

# PEOPLE'S 人民中国 CHINA



HOW CHINA WILL INDUSTRIALISE

Li Chen

3  
1953

# PEOPLE'S CHINA

A FORTNIGHTLY MAGAZINE

Editor: Liu Tsun-chi

*CHRONICLES* the life of the Chinese people and reports their progress in building a New Democratic society;

*DESCRIBES* the new trends in Chinese art, literature, science, education and other aspects of the people's cultural life;

*SEEKS* to strengthen the friendship between the people of China and those of other lands in the cause of peace.

No. 3, 1953

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A Survey Team at Work in Northeast China

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# The People's Congress

FOR the first time in China's history, her 475 million people will carry out a nation-wide election on the basis of universal franchise. This is the greatest extension of democracy in history. It takes place at a time when capitalist states are steadily whittling down the democratic rights of their people.

The present year will witness the election of local people's congresses at all levels of administration. On this basis, the All-China People's Congress will be elected and convened to replace the Plenary Session of the People's Political Consultative Conference as the supreme organ of state power. It will adopt a constitution, ratify the first five-year plan of national construction and elect a new Central People's Government. The new government will continue to be a united front representing all the various nationalities, democratic political parties and people's organisations of China.

Broadly representative committees have been set up to draft the constitution and the electoral law under the chairmanship of Chair-

man Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai respectively.

The foundations of success of this new democratic advance have been well laid in the people's representative conferences which have up to now fulfilled, with such success, the functions of the people's congresses. Thus, only three years after the liberation, the provisional form of state power in New Democratic China is being replaced by its permanent organisational form as stipulated in the Common Programme adopted by the P.P.C.C. in 1949.

The Chinese people have dreamed of such a congress, and of their own Constitution, for a hundred years. Now that dream is being realised.

This is a new stimulus to the Chinese people to consolidate and defend the democracy they have gained, to advance to industrialisation, to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea and to throw ever greater strength into the defence of world peace.

## Caught Red-handed

ON January 12, the Chinese Air Force shot down over Northeast China a U.S. Army B-29 bomber which had been specially refitted for strategic reconnaissance and the parachuting of spies. Eleven of its crew, including Col. John K. Arnold Jr., commander of the 581 Air Resupply Communications Wing of the U.S. 13th Air Force, were taken prisoner. On January 23, yet another intruding plane, an F-86, was shot down, and its pilot, Lt. Col. Edwin L. Heller, was taken prisoner.

On January 22, Foreign Minister Chou En-lai registered a solemn protest and warning against such violations. The facts cannot be denied. The evidence is there for all to see. There are thousands of witnesses in Antung and Kwantien who saw these planes brought down. The U.S. warmongers' denials are of as much worth as the denials of a murderer caught in the act.

These are but the latest in a whole series of incidents which have shown that the U.S. aggressors are planning to expand the war in Korea. They have continued to murder P.O.W's; continued their germ warfare, and the slaughter by napalm of Korean civilians. Violations of the neutral zone at Panmunjom, and particularly the strafing of vehicles of the Korean-Chinese Delegation to the truce talks, have underlined the evil intentions of the Pentagon. These dastardly acts and the increasing air outrages across China's borders are a menace to peace, a threat of expanded war.

The vigilance and indignation of the Chinese people and the people of the world is aroused. They will know how to give a fitting reply to any new provocation these warmongers may venture on.



## Gold Medal Farmers

CHINA'S Ministry of Agriculture has named the first Gold Star Medalists for outstanding achievements in 1952 in the field of agriculture. They head the list of more than 3,000 Chinese peasants who will receive awards this year.

These awards are made for the first time in Chinese history. Those who have won them are new people on new farms, men and women who have added modern science to their long famed skill in farming handed down from

generation to generation in a nation of famous tillers of the soil. An outstanding feature of the full award list is that, this year, it includes not only individuals, but also mutual-aid teams, agricultural production co-operatives, state farms, whole villages and even a "Bumper Crop County." Agricultural pace-setting has taken on an organised, mass character. This exemplifies the flowering of the creative initiative of the masses which characterises the New Democratic China.

## The Chinese People's Volunteers in 1952

Tu Ping

*Vice-Director of the Political Department, Chinese People's Volunteers*

THE Korean war, on which the attention of the world is focused, has continued for two and a half years. It has not yet been possible to bring about a fair and reasonable settlement of the Korean question, because American imperialism persists in its aggressive policy and is even attempting to expand its war of aggression. It is, therefore, important to review the events of the year 1952 as we prepare to strive for new victories in 1953.

The correct leadership of General Peng Teh-huai, the selfless efforts of the whole army, close, fraternal solidarity with the Korean People's Army and, especially, the enthusiastic support of the Chinese people, enabled the Chinese people's volunteers to gain new and important achievements in the just war against aggression in Korea. They consolidated victories already won and created excellent conditions for the winning of new victories. They have sufficient power to deal the enemy more crushing blows.

In the past year, a radical change has taken place in the balance of forces in Korea. While our forces became stronger the more they fought, the enemy's casualties reached very serious proportions, and the cost of the war to

him became even heavier. Strategically speaking, the U.S. aggressors are caught on the horns of a dilemma. Should the war continue, the more the enemy fights, the more will the situation change to his disadvantage, until he is finally beaten.

The reason why the war situation in Korea has turned in our favour is due to the following great achievements of the Chinese people's volunteers:

Firstly, the equipment and technical skill of our forces have improved. In the first year of the war, the volunteers, using inferior equipment, defeated the enemy despite the fact that he was far better equipped and enjoyed technical superiority. Since then, the situation has greatly changed. Now we have more munitions and have become skilled in technique.

Secondly, in directing and fighting the war, our commanders and fighters have not only familiarised themselves with mobile warfare but have acquired an all-round experience of positional warfare. They have steadily improved their knowledge of the tactics and technique of combined operations involving participation of all branches of the volunteer forces.

Thirdly, solid military positions have been built jointly with the Korean People's Army. The volunteers have been engaged day and night in the past one year and more in the hard

An abridged version of an article published in the *People's Daily*, January 3, 1953.

work of strengthening their fortifications. They have built a strong system of defences, and especially tunnels which have greatly reinforced their positions.

Fourthly, morale is exceedingly high. In last autumn's tactical counter-offensive, all units displayed extraordinary bravery and tenacity in battle. This high morale demonstrates the continuous rise of class consciousness and the spirit of patriotism and internationalism which animates the volunteers. This high morale has been maintained throughout the course of a hard and protracted struggle.

Fifthly, the victory which we won in keeping our communication lines open has ensured ample supplies of food and ammunition for the front. This is due to the highly developed ingenuity and determination of the comrades in all supply units. In addition to food and ammunition, a large amount of books, periodicals and recreational equipment have been sent to the front, substantially improving the material and cultural life of the fighters.

It is precisely because of the achievements and continuous progress mentioned above that the volunteers have, in co-operation with the Korean People's Army, scored great new victories. In 1952, the Korean and Chinese peoples' forces put out of action more than 240,000 enemy troops, shot down or damaged more than 5,300 enemy planes. During the year, they not only smashed thousands of enemy attacks and sorties, consolidated and stabilised their own lines, but also made a series of tactical counter-attacks in the autumn, penetrating into the enemy's strongly defended positions and wiping out enemy troops by the company and platoon.

Moreover, in their tactical counter-attacks, the Korean and Chinese peoples' forces captured, under favourable conditions, over 70 enemy positions, over a dozen of which have since been firmly consolidated by our forces. On the other hand, the biggest offensive of the year launched by the enemy was a complete failure. The enemy mobilised a force over 50,000 strong and amassed large numbers of planes and artillery pieces, concentrating their attack on two hills four square kilometres in area in the Sangkumryung sector north of Kumhwa. In the more than forty days' fighting, the enemy suffered 25,000 casualties and failed to capture the hills.



**A Chinese People's Volunteer** Sketch by Ku Yuan

Many factors have gone to develop the present strength of the Chinese people's volunteers, fighting together with the Korean People's Army. But the fundamental factor is that the volunteers are waging a just war, that is to say, the present strength of the volunteers is determined by the laws of development of just wars. The political work carried out among the volunteers plays an important role in improving their fighting ability.

Judging from the present situation, we can say that the enemy has not the slightest intention of stopping the fighting on the Korean battlefield; he intends to continue the war. American imperialism, trying to find a remedy for its military and political failures, is actively plotting to embark on new adventures.

But the facts prove that all the American imperialist plots against us have failed in the past. If he dares to launch another attack against us, we will meet him with crushing blows and administer even greater defeats on him.

# The Drive Against Illiteracy

**Lin Han-ta**

*Vice-Chairman of the Commission for the  
Elimination of Illiteracy*

The door to culture and education was closed to the workers and peasants of old China. Brutally exploited and oppressed by the feudal and reactionary regimes and their imperialist backers, the people had not enough to eat, let alone speak of education. Over 80 per cent of the population was illiterate in a country renowned for its ancient civilisation and culture.

Liberation unlocked the door of culture and education for the people. In 1949, the old regime was thrown into the garbage of history. Social stability was quickly achieved. Rapid economic improvements have raised the people's standard of living and solved their urgent needs for food and clothing. Now they have the opportunity for cultural pursuits. The tradition of respect for culture and knowledge upheld by the Chinese Communist Party and all the finest representatives of the Chinese people has been established by the People's Government as a national policy applicable to every citizen.

There is today a great urge among the emancipated people for learning, so that they can increase their contribution to national construction. It is zealously encouraged by the People's Government, the Communist Party, all other democratic parties and the people's mass organisations.

This is the background of the drive against illiteracy that is gathering way. This is a campaign, a great battle against an ancient enemy of the people. The "strategy" is devised on broad national lines by the People's Government and its "operational staff," the Commission for the Elimination of Illiteracy headed by Chu Tu-nan, the well-known educationist.

The basic "tactic" is the quick method of learning to read and write Chinese that cuts learning time from three years to three hundred hours!

## The Quick Method

It was Chi Chien-hua, now vice-chairman of the Commission for the Elimination of Illiteracy, who developed the quick method in 1950 in the course of his experience as a teacher in the People's Liberation Army, so it is not surprising that this method has the spirit and drive that produced the triumphant results associated with all the victories of the P.L.A.\*

The quick method consists of three stages. The first is to learn the 37 phonetic symbols and their correct pronunciation. The second is to launch the "shock attack" to master the reading of the actual Chinese characters. In this stage, the students learn new words and phrases with the phonetic symbols placed alongside the corresponding character. The student thus sees, as well as hears, how to pronounce the character. Naturally, he knows the meaning almost as soon as he pronounces it. A good student can learn an average of one hundred characters in two hours' lesson.

The third stage is to learn to read sentences, texts, write the characters and whole compositions. Thus, knowledge of the characters learned is consolidated by repeated exercise.

This method has proved an outstanding success. The phonetics—though essential—are only part of the whole method. They were, in fact, first publicised as early as 1918 by

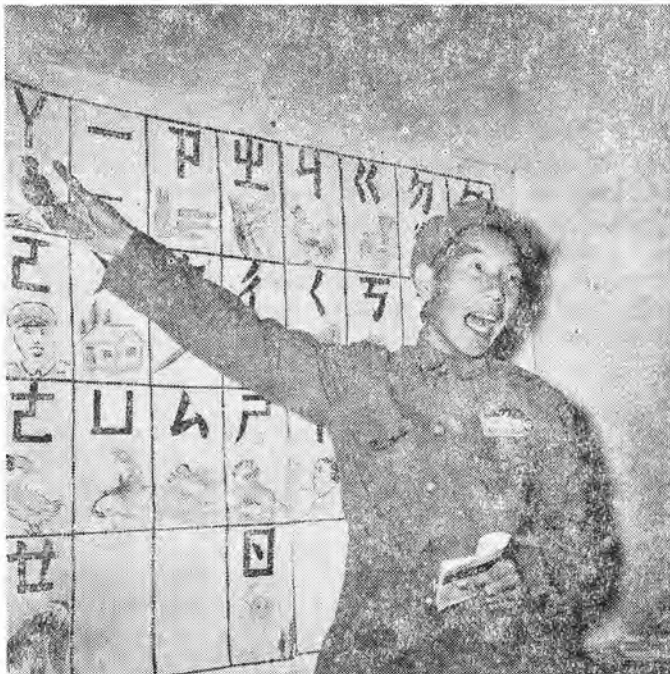
\* See "The P.L.A.'s New Weapon" *People's China*, No. 7, 1952.

