

PEKING

June 9, 1959

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REVIEW

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The Simultaneous Use of Modern and Indigenous Production Methods

A key aspect of the policy of "walking on two legs" in China's socialist construction (p. 6).

The Coal Battle: First Round

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A story of phenomenal economic change in the past ten years (p. 10).

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Singapore Heads for Independence

Theatre, Children's Art and Sidelights

Just Off the Press

CHOU EN-LAI

**REPORT ON THE WORK
OF THE GOVERNMENT**

THIS report was delivered by Premier Chou En-lai at the First Session of the Second National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China on April 18, 1959. In it he first sums up China's brilliant achievements in socialist construction during the First Five-Year Plan period (1953-57) as well as the big leap forward in the development of her national economy in 1958 — the first year of the Second Five-Year Plan. After analysing the reasons for these achievements, he explains the 1959 national economic plan and the nation's tasks in the cultural and educational spheres.

In dealing with the political life of the country, Premier Chou points out that the people's democratic dictatorship and the unity of the people in China are more firmly consolidated than ever; that the fraternal solidarity between the Hans and the other nationalities in China has been greatly strengthened; and that the ignominious defeat of the armed rebellion started in Tibet by the former local government and the reactionary clique of the upper social strata there marks a great victory of the policy for national unity.

In the last part of the report Premier Chou analyses the international situation and explains China's foreign policy.

72 pp.

Coming Shortly

**DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE
SECOND NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

THIS is a collection of all the important documents of the recent meeting of the National People's Congress of China, which was held in April 1959. It includes Premier Chou En-lai's report on the work of the government, Vice-Premier Li Fu-chun's report on the national economic plan for 1959, Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien's report on the 1958 final state accounts and the 1959 state budget, and Vice-Chairman Peng Chen's report on the work of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; four resolutions, including the Resolution on the Question of Tibet; the five proclamations on the election and appointment of the leading personnel of the state; and the orders of appointment promulgated by the Chairman of the People's Republic of China.

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(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

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Singapore Heads for Independence

ON June 3 Singapore became a state enjoying internal self-government within the British Commonwealth. This event shows that the million and a half people of this island are forging ahead on the road to independence.

It is nearly 140 years since the notorious East India Company extended its grip to Singapore and British colonial rule began on this island at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. The people of Singapore and their brothers throughout Malaya have waged a protracted and valiant struggle to achieve their independence. In the post-war years the surging tide of anti-colonialism in Asia gave fresh impetus to that struggle. The Federation of Malaya was born in 1957 as an independent state within the British Commonwealth. It has continued to strive for complete independence. In March 1956 a demand for independence was signed by 200,000 people in Singapore. It was against this background that the British colonialists, after three rounds of negotiations in 1956, 1957 and 1958, finally had to agree to internal self-government for Singapore.

However, it would be naive to think that the colonialists have given up their interests with good grace. Singapore's new Constitution provides that Britain will continue to direct defence and external affairs and keep its military bases there. The British authorities retain extensive powers in Singapore's domestic affairs as well. Matters concerning internal security will in effect be controlled by the British High Commissioner through a so-called "Internal Security Council." And finally the British Government retains the right to dissolve Singapore's Legislative Assembly and suspend the Constitution in the name of the Queen. It is clear that the British colonialists are determined to perpetuate their control over Singapore, and that Singapore's self-government is not complete even in internal affairs.

In this connection it is particularly noteworthy that the British imperialists are continuing to obstruct unity between Singapore and the Federation of Malaya. Both historically and geographically Malaya and Singapore are an integral whole; they are even linked by a causeway over the three-fourths-of-a-mile Straits of Johore which separate them. Economically and politically, they are also inseparable. It was only in 1946 that the British colonialists, in face of the rising national independence movement in Malaya, artificially turned Singapore into a separate "Crown Colony." The motive was transparent: to keep their hold on the important base of Singapore by playing the old "divide and rule" trick. The desire of the people of Malaya and Singapore to be reunited, however, is strong and irrepressible.

The people of Singapore still have a difficult road to traverse before they finally achieve their long-cherished aim of national independence. However, if they persist in their struggle and unite with the people of Malaya, their aspirations for complete independence and reunification will certainly be realized.

ROUND THE WEEK

Training the Younger Generation

International Children's Day on June 1 was observed in China with gusto. Parks, theatres, cinemas, places of entertainment were given over to the children. China's children have their full share of fun and games, love and care, and the absence of any "problem of juvenile delinquency" stresses the fact that the rest of their life is well taken care of too. Just now they are taken up with their campaign "to study and behave well"—to use their leisure to read the best books inspired with the spirit of the great revolutionary traditions and to cultivate their love of labour. Bookshops and children's libraries are more crowded than ever. All the youngsters are learning in various ways, at school and at home, to do a spot of work suited to their age and ability.

In one city alone—Sian, in northwest China—which has a population of one million, more than a quarter of a million children have read *The Story of Hsiang Hsiu-li* and *My Family*, stories of revolutionary dedication and courage, and two of the current best-sellers. Booksellers in the city estimate that at least 120,000 copies of *My Family* were bought by children, some with their own pocket money.

Chinese folk tradition inculcates a love and respect for manual labour from an early age. New China has spread this tradition and given it a socialist content. Ever since the formation of the people's communes "to do something for the commune" has become a popular pastime for children in the rural areas. Some jobs, like gleaning, are theirs by tradition. When the harvest is coming in they lend a hand after school hours. In one Szechuan commune 2,800 children were given the job to help glean the fields; they gathered 12,500 *jin* of grain in a couple of days. Other activities are very new in China, such as helping spring cleaning in the homes for the aged, reading newspapers to the old folks, and helping factories to search out scrap metal and other materials. Millions of trees have been planted by the children. Local communities, factory managements, the Communist Youth League help organize such efforts with a special eye to children's needs and education.

The children enjoy it. It gives them wider opportunities of learning about and learning from life. They are growing up in an environment

that is teaching them the morals, ethics and spirit of communism and to be worthy successors of the older generation, carrying on the jobs of their fathers and mothers in building socialism and communism in China.

The Sun of Happiness Has Risen

On "the roof of the world" Tibet's children observed International Children's Day in new freedom, happy and pleased beyond words. For them the dissolution of the reactionary *kasha* (the former local government of Tibet), representing the most bitter, dihard serf-owners, means the beginning of a new life. The misery of children born to serfdom is coming to an end in Tibet.

In the past few weeks children of former serfs have been enrolling in the schools in great numbers in Lhasa, Shigatse, Chamdo, Loka, Nagchuka and other towns. Soon after the quelling of the rebellion in Lhasa, the city's schools enrolled an additional 1,500 new students, mostly from the families of poverty-stricken serfs. Applications for admission to the two primary schools, set up after liberation, so far exceeded their capacity that the Preparatory Committee for the Autonomous Region of Tibet had to open another school in May, only to find it filled with more children than it could comfortably hold. So still another new primary school is being built. But even this is not likely for long to satisfy the needs of Tibetan peasants and herdsmen who are now able for the first time to enjoy the fruits of their labour and

are eagerly seizing this first opportunity they have ever had to send their children to school.

In the past, children born to a serf family were condemned to serfdom for life. As soon as they could, they had to sweat and slave along with their parents for their masters. Going to school was a dream. They had no right to education, no means to study. Now things are different. Many who used to live on the streets have moved into new houses with the help given their parents by the local Military Control Commissions set up two months ago. No wonder Tibetan children are singing a new ditty these days. It runs something like this:

*What could be worse than the kasha,
Away with it, bell, book and candle!
No more beatings, no more cursings,
No more hated ula!
The mountain of feudalism is overturned;
The sun of happiness has risen!*

The Generals Sing

June opened with a big cultural event in Peking—the music and drama festival of the People's Liberation Army, the second and the biggest since its birth nearly 32 years ago. The star performance on the gala opening night, at the city's spacious gymnasium was, surprisingly enough, a chorus made up entirely of generals, nearly a hundred of them. The singing generals were a hit among the thousands who attended the concert and the millions who tuned in to hear the programme on the radio.

The chorus has four generals, more than twenty lieutenant generals and seventy major generals, including China's first woman major general, Li Chen. They made a remarkable show standing smart-



Tibetan Children Going to School

Wash and line drawing by Li Huan-min

ly on the stage with the gold of their general's braid glittering under the spotlights. Some of them are already greying at the temples but they sang three numbers with all the gusto and zest of youth—*The Red Army's Song of Discipline, On Taihang Mountain, and I'm Just a Soldier*—to the cheers and deafening applause of a packed stadium. Their listeners were satisfied only when they answered repeated encores with *We'll Plant the Victory Flag on Taiwan.*

The audience was deeply moved. Not a few found their eyes wet with tears, sentimental and grateful. Partly it was the way the generals sang the old familiar tunes; partly because the songs recalled the bitter struggles of bygone days, the many heroic sacrifices that have made the bright reality of today; partly it was the presence of so many seasoned fighting men, heroes of the beloved P.L.A.

The men on the stage had held high the banner of Mao Tse-tung in the most difficult years of the Chinese revolution. Some of them took part in the Autumn Harvest Uprisings of 1927, others in the struggles round the Chingkangshan Mountains that were the baptism of fire of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army. Over 90 per cent of them had been on the famous Long March. They had been through most of the revolution until it triumphed in 1949 and after.

Although most are getting on in years and their voices are not as they used to be, they feel young again when singing the songs of their youth, the songs they first learnt on joining the Red Army, such as the *Song of Discipline*. With everyone elated about the big leap forward in the building of socialism, they too feel they must sing the praises of the motherland and the spectacular successes achieved. And that's how the generals' chorus came into being, said General Li Chih-min, conductor of the chorus.

New Steel Records

Steel-workers up and down the country have achieved what they set out to do for the month of May: win more red banners for greater output and better quality in steel production. All major iron and steel works recorded considerable increases in output and improvements in quality, and quite a few fulfilled their monthly targets ahead of schedule.

Shanghai upped its steel output by 17.29 per cent, as compared with April; at the same time it raised efficiency and the quality of its steel. Chungking's iron and steel works reported a 16.4 per cent increase in average daily steel output over the same period. The new iron and steel centre in Wuhan by the Yangtse River,

which is still under construction but has already put its No. 1 blast furnace and other units into operation, excelled itself in the production of pig iron and coke. The Penki No. 1 Iron and Steel Plant in northeast China has been consistently leading the country with the high efficiency of its medium-sized blast furnaces; in May it produced an average of 2,442 tons of pig iron per cubic metre of available furnace volume each 24 hours.

But the biggest news comes from Anshan in the northeast, China's greatest steel centre. Last month, it produced 50.5 per cent more steel and 36.1 per cent more pig iron than in May a year ago. Compared with April, it raised its steel output by 5.3 per cent and its iron output by 9 per cent, exceeding the targets set by the state plan.

Shanghai: 10 Years of Freedom

On May 27 China's largest city marked the tenth anniversary of its liberation from Kuomintang reaction. Deputies of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress, meeting in plenary session on June 1, reviewed the phenomenal progress made in this eventful decade. Members of the Shanghai chapter of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, leaders of the democratic parties and well-known personalities in the city also met to compare notes on city progress. Newspapers and magazines carried special commemorative articles from people in many walks of life who wrote from a personal angle about the liberation which has given each a new, better and fuller life, and the great changes that have come over Shanghai.

An article on a later page in this issue gives a factual review of some of the achievements of these ten years. It would require many books however to give the full story of how this city, where fabulous wealth for a few existed side by side with the grinding poverty of millions, was turned into a city of the people. In Shanghai, in days of old the people had to endure endless indignities in their own land at the hands of foreign "overlords." It was here before the park on the Bund opposite the British Consulate that there hung the insolent notice: "Chinese and dogs not allowed." It seems almost incredible that the Shanghai of the gangsters and smugglers, of pimps and gamblers, of prostitutes and gigolos, the Shanghai of all that was foul, mean, dirty and oppressive could be so swiftly transformed into the bright city of today.

With the reins of government in the people's hands, the city has spurred forward industrially. By the end of last year total industrial output value already outstripped that at the time of liberation by 450 per cent. At the Municipal People's

Congress on June 1, Vice-Mayor Tsao Tichiu, who delivered the progress report, outlined the shape of things to come. To cite just one example, this year, Shanghai's industries will produce seven times more than they did in 1949.

Handing on the Torch

For some time now shortage of teachers is where the shoe has pinched most in China's fast-growing institutes of higher learning. New universities have been opened and old ones expanded. Enrolment has grown by leaps and bounds. But although every year has seen quite an increase in the teaching staff, the "reinforcements" always fall far short of actual needs.

Futan and Chiaotung, two of Shanghai's oldest universities, give a good idea of how China's universities are partially solving this problem by concentrating on training their own young teachers and helping them to start courses and to lecture. These young men and women, making up about two-thirds of the faculty, are full of go and keen on their work. They are looked upon as the ones who will hand on the torch.

