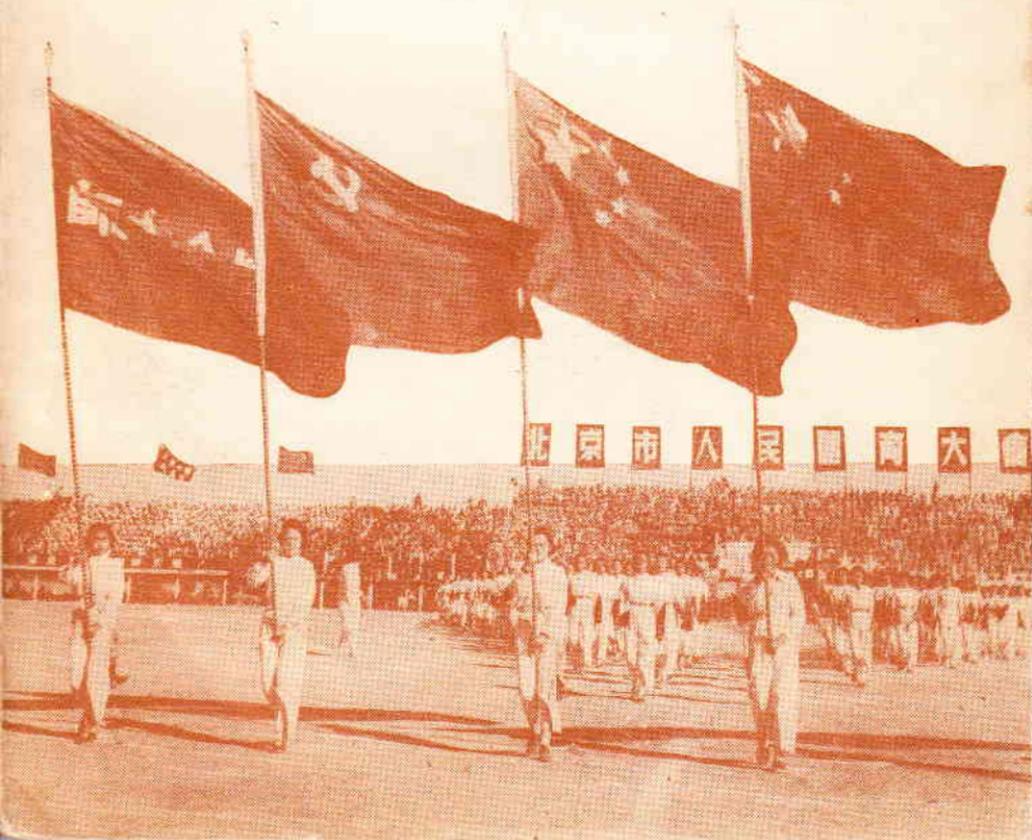
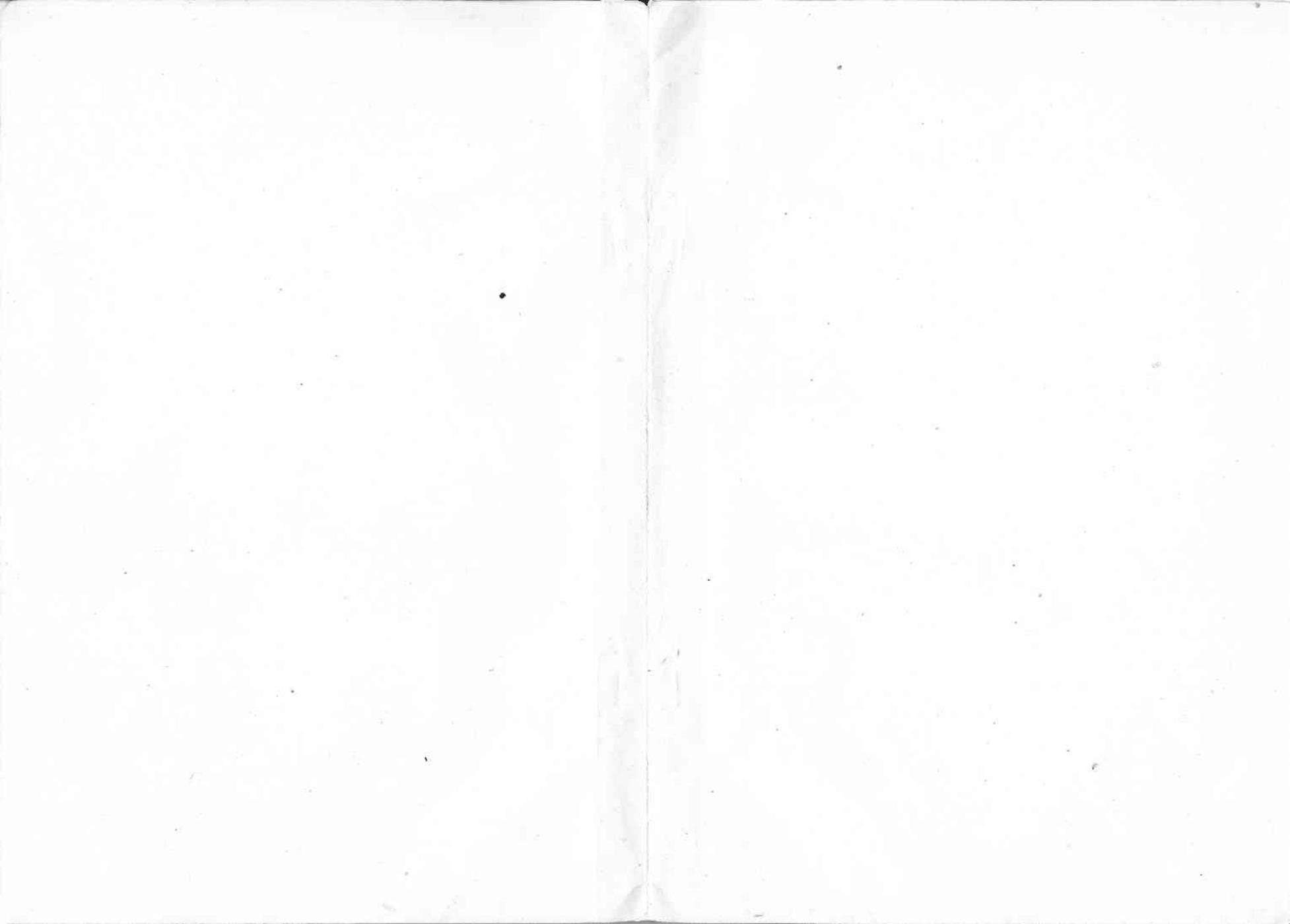


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CHINA'S YOUTH MARCH FORWARD





**CHINA'S YOUTH MARCH
FORWARD**

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CONTENTS

A New Nation—New Tasks	1
China's Battle for Production—The Young Workers Go to It!	7
Youth in the Changing Village Scene	21
China's Students Learn Anew	31
The People's Liberation Army—An Army of Youth!	43
Internationalism—A Living Thing	53
China's Great Youth Organisations	61

THE COVER

Girl students performing group gymnastics at the People's Athletic Meet held in Peking, 1949, to celebrate the birth of the Chinese People's Republic.

FOREWORD

TO CHINA'S INDOMITABLE YOUTH belong many proud traditions. In all the many stages of the Chinese people's long-drawn-out struggle for national liberation and independence the youth have played an outstanding part.

All China today is engaged in a gigantic effort to carry out at high speed the tremendous work of restoring and developing the industry and agriculture of the country, healing the wounds of the long years of war and laying the foundations for China's industrialisation.

The youth, whose life under the old regime was the hardest of the hard, have thrown themselves into the forefront of this work. They are displaying marvels of selfless endeavour, boundless initiative and conscious self-discipline in the knowledge that they are helping to build up an independent, democratic, free and prosperous China and that the future is theirs.

Inspired by their love for their country and by their realisation that New China has great new contributions to make to the peace, security and prosperity of the whole world, the youth of China are to be found everywhere setting the pace and showing an example on the many fronts of China's reconstruction.

In this the youth are being guided by the leadership and example of the China New Democratic Youth League.

In the following pages will be found a brief account of the many-sided activities of the youth in New China and of the problems facing them. It is hoped that the present booklet will enable foreign readers to gain a general idea of the youth movement in New China, thus contributing to the understanding and solidarity of the Chinese youth and the youth of other lands.

THE EDITORS

A NEW NATION—NEW TASKS

OLD CHINA was a semi-feudal and semi-colonial country. Its people had known oppression and exploitation of the most bitter and cruel character at the hands of generations of feudal rulers, native exploiters and foreign imperialist invaders.

They had been kept in the dark depths of ignorance and incredible poverty and denied the slightest vestige of freedom or democratic rights.

Now the great victories of the Chinese People's War of Liberation and the People's Revolution have ended forever the rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism. A new China has been born. For the first time in China's long history the prospect of a happy, peaceful and prosperous life opens out for its people.

For the past three decades the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party fought persistently and stubbornly against all their enemies. Finally, following upon a brilliant series of military victories by the People's Liberation Army against the numerically superior U.S.-equipped Kuomintang armies of Chiang Kai-shek, they succeeded in overthrowing the re-

actionary, anti-popular regime. Chiang Kai-shek, who for years had been financed and armed by American imperialism, was forced to flee the country and to take refuge with the remnants of his once enormous army on the island of Taiwan.

* The Common Programme of the Chinese People's Republic proclaimed the nature of the newly-born Republic in the following clear terms:—

“The great victories of the Chinese People's War of Liberation and of the People's Revolution have put an end to the era of the rule of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism in China. From the status of the oppressed the Chinese people has attained that of the master in a new society and a new State, and has replaced the Kuomintang's reactionary rule of feudal, compradore, fascist dictatorship with the Republic of the People's Democratic Dictatorship.

“The Chinese People's Democratic Dictatorship is the State power of the people's democratic united front composed of the Chinese working class, peasantry, petty bourgeoisie, national bourgeoisie and other patriotic elements, based on the alliance of workers and peasants and led by the working class.”

The new nation is sweeping out of its path everything from the old system that stands in the way of progress. Resolved on getting the better of poverty, backwardness and darkness it is already making headway towards strength and prosperity.

The trade unions are rapidly organising the workers, fostering their welfare in all industries, and playing a big role in the fight to increase production.

The new recognition of the workers' leading role in China's political and economic life has led to a tremendous upsurge of labour enthusiasm, initiative and inventiveness.

No longer merely wage-slaves condemned to arduous toil for a bare subsistence for the benefit of exploiters, the workers are responding magnificently to the great tasks of building a new China. They are applying themselves with new-found energy to the job of achieving the plan of the People's Government which aims “to raise the industrial production from 10 to 30 or 40 per cent of China's economy in 10—15 years.”

This great wave of patriotic fervour has also captured the minds of the poor peasants and farm hands in the countryside. Making up as they do the vast majority of China's population, their work in agriculture has naturally taken on an entirely new meaning now that, thanks to the agrarian reform, they find themselves for the first time in their lives owners of their own plots of land.

Peasants' associations have everywhere sprung into being in the vast rural areas and are helping to improve the life of the peasants. Mutual aid corps formed for the purpose of helping to increase agricultural production are another of the means by which modern farming methods are being introduced. The heavy plough and hoe, unchanged for centuries, is now gradually being replaced by new, modern implements to further improve production and living standards for about one-fourth the world's population.

At the same time knowledge and culture are promoted in the village in a variety of ways—the peasants are being freed from their past ignorance and are learning how to manage their own affairs.

In these and other ways, both town and countryside combine their efforts to lay strong foundations for a flourishing economy.

The path of the small traders and shopkeepers and others of their like has also been broadened out. Their relations with the working people and peasants have become closer and they are learning that it is in their interests to support the revolutionary cause.

The national capitalists, now free from the strangling competition of both foreign imperialists and domestic bureaucratic capitalists, realise that the new situation is one which gives them scope for developing their businesses and that the People's Government affords them every possible help and encouragement.

But it is to the younger generation that New China has in particular brought new life and aspirations. Quite often one hears a grown-up tell a youngster: "You will enjoy a much better and happier life than we did."

The People's Government is doing its utmost to provide the youth with schools and jobs. The Government fosters their physical, mental and moral welfare in order that they may take their rightful place as healthy and happy citizens of the new society. The young people are quickly learning that now a bright future is in store for them and their country.