Chinese educationists, but for more than thirty years, they were not taken full advantage of for eliminating illiteracy. The quick method has done this as part of a revolutionary development of organisation and method in teaching and learning.

This was possible only when the deadening social conditions of the old regime were eliminated and the way was cleared to introduce revolutionary educational reforms expressive of a basic change in ideology. It was necessary to do away with the reactionary ideology of the old-fashioned bourgeois educationists who under-estimate the learning capacity of the working people and who tend to separate the acquisition of theoretical knowledge from practical life. As a result of this outlook, the old educationists tried to teach adults as though they were children. The new method, on the contrary, develops the special advantages that adults have over children. It enhances their interest in learning and confidence in success.

### Teaching and Practical Life

Adults have a rich fund of experience and knowledge. Their ability to reason and powers of association of ideas are superior to those of children. They understand perfectly well the ideas conveyed by most of the commonly used characters, although they may not recognise the characters themselves. Hence the process of linking teaching with practical life is all-important. When the selected common characters (about 2,000 in number) are explained to the adult students in terms of familiar expressions in their daily life, they very quickly learn to recognise them. Furthermore, the radical change in their political and economic status since liberation and the various great political movements they have taken part in have enormously raised the level of social consciousness of the Chinese workers and peasants. They are eager to contribute their best to the building of their Motherland. They experience an urgent need of education as they see that the building of a new, advanced society presupposes the mastering of science and up-to-date technique.



Chi Chien-hua teaching the phonetic symbols—the first step in his new method of mastering Chinese characters. “Y” is pronounced “ah”

In a certain factory, when the first class in the quick method of learning to read and write was started, 400 workers enrolled, and 400 textbooks were ordered. But no sooner did the books arrive than they were bought out before all the regular students got their share. Finally, nearly 5,000 more copies were sold. Such enthusiasm for learning, product of a high level of political consciousness, ensures that if the adult students' abilities are fully developed and their courage in overcoming difficulties is given full play, the time taken to master the characters can be much shortened.

The “shock attack” on the characters is carried out with the same spirit and determination, leadership and organisational discipline as if it were a military operation in the style of the People's Liberation Army. To the workers and peasants, learning means fighting the enemy of ignorance—an enemy that has cost them untold suffering in the past. “If we can capture an enemy who can run,” said one worker student, “why can't we catch a character which has no legs?” This is the spirit that liberated China. It is the spirit that is

wiping out illiteracy in China today in record time.

Strictly observed voluntary discipline enables teachers and students to concentrate wholly on the task in hand. Collective effort and mutual aid are essential elements in the work of the small study groups into which the classes are sub-divided. The actual process of mastering the characters is divided into several stages so that knowledge of each character is reinforced by each successive stage and consolidated through actual practice.

### “Walking Sticks”

In the quick method, the phonetic symbols are the “walking sticks” with the aid of which the student overcomes the difficulty of knowing how to pronounce a given Chinese character. They facilitate self-study in committing new characters to memory. By reading the symbols printed alongside each character in the word book, the student can pronounce the character at a glance. An excellent booklet of familiar expressions and idioms with their phonetic equivalents has been compiled.

In learning a single character by the old method, one had to take up the four tasks of recognising, pronouncing, writing and using at one and the same time, each in itself being a difficult hurdle to surmount. The quick method prescribes the easier task of tackling one hurdle at a time. First the student concentrates on recognising the character, mastering one or two of its meanings (most Chinese ideographs have two or more meanings, depending on the context). Then comes the task of writing the characters and using them in sentences. Experience shows that, in 250 to 300 study hours, an average student can recognise 2,000 characters and read popular books, newspapers and magazines as well as write a composition of 300 to 500 characters. This is a good basis for further independent study.

Thus in 250 to 300 hours of study an illiterate person today can achieve what would previously have taken two or three years to attain.

A nation-wide campaign for popularising the quick method has been started.

The previously mentioned Commission for the Elimination of Illiteracy lost no time in taking up its work. Many localities now have special organisations for the campaign. These organisations consist of the responsible cadres of educational organs of the People's Government, Party branch committees, trade unions, the Youth League, women's democratic federations and other institutions and mass organisations like the peasant associations, co-operatives and scientific associations. Under their practical leadership, the quick method is being applied on an ever broader scale in all areas. Each area already has certain counties, villages, factories and streets serving as test centres. Thousands of teachers are being trained. In Tientsin, for example, more than 6,000 teachers have learned the method in the course of practical teaching. In Shantung Province, 100,000 teachers completed their training in the use of this method last year. Similar work is being carried on (in some places on a very big scale already) in various other administrative areas, provinces and counties in preparation for the forthcoming nation-wide anti-illiteracy campaign.

### 60 Million Textbooks

Textbooks for character study and popular reading materials are being printed in huge quantities. In 1952, more than 60 million copies of the textbooks for peasants were printed. This figure is much more than the population of the whole of Great Britain, and this is only part of the total to be produced.

The preliminary projects worked out by the various administrative areas have the target of wiping out illiteracy among workers within five years and among peasants within ten years. This year, according to plan, at least 1,100,000 workers and city people and 5,400,000 peasants will achieve literacy.

Many vital problems of organisation, of providing teachers and textbooks, have to be solved in launching the anti-illiteracy campaign on a nation-wide scale. For a country like China with an area of nearly 10 million square kilometres and an enormous population of 475 million, these problems did indeed seem insurmountable in the past, but what no one doubts is that they can be overcome by liberated China under the leadership of Chairman Mao.

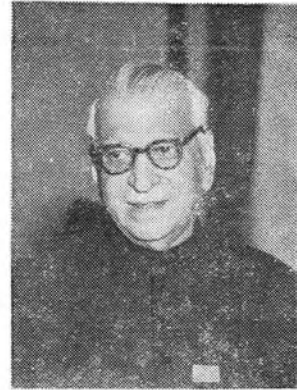


# Mankind Will

## Assert Its Will

### Saifuddin Kitchlew

*International Stalin Peace Prize  
Winner, and Leader of the Indian  
Delegation to the Congress of  
the Peoples for Peace in Vienna*



Never in human history has there been held an assembly of the nature of the World Congress of the Peoples for Peace. Men and women of the most diverse viewpoints gathered together in one hall to discuss the burning problems which face mankind. And not only did they discuss. They agreed on solutions for these problems with a unanimity which filled all our hearts with warmth.

I believe that the two documents adopted by the Congress—together with the reports of the three commissions—constitute historic decisions which will be hailed in every corner of the world.

The address to the Five Great Powers provides us with immediate practical work. I am proud to be a member of the commission appointed by the Congress to take steps to carry this address to the Great Powers. Humanity will watch anxiously for the results of our endeavours. If we can succeed in securing the opening of negotiations for a peace pact, we will have turned the world back from the road to war to the road to peace.

As an Indian, I am particularly pleased that the question of national independence and the security of peoples was given such serious attention at the Congress. The decisions we have taken on this matter, the reports of special commissions appointed on this question, will

give strength and confidence to the colonial peoples and to all peoples struggling for their freedom and against attacks on their sovereignty.

I am also happy that the Indian Delegation was able to agree unanimously on proposals which can form a basis of solution of the Korean question. The united stand which our delegation—representative of all political parties—was able to take with the Chinese Delegation helped to secure unanimity on this vital issue. We proved conclusively at the Congress that Asians shall never fight Asians, that our hundreds of millions will stand together and unite with the rest of the world for peace.

I believe that a new vista opens up now for the future of the peace movement in all countries. The decisions of the Congress open the door wide for persons outside the peace movement to join us, and for others, who may still not join us, to work side by side with us for our common cause.

Vienna was a splendid demonstration of the fact that men of even opposite views can agree where the question of peace is concerned.

When our delegation returns to India, we shall do everything in our power to popularise the Vienna decisions, and, on this basis, to develop the Indian peace movement into a broad mass movement of the people.

# How China Will Industrialise

Li Chen

OLD China's modern industry accounted for only about 10 per cent of the national production. And even this was controlled by the imperialist powers and their agents to supplement their own industries. It was unable to maintain its independence and serve the interests of the people. The textile industry, which was the most advanced branch, was dependent on imports of raw materials and machinery. The imperialist powers naturally did not want China to become industrialised and strong.

After many decades of heroic struggle and many sacrifices, the Chinese people freed themselves from the rule of the imperialists and their agents, the domestic reactionaries. It was only the liberated people who could undertake the great tasks of carrying out the land reform, stabilising finances and successfully launching the great public works which are eliminating natural calamities and laying the basis for a healthy national economy able to begin large-scale construction—prelude to industrialisation.

These creative tasks have been accomplished by the people in the short space of three years.

## Heavy Industry—Key to Industrialisation

The Chinese Communist Party has long seen the need for, and planned for, industrialisation. On July 1, 1949, on the eve of the founding of the People's Republic, Chairman Mao Tse-tung again pointed out:

Without the socialisation of agriculture, there can be no complete and consolidated Socialism. If we wish to socialise agriculture, we must develop a strong industry having state-operated enterprises as its main component. The state of the people's democratic dictatorship must, step by step, solve the problem of industrialising the country.\*

But how to industrialise? The classic example of the rapid development of industry

such as China needs is the experience of the Soviet Union in the first five-year plan. In 1928, when the plan started, industry accounted for 48 per cent of the national output of the U.S.S.R. By 1932, when the plan was completed, it accounted for 70 per cent.

China's aim is similar: to raise the level of industrial production above that of agriculture. And in doing so, China follows the path of the Soviet Union which, guided by Marxist-Leninist economic theory, accomplished such a transformation at a speed unprecedented in history.

What are the characteristics of industrialisation in the Marxist-Leninist sense as pioneered by the U.S.S.R.? Stalin has pointed out that "not all development of industry means industrialisation. The keypoint of industrialisation, its basis, is the development of heavy industry (fuel, metallurgy, etc.), the development finally of the production of the means of production, the development of its own machine-building industry."\*

In accordance with this principle whose correctness is so weightily exemplified by Soviet successes, the national plan of large-scale economic construction gives to heavy industry, with engineering, machine-building as its core, priority over light industry, producing consumer goods. Otherwise there would be no possibility of independently replacing and producing industrial equipment and of expanding the production of industry, either heavy or light.

This answers the question of whether we should develop heavy industry or light industry first. The road taken by the capitalist countries was to develop light industry first and heavy industry gradually afterwards. The way of Socialism is to develop heavy industry in the first place and then light industry and reform

\* Mao Tse-tung, *On People's Democratic Dictatorship*. Foreign Languages Press, Peking, 1951. p. 19.

\* J. V. Stalin, *Concerning the Economic Situation of the Soviet Union and Party Policy*. *Collected Works* (Russian Ed.), Vol. VIII, Moscow, 1948. p. 120.

