awful commotion just out of town. I went to investigate and found several M.P's burying North Korean prisoners alive. They didn't want me to watch, but I stayed anyway. They would throw the prisoners into the holes and then throw dirt on them. I saw arms and legs come out of the ground and the M.P's would hack at them with a long knife. I could hardly believe it and had to pinch myself to make sure that I wasn't dreaming. On my return, I told my officers what I had seen, but to my knowledge they didn't do a thing about it, and they made sure that we didn't go that way again. The next thing I saw was two G.I's shoot some prisoners. I can't recall the place, but it was somewhere in North Korea. We captured about half a dozen prisoners, and the officer in charge gave these two G.I's orders to take the prisoners to Battalion H.Q. So the two G.I's started out with the prisoners and just got over a hill when we heard some shooting. We went to see what was happening, and to our surprise we saw that the prisoners had been shot by the two G.I's. The officer said that he would have them court-martialed, but nothing was ever done about it.

Once, four G.I's raped a young girl and the officers did not say a thing. . . . This happened around Seoul, and the girl was nothing but a school girl of about thirteen years of age.

When we withdrew from Pyongyang to the 38th Parallel, we were ordered to burn everything we saw, in fact every living thing. And if the people who lived in these houses didn't move out before we got there, we were ordered to shoot them, and we could do nothing but obey orders. We killed a good many



Korean children—innocent victims of American planes

people who weren't able to move, such as old and weak ones. They would yell or they would cry, but it didn't do them any good, we shot them anyway.

From Corporal , 25th Division

. . . When we went through towns and villages, we were told to burn every house, which we did. The G.I's looted the houses of things of any value such as corn, bracelets, rings and watches etc. We took these things as though we had won them at a game.

A lot of the time we would feel like a little sport, so we went hunting, killing cows, calves and horses which we just left lying after we had shot them.

From Pfc. , Ohio

We landed in Korea early in August 1950, and at that time the Korean People's Army were very strong. We would have been driven from Korea long ago if it had not been for our planes and artillery. Our planes just bombed everything. I have seen whole districts completely wiped out, not even the lonely peasants' houses left standing.

Myself, along with some other soldiers, once found a North Korean officer in a small bomb shelter near a house. I yelled at him in Japanese to come out, but he was scared and didn't do as I said, so I shot him and covered over the opening. After an attack, our men would sometimes shoot North Korean army men who were caught behind our lines. We wouldn't always kill them, just shoot them in the legs or somewhere. I used to take a pistol and make them run and then try and shoot them in the legs. I used to shoot at civilian houses with a flare pistol also.

We went north to a town called Unsan, where we ran into the Chinese people's volunteers. The Chinese surrounded us and tried to get us to surrender, but we didn't do so until after several days because we had always been told that we would be killed if we were taken prisoner.

But the Chinese didn't kill us, instead they fed us, treated our wounds, and shared everything they had with us. I have been a prisoner for over a year now and I have never seen one single man mistreated in any way whatsoever.

From [Corporal , 1st Cavalry Division

On August 25, 1950 my ship landed in Pusan. We left Pusan the next day for Taegu and the front lines.

The third platoon took up a position on a high hill about one mile from the company commanding post. That afternoon a patrol was sent out into a small village on the other side of the hill. They found nothing of military importance here and they prepared to leave. On leaving the village they heard someone moan in one of the houses. They investigated the house and found a North Korean soldier lying on the floor wounded. He had been shot in the legs and gangrene had set in. The sergeant who was in charge of this patrol said he did not want to be bothered about carrying a wounded man back to the company so he ordered him to be shot. No one wanted the job of shooting the defenceless man. One of the men had to do it, so they flipped a coin to see who would do the killing. The man who lost went into the house and promptly did the job.

Once when we took a hill we found a lot of dead North Korean soldiers and three soldiers who had been wounded pretty badly. It was too late to send these prisoners back so the company commander put them in a shell-hole and assigned some men to guard them through the night. At dawn the North Koreans counter-attacked. One of the men asked an officer what should be done with the three prisoners in the shell-hole. The officer looked at the guard and said he did not give a damn what was done with them. "Shoot them and let us go," he said to the guard. The enlisted men followed his order and shot the three men in the hole.