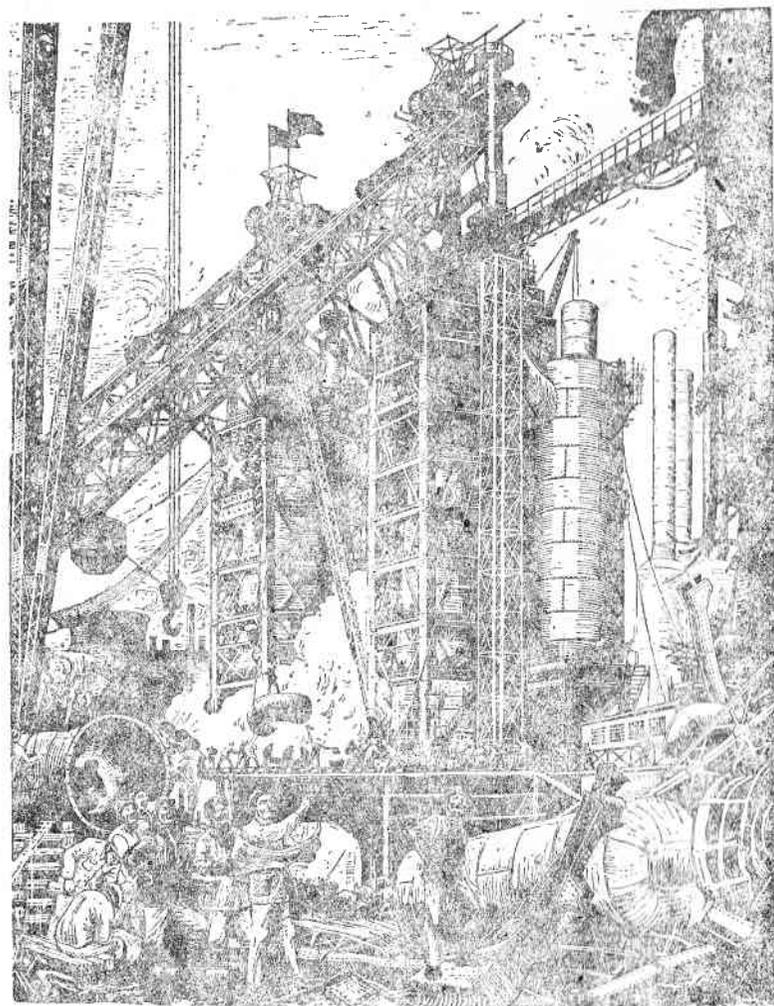
They no longer have to worry as to how they are to earn their daily bread. Gone are the days when the oft-repeated saying "graduation means unemployment" described the plight and sense of insecurity of students.

China's youth still have to wear rough clothes and lead rather spartan lives. But there is work and wages for all and they are imbued with confidence that soon they will have built a better tomorrow which will usher in a degree of prosperity and happiness never before experienced.



Home from the Front

by Yen Han



Anshan Steel Plant Restored

by Li Hua

CHINA'S BATTLE FOR PRODUCTION

—The Young Workers Go to It!—

PRIOR TO THE LIBERATION, working hours were up to 14—16 hours daily, Sundays included. Children of only 8 or 9 years worked 10—12 hours a day in the textile mills, so did pregnant women workers. Now the 8—10 hours day has become the general practice. Many factories close down on Sundays whilst others have adopted a rotating shift system in order to give all workers a rest day in the course of each week. Wages are stabilised and will increase with the growth of production. A further great benefit to the workers is the government's price stabilisation policy.

Naturally, after so many years of war it is not possible to introduce all of the many needed improvements at once. Following the liberation the working class has become the leading class in the State. They are no longer oppressed but have become the masters in State-owned and public enterprises, where the wealth produced by their labour becomes the property of the whole nation, including the working class, and the workers are no longer exploited.

There are still, of course, many private enterprises. In these the wealth accumulated by labour is partly

profit for the capitalists who own the enterprises. There, the workers are still exploited, but such exploitation is already limited. Now, the workers have their own organisations—trade unions—to protect their interests. At the same time the government is a People's Government which protects the workers' interests. Various laws to protect them have been, and will continue to be, promulgated by the Government.

The labour policy of the People's Government is based on the principle advocated by Chairman Mao Tse-tung: "To develop production and bring about a prosperous economy by taking into account both public and private interests and by benefiting both labour and capital." Article 32 of the Common Programme provides:

"The system of workers' participation in the administration of production shall, for the present period, be established in State-owned enterprises. This means that factory administrative committees shall be set up under the leadership of the factory managers.

"In privately-owned enterprises, in order to carry out the principle of benefiting both labour and capital, collective contracts shall be signed by the employers and trade unions representing the workers and employees.

". . . . The People's Government shall fix minimum wages according to the conditions prevailing in various localities and trades. Labour insurance shall be gradually established. The special interests of juvenile and women workers shall be safeguarded."

Of course this means that antagonism between labour and capital still exists. They will cease only when we enter Socialism. But, having regard to all the special circumstances of the situation in China this will not be achieved in a short time. Meanwhile the Ministry of Labour, aided by the trade unions, must adjust labour-capital relations and the relations between public and private interests.

But what is most important at the present moment is that not only has the gross exploitation of the workers under Kuomintang rule been done away with but also the workers now realise the importance of their new position and are showing that they are conscious of their great responsibilities.

The workers realise that one of the principal tasks facing them is that of transforming China into a modern industrial power. The final success of the democratic revolution and the eventual transition in the future to a Socialist economy both depend on the most rapid development of the country.

In these circumstances the government is making the most strenuous efforts to bring about a swift expansion of China's industrial capacity. This makes necessary a corresponding growth of the industrial working class from the ranks of the peasantry. In turn this recruiting of a new labour force is conditioned by the speed with which greatly increased productivity in agriculture is carried out, so freeing new forces from the villages.

China possesses vast mineral deposits, rich lands for producing every variety of flax and dairy farm products, great tracts of forest, inexhaustible water power

and a well-integrated railway system. In Manchuria, industry is more highly developed and concentrated than in the rest of China. The series of trade agreements entered into with the Soviet Union on a basis of equality provide for extensive development of industry and are of tremendous importance. At the same time it has to be borne in mind that at the time of the Japanese surrender a number of important industries were well nigh destroyed and that the ensuing Kuomintang occupation and the civil war led to further devastation and serious disturbance of industrial relations.

In the cities liberated by the People's Liberation Army almost complete industrial chaos reigned. The rehabilitation which has been since carried out by the government with the enthusiastic backing of the trade unions and mass organisations has been almost unbelievably rapid in the circumstances. The improvisation and initiative of the workers has also been both rich and varied.

But no amount of improvisation can take the place of destroyed machinery. This situation was clearly one which called for a tremendous single-minded effort on the part of everybody able to help.

The Chinese youth proudly play their part in this all-out effort. From the industrial centres of China reports show that in their keenness the young workers are adopting all sorts of new methods in order to increase production in response to the call of the Government. These methods include the organisation of the New Record Movement, awarding of red flags and pennants to outstanding champions of production, the encourage-

ment of "shock-brigade" methods of work and the widespread movement to learn from the most efficient and skilled workers. For example, in the Tahsin Textile Mill at Shihchiachuang, Hopei, the China New Democratic Youth League members popularised the slogan "No leaving the looms and no idling." They even made observance of this rule one of the conditions required for young workers applying to join the League. This campaign created great interest in the mill and there soon developed a friendly competition to raise production. Li Shu-yen, a young weaver, won the mill championship on three occasions in these efficiency contests.

At factory No. 3 in Shansi operated by the Department of Industry a "meritorious service" drive was launched. Of the 72 workers who later earned merit for their outstanding work 32 joined the Youth League.

Another interesting example of youth initiative was reported from the First Military Supply Factory in Harbin which turned out boots for the army. The making of the boots was carried out in two main stages—the making of the uppers and the soles. After studying the various processes a group of keen young workers made the suggestion to divide the work into five stages. A number of the old and more conservatively minded workers opposed the suggestion and their stubborn opposition split the workers into two sections—those in favour of the old methods and those favouring the new.

But those who adopted the new scheme of division of labour soon won the day for they quickly demonstrated that they were able to raise their output by 30-

per cent, which meant too that they were increasing their pay by about a third.

Following this success one of the young workers made a further suggestion that each one's output should be labelled with his name and that a mutual check system be introduced. This led to an all-round improvement of the quality of the work turned out, so much so that the quality of the finished boots was raised considerably. Of the 80 meritorious workers in this factory no fewer than 50 were members of the Youth League.

Where "shock" work is called for the young workers are always in the forefront. A typical example of this happened in the Szeffang Locomotive Works which turned out locomotives for the Chiaochi Railroad.

When they learnt from the press that railroad workers at Tsinan and Hsuchow had, by voluntary work in their free time, repaired two old and discarded engines which were proudly named "New China" and "International Youth", the young workers of Szeffang decided to follow suit. They remembered an abandoned locomotive in their yard. But they lacked the necessary experience and technical skill to carry out their project. They needed assistance from the older and more experienced workers. They drew up a plan and invited a number of workers of high standing to become sponsors of the project. Then each Youth League member entered into the task of persuading ten non-League young workers to give their help. As to the League members themselves, they spared no effort in doing all the heavy, dirty work of dismantling and cleaning and worked harder and longer than the others.

As a result of their efforts no fewer than 1,684 workers, comprising 85% per cent, volunteered to put in some spare time on the job. To give due recognition to those who took part a notice was exhibited each day which gave the names of the volunteers with their working hours marked out in red ink.

Amidst mounting excitement the locomotive was completely overhauled and repaired in 18 days. Altogether over 20,000 working hours were put in. By unanimous decision the "new" locomotive was dedicated to honour the anniversary of the October Revolution. It was driven to Peking and re-christianed "Sino-Soviet Friendship" at a public celebration.

The political consciousness of the young workers was raised in the course of the repair campaign. League membership in the plant grew from 45 to 111.

Mastery of technique is another important aspect which claims the attention of the youth. In this respect a campaign to improve the relationship between apprentices and tutors has been introduced.

The tutors are now encouraged to use the most efficient methods whilst the apprentices are learning to respect their tutors. In the past the relations between tutor and apprentice were not always good, to say the least.

The time-honoured Chinese feudal system gave the tutor the right to scold and ill-treat apprentices as he pleased. An apprentice was supposed to run all the errands for the tutor without any remuneration and to do all sorts of odd jobs. Usually the apprenticeship lasted for a period of three years even if, as was sometimes the

case, the apprentice could master the necessary skill in a shorter time.

The Liberation has brought improvements in this system. Now the apprentices are aware that their tutors have no right to treat them as their personal servants, or to ill-treat them.

With the urgent need for raising the technical level measures were taken to improve the relationship between apprentice and tutor. The Youth League initiated the "Tutor-Apprentice Contract" method to encourage both teaching and learning. The tutors are given a bonus if their apprentices progress with unusual speed. On the other hand the contract enables the apprentice to shorten his apprenticeship period if he learns quickly enough. This common-sense method has greatly stimulated the whole system. It also enables the apprentices to improve their economic position.

There is no limit to the study of technique. Methods of study are continually being improved. The Dairen Iron Works of the Chinese-Changchun Railway, for instance, has developed a new method of organising workers into several groups for the study of technical problems. Cadres in charge of management study factory administration and organisation in all its aspects and the work and duties of the various departments. Inspectors study methods of estimating working hours, bonuses, time and piece rate payments while workers utilise their spare time to learn by repairing machines and becoming better acquainted with the different qualities and uses of the various materials (iron, steel, copper, etc.) Young workers are found to be most eager to learn and easiest to organise.

An essential part of this campaign to raise productivity is the drive to reduce and eliminate illiteracy amongst the Chinese workers.

Ninety-five per cent of the workers of the previously mentioned Tahsin Textile Mill were illiterate prior to the Liberation. Now everyone can read 300 Chinese characters and many know a larger number.

Literacy classes are set up in the factories with the help of the Youth League. They run simple "wall newspapers" or "blackboard newspapers" to aid in reading and writing Chinese characters.

Ma Yu-ying, a 19-year-old girl weaver at the Jenfeng Textile Mill in Tsinan, Shantung, only ran two looms prior to the Liberation. She was unhappy because women who worked in factories were regarded with contempt in the old China. After Tsinan was liberated she began studying in the supplementary school for young workers run by the trade union. There she learned about the new attitude towards labour and came to see that the old order had been reversed. Her mood quickly underwent a change. She joined the Youth League and volunteered to run four looms.