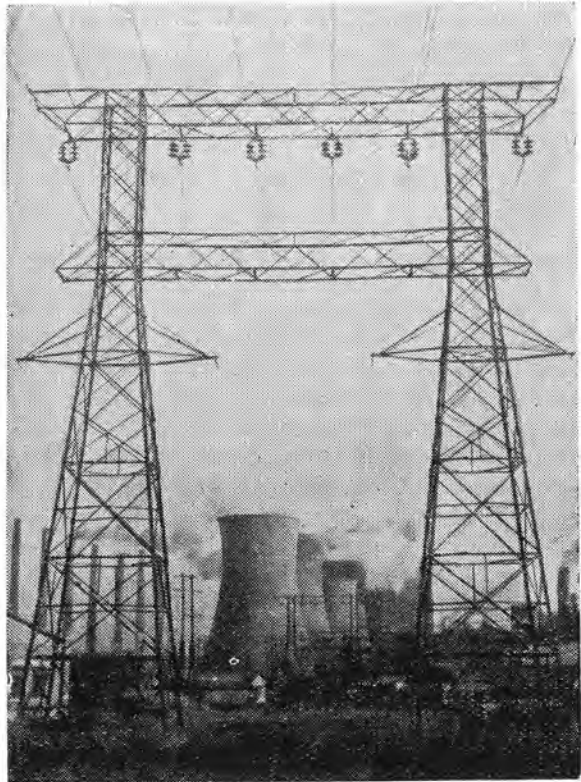
the methods of agricultural production—by the use of mechanisation, collectivisation and scientific cultivation—on the basis of the development of heavy industry.

The way forward for liberated and independent China lies through the development of heavy industry from the very beginning. In his work, *Five Years of the Russian Revolution and the Prospects of the World Revolution*, Lenin had this to say on the primacy of heavy industry for socialist industrialisation:

...Unless we save heavy industry, unless we restore it, we shall not be able to build up any industry; and without that we shall be doomed as an independent country.\*

In 1933, J. V. Stalin, having in mind particularly those who opposed priority for heavy industry in the first five-year plan, pointed out that if half of the large sums spent on heavy industrial equipment had been spent on consumer imports, the U.S.S.R. could have had more cotton goods, shoes and clothing, but it "would not have anything like a big iron and steel industry; we would not have metal for the manufacture of machinery—and we would be unarmed, while we are surrounded by capitalist countries which are armed with modern technique. We would have deprived ourselves of the possibility of supplying our agriculture with tractors and agricultural machinery—which means that we would now have no bread. We would have deprived ourselves of the possibility of achieving victory over the capitalist elements in our country—which means that we would have raised immeasurably the chances of the restoration of capitalism."†

Though imperialism has been expelled from China, American imperialism is still trying to stage a comeback against China. The development of heavy industry as the basis of China's national defence, of preservation of her achievements and her further advance, is therefore of key importance today. That is why, in our industrialisation, the machine-building and electrical industries, ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, fuel (coal and oil), transportation



**Framed in lines of power—factory buildings of the Anshan Iron and Steel Works**

and the agricultural machine industry will be given priorities just as they were in the U.S.S.R.

This, of course, does not imply that China will neglect her light industry. Without light industry, the people cannot be provided with a sufficient supply of daily necessities, and it will not be possible to improve their material well-being, which is the consistent policy of the People's Government. Therefore, appropriate steps will be taken to expand light industry under the over-all plan of industrialisation, taking into account that light industry in China, which is mostly privately owned, has already acquired a certain level of development. With the general improvement of economic conditions and the assistance of the state, light industrial enterprises have favourable conditions for their further strong development.

On the other hand, our heavy industry, which is mainly state-owned, inherited a very weak foundation from the past. It needs the nation's concentrated attention and large capital investments. It needs more manpower and

\* V. I. Lenin, *Selected Works*. Vol X. Lawrence and Wishart Ltd., London, 1946. p. 328.

† J. V. Stalin, *Problems of Leninism*. Foreign Languages Publishing House, Moscow, 1947. p. 404.

better techniques before it can develop on an adequate scale.

Moreover, it is only after heavy industry has been put on a firm foundation that light industry, transport and agriculture can forge ahead also at the rate needed in a People's Democracy.

### **Industrialisation—Basis of Modern Farming**

One important function of industrialisation is to serve as the basis of the transformation of agricultural production so that eventually its processes are mechanised and put on a large-scale, scientific and co-operative basis. A well developed heavy industry is needed to produce modern implements to replace the old-fashioned ploughs and hand tools that are still in general use, to organise the small-scale scattered peasant economy on a collective basis so that they can efficiently utilise tractors, combines, and other modern agricultural machinery and establish big power stations and irrigation systems. This is the path of completely transforming China's backward agricultural economy and leading the hundreds of millions of peasants on to the road of modern, large-scale production, of prosperity and happiness—a road of new advanced technique and collective labour.

The Soviet Union has also set a brilliant example of how to transform agriculture on the basis of a well developed heavy industry. Before industrialisation, agricultural productivity in the U.S.S.R. was not high. But during the first five-year plan, Soviet socialist industry became sufficiently developed to produce tractors and other farm machines in large quantities, while at the same time the peasants joined the collective farms *en masse*. By 1934, three-fourths of all the farming households in the Soviet Union had joined collective farms, cultivating about 90 per cent of the total cultivated area. When the second five-year plan was completed, 94 per cent of the threshing, 71 per cent of the ploughing and 84 per cent of the grain harvesting in Soviet agriculture were done by machinery. As a result of the collectivisation and mechanisation of agriculture and the introduction of new scientific methods of farming, it can be said today that the once acute grain problem of the U.S.S.R. has been solved, definitely and finally.

The lesson is thus clear. To transform her agriculture, China must develop her industry.

The further advance of the national economy to Socialism where the basic law is "the securing of the maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of the whole of society through the continuous expansion and perfection of socialist production on the basis of higher techniques"\* is clearly only attainable if the country has a powerfully developed industry able to provide in abundance for the needs of the people.

These tasks could only be fulfilled in a planned economy which has at its disposal an industry as well as an agriculture amenable to planning and able to fulfil plans made, that is, has a leading, powerfully developed state (socialist) economy, with a well developed engineering branch able to fulfil plans for the production of all needed machines.

To attain to this level, China has eventually to raise her industrial production from the 10 per cent or so of total national production at the time of liberation to around the level attained by the Soviet Union. This is a gigantic task. The experience of the last three years, however, and particularly of northeastern China, shows that this task will certainly be accomplished, and at a tempo of which no capitalist country is capable. In addition to its own vast resources and manpower, China today has the aid of the most advanced technique of the Soviet Union and the fraternal People's Democracies. China forms part of the great camp of peace and democracy which has shown that it can shrug off all the "blockades" and "embargoes" so futilely attempted by the crises-ridden camp of imperialism and aggressive war led by the government of the United States.

China has entered the stage of large-scale construction. The economic rehabilitation carried out in the past three years has laid a firm foundation for its successful development.

China will advance to industrialisation. The old China of the wooden plough will be transformed into the new China of the most modern technique.

\* J. V. Stalin, *Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.* *New Times*, No. 44, 1952, Supplement, p. 17.



# The Third Stage of The Huai River Project

Kao Shih-shan

THE third stage of the great project to harness the Huai River has begun. Launched in November, 1950, its completion by 1955 or earlier will end once and for all the flood menace in the Huai valley, an area nine-tenths as large as the British Isles and populated by 60 million people.

The first two stages of the project were aimed primarily at flood-control. The main areas that suffered most constantly and severely are now secure from the menace of recurrent floods, and today peasants are gathering record harvests. The third and present stage of the project mainly concentrates on three tasks: construction of the San River regulating gates, the excavation of various diversion canals to lead off flood waters and finally the construction of reservoirs and

hydroelectric plants. This brings the battle against the Huai into its final and more positive phase. After all the works of improvement have been completed, up to 50 million *mou* of irrigated areas (about 3,300,000 hectares) will be developed; 2,000 kilometres of waterways improved and hydroelectric power plants built.

## No More Floods

The construction of the San River regulating gates is one of the big tasks of this third phase. When completed, it will bring the flow of the Hungtse Lake—the biggest natural reservoir of the Huai—under complete control, free the North Kiangsu plain from the danger of flood once and for all and assure regular irrigation and navigation along the main waterways.

When its old outlets to the sea were ruined by the intrusion of the Yellow River, the Huai changed its course and made its way to the sea via Hungtse Lake, the San River, through Kaopao Lake and along the Grand Canal to empty into the Yangtse River. During the flood season, the Huai flowed into Hungtse Lake at the rate of 14,000 cubic metres per second, and the latter flowed to the Kaopao Lake at almost the same rate through the San River. But Kaopao Lake could empty itself into the Yangtse at the rate of only 7,000 cubic metres per second. The result was disaster. Kaopao Lake, which in many places connects with the Grand Canal, under pressure of Hungtse's waters, regularly increased the pressure on the Grand Canal dykes and made the water level of the Grand Canal rise as high as seven metres above the surrounding cotton and rice fields in the North Kiangsu plain.

The North Kiangsu plain, an area one-third the size of Belgium, has been flooded several times either as a result of the collapse of the Grand Canal dykes or by the opening of

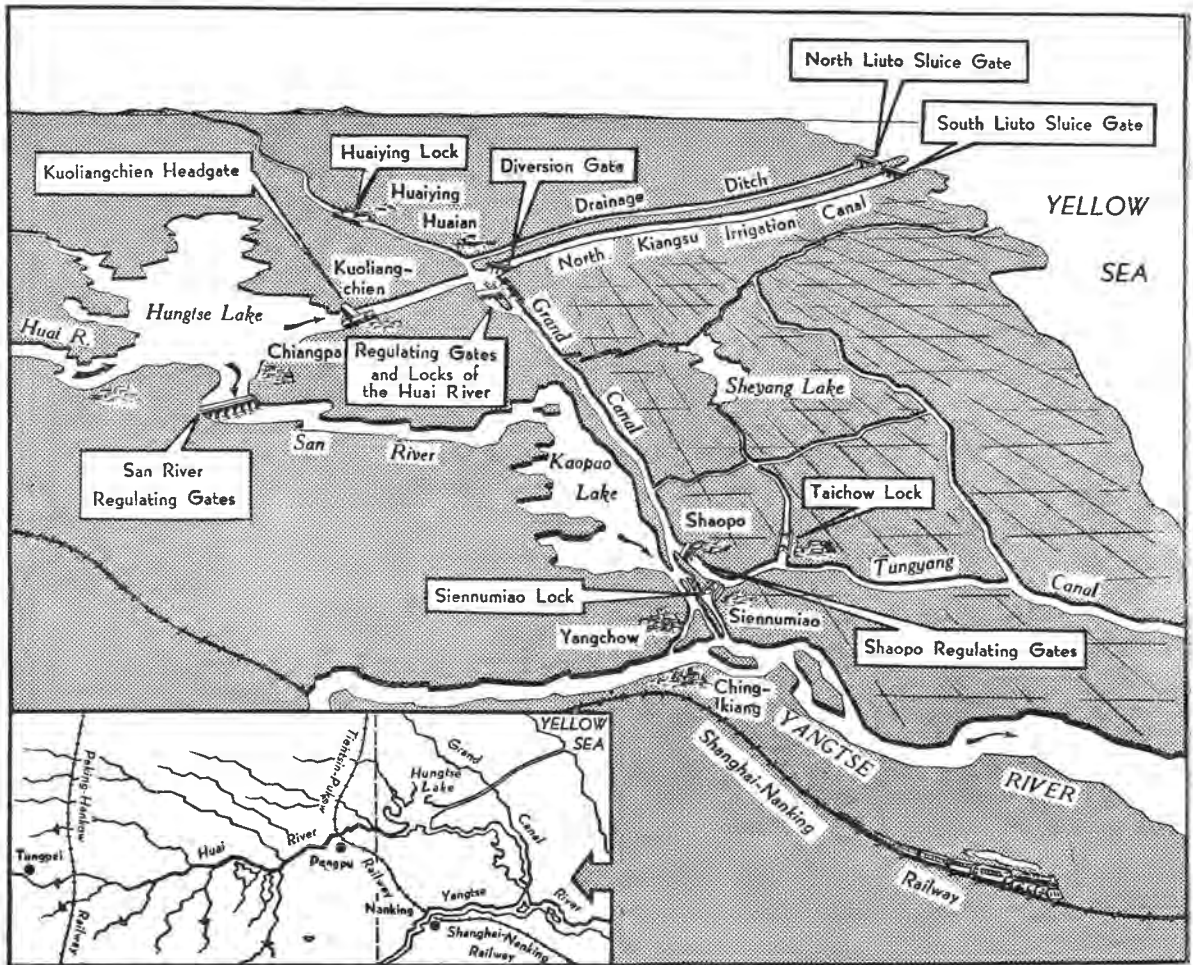
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The project to harness the Huai River is one of the great epics of modern times. In the first and second phases of the project (1951-1952), a total of 4,600,000 workers and peasants threw themselves into the struggle against their old enemy. They were assisted in this gigantic campaign by 40,000 non-technical government employees and 16,000 engineers and technicians.