Another time when we were waiting to cross a river by ferry we saw a group of aged men standing in a field about 150 yards off the road. A jeep headed toward them and stopped alongside them. The driver of the jeep reached into the glove compartment and took out a hand-grenade, pulled the pin and dropped it in the centre of them. He then stepped on the gas and drove away. The explosion from the grenade killed at least three and wounded two. No one could find out what outfit was responsible for this atrocity.

From Corporal , 25th Division

I left Japan on July 13, 1950 and arrived in Korea on July 14. From Pusan to Ying Dong, back to Majong then to the Majong hills. We stayed there from August 18 until September 18, 1950. Our company commander ordered us not to take any prisoners.

Our morale was very low, and we didn't know what we were fighting for. All we were told was that it was to protect the U.S. and prevent Communism from spreading. Our orders were to shoot at anything in white, and I remember once when a large number of civilians were shot in this way. When out on patrol we would often break down doors and go into houses, taking anything we fancied. Often we would burn up rice fields or stocks of rice which were stored away.

FROM BATAAN TO KOREA

(Continued from page 14)

found out that the Chinese are a very friendly, peace-loving nation and that they bear no ill-will toward us. They realise that we, the ordinary soldiers, are not in this war of our own choice. We are here because a few money-mad warmongers in the United States instigated the Korean war.

I believe many of the Korean people shared this view also because, on the march north, they shared their homes with us and made it possible for us to eat and sleep in warmth. One incident remains distinctly in my memory. One night we arrived in a badly bombed town and there was a shortage of houses for us to sleep in. As a consequence, five of us were left on the porch. The Korean woman living in the house came out and saw that we were cold. Although the house was very overcrowded and there were many children, she told us to come in and share her room. She also gave us food. We wondered how people who had suffered so much from the savage air attacks perpetrated by our airmen could treat us so kindly and humanely. I know now that these people regard us as ordinary working people, as they are themselves. Looking at it from a class viewpoint, they do not blame us, as individuals, for the war.

How We Live Now

We came to the P.O.W. camp, where I am at present, on March 7, 1951. On arrival, we were given padded coats and blankets. The food was as good as was possible under the circumstances then existing. The supply problem at that time was extremely difficult owing to the severe winter and the threat of air attacks. What struck me was that even this place in the remote mountains, completely devoid of any military value, was completely destroyed. This made it necessary to evacuate the P.O.W.'s to another site, in a valley, for our own safety. However, on the ruins and devastation brought about by our own planes, the Chinese volunteers and the Koreans have put up new buildings to house the P.O.W.'s. Conditions have improved all the time and continue to do so. The food got better and we received pork, beef, eggs, fresh vegetables, potatoes, bread, apples and other foods. Whenever there is a celebration in China, we also have a big party here. All this is done in spite of extreme difficulties which have to be overcome.

The houses we live in have also improved immeasurably. They are all in a very good state of repair and scrupulously clean. The rooms are heated with firewood in the winter. New buildings are being erected continually. Sanitation is very good and latrines have been built in every company. Each company has its own clubroom, equipped with games. We have a camp library with a very wide variety of books, fiction and non-fiction. Also we have sports, such as basketball and volleyball, in



addition to physical recreation. In warm weather some of the men go fishing or swimming in the river nearby.

Medical conditions are exceptionally good. We have a large staff of Chinese doctors, assisted by Korean nurses. There is a hospital to which sick men are taken, where they receive the very best treatment and excellent food. We have a sick company where men leaving hospital can convalesce and men who are not seriously ill can also go. Here they receive medical attention daily, do nothing but rest and also receive special food. Finally, there is the Camp Medical Section where a man feeling sick can go daily and receive attention from the staff of doctors on duty. The medical authorities are always vigilant and on the lookout for disease. During the summer, every man received inoculations. The medical staff have one concern, and that is our health. I know of many cases where our boys would have died were it not for the operation treatments given.

The relations between the Chinese volunteers who staff this camp and the P.O.W.'s are very good. Everything they can do to better things for us is done, and we are encouraged to do things for ourselves. We have a committee which is responsible for every phase of our life here. On the committee is a representative responsible for sanitation, a sports representative, a recreation representative who organises concerts and shows. There is a man who takes charge of the drama section which periodically presents plays. There is a messing representative who presents the men's views as regards food and gets the food cooked the way they like it. In a camp like this, discipline is necessary. Four P.O.W.'s form a discipline section and the man in charge sits on the committee. All committee members are elected by the P.O.W.'s to represent them.

