

PEKING

August 25, 1959

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REVIEW

How Industry Aids Agriculture

The role of industry in modernizing China's agriculture (p. 6).

Beating the Drought

The people's communes are rolling back the challenge of one of the worst droughts in recent years (p. 9).

Touring Latin America

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Poetry in 1958

A big harvest in the field of Chinese poetry (p. 14).

China Salutes Rumania's Anniversary

*Round the Week, Sidelights
and Other Features*

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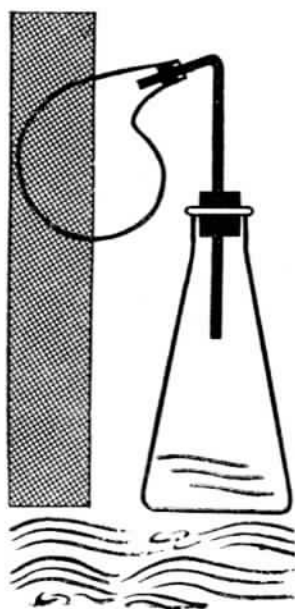
RADIO PEKING English Language Transmissions

(New schedule beginning Sept. 1, 1959)

Transmission to	Peking Time	Local Time (normal clock time)	kc/s	metres
Southeast Africa	01.00-02.00	19.00-20.00 (Capetown, Salisbury)	15060, 17675	19.92, 16.97
		20.00-21.00 (Nairobi, Dar es Salaam)		
		21.00-22.00 (Mauritius)		
West Africa	05.30-06.30	21.30-22.30 (Accra, Freetown)	9510, 11945	31.55, 25.12
		20.45-21.45 (Monrovia)		
		22.30-23.30 (Lagos)		
Britain and Western Europe	03.00-04.00	19.00-20.00 (London)	9457, 15060	31.73, 19.92
	04.30-05.30	20.30-21.30	9457, 15060	31.73, 19.92
		20.00-21.00 (Paris, Stockholm) 21.30-22.30		
North America East Coast	09.00-10.00	20.00-21.00 (Eastern S. T.)	15095, 17720	19.87, 16.93
	10.30-11.30	21.30-22.30	15095, 17720	19.87, 16.93
	11.30-12.30	19.30-20.30 (Pacific S. T.)	15115, 17745	19.85, 16.91
Australia and New Zealand	16.30-17.30	18.30-19.30 (Aust. E. S. T.)	15060, 17835	19.92, 16.82
	17.30-18.25	19.30-20.25	15060, 17835	19.92, 16.82
		20.30-21.30 (New Zealand S. T.) 21.30-22.25		
Southeast Asia	20.00-21.00	19.30-20.30 (Djakarta, Singapore)	11820, 15095	25.38, 19.87
		20.00-21.00 (Manila)		
India, Pakistan and Ceylon	23.00-24.00	20.30-21.30 (Delhi, Colombo)	15060, 17675	19.92, 16.97
		20.00-21.00 (Karachi)		
		21.00-22.00 (Dacca)		

Beginning November 9, 1959, there will be changes in the wavelengths of some of Radio Peking's English language transmissions. Here is a list of the transmissions affected and the new wavelengths on which broadcasts will be heard starting November 9 (Peking Time). Our programmes beamed to Southeast Africa will be heard on the 31 and 25 metre bands, to West Africa on the 31 and 49 metre bands, to the East Coast of North America on the 31 and 25 metre bands, to the West Coast of North America on the 16, 19, and 25 metre bands, to Britain and Western Europe on the 31 and 41 metre bands, and to India, Pakistan and Ceylon on the 25 and 31 metre bands.

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PEKING REVIEW

北京周報

(BEIJING ZHOUBAO)

A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF CHINESE
NEWS AND VIEWS

August 25, 1959 Vol. II No. 34

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Published every Tuesday by PEKING REVIEW
Pai Wan Chuang, Peking (37), China
Cable Address: PEKING 6170

Post Office Registration No. 2-922

Printed in the People's Republic of China

The People's Communes Are Good

A GREAT battle against Nature is now on. Many areas in China have been stricken by drought, flood, water-logging or outbreaks of locusts. But the peasants in all the affected areas are undaunted by the difficulties besetting them. They are going all out in a resolute struggle against the elements. They are set on wresting a good harvest from the unwilling hands of Nature. Their watchword is "Man must conquer Nature!"