The two universities expect these young teachers to make the lecturing grade mainly in three ways: by learning everything they can from the older teachers, which is regarded as the most important of the three ways; by taking full or part-time refresher courses; and, by doing spells of manual labour in connection with some special subject, which will give them a fuller understanding of the policy of combining education with productive labour. Realizing how important it is for their younger colleagues, not a few of whom have been their former students, to get the benefit of their experience, the veteran faculty members go out of their way to help, guiding them in research work and preparation of lectures.

In the Peking Normal University there are 400-odd new junior teachers on the faculty and more than 130 of them have already started their own independent courses and lectures, much to their credit and to that of the professors who have helped and guided them in their new academic careers. The rest are preparing to launch out independently by acting for the time being as assistants to professors. One young woman physics teacher provides a typical example of the seriousness and thoroughness with which these young men and women go about their duties: she revises her lecture notes several times before actual delivery, trying them out on a few of her students, or the veteran professors first, and then checking again with them afterwards. This method has brought about a rapid improvement in her teaching.

The Simultaneous Use of Modern and Indigenous Production Methods

by YU KUANG-YUAN

This is the second of a series of articles on the set of economic policies known in China today as "walking on two legs." The first, "The Relations Between Industry and Agriculture, and Heavy and Light Industry," appeared in "Peking Review," No. 20, May 19, 1959. The following article is an abridged translation from "Qianxian" (Frontline), No. 8, 1959, theoretical fortnightly of the Peking Municipal Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. — Ed.

EMPLYING modern and indigenous methods of production simultaneously is a component part of the set of the policies of the Chinese Communist Party embodied in the concept of "walking on two legs." What is "modern" and what is "indigenous"? Why must modern and indigenous methods be used simultaneously? What is the relationship between the two?

What "Modern" and "Indigenous" Mean

In the original sense of the word, "indigenous" methods mean the production methods and techniques which have been handed down in our country from of old or which are now being created by the masses. "Modern" or "foreign" methods mean those production methods and techniques imported from abroad. For a long time in the past, industry, science and culture in China were not well developed, so today, generally speaking, indigenous things are relatively backward, while imported things, particularly industrial techniques, are relatively advanced. It is true that so far as certain production methods and techniques are concerned, the indigenous are not necessarily backward, and the imported are not necessarily advanced. The indigenous cannot be completely equated with the backward, nor can the imported be completely equated with the advanced. But it must be admitted that, generally speaking, the indigenous are relatively backward compared with the imported and the imported relatively advanced compared with the indigenous. Therefore, as a result of the extension of these concepts, production methods are described as indigenous when rather simple equipment and manufacturing processes are used and as modern when modern equipment and manufacturing processes are used. Last year, for instance, in the light of the economic conditions of China and the immediate needs of expanding production, many industrial enterprises, particularly medium and small ones, used rather simple equipment, particularly machines built of wood or bamboo instead of steel, or simplified modern

manufacturing processes. Such methods of production are described as indigenous. Thus the meanings now given to "modern" and "indigenous" methods are not quite the same as the original meanings of these words.

Distinction Not Absolute

There is, of course, no absolute, hard and fast distinction between what is "indigenous" and what is "modern," either in the original sense of the words or in their extended meaning. In the original sense of the words, the distinction between the two is only relative; today science and technology in the various countries are so closely interconnected that there are relatively few purely indigenous things. For instance, the indigenous methods now used to produce iron and steel in China are adaptations in varying degrees of modern, foreign methods. In other words, indigenous methods, in general, already embody something modern or foreign. When we view the distinction between the two in their extended meanings, it is all the more obvious that this distinction is only relative. When we say equipment is simple or up-to-date, or technology is backward or advanced, we are merely making comparisons between different kinds of equipment and technology which are in use and between those which are used in different regions. For instance, steam locomotives are relatively backward when compared with internal combustion locomotives, but compared with the days when draught animals were the only means of transport, steam locomotives can be described as modern. When compared with places where steam locomotives are not available, places which have steam locomotives must be considered as having modern transport facilities. Comrade Chen Yun made this point quite clear when he wrote in a recent article: "What we mean by modern or indigenous relates to a specific period of time, to a specific place and to specific technical conditions. What may be described as modern in one place may possibly be considered indigenous in another. What may be described as indigenous in this place may still be considered as modern in another. What is considered as modern now may be regarded as indigenous in the future if no efforts are made to improve it. What is regarded as indigenous now may possibly be considered as modern in the future, if no efforts are spared to improve it." It is therefore not proper to treat the distinction between modern methods of production and indigenous methods of production as something absolute.

Modern methods may emerge from indigenous ones. This means that by summing up experience in using certain indigenous methods and by improving them, fresh methods of a very high level may emerge that are comparable to modern methods. It is an inevitable tendency for indigenous production to gradually incorporate some modern techniques and be transformed into modern production. To regard indigenous and modern production only as being distinct entities and fail to see the relations between them and to consider it impossible for one to be transformed into the other is a metaphysical way and not a dialectical way of thinking.

Advantages of Indigenous Methods

It was through practice in the past, especially practice in 1958, that the policy of simultaneously employing modern and indigenous methods became gradually clarified in our minds. But this policy is still not thoroughly understood by everyone. Some people have doubts: since indigenous methods are generally rather backward, why then do we advocate their use? Such people do not understand that the simultaneous employment of modern and indigenous methods is an important policy of ours concerning production technique. When deciding on a technical policy, one must not only consider whether the technique concerned is itself modern; economic and political conditions and the cultural level of the masses must also be taken into account. Insofar as it facilitates full mobilization of the masses and utilization of scattered resources, suits specific natural conditions in the various localities and can increase production quickly when modern machinery and equipment are lacking, the indigenous method should by no means be called "backward." On the contrary, when we consider production methods and production techniques in relation to the many factors mentioned above, indigenous methods have many advantages that modern methods lack.

In his recent "Report on the Work of the Government"* Premier Chou En-lai emphatically pointed out: "The mass movement on the industrial front to set up small enterprises and carry out production by indigenous methods should continue to be developed and steadily improved. Small enterprises employing indigenous methods will still face a heavy task in this year's industrial production, such as in mining, coal-washing, coke-making, copper-smelting and the production of building materials. After improving their techniques these enterprises will also play a certain part in iron-smelting and steel-making. Although the quality of certain amounts of the iron, steel and other products manufactured by indigenous methods is not high enough and their costs of production are relatively high, they are able to meet the immediate needs of our country in certain respects, particularly those of the vast countryside. Therefore, we should by no means belittle the role played by small enterprises and indigenous methods. If we do, we will commit mistakes. The simultaneous employment of modern and indigenous methods of production is a long-term policy for the development of our industry. The combination of modern and indigenous methods is a permanent feature, though

both in content and in form what we signify by 'modern' and 'indigenous' will in the future be different from what they are now."

By implementing the policy of simultaneously employing modern and indigenous methods, we are able to benefit from the advantages of both modern and indigenous methods. By employing only modern methods to the exclusion of indigenous ones, that is, walking on the one leg of modern methods, we cannot achieve more, quicker, better and more economical results. The results could only be the contrary—less, slower, worse and uneconomical. Of course, this leg of modern methods must not be neglected. In the simultaneous employment of modern and indigenous methods, the former, generally speaking, occupies the predominant position. But this is not to say that indigenous methods are not important in our present-day production. On the contrary, in many production departments, including many industrial departments, the production methods used are not mechanized to any great extent. Some of them actually use production methods which combine semi-mechanization with manual operation, i.e., indigenous methods. However, to become modern is after all the goal of our development. Small enterprises employing indigenous methods will develop into small enterprises employing modern methods and not the other way round. If we exaggerate the importance of indigenous methods, are satisfied with them and walk on the one leg of indigenous methods, we also cannot achieve more, quicker, better and more economical results and the results can only be the contrary—less, slower, worse and uneconomical. It would be incorrect to interpret the attention given to indigenous methods as favouring the indigenous and belittling the modern.

Integrating the Two

The question of the relationship between modern and indigenous methods is not only one of using them simultaneously but also of bringing about their integration. In the very process of implementing the policy of simultaneous employment of modern and indigenous methods, there is a tendency towards their integration. Such integration takes either the form of incorporating the elements of modern methods into indigenous methods or of incorporating the useful elements of indigenous methods into the modern ones. Since modern methods of production are something that have been learnt from abroad, they are not often completely suited to the natural and economic conditions of our country. This defect can be remedied if we learn from indigenous methods and absorb their useful elements. Furthermore, there is usually something original and unique in indigenous methods, which should be brought out and developed. If modern methods are integrated with indigenous ones, they will be further improved and raised to a higher level. It is easy to discern the backward elements in indigenous methods of production. What we should pay more attention to and devote more of our efforts to study are the original and advanced elements in indigenous methods. These elements are often present, but generally they are in an embryonic stage and do not fully manifest themselves. They are also mixed with backward elements. We must have the enthusiasm to foster them and try either

* See *Peking Review*, No. 16, April 21, 1959. — Ed.

to integrate them with existing modern methods and improve the latter or to develop new production methods from them.

The simultaneous employment of modern and indigenous methods is an economic policy of our country and is also a technical and economic policy which concerns the question of what techniques we should adopt. The simultaneous employment of the two methods is

beneficial to economic development. The integration of modern and indigenous methods not only has its economic significance but also has a direct bearing on technical progress. It is an important policy for the development of production techniques. We should also pay attention to the fact that both the simultaneous employment of modern and indigenous methods and the integration of the two have their own importance.

Industry

First Round in the Battle for Coal

by CHU CHI-LIN

THREE months ago, we reported the big radio broadcast mass rally of coal miners in Peking (*Peking Review*, No. 10, March 10, 1959, p. 4) which initiated the nationwide "Red Banner" emulation drive to boost coal production. Now we can give an interim report on the progress achieved. In the ensuing months, Chinese miners have acquitted themselves well. When their representatives gathered together again in the latter part of May in Fushun, the coal-mining centre in northeast China's Liaoning Province, to review their achievements and chart the path for further advance, they were able to announce that both the first quarter plan and the plan for April have been overfulfilled and that since April output has been stabilized at a level above the planned target.

In the emulation drive, 13 collieries have come to the fore and won the coveted red banners awarded by the Ministry of Coal Industry. They include two of the country's largest collieries—the Kailan Colliery in Hopei Province and the Fushun Colliery, the initiator of the current emulation campaign among the country's major collieries. Other collieries also did well. The number of working faces producing 10,000 tons of coal or more a month rose from 150 in 1958, to 405 in April 1959. This represents more than one quarter of all working faces in the country's major collieries. The slogan of the "Red Banner" emulation campaign—"to achieve high yields over large areas," a phrase borrowed from agriculture—has been realized. The average monthly output of all working faces in the country in March and April was one quarter higher than in the same period last year.

The examples of Kailan, Fushun and other collieries indicate how this has been achieved.

Miners of the Kailan Colliery plunged into the emulation in a big and well-organized way. Right after the radio rally in Peking, they held a colliery-wide rally on March 6 to stress the importance of boosting coal

production. Inspired by a realization of the significance of their contribution to the rapid advance of the national economy, representatives of some 250 units pledged to do their best in the national effort to boost the output of coal.

Technical Innovation

The next day, the administration sent the colliery's production plan, the measures proposed to fulfil it and the key problems in production to the staff and miners for discussion. A new round of frank "airing of views" followed. Within a week, tens of thousands of the staff and miners had written some 2 million *dazibao* (opinion posters written in bold characters for all to see). These included 260,000 concrete proposals to improve techniques. Many of these proposals were of key importance and fell in line with the 36 major technical measures suggested by the Ministry of Coal Industry on the basis of a summing up of experiences of all the collieries in the country. With the active participation of the miners, the proposals were tried out and spread rapidly. By April, eight working faces using coal combines were working two or more cycles a day (each cycle includes all phases of production at the working face from the cutting of coal to loading and moving it away and erecting the props, etc. Before 1958, less than one cycle of work was generally completed in a working day); five working faces using mechanical coal cutters had lengthened the jib of the cutters from 1.2 metres to 2-2.4 metres which greatly increased efficiency.

The latest method of hydraulic mining recently introduced in a number of Chinese collieries was further improved upon by miners of Kailan's Tangchiachuang Mine. They improved the working of the monitor, introduced a second set of hydraulic coal-lifting equipment, and used an hydraulic cyclone to solve the problem of taking the water out of the slurry. This more than doubled the daily output of the mine.

To cope with the needs of multi-cycle work, Wang Feng-kuang, an ordinary miner at Kailan's Linhsi Mine, devised a new method of moving the conveyor by sections. This cut the time taken to move the conveyor to a new position on an 80-metre working face from several hours to as little as 30 minutes.