To raise the political understanding of the young workers the League also sponsored discussion groups and lectures. In a six-month period over 30,000 youths attended such lectures which dealt with current affairs in China and the situation of the youth in the Soviet Union and other countries. It must be stated too that the former over-indulgence in liquor to which many were addicted has lost its attraction for growing numbers of young workers. The greatly improved conditions of life

and the development of absorbing counter-attractions have served to remove the craving for the stimulus of strong liquor. A great variety of cultural and recreational activities are now opening up new vistas in place of the unrelieved misery and poverty and repressive spirit of the past, in which such activities could not take root or flourish.

Nowadays everywhere there are sports and games, drama performances, book clubs, literacy classes, the writing of plays and poems, choirs and dances, particularly the extraordinarily popular and colourful Yangko dance which is performed en masse everywhere and with ever new adaptations.

Members of the Youth League play an active role in all these activities which are something almost entirely new in the lives of China's youth. They regard it as part of their duty as progressive young people to actively organise recreation and athletic activities for the workers in order to "enrich their lives and exalt their spirit" as Feng Wen-ping, the Secretary of the League's Central Committee, graphically expressed it.

When in October last year at the great athletic meet in Peking thousands of young peasants from the surrounding countryside and young workers from the city's factories took part in performing group games and athletic tableaux and exercises, the scores of thousands of spectators were deeply impressed and found great pleasure in these new features.

Again during the traditional New Year celebrations Peking workers greatly admired a number of drama performances staged by their workmates, especially

because the plays were written by the workers themselves. This again was something entirely new in Chinese life.

The newspapers showed keen interest and gave excellent reviews and write-ups to these plays, in particular the three-act play "Keep Firmly United", which was staged at the Peking College of Arts by the women employed at the Jenli Rug Factory; the "Forget Not Our Hardships During Our Rejoicing" by workers of the Ammunition Factory and the "Boost Production Through Firm Unity" performed by workers from the Hsinhua Printing Shop.

In Northeast China, industry has already been rehabilitated and, to some extent, further expanded. In the autumn of 1949 the "New Record Movement", a mass campaign to raise production efficiency, began to gain momentum under the joint leadership of the Communist Party, the Government and the trade unions. Within a five-month period 19,140 new records were set up by 50,000 workers, either individually or collectively. The main emphasis of the movement has now been shifted from individual new records to collective new records, from new records by simply increasing labour intensity to new records gained by improving tools, elevating labour technique and increasing safety measures.

This campaign has given rise to tremendous advances in labour productivity. Statistics for the period from October to December, 1949, show that the average rate of labour productivity exceeded that of September by 13 per cent. The average for December was 32.83 per cent higher than that of June. Largely due to this

campaign, the production of state-owned enterprises in Northeast China in 1949 topped the original plan by 4.2 per cent.

Our young workers have played a splendid part in this activity. Chao Kuo-yu, a young lathe operator in No. 3 Plant of the State-owned Machine Tool Factory at Mukden, devised a number of new tools. He succeeded in making a cone pulley in the record time of 2 hours and 20 minutes in August 1949. Four months earlier it had taken as much as 16 hours to turn out such a pulley. Following the example of Chao Kuo-yu, who is now honoured throughout China as a "Labour Hero," others in the same factory set up new records. Tan Hui-an established a record in finishing a leading screw for a six-foot engine-lathe in 3 hours and 59 minutes, where previously this work had taken 30 hours.

Prior to the rise of the movement, production in the factory had been low. Although one third of the workers had received rewards in the previous May Day emulation drive, output was still below the required level. This lag was primarily due to the lack of experience in the leadership regarding production work and also to the mistaken zeal of the trade union in concentrating its work exclusively on welfare activities and neglecting production problems. As new records came to be made, production efficiency soared. The trade union corrected its mistake and encouraged the workers to draft individual production plans as well as department plans. It also drew up a collective agreement with the management on behalf of the workers. The combination of production plan and the mutually satisfactory agreement paved the way for the attainment of production

quotas in an organised way. As a result of the first 123 records the efficiency of the factory went up 46 per cent and 3,932 working hours were saved. The management had proposed a monthly output of 30 sets of lathes, actually 45 sets were turned out.

Prior to the Liberation, labour insurance was entirely unheard of. Now it is being extensively introduced. Industrial Manchuria, one of the first great areas of China to be entirely liberated and thus today enjoying more stable conditions, has set a pattern which is being gradually extended to other industrial areas. A high proportion of China's industrial workers are concentrated in the Northeast and already they have conditions of work and welfare far surpassing their dreams of a few years ago when they were among the most downtrodden under Japanese or Kuomintang rule.

The new situation is reflected in the benefits which they are getting from State welfare facilities for mothers, the sick, disabled and old. The scope of labour insurance has increased by great strides since it was first established in January 1949.

All State factories and mines in Manchuria are bound by law to pay into the labour insurance fund the equivalent of three per cent of their payrolls. This is paid by the enterprise without deduction from the workers' wages.

Seventy per cent of this sum is returned to the individual factory to be used by the factory trade union to cover payments for confinement, sickness, disablement or death. The remaining 30 per cent goes to the central labour insurance fund to develop collective

welfare facilities such as sanatoria, rest homes and hospitals. Some groups of workers are provided with special diets and some factories have night-sanatoria to care for chronic patients. Workers especially welcome these measures which enable them to be cured without affecting their work.

Ordinary sick pay starts at 30 per cent of wages and reaches 100 per cent in the case of a worker with 8 years' service. Pensions ranging from 30 to 60 per cent of wages are given to workers with a working record of 25 years, and 20 years in the case of women, regardless of whether they continue working. These operate at the ages of 60 and 50 years respectively.

A by-product of these labour insurance services lies in that skilled workers are losing their old craft reluctance to teach young workers and apprentices.

No longer afraid of unemployment they have no need to be reticent in this respect. But, on the contrary, they are teaching the younger ones as fast as possible in order to step up output.

There can be no doubt that the important achievements in the field of restoring and developing industry that have been made in the space of a year since the Central People's Government was set up are in themselves a proof that the Chinese workers will succeed in overcoming all remaining difficulties and building up a great, modern industrial China bringing prosperity for the first time to the masses, and happiness and security in particular for the youth.



Peking railway workers presenting as their May Day gift to the government a locomotive which they repaired by voluntary labour after it had been abandoned.



Rail workers reading the latest number of their wall newspaper—"The Locomotive".



Peking youth march in the great May Day parade, 1950.

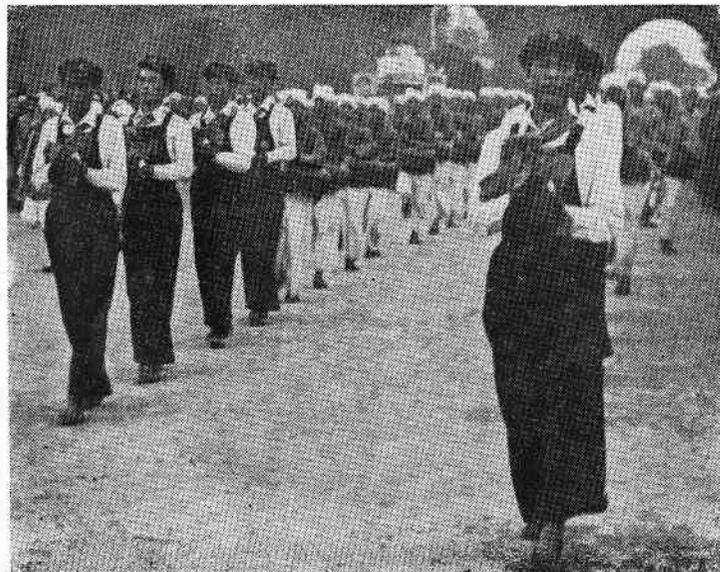


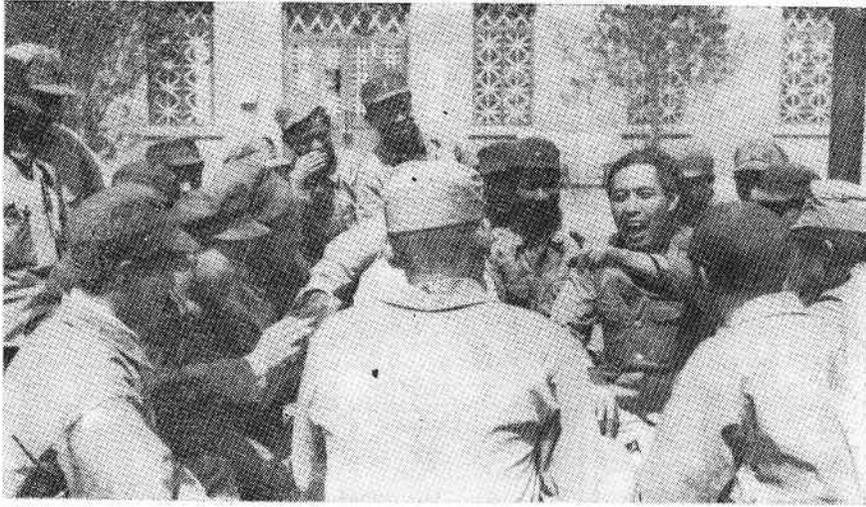
The first women loco-
motive crew in China.



Women workers
making the
world famous
Peking rugs.

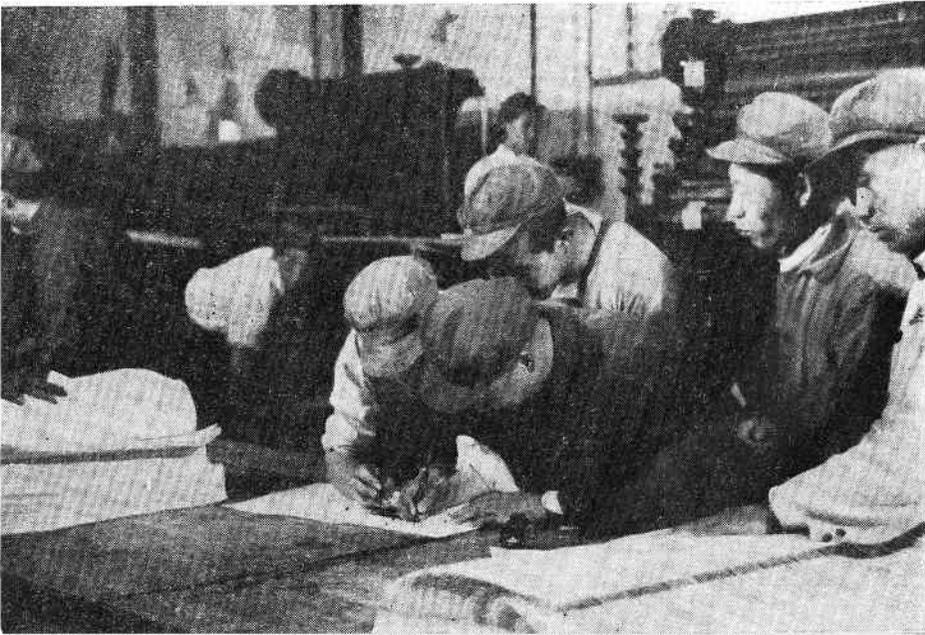
Young workers
perform the
popular Yangko
folk dance.





Liberated workers after long years of suppression now engage in spirited political discussions.

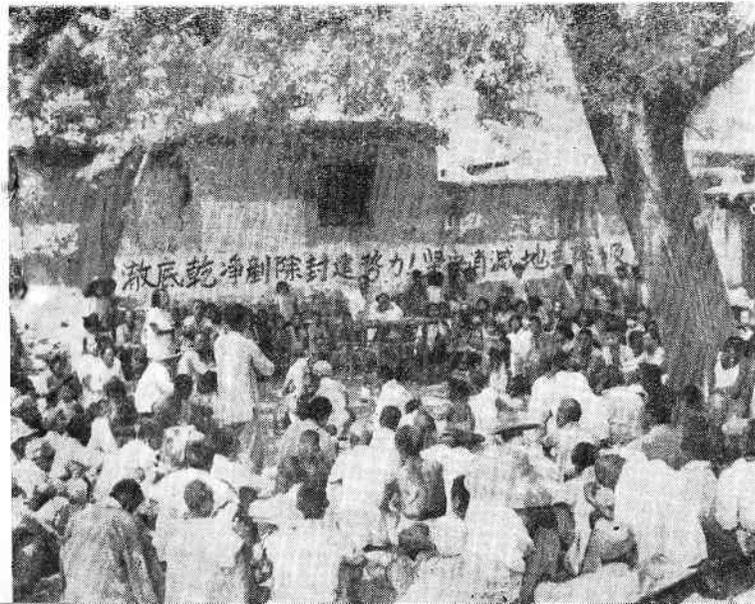
In defence of peace, young printers sign the Stockholm peace appeal.