China's peasants have good reasons to display such confidence. They can count on the support of the whole nation. Supplies and equipment of all kinds are being rushed to their aid; large numbers of workers, students, cadres and other volunteers from cities and towns have joined them in the fight. But, what is more important, their optimism is based on the strength of the people's communes. They know that they possess greater means and power than ever before to tackle difficulties, that their communes are the surest guarantee for triumphing over natural adversity.

The advantages of the people's communes, already amply demonstrated, are being manifested most clearly in the current struggle. With their large size and wide scope of activities, the communes can deploy more rationally the manpower of the countryside and promptly mobilize great forces to defend each threatened point. When Shihtan Commune in Kwangtung Province was struck by flood, it could marshal the strength of 29 production brigades. It quickly deployed a labour force five to six thousand strong and repaired its ravaged dykes in time to ensure the transplanting of late rice seedlings.

Co-operation between the people's communes brings out their merits still more clearly. Thanks to mutual aid, the communes in drought-stricken Fengchen County, Kiangsi Province, dug 1,300 ditches, built 440 dams and repaired damaged irrigation projects. The dams alone were able to bring irrigation to about 6,700 hectares of land and greatly alleviate the drought.

It must also be remembered that even before the present onslaught of drought people's communes throughout the country had built water conservancy projects on a gigantic scale. These projects have played an immense part in the current fight against floods and drought.

The development of small commune-run industrial workshops also contributes to the struggle against natural calamities by turning out a large amount of urgently needed equipment.

By pooling their efforts on a large scale through their communes, China's peasants are now in a better position to combat natural calamities which would have swamped smaller social units like farm co-operatives, not to speak of individual peasants working on their own. The fight is hard. But under the inspiring banner of the people's commune the Chinese peasants will assuredly carry the battle to a successful conclusion.

ROUND THE WEEK

Engineering Industry in Top Gear

China's fast growing engineering industry completed building 103 new workshops at 60 major factories and plants between January and July this year. These include a giant hydraulic press workshop for a heavy machinery plant in Shanghai and an alternating current dynamo factory at a power equipment plant at Hsiangtan, the rising industrial city by the Hsiang-chiang River in Hunan Province. Full or partial production is already going ahead in most of these new projects even while the finishing touches are being put to their premises.

The rate of capital construction in the machine-building industry is faster than ever. The Peking Steam Turbine Plant laid its cornerstone in June last year. It went into production eleven months later. The building of such a works could normally be expected to take three years. New engineering projects under construction cover an area of 7.56 million square metres. Many will make some of the machinery most urgently needed for the nation's continuous big leap forward—from metallurgical and power equipment and transformers to blowers and combine-harvesters.

A notable aspect of capital construction in the engineering industry this year is that China has succeeded in designing a high proportion of the new projects herself—around two-thirds. This is a big jump from the First Five-Year Plan period (1953-1957) when home developed talent could work out designs only for small and medium-sized engineering plants. Today, Chinese experts are producing complete sets of blueprints for many major engineering works.

Metamorphosis of Loyang

Present-day Loyang in Honan Province can serve as well as any other city as an example of this tremendous development of China's modern machine-building industry. Once the capital of bygone dynasties and with a history going back more than 3,000 years, Loyang slumbered for centuries as a provincial backwater. At the time of liberation it had only a few repair workshops each employing a handful of workers. Today, it boasts a big machine-building plant, a motor car repair works, ball-bearings plant, and, the pride of the city—China's first

tractor works. Work on this No. 1 Tractor Works began four years ago. It is an immense undertaking and construction is still going on there, although it has already started turning out its first tractors for the people's communes.

The city is also building a spanking new thermal power station that will go a long way to speeding development of its growing engineering industry. Designed with Soviet assistance, this big, up-to-date plant will supply electricity not only to local industrial enterprises but also to Honan's provincial capital, Chengchow, central China's new textile centre. Loyang itself is also going in for the cotton textile industry. It is building a new textile mill, which will make it the second biggest textile centre in cotton-rich Honan Province. Loyang has other new industries smaller in scale than these but big enough to help transform this city from an historical relic into a fast growing industrial city in central China.