The officers who staff the camp are very kindly disposed toward us and work very hard, often late into the night, for the P.O.W.'s. They believe in, and carry into operation, a good-treatment policy which makes life here very pleasant.

The Contrast—and the Reason

How different this is from the policy adopted by the Japanese guards I encountered during World War II. They are two extremes. On the one hand we met brutality, humiliation, degradation and downright sadism. On the other, we have tolerance, kindness, respect for human feelings and a desire to make us happy and contented. It certainly makes one think—and I hope it will make lots of people think. It reveals the striking contrast between two systems, the imperialistic system of the Japanese warlords which had a cynical disregard of human life and feelings and the social system at present in operation in the People's Republic of China, which is dedicated to the service and advancement of the people and works for peace and friendly relations between all peoples.

In a story like this, contrasts are inevitable. I must, of necessity, contrast the Korean war with World War II. In World War II, China was America's ally—and a very brave and gallant ally she was. Hirohito's Japan was our enemy, an enemy who threatened all we cherished and held dear, even our very existence. The Koreans were one of the peoples enslaved by Japan, to whom we were told we would give freedom and independence and the right to build their lives as they wished. These people had suffered under the yoke of the Japanese warlords for forty years. For forty long years they had constantly striven to free themselves from servitude and regain their independence. With the defeat of Japan, they believed they had achieved their goal. How wrong they were! The American imperialists are carrying on where Hirohito left off. They are trying to once again enslave the Korean people. Our troops are behaving in a manner dangerously similar to that of the Japanese troops. That is why the Koreans are fighting so bravely and tenaciously. They are determined that never again will they be enslaved by another nation.

This is also the reason why our American troops are not fighting as well in this war as they did in World War II. That war was a just war, and because it was just it seemed entirely reasonable to ordinary Americans that we should fight in it. That was the spirit that prevailed in Bataan where American troops displayed such heroism against the Japanese. This war is an unjust war and the American troops haven't got their hearts in it. They have no cause to fight for and no just reason for being in Korea. As a consequence, their morale is low.

U.S. Government Betrays the Peoples

On thinking back, I now realise that all the things we fought for in World War II have been betrayed. We have betrayed the men who laid down their lives in Bataan and their comrades who took part in the Bataan Death March. We have betrayed the Korean people whose desire was freedom and independence. We have betrayed the Chinese people who fought so valiantly at our side during the last

war by trying to reinstall the tyrannical regime of Chiang Kai-shek and destroy their newly founded People's Republic. We have betrayed the American people and all the peace-loving people of the world by negotiating a separate "peace treaty" with Japan which does not include two of our former great allies, China and the U.S.S.R. and by declaring a policy aimed at rearming Japan and making her, once again, a powerful militarist nation.

No amount of propaganda from high quarters will make Americans swallow that with an easy conscience, or a feeling that it is in any way necessary. Most of us knew, although we don't like to admit it, that we armed Japan for the last war too. Soldiers who took part in it will remember that it was a bitter standing joke in the U.S. army at that time to say, when anyone was wounded, "There's a piece of U.S. scrap iron coming back." I understand now that the profiteers who armed the enemies of the people of U.S. and other peoples then are doing the same again, with the same motives. Look how they are also arming the German nazis again.

"I Appeal..."

At the beginning of my story, I appealed to all men who suffered under the Japanese to come forward and tell their stories to the world. I repeat that appeal. I hope that all who have read this will realise the danger in rearming Japan. Also I want to appeal to them, and to all American citizens, to put an end to this senseless war in Korea. It's not hard to stop this war. All decent-minded citizens must realise that this war is benefiting no one but the handful of profiteers who engineered it. We are not fighting for the defence of the U.S. How can we be, so far from home? What threat does Korea present to American security? None at all. No, all we are doing is making an enemy of the Chinese people and bringing the threat of another world war nearer.

All Americans feel naturally friendly towards the Chinese people. While it is a lie to say that our government is friendly to China, no American feels it's normal to be fighting the Chinese. The Chinese people are determined to have no U.S. invasion of their homeland but they are friendly to the American people. I have given numerous examples of this friendliness in my story. Even the Korean people, who have suffered so much at our hands, make this difference quite clear.