At the Kailan Colliery, methodical leadership was given to the technical innovation movement. Regular meetings attended by veteran workers as well as administrative and technical personnel were held at all levels to review the work done and tackle new problems. It was at such a meeting at the Chaokechuang Mine that the problem of speeding up tunnelling to keep pace with coal-cutting was presented to the miners. Their deliberations produced excellent results. They proposed 12 measures which when introduced increased the rate of tunnelling at Chaokechuang from 54 metres to 85.7 metres per day. This created a new balance between coal-cutting and tunnelling.

By integrating scientific management with mass initiative, the Kailan Colliery achieved an all-round leap forward in production. Its output in the first four months of this year was 49.75 per cent higher than in the same period last year. The quality of its coal has improved and costs have been lowered. The skill of its miners has been steadily enhanced in the course of the movement for technical innovations; they show greater boldness, confidence and initiative in their work.

Mass Initiative

The mass effort at Fushun, like that at Kailan, produced remarkable results. A characteristic here is the personal participation of leading personnel in productive labour. As soon as the new battle for coal began this year, four secretaries of the Communist Party's municipal committee, together with leading personnel of the Fushun Colliery, went to the mines to do a spell of productive labour together with the rank and file miners. During this period, they were leaders, miners and mass propagandists all merged into one. Their presence at the working faces as ordinary miners was a source of inspiration to the rank and filers. It also enabled them to tackle production problems on the spot.

One rainy day, Shen Yueh, first secretary of the Communist Party's municipal committee, personally inspected the working faces in an open cast mine. When he found that poor transport facilities there were a production bottle-neck, he was able to get the administration to take up immediately the repair of transport lines and electric locomotives. He also helped organize friendly competition among the electric shovel operators and electric locomotive drivers. With production problems being handled with such dispatch, the miners' enthusiasm soared. Output was boosted 70 per cent within a few days.

Friendly competition between work teams was another important spur to production. At Fushun's Lungfeng Mine, records of over 100 metres tunnelling per month were chalked up by all teams in March and April —

practically doubling the rate of the two previous months. In this drive, Team 127 consistently in the lead before began to fall behind. Team 115 then offered to help it so that its good record would not be smirched. This comradely gesture so moved and encouraged the members of Team 127 that they made an effort which carried them to 100.1 metres in April.

The miners showed great ingenuity in setting such records. Working on a tunnel with a 30 degree gradient, Team 122 had finished only 48 metres in the first 20 days of April and it looked as if it would be impossible to reach the planned 100-metre mark by the end of the month. The Communist Party group went into a huddle, and called a meeting to study the causes of the hold-up. It found that the loading of rocks and earth was going too slowly and that the conveyor wasn't working as well as it should. The loading was accelerated and the conveyor repaired. In the last 10 days of April, they did an astounding 55 metres, making a monthly total of 103 metres.

Catching Up

Fengfeng and Chinghsi Collieries are also among the 13 collieries that won red banners. Both are in Hopei Province and both came up from far behind. The factors making for their success were more or less the same as those at Kailan and Fushun, only they had to overcome one more difficulty — conservatism that grew out of relatively long periods of backwardness. Fengfeng had difficulties in fulfilling its production plans between 1953 and 1956. This is an old colliery; geological conditions here are complex and unfavourable. But the rectification campaign in 1957 and the rapid increase in production in 1958 opened the eyes of its workers: they came to understand that men, not natural conditions, are the decisive factor in production, and that conditions can be changed by the labour and ingenuity of men. Once this idea was firmly grasped the miners put their whole hearts into the drive for technical innovations. Production shot up.

The Huainan Colliery in Anhwei Province, another winner in the "Red Banner" emulation campaign, is an example of how higher output was achieved with fewer hands. At first, it was calculated that in order to fulfil the state plan and raise output 72 per cent over last year, more miners would have to be employed. But in line with the current spirit of boosting output mainly by raising labour productivity, the Huainan miners concentrated on a drive for greater efficiency, amalgamating overlapping departments, reducing the number of work processes, introducing technical innovations. At some working faces, as many as six cycles of work were completed in a single working day. In the upshot, instead of taking on more hands, Huainan was able to send people to new mines and other production fronts and at the same time raise output 70 per cent in April alone.

The first round in the "Red Banner" emulation drive is over. Chinese miners are not resting on their laurels. They are aiming at even greater achievements in the second and subsequent rounds.

Shanghai's Industrial Progress

by SU CHIH-CHENG

TEN years ago as a swarm of imperialists, bureaucrat-capitalists, landlords, their agents and other riff-raff fled Shanghai, they apparently believed that Shanghai would perish without them.

For Shanghai, built on the sweat and toil of its working people in more than a century of imperialist and feudal exploitation, this was indeed the end of an epoch.

Now, ten years later, the cold facts must send a shiver of apprehension down the back of every exploiter. Contrary to the expectations of the imperialists, the people's Shanghai has gone its way to a prosperity unthinkable to its old oppressors. Masters of their own house, led by the Chinese Communist Party and firmly linked in co-operation with the vast hinterland, the people of Shanghai are building a socialist new Shanghai.

Modern industry in Shanghai has a history of more than a century dating back to 1843, a year after this former village at the mouth of the Yangtse was opened as a treaty port and when British missionaries established the London Missionary Society Press. Before liberation, however, Shanghai's steel output never exceeded 6,964 tons a year. Its annual output of machine tools was never more than 690 units. Its highest cotton yarn output was only 1,280,000 bales (1930); electric power, 1,279,080,000 kwh. (1948).

Rise of Industrial Production

In ten years of freedom, Shanghai's industrial production has spurred ahead at an unparalleled speed. In 1957, with the fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan, Shanghai's total industrial output value was 3.68 times as much

as in 1949. Steel output in 1957 reached 500,000 tons; machine tools, 4,399 units; cotton yarn, 1,414,000 bales; electric power, 1,889 million kwh. In 1958, the year of the big leap, the total industrial output value was 5.5 times as much as in 1949. The output of many major products grew two or more times; steel output reached 1,220,000 tons in 1958. In the last quarter of that year, Shanghai produced more steel in a single day than in the whole of 1948, the pre-liberation peak year.

A rapid technical advance has contributed to this growth of industrial production. Conditions before and after liberation are sharply contrasted. Old Shanghai's metallurgical industry could make only ordinary carbon steel and some forty types of steel products. In the non-ferrous field it produced only copper, tin, zinc, aluminium, lead and nickel. Its engineering workshops could produce only ordinary lathes, within a narrow range of antiquated designs; the manufacture of steam turbines and turbo-generators was out of the question. In the chemical industry, Shanghai produced only 86 chemical products such as sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid and caustic soda. In 1958, Shanghai produced 165 types of steel, 882 types of steel products and scores of non-ferrous metals; various types of first class grinding machines; 6,000 to 25,000 kw. steam turbines and turbo-generators; and 284 kinds of chemical products and basic materials.

Important changes have also taken place in Shanghai's industrial structure. Heavy industry is an index of the develop-



ment of the productive forces; there was little of it in pre-liberation Shanghai. Official statistics for 1928 show that capital invested in the textile industry made up 63 per cent of all industrial capital in Shanghai; other light industries accounted for 36.17 per cent, and heavy industry for only 0.83 per cent. Shanghai's heavy industry was mainly designed to assemble machinery imported from the imperialist countries or repair light industrial machinery. There were more assembly shops than manufacturing plants, and the few which existed made only very simple machines or machine parts rather than complete sets of machinery. In 1948 there were only 18 private engineering works employing over a hundred workers each; only two or three of the 643 engineering works were equipped with more than 60 machine tools. This was to be expected. Imperialism itself will not develop heavy industry on a large scale in its colonies, nor will it allow the native capitalists to do so.

More Heavy Industry

After liberation there was a rapid change. To meet the needs of national construction and in accordance with the principle of giving priority to the production of capital goods, heavy industry in Shanghai was energetically developed and has made rapid progress. Its share of the total output value of industry grew from 13.6 per cent in 1949 to 22.9 per cent in 1952; and 45.6 per cent in 1958. Light industry (including textiles) made up 86.4 per cent in 1949, 77.1 per cent in 1952, and in 1958 dropped to 54.4 per cent. Textile industry constitutes a big part of Shanghai's light industry. Its proportion in total value of industrial output has gone down even more conspicuously: 62.4 per cent in 1949, 52.2 per cent in 1952, and 32.5 per cent in 1958. The engineering industry that mainly handled repair jobs before liberation now makes advanced machines and complete sets of metallurgical and power-generating equipment on its own. It is also on the way to making its own designs.

Shanghai's working class too has grown. In 1958, Shanghai had 1,187,000 workers and staff employed in industry alone, an increase of 135 per cent over the 1949

PROPORTIONS OF HEAVY AND LIGHT INDUSTRY

IN SHANGHAI 1949-1958

(in percentages)

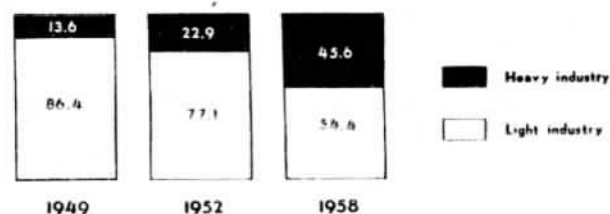


figure of 505,000, or 163.24 per cent over the 1948 figure of 450,000, the highest figure before liberation. Before liberation Shanghai had the unenviable distinction of having more unemployed than any other city in the country. After liberation, more than 670,000 unemployed persons entered their names at one time or another at the government's registration office. As national construction made big strides forward, 1,210,000 persons were given jobs in Shanghai between liberation and 1958. Today, unemployment, a relic of the old days, has been virtually eliminated.

Shanghai in the Old Days

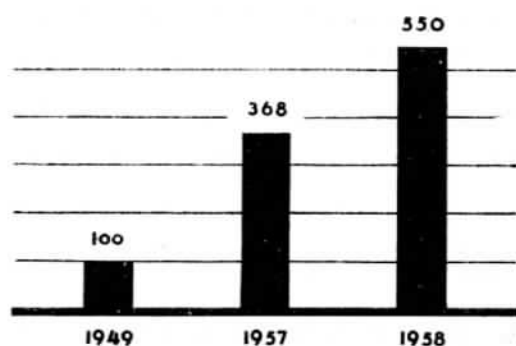
Old Shanghai, the "paradise of adventurers," was the imperialists' main base of aggression against China. It was also the centre from which the bureaucrat-capitalists monopolized the keys of the nation's economy, feathering their nests at the expense of the people. Using the feudal landlords and bureaucrat-capitalists as their agents, the imperialists dumped huge quantities of their surplus goods onto the Chinese market and grabbed cheap Chinese raw materials. From Shanghai they spread a network of trade and usury, like an octopus' tentacles, reaching to all parts of the country.

Official statistics for 1928 show that Shanghai's total industrial capital then amounted to over 290 million yuan and 180 million yuan of this, or over 64 per cent, belonged to the imperialists. In 1936, just before the Japanese invasion, imperialist interests owned the lion's share of Shanghai's many industries: 85.3 per cent of its electric power; 54.2 per cent of its dock equipment; 60.3 per cent of its textile spindles; 70.9 per cent of its looms; 34.4 per cent of its cigarette production. After the victory of the War of Resistance to Japanese Aggression, the U.S. imperialists and others even took the electric power industry and other Shanghai public utilities under their direct control. They also monopolized or exerted a dominant influence over the other important industries. There were nearly a thousand banks, large and small, and trading companies owned by the imperialists which controlled or monopolized Shanghai's finances, imports and exports, shipping, wharves, warehouses and real estate.

Bureaucrat-capitalism played a special role in Shanghai. Its history dates back to 1862 when the Ching dynasty established an arsenal in the city, the predecessor of the Kiangnan Shipyard. It was in the last years of the reactionary rule of Chiang Kai-shek that bureaucrat-

TOTAL OUTPUT VALUE OF INDUSTRY IN SHANGHAI 1949-1958

1949=100



capitalism in China reached its zenith. By this time Chiang's ruling clique had controlled every field of the economic life of the country, from finance to industry and commerce. The "Big Four"—the Central Bank, Bank of China, Bank of Communications and the Farmers' Bank—all had their head offices in Shanghai. On the eve of liberation factories under the Kuomintang government's National Resources Commission already made up a considerable part of Shanghai's industries. Bureaucrat-capital in the cotton textile industry controlled 38.5 per cent of all Shanghai's spindles and 59.2 per cent of its looms. At that time Shanghai was becoming more and more of a colony or semi-colony, and more and more dependent on the world capitalist market for its supply of raw materials and the sale of its products. In the last few years before liberation, from 50 to 70 per cent of all the cotton used by Shanghai's cotton textile industry was American cotton, half of the wheat ground in its mills came from the United States. In the case of raw materials for the metallurgical and chemical industries, Shanghai was even more dependent on the imperialist countries. The electric engineering and appliances industry imported 80 per cent of its raw materials.