Show Windows on Nanking Road

If you are one of those who are fond of window-shopping, you will find plenty to catch your eye these days in Shanghai's busy shopping centres. Shanghai has long and rightly prided itself on its "style" and it knows how to display its goods with taste. The eighteen show-windows of the No. 1 Department Store on Nanking Road, the largest of its kind in China, are always a centre of attraction. At the moment one window is displaying musical instruments of all descriptions, from the Chinese *huchin* and flutes to Western violins and guitars, arranged like an orchestra without musicians playing the popular tune *Socialism Is Good!*, the score of which forms a novel backdrop to the display.

An adjoining showcase is a sumptuous display of the latest models of wireless and television sets, fine workmanship in radio engineering made by workers in Shanghai, Peking and other cities. Ten years ago China had no radio industry of her own. Such a display would have been captioned "all imported," mostly from Britain and the United States. Those countries choose to "embargo" China. But today China is not only producing radio sets, and tellies as well, for the home market but is selling large numbers of them in Asia and Africa, Europe and America.

You'll see many other imaginative displays as you stroll along this noted

thoroughfare, in shops, big and small. The special children's store makes great play with lighting, colour and pictorial designs to draw the attention of small fry and their parents to clothes, school goods and toys.

Lower down towards the Bund you get an eye-filling look of some of the finest silks and satins in the East, local products of all descriptions, bamboo and feather fans, embroideries, pottery, carvings, household knick-knacks and what-not.

Shanghai is doing better than ever in producing consumer goods this year. Its light industries turned out 35 per cent more goods in the first six months of 1959 than in the corresponding period of last year. Quality, of course, is given priority attention and Shanghai offers a satisfying variety to the shopper. Its factories produced a thousand new varieties of textiles, dresses, fountain pens, clocks, footwear, etc.—for customers to pick and choose from. And not Shanghai alone. Light industrial production throughout the country rose sharply during this period. The Ministry of Light Industry announced that in the seven months ending July the output of quite a number of major consumer products showed increases ranging from 30 to as much as 100 per cent. And workers in the light industries have pledged to go one better—in August and September—as their greeting to New China's tenth birthday.

Drought Notwithstanding . . .

As reports on other pages describe, China's people's communes, established hardly a year ago, have risen magnificently to meet the challenge of weather which seemed bent on laying waste much of their crops. Drought attacked seventeen provinces and autonomous regions. However, by August 20 about half of the affected areas had freed themselves from its grip. Come wind, come drought, the communes are already reaping the fruit of their work. Stop press news is that along the Yangtse Valley the rice crop is ready for harvest.

In Szechuan, China's most populous province, harvest has begun on 40 million *mu* of rich farmland planted to semi-late rice. Harvesting is expected to reach its peak in the next few days. To finish the job in time and ensure that the fight against the drought is carried on without let up, some of the communes are working on a round-the-clock basis in three shifts—morning and night for fighting the drought and daytime for gathering in the rice crops.

In neighbouring Hunan Province, harvesting of semi-late rice is also in full swing on the farms from the Tung-

ting Lake to the foothills marching with the borders of Kwangtung Province in the south. The province will be bringing in rice from 17 million *mu*.

To its north, Hupeh Province continues to reap its 14 million *mu* of semi-late rice, its chief food crop of the season. Despite drought, it expects a good crop.

The provinces which have already harvested their crops of early rice all report better results than last year. Forty-one counties in Kiangsi, bordering on Hupeh in the south, reaped from 10 to 30 per cent more rice than last year.

Fukien, homeland of many overseas Chinese, has gathered in a rich harvest too from some seven million *mu* under early rice. It is remarkable that in the so-called "perennially low-yield" hill areas in northern and western Fukien the people's communes have wrought such a transformation in the land that outputs have increased as a general rule from 20 to as much as 100 per cent.

It is the same with the national minority areas. Kwangsi, the autonomous region of the Chuang people, is doing well. The people are reaping their first rich harvest of 12 million *mu* of early rice since forming themselves into people's communes.

... And Waterlogging Too

In the rural areas of Peking the people's communes have been wrestling with the problem of waterlogging. The corollary of drought in the south is the unusually heavy rainfall in the north, and especially in Peking, the heaviest in living memory. In many parts of the farming districts lying within the municipality of Peking, over 500 mm. of rain-water fell in a matter of days. The many reservoirs and other conservancy works built in the past few years, and especially those completed during the big leap forward of 1958, such as the famous Ming Tombs Reservoir on the northeastern outskirts, succeeded in detaining a good deal of water and controlling the rivers flowing past Peking. But the downpours were heavy, sudden, concentrated and came at such frequent intervals that a great part of the farmland around Peking was inundated. These torrents ruined much of the vegetables that should now be coming to the tables of the people of Peking and, what was worse, washed away seeds just planted to provide greens in the coming weeks and months.