Finally, I appeal to all Americans who read this to press on their mothers, their friends, their trade union, educational and social leaders, newspaper editors, congressmen and any others in influential positions to tell the truth. Get your home town, paper to print this story. Get the minister to read it in church. Ask your congressman to read it on the floor of Congress, where there is supposed to be democracy.

I have signed an appeal for peace and so have all the other P.O.W's in this camp. We can do no more. From now on it is up to you.



The Egg Books

They are called "egg books" because they are as cheap as eggs, and you'll find them in every peasant household. In the old days at festivals and fairs, book-sellers did a brisk trade in these slim booklets with their simple language and familiar layout — an old-style actor's photograph on the cover and inside, a wonderland—for the price of an egg. Peasants loved these old familiar tales. *The Heroes of the Water-Hole*; *The Brave Fisherman And His Daughter*, fighting their oppressors; the maid whose tears for her beloved caused the Great Wall itself to crumble—tales of fairies and ghosts, thrillers, sentimental ballads; folk tales retaining their popular strength and integrity; others, distorted into propaganda for the worship of the gods and rulers of the past.

But last year when the peasants looked to buy the latest batch of booklets, they found them cheap as before but how different! The cover was changed—with vivid drawings of the new people. The tales inside new, but as absorbing as the old. The old time heroes—but with a difference, appearing now in their true roles as the heroes of the people. And tales of the heroes of today—labour heroes, volunteers battling the American invaders in Korea; modern inventors; stories of adventures in catching Kuomintang spies, tales of love and marriage in the new, emancipated society. Tales of the marvels created by the people. And the price—the same—the modern egg book! The news spread. Hundreds of thousands of the new egg books have been sold.

House of Literary Treasures

In a one-room bookstore, I met the head of the most important of the fifty-odd egg-book publishing houses in Peking. The store itself seemed from the inside to be made of books, lined from floor to ceiling with its paper products. Liu Yu-

chen, the publisher, told me how the business had grown till more than ten million copies of various kinds of books are sold.

Liu Yu-chen's great-great-grandfather was a poor Hopei peasant. On a trip to Shantung he made friends with a carpenter who knew how to make wood-cuts and print. Old Liu recalled his old folk tales. A journeyman writer took them down. The carpenter set them up in type and they started to sell story books. Told in the people's tongue—the vernacular *pai hua* with just a touch of literary style from the *wen yen*—the scholars' language—their tales took the peasants' fancy. They named their little work room: *Pao Wen Tang*—the Hall of Literary Treasures. That was more than a century ago. Their books spread through North China's villages. From being a novelty, they became an institution.

Liu's son and grandson carried on his work. They moved with the times. They bought an automatic printing press, increased editions, lowered costs. But from year to year the contents of these books remained the same. The healthy democratic outlook and sentiment even of the best of the stories was heavily overlaid by feudal and semi-colonial ideology. Despite the desires of their publishers to serve the peasants, these books acted like a drug on the minds of their readers.

Today *Pao Wen Tang* is transformed. Leading newspapers now call it a people's bookstore. Two years ago, soon after liberation, three men in cadre's uniform bought books at the store and talked with publisher Liu. He was surprised that they knew so much not only about his books but about his readers. They were the novelist Chao Shu-li and the short story writers Miao Pei-shih and Wang Ya-ping. They invited him to join

the Peking Research Society for Popular Creative Work. There, both he and other publishers had many discussions with writers interested in the same problems. Only then did he realise how much harm his books had unwittingly done.

When *Pao Wen Tang* undertook to reform its books, such famous writers as Lao She and Chao Shu-li immediately offered twenty stories. Liu was still a bit sceptical. Would the peasants like these new tales? The answer was quickly given. More than nine hundred thousand copies were sold within a few months and the peasants asked for more. All the other Peking egg-book publishing houses followed this lead.

In the last year and a half *Pao Wen Tang* alone has published more than one hundred new stories. Old tales have been rewritten, new ones created. Progressive writers have taken famous old folk tales and remoulded them, giving them new meanings or restoring their original beauties. We still have the tale of *Wu Sung*, the famous folk hero, who once got drunk and met a tiger on a mountain. After a furious and now legendary fight he kills the beast. But though the tale is old, the moral is new. The version illustrates Chairman Mao Tse-tung's warning: imperialism is like a ravening tiger which we must destroy or it will destroy us. Among the new tales, the *Ten Sisters Who Boast About Their Husbands* is one of the most popular.