Achievements have been immense. They include dredging of the channel of the Huai and its 70-odd tributaries totalling 2,880 km. in length; repair of 2,193 km. of dykes; excavation of the North Kiangsu Irrigation Canal, 170 km. long, and open for navigation to 900-ton steamers; building of a 561 metre movable dam at Jenhochi, three gorge type reservoirs and 15 low-land flood detention basins and more than 130 culverts.

The work of the first two years of the Huai project involved the digging of 437 million cubic metres of earth—equivalent to digging two Panama Canals and one Suez Canal. If this amount of earth were used to build a dyke one metre high and one metre broad, it would stretch the distance from the earth to the moon. This article describes the task facing the workers on the third stage of the project.

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Map I. The general scheme of the Huai River project

the emergency sluice gates on the dykes by KMT officials too inefficient to take proper measures of control. But the 9 million inhabitants of the North Kiangsu plain did not only have to contend with floods. In dry years, the Huai could not supply enough water for irrigation and drought would bring ruin to millions on the parched lands.

The new works being built on the San River will completely change this situation. Longer than the Jenhochi control works and only surpassed in length by the regulating gates on the Chinkingiang (Yangtse) Flood Detention Basin, the San River regulator will be 697 metres long and nine and a half metres high. Its 63 sluices will be electrically operated. When the dam is completed, which will be before the flood season this year, it will, together

with another regulator already built on Hungtse Lake at the entrance to the North Kiangsu Irrigation Canal, eliminate floods in North Kiangsu.

In drought years, the San River gates will serve to maintain the water level in Hungtse Lake so that an adequate flow can be supplied to the North Kiangsu Irrigation Canal to irrigate 1,670,000 hectares of cotton and rice fields. In addition to this, year-round navigation will be made possible along the middle and lower reaches of the Huai and along the North Kiangsu Irrigation Canal.

### Excavation of New Canals

A second task facing the workers on the third phase of the Huai project is the excava-

tion of new diversion canals to relieve the heavy pressure on the Huai and its tributaries during the rainy season.

It will be seen from the map (Map II) that as the Huai passes Pokang, it turns 270 degrees, and then, slowing its speed, curves back southwards through the flat plain. When in spate at this turn, it forces back the waters of its tributaries and causes floods along them.

More than 200,000 workers are now excavating a canal starting from Pokang straight across the base of this dangerous curve. The new canal, 7,500 metres long and 7 metres deep, will take the pressure off the tributaries during the flood season and allow the Huai to take a straight and swifter course.

Another two canals to be excavated will connect the tributaries with the Hungtse Lake. When the two canals are completed, dams will be built at points where the tributaries join the Huai. When the whole work is finished, it will reduce the highest flood level at Wuho by 2 metres and free 121,300 hectares of farmland from the menace of floods. The normal flood level along the six tributaries will be reduced by 3 metres, and 84,000 hectares of farmland will be freed from floods. Another 670,000 hectares will be indirectly benefited.

### Building of Reservoirs

The third main task in the third stage of the Huai project is to continue the construction of the Poshan, Nanwan and Futseling Reservoirs and start to build Meishan Reservoir along the upper and middle reaches. These reservoirs will have a total capacity of 3,600 million cubic metres. These projects are on a grand scale. One of them, the Futseling Reservoir on

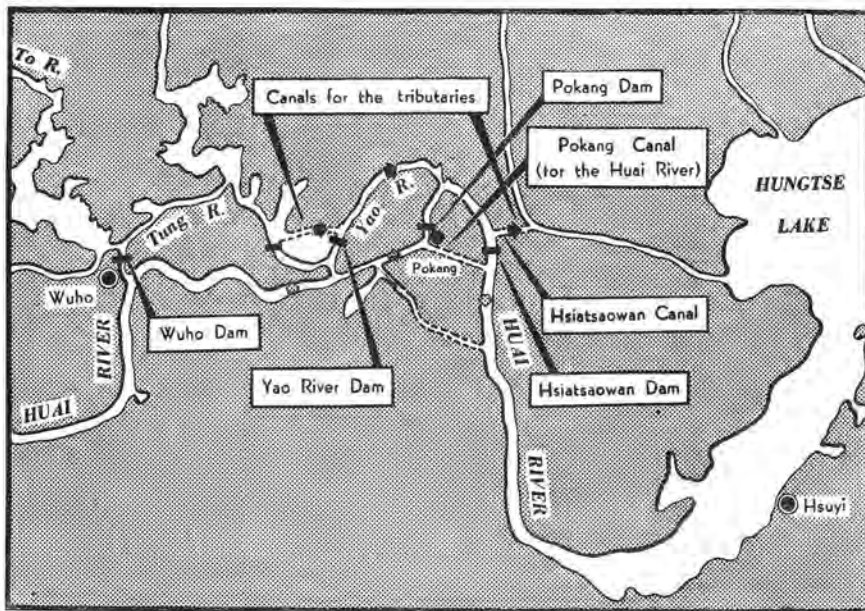
the Pi River, has a multiple arch dam 516 metres long and 74 metres high.

Many smaller works will be completed. Thirty tributaries have yet to be dredged and set in order; fifty culverts and many locks and drainage canals and ditches will be made. It is estimated that the amount of earth excavated during this year alone will equal that excavated in the building of the Panama Canal which took twenty years to complete.

### Bigger Things to Come

But the transformation of the Huai will not end even with this third stage. The fourth and fifth stages will be on an even more gigantic scale. More reservoirs are to be built on the upper and middle reaches. The Huai channel in the lower reaches will be dredged to make it flow through the San via Kaopao Lake into the Yangtse, China's largest inland waterway. The Hungtse Lake will thus be improved as a natural reservoir for the Huai.

With every passing year, the Huai is being moulded to increase its benefits and service to the people. The bridling of the Huai is one of the great gains brought by the victory of the revolution to the 60 million peasants of its valley.



Map II. Flood prevention works on the Huai River above the Hungtse Lake

# Chi Pai-shih —

## Distinguished People's Artist

### Wu Tsu-kuang

TALL, upright, white-haired and bearded, his lean face radiant, Chi Pai-shih at ninety-three is China's outstanding painter. In a tumultuous century, full of war and world-shaking changes, he has worked ceaselessly at his painting, seal-engraving, poetry and calligraphy. His works are cherished by the broad masses of China. They have been exhibited in Moscow, in Paris, in Tokyo. They are renowned among art lovers throughout the world for their penetrating, realistic observation of nature, their delicacy and sensitivity, freedom and sureness of touch, their impeccable sense of spacing and movement.

By social origin a peasant and a carpenter, Chi Pai-shih is a unique figure among the classical painters of China who have traditionally come from the gentry class. He was born in a poverty-stricken peasant family in a village of Hsiangtan County, Hunan Province. Not until he was eight did he get a chance to study. His mother gave up all the family's savings—four pecks of grain, which was just enough to pay for six months' schooling. Then he went to work, cutting wood and tending cows. In the evenings, his grandfather taught him what he knew, drawing characters in the ashes with a poker. When his grandfather died, all the meagre family savings—6,000 copper coins—were again exhausted to pay for the funeral. Too small and weak to plough, Chi Pai-shih was sent to learn carpentry. From rough work he turned to the making of fine, delicate objects and to wood-carving on furniture. He carved and decorated with great skill; everything came alive under his hands. His nickname was "Carpenter Chi," and his gentle character made him the favourite of all the villagers.

It was while selecting patterns for his carving that he came upon the famous *Book of*

*Painting*, textbook of artists for many centuries. It was the first time he had seen such pictures, and he studied them with intense interest. It was his first lesson in painting.

By the time he was twenty, his paintings were already becoming well known. He was able to study portrait-painting from two craftsmen, and began his own career as a professional painter. He mastered the art of bringing out the inner being tactfully as well as depicting the appearance exactly in all its details. He painted the portraits of the ancestors of the local gentry in full regalia with unequalled skill. Every detail was meticulously executed.

It was not until he was twenty-seven years old that he had another opportunity to learn reading and writing. As he mastered his letters, he started studying poetry by reading the famous poets of the Tang Dynasty: Tu Fu and Li Po. He practised industriously and himself became famous as a poet. Especially fine are his poems written to his paintings, verses that are woven out of the texture of his own life and work, filled with a sense of deep humanity. He is also a recognised master of the art of seal-engraving.

### A Change in Style

In middle life, his paintings, too, underwent a change in style. His brushwork had been precise and elaborate in detail, now it became free flowing and impressionist. The impressionist (*hsieh yi*) school has a long history in China, and Chi Pai-shih has absorbed its best traditions. He adapted the style of the ancient scholar painters with their spontaneous, rapidly executed brushwork, their superb sense of rhythm and economy of means and made it an instrument for the crystallisation of real life. Based on the fine



classical tradition, Chi Pai-shih is a thorough modern. A man of the people, he sees life with the realistic vision of the people. He went beyond the restricted subject matter and formalism of the gentry scholar painters of the traditional impressionist school, who lightly called their painting "ink play."

His seemingly simple compositions contain penetrating comments on life. Three fishes are swimming in a rushing stream. The small ones—they swim upstream bravely against the current; the medium-sized ones meander in midstream; while the larger, older fish has just turned its head and is swimming downstream. This is a subtle reflection of attitudes in the old society.

Ever since he learned to paint, Chi Pai-shih has kept many insect pets in his home: crickets, grasshoppers and the like, also fish and birds. He has patiently studied the activities of these small creatures, acquired an infinitely sympathetic understanding of their being and outward form. From the accurate imitation of nature in the early part of his life, he has developed in his later period an astonishing ability to evoke, with the simplest of means, the essential character and form of things.

Under his brush, fish and shrimps, with their transparent bodies, look like real fish and shrimps swimming in the water. His flowers, though the petals be red and the leaves black, bloom with the exotic beauty of youth. His paintings in black ink, often executed in a few simple strokes, have a unique beauty and vitality.

It is their simplicity, realism and warm human feeling, their close relation to actual life, that make his paintings so greatly admired by the Chinese people to whose life they add fresh colour and zest. His genius is indeed the fruit of hard work. His wisdom and insight in observing nature, his indefatigable spirit in work, these enable him to free himself from old conventions and acquire the



Chi Pai-shih

Sketch by Yeh Chien-yu

ability to impart life with the magical touch of his brush to anything he paints.

Chi Pai-shih himself says that he is at his best in poetry, next comes seal-engraving, then calligraphy, while painting comes last. He says this with a smile, for he knows that he is best known as a painter.

He has led the life of a painter for eighty years, surely one of the most remarkable lives in the world's history of art. But still more remarkable is the fact that, during all these eighty years, his painting was interrupted only on two occasions for a total of ten days, once when he was seriously ill and again when his mother died. Such indefatigable zeal in work is an inspiring example for the younger generation of artists in New China.