The communes took immediate action to drain away the first spot floods and replant vegetables for the autumn and winter. A couple of days later, however, the rains came again and undid all that had been accomplished just before. Draining of the rain-water began all

over again and new seeds were sown. The process, heartbreaking as it was, had to be repeated, as rain and hail swept the countryside once more. Many communes planted the vegetable crop three or four times. By the middle of the month practically all the land set aside for growing Chinese cabbage was cultivated afresh and sown with new seeds.

In this battle to ensure the supply of greens in the next few months some 35,000 townspeople, workers, students, armymen and housewives pitched into the struggle to help the peasants. But the main strength to fight the water and keep the vegetables growing came from the commune members themselves.

Meanwhile, Harbin in the north is helping Peking tide over its present temporary shortages with a supply of 15 million *jin* of fresh vegetables. For years Harbin, a fast growing centre of the engineering industry, used to depend on outside supplies to satisfy its need in vegetables. This year it has more than enough and to spare, thanks to the measures taken to implement the policy enunciated by the Communist Party and government earlier in the year which requires the cities to solve their vegetable supplies problem by growing most, if not all, of what they need themselves. Peking's persistence in putting a considerable area of its farmland under vegetables indicates its determination to become self-sufficient in greens, just as Harbin and other cities are. The policy of the cities growing their own vegetables has many advantages: it avoids taking up precious transport space; it cuts down losses incurred in transit; and above all, it guarantees freshness of the food.

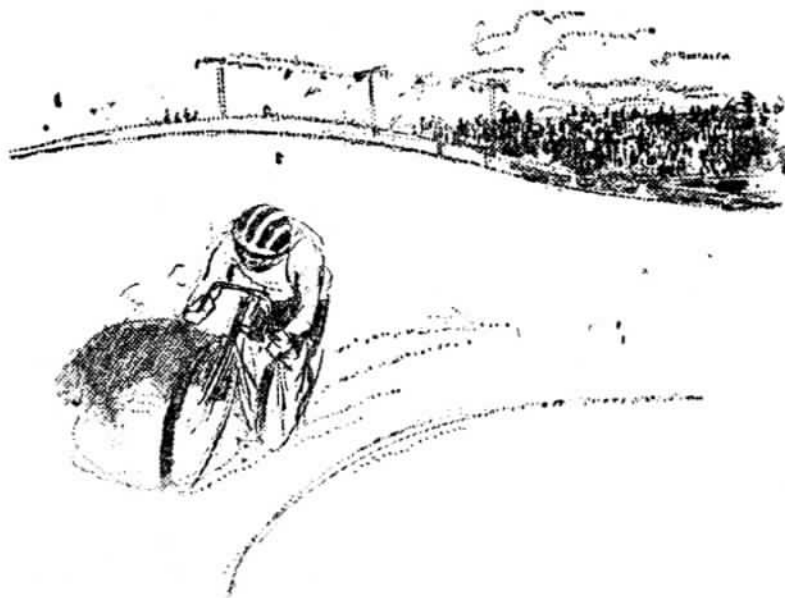
National Games

September 13 is a red-letter day for China's athletes. It will see the grand

opening of the first national games of People's China. They will be held in the new Peking Workers' Stadium specially built for the occasion. The teams to compete in the 42 events have all been chosen. Many are now heading for the capital—a team each from Peking, Shanghai, the People's Liberation Army, and the Tibet region and from 21 provinces and four autonomous regions. In all, over ten thousand athletes are entered for the games. One-third of them are women. This will be the biggest gathering in Chinese sports history.

Most of the events will take place in Peking, but other cities have been selected as venues of the games too: Wuhan on the Yangtse River for rowing and yachting; Huhehot in Inner Mongolia for polo and other equestrian events; Tsingtao for ocean sailing events; Tientsin, two hours' journey from Peking, for part of the football and basketball matches, etc. The games will last till September 27.