Ten sisters have married husbands of different professions. First each of them boasts that her husband is the most capable, but then they all realise that only through co-operation can their husbands' talents really contribute to the people's good and all can lead a happier life.

The demand for the egg books is now greater than ever before, both because of their new content and because of the rapid spread of literacy in the liberated countryside. The post office now takes subscriptions for them in any village. Demand outstrips supply.

Where are the old egg books? Liu told me: "Pulped down to make new books for the people!"





CURRENT CHINA

November 26—December 10, 1951



Land Reform

Land reform is being carried out in the vast areas in Northwest, East, Central-South and Southwest China. By the coming spring, when this campaign is ended, the feudal land ownership system will cease to exist on the Chinese mainland except for those areas inhabited by national minorities.

After a lull in activities since the spring (in order not to disturb agricultural production), the present phase of land reform was begun following the autumn harvest. More than 400,000 cadres, including government workers, members of the democratic parties and people's organisations, professors and students, are helping the peasants to carry out the campaign.

Record Harvests

Incomplete autumn harvest figures show that 1951 crop totals will set a new record. Cotton cropped exceeds the highest prewar level by 17.8%. The Northeast China grain harvest has surpassed the record year of 1943 by 7.6%. The Northwest wheat harvest showed a 17.4% increase over 1950, while the cotton crop in the same area was 70% more than in 1950.

More Production, Greater Economy

The campaign for increased production and economy to strengthen the nation's defence and to support the volunteers in Korea continues to develop vigorously in China's industrial and trading enterprises.

The railway administration bureaux of five major cities have drawn up plans to create an extra 1,110,000 million yuan of wealth for the state before the end of 1951. The state-trading concerns plan to create 11,000,000 million yuan of extra new wealth in 1952.

Defence of Children Committee

In response to a call for the defence of children made at the February 1951 meeting of the Executive Committee of the Women's International Democratic Federation, the Chinese People's National Committee in Defence of Children was founded in Peking on November 26. Soong Ching Ling was elected President. The organisation pledged itself to unite all who are concerned with the protection of children in a common effort to oppose imperialist wars of aggression, defend world peace and promote child welfare work.

The campaign has already resulted in a flood of ideas from the workers for greater efficiency. In state-trading concerns, for example, they include adoption of streamlined methods in handling goods such as direct transportation and elimination of unnecessary storage, careful packing, reduction of accidents and spoilage, and accelerating the rate of capital turnover to the maximum.

New Railways Built

347 kilometres of new railway lines were completed early this December.

In Szechuan province, the 282-kilometre Chungking-Neikiang section of the Chungking-Chengtou railway was opened to traffic on December 7.

In Kansu province, Northwest China, trains began to move along the 65-kilometres of new railway lines between Tienshui and Kanku on December 1. A further 55 kilometres of rails will be laid from Kanku to Lanchow (the terminus) before the end of December.

Prices Reduced

The Ministry of Trade recently directed all state shops to reduce the prices of several important items.

The price of cotton yarn has been reduced by 2.8%, that of cotton cloth by 1.8%, petrol by 10%, various grades of diesel oil by 3.87% to 12.14%, and kerosene by 5%.

State shops in national minority areas have been directed to cut prices of all goods by 5 per cent during local holidays. This will make it possible for the minority peoples who have their own customs and holidays, to purchase more commodities for their celebrations.

200,000 Technicians

During the next five years, China's higher educational institutes plan to train some 200,000 top-level technicians in the spheres of industry, agriculture, transport and medicine. This plan will meet the initial needs of the vast national construction.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Education, technical colleges and university departments are merging to eliminate the present overlapping of colleges which aggravates the shortage of equipment and teaching staff. In East China, for example, a new textile engineering institute and a large medical institute have already been formed in this manner. It is expected that five times the present number of students will be admitted to higher technical institutes in 1952, after the process of merging has been completed throughout the country.

Child Welfare

The number of maternity centres and organisations caring for the health of mothers and infants has increased to more than 10,000. The Chinese People's National Committee in Defence of Children reports. Nurseries and kindergartens have increased nine times over the number before liberation.

Democratic League Doubles Membership

The China Democratic League, which was formed during the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression has more than doubled its membership in the past year. This was announced at the League's national organisational and propaganda conference held recently in Peking. The conference decided to encourage its members to make a careful study of the teachings of Mao Tse-tung as part of their ideological re-education movement.