Socialist Transformation

The victory of the Chinese people's revolution in 1949 smashed the fetters that impeded the growth of productive forces, and opened the way to their rapid development; it changed the nature of the old semi-colonial and semi-feudal society and so provided the necessary conditions for the transition to a socialist society. After the liberation of Shanghai, the Communist Party led its people in the gigantic task of transforming the city: bureaucrat-capitalist enterprises were confiscated and the economic influence of the imperialists was eliminated. This put state-owned enterprises in possession of about 41 per cent of the spindles in the city, about one-third of the machine-building equipment and one-fifth of the equipment for making steel. A foundation was thus laid for the rapid development of a socialist economy.

Socialist transformation of capitalist industrial and commercial enterprises was next carried out step by step. The socialist relations of production in Shanghai conform to the needs of development of the productive forces and have created more favourable conditions for tapping the potentialities of production. Take the woollen textile industry for example, it had been expanded recklessly, with the result that there were many small plants but few large ones. The smallest plant had only six workers and employees. There were few plants which could handle all processes in the industry. Equipment was unevenly and irrationally distributed. There were more weaving mills than spinning mills, and more dyeing and finishing plants than weaving mills. Following socialist transformation, the 54 plants in the industry were reorganized into 19. Nearly all of them were all-inclusive plants able to spin, weave and dye.

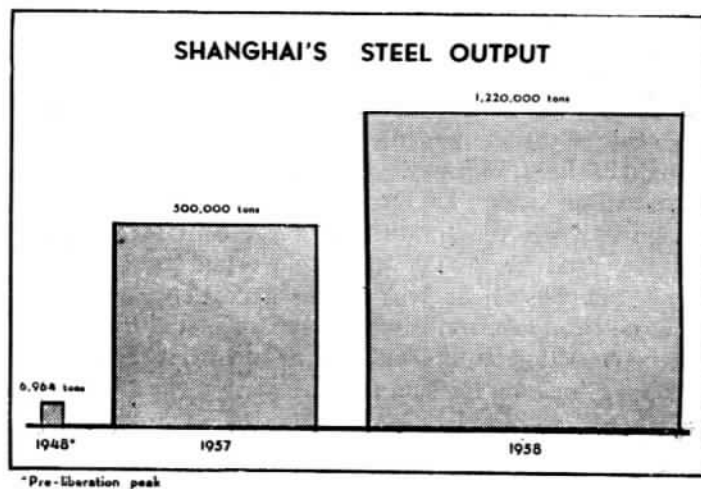
Since liberation there has been a steady improvement in the living standards of the workers and employees. The average income of a worker was 300.75 yuan in 1957, an increase of 79.2 per cent over 1948. The Labour Insurance Regulations and collective contracts take care of

workers' and employees' problems connected with child-birth, old age, sickness, death, injury and disablement. Working and living conditions are being steadily improved. Many factories have their own collective welfare establishments—new dormitories, sanatoria, nurseries, dining-rooms, and schools.

The municipality has given special attention to former slum areas. Some have been cleared outright of their mat-shed shelters and their inhabitants rehoused. The more presentable ones have been spruced up and sanitation campaigns keep them clean despite their poor looks. The new working-class housing estates which will finally replace all the old settlements are models of their kind.

Expansion of Workers' Education

Shanghai's workers and employees have plunged into the cultural revolution with a will. There has been a rapid expansion of spare-time adult education. The number of spare-time schools for the workers and employees—literacy classes, primary schools, junior and senior middle schools and secondary specialized schools—rose from 140 in 1949 to 2,980 in 1958. The number of their students (exclusive of literacy classes) increased from 11,791 in 1949 to more than 792,000 in 1958.



The people's new Shanghai is a city of youthful vigour. It is now a powerful base which supports the socialist construction of the whole country with its manpower, materials and financial resources. From 1950 to 1958, more than 485,000 people went out from Shanghai to help construction in other areas. From 1953 to 1957, Shanghai's commercial departments sent industrial products worth 19,930 million yuan to other areas. In 1958, the volume of both capital goods and consumer goods sent from Shanghai to other areas showed an even greater increase than usual.

Shanghai's achievements in the past ten years brilliantly demonstrate the correctness of the policies laid down by the Chinese Communist Party and Chairman Mao. They are the achievements of the people of Shanghai working with the close support of the people of the whole country. As they celebrate the tenth anniversary of the liberation of their city, the people of Shanghai can see tangible proof all about them of the superiority of the socialist system.

The Ula System and Taxation in Tibet

by TSUNG CHAO-JEN

THE system of serfdom in Tibet includes, among other forms of exploitation, the notorious *ula* system and innumerable tax levies. The *kasha* (the former local government of Tibet), monasteries and the nobility used these means to squeeze the last copper out of a suffering people.

A System of Exploitation

Ula is a kind of corvee which obliges the serfs to do all sorts of work for their lords without recompense. Under the *ula* system, serfs are required to provide free transport for people and goods bearing a *mapai* (a government notice demanding such services); to provide the former with free food and lodging; to repair and build houses or other works for the local government or their masters; to weave cloth, ply their handicrafts, cultivate land and do other odd jobs for their masters all without pay.

A *mapai*, either permanent or valid for a certain period of time, can be issued by the administrative units at all levels, from the *kasha* down to the *dzong* (county) government. It designates the number of draught animals and persons wanted for the *ula*. Big serf-owners, high-ranking officials and high ecclesiastics are all holders of permanent *mapai* and authorized to impose *ula* on the serfs at any time. Many merchants connected with the government have also managed to get hold of such *mapai* through bribery and so get their goods transported free by the serfs.

In the past, it was a commonplace in a Tibetan village, when the arrival of an official bearing a *mapai* was announced, for all activities in the village to stop as hurried preparations were made to welcome the *mapai* holder. Rooms would be vacated and special furniture moved in. Walls in the room needed would be hung with cloths and if the official occupied a higher position, an embroidered awning would have to be set up before his residence. Young women would be in waiting, to carry water, boil tea and do other household work. All the villagers would come, to pay their respects and to make offerings of butter, beef, mutton and eggs. A fresh mount would be ready for the following morning. If no mounting stone was available a serf would have to stoop so that the official could step on his shoulders to mount his horse.

Each year in the past the Tibetan peasants and herds-men have had to contribute their services and draught animals to transport grain and firewood for the *kasha*; those without draught animals of their own have to turn themselves into beasts of burden. When an influential aristocrat or a high-ranking official or cleric goes travelling, the special *ula* involved may demand the services of

several hundred or even a thousand serfs. People caught up in such a "grand *ula*" when for days or weeks they are unable to attend to their own work and must provide for their own keep, are, as like as not, driven into utter poverty and destitution. Many have died through over-work.

All men of the Tibetan army are entitled to impose *ula* on the people; a squad leader or those under him is entitled to the free use of one to three cattle; a platoon commander, to three horses and four cattle; a battalion commander, eight horses and 12 cattle; a regimental commander 12 horses and 20 cattle, and so on. A Tibetan army unit moving quarters is invariably followed by a much larger force of serfs doing *ula*. Those who have their own horses and baggage train and do not need the service of the serfs, still make the latter pay them a sum equivalent to the unused services to which they are "entitled."

"Riding the Hair Off the Horse"

This "cattle and horse corvee" is a heavy burden for the impoverished peasants and herds-men of Tibet. An official making a trip is sure to write down on the *mapai* a much larger number of draught animals than he actually needs and obliges the serfs to pay him a cash quittance for the extra number of animals which he doesn't use. A serf must learn to keep up with a horse which he has given as part of his *ula* service. No matter how fast it is ridden or over what terrain, if he is not there to receive it at the end of the stage he stands to lose it altogether. They have their own colourful description of this imposition: "riding the hair off the horse and running the soles off the shoe."

Besides doing the odd jobs on their master's *zhika* (manor), serfs have to plough his land each spring with their own draught animal and farm implements without pay.

No exact limit is set to the services serfs are supposed to do for their masters; the general practice is that a serf must do unquestioningly whatever his owner wants him to at any time. An investigation made in the Chamdo, Lhasa, Pomi and Loka areas shows that serfs there spent half of their working hours every year doing *ula* services for their masters. A household cultivating a piece of land as large as ten *khal**, or in Lhasa area, three to four *khal*, has to send one man to work for its master the whole year round.

* *Khal* is a Tibetan unit of weight equivalent to about 12.5 kilogrammes. When one says one *khal* of land it means a piece of land large enough to sow one *khal* of seed on. — Ed.

Serfs engaged in handicrafts also have to do corvee by making things for their masters without compensation. In Chetang in the Loka area the people make a kind of serge cloth. The *kasha* required them every year to make dozens of bolts of a special kind of serge "for the Dalai Lama." Asked if this was true, Torje Pengtso, the veteran weaver in charge of this work, replied: "The Dalai Lama can't wear so many robes each year. The officials were just using this as a pretext to feather their own nests!"

Ula is particularly hated by the Tibetan women. When a daughter of a serf reaches the age of sixteen or seventeen, the master will send his bailiff to look her over. The good-looking ones are taken to the manor to wait on their masters who do not hesitate to force their will on these serf girls.

Because most of these *ula* services are non-productive, they have been a fatal drag on the already primitive productive forces in the Tibetan countryside and pasture grounds. The people live a hard and bitter life. Pengtso, a serf of Pomi, for instance, had a wife and four children. Constantly driven to do *ula* services and prevented from tilling his land properly, he was reduced to the most utter poverty. His wife went mad. Finally their debts amounted to 500 *khal*, his wife died of hunger, his children became beggars while he himself was forced to run away and seek refuge in Lhasa. And the Pengtsos are only one of hundreds of thousands of serf households groaning under the yoke of the *ula* system.

Tax Burden Under Serfdom

Excessive taxation is another source of untold sorrow for the Tibetan people. A saying among the peasants goes: "Taxes are as numerous as the hairs on a yak and you pay them from the cradle to the grave." No one, not even the serf-owners who levy them, knows for certain how many kinds of taxes there are in Tibet. An investigation in the areas of Gyantse, Penam and Lhatse, shows that besides the *ula* and ground rent due to the serf-owners, most of the serfs have to pay from 70 to 100 kinds of taxes from their birth to their death.

When a child is born to a serf family, his or her name is entered in the register of the serf-owner and the parents have to pay a "birth tax" amounting to one *liang* and five *chien*,* with another one *liang* and five *chien* every year (the "child tax") until the child reaches the age of 18.

From then on the young serf pays a "poll tax" of from five to fifty *liang* a year, the amount varying from place to place. If and when he decides to "deliver himself from the bitterness of temporal life" to become a lama, he must send gifts to his master and ask for his permission. When permission is granted, he must pay another 19 *liang* known as the "tax on admission to the monastery." When a serf wants to marry, he or she must get the master's consent. At the wedding ceremony the groom or the bride is required to present a *hata* (ceremonial scarf), butter and a sum of money to the master.

*The *liang* is the basic unit of Tibetan currency. Formerly one *liang* was worth one tael of silver, but with the appearance of paper money, the value of the *liang* declined. Ten *chien* make one *liang*. — Ed.

This, though it has no name, is also a kind of tax. A serf who violates his master's regulations and is to be sent to the prison, must pay another tax called the "tax for going into prison." Thirty years ago, to raise more money to expand the size of the Tibetan army, the *kasha* invented a tax known as the "ear tax." Every serf is obliged to pay two *liang* every year for an ear on his head; and since he has two ears this amounts to four *liang* a year. The *kasha* gave its tax-collectors authority to cut off the ears of anyone who failed to pay the "ear tax." In some places this ear tax was levied right up to the time of the defeat of the recent rebellion. In some remote villages and mountains, the serf-owners levy taxes on those who have no deep crease in their eyelids, on the buying of a new dress, or a pair of new boots, etc. When a serf is over sixty and is too weak to do *ula* he must pay a yearly tax called "tax for being exempted from *ula*." The homeless and disabled are required to pay three to fifteen *liang* as a "beggar's tax" or a "disabled tax." When he dies, he is still required to pay a tax: the family of the deceased must report the death to the serf-owner and present him the dead man's earrings. Such an ornament, however, is usually worth several hundred *liang* in Tibetan currency and most serfs cannot afford to own them. In lieu of earrings the family must pay their master a sum known as the "tax for sending away the corpse."