To provide the best facilities for the horse-racing events, the Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region has built a new race course outside Huhehot, at the foot of Taching Mountain, with stands to accommodate six thousand spectators. Peking has built a new velodrome for cycling events, the first of its kind in China. The country's top-flight swimmers will compete in its Taoranting Swimming Pool in the picturesque surroundings of the park of the same name. To round off preparations aimed to make the games a complete success, *Sports News*, hitherto published twice weekly, will appear daily as of September 1 till the end of the games, bringing all the latest sports news to the public.



On Peking's new velodrome

Sketch by Liu Po-shu

How Industry Aids Agriculture

by WANG KUAN-WEI

INDUSTRY and agriculture are the two most important branches of the national economy. They are interdependent. The harmonious development of a socialist economy requires, in the first place, good co-ordination between them. Only when that exists, can there be an all-round economic upsurge.

The policy of simultaneous development of industry and agriculture on the basis of priority for heavy industry, put forward by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung, fully reflects this objective need of the growth of a socialist economy. Guided by this principle, China's industry and agriculture have been aiding each other and leaping forward together. As a result, the whole national economy has now entered a new stage of development — the stage of an all-round forward leap.

Mutual Support

The relationship between industry and agriculture under socialism is quite different from that which exists under capitalism. Under capitalism, there is a conflict between industry and agriculture, which reflects the exploitation of the countryside by the city and capitalist exploitation as a whole. When agriculture develops along the lines of capitalism, the broad mass of peasants are impoverished. Under socialism the relationship between industry and agriculture is characterized by mutual support and common progress; it reflects the aspiration for a common prosperity of the socialist city and countryside and answers the needs of the worker-peasant alliance led by the working class. Mutual aid between socialist industry and agriculture guides the peasants onto the broad road of socialism, speeds up the modernization of agriculture, and thus creates the conditions needed to diminish and eventually eliminate the differences between industry and agriculture, between city and countryside and between workers and peasants.

Mutual aid between industry and agriculture in China strikingly demonstrates this new relationship between industry and agriculture. During the First Five-Year Plan (1953-1957), agriculture supplied industry and the urban districts with 259,200 million *jin* of grain, 101,600,000 *dan* of cotton and a huge amount of other agricultural products as well as animal, forest and marine products. The growth of agriculture led to a steady increase in the aid given to industry. In 1958, 75.5 per cent more agricultural products were purchased than in 1952. Such aid to industry ensures the satisfaction of urban and industrial

needs in grain, non-staple foods and raw materials, and facilitates industrial development.

Increasing Industrial Aid

On the other hand, as a result of its rapid growth, industry has been able to give greater aid to agriculture. Industry not only provides the peasants with huge supplies of consumer goods, it produces large amounts of capital goods to aid the growth of agriculture. In the period of the First Five-Year Plan, industry supplied capital and consumer goods to the countryside to a value of 95,740 million yuan. In 1958 the value of major items of capital goods it supplied (excluding tractors) was 4.7 times the 1952 figure.

Although China still does not have many steel products, the proportion of such products allocated for use in agriculture has risen steadily. Preliminary estimates indicate that during the First Five-Year Plan, the amount of steel products (not counting iron and steel produced by indigenous methods) used in agriculture accounted for 6.4 per cent of the total amount of steel products consumed. In 1958, the proportion rose to 7.4 per cent. The machine-building industry plays an important role in aiding agriculture. An annual average of 75,000 tons of steel products was used for making agricultural machinery during the First Five-Year Plan. This increased to 156,000 tons in 1958, and it will increase again by a big amount in 1959. This rising consumption of steel products for the manufacture of agricultural machinery reflects the accelerating process of the technical transformation of China's agriculture.

Thanks to industrial aid to agriculture, it is expected that by the end of 1959 China will have 55,000 tractors (in 15 h.p. units, including imports); 100,000 machine-drawn implements; 4,500 combine-harvesters; 7,500 threshing machines; irrigation and drainage equipment with a total capacity of 2,800,000 h.p.; rural hydro-electric power stations with a total capacity of 250,000 kw. and 13,000 lorries. The total capacity of machinery to be used in agriculture at that time is an estimated 5,200,000 h.p. The amount of chemical fertilizers used in agriculture has also increased steadily from 592,000 tons in 1953 to 2,708,000 tons in 1958.