Briefs

A Chinese trade delegation arrived in Prague on December 1 for trade negotiations with the Czechoslovak government.

* * *

Teng Ying-chao, Vice-Chairman of the All-China Democratic Women's Federation arrived in Berlin on December 4 to attend the 11th session of the Women's International Democratic Federation Executive Committee.

* * *

Li Teh-chuan, head of the Chinese Red Cross Society, left Peking on November 27 to attend the meeting of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies in Geneva.



U.S. Exposes Its Lies

LEMONT, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.

The North Korean and Chinese delegation at Kaisung claims that from the very first day of negotiations, it has "consistently emphasised the achievement of immediate peace to satisfy the demands of the broad masses of people" whereas the Americans have "fabricated one pretext after another to obstruct the talks". They declare that Admiral Joy's opening statement was packed with explosive words, "...it is understood, of course, that hostilities will continue in all areas except in those neutral zones agreed upon..." and heralded an intensified American bombing of undefended towns and villages that has continued throughout the talks, (and during the absence of talks, and included violations of those neutral zones agreed upon!)

These claims, the administration in Washington assures us, are "pure, lying, red propaganda". It is THEY

Korean Negotiations

The U.N. delegation continues to obstruct agreement on Item 3 of the Agenda of the Korean cease-fire talks which concerns the practical implementation of the armistice agreement.

On November 27, immediately after the full conference had ratified the military demarcation line (Item 2 of the Agenda) the Korean-Chinese delegation put forward a five-point proposal which would provide for an effective and speedy implementation of an armistice agreement. This included: a cease-fire by all forces; withdrawal of forces from the demilitarised zone within three days and from the other side's rear within five days; the forbidding of all armed forces from entering the demilitarised zone and the setting up of a joint commission to make concrete arrangements for and supervise the enforcement of the agreement. The U.N. delegation, on the other hand, wanted to set up an armistice commission which would have free access to all parts of Korea during the armistice period and which would permit "rotation" of forces. In the course of the conference, it became clear that the U.N. proposals amounted in fact to demands that the People's Korea stop all civil construction, that the Americans be enabled to spy on all parts of Korea, that they could bring replacements of troops and supplies under the guise of maintaining the level of present forces while continuing their hold on islands north of the demarcation line. These demands, as the Korean-Chinese delegation pointed out, constituted outright interference in the internal affairs of the Korean people and an attempt to substitute a state of perpetual armistice for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea which is the only basis for real peace in Korea.

In order to ensure a stable armistice and facilitate the speedy holding of a high level political conference, the Korean-Chinese delegation, on December 3, further expanded their original proposal. The gist of the supplementary proposals was (1) during the armistice neither side shall introduce into Korea any military forces, weapons and ammunition under any pretext and (2) neutral powers are to be invited to inspect mutually agreed ports of entry in the rear of each side and report to the armistice commission.

The U.N. delegation has so far refused to agree to this reasonable proposal.

who are the obstructionists, and WE who are ready to agree to a peaceful settlement at the moment they are ready.

If this is true, if the Pentagon and Mr. Truman do not hold the whip hand at Kaisung and if the Administration IS agreeable to an immediate peaceful settlement in Korea, how could the *U.S. News & World Report* (Oct. 12, page 5) KNOW and make the flat statement: "War is to go on indefinitely in Korea"?

A PEACEFUL AMERICAN

Friends By Deeds

JAMSHEDPUR, BIHAR, INDIA

Here, in our country, enemies of peace are foolishly striking at the solid and traditional friendship between the Chinese and Indian peoples. All the money and energy spent will turn no grain for them, but they cannot understand this simple fact.

We are proud to declare that our hearts are filled with love and admiration for the great Chinese people and their achievements. Dear Chinese brothers, this very year when starvation was staring the Indian people in the face, the rice you sent saved our lives. How can any honest individual refrain from the deepest appreciation for such a benefactor. We shall do everything we can to foster friendship between our two peoples.

A cultural delegation from China has come to India. We hope to accord them a reception on behalf of the India-China Friendship Association, Jamshedpur, which is just being formed. We hope to hold an educational exhibition on New China soon.

Long live the friendship between the Chinese and Indian people! Long live Mao Tse-tung!

BENGAL SECTION, PROGRESSIVE WRITERS' ASSOCIATION

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