The integrity that inspires his art is also the guide of his life. Once in Peking when he was forty-one, a friend wanted to purchase for him the post of assistant magistrate. He refused the offer. When he was eighty-two, Peking was under puppet rule. Enemy and puppet officials desiring to obtain his paintings wished to visit him and curry his favour. He put up a notice at his entrance which read:

**Chinese custom forbids officials to visit the houses of the common people. Such visits are said to be unlucky. All officials contemplating visiting this house are hereby notified that they will not be received.**

Two years later, the Peking Art School, also trying to court him, presented him with several tons of coal which at that time was very difficult to obtain. He returned the gift. Though the weather was bitterly cold, he preferred to go without a stove. At about the same time, he painted some crabs, the symbol of his country's enemies, and wrote the following lines on the painting:

Mud and grass greet you wherever you go.  
Can you find a place to rest? No!  
People could see you often last year,  
But now, it's rare indeed when you appear!

In those days of oppression and war Chi Pai-shih proved his steadfastness, pureness of heart, courage and indomitable spirit. He looked forward to the dawning of peaceful days. The liberation of Peking came when he was eighty-nine years old. Chairman Mao Tse-tung, on meeting him soon after the liberation, showed great solicitude for him and inquired after his daily life. The People's Government had his dilapidated house repaired.

A man of the people, Chi Pai-shih has made his own direct contribution to the cause

of safeguarding world peace. For the past two years, the dove, symbol of peace, has been the main theme of his paintings. His huge painting, *Eternal Peace*, more than 66 square feet in size, was displayed during the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions. This masterpiece, done in a superb and grand style, forceful and majestic in its presentation, won the admiration of all who saw it.

January 7, 1953, was Chi Pai-shih's ninety-third birthday. On that day, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs presented him with a scroll, honouring his work and characterising him as "an eminent artist of the Chinese people, who has made remarkable contributions to the development of China's fine arts." During the celebration, all the scores of young artists present applauded and cheered him. His face beamed with unaffected happiness.

Chi Pai-shih's hair and beard became snowy-white many years ago. But in the last two years, the hair at the back of his head has been gradually turning black again! This symbolises his perennial youth which generates an ever fresh store of vitality.

## How Mill Hands Learn Their Letters

Yao Fang-ying

**A**T the No. 2 Cotton Mill, the whistle which ends the shift also blows for the start of classes that are wiping out illiteracy in these works in record time.

The red brick walls of this mill, one of the biggest in North China, are a landmark on the outskirts of Tientsin. Sixty-five per cent of the workers, most of them women, were wholly or semi-illiterate in the past. This was not unusual in old China. Illiteracy for the masses was one of the ways in which their exploiters "kept them in the dark." A whole world of knowledge was locked away from them. Slaving for twelve or more hours a day in badly lit and

ventilated mill sheds, living on the verge of starvation in a city occupied for eight years by the ruthless Japanese invaders or the corrupt Kuomintang militarists and driven by urgent need from early childhood to work for a living, it was a wonder that any workers in the past found the energy and will to devote his or her rare leisure hours to study.

Liberation brought better living conditions, the eight-hour day and facilities for study. In February, 1949, soon after Tientsin was freed, a spare-time school sponsored by the trade unions was set up in the No. 2 Mill as well as in many other works. Only 74 workers at-

tended at the start, but enrolment snowballed as the idea caught on. By the end of 1951, over 3,000 workers were studying. But progress was slow. A really good student picked up less than ten characters a lesson. It would take two to three years to become literate at that rate.

### Introducing the Quick Method

Then came exciting news. The press gave wide publicity to the development of Chi Chien-hua's quick method of learning to read and write Chinese from scratch in a matter of about 300 hours of lesson time.

The literacy campaign took on a new tempo with this new basis. Old and young came to study. A mothers' group was started to suit the needs of working mothers. They could bring their babies to the nearby children's nursery. The classes were reorganised to fit the new method. Very soon, more than 4,000 workers in the mill wore the badge of the character-reading groups, pledged to learn to read and write in six months.

There were new incentives to study. It became a point of honour not to be late or absent. The average attendance rate stood at 97 per cent.

Fifty-eight-year-old Tsui Ping-kuei, a machine-repairer who had a wealth of practical experience, had jealously guarded his production secrets before liberation. They were his "weapons" in the bitter struggle for survival in the old society. He had thought it was useless to join the spare-time school at his age. But gradually, he came to understand what was the real significance of the liberation. He saw the new respect paid to the older workers, the democratic reforms in the factory that demonstrated that it was indeed the people—the workers—who owned the plant, the introduction of labour insurance, free medical attention and care in sickness, security of employment and constant improvement of the workers' living conditions. . . . Tsui understood that he really had most to gain by sharing his secrets with the whole of the people. He started to train the young workers. He realised then that if he could read and write, he could improve his own work better and pass on his experience to many more workers. He joined the literacy group.

Students of the factory spare-time school attend four lessons a week, each lasting one and a half hours. Classes are divided into four groups to suit the various shifts. Since the basis of the method is group study, the students are divided into 47 classes according to the standard of literacy they have reached, and each class is again sub-divided into a number of mutual-aid teams. In addition to the school's own 20 full-time teachers, there are another 200 who are voluntary, spare-time teachers or assistants from among the literate workers. The knowledge that their teachers, like themselves, have come to class after a day's work is a powerful incentive to the worker students. Discipline is exemplary.

### Literacy in 300 Hours

In the past, the worker students had to contend with the formidable task of mastering the thousands of ideographs or characters which total about 8,000 in a dictionary of general use. This is something that daunted many a heart. Among the great merits of the quick method of learning to read and write Chinese is the fact that it reduces the difficulties to a comprehensible scale. It gives the student an "alphabet" of 37 phonetics and a list of some 2,000 most commonly used characters to master, a task well within the powers of the average student. The successes already achieved and widely publicised have created an atmosphere in the factory and indeed throughout the country of "everyone else is doing it, so why can't I?" Success after 300 hours of study is a very foreseeable future. The mutual help organisation of study is a great morale builder and of enormous practical assistance.

The school entered its twelfth week last November. With infectious enthusiasm, the students had already mastered the phonetic symbols, learned how to use these to get the correct pronunciation of characters which are printed in the textbooks accompanied by the phonetics. Their group lessons are earnest and intensive. Mutual-aid group studies are gay and often hilarious as the members sometimes stumble and misguess or show outstanding success in reading-games especially designed to aid the memorising of the characters.

By this time, after seventy hours of lesson time, those who had previously learned about 1,000 characters knew more than 2,000. They

could read the wall newspaper, articles in dailies and magazines, write short essays and letters. Those who had been completely illiterate had learned about 1,000 characters, and the signs on roads and notices were already not meaningless to them.

The effect of the study movement has been immediately felt in the place where it matters most ... in production and in enriching the workers' cultural life.

When the fine-yarn department of the factory recently introduced the innovations made by Ho Chien-hsiu, the famous model worker of the Tsingtao Textile Works, by which she cut down cotton wastage from 1.5 per cent to 0.25 per cent, the factory's spare-time school printed and distributed leaflets to the workers explaining the method in simple terms. With the help of the leaflets, which the masses of the workers could now read, the method was quickly mastered, and output soared. Most of the other results of literacy cannot be so tangibly measured, but the workers have been quickly conscious of them.

The No. 2 Cotton Mill is successfully carrying out its plan to make 70 per cent of its

workers literate by this spring. It is working hard to win the lead in the city-wide campaign. Tientsin has 300,000 people in its spare-time literacy classes, which is about one-third of all its illiterate and semi-literate citizens who will complete their courses this year.

Even while the literacy campaign was getting under way, rows and rows of new, red brick houses were being built as the workers' living quarters, southwest of the factory, and at the same time, a Palace of Culture with a theatre, reading rooms and library was being planned. With the present drive to end illiteracy successfully completed, there will be a big demand for those reading rooms. All the latent artistic talent of the workers, for drama, poetry, literature, all the immense striving that fills them for exploring the magnificent cultural heritage of their country is being opened through the gate of the literacy campaign. With the prospect of China's first nation-wide elections this year, it is clearer than ever how essential it is for them to be fully literate in order to exercise their rights and fulfil their duties as citizens and the leading class of the country.



The Bird to the Scarecrow:

"I used to think you were a farmer, but now I know better—farmers wear good clothes!"

Drawing by  
Su Kuang



# For a Motherland In Construction

Wei Wei

Once again the snow falls in Korea amidst the roar of the guns. This is the third winter of the war. Again I met our fighters—our people's volunteers—so dear to our hearts. Two years ago, they left our beloved country. They have endured great hardships and privations. Veterans, tens of thousands of them, have browned, blister-hardened hands. They have dug a way clean through the mountains and ridges between the east and west coasts. They have built an underground Great Wall, a tunnel network as intricate and fine as a spider's web. They have stood vigilantly on guard dealing blows to the aggressors who have yet to learn their lesson.

Standing here, how often have they turned their eyes to the north—to where their Motherland lies.

Talking of home and country, thoughts turn naturally to mothers, wives and dear friends, but now above all else, one subject has seized their imagination. Everywhere, in all the winding, narrow trenches still reeking of gunpowder, they talk eagerly of the great work of construction now going on at home.

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Rifleman Yang En-hua stood up at a company discussion meeting.

"Commissar!" he saluted, "I'd like to say a few words." Having received permission, he turned to face his comrades, and took out two letters and a photograph from his pocket.

"Look, everybody, this is the picture of my little sister. Isn't she nice?" All eyes centred on the snapshot. They saw a young girl, pretty and healthy, with big shining eyes and two long braids tied with butterfly bows.

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An abridged version of the article from the *Peking People's Daily*, by one of China's most popular correspondents on the Korean front.

The men listened intently.

"She used to slave in a landlord's house. Her body was often covered with black and blue bruises from the beatings she got. Her hair was thin, and her face was so pale and sallow that she didn't look like a young girl. Every so often she used to come home crying. She was a picture of misery. But what could I do in those days? We had no parents, and I had no way to support her. Grandma and Uncle were no better off. They, too, had no property and no home. What could they do to help us?" A tear rolled down his cheek.

"I left home. It's been several years now. Our country has changed. Our village has changed, too. Little Sister says in her letter that factories have been built near our village. Now, she is a worker. Granny and Uncle have got their shares of land and have joined a mutual-aid team. It's certain that in a few years now we'll see tractors farming the fields in our village. Sister tells me to fight with a will here at the front. She promises to do her extra best in the construction work at home. She suggests that we should compete with each other—each to do his best."

He studied the photograph as if with fresh interest and exclaimed, "Look, you fellows, look at that smile on her happy face!"

Such is the change in the family of one ordinary volunteer. But like changes have taken place in the families of tens of thousands of other ordinary volunteers. These are the reverberations of the world-shaking changes which have taken place in our Motherland. When they crossed the Yalu River, our men were infuriated by the sight of ruins and blood and fire and the inhuman atrocities committed by the American invaders in Korea. They fought selflessly to defend our country and aid the people of Korea. Today, they draw inexhaustible new strength from the absorbing

news of our national construction, our increasingly happy life at home and the glittering new perspectives which have set our hearts aglow—really aglow.

When news of the opening of the Chengtu-Chungking Railway reached the Korean battlefields, it was a day of happy excitement particularly for those who hailed from Szechuan Province. Those on the march started a *yangko* dance, and those at the front sang the folk songs of their native provinces. Yang Kuo-ming, a veteran fighter, told us that when he was young, he had often crossed the small river in front of his home to gather firewood. There he used to see a wooden noticeboard saying that this was where the Chengtu-Chungking Railway was to be built. But more than twenty years passed. The wooden board rotted away, and still no trace of the railway was to be seen.

"Nobody ever expected that the railway would be completed less than three years after liberation!"