A young peasant speaking at a peasants' meeting about the distribution of land.



A peasant meeting called to hear complaints against local despots.





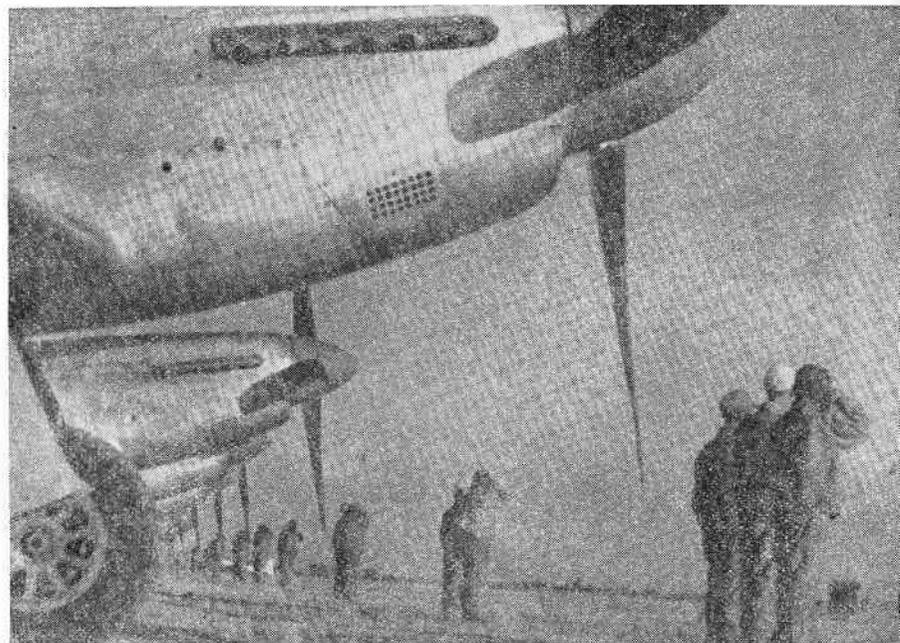
Above:—A mutual-aid team formed by young women peasants.



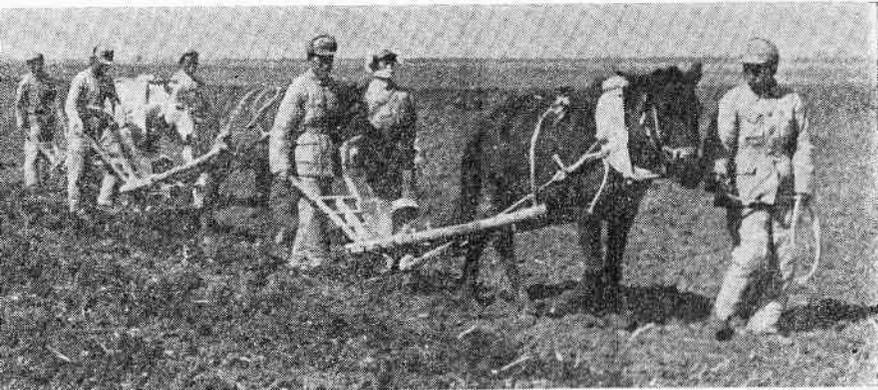
Left:—Young women peasants who were previously illiterate combine study with handicraft production.



Right top:—PLA infantry marching past.

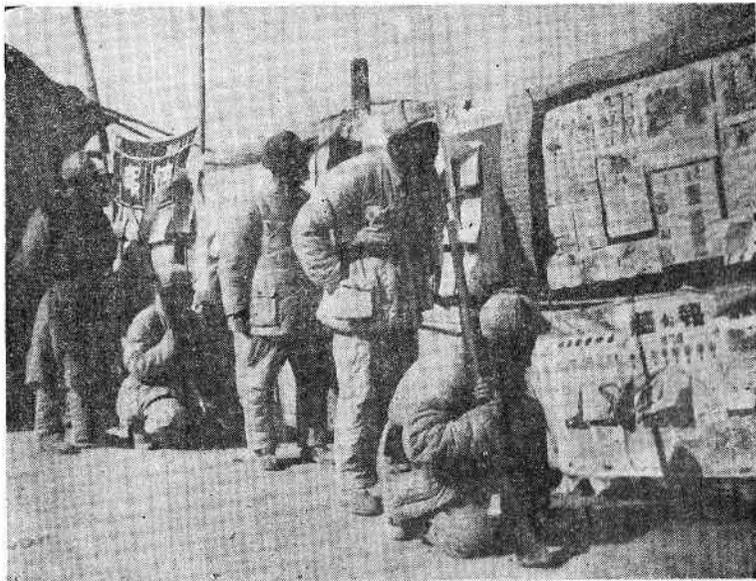


Right bottom:—A bomber squadron of the People's Air Force.



Ploughing up former wasteland
with retained cavalry horses.

PLA men reading their own wall paper.



YOUTH IN THE CHANGING VILLAGE SCENE

IN THE RURAL AREAS the young peasants are playing a tremendous part in the great struggle that is being waged to end feudal exploitation.

Often they have greater understanding of the need to fight against the feudal land system and of uprooting the power of the landlords—a power long used in a most brutal way to maintain the peasants in a state of subjection. The peasant youth are to the fore in showing the most effective ways to organise the peasants to take part in the struggle to throw off the shackles of feudalism. They often show more courage in dealing with the landlords who have for so long wielded sole power in the villages. Feudal and semi-feudal systems of exploitation have endured in China's villages for thousands of years. China cannot be freed unless the peasant is freed. This has always been the central problem of the Chinese revolution.

With the growth and development of the Chinese revolution this system has either been annihilated or is in process of annihilation. This great democratic movement for agrarian reform—the most remarkable

movement in Chinese history—is enabling millions of peasants to emancipate themselves, and to start out on a new life.

In the past 10 per cent of the people—landlords and rich peasants—have held 80-90 per cent of the land. In such an overcrowded country as China this has meant that there have been untold millions of land-hungry peasants, either choking on narrow plots of land or else entirely without land, often perpetually in debt to the landlord or the village usurer—frequently one and the same person. The power of the landlords was immense. They held power to conscript labour, to jail debtors, (often in their private dungeons), and were the arbiters of life or death in the villages. In countless instances landlords caused peasants to be put to death in order to take over their land or took advantage of the tenants' hopeless indebtedness to achieve this purpose.

Against this system the Communist Party declared war. It set out to mobilise the people to break the power of the landlords and to destroy the feudal land system.

“Land to the tiller” was the slogan raised. The peasants were—and still are—being taught to overcome their fear of the landlords. By the end of 1949 agrarian reform was completed in Manchuria and other parts of China which were amongst the first to be liberated. But in such a vast country, the completion of this process throughout the whole of China will take two or three more years. The Party and government organs are leading an orderly process in carrying out the movement to divide up the land. There are still about 200 million peasants under the yoke of the landlords in the

comparatively newly liberated areas. Nearly half of them will have their own land by spring, 1951. In these areas as a first step the peasants are encouraged to carry out a struggle against the landlords and to compel them to reduce land rents.

In the course of this struggle the peasants learn to organise into powerful peasant associations and their class consciousness is raised. They deprive the landlords and their hangers-on of their arms in order to form their own village militia and to assist in setting up rural people's governments. In the course of waging this conflict, the principle of creating a firm, united front between the poor peasants, farm labourers and the middle peasants is observed.

The peasants in this way learn to measure their united strength against that of the landlords and their hangers-on. The winning of rent reductions stimulates the whole movement throughout the countryside. But there still remains a great deal of work to be done after this stage, before the final assault on the landlords can be carried through. It calls for the systematic and patient work of explanation amongst the peasants, the village women and youths; the organisation of peasant association conferences and setting up of peasant committees and peasant women's associations, and the organisation of widespread publicity to make known to every peasant family the very detailed government directives for the gradual carrying out of the division of the land.

The peasant youth in general, and the Youth League members in particular, are very active in this step-by-step explanatory and organisational work.

Their political education grows in this process. In East China, for example, some 79,000 young peasants of both sexes, joined the Youth League in three months. In Linhsien, Northwest Shansi, one year's land reform work produced so many keen young recruits that there are now League members in all the 224 villages in the county.

Landlords who have a long record of ruthless swindling and oppression of their tenants are brought before public mass meetings of the peasants to account for their past misdeeds.

These are called "accusation meetings". They are conducted under the guidance of local government officials, with representatives of the Public Security Bureau and the county legal authority present. At these democratic gatherings, peasants who in the past were afraid of speaking out pluck up courage to tell of the wrongs committed upon them and their families by the landlords. Quite a number of landlords express sincere repentance at these public hearings and undertake to make restitution in land, money or goods to victimised peasants. With characteristic Chinese forbearance they are dealt with lightly and provided with a chance to prove in deeds that they have reformed. Whilst their land is divided up, together with that of other landlords, in accordance with the strictly defined rules, they are allowed to retain an amount of land equal to the average landholding decided upon in the course of the land distribution so as to enable them to carry on as agricultural producers.

In the case of landlords who are proved at these "accusation meetings" to have been guilty of prolonged

and cruel oppression the representative of the legal department, after listening to the denunciations made by the villagers, usually proposes that the landlord be sent to court for trial.

With the completion of land-division a new life is opened up in the villages. It leads to better cultivation and increased production because naturally the peasants are more willing to work harder on land which is their own. Democratic village government replaces the old landlord rule. Social welfare schemes of education, hygiene, etc. begin to get under way. Government organs help the peasants by providing loans, sending in high-grade seeds and making available new and improved agricultural tools; irrigation schemes, previously impossible, are put in hand. Taxes are regulated on a proper basis for the first time.

No description of life in the villages in China today would be complete without mention of the work of the village youth in the development of agricultural production.

Agrarian reform has swept away a whole number of barriers that have stood in the path of modernising and increasing the volume of agricultural production. Everywhere it has had the effect of unleashing new sources of energy and enthusiasm. This is most particularly marked amongst the peasant youth of both sexes. They play an extremely active part in the ploughing and harvesting campaigns, taking part in the work of the mutual-aid teams in the fields and vying with one another in friendly competition for the best achievements. No praise is too high for the excellent

work put in by the youth in the arduous tasks of flood-prevention on the one hand, and in carrying out irrigation schemes on the other.

Now, when all the resources of the government authorities, from the Central People's Government downwards to the village administrations, together with the mass organisations can be brought to bear upon the problem of combatting the disastrous floods that have taken such a toll of agricultural crops and peasant lives in the past, the time is not far distant when this danger will be finally conquered. Already truly gigantic achievements have been made in this respect. In the farmland areas in the regions of the great rivers enormous numbers of peasants, aided by many units of the People's Liberation Army, have performed prodigies of labour in dredging river-beds, raising the height of existing embankments or constructing new ones, and in building dams and dykes. This work has not only been the means of bringing security to replace the constant fear of floods but has played a big part in increasing the total agricultural yield. The young peasants have earned for themselves a well deserved reputation for their tenacity and tireless shockwork in the course of carrying out this invaluable work which was so criminally neglected by the Kuomintang regime.

Country folks, who for centuries have been excluded from any form of cultural life, display a great appetite for education once they are liberated. And the young peasant men and women are the most eager to learn to read and write, to learn something about the cultural

heritage of China and other countries and about the political meaning of events at home and abroad.

In January, 1950, a campaign was started to open winter schools in rural districts throughout the country. The three months around the Chinese New Year is the time when peasants have some leisure to devote to studying.

The nation-wide winter school movement has been carried out with great success. In Taiku, a county seat in Shansi Province, 257 winter schools were set up in the 365 villages of the county. Only 90 hamlets, each with less than 30 families, had no winter schools. Of the 37,101 young people of the county, 24,486 or two thirds, studied in these schools. The illiterate were taught to read. Those with some education were taught mathematics and writing. The more advanced studied current affairs and the policy of the People's Government for building up the New Democratic China.