Nor is this all. Besides all these taxes and ground rents the serfs are also heavily taxed on what they grow or produce. Penam *dzong* near Gyantse is where Pala Thubtenwenten, one of the rebel leaders, had his manors. Here a *chaba* (serf of a higher status), besides paying the lord (the landowner) the equivalent of 374 workdays and large amounts in ground rent for every *kang** of land he cultivates, must also pay nearly 20 "miscellaneous" taxes in kind to the *kasha*. These include ten *khal* of *qingke* barley and eight sheep to the head of the *dzong*, as well as three *khal* of butter, firewood, and two cloth bags; a sum of money to the *dzong* government to cover the cost of letter deliveries, one *khal* of *qingke* barley to cover the costs of entertaining officials, and so on.

Taxed to Death

When in Gyantse in 1957, the author paid a visit to a *chaba* named Tsangda. Tsangda's was a family of twelve. He cultivated 24 *khal* of land belonging to the *kasha* and a bumper harvest would probably bring in a crop of about 120 *khal* of grain. After having paid the ground rent (30 *khal*), the miscellaneous taxes, totalling 40 *khal*, not including "gifts" for the *dzong* head and the headman, 50 *khal* was all that was left. A family of twelve like Tsangda's needs at least 180 *khal* of grain in a year to maintain a bare livelihood. So it meant a yearly deficit of 130 *khal* even when there was a good harvest!

Mochu Tseten, a peasant living on the western outskirts of Lhasa, recently told the author his family had seen better days in his father's time and today, although he was utterly impoverished, he was still required to pay taxes on what his father used to own. For instance, his

*One *kang* is the area of land on which 18 *khal* of seed can be sown; the area of a *kang*, however, varies from place to place. — Ed.

father once cultivated two *khal* of land belonging to his master but this land was returned to the master fifty years ago. Mochu Tseten was still liable to pay the master's family 35 *khal* of *tsamba* each year for this land he did not cultivate. His grandfather used to own a yak which died in his father's time, he still had to pay the "yak tax" to the master every year. A serf who planted a tree had to pay an annual "tree tax," Mochu Tseten added.

The *kasha's* tax impositions in the field of animal husbandry are incredible. A poor man on applying to tend livestock for a serf-owner, had to be prepared to pay a "whip tax" to the *kasha*. Those with some cattle or sheep of their own had to pay one *khal* of *qingke* barley for each cattle pasturing on the grassland, two *khal* of butter for each new-born calf and one *khal* of butter for each new-born lamb. They were also required to provide the *kasha* with large amounts of cow dung which

is used as fuel in Tibet. Horse owners must also pay taxes. In case two households share a horse, they must pay their share of tax at the same time and each of the two co-owners must lead the same horse at the time of paying the tax. This is of course impossible. So the *kasha* again decided that the owner who failed to lead in the horse which he owned in part could send in a hundred eggs as a "fine" for failing to do the impossible.

And this is only a part of the story of the million and more serfs of Tibet. A recent tour on the upper reaches of the Tsangpo River showed that for several months a year many "better off" serfs of the *chaba* category there actually live on wild plants and wild animals since about 65.3 per cent of their annual income goes to the serf-owners in the form of ground rents and miscellaneous taxes. As to the *namsen* (house serfs, and serfs of the lowest social position), they are of course worse off than the *chaba*.

Construction

After One Bridge—Many More

by CHIAO KUNG-PAO

NINETEEN months ago, in October 1957, the Yangtse River was bridged for the first time at Wuhan. The excitement of that feat is now over. The magnificent bridge is now a familiar part of the Wuhan landscape. It is a beautiful double-decker 1,670 metres long resting on 8 piers and carrying trains, motor vehicles and pedestrians more than 83 metres above the river-bed. This was New China's first great bridge. It has taken its place in history as the pioneer of a growing series of similar achievements.

Even before it was completed, the men who had started and grown up on the job began to scatter to many parts of the country. Since then they have reinforced the piers and put in new girders for the bridge on the Sungari, the greatest river in the northeast. They have built a new bridge for the Peking-Canton Railway over the Chang River in southern Hopei Province. To build piers as they did at Wuhan they have sunk reinforced concrete pipes deep into the rock-beds of the turbulent Huto River in Hopei Province and the Min River in Szechuan Province. At Tungkuan on the Yellow River, where "the cock is heard in three provinces"—Shansi, Shensi and Honan, they built a bridge that, for the first time, links up the Tatung-Puchow and Lanchow-Haichow Railways. They went to Paotow on the Inner Mongolian Steppe and Macheng in Hupeh Province—not to build bridges but to lay the foundations for a water works and reservoir respectively using methods they had developed building the Yangtse Bridge at Wuhan.

Bridging Five Great Rivers

Now they have formed five independent departments working simultaneously to bridge five great rivers.

Crossing the old Yellow River Bridge today on a south-bound train from Peking to Canton you can see on your left-hand side a row of new piers. Members of the first department are working on a new Yellow River bridge at Chengchow (Honan Province).

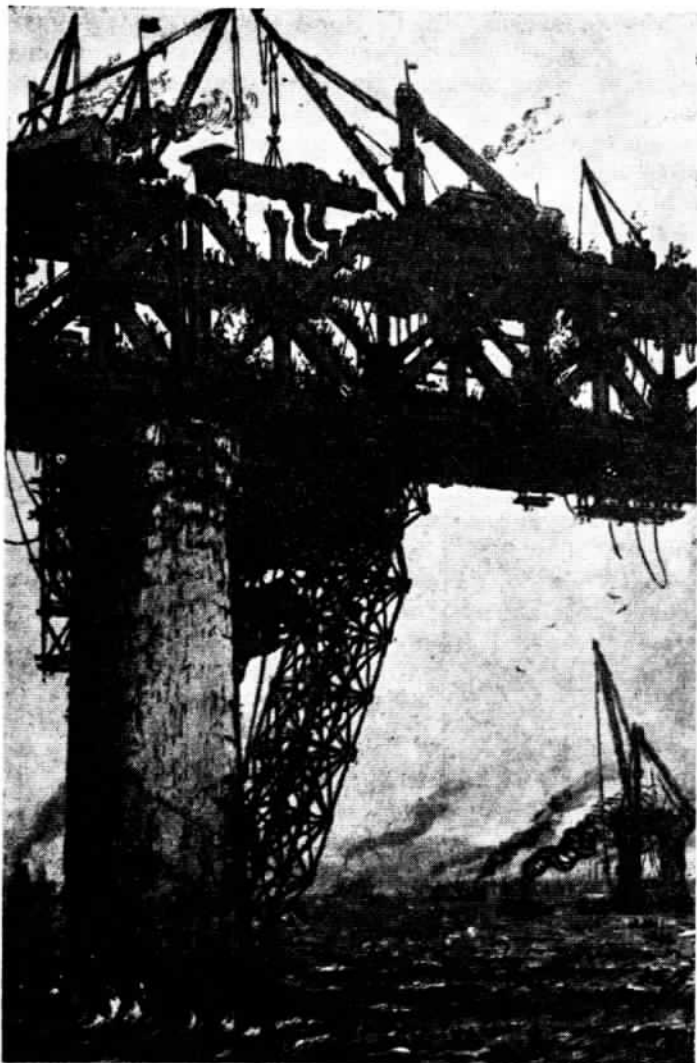
On the middle section of the famed Grand Canal, workers of the second department have just completed a bridge for the Lanchow-Haichow Railway, the major east-west trunk line in China.

A double-track railway-highway bridge is under construction on the Kan River at the historic city of Nanchang (Kiangsi Province) where thirty-two years ago the "August First" Uprising took place, marking the birth of China's Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, the predecessor of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. It is the work of members of the third department.

Last September, members of the fourth department started work on a second bridge on the upper Yangtse River at Paishatuo in Chungking. This will provide a link between the Chungking-Chengtou Railway, completed in 1952, and the Szechuan (Chungking)-Kweichow (Kweiyang) Railway now being built. All the piers for this bridge have now appeared above the water.

The scenes of two years ago at Wuhan are now being duplicated in Canton at the estuary of the Pearl River. Workers of the fifth department are building a railway-highway bridge which will make possible through traffic between Canton and Kwangsi and between Canton and the Leichow peninsula.

Work on all five bridges began during the big leap forward last year. When they are completed, the



The Last Span

Woodcut in colour by Wu Shih

builders will move on to fresh sites to build more bridges on the Yangtse, the Yellow River and other great rivers.

Spanning the "Eternal Barrier"

Many bridges will span the Yangtse—which was known in the past as the "eternal barrier" between north and south China. The projected Szechuan-Hunan Railway will cross the Yangtse at Okungyen in Chungking and the bridge is being designed along with bridges to be built on the middle and lower reaches of the river at Yitu (Hupeh Province), Wuhu (Anhui Province) and Nanking (Kiangsu Province). Geological survey teams have been drilling in the river-beds for nearly a year now. Scientists from over thirty institutions of scientific research and higher learning are working in close co-ordination on hundreds of problems—geological, hydrographical, structural, mechanical; they are testing materials and designing new building machinery. Specialists, professors, students, engineers and veteran workers have already met twice in Wuhan to study preliminary designs. In 50 days flat, they completed preliminary designs for all three bridges—an unexampled feat.

The Yangtse River Bridge at Nanking, preparatory work for which is already under way, is a major construc-

tion. It will be much larger than the famous Yangtse Bridge at Wuhan.

The method of driving reinforced concrete pipes for the piers, invented during the building of the Yangtse River Bridge at Wuhan, is being constantly improved at the various new bridge-building sites. This method may be briefly described as follows: groups of reinforced concrete pipes are sunk within a steel frame to the bed-rock below the river. Drilling is done through the pipes. Reinforcing steel frameworks are inserted through the pipes into the holes drilled and concrete is then poured in to form solid reinforced concrete pillars cemented deep into the river-bed. Next, steel coffer-dams are built around the pillars, the water is pumped out and the complete pier built around the pillar foundations sunk into the bed-rock. This method does away entirely with the costly use of the caissons which were formerly sunk to the river-bed and in which men worked dangerously under pressure to dig and lay pier foundations. At Wuhan, pipes 1.55 metres in diameter were used; at Chengchow and Nanchang, much bigger pipes are in use—3.6 metres and 5.8 metres in diameter respectively. The vibrating pile-drivers now employed are also much more powerful than those used at Wuhan. This is why, on an average, each pier on the Kan River at Nanchang was completed in the incredibly short time of 12 days. Many further technical innovations have been introduced by the workers themselves. After careful study of the situation and thorough discussion, builders of the Pearl River Bridge in Canton made a bold proposal: to make do with one pier less! Many processes that called for heavy manual labour before are now done by machines most of which were made by the builders themselves.

Bridge-Building: Past and Present

All this is a far cry from the state of affairs existing only a decade ago. Before liberation, few big bridges were built in China and most of them were built by the foreign imperialists. The old Yellow River Bridge at Chengchow which was damaged by flood in 1958 was built by a Belgian-French syndicate. The M.A.N. (Machinenfabrik Augsburg-Nürnberg)—a German company was the contractor for the Yellow River Bridge at Tsinan. The Pearl River Bridge now under construction was started 30 years ago by an American company. This company built five of six projected piers for the eastern bridge and six of seven piers for the western bridge. But due to shoddy work, all the piers it built have tilted. All those on the west had to be scrapped and those on the east could be used only after a large amount of reinforcing work.

Now the country has a considerable force of bridge builders whose ranks are constantly being expanded as more bridges are built. The trainees of a year ago are today veterans coaching more trainees. The Yangtse River Bridge at Wuhan was the starting point. But the bridge-builders it trained are by no means the only ones in China today. Other builders that did not take part in the building of the Wuhan Bridge also have many big bridges to their credit. With the experience already gained, China's bridge-builders are confident that they can tackle any job they are set.

SIDELIGHTS

Red-Letter Day. Performances by Peking's most famous opera troupes, acrobatics and magic, sports, meetings with P.L.A. heroes and writers, artists and scientists, were some of the highlights of the capital's Children's Day programme. Early on the morning of June 1, Peking's parks threw open their gates to its younger citizens. It was a day of reduced fares for children on trolleys and buses and cut-rate tickets for cinema and theatre shows. Young Pioneer red flags and scarves were everywhere. Children from nearby people's communes sailed on the gaily decked out "Dragon Boats" in the Summer Palace where once the Empress Dowager amused herself. Children flew on silver wings in the skies—a surprise treat from "uncles" in the air force. This was Children's Day, and the world belonged to them.

A Day at the Children's Science and Technology Centre. The big mansion by the Peihai Park lake has many rooms. In one, teen-age scientists in white smocks are experimenting with chemicals. In another Liu Chih-chiang demonstrates how to load a reel of film into a projector in 39 seconds—pretty fast work for an 11-year-old! A big workshop is the scene of the busiest activity as children make parts for a real glider—a job they plan to finish by National Day. And in another part of the park, visitors are proudly shown around a genuine hydroelectric power station operated entirely by children. So starts another day at the Children's Science and Technology Centre in Peking. These are only a small part of the many activities at the centre. It provides instructors and facilities for a dozen other activities including radio and telegraphy, photography, astronomy, meteorology, motor car repairing and driving. Its regular members are students of Peking's primary and middle schools. Frequent demonstrations, lectures and parties are open to all. Since it was set up in 1957, it has become a real centre of fun and learning for children with a scientific turn of mind.