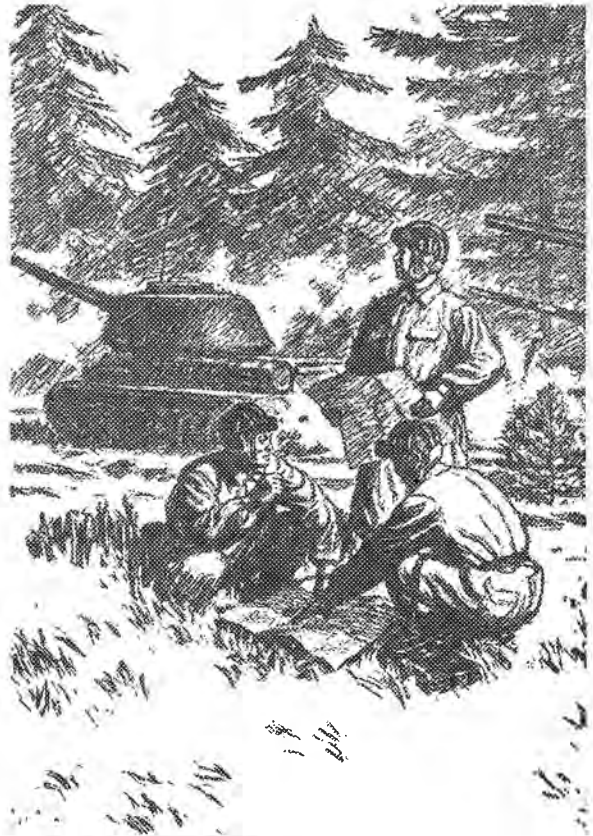
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New weapons from our Motherland reached the Korean front. The young divisional commander looked at a recoilless anti-tank gun for several moments, head lowered in silence. Then he said to himself, "If my Little Lingtse had had such a gun, then he'd still be alive today!"

I was told that Little Lingtse had been his runner for several years. He would have been nineteen this year. He was the youngest and the bravest of his group.

One day an enemy tank broke through and threatened the divisional headquarters. Machine-gun and rifle fire failed to check it. Little Lingtse, with two grenades in his hands, dashed forward, clambered to the top of the tank and thrust a grenade into the caterpillar tracks. But it rolled off, and he was wounded by its explosion. His face bleeding, he tried to open the turret to throw the second grenade inside, but in spite of all his efforts, the iron monster remained tightly shut.

Suddenly, the turret was thrown open from inside. A hand with a pistol thrust upwards and fired point-blank at Little Lingtse. His chest torn by the bullets, Lingtse exerted his



C.P.V. tank drivers at the front

Sketch by Kao Hung

last strength and threw the grenade into the turret. A shattering explosion followed as it set off the ammunition inside the tank. The tank blew up, killing the crew and the young hero.

As the divisional commander spoke of this, he added with deep emotion: "Can you imagine the power of an army, made up of such fighters as Little Lingtse, armed with adequate modernised equipment!... Our nation is on the threshold of large-scale economic construction. Every new weapon that is sent by our Motherland is not simply just a weapon; it adds to the force which guarantees peace in Asia and the whole world! It symbolises the march of our Motherland towards a new era of peace, security and prosperity for the people."

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A few evenings later, I revisited our divisional commander. He was listening to a staff

officer reporting on the first victory scored by the new anti-tank gun. That day, eighteen of more than thirty attacking enemy tanks were destroyed in a pitched anti-tank battle. The staff officer excitedly described how one of the gunners alone had accounted for five tanks. This gunner was just about to open fire when several shells from the enemy's tanks exploded near him. He was wounded and fell back into the trench. But he managed to get up again. Holding himself up and peering through the gun sights, he yelled to his comrades who were also wounded: "It's our elder worker-brothers at home who made this gun for us. I'll be damned if we give it up before destroying even one enemy tank!" Aiming faultlessly, he put five enemy tanks out of action. Blood streamed down his sleeves, because he refused to waste time having his wound bandaged.

The battle over, he was called by the commander to fill in the "meritorious service form." But he declined, saying: "The merit doesn't belong to me. It should go to them first of all!" The commander was puzzled. "Who are they?"

"The workers at home who made this gun!" came the answer. "We should share the merit at least fifty-fifty!"

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From summer to autumn and from autumn to winter, thousands of volunteer fighters whom I met at the front asked me to send their inexpressible gratitude to you—the people at home. What makes them particularly happy is the way that during these two years—only two years—you have built up our Motherland and their homes.

They know it has been a difficult task. They know how hard you are working at your machines, in the mines, fields and woods, as well as on the bleak and towering mountains. But they know that, thanks to your efforts, our Motherland will grow more and more splendid with each passing day and hour.

As to the volunteers themselves, they pledge themselves to continue to stand on guard for peace along the 38th Parallel—for our Motherland, for Korea, for Asia and for the whole world.

## A Merry X'mas, A Happy New Year!

From Our Special Correspondent  
at a P.O.W. Camp

*Pyoktong, N. Korea.* It was the whitest possible Christmas here—so white that Jack Frost nearly ruined the weeks of careful planning by freezing up the barge bringing the Christmas supplies. But by performing miracles of navigation and lorry driving, the Chinese volunteers got everything here on time so that when the prisoners of war were awakened on Christmas morning by *Hark the Herald Angels Sing!* played on the camp's loudspeakers, they knew that a merry Christmas was guaranteed.

Everything else was ready well in advance, and the whole camp looked like a Christmas

card with silver bells, fir trees and real icicles glinting in bright sunlight. Everything asked for by the prisoners arrived on time, even to bottled tomato sauce and jam.

The prisoners had sent me a card, covered with holly and spangles, inviting me to spend the day with them. When I arrived, everyone appeared to be sucking sweets or smoking ready-made cigarettes. Breakfast, of fishcakes, pork and beans, baked rolls and black tea with milk and sugar, was regarded by the company cooks as a hasty snack to be got out of the way to enable them to concentrate on Christmas dinner. So we all went down to the playing

field and watched the English team get beaten at soccer by a team of Welsh, Scottish and Irish, whose combined strength was too much for the English!

### A Perfect X'mas Dinner

Nothing lacked to make Christmas dinner perfect except the prisoners' families and friends. There was chicken, plenty of chicken, enormous individual meat pies, fried pork, vegetables, plenty of everything, washed down with strong Chinese spirits and topped off with great bumpers of hot tea. Then it was time to go to the main camp club house, where the British company gave the night's entertainment.

Camp playwright, Ted Beckerley, had written a new play, *Uncle Stan*, a frolicsome tale of a working-class family which ridiculed snobbery. Jack Green, master of ceremonies, in good old Music Hall style, wore a well-fitting swallow-tail coat dug up from somewhere by the volunteers, and never let the proceedings flag for one moment. In between the play, the Music Hall turns and the pantomime *Cinderella*, "amateurs" performed for prizes of packs of cigarettes, and there was never any shortage of talent for this side of the evening's fun. Cinderella in tattered skirt and bodice lisped "her" way through the plots of the wicked queen and the ugly sisters, helped by a ferocious fairy godmother. The last line of the finale, "And let there be Peace on Earth in 1953!" brought the house down.

We all went to the various company club rooms to make a night of it, while carol-singers went to serenade the sick in the camp hospital. The parties in the club rooms went on almost all night with singing, dancing, impromptu turns, card tricks, ping pong. And so it went on for three days more, with plays by the negroes and other Americans and all-night parties and then a short break before New Year was celebrated.

It was merry, very merry—but I would not say it was happy. I came upon one young British prisoner in the club room, sitting with a cup of wine and looking at nothing in the distance, and said to him: "Penny for your thoughts?" Without changing his gaze, he

said, "Just about now, it's three o'clock in England. The missus and kids and Mum and Dad are about sitting down to Christmas dinner. I bet they're thinking of me right now. I'm bitter about those Americans down at Panmunjom."

Profiting by their experience of last year, the volunteers had provided for everything on a far more lavish scale. But last Christmas, the prisoners were happy. Prisoners' name lists had just been exchanged at Panmunjom, and peace seemed to be within easy reach. No one had heard of "voluntary repatriation"; no one had heard of the massacres on Koje Island, forced screening, tanks and flame-throwers being used against Korean and Chinese prisoners. Not one man in these camps here doubted that, by Christmas, 1952, he would be at home, in the heart of his own family, looking back on the nightmare of war in Korea as a memory.

### Letters Demand Peace

Many Americans told me that they have written letters home demanding that the American people do not allow Eisenhower to cheat them by refusing peace in Korea after getting elected by pretending that he would go to Korea to end the war. And the British boys, too, are urging their friends and relatives in Britain to get into action to force the Churchill government to withdraw from this American war and end the betrayal of British lads by selling them as mercenaries to America. They were horrified to learn, just before Christmas, of the latest slaughter of prisoners by their American captors, while they themselves were going ahead with preparations for Christmas helped in every possible way by Chinese volunteers, who do not celebrate Christmas themselves.

Many things are clear to these men which they did not know before. They know who it is that maltreats prisoners and who treats them better than prisoners have ever been treated before. They know what the war is about now, and that the American Government wants the war to go on, and that the Koreans and Chinese stand on the side of humanity for "peace on earth."

## Letter From Two U.S. P.O.W's

*We have received several letters from U.S. and other P.O.W's describing the good treatment they are having in Korean-Chinese camps. Below we print extracts from one of these letters.*

Please allow us the privilege to express our high appreciation and grateful feelings to the Chinese people through you for the kind treatment which we prisoners of war have received under the care of the Chinese people's volunteers during the past twenty-five months. Since the day of our capture, not only this kind treatment has never changed but on the contrary things keep improving as time goes on.

After the "Autumn Inter-camp Olympics," we, along with the Chinese people's volunteers, started preparing for a big and happy Christmas.

We had a Santa Claus and carol-singers that went around to each company and to the hospitals. What impressed us most was that the Chinese volunteers dined, danced and joked with us. Do we call these people friends or enemies? It touches us very deeply to see all of the wonderful things that the C.P.V. are doing for us; it brings tears to our eyes to think of the horrible crimes that we committed against these people on the battlefield. We lose sleep

at night thinking of the Chinese and Korean prisoners being held by the U.N. army on Koje Island. Here we celebrate all of the Chinese holidays including ours, but in their camps, the Korean and Chinese P.O.W's are beaten and mistreated like animals. If the U.N. side wanted a quick and peaceful settlement to this Korean war, then the proposal of voluntary repatriation would not have been brought up.

We hope that in the new year of 1953, the new president Eisenhower will adopt a new policy towards a quick and just end to this war. We feel that this conflict can be ended successfully when there is a sincere desire for peace on the U.N. side. We are always overwhelmed with joy when we hear about the peace movement back in the United States. Peace is something that just doesn't fall from the sky and is blessed upon the people, it is something that must be struggled for and won.

*PFC. Edward S. Dickenson (Sd.) RA 13164632  
PFC. William R. Hinkle (Sd.) RA 15274008*

## The Girl Behind the Counter

Kao Win

One afternoon in December, an old, weather-beaten peasant elbowed his way to a counter in one of the state department stores on Wangfuching Street, Peking's busiest shopping centre.

"What can I do for you?" asked the young salesgirl, smiling and rosy-cheeked.

"I want some cotton-print dress lengths for my daughter. Something she can wear for the Spring Festival, you know."

The girl turned to the shelves behind her, and began to look for something suitable. If she had been choosing for her own wardrobe, she could not have done it with more tenderness and care. Finally, she placed some brightly coloured bolts in front of her customer.

"How do you think she'd like some of these?"

The old man took several minutes to consider, then raised his head. "Have you anything better?" he asked. "You see, our girls back in the village like to dress in the best these days. I had a good crop this year. My girl won't be satisfied with anything worse than what her friends get."