Besides winter schools, young school pupils in rural districts have been assisting in educating the peasants and some of these "little teachers" have won wide fame for their ingenuity and hard work. The fame of one of them, Fan Pai-yu, goes back for years.

Toward the end of the Sino-Japanese war, in an anti-Japanese base behind the enemy's rear, this 17-year-old schoolboy began in his spare time to teach the children in his neighbourhood who could not afford to go to school.

To rouse the children's interest he drew pictures to illustrate the characters he wrote. The youngsters took to his methods and were fond of his pictures. He

soon became the centre of a large group of children who took great pleasure in singing and dancing with him. They listened seriously to what he told them to do.

Fan also visited the homes of the children, helped them to paint small blackboards on village walls on which characters were written from day to day to supplement the shortage of textbooks.

To keep the children out of mischief he organised them into groups to gather firewood in the mountains. His good influence over his little followers won him the respect and confidence of their parents.

He soon had such a large following that he had to conduct a regular night school. The children took on odd work as shepherds or gathering firewood for sale and saved enough money not only to supply their improvised school with oil for its lamp and notebooks, etc. but to set up and run a little mobile co-operative to help the women peasants who were often too busy to shop.

His evening class was so successful that all the village children came to him for free education. In later years the villagers elected him as East Shantung's model "little teacher."

Fan's work had a tremendous influence in raising the peasants' political consciousness. In subsequent years during agrarian reform, these villagers were easily mobilised. And to this day, peasants there still enjoy the reading room which was set up for youngsters under his guidance. The literacy class for women and the newspaper reading class for old women are still running.

Similarly, Chiao Teh-feng, a school girl in Shantung, was only 16 when she began to serve as a volunteer

teacher in her village. By continuous efforts she mobilised 90 per cent of the women in her village to study in one way or another. She became a member of the Communist Party in 1947. In 1949, she was elected to represent the students of East China at the All-China Students' Federation.

Throughout the country, many such "little teachers" today are working diligently and patiently.

With these great changes in the villages splendid new prospects open out. This is of course particularly true for the young men and women who are eager to take every advantage of the new conditions and to play a full part in the new era which China has entered upon.

Blood and tears fertilised the fields of the landlords in the past whilst the life of the peasants was one of great humiliation. Today the youth in the countryside still work hard, setting the pace in the great agricultural production campaigns, but they also sing and dance and study. The standard of living, like that of the workers in the cities whom they look to as the main leading force in the country and with whom they will go forward hand in hand, is rising and will continue to improve with the passage of time. The Chinese peasants, like the city workers, are now traversing a new road at the end of which lies prosperity, culture, happiness and security.



Spinning

by Chi Kwei-sheng

CHINA'S STUDENTS LEARN ANEW

DURING THE PAST THIRTY YEARS, there was little opportunity for the students of China to study undisturbed. What time was there for them to discuss improvements in industry, agriculture, history, science or social conditions, the romantic poetry of Shelley or Byron, or the works of Shakespeare or Aristotle when the very existence of their nation was threatened?

In addition to the recurrent national crises, they were constantly worried by personal problems engendered by the Kuomintang misrule. Large numbers of students were forced to leave school or college because of worsening economic conditions. Many found themselves jobless after graduation.

Those who were lucky enough to complete their schooling did not receive the kind of education which fitted them to serve the common people. Schools established under the joint rule of imperialism, bureaucratic capitalism and feudalism were never intended to develop the type of creative personnel needed for China's national reconstruction. On the contrary, the main aim was to try by every means to mentally condition the students to be faithful lackeys of the imperialists and of the Chinese capitalists in enslaving the Chinese workers

and peasants. But this aim was never achieved, the students developed a powerful revolutionary movement. Those who yielded to the difficulties and to the temptations of a rotten environment found that they were forced to lead a life of constant humiliation. Those who refused to yield and blindly serve the interests of the ruling clique found themselves faced by the alternatives of death at the hands of the Kuomintang secret police or joining in the revolutionary struggle and abandoning their studies.

The position of students in New China is entirely different. The new society welcomes them. They can devote their main energies to study. They must master not only the various techniques and skills needed for their future work, but also the scientific theory of Marxism which will enable them to develop a revolutionary world outlook and fit them to become enthusiastic technicians and specialists in the construction of a new China.

The All-China Students' Congress which met in Peking in March, 1949 called on all students to "actively assist the school administrations in carrying out the New Democratic educational policy and in training large numbers of specialists and technicians imbued with a revolutionary ideology."

Today, all students are paying greater attention to their studies. But this is not merely a matter of giving satisfactory answers to examination questions. They are responding enthusiastically to the need to apply the knowledge they acquire in their class-rooms to the problems of practical life. Thus student activities have expanded in many new directions.

The China New Democratic Youth League has branches in nearly all the secondary schools and colleges, playing an important role in stimulating the desire to learn. Members of the League are pledged to become model students.

The League makes use of every chance of encouraging study. Long before the winter vacation of 1949, the League, together with the All-China Students' Federation, posted notices reminding students to take their text-books home for holiday review. League members are pledged to carry out all such resolutions and their example encourages others.

The students of today strive hard to deepen their understanding of Marxism-Leninism and the teachings of Mao Tse-tung in order to get a correct understanding of current political, economic and social trends and events. No small part in this political education is played by the gaily decorated wall newspapers that one finds in every school. These are edited by the students' self-governing associations or by elected groups in the various classes. In these papers the students discuss problems of revolutionary theory and practice. They give up-to-date information about the life of youth in the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies. They serve as a forum for discussions on the proper attitude of youth to life and on current domestic and foreign events. They are a proving ground for youthful literary, poetic and artistic talents.

Other extra-curricular activities include reading clubs, discussion groups and current affairs lectures and talks. In such meetings the students have learnt

to know the full significance of the Common Programme and the Organic Law and important laws and decrees of the People's Government. In such discussions and lectures they gain an understanding of why China should follow the path of the People's Democratic Dictatorship. They freely raise various problems that arise from their studies of Marxism-Leninism and find the solutions through a sincere exchange of ideas and opinions. Thus their faith in a better world to be brought about through Socialism is becoming more assured.

At these meetings they also learn about the frantic preparations for war on the part of the imperialists and realise more fully the necessity of making every effort to strengthen the camp of world peace.

A vastly widened prospect today stretches before China's young people. They are eager as never before to know more and experience more. This eagerness to learn is reflected by the huge audiences that are attracted to every lecture or discussion sponsored by the New Democratic Youth League. In Peking some four or five thousand young men and women regularly attend the periodic youth discussion meetings which are often addressed by the most noted professors and leading government officials. At these talks the young people have expressed a particularly great interest in the experiences gained by youth in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies in the work of national reconstruction.

Despite their love of book-learning, however, New China's students are by no means bookworms. They are not like their grandfathers and fathers who took such

pride in their learning and in their "four lazy limbs and inability to distinguish the five kinds of grain" that they looked on the common people with contempt. New China's youth are learning to esteem labour through their own toil. In the process of training themselves to serve the working people they gradually overcome the weaknesses typical of the old society's intellectuals.

When Peking was liberated the vast open space by the Tien An Men—the Gate of Heavenly Peace—was a weedy waste of ground covered with pot-holes and heaps of bricks and rubble. During a Saturday afternoon in September, 18,000 college and high school students and young cadres responded to the city-wide call of the New Democratic Youth League and the Students' Federation, cleared and levelled this ground to form China's Red Square—big enough to hold 300,000 people. It was here that a few days later, on October 1st, the first mammoth rally was held to celebrate the founding of the People's Republic of China.

It was in similar fashion that the Martyr's Park in Harbin, in the Northeast, was renovated. Students from 18 colleges and high schools organised construction teams and in ten days of volunteer labour the once delapidated park and athletic field were restored. Here the students now enjoy the fruits of their own labour and, no mean consideration, they saved the People's Government a huge sum of money.

Throughout the country students have engaged in such manual labour as their contribution to national construction. On their own initiative or at the call of the Youth League or students' associations they take a hand in cleaning up their school buildings or in im-

proving their campuses by planting shrubs or flowers. They make use of vacant lots on the school grounds to grow vegetables and produce other food-stuffs for their own consumption. This campaign to utilise spare time to increase food production is being vigorously supported by the young people in the schools and other institutions.

An important aspect of this social work of the students are their services to the workers, peasants and fighters of the People's Liberation Army. The All-China Students' Federation has urged all students to "respond to the call of the People's Government by participating in the work of educating and awakening the masses, by visiting the PLA soldiers and their families to express to them the people's thankfulness and deep concern; and in so doing to develop their own ability to render better service to the people."

In New China, college students are given full opportunities to develop their skill and talents. Students of engineering are sent to various factories where they can apply their theoretical knowledge to practice, learn directly from the workers and in turn help in passing on to the workers scientific knowledge and help them to raise their technical level.

This is in sharp contrast to the pre-liberation days when graduates of engineering often met the fate of unemployment. Those who were fortunate enough to enter a factory, would, under the prevailing attitude of despising labour, never "condescend" to make contact with the workers. This contributed to the estrangement of workers and technicians, the divorce of theory from practice and the backwardness of technique.

After liberation, however, the combined efforts of workers and technicians proved to be of enormous value in the construction of New China.

Last September, Lin Tsung-tong, a member of the Youth League and graduate of engineering from the National Tsinghua University in Peking, went to North-east China (Manchuria), the center of Chinese heavy industries. He worked in the No. 5 plant of the Machine Works in Mukden and distinguished himself as a meritorious worker.

At that time the new record movement was gaining great momentum in Northeast China. Lin Tsung-tong decided to help the workers of this factory to make new records. He talked with many workers and was able to help them with his advice in overcoming many difficulties.

With his assistance and encouragement, a worker named Tung Chien-shan created a record in making a cone pulley in 37 minutes, which was an improvement on the record for the same job previously set up by the famous Labour Hero Chao Kuo-ju. His example gave rise to a fervent new record movement which spread throughout the factory. As a result of this, however, the iron supply could not keep up with the increased production. So the workers thought of replacing the one-ton-furnace by a three-ton-furnace which had not been used for a long time owing to some serious trouble with its blower.

In cooperation with the workers, Lin Tsung-tong set about studying the blower carefully. At last the three-ton-furnace was repaired and it worked very well. The output of iron was thus doubled.

This is only one example which could be multiplied by the experiences of thousands of students who have joined forces with the workers in similar manner and have thus made possible great achievements in vitally needed production.

When the New China was born in 1949, students all over the country formed publicity groups to take the news to the common people, to explain to them the significance of this epoch-making event that would change for the better the lives of millions.

Many students joined the People's Liberation Army as it advanced southwards and southwestwards and they have been of enormous assistance in the taking over of the provinces of Kwangtung, Fukien, Kweichow and Szechuan from the Kuomintang. With their young vigour they have worked for ten and more hours a day on urgent tasks with no thought of personal gain and with no consideration of how much they are paid. It is these young people who have helped to give the lie to those writers of the capitalist press who so confidently predicted that the new government would not have enough personnel to run the affairs of so large a nation.

New China's young people, however, have plenty of energy left over after the day's work is done to relax and have fun at games or cultural activities. Athletics have taken an increasingly important part in their leisure moments, and the New Democratic Youth League, to arouse and encourage the interest of the youth in games and sports, recently called a national conference to develop the physical culture movement.

In liberated China all the youth learn to sing and dance. Favourite songs are known to millions from end

to end of this vast country. The Yangko dance is ubiquitous. Dramatic performances and recreation nights with singing and dancing are a normal part of school life. It is through such many-sided activities that the students of present-day China are seeking to develop themselves as well-rounded personalities with the technique of experts, a capacity for profound thinking, an ability to enjoy life to the full and to be useful members of a new society.

While the youth of China as a whole have played a conspicuous role in the revolutionary movement, there are still many individuals among them who as a result of their past feudal, colonial, bureaucratic-capitalist education, are ideologically backward. Young intellectuals of bourgeois origin are often prone to individualism, vanity, self-interest and considerations of "face". Under the old regime it was these traits that were cultivated by the reactionary Kuomintang. Chauvinism and fascism were encouraged among the youth. Such are the traits that the new society seeks to help the youth to overcome. The young people on their part are anxious to eradicate their short-comings so as to play their full part as citizens of New China. Youth activities in general are the best indication of the great development in their political and social consciousness that has taken place in recent years. This was made possible by the influence and correct policy towards youth of the Communist Party, the splendid discipline and example of the PLA, the good working style of the cadres in government administration and social organisations and the great tradition of the youth

in the struggle against imperialism and the Kuomintang reaction.