It goes without saying that compared to the prospects of mechanized farming in China the number of agricultural machines now available is very far from being adequate. These machines can serve only about 4 per cent of the total cultivated area in the country and 10 per cent of its irrigated land. But even this is a great

change compared with conditions in pre-liberation China, where practically no machines were used in agriculture.

Urgent Need for Farm Mechanization

The Communist Party's policy of agricultural co-operation has paved a broad way for the growth of agriculture and mechanized farming in China. The people's communes, developing out of the agricultural co-operative movement, enabled agriculture to make still greater progress. Consolidation and development of the rural people's communes urgently demand agricultural mechanization. With the all-round development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, side-lines and fishery in the people's communes, a shortage of manpower is making itself felt. In tackling this problem it is important to tap unused potential labour power, but it is still more important to increase the productivity of labour in farming. The support given to agriculture by industry has become, therefore, of the utmost importance in enabling agriculture to continue its swift development. Increasing such aid has become an important link in implementing the Party's policy of simultaneous development of industry and agriculture.

The main ways in which industry aids agriculture are to supply the latter with agricultural machinery and chemical fertilizer, gradually to replace backward hand-worked farm implements with improved, semi-mechanized and modern implements, to help bring about technical transformation of agriculture step by step, until the mechanization and electrification of agriculture is completed.

Increased industrial aid to agriculture is of enormous political and economic significance.

The establishment of rural people's communes marked a new development in the worker-peasant alliance in China and their strengthening and development is the basic guarantee for the victory of socialism in our country. At the present moment the increase of industrial aid to agriculture is one of the key measures for the strengthening and development of this alliance. Substantial support from industry will certainly still further increase China's agricultural production and improve the life of the peasants. This will facilitate a further heightening of the socialist consciousness and cultural level of the peasants, and enhance their enthusiasm for socialist construction; it will also help to further strengthen and develop the system of people's commune in our country and thereby raise the worker-peasant alliance to a new stage.

The transformation of our backward agricultural techniques into advanced ones and the modernization of our agriculture will be one of the principal signs that the building of socialism in our country has been completed. Only when China possesses a powerful modern agriculture as well as a powerful modern industry will she rank as a great socialist power. But to build that modern agriculture, industry must give still greater support to agriculture.

It is of vital importance to the cause of socialist construction in our country to raise the productivity of labour in agriculture, and so increase the amount of marketable

farm produce. At the present time, the levels of both of these—agricultural labour productivity and marketable farm surpluses—are still rather low though they are higher than in the past. To raise these levels industry must support agriculture by providing it with new farm implements.

As has been demonstrated in Heilungkiang Province, where mechanized farming is now on its way, there are considerable variations in the labour productivity of people using different farm implements as well as in the amounts of marketable farm produce which they create. In state farms where agricultural machines are used, one unit of labour power produces 22,000 *jin* of grain a year, an average of 100 *jin* per work-day, 75 per cent of this being a marketable surplus. In people's communes where new-type animal-drawn farm implements are used, one unit of labour power produces 14,000 *jin* of grain a year, an average of 60 *jin* per work-day, 50 per cent of it being a marketable surplus. In people's communes where old-fashioned farm implements are used, one unit of labour power produces 8,000 *jin* of grain a year or 35 *jin* per work-day, and only 40 per cent of this is a marketable surplus. This shows that each unit of labour power using agricultural machinery produces 14,000 *jin* of grain per year more than one using old-fashioned farm implements, and thus provides the state with an additional 13,300 *jin* of marketable grain. By using agricultural machines instead of the old-fashioned farm implements, therefore, there is an increase of 175 per cent in labour productivity while the amount of marketable grain increases 5.15 times.

This underlines the urgent nature of the task faced by our industrial departments to provide agriculture with more capital goods, particularly more improved, semi-mechanized and mechanized tools, and so raise agricultural labour productivity. Such a rise in labour productivity will enable industry in turn to be supplied by agriculture with more food and raw materials; this will quicken the pace of industrialization of the country and raise our people's living standards up to a higher level.

Agriculture Aids Industry

Industrial aid to agriculture is necessitated by the needs not only of agriculture, but of industry itself. In accordance with the Marxist-Leninist principle of expanded reproduction, China, like the rest of the fraternal socialist countries, has adopted the principle of giving priority to heavy industry. Heavy industry can create conditions for expanded reproduction only by obtaining through exchange the consumer and capital goods it needs from agriculture and light industry.