The salesgirl turned to the shelves again, and took down many other bolts. Draping first one length then another over her own figure, she said merrily:

"Take these. I'm sure they'll suit your daughter fine."

Then, suddenly, realising that she was a bit too persuasive in her tone, she hastened to add:

"No hurry. Take your time. Buy whatever will really satisfy you."



Evidently pleased, the old farmer smiled back at her, then broke into a happy laugh.

\* \* \*

The salesgirl was eighteen-year-old Cheng Tsai-yung. Customers always crowd before her counter, and she serves them with a contagious cheerfulness. If there is nothing in stock which suits the buyer, she asks him to put down what he wants in the suggestion book. If many customers seem to want a particular article, she does her best to persuade the store to get it. People she has once served never fail to seek her out again, and she has been cited twice for her good work.

What makes Cheng Tsai-yung the way she is? We asked her to tell us her story, and here it is.

Born the daughter of a poverty-stricken clerk, she had known hunger and want from her childhood up.

She never had any clothes that were not passed down to her by her then jobless sisters. Once, however, the family saved enough to buy her a new dress for the first time in her life. She was then eleven. She hurried to a piece-goods store but only after a long time, only when business was slack and all the well-to-do customers were attended to, was she asked, or rather shouted at, what she came for. Meekly, she took the piece of blue cloth shoved at her without the benefit of making a selection.

Back at home, she excitedly unwrapped the cloth. To her bitter disappointment and afterwards great despair, it was many inches too short. It shrank some more in the wash. And what was worse still, its colour faded after several washings. Instead of bringing her joy, her new dress became a heartbreaking affair for many months.

Liberation brought jobs and happiness to the girl's family. To Tsai-yung, it meant satisfying work in a state department store where she receives the same pay as her male colleagues and enjoys a happy social life. Her salary is the smallest in the family, yet one-fifth of it is sufficient to buy her decent food.

\* \* \*

After her day's work, Tsai-yung plunges into ball games or other recreations at



Cheng Tsai-yung

her trade union club. She is a very active trade-union member and was elected to the Committee for Women's Affairs. It was at the club that she met her sweetheart, a tall, handsome young fellow, with whom she often goes to week-end dances and theatres.

The skating season is on now. Tsai-yung loves to skate in Peihai Park with her friends. In other seasons she likes picnicking or boating. She enjoys each holiday to the full.

Three days a week, she attends a spare-time school, where she studies literature. The national trade-union paper, the *Workers' Daily*, showed interest in several of her pieces. This encouraged her to work still harder. "If China had not been liberated, I would probably have been a poor household drudge all my life. But now I have a respectable job and enjoy a rich social life. I have every opportunity open to me. I may become a writer if I work hard enough for it."

Yet in the midst of her rich and happy life and the prospects opening before her, Tsai-yung has never forgotten that blue cloth dress. And in small things or large—whether she sells cloth in the shop or writes for the press—her aim will always be to serve the people with patience, kindness and honesty.

## China Stands Up

*China Stands Up* is a lively account, warmly sympathetic in tone, of the things a member of the Indian Goodwill Mission to China saw, learned and felt on a visit that took place in September, 1951. The author, Mr. R. K. Karanjia, is the well-known Indian journalist and editor of *Blitz* weekly, which is published in Bombay and enjoys wide popularity throughout India and Southeast Asia. Based largely on letters to his wife written while his impressions were still at their freshest, the book conveys much of the freshness and excitement of discovery to the reader.

Mr. Karanjia records, and rightly regards as important, the fact that every member of this Indian mission, regardless of politics or previous views on the subject of the Chinese revolution, had become an enthusiastic admirer of New China before the tour ended. As an Indian, he explains that this is because China provided "answers to the problems that troubled us."

Consequently, he says, "I want to devote this book not so much to the achievements of New China as to the way these achievements were put through. I want to explain how China solved her problems and, in the process, provided us with ready-made solutions for some of our major problems also."

Talking about China, but never for a moment forgetting his own country, Mr. Karanjia divides his book into two parts. In the first, he makes a brief recapitulation of the history of imperialist aggression, particularly U.S. aggression in China, and

the present U.S.-led conspiracy of war and counter-revolution against the peoples of Asia. China's answer to these predatory attempts is given in the words of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. She has "stood up." The author states his firm conviction that all Asia can stand up if she looks to the great new victory in the East, instead of to outworn theories from the West, for guidance. And China's victory, he makes clear, is born of "the application, adaptation of Marxist theory and the experiences of the great Soviet revolution to Chinese conditions."

The second part of *China Stands Up* is devoted to an appreciative reportage of China today. Mr. Karanjia touches on the functioning of the people's democratic dictatorship, the production front, the food problem, the land reform, the emancipation of the working class and the economic policy of benefits for both labour and capital. Very valuable is his sharp, factual and specific exposure, documented by first-hand observation, of various lies about China that are currently being spread by the imperialist press.

However, *China Stands Up* shows some signs of hasty writing. But this does not affect the main merit of the book—Mr. Karanjia's ability to convey his passionate and well-founded certainty that the Asian peoples can and will find solutions to their problems, and his belief in the importance of close bonds between China and India which he not only expresses as a publicist but serves in his capacity of secretary of the Sino-Indian Friendship Association of Bombay. For these reasons, his work is useful to the Indian and all other democratic readers from whom it is bound to meet a warm welcome.

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*China Stands Up* by R. K. Karanjia, People's Publishing House, Bombay, 1952.

Hsu Chi

## Resolution of the Central People's Government Council On the Convocation of the All-China People's Congress and People's Congresses at All Levels

*On December 24 last year, an enlarged session of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference met to discuss a proposal of the Communist Party of China that the All-China People's Congress and local people's congresses be convened in 1953. The proposal was explained to the session by Chou En-lai, who spoke on behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.*

*At its 20th session held on January 13, 1953, the Central People's Government Council unanimously adopted a resolution for the convocation of the All-China People's Congress and the local people's congresses at all levels. Chairman Mao Tse-tung, in his speech summing up the discussions, pointed out that the government based on the system of people's congresses would continue to be a united front government including China's various nationalities, democratic classes, democratic parties and people's organisations.*

*The following is the text of the resolution:*

Article 12 of the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference stipulates:

The state power of the People's Republic of China belongs to the people. The people's congresses and the people's governments of all levels are the organs for the exercise of state power by the people. The people's congresses of all levels shall be popularly elected by universal franchise. The people's congresses of all levels shall elect the people's governments of their respective levels. The people's governments shall be the organs for exercising state power at their respective levels when the people's congresses of their respective levels are not in session.

The All-China People's Congress shall be the supreme organ of state power. The Central People's Government shall be the supreme organ for exercising state power when the All-China People's Congress is not in session.

Article 2 of the Organic Law of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China stipulates:

The Government of the People's Republic of China is a government of the people's congress system based on the principle of democratic centralism.

When New China was established three years ago, many revolutionary works were in their infancy; the people were not fully mobilised; and the conditions were not yet mature for the convocation of the All-China People's Congress. In accordance with the provisions of Article 13 of the Common Programme, the first Plenary Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, therefore, assumed the functions and powers of the All-

**Committee for Drafting the Constitution of the People's Republic of China:**

Chairman: Mao Tse-tung.

Members: Chu Teh, Soong Ching Ling, Li Chi-shen, Li Wei-han, Ho Hsiang-ning, Shen Chun-ju, Shen Yen-ping, Chou En-lai, Lin Po-chu, Lin Feng, Hu Chiao-mu, Kao Kang, Ulanfu, Ma Yin-chu, Ma Hsu-lun, Chen Yun, Chen Shu-tung, Tan Kah-kee, Chen Po-ta, Chang Lan, Kuo Mo-jo, Hsi Chung-hsun, Huang Yen-pei, Peng Teh-huai, Cheng Chien, Tung Pi-wu, Liu Shao-chi, Teng Hsiao-ping, Teng Tse-hui, Saifudin, Po I-po and Jao Shu-shih.

**Committee for Drafting the Electoral Law of the People's Republic of China:**

Chairman: Chou En-lai.

Members: An Tse-wen, Li Wei-han, Li Chu-chen, Li Chang-ta, Wu Yu-chang, Kao Chung-min, Chen Yi, Chang Chih-chung, Chang Hsi-jo, Chang Po-chun, Chang Nai-chi, Hsu Teh-heng, Peng Chen, Peng Tse-min, Liao Cheng-chih, Liu Ke-ping, Liu Lan-tao, Liu Ning-I, Teng Hsiao-ping, Tsai Ting-kai, Tsai Chang, Hsieh Chueh-tsai and Lo Jui-ching.

China People's Congress, enacted the Organic Law of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, elected the Central People's Government Council of the People's Republic of China and vested in it the authority to exercise state power.

In the past three years, owing to the leadership of the Communist Party of China and Chairman Mao, and the unity and efforts of all nationalities, democratic classes, democratic parties and people's organisations in our country, we have, on a national scale, basically completed the land reform, democratic reform in the factories, mines and enterprises and other social reforms; prosecuted the victorious movement of resisting American aggression and aiding Korea, the *san fan* and *wu fan* movements, as well as the ideological remoulding of different kinds of intellectuals; resolutely suppressed the counter-revolutionaries and eliminated bandit remnants. Furthermore, owing to the correct measures adopted, we have stabilised prices, restored and increased the output of in-

dustry and agriculture and made fundamental improvements in the national economy, thus contributing to initial improvements in the people's standard of living. This series of great victories has greatly elevated the level of organisation and political consciousness of the people, consolidated the people's democratic dictatorship and created suitable conditions for the first five-year plan of national construction.

Our future tasks are centred on continuing our efforts for victory in resisting American aggression and aiding Korea on the one hand, and on mobilising, organising and educating the people for the fulfilment of the various plans of national construction on the other. It is, therefore, necessary, in accordance with the Common Programme, to ensure the timely convocation of the All-China People's Congress, to be elected by universal franchise, to replace the present system where the Plenary Session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference assumes the functions and powers of the All-China People's Congress and the local people's congresses, which are also to be elected by universal franchise, to replace the present system where the local all-circles representative conferences assume the functions and powers of the people's congresses. This will thereby further reinforce the ties between the People's Government and the people and perfect the national system of people's democratic dictatorship so as to meet the needs of planned national construction.

The Central People's Government considers that conditions are now mature for the convocation of the All-China People's Congress, and, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 (10) of the Organic Law of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, resolves to convene the people's congresses at *hsiang*, county, provincial (city) levels, and on this basis to follow with the convocation of the All-China People's Congress. This All-China People's Congress will adopt a constitution, ratify the outline of the five-year plan of national construction and elect a new Central People's Government.

(The resolution concludes with the appointment of members to the two Committees for drafting the Constitution and for drafting the Electoral Law.)

# IN THE NEWS

## All-China People's Congress

The decision of the Central People's Government Council to convene the All-China People's Congress and local people's congresses this year has been greeted with joy throughout the country.

"The convening of the people's congresses at the beginning of the national economic construction," said Sheng Pei-hua, a leader of the Shanghai Branch of the China Democratic National Construction Association, "will effectively stimulate the enthusiasm and creative initiative of the people. All democratic political parties of China will exert their utmost efforts to prepare for the coming elections."

Ma Hung-pin, a leader of the Hui nationality who is vice-chairman of the Kansu Provincial Government, voiced the sentiments of the many national minorities of China when he declared that "the convening of the people's congresses will further strengthen the solidarity between the various nationalities."

In every city, village, factory, mine, school and home, the decision is a topic of lively discussion. The people have registered their warm approval of the step as an expression of the vitality and growth of the people's power in New China.