In the spring of 1950, there came into existence in Peking an entirely new kind of university, the Chinese People's University.

This is a university for the working people. Those who have not been well schooled, but have attained a certain level of knowledge through years of revolutionary work, are qualified to enter this university for higher education.

In the old days, as a rule, workers and peasants could not afford to send their children to universities. According to official statistics, in the Kuomintang days, the percentage of college students from peasants' and workers' families was almost zero. In New China, however, it is the educational policy of the Central People's Government to open the doors of all schools and universities to the working people, so as to train large numbers of new-type intellectuals from among them. The establishment of the Chinese People's University is only the beginning of this great undertaking.

The educational system and curriculum of this university are based upon the experiences of the Soviet Union and are designed to meet the needs of constructing New China.

For the time being, this university consists of eight departments, namely, Economics, Economic Planning, Finance, Trading, Co-operative Management, Factory Management, Law and Diplomacy. In addition, there is a language class for those of a lower cultural level,

In order to link up theory closely with practice, each department has established relations with the corresponding government organs. The responsible comrades of these organs are invited to participate in the department meetings, to help draw up plans for teaching and learning, to give lectures, to supply the university with all sorts of materials and to make arrangements for students to practise in factories or government organs.

The president of the Chinese People's University, Wu Yu-chang, is an old revolutionist, a well-known statesman and educator.

Tuition in government institutions of higher learning is now free of charge. Many students receive allowances, and it is the student self-governing bodies that decide to whom these should go, subject to approval by the university authorities. To make it easier to enter the universities, commissions which examine the applicants tour the various towns, so that prospective students do not have to spend large sums on travelling. The past year has seen a big increase in the number of women students. This is a very important development for China, for it shows that the emancipation of women proclaimed by the People's Government is becoming a reality. Among the students there are many ex-soldiers of the People's Liberation Army. They stand out for their splendid discipline and hard work.

Schools are also established to give three and six-month courses in revolutionary theory. Tens of thousands of youth have already graduated from such colleges as the North China People's Revolutionary University, the North China University in Peking and the East China University of Political Sciences and Military

Studies in Shanghai. These schools teach the youth the theory of historical materialism, educate them in a respect and love of labour and service to the people and the understanding that the interests of the people as a whole are greater than those of any individual.



A Tense Moment

by Yen Han

THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY

—An Army of Youth!—

ALL SECTIONS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE are proud of the heroic People's Liberation Army—just because it is, as its name implies, both an army of the people and an army that has liberated the people from their enemies and oppressors.

And the bulk of this army is made up of youth. The 18—25 age group constitutes 60 per cent.

Commander-in-Chief Chu Teh, the immensely popular leader of the army once said:

“The People's Liberation Army is a huge school for youth.”

On another occasion he said characteristically that “an army without culture is a barbarous army.”

The excellent discipline and fighting qualities of the People's Liberation Army are far-famed. These qualities have been imbued in the young soldiers precisely because this army is something very much more than a competent military machine. It can be described as an institution for learning. In it everyone, officer and rank and file, studies politics and thus is brought to understand just exactly what the army is fighting for.

The army leadership always pays great attention to raising the political and cultural standards of the soldiers.

Regular educational class teaching reading and writing and dealing with political questions are carried on as an integral part of the military training. Every Army unit possesses its own wall newspaper which is used to further practice in reading and writing and simple explanation of military tactics and current affairs. These wall newspapers are very popular and play a large part in the cultural and political activities of the army. On many occasions they were produced during the actual course of military engagements. Dramatic performances were ever popular with the Chinese people and army units were especially keen on organising and rehearsing their own dramatic shows.

Many of the plays produced were based on actual incidents which took place at the front. These were of special interest to the troops. "He should be written into a play" became a quite common army expression when referring to a soldier who had particularly distinguished himself. Such performances were found to be excellent visual means of driving home ideas and examples of military theory and practice, outstanding examples of individual heroism, resource and initiative.

Military history through the ages shows that when an army is united by firm understanding in all ranks that its aims are just and fully coincide with the interests of the people, it is invincible and capable of achieving "miracles" in the field. So it has been with the People's

Liberation Army. Undaunted by the fact that they were opposed by the armies of Chiang Kai-shek who outnumbered them several times over and were lavishly equipped with the most up-to-date weapons supplied by U.S. imperialists; with an air force and navy and plentiful transport whereas the People's Liberation Army were sadly lacking in all these, they never wavered in their belief in final victory.

The superior morale and fighting stamina of the People's Liberation Army, able always to count on the active help and support of the people and with the aid of superior military strategy and tactics of their General Headquarters, enabled the army to defeat the Kuomintang army, whose pitiful remnants were forced to flee to the island of Taiwan.

The number of youthful heroes in the People's Liberation Army is legion. Scores of thousands were decorated for their bravery with the First Class Award, Special Class Award or the much coveted Mao Tse-tung Medal.

Everything about the People's Liberation Army is as different as chalk from cheese in comparison to the Chinese armies of the past. The soldier in China had always been despised as amongst the very lowest social strata and traditionally had been little else than a mercenary who was feared and hated by the people.

But Chinese soldiers today occupy quite a different status. They have been trained in the spirit of rendering "service to the people." Instead of being divorced from the people they are everywhere honoured and respected.

In the People's Liberation Army there is a saying "the soldiers are fish and the people the water in which they move." This saying was coined during the early period of guerrilla warfare when the people's soldiers often had to carry on their warfare deep in the enemy's rear. Under such conditions they could only survive and defeat the enemy when they were supported by the mass of the people who sustained the fighters with great self-sacrifice and despite all danger.

Mao Tse-tung, himself one of the pioneer leaders of the earliest guerrilla formations, laid down eight rules of conduct and discipline, which were later embodied into soldiers' songs and are still sung at the present day by the Liberation troops:— 1. Talk to the people politely; 2. Observe fair dealing in all business transactions; 3. Return everything you have borrowed; 4. Pay for anything you have damaged; 5. Do not beat or curse the people; 6. Do not damage crops; 7. Do not fool around with women; 8. Do not ill-treat prisoners of war.

An army whose conduct was guided by such precepts throughout the long years of fighting could not but come to be revered as a true people's army.

Now with but a few remaining areas the whole of China has been liberated, new tasks confront the people's fighters—that of helping the Chinese people by shouldering a part of the task of production.

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

"The armed forces of the People's Republic of China shall, during peace time, systematically take part in agricultural and industrial production in order to assist in national construction work, provided their military duties are not thereby hampered."

This is not something which is altogether new in the life of the PLA men. During the most difficult years of the Anti-Japanese War, when they were beleaguered and cut off from cities and market towns they had to grow their own food and work in improvised factories to produce their own weapons, munitions and hosts of other things needed for the army commissariat.

And when on December 5th, 1949, Mao Tse-tung issued a decree in the name of the People's Revolutionary Military Council calling upon the army to take part in production and construction the soldiers responded with characteristic spirit and understanding. Of course it was not just a matter of issuing a decree. This was followed by a widespread campaign of enlightenment amongst the troops and gave rise to discussions from which were gradually worked out plans whereby the army could be most fruitfully employed. The soldiers quite readily appreciated the force of Chairman Mao's appeal that this work of production must be carried through because the long-drawn-out war had brought serious destruction to the nation's economy which requires repair at full speed.

Plans for long-term construction work were to be drawn up with the emphasis laid on increasing the wealth

of the community and of the State. In this way also all ranks in the army would be able to join in improving the standards of living that were planned for the people as a whole.

Army production is to be confined to agriculture, stock-raising, irrigation works, fishery, and construction work, carried out in such a way that it does not conflict or compete with normal commercial undertakings.

This great project is now beginning to get into full stride. Army units in Sinkiang Province are bringing more than 8,000 acres of arid land under cultivation by irrigation, and are raising sheep, horses and cattle on the grassy plains of Sinkiang.

The PLA men in South Shensi Province are engaged in reclaiming 17,000 acres of wasteland; in Suiyuan Province 23,000 acres of land are being brought under the plough, and they aim to grow part of their yearly grain supply and all their vegetables.

In Kiangsu Province they are now digging and repairing six canals which will bring 60,000 acres of dry land under irrigation. In Northwest China and Kiangsi Province they are helping to rehabilitate war-wrecked towns and railways.

PLA men are busy on this kind of work all over China. A newspaper correspondent who stayed some time with a large army unit in East Hopei, gives a vivid account of the large-scale irrigation work being undertaken there.

On this job the production campaign had been officially inaugurated with a review and march-past just

as if the army group were setting off for battle. The soldiers paraded carrying both their weapons and their tools all brightly burnished. In keeping with front-line tradition the ceremony ended with the troops taking an oath to fulfill the task assigned them. Amidst great enthusiasm the young soldiers vowed "to resolutely carry out Chairman Mao's directive," "to observe labour discipline," "to respect the opinions of technical experts and engineers," and "to take good care of our tools and animals."

The army group headquarters which is directing this work also has under its control 14 brick-kilns, a flour mill, a factory making army uniforms, and an iron workshop to turn out the shovels, hoes and horse-drawn ploughs that the soldiers use on the job. A handicraft unit was weaving the wicker baskets used for removing earth on the canal-building project, another unit produced the sacking for the sandbags used in constructing dykes and dams.

In accordance with the government directive 40 per cent of the total income derived from all these activities will be distributed among the soldiers. The men may send their share of the income home to their families or use it as they wish. The remaining 60 per cent is divided into three equal parts—one part is re-invested to expand production; another will be used to cover the army's daily expenses, thus lightening the people's tax burden next year; and the third is handed over to the Government as taxes.

The visiting journalist reported on the spirit of happy enthusiasm which prevailed amongst the youthful soldier-workmen as they went about their tasks. It was

likened to the customary battle-line spirit of the youthful PLA, and was expressed in the popular slogan coined amongst them:

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

The majority of the soldiers are of peasant origin and are glad of the chance to get back to the soil.

This is reflected, for example, in the many poems, commonly known as “plough” poems, which the soldiers compose themselves and attach to their farm tools—thus carrying over their front-line tradition of making up “rifle poems” which used to be pasted on their rifle butts.

A typical “plough poem” goes:

Hoe, hoe, old friend of mine,
We have parted since I joined the army.
Today we are hand in hand again.
Let us unite as one
In working for the people.”

The scene of this army work project was said to resemble a huge open air carnival at times. The army band turns out, filling the airs with spirited and fast-tempo rhythms. Army theatre teams stage plays and skits and give displays of Yangko dances during the rest periods. “Wall-newspapers” or “ground-newspapers” in open spaces lacking a convenient wall, provide vivid running commentaries and register accounts of current

progress, and of the many impromptu production competitions or of new production examples and experiences.

The young soldiers of the people are possessed of an invincible spirit—in 1950 they will conquer on the production front as others of their number now completing their final preparations will prove victorious in wiping out the few small remaining sectors where the remnant Kuomintang troops have taken a last refuge. Soon, when the whole of China is freed the resources of the People’s Liberation Army will unite with the workers and peasants in still further speeding up the New Democratic construction.



Ploughing



Distributing the Landlord's Surplus Grains
by Yen Han



Students in the Northeast help to take a census of the population.