Agriculture produces not only means of consumption but also means of production. On the one hand, it expands itself through use of its own products; on the other hand, it supplies industry, particularly light industry, with large amounts of industrial raw materials. Moreover, many light industries using farm products as their raw material produce not only consumer goods but also quite a number of goods which are indispensable to heavy industry, such as cloth, paper and oil for industrial use, alcohol, turpentine, etc.

As industry develops, it also calls on agriculture for reinforcements in manpower. In the last few years, over a million men and women have been going each year from the farms to industrial enterprises. The future development of industry will require the recruitment of still more manpower from the farms. This necessitates replacement of that manpower on the farms by agricultural machines; only in this way will it be possible to transfer more manpower from the farms into industry.

Increased industrial aid to agriculture does not adversely affect the tempo of the nation's industrialization. Data compiled by the State Statistical Bureau show that during the First Five-Year Plan, the output of industrial products destined for the countryside nearly tripled in value. These included agricultural machines, equipment for water conservancy, rural hydro-electric power stations and transport, chemical fertilizers, insecticides, fuel, electric power, building materials and materials for the maintenance and repair of farm tools. Instead of slowing down the tempo of industrial development, this increase in industrial products for agriculture actually stimulated industrial development. By 1957 compared with 1952, the output of capital goods turned out by industry had increased 3.2 times. The proportion of the value of these capital goods to the total value of industrial output rose from 39.7 per cent in 1952 to 52.8 per cent in 1957.

Foundation for Modern Farming

The successful fulfilment of the First Five-Year Plan laid the preliminary foundation for China's socialist industrialization. It provided assured material conditions for industrial aid to agriculture. Today, our country is developing not only its new, modern metallurgical, fuel, machine-building and chemical industries but modern industrial enterprises directly serving agriculture — making tractors, combine-harvesters, motor vehicles, engines, machine-drawn farm implements, chemical fertilizers, as well as bio-chemical enterprises. In the future, our machine-building industry will provide more farm machinery and more equipment for chemical enterprises in order to aid the development of agriculture. The advance of heavy industry in our country clearly provides reliable material conditions for supporting agriculture and fostering its growth. Along with the growth of the large, state-owned industrial enterprises, local and commune-run industries have also made great headway. These latter will supply medium-sized and small farm implements suited to local needs, processing machines worked by manpower or by animals, as well as various kinds of fertilizers. Our industrial development has begun to create a reliable material and technical basis for the technical transformation of our agriculture.

In the past few years, China has trained large numbers of technical personnel for agriculture. More than 1,400 state farms and state ranches have been set up. A total of 300 universities, colleges and secondary specialized schools have been established to train personnel for agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, water conservancy, the meteorological services and farm mechanization. There are also large numbers of agricultural science research organizations as well as "red and expert" schools run by the communes. This has prepared the ground for the growth of our cadres of agricultural technicians.

China is rich in natural resources. This is a factor favouring industrial aid to agriculture. Among resources which directly benefit agriculture, we have enormous water resources, which can be used for irrigation, power-generating and navigation; there are coal deposits in many areas, which can be used to develop the power, chemical and fuel industries to support agricultural production directly. We have rich deposits of phosphorous ore which is important for the production of chemical fertilizers and insecticides. We also have very large deposits of potassium, gypsum, sulphur and mercury. Now that a preliminary foundation has been laid for the industrialization of our country, these rich resources will be exploited step by step to support the growth of agriculture.

Technical Revolution in Farming

As we advance to the goal of mechanized farming, we should by no means overlook the importance of small and improved farm implements, because at the present time, these are of great importance throughout the country. In supporting agriculture, industry is faced with the urgent task of supplying such implements more rapidly, more cheaply and in large quantities, making them more efficient and taking careful account of local conditions.

While we increase the number of engine-powered farm machines we should also make energetic efforts to increase the number of farm implements worked by pedal, hand-operated or animal-drawn. They are simple, handy, easy to make and operate, and cheap and the materials for making them can be obtained locally. They are well suited not only to the technical but to the economic level of the rural areas at the present time.

One of the main directions of industrial aid to agriculture must be to provide agriculture with large quantities of engine-powered machines. A one horsepower engine equals the strength of eight able-bodied men. The use of engine-powered machines will not only greatly increase agricultural labour productivity but reduce the intensity of labour of the peasants.