## Health Campaign

Addressing 775 health administration workers and model health workers of local authorities and popular organisations gathered at the National Health Conference held in Peking, Premier Chou En-lai warmly praised public-health achievements in 1952. When American germ warfare began against Korea and Northeast China, a nation-wide health campaign was launched last March. Millions of tons of rubbish were disposed of. Thousands of kilometres of sewers and hundreds of thousands of kilometres of ditches were cleaned and repaired. More than 120 million rats and mice and countless flies

and mosquitoes were killed. As a result, there has been a sharp reduction in disease. In Shanghai, smallpox has been unknown since March. In cities such as Wuhan, Nanking and Shenyang, former garbage dumps have been turned into attractive parks with open-air theatres.

The campaign will be continued in 1953.

## Workers Set Targets

Workers in more than 200 state factories in Shanghai have set the pace for new records in their production plans for 1953. The Shanghai Electric Appliance Plant has set its 1953 production targets 46% above last year's record output. 1953 plans of over 50 textile mills and dyeing works of the East China Textile Bureau show big increases over last year's cotton yarn, cloth, dyeing and printing output.

Discussions were held in all state factories in Tientsin to finalise the 1953 plans. In the Tientsin Steel Works, steel ingot production will be 44% and rolled steel 118% above 1952's. The Tientsin Paper Mill will produce 34% more paper than in 1952.

## Yet Bigger Crops

Model peasants who were recently awarded by the Ministry of Agriculture with gold medals for their 1952 bumper crops are taking the lead in mapping out production targets for one-year, three-year and five-year plans. The agricultural producers' co-operative led by model peasant Han En of Kirin Province has worked out its plans to double grain output within five years, increase forestry work and livestock breeding. Li Shun-ta, model peasant of Shansi Province, has organised the peasants in his village to make a three-year plan for further development of their hilly area. Chu Yao-li and three other noted cotton-growers of Shansi Province have issued a challenge to cotton-growers throughout

the province to treble the present area of high-yield irrigated land this year and more than double the area of high-yield non-irrigated land.

## New Creameries

Eleven new creameries will be set up in the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region by the Federation of Co-operatives. Up to 20 million pounds of milk, double the 1952 volume, will be available for manufacture into milk products.

In the past, Inner Mongolia's rich milk output was confined to domestic use, the surplus, valued at one million tons of grain, being annually wasted.

The first creamery was set up in 1951 in the Huna League. By the end of 1952, there were 20. They have greatly increased the herdsman's income. In one of the banners of the Huna League, an average of 18 million yuan of extra income was received per household in 1952. With half of his extra income, herdsman Po Ying has bought a milch cow of good breed, 12 sheep, 40,000 catties of fodder, and, in addition, a sheep-skin coat for each member of his family of eight.

## Yellow River Source Found

The source of the Yellow River has been found and explored for the first time. The discovery was made by a 62-man expedition organised by the Yellow River Commission, after a journey that lasted four months and 22 days and covered 5,000 kilometres. The source lies in the Yaholadaz Mountain of the Bayan Kara range, about 5,440 metres above sea level, in Chinghai Province, Northwest China.

The Yellow River is 4,700 kilometres long. Its basin encompasses 771,574 square kilometres of territory in eight provinces, an area twice the size of Japan. In the past, serious floods took place along the Yellow River on an average of once every two and half years, causing constant and heavy losses to the people.

Serious work to control the Yellow River began six years ago after the liberation of the areas along its lower reaches. During these six



years, there have been no dyke breaches on this river once known as "China's Sorrow." The present detailed investigation of the source of the Yellow River is part of the plan to harness the river completely.

### Army Banishes Illiteracy

Illiteracy amongst armymen is now practically non-existent. This is one of the fruits of the movement to oust illiteracy and to raise the armymen's cultural level which was launched throughout the People's Liberation Army last June.

Tsui Pa-wa, a soldier in the Northwest Military Area, is an outstanding example of what is being achieved by a mastery of the quick method of learning Chinese which was developed by Chi Chien-hua, a former army teacher. Semi-illiterate six months ago, with only 600 Chinese characters at his command, he has written nine stories about his life, which have won high praise. Other armymen, who six months ago were illiterate or semi-illiterate, are now able to read the *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung*.

While formerly simple, illustrated booklets were most popular, there is now a great demand in the army for newspapers and magazines, books on the natural sciences and other subjects and contemporary Chinese and Soviet novels.

### Winter Sports

Winter sports are growing in popularity in China. In Anshan, China's steel centre, where big new works are now in construction, two large skating rinks were built in December with funds provided by the city's trade union council.

In preparation for the national championships, ice skating and hockey heats are being run-off in the Northeast, North and Northwest.

Other forms of winter sports such as cross-country running in areas where it is not cold enough for skating are also gaining popularity. In colleges and schools, a programme of winter sports and athletics is an important part of the curriculum. Long-distance running is a favourite with factory sports groups.

## Chronicle of Events

January 6

The Red Cross Society of China cables agreeing to the composition of the Japanese delegation which will come to China to arrange with the competent authorities the return of Japanese residents in China.

January 7

Shen Chun-ju, Vice-President of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers; the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs; the All-China Federation of Scientific Societies, and the All-China Association for the Dissemination of Scientific and Technical Knowledge, condemn the sentences passed on Ethel and Julius Rosenberg by the U.S. judicial authorities.

The Korean-Chinese chief liaison officer in a letter to the American side protests against the violations of the Panmunjom conference area by U.S. military aircraft on January 4.

January 8

The Korean-Chinese Delegation to the Korean armistice negotiations lodges a grave protest with the American side against the murder of a P.O.W. in the Koje P.O.W. camp on January 6.

January 9

A Sino-Rumanian technical-scientific co-operation agreement is signed in Peking.

The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang opens its 3rd plenary session in Peking.

January 10

The All-China Democratic Women's Federation, the All-China Federation of Democratic Youth, the All-China Students' Federation, 14 Christian churches and societies in Peking and 19 Christian societies in Wuhan send cables to Truman protesting against the sentencing to death of the Rosenbergs.

The *People's Daily* publishes the revised Labour Insurance Regulations passed by the Government Administration Council on January 2, under which insurance benefits are extended.

Hsinhua reports the entire business of the Soviet Foreign Insurance Bureau in Northeast China was transferred gratis to the People's Insurance Co. of China on December 31, 1952.

Hsinhua reports the Korean-Chinese peoples' forces brought down 20 and damaged 25 enemy aircraft between January 1-5.

January 11

The China Peace Committee cables a protest to Truman on the Rosenberg case.

January 13

Hsinhua reports the Korean-Chinese peoples' forces put out of action 14,988 enemy troops last December, of which 5,880 were American, 388 British and 8,720 puppet Syngman Rhee troops.

The Central People's Government Council adopts a resolution on the convocation of the All-China People's Congress and local people's congresses in 1953. The Committee for Drafting the Constitution with Mao Tse-tung as chairman and the Drafting Committee for the Election Law with Chou En-lai as chairman are established.

January 14

The chief of the Korean-Chinese Delegation at Panmunjom lodges a grave protest with the American side against the killing of another P.O.W. in the Sangmudai prison camp on January 9.

The Government Administration Council ratifies the merging of the Customs Administration with the Foreign Trade Control Bureau under the Ministry for Foreign Trade.

A Commission to direct the nationwide movement for full implementation of the Marriage Law is established in Peking.

January 15

A National Minorities Publishing House is set up in Peking by the Publications Administration and the Commission of Nationalities Affairs.

January 16

Agreements covering postal services and telecommunications between China and Mongolia are signed in Peking.

January 17

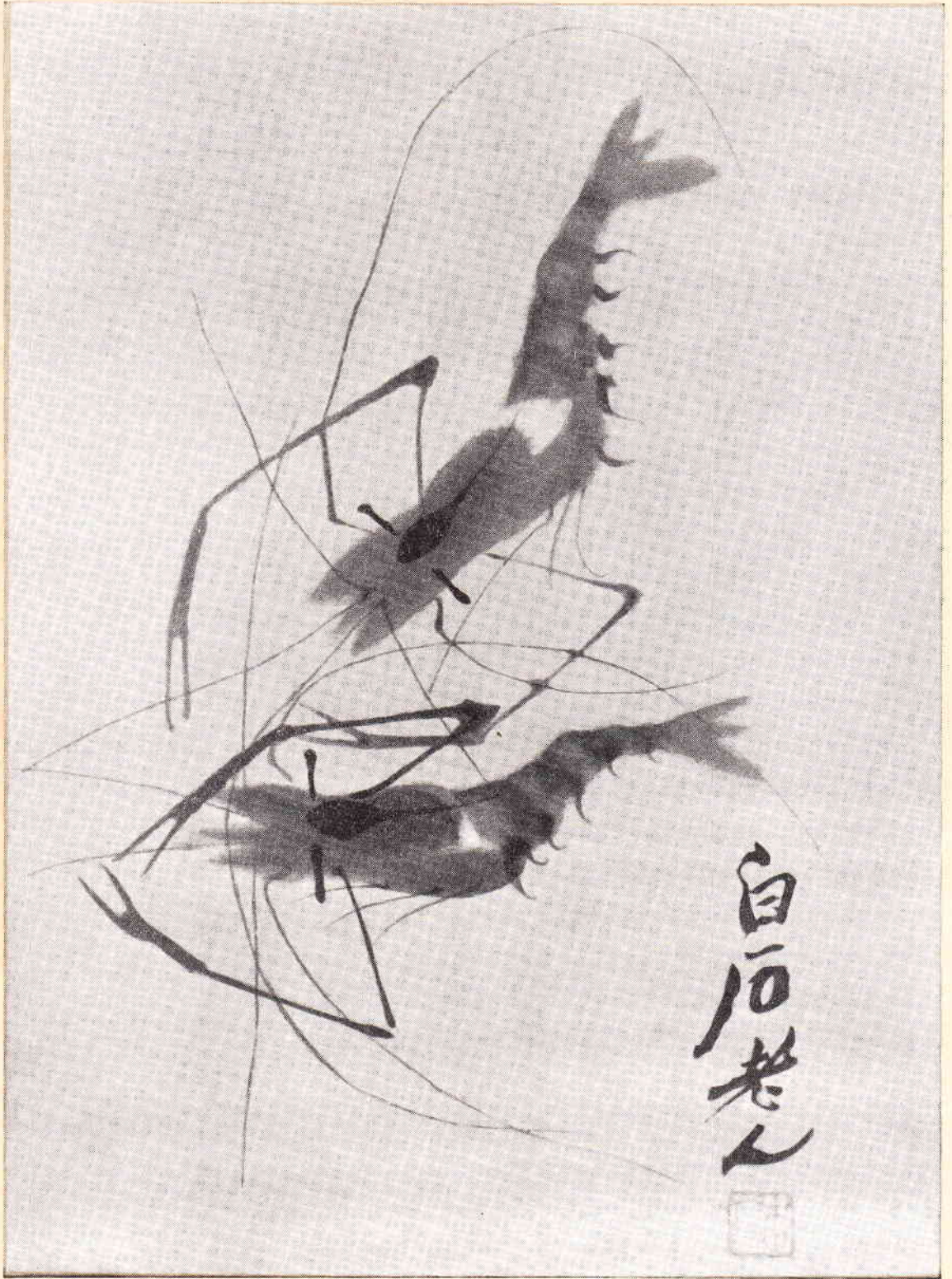
An exhibition of Czechoslovak children's literature and pictures opens in Peking.

January 19

The Sino-Rumanian agreement on barter trade and payments is signed in Peking.

Hsinhua reports the Korean-Chinese peoples' forces brought down four enemy planes and damaged 10 between January 11-15. Mobile artillery put out of action over 400 enemy troops. In addition, the people's forces wiped out over 300 puppet Rhee troops on the eastern front and nearly 100 other enemy troops on the western front.

The chief of the Korean-Chinese Delegation at Panmunjom lodges a serious protest against the killing of another P.O.W. in the Sangmudai prison camp on January 15.



Two Shrimps

Painting in Chinese Ink by Chi Pai-shih