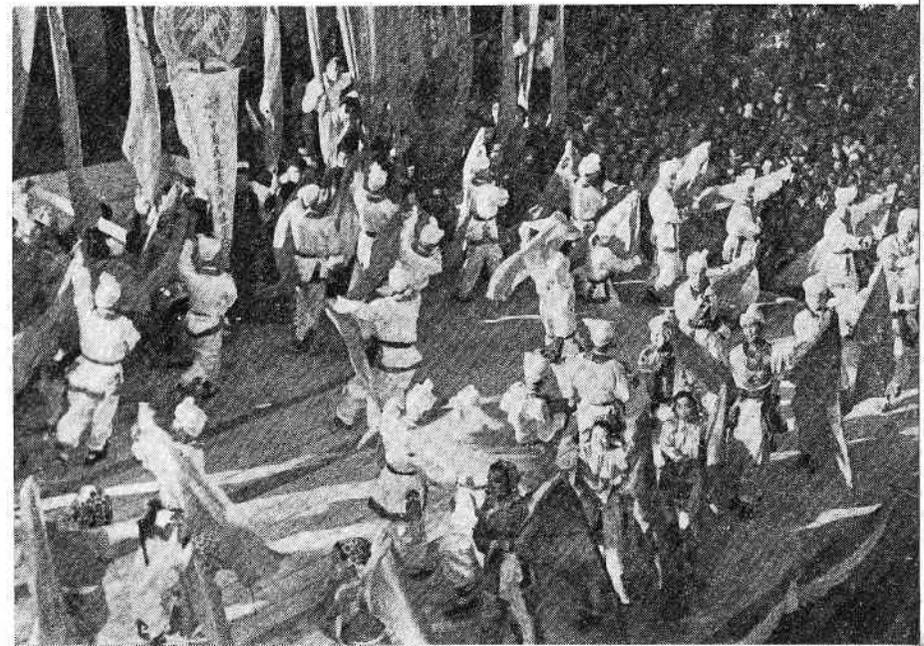
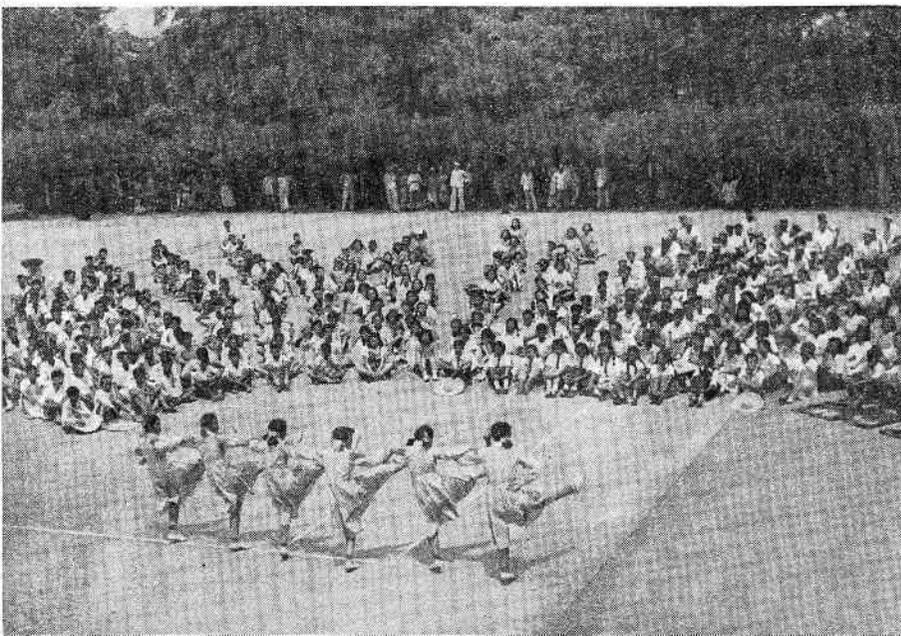


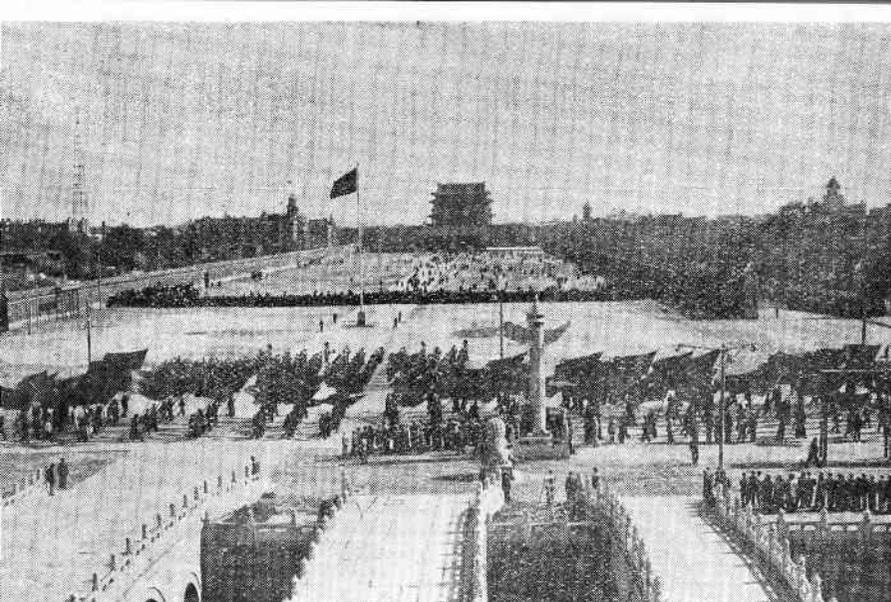
Tens of thousands of students throughout the country join the summer camps sponsored by the China New Democratic Youth League and the All-China Students' Federation.



At the World Youth Festival held in Budapest in August 1949, members of the Chinese Delegation get together with youth from all over the world.

Chinese youth dance the Yangko to entertain the Festival delegates.





Above:—Celebration of the May 4th Youth Day, 1950, in Peking.

Below:—A detachment of Peking's Young Pioneers in the May Day parade.

INTERNATIONALISM—A LIVING THING

MANY TIMES Chairman Mao Tse-tung pointed out that the two basic conditions for consolidating the victory of the Chinese revolution were the carrying through of the people's democratic dictatorship and the development of unity with international friends.

Therefore it was quite natural that immediately following the victorious conclusion of the war against Japan in 1945 Chinese youth organisations, as well as the trade union and women's organisations, should lose no time in linking up with the great youth movements of other lands.

China had been cut off for far too long from actual comradely contact with the youths of other lands. So it was then that the youth movement eagerly responded to the invitation to take part in the World Youth Congress in London on May 11, 1945. It was an inspiring moment for the Chinese delegation when they met the 400 delegates representing over 30 million youths of other countries.

The Chinese delegation who at that time represented the youth associations in the Liberated Areas of China, eagerly exchanged information about the general situa-

tion and the particular postwar problems of the youth everywhere.

The fruits of this first international exchange of reports and ideas found expression in a programme which set forth the aim of developing everywhere a movement drawing yet more millions of youths into the world campaign for peace, democracy and national independence. The Chinese delegation was proud that one of its members was elected to be a member of the executive committee of the World Federation of Democratic Youth set up from this conference. In November 1946, the first International Students Congress was held in Prague, attended by students representatives from 41 countries. At this meeting the International Union of Students was created.

At the time when this Congress was being organised, the students throughout China were engaged in a tremendous struggle to prevent the Kuomintang leaders from embarking on their policy of plunging the country into civil war.

The Kuomintang authorities, in an attempt to mislead world public opinion and to prevent the truth being known about their savage persecution of the progressive Chinese student movement resorted to a cunning manoeuvre. It authorised its embassies in Britain and Czechoslovakia to each send to the Student Congress bogus representatives allegedly representing a supposed "Chinese College Students' Association."

This intrigue, however, was exposed and the phoney delegates' credentials were withdrawn following the arrival on the scene of delegates sent from China

by the Students Unions in the Liberated Areas, one of whom was elected to be a Vice-Chairman of the International Union of students.

Chinese students and youth delegations have in subsequent years attended, and have taken an active part, in the deliberations of the various international youth bodies and have been welcomed at the national conferences of youth and student organisations in many countries. Thus for example Chinese youth delegations attended the Congress of Youth in Southeast Asia held in Calcutta in February 1948; the World Working Youth Congress in Warsaw in August 1948; the North Korean Democratic Youth League in November, 1948 and the Eleventh Congress of the Soviet Young Communist League in Moscow in March 1949.

But the most outstanding delegation sent from China was without doubt that which took part in the great World Youth Festival in Prague in September 1949. It was one of the largest, numbering 128 members, drawn from all parts of China and representing every aspect of China's youth activities and experiences. Liao Cheng-chih, Chairman of the All-China Federation of Democratic Youth, was elected as one of the Vice-Chairmen of the World Federation of Democratic Youth. Liao joined the revolutionary movement more than 20 years ago. Several times he was arrested by Chiang Kai-shek's police and sent to prison for his underground activities.

But for China's youth the World Peace Festival—this great and happy occasion when the youth from all corners of the world were able to come together in the joyous atmosphere of a Festival of Peace—meant a great

deal more than just sending off a large delegation to far-off Budapest.

The greater part of China had been liberated from the Kuomintang by the time of the Festival. It was therefore possible for the youth in the major cities and towns of China to openly celebrate the occasion and to give full vent to their pent-up feelings of internationalism. In Changchun in the Northeast, giant crowds of young people took part in a huge bonfire celebration of the Festival at which Soviet, Mongolian, Korean, as well as Chinese dances were performed. The Festival was celebrated in other big cities of the Northeast such as Mukden, Chinchow, and Tsitsihar where talks and lectures were given in the factories, schools, government offices and various establishments.

The spirit of the Peace Festival of the world's youth caught the imagination of China's youth and throughout the country it was celebrated with great enthusiasm.

In the provincial capital of Shantung, Tsinan, a mass meeting of 50,000 youths was held at which a solemn declaration was adopted pledging active support for the cause of world peace.

In Peking the youth gave evidence of their ardent internationalism with great meetings, lecture series and with special competitions for wall-newspapers devoted to the news and the meaning of the Festival. Oratorical contests were another interesting feature organised to popularise the significance of this great international event.

A high spot in Peking's celebrations was the organisation of a mass meeting of 30,000 youths where

Chien Chun-jui, Secretary-General of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association, delivered a stirring lecture on "The Meaning of Internationalism." Following upon the return of the Chinese delegation from Budapest there was a tremendous demand for first hand reports of what the delegation had seen and learnt whilst at the Festival, and in the course of their travels through the various countries of Eastern and Central Europe. Members of the delegation visited the country's factories, schools and mass organisations, making reports on their experiences and describing the decisions taken by the representatives of world youth in the cause of peace and world-wide brotherhood.

When the Chinese delegation of 30 students arrived in Moscow en route to Prague to attend the Second World Congress of the International Union of Students in August, 1950, they received a rousing welcome at the railway station from representatives of young Moscow workers and students. Bouquets were presented to them on the crowded station platform by a group of Young Pioneers to the accompaniment of the rolling of drums.

The student delegation carried with them to Prague a great number of presents. Amongst these were a flag sent by the Peking University students. This flag was proudly hoisted over the University as the victorious soldiers of the People's Liberation Army entered the city. The North China People's Revolutionary University sent a large painting which vividly expressed the Chinese people's opposition to war and their support of world peace, together with other paintings expressive of Sino-Soviet friendship. These were for presentation to

the International Union of Students and the Moscow University.

At the World Congress the Chinese delegation received a great welcoming ovation as they entered the hall. Yang Cheng, the leader of the delegation, addressed the Congress at its evening session on August 15th. As he rose to speak the Congress delegates stood in their places and made a great ovation in honour of Mao Tse-tung.

Yang Cheng in his speech described the heroic struggles of the Chinese students against American imperialism and in defence of world peace. He spoke in wrathful terms of the attack of American imperialism on the Korean Democratic People's Republic. After reporting on the activities of Chinese students in building the New China and in developing education, Yang Cheng called on the students all over the world to support the liberation war of the Korean people and to help the national liberation movements in Viet-Nam, the Philippines, Japan and other colonial countries.

A striking indication of the spirit of international solidarity which pervades the ranks of the Chinese students, and which made a very moving impression in the Congress took place when Yang Cheng, on behalf of the All-China Federation of Students proposed that a world students sanatorium be established in China.

This proposal was made in accordance with the policy of the International Union of Students to promote the health of students.

Another example was shown when the Chinese delegation presented a specially embroidered white silk

banner to the observer from the British Peace Committee to be handed over to a 15-year-old London girl student, Geraldine Ghalmers, who had been subjected to persecution by the British school authorities because she attended the All-Britain Peace Conference as a delegate from the school's peace committee.

The Chinese youth spare no effort to learn from the experiences of the progressive youths of other lands. It can be said that they are equally willing and able to impart valuable lessons to the international youth movement drawn from the thirty years' experience of the Chinese youth movement.