Let Them Have Music! There's one thing the Yungfeng People's Commune near Peking likes to boast of more than anything else—its young musicians. One week-end they are invited to perform at one village, the next they are taken by cart to another. To be perfectly frank, the children's performances are a bit rough in spots. But who can blame them, considering it is barely six months since they took up music? Last winter a spare-time music school was set up in

the commune with the help of the Central Conservatory. Thirty children attend its classes in the piano, violin, and Chinese instruments. Many show great promise. Not less enthusiastic are their parents. A music school for their children? Why, when they were young their worry was how to keep alive. But, times are different now. If the children like music, let them have music!

New City on the Chialing River. A new city has arisen on the banks of the Chialing River in Chungking. It has shaded streets, a bookshop, a bank, a post office, a hospital, factories and workshops, playgrounds and sports grounds, a theatre, a club—in fact, it has everything a new-born, aspiring city should have. But strange to say, for most of the day—and night—there's not a soul on the streets. The shops are closed, not a human sound disturbs the humming of the bees as they gather honey on a bright sunny day. Suddenly, a bell rings somewhere. The city comes alive with noise and bustle. Hundreds of little citizens pour into the streets and shops, some taking their places at posts of duty, while others just play. Make-believe? No, this is "Children's City," playground of the 1,800 pupils of the Chienhsin Primary School in after-school hours.

Schools for Blind and Deaf-Mute Children. Over 10,000 blind or deaf-mute children are now studying in the 200 schools specially set up for them. They get from six to ten years of regular schooling plus special subjects such as fine arts, carpentry and toy-making for the deaf-mutes, and vocal and instrumental music for the blind. Physical training is part of their curricula, and good food and plenty of rest and recreation help them grow up fit and strong.

To the Rescue. A flustered lady who had just got on the bus reached into her handbag for the bus fare, and discovered to her chagrin that she had left her purse at home. Suddenly a small hand reached out from behind her with a shining nickel in it. A Young Pioneer had come to her rescue.

An old couple had lost their only son in the war and lived all alone in Shenyang. The house sometimes got too quiet for comfort. One day they heard a polite knock at the door. A group of Young Pioneers from a nearby school had come to pay them a visit. From then on, the house was often filled with talk and

laughter. The firewood bin was never empty, the floors were always swept clean, and young voices reading or singing could be heard on many an evening.

Chen Chang-lin was taking the long way home around the lake because the afternoon was so nice. A sudden shriek ahead brought him running to the spot. One last glimpse of an old lady's white face, and then it disappeared beneath the water. Being a Young Pioneer he couldn't stand by and see someone drown. He threw off his satchel and jumped into the water. Struggling and choking he brought the old lady safely to shore.

Walking in Father's Footsteps. Six, seven and eight were the ages of two little boys and a girl in a village of Hupeh Province. All day long they heard their parents and neighbours talk about the big leap forward, about cultivating experimental plots with new methods of close planting, deep ploughing, and so on to increase yields. The whole village was humming with activity, everybody doing his bit. The idea and mood took hold of them. Why couldn't they do something about it too? They found a patch of land nearby, about one-fifth of a *mu*, to plant rice. Some of the elders didn't think much of it; but if the kids wanted to have a try, why not? A broken pick for digging, an old wash basin to get water, and two little straw baskets to gather manure in; these were the children's tools. They saw how their elders went about their job and pestered them with questions. On their little plot they lavished care on every plant; every weed was rooted out. This became their absorbing hobby. When the harvest was in, they got a most rewarding surprise—their yield was higher than most average yields in that area!



At the Zoo

By Li Keng (From the Children's Art Exhibition, 1959)

THEATRE

Foreign Plays on the Peking Stage

A list of what's on the stages of Peking these days includes plays by geniuses both of the classical and modern drama: Kalidasa, Shakespeare, Moliere, Schiller, Ibsen, Gorky and Goldoni. Plays from overseas featured recently are in some cases new additions to the repertoires, and in others restaged versions of old favourites that the capital's theatregoers never seem to tire of.

Moliere's *Miser* is a new production staged by the Peking People's Art Theatre. This company, which has earned a name for itself for its fine performances of plays by Tien Han, Kuo Mo-jo, Lao Sheh, Tsao Yu and other well-known contemporary Chinese playwrights, has as yet only a limited repertoire of plays from foreign dramatists. There were many and special difficulties to be overcome in staging one of Moliere's greatest comedies, not the least of these was giving the cast a deep understanding of the life and conditions of seventeenth century France. Intensive study of the literature of the period and lectures by experts on the subject have quite clearly given the collective a very adequate sense of the period as the basis for an excellent production. Tien Chung gives a vivid portrayal of Harpagon, the miser who was "of all human beings the least human, of all mortals the hardest and most close-fisted," so avaricious that "to give is a word for which he has such an aversion that he never says: *I give you*, but *I lend you a good day*." Chu Hsu as Master Jacques, his cook and coachman, and Liang Ching as the designing Frosine, are outstanding. Belly laughs from the audience show that this is no mere "restoration" of a classic but a live comedy that the producer and cast have produced.

Kalidasa's *Sakuntala*, Ibsen's *Doll's House*, (here produced as *Nora*) and Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, all firmly on the repertoire of the China Youth Art Theatre, have been refurbished. This renovation has, in fact, been a constant process over the past two or three years, in which the artistic growth of this group has been rapid and steady.

Sakuntala was restaged in May. The very first performances in 1957 of this Indian classic showed that it would take a permanent place in the affections of Chinese audiences. This is not only because this love story of *Sakuntala* and King Dushyanta is Sanskrit drama at its best, rich in lyricism, metaphor and imagination, but because the production has successfully caught the original's

poetic beauty and characteristic Indian colour. This would have been impossible without the help given by various Indian friends. Indian dancers visiting China gave invaluable help during rehearsals. They spent long hours with actors and actresses of the theatre, acquainting them with Indian customs and habits, teaching them Indian dances and gestures and giving detailed advice and suggestions about the decor and settings. *Sakuntala* is in fact a first example of real Sino-Indian theatrical co-operation, an expression of Sino-Indian friendship which the Chinese people will always cherish. A series of rigorous rehearsals preceded the recent restaging. The well-known dancer Tai Ai-lien re-arranged and improved three dances in the play.

Ibsen's *Doll's House* has an unusual place in Chinese theatrical life and the



Harpagon (Tien Chung) and Frosine (Liang Ching) in the Peking People's Art Theatre's production of Moliere's *The Miser*

affections of audiences, particularly among the older intellectuals. This is not only because of its theme—the emancipation of women—but because it was among the very first of the modern plays to be produced in China and is closely associated in theme and form with the May Fourth Movement in 1919. It was performed as early as 1913 by the Spring Willow Association, China's first modern drama troupe. Over the past forty years, it has been performed by many theatrical troupes. It has had a great influence on the development of the modern Chinese stage and on the social status of women in China. Hence its link with the May Fourth Movement—both a cultural and social revolutionary movement—and hence its revival this year in commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the movement. Compared with performances in the past, the Youth Art Theatre's

latest production is far and away the best. There are many reasons for this. The existence here of a well-knit, talented repertory company with adequate funds for a first-rate production, a deeper insight into the play. . . . Its director Wu Hsueh went to Norway a few years ago to attend a meeting commemorating Ibsen. There he had the opportunity of studying the life and work of the great Norwegian playwright and collecting material that would be of help in producing the *Doll's House*. Later Gerda Ring Christensen, the famous Norwegian actress and expert on Ibsen, was invited to China to help as art adviser in the production. Her assistance and encouragement accounts much for the success of the new production.

Chekhov is another well-known name to Chinese audiences. Many of his one-act plays have been performed in the past. In the early '40s, the Hsinyu Drama Association gave the first performance of *Uncle Vanya*, but without much success. Now with the help of the Soviet director P. V. Lesly, the Youth Art Theatre has put on an entirely new production of *Uncle Vanya* that is undoubtedly a popular success. Lesly also helped a group of young and promising actors and actresses of the Experimental Theatre of the Central Drama School with a production of Goldoni's *Servant of Two Masters*. It is a brilliant little production that doesn't miss a line of the author's deft humour.

This is by no means a full list of recently produced plays from abroad, but enough to indicate the present diversity of the Peking stage that includes Peking and other local forms of traditional opera—as well as Western opera that the young opera school here is beginning to produce—notably Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* and Verdi's *La Traviata*.

—CHU CHING

BALLET

The "Corsair"

In 1954 when the Moscow Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre presented Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* in Peking, the first full-length ballet ever performed by a first-rate company in China, someone asked the organizer of the new Peking School of Dancing when we could hope to see a classical ballet performed by Chinese dancers. The answer was: "Perhaps in six or seven years or so!" That seemed a reasonable estimate in a country that did not have a single classical ballet group before.

Reality, however, has outstripped dreams in this as in so many other spheres. In 1957, the ballet school put on *Vain Precautions* by Gertel. True, that was very much a "student production" but it was a full-length ballet nonetheless. In July last year, the school put on *Swan Lake* with the enthusiastic help of P. A. Gusev, the veteran Soviet choreographer. He followed the Musical Theatre's version based on the original Petipa choreography but with a new prologue and some significant alterations. Choreography, costuming and general production, therefore, had expert guidance. The dancing naturally did not compare with the skilled artistry of the Musical Theatre, but there was a spirit and sincerity in it that compensated for much. Certainly no one was disappointed in the performance. Most were pleasantly surprised. Peking had its classical ballet.

Last May the school produced the *Corsair* by Adolphe Adam, and scored another hit. This played to full houses until withdrawn at the end of May to make way for rehearsals for a new season of *Swan Lake*.

With *Corsair*, the school has the beginnings of a repertoire. This production, also supervised by Gusev, follows the adaptation of the original ballet made by the Soviet dramatist Slonimsky. This gives a more close-knit, logical structure to the action. Medora, a young girl in a Greek fishing village, saves the life of a sailor, Conrad, who later, with his comrades, rescues her and her friends after they have been captured by slave traders and sold to a petty tyrant. The story gives plenty of scope for vigorous dancing among the corsairs and pirates, for exotic and pathetic character dances by the slaves and fair victims, and drama in the clash of wills and power between

Conrad and the Governor. Medora and her beloved, the Corsair, have some lyrical *pas de deux*. Pai Shu-hsiang, who danced Odette-Odile in *Swan Lake*, makes an appealing Medora. The garden interlude in the third act gives a chance for the entire *corps de ballet* of forty to show its paces which it did with grace and gusto.

The whole ballet was danced with verve, charm and great sincerity. Every performance of the troupe shows steady improvement; its technique is improving rapidly. The male dancers, especially, show increasing strength and assurance in their roles.

—C. I. F.

ART

Children's Paintings

Vice-Chairman Soong Ching Ling and other government leaders were among the many interested visitors to the current exhibition of children's paintings at the gallery of the Union of Chinese Artists. This was one of the big attractions during this year's International Children's Day celebrations in Peking. It shows over 360 paintings in water colours, oil, crayon and pencil and paper-cuts by 274 children from all parts of the country. Many show promise and nearly all such a distinctively Chinese stamp in treatment of subject, composition, colour and handling that no one could possibly mistake them for anything but paintings by Chinese children.

They richly reflect children's life in town and countryside, in factories and communes, with entertainments, games, glimpses of nature, plants and animals, legends and sputniks. The colouring is keyed low probably because opaque poster colours are not much used, but the line work is vigorous.

Traditional techniques are much in vogue, but here too, as with older artists, they are informed with a modern realism and feeling for dynamic movement. Six-year-old Huang Hei-man paints eight swimming goldfish. He handles this traditional subject in the traditional Chinese water colour medium, but with a directness of vision that you would expect of a lively child of modern China. He has used with great ability, perhaps by intuition rather than conscious imitation of more mature artists, the traditional Chinese method of emphasizing certain colours by skilful shading.

Huang's name is quite well known. In 1957, his *Budding Daffodils* won a prize at the exhibition of children's paintings organized by *Shankar's Weekly* in New

Delhi. He was only four then. The next year, in 1958, at the *Daily Worker* exhibition held in London his two entries won him a first prize in the five to seven age group. His recent paintings continue to show exceptional talent. At the same London exhibition, Tung Tung of Peking also won a first prize for children from eight to ten, while Li Hsiao-ko got a second prize for those between eleven and thirteen. These two also exhibit new paintings that show no slackening in their promise.

Eight-year-old Li Keng's *Feast of Grapes* is painted with an excellent sense of composition with the Chinese brush and paints. It shows a dark green trellis heavily laden with vines beneath which a group of children at a round table enjoys a feast of grapes. This is lyrical in mood, pastoral. His other painting shows children crowded around an enclosure in the zoo looking at an enormous elephant. This has been treated so that the weighty brown of the animal is emphasized by the ungainly ellipse of the enclosure rail, and the oblong smudge of the trees. It is not likely that the child has fully understood the artistry of his solution. What is remarkable here and in other good paintings is the fact that these children have looked, seen, and so acutely remembered these glimpses of life and been able so surely to reflect them and communicate to the viewer all their youthful spirit of inquisitiveness and enthusiasm. They used bold pictorial means to achieve their ends.

There are many indications that children are taking a greater interest in contemporary adult painting. In his *Spring Festival Fair*, seven-year-old Wang Ming-ming is clearly trying to paint in the style of the great Chi Pai-shih. Twelve-year-old Han Shao-li's *Sian City* seems to show the influence of Li Ko-jan, but this is a completely original work that boldly and successfully tackles a problem that many grown artists are attempting to solve—the modern cityscape painted in the traditional Chinese water colour medium.

Works by teen-agers at the exhibition also show great advances over last year's show. A scroll about four metres long, a collective work by children in Nanking whose average age is twelve, is a study in gay water colours of children's activities at school, at play and helping the grown-ups in the exciting work of socialist construction—building, farming, tending the home-made steel furnaces. Where most of the younger artists deftly seize on intriguing, attractive and isolated events, this is an ambitious attempt to recapitulate a whole page of childhood life itself.

—HO CHENG



Pai Shu-hsiang as Medora and Liu Ching-tang as Conrad in a *pas de deux* in the second act of *The Corsair*

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

New Twist in U.S. Plot in Laos

"The United States must be held responsible for the dangerous situation in Laos" is the title of a commentary in *Renmin Ribao* (June 3).

The Commentator points out that the U.S. State Department in a statement on May 29 openly tried to evade responsibility for instigating the Royal Laotian Government to attack the former Pathet Lao fighting units, tear up the Geneva agreements, and sharpen the tense situation in Southeast Asia. The statement alleged that the United States "is not involved" in the current dangerous situation in Laos and that tension existed in Southeast Asia because of China's "infiltration, subversion and threats of hostile military action."

"This is a usual tactic of the U.S. aggressors; the tactic of 'a thief crying stop thief!'" says Commentator. But he warns that this won't work. Reviewing the facts, Commentator recalls that the U.S. imperialists are bitterly hostile to the Geneva agreements which stipulate that Laos will follow a peaceful neutral policy and forbid it to enter into any military alliance or accept foreign military aid. By outright pressure and underhand subversion, the U.S. brought about the downfall of the Phouma government which pursued a peaceful neutral policy and advocated peaceful unification of Laos, in favour of the pro-U.S. Sananikone government.

The crisis boiling up over the past few months in Laos is obviously a new development in the aggressive schemes of U.S. imperialism against that country, and it is entirely the creation of U.S. imperialism, Commentator points out. On the one hand the U.S. directed SEATO to hold successive large-scale military manoeuvres as blatant armed threats to countries in Indo-China; on the other, it mapped out at the SEATO council meeting at Wellington a "blueprint" for aggression in Laos. Commentator draws attention to the fact that since then the Laotian situation has deteriorated rapidly.

Recently, Commentator points out, the U.S. has stepped up its efforts in a major conspiracy to rig up a tripartite military alliance between Thailand, south Vietnam and Laos with a view to turning south Viet-nam and Laos into *de facto* members of SEATO.

Condemning the U.S. State Department's attempt to shift to the former Pathet Lao fighting units the responsibility for sabotaging the Geneva agreements, Commentator says that the former Pathet Lao fighting units have faithfully and strictly fulfilled the Geneva agreements on Laos and the various political agreements reached between them and the Royal Laotian Government in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva agreements. But acting entirely to the contrary, the Royal Laotian Government has openly repudiated the Geneva agreements, opposed control and supervision by the International Commission in Laos, carried on wanton persecution and arrests of members of the former Pathet Lao fighting units, deprived the members of the Neo Lao Haksat Party of their legitimate right to engage in political activities. All this and the final putting of the leaders of the former Pathet Lao fighting units under house arrest and the launching of civil war, have brought about the current grave situation in Laos, Commentator states.

The U.S. State Department issued its lying statement at a time when the Laotian situation is rapidly deteriorating. Commentator points out that this not only gives open support to the grave action of the Laotian Government in launching a civil war but also indicates that the U.S. will take further steps to interfere in Laos, and sabotage peace in Laos and Indo-China. The Laotian authorities have openly cried for "aid" from the "free world"; this is in effect preparing the way for the U.S. and the SEATO bloc to step up their further military interference in Indo-China. This, Com-



The fuse

By Wang Lo-tien

mentator concludes, "cannot but arouse the vigilance of all countries and peoples concerned with the peace of Indo-China."

For a Balkan Zone of Peace

Renmin Ribao's editorial (June 3) describes the visit of the Soviet Party and Government Delegation headed by N. S. Khrushchov to Albania as "a significant event," greatly contributing to the strengthening of the unity of the socialist camp and the defence of peace and security of Europe. It characterizes the joint Soviet-Albanian statement issued on June 1 as "an important document in current world events."

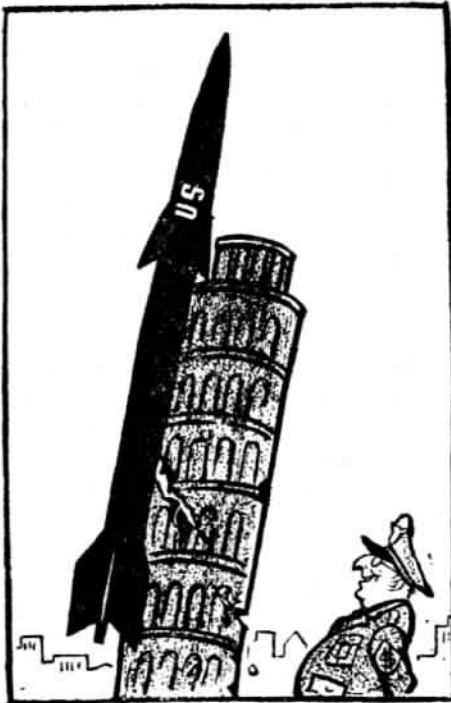
It is understandable that the two countries are gravely concerned about the situation in the Balkan and the Mediterranean areas, the editorial continues. Recently there are many indications that the United States and the NATO bloc which it leads are intensifying their efforts to turn certain Balkan and Mediterranean countries into bases of aggression against the Soviet Union and the socialist camp. To this end they are trying to reinvigorate the paralysed Balkan alliance and are busy wooing certain countries to join a so-called "Mediterranean pact."

The editorial exposes the pretext of "defence" used by the Greek and Italian Governments to justify their acceptance of U.S. rocket bases on their territories. It is common knowledge, the editorial points out, that the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in Europe do not threaten the security of others, while, on the contrary, by serving as the U.S.' and NATO's willing tools of aggression, Greece and Italy are threatening the security of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in Europe, and above all, Albania.

The acceptance of U.S. atomic and rocket bases on their soil will have serious and unfathomable consequences for these countries themselves, declares the editorial. The Soviet and Albanian leaders have made it clear that should the Greek and Italian authorities persist in their dangerous course, the Soviet Union and Albania will not remain indifferent and will take appropriate measures to safeguard their security.

The proposal of the two countries to make the whole of the Balkan and Adriatic area an atomic-weapon-free zone and their renewal of the proposal advanced by Rumania for a conference of the leaders of Balkan states conform to the interests of the peoples of that area and will win warm support from the people of every country, the editorial points out.

Citing the joint statement's reference to the closer unity both within and among the Communist and Workers' Parties of



"That Leaning Tower of Pisa makes a handy launching ramp"

By Hung Huang

all countries following the issuance of the Moscow Declaration in 1957, the editorial says that the struggle against revisionism has won a great victory. However, as pointed out in the joint statement, recent developments show that revisionism is still the main danger in the present situation. "It threatens not only the security of the socialist camp but also the whole international communist and workers' movement. This shows that the struggle against revisionism remains a serious task of the international communist movement."

The joint Soviet-Albanian statement shows that while they steadily strengthen their unity and co-operation, the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union are vigilantly watching developments throughout the world and are making every effort for peace, the editorial says. This unity of the socialist camp and peaceful policy of the socialist countries, *Renmin Ribao* stresses, are "the main guarantee of world peace and security of the peoples in all lands."

Geneva Conference

Reviewing the course of the East-West Foreign Ministers' Conference at Geneva, a news survey in *Renmin Ribao* (June 2) notes that since its opening on May 11, no great progress has been made in solving the most urgent problems. At the very beginning of the conference, it recalls, the Western countries put up obstructions. On the question of the status of the two German delegations, the Western powers finally had to agree that both of them should participate in the conference on an equal basis. Con-

tinued Western obstruction, however, has prevented Poland and Czechoslovakia from participating in the conference.

In subsequent discussions, it is very clear how different are the stands and attitudes of the East and West foreign ministers. The main points at issue have been:

1. Should discussions be concentrated on the most pressing questions of a German peace treaty and the ending of the occupation regime in West Berlin, or should discussions be extended to cover the whole German question which is beyond the scope of this conference, and other big unsettled problems?

2. In discussing the German question, should it concentrate on a peace treaty with Germany or German unification?

3. Should the occupation regime in West Berlin be ended or continued?

The delegates of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic from the beginning of its work asked the conference to concentrate on the question of a peace treaty with Germany and ending the occupation regime in West Berlin. But the Western countries deliberately tried to lead the conference astray. To counter the reasonable proposals of the Soviet Union and the G.D.R. they put forward their so-called "Package Plan." This has not only been firmly opposed by the delegations of the Soviet Union and the G.D.R. at the conference but also condemned by just public opinion throughout the world.

Changing tactics, U.S. Secretary of State Herter, on behalf of the Western countries, then put forward a so-called seven-point plan for Berlin's "unification" at the May 26 session. This plan in essence aims to maintain the rights of the Western countries to station troops in West Berlin and of free passage to and

from it and even to extend the occupation status in West Berlin to East Berlin as well. This absurd demand naturally met with a flat refusal on the part of the Soviet Union and the G.D.R.

The foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the G.D.R., while firmly denouncing the West's absurd position and unreasonable demands, also showed their willingness to consider certain parts of the Western proposals that could be used as a basis for discussion. Furthermore, the Soviet delegate put forward on May 22 new provisions for the draft peace treaty with Germany, and at the same time, the delegate of the G.D.R. put forward a proposal for the conclusion of a non-aggression treaty between the two German states and negotiations at Geneva between their delegates. These acts have fully demonstrated the conciliatory spirit of the delegates of the Soviet Union and G.D.R. in seeking agreement and their sincere desire to make the conference a success. It is precisely because of their repeated initiatives and efforts that the conference has been able to continue in spite of obstruction by the Western powers. This also enables the delegations of the Soviet Union and G.D.R. to hold the initiative.

The Western powers have found themselves in a passive position at the conference and there are also differences among them. In particular, the distrust and disputes between Britain and West Germany has been a constant subject of comment in the Western press.

The delegates of the Soviet Union and G.D.R. have already indicated their readiness to do all they can for the progress and success of the conference, the survey concludes, but the outcome of the conference still hinges on the next step of the Western countries.

THE PASSING SHOW

He Just Loves \$2,000 Worth of Child

Stephen S. Scopas, a New York city magistrate, has been arrested for his "misdemeanour" of selling babies got from Greece to people in the U.S. Charging from \$500 to \$2,800 each, the sale of 21 children alone netted him over \$53,000. Purchases were made on the instalment plan, reports *The New York Times*.



Pure-bred Corn

In a recent debate in Congress on the choice of the U.S. national flower, Senator Allot proposed "a true flower . . . the carnation . . . a symbol of our past, our present, and our future." "Let us unite behind the carnation!" he declared in a ringing voice. Senator Keating proposed the rose. Senator Norton, grass, and Senator Dirksen, with the simplicity of genius . . . corn.

CHINA AND THE WORLD

Military Mission in Albania

A Chinese military goodwill mission headed by Vice-Premier and Defence Minister Peng Teh-huai has just concluded a visit to Albania.

During its five-day stay from May 28 to June 1, it was warmly welcomed by the Albanian Government and people. Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Albanian Labour Party, and Mehmet Shehu, Chairman of the Albanian Council of Ministers, received the mission and had a cordial talk with Marshal Peng Teh-huai. At a reception given in honour of the Chinese visitors, Enver Hoxha pointed out that the current visits of the Soviet delegation headed by Khrushchov and the Chinese military goodwill mission would further enhance understanding among the peoples of all their countries and strengthen their friendship and unity.