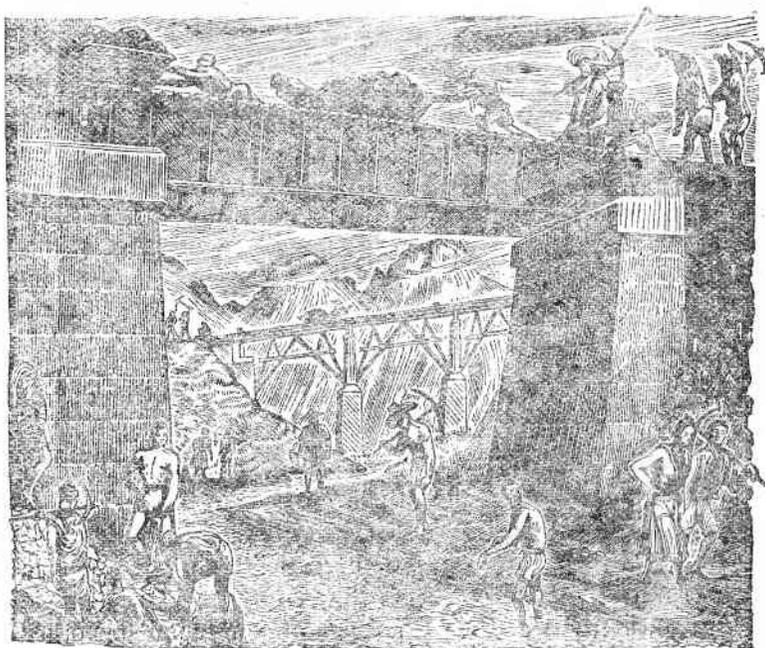
This two-fold aim was well expressed in the statement issued by the All-China Youth Congress: "Whilst we strive to advance the Chinese youth movement let us not forget that we are now living in the people's epoch, the opening out of a new world. The liberation of the people and the new democratic construction of any country are inseparable from world peace and democracy as a whole."

"At the present moment the struggle between democracy and those who oppose democracy, and between peace and war, is being strenuously carried out on a world-wide scale."

"Victory or failure of the forces of peace and democracy in any part of the world will bring a quick and deep influence on our new democratic revolution. On the other hand the success or failure of our new democratic revolution will exert a corresponding influence on other parts of the world. The international mission of the Chinese youth movement is to unite with the world de-

mocratic youth in defence of lasting world peace and people's democracy. This is an integral part of our fundamental task."

The militant youths of new China are responding heartily to this call of duty. They love their own country with all their hearts; at the same time they are conscious of their part in the sacred task of helping to ensure lasting world peace and the further development of democracy and social advance everywhere.



Repairing the Railway

by Hwang Jung-ts'an

CHINA'S GREAT YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

OF THE MANY YOUTH ORGANISATIONS in New China, the most popular and most influential are the All-China Federation of Democratic Youth and the China New Democratic Youth League.

The All-China Federation of Democratic Youth, founded in May 1949, is an association of all the democratic youth organisations in China. It is the object of the Federation "to unite all the democratic youth throughout the country, to fight for their welfare, to fight together with all the Chinese people for the complete victory of the democratic revolution and for the construction of a new democratic country, and to unite with all the democratic youth of the world in fighting for a lasting world peace and people's democracy."

The membership of the Federation is based on the bloc membership system. In case of necessity, the Federation may admit as individual members persons who have made contributions to the youth movement and are helpful to the work of the Federation.

The All-China Youth Congress is the highest governing body of the Federation. During the interval between congresses, the National Committee elected by

the congress is its highest leading body. During the interval between meetings of the National Committee, the Standing Committee elected by the National Committee is responsible for directing the activities of the Federation.

The membership of the Federation, as represented by its affiliated youth organisations, has increased from 4,420,000 in September 1949 to 7,000,000 in July 1950.

The Chairman of the National Committee of the Federation is Liao Cheng-chih.

During the past year the Federation has done much work in strengthening the connection between the youth movement in China and the youth movements in other People's Democracies. There has been a regular exchange of newspapers, magazines, books and photos between the Federation and the youth organisations in the Soviet Union, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania, Albania, Korea, Austria, France, Italy, Finland, Belgium and Holland.

Local branches of the Federation have already been set up in such leading cities as Tientsin, Taiyuan, Chengtu, Hankow, Mukden, Amoy, Kaifeng and Changsha following the holding of youth representative conferences.

Preparations are being made in Peking, Shanghai, Nanking and Chungking to set up branches of the Federation.

The China New Democratic Youth League, as such, has a comparatively short history, having been formed in April 1949, following a decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in the previous January.

But, in reality it has a long history in the revolutionary struggle of China's youth, under the general leadership of the Communist Party, since the formation of the Socialist Youth League in 1920. Moreover, experimental work in setting up a youth league was begun in the Liberated Areas as far back as 1946, on the instruction of the Communist Party. The success of this work was what enabled the First All-China Youth Congress to be called in April 1949, shortly after Peking was liberated.

The Youth League, therefore, follows in the fighting traditions of China's youth and carries forward the torch which was kept burning by several different youth organisations during the various stages of the Revolution. These youth organisations made tremendous contributions to the Chinese people's struggle. They were: the Communist Youth League, during the Great Revolution of 1925-27 and the Agrarian Reform of 1927-37; the National Salvation Youth Association and the Anti-Japanese Youth Vanguard, throughout the Anti-Japanese War of 1937-45; the League of Democratic Youth and the New Democratic Youth Alliance during the People's War of Liberation of 1946-49.

The New Democratic Youth League of today has a membership throughout the country of over 3 million (figure available for June 1950) and is continually growing. Decisions taken by its Central Committee are quickly carried into the factories, farms, offices, schools, universities and every place where youth are found. Thus, to understand the general conditions and activities of the youth of China it is necessary to understand the League.

The fundamental tasks of the New Democratic Youth League as proposed by the Communist Party are: "To study systematically Marxism-Leninism; to constantly educate its members and the mass of youth by means of revolutionary practice; and to organise, in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism, the broad mass of youth to take part in the various movements called for by the Party or the People's Government." Feng Wen-ping, Secretary of the League, speaking about the general direction of China's youth movement, pointed out that "the fundamental task of today's Chinese youth movement is to educate and organise the younger generation to participate in China's New Democratic construction." The Youth League does not only aim to lead and inspire its own members but the masses of the Chinese youth as a whole to conduct uninterrupted study in the different kinds of practical work and to make constant progress so that the League may cultivate for the cause of the Chinese revolution tens of millions of excellent youths with high political consciousness and ability for practical work, to build up a New Democratic society which will be much better than the old society and to prepare the Socialist society of the future.

The League devotes itself whole-heartedly to the work of New Democratic construction, takes part in the various activities planned by the Party and Government and strives to develop to the highest degree the activity and exemplary work of the youth generally in the tasks of construction. League members, both boys and girls, strive to do their best in their work and by their model conduct and good example influence and guide all the youth to take an active part in labour and

production. The League set going a social movement under the slogan "Active work is the greatest honour, laziness is the greatest shame", in the course of which it set up a correct attitude to labour and labour discipline, helped to raise the level of production and spurred the development of activity and creative initiative in all productive enterprises.

Under the constitution of the League: "all boys and girls from the age of 14 to 25 who support the programme of the Communist Party of China and are willing to fight actively for the cause of the New Democratic Revolution and to serve devotedly the working people, and who recognise the constitution of the League, abide by the resolutions and join in the work of the League, shall be qualified for membership".

In every farm, factory, school or street where there are five or more League members, a branch may be formed. Where there are 100 members, a general branch is formed with sub-branches. Where there are 500 members, a League Committee is formed. More than three branches in a district qualifies for the formation of a district committee; three or more district committees, for a county or city committee. At higher levels there are regional committees, provincial committees and Greater Administrative Area committees (at present China is divided into five Greater Administrative Areas: Northeast, Northwest, Southwest, East China, Central and South China, and Southwest) The National Congress is the supreme organ of the League and between the congresses, the Central Committee elected by the Congress National is the League's highest body.

Five young men or women therefore may set up a League branch through which they can become an integral part of the nation-wide progressive youth movement.

Youth everywhere are enthusiastic and lively. It is very easy for them to absorb new ideas. Therefore the work of the League and the League life must not be carried on in the form of idle political chatter or of dry sermons.

All meetings of the League are conducted in a lively and efficient way. Adequate preparations are made beforehand. Every meeting has its theme and aim and every meeting must be able to solve certain problems and help in the education of the members.

League organisation hold a "League Day" either every week or every other week. On "League Day" there are all sorts of collective activity, such as reports on special topics, discussion, debates, relaying the instructions of the leadership, initiation ceremonies, recommending the model deeds of members helping one another in studies, lectures on the League work, storytelling, all kinds of revolutionary contests and competitions, singing and recreational evening parties.

The League helps the youth to analyse and solve these problems which are vital to the life of the youth, such as wage problems, health problems, athletic and recreational problems, problems in the study of science and the development of culture, problems involving tuition fees, allowances, examinations, personal affairs and social intercourse, the methods of studying and the application of studies to work, etc.

The League helps its members and the masses of the youth to reach a correct understanding of these problems and offers guidance in understanding Marxism-Leninism and in acquiring the view of life and world outlook of Marxism-Leninism so that they will fight devotedly for the thorough liberation of the whole of China and the whole of mankind.

Members of the League are taught to be modest in study, realistic and honest in their service to the people, brave and fearless in their stubborn struggles against the enemy. In dealing with any problem they first of all strive to understand the conditions under which such problems arise, gather all relevant material concerning it and then study and analyse it so as to be able to work out correct conclusions and make correct decisions.

All League members, both boys and girls, are taught to hold fast to truth and to constantly correct their mistakes. The League helps its members to develop their sense of organisation and sense of discipline in the course of their work and to be full of vigour, active and creative. Instead of being discouraged by difficulties they learn how to resolutely overcome them.

Competent leadership is provided at the various levels by means of departments for carrying on work amongst young workers, peasants, students, girls, juveniles and children.

League organisations have also been formed in the People's Liberation Army with its vast numbers of youth. As the League develops, more and more promis-

ing young people come under its influence and the revolutionary education it gives to its members will provide the Communist Party with constant reinforcements.

The Central Committee of the League, having the main task of guiding the youth movement of China, was elected at the First Congress. It has 65 members, all of whom have long and proud records of revolutionary battle.

Feng Wen-ping, Secretary of the Central Committee, is outstanding even among such talented and courageous young people. He worked as a lad in a Shanghai match factory. By the age of 21 he was already a member of the Communist Party and worked in the Communist Youth League in the Soviet Area in Kiangsi. He was one of those who fought from Kiangsi to Yen-an in the historic Long March. He was Chairman of the Northwestern National Salvation Association of Youth throughout the war against the Japanese. After twenty and more years of unceasing revolutionary work among the youths he is well known and respected by all young people in every part of China.

The League has set up a school to train large numbers of young cadres to be sent to the various regions to carry out the work of the League. Its students study Marxism-Leninism, the New Democracy, the policy of the Communist Party of China, the organic structure of the China New Democratic Youth League and the tasks which youth must accomplish in order to equip themselves for developing youth work in various regions.

Over 500 were graduated from the first term of the League School in September, 1949, most of them being from rural districts and after graduation, went back to work in the villages. During their nine months of study at the school, they gained valuable experience by joining in the work of taking over Peking and Tientsin immediately after the People's Liberation Army entered the cities.

The Young Pioneer Corps exists for the purpose of uniting juveniles of from 9 to 14 and younger children and helping them in their studies. At the same time it develops their love for physical health, their country and people, work and science. This corps is under the leadership of the Central Committee of the League.

The Central Committee of the League publishes a fortnightly magazine called "China's Youth", which helps to direct the work of the League's organisation.

The magazine has correspondents all over the country, from factories in large cities to remote villages, and members of the League contribute articles giving first hand accounts of their experiences. It encourages the youth to study, and raises the level of revolutionary theory among its members and the mass of youth by the systematic introduction of Marxism and the Thought of Mao Tse-tung.

The magazine acts as an advisor and friend of the young people, answering numerous letters from young men and women and helping to solve their ideological, practical and personal problems. Its circulation has grown to 130,000 copies and its influence upon the youth movement is enormous. "China's Young Pioneers" also

published by the Central Committee with a circulation of 70,000, has great popularity among the younger folks particularly because of its picture-stories and interesting illustrations and educational features.

In addition, local magazines are published in various places to meet the needs of the local League organisations.



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by Yen Han

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