In Shkoder, the political and cultural centre of northern Albania, a mass meeting of ten thousand people was held to welcome the military mission. In his speech, Marshal Peng Teh-huai warmly acclaimed the achievements of the Albanian people in all fields of socialist construction and the brilliant role of the Albanian People's Army in safeguarding the security of the socialist camp.

He pointed out that certain neighbours of Albania had allowed the United States to set up rocket bases or were negotiating with the U.S. to set up such bases in their countries. They wanted to turn the Balkans into a cockpit of war. Besides being extremely unfriendly such playing with fire was very unwise, he said.

Fully supporting Khrushchov's recent statement that the Balkans should be a peninsula of peace, the Chinese Defence Minister declared, "We hope that all countries with different social systems will coexist in peace. Whoever is so mad as to attack Albania and start a new world war will be knocking his head against a wall and come to no good end. He would inevitably meet the same utter defeat that Hitler and Mussolini met in the past."

During their stay in Tirana, the Presidium of the Albanian People's Assembly conferred medals on Marshal Peng Teh-huai and other members of the military

mission for their contribution to Albanian-Chinese friendship and the unity of the socialist camp.

Prior to its visit to Albania, the mission visited six other People's Democracies in Europe. It is now on a visit to the Mongolian People's Republic.

Scientific Co-operation

The 1959 executive plan for scientific co-operation between the Soviet and Chinese Academies of Sciences was initialled on June 1 in Peking. It provides for concrete measures of co-operation this year between the two countries in the fields of the natural and social sciences. The work to be done will have an important bearing on the progress of scientific research in China.

The plan was drawn up in accordance with the scientific co-operation agreement signed between the Chinese and Soviet Governments in January 1958 and the scientific co-operation protocol signed between the Academies of Sciences of the two countries in December 1957. Under the terms of the 1958 agreement, 122 important projects in scientific and technical research will be carried out during the 1958-62 period. The co-operation envisaged under this agreement is particularly important for the development of certain branches of science which until now have been either very backward or practically non-existent in China.

A. N. Nesmeyanov, President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and head of the delegation which came to China to sign the 1959 executive plan, on June 1, formally handed the diplomas appointing Kuo Mo-jo, President, and Lee Ssu-kuang, Vice-President, of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, foreign members of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. On behalf of the Academy, Nesmeyanov also presented over 1,000 volumes of scientific works and a large quantity of plant seeds to the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

* * *

The Sino-Korean Scientific and Technical Co-operation Committee has just concluded a session in Pyongyang. It discussed ways of bringing about still greater co-operation between the two countries to meet the needs of their rapid economic development. A protocol signed at the session provides for an exchange of technical data. China will send Korea blueprints for water turbines, designing data for cold storage plants and flour mills, technical data for the metallurgical, chemical and light industries, and seeds and saplings; Korea will send China technical data for the metallurgical in-

dustry, for mining and agriculture, and seeds and saplings too. They will exchange technicians to get first-hand experiences in each others' factories, mines and enterprises.

An industrial delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, headed by Vice-Premier Chung Il Ryong, is visiting China. It will make a study of China's industries.

Afghan Independence Day

Tung Pi-wu, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese People's Republic, and other Chinese leaders attended the reception given by the Afghan Ambassador Abdul Samad on May 27 in celebration of Afghan Independence Day.

In a speech at the reception, Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien warmly extolled the active role Afghanistan is playing in safeguarding peace in Asia and the world by resolutely pursuing a policy of peace and neutrality and of developing friendly relations with all nations. This policy of the Kingdom of Afghanistan has won the praise of the Chinese people and all peace-loving countries and peoples, he said. He also expressed pleasure in seeing how friendly relations and co-operation between China and Afghanistan have grown during the past year and the confidence that the traditional friendship between the two countries will be daily strengthened. He announced that a Chinese cultural delegation would soon visit Afghanistan at the invitation of the Afghan Government.

CULTURAL NEWS

With more and more people in China studying foreign languages the Commercial Press is publishing more dictionaries and books on foreign languages to meet the swiftly growing demand. Among those already published are Russian, English, German, French, Spanish, Czech, Polish, Hungarian, Latin, Japanese and Esperanto dictionaries and language books. More than 200 dictionaries, grammars, phrase books, textbooks, books on methods of teaching and studying and other reference books have been published for Russian-language students, over 40 similar books to help students of English, and around 60 on the German, French, Japanese and other languages.

Twenty new foreign language dictionaries will be published this year. These include dictionaries in Hindi, Urdu, Indonesian, Arabic, Korean, Czech, Polish, Rumanian, Spanish, and other languages. This is the first time that dictionaries in some of these languages are being published in China. A big Russian-Chinese dictionary with nearly 110,000

entries will come off the press this autumn.

The Commercial Press is also currently publishing five periodicals for learners of the Russian and English languages.

The current issue of the Chinese monthly *World Literature*, a journal of world literature and literary criticism, devotes a special section to children in honour of International Children's Day on June 1. It carries poems and stories

reflecting the life of children in various countries, as well as fairy tales and folk tales from the Soviet Union, the Korean Democratic People's Republic, Japan, Argentina, the Union of South Africa, Hungary, England, Mozambique, the United States, Uruguay, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Italy and Germany.

An exhibition of modern Chinese paintings is drawing large crowds in Bologna, Italy. Two thousand people, including

members of the Municipality, representatives of various political parties, the rector and professors of Bologna University and journalists, attended the opening. The exhibition is jointly sponsored by the Centre for the Development of Cultural and Friendly Relations with China and the Municipality of Bologna.

The paintings were exhibited for three weeks in Rome at the end of last year and attracted great public interest.

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

— Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc. —

Programmes are subject to change. Where times are not listed consult theatre or daily press.

PEKING OPERA

▲ **A HAPPY AND UNEXPECTED REUNION** Li Kuei-chih, wife of a magistrate, learns that an old prisoner is none other than her own father, a victim of her step-mother's intrigues. She appeals to the new viceroy to review the case and finds that the latter is her long-lost brother. The wicked are duly punished and a happy reunion ends the play. Produced by the China Peking Opera Theatre.

June 9, 7:30 p.m. Ji Xiang Theatre

▲ **THE CONSTABLE AND HIS OUTLAW FRIENDS** A traditional opera newly revised by the China Peking Opera Theatre. Chin Chiung, a brave and chivalrous city constable of the Sui dynasty, is a personal friend of a group of honest outlaws, "heroes of the green forest." Ordered out to capture them, he actually helps them to escape. When this is discovered by the authorities, his life is in danger, but he in turn is saved by his outlaw friends whom he joins to continue the struggle against the tyranny of the Sui court.

June 11, 7:30 p.m. Renmin Theatre

▲ **THE COWHERD AND THE WEAVING MAID** Adapted from the famous Chinese folk tale about the romance between a cowherd and a heavenly maid. Produced by the students of the Chinese Opera School.

June 13, 7:30 p.m. Peking Workers' Club

PINGJU OPERA

▲ **YANG NAI-WU AND HSIAO PAI-TSAI** A drama based on a well-known murder case of the Ching dynasty.

June 10, 7:30 p.m. Da Zhong Theatre

THEATRE

▲ **TSAI WEN-CHI** Kuo Mo-jo's latest historical play. Tsao Tsao, Prime Minister of the Han Kingdom, sends two envoys to ask Tsai Wen-chi, who is married to a Hun noble, to return home and continue her scholar-father's work. One envoy threatens the Huns; the other accomplishes Tsao Tsao's aim by winning their friendship. On their return his life is saved by Wen-chi when he is falsely accused by the other of treachery. On the death of her husband, Wen-chi marries the loyal envoy and is happily reunited with her children. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

June 9-12, 15-19, 7:30 p.m. Shoudu Theatre

▲ **THE MISER** The comedy by the great French dramatist, Moliere. Produced in Chinese by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

June 9 & 10, 7:30 p.m. Peking Workers' Club
June 13 & 14, 7:30 p.m. Shoudu Theatre

▲ **A STORY OF TWO HUMPHACKS** Adapted from a Russian tale about two humpbacks one of whom is a young scavenger while the other is a viceroy of the foreign invaders. Both want to marry a girl named Fenica. The scavenger, together with the people, defeats the invaders, rescues Fenica and frees the enemy-occupied city. Produced by the China Children's Theatre.

June 13 & 14, Peking Theatre

▲ **THE TEMPEST** The famous play by the great Russian dramatist, A. N. Ostrovsky. Produced in Chinese by the Experimental Theatre of the Central Drama School.

Shiyan Theatre (Watch for date)

CHINESE BALLET

▲ **THE IMMORTALS** Based on Chairman Mao's famous poem of the same title in commemoration of those who sacrificed their lives for the revolution. Produced by the Shenyang Cultural Troupe of the People's Liberation Army, a participant in the Second National Cultural Festival of the P.L.A.

June 10-12, 7:30 p.m. Tianqiao Theatre

SONG AND DANCE

A programme of choral singing, orchestral music, verse recitals, folk dances and other *quyi* performances. Produced by the P.L.A.'s Shenyang Cultural Troupe.

June 10 & 11, 7:30 p.m. Music Hall in Zhongshan Park

FILMS

▲ **THE STORY OF A PEARL** Screen version of a Chinese opera produced by the Kiangsi Opera Troupe. Kao Wen-chu, a young scholar, leaving his beloved wife, goes to the capital to take the imperial examination. He passes it successfully but finds himself in a dilemma when the Prime Minister proposes he should marry his daughter. Faithful to his wife, Kao finally finds a way out and is reunited with his love.

June 11-13, Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong
June 14-17, Xin Jie Kou, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema, Shoudu Cinema

▲ **THE STORY OF THE YOUNG PIONEERS** Produced by the Changchun Film Studio about a group of Young Pioneers who play an exciting part in the national drive for steel.

June 10-14, Xin Jie Kou, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema, Shoudu Cinema

▲ **THE KITE** A children's colour film jointly produced by Chinese and French film workers. A French boy finds a Chinese kite in Paris; he wishes he could come to Peking to meet the Chinese boy, who owns the kite. How his wish is realized in a dream is the interesting theme of the story.

June 11-13, Guang He Theatre, Xin Zhong Guo
June 11-14, Shengli, Xi Dan Theatre

▲ **FINDING HUSBANDS IN A HURRY** A Hongkong colour film adapted from an ancient tale. When an imperial official arrives in a city to select beautiful women for the emperor's seraglio, a panic ensues. Mothers in their anxiety to save their children rush headlong into the streets to grab the first passers-by as husbands for their daughters. There are some strange denouements.

June 9-13, Da Hua, Jiao Dao Kou, Ertong, Xin Jie Kou, Shoudu Cinema, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema, Guang An Men, Peking Workers' Club, Zhongyang

▲ **JOHNNY'S TRAVELS** A colour film for children from Czechoslovakia. A five-year-old boy sets out alone from Prague to see his grandpa in a village and meets many adventures on the way.

June 10-12, Guang An Men, Zhongyang, Peking Workers' Club

▲ **ON THE RUINS OF A NOBLE'S ESTATE** How three Soviet boys help the government capture a counter-revolutionary noble who has planned to escape abroad.

June 11-14, Guang He, Xin Zhong Guo

EXHIBITIONS

▲ **NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF CHILDREN'S PAINTINGS** 361 pictures painted by Chinese children ranging from four to sixteen years of age. Open daily 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

At the Gallery of the Artists' Union

▲ **HUNGARIAN FOLK ART AND HANDICRAFTS EXHIBITION** On display are colour photos and handicraft articles including works by the famous Hungarian handicraft artist, Margit Kovacs. Open daily (except Mon.) 9:30-12:00 a.m., 2:30-7:00 p.m.

At Beihai Park

SPORTS

▲ **NATIONAL DIVING CONTEST**
June 9-11, Tao Ran Ting Swimming Pools

SWIMMING

▲ **OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS**
The Tao Ran Ting Swimming Pools
Daily 12:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 1:00-3:00 p.m., 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The Shi Cha Hai Swimming Pools
Daily 9:00-11:00 a.m.,
12:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,
3:00-5:00 p.m.

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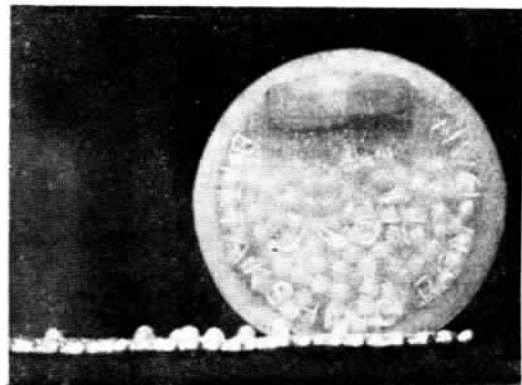
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