To bring the efficiency of farm machines into full play, energetic efforts should be made to increase their multi-purpose use. For instance, tractors should be used not only for cultivation, but for transport, water conservancy, drainage, irrigation and processing of farm products. Irrigation and drainage equipment should also be used to process farm products as well as to combat drought and drain off water.

China's main source of fertilizer is farm manure. But agriculture already feels a pressing need for large amounts of chemical fertilizers because the use of these can not only rapidly increase agricultural production but also greatly economize on the use of labour power in agriculture. To ensure a rapid increase in the output of chemical fertilizers, besides tapping the potentialities of existing chemical fertilizer plants, we need to expand various sectors of the chemical fertilizer industry in accordance with local conditions, and simultaneously develop large, medium-sized and small enterprises. At the present time we should lose no time in sinking mines to exploit our phosphorous deposits — so as to put these resource to greater use.

In this matter of the support which the chemical industry can give to agriculture, in addition to the development of the chemical fertilizer industry, it is also necessary to make energetic efforts to increase the production of insecticides, plant stimulants and weed-killers. Every year, China's fields are afflicted in varying degrees with plant diseases and insect pests. These pose serious threats to the growth of farm crops, forests and orchards. Loss of food crops from plant diseases and insect pests usually amounts to as much as 5 per cent of total output. If we have sufficient supplies of insecticides, we can increase our output of grain by scores of millions of tons and our output of cotton by several million *dan* each year. This will play an important part in increasing agricultural production.

In short, the strengthening of industrial aid to agriculture needs not only a correct understanding of the problem, but adoption of a series of concrete measures.

When Comrade Mao Tse-tung delivered his report on "The Question of Agricultural Co-operation" on July 31, 1955, he called upon the Party to work for the basic completion within 20 to 25 years of the technical transformation of agriculture on a nationwide scale. Today we must continue to work hard in response to his call, step up the aid which industry gives to agriculture and step by step carry out the great historic task we face—the technical transformation of agriculture.

(Abridged translation of an article published in "Hongqi," No. 16, 1959.)

On the Farm Front

The Fight Against Drought

by YANG MIN

SINCE late June, large areas under crops in Honan, Shantung, Anhwei, Hupeh, Hunan, Kiangsu and Kiangsi and even some counties in Szechuan, usually so well-favoured by the weather, have been endangered by drought. Rains that come normally during the summer have just not arrived.

As soon as the threat of drought appeared, the rural people's communes and People's Government went into action. At the present time, 60 million people are fighting drought in these provinces. The drought still threatens, but disaster has been held at bay.

Yesterday and Today

This is one of the widespread droughts that has struck the country for years. In pre-liberation days a drought on this scale would have spelled major disaster. Millions would have been starving; millions would have abandoned their stricken farms to beg and die in other places. It would have taken years to repair the damage. Today, there is hardship and discomfort, yes, sweltering hot summer weather has added to the strain; hard extra work is involved in saving the crops and making good drought damage, but there is no dismay or defeatism in the villages. The peasants are fighting and fighting to win. Pumps and waterwheels are operating day and night over a vast area in the drought-affected provinces. Millions of rural water conservancy works ranging from wells to reservoirs have been called into service. When these have been drained to the bottom, fresh water sources further afield have been tapped.

In this crisis the communes are fully proving their great advantages over co-op farms. Furthermore the



At an anti-drought headquarters

drought-fighters have the whole socialist state back of them to plan and organize help. This is the difference between today and yesterday.

From the very start co-operation between the national and provincial centres and the localities has been close. Key workers of the local Communist Party committees and people's governments have gone down to lead the battle on the spot wherever the fight has been most tense. When the first signs of drought were reported in Hupeh in mid-July, secretaries of the provincial Party committee fanned out to various counties to study the problem on the scene and help the peasants take the best measures suggested by past experience and the current initiative so much in evidence in the communes. As soon as the possibility of prolonged drought was confirmed the whole province was alerted. Everyone was ready to join in the battle. When one secretary discovered that it was most unlikely that local pond waters in Mienyang County would hold out through a prolonged crisis, he was able to direct the attention of the local leadership to the need to bring water from nearby rivers and lakes. But this needed bigger scale, overall planning and co-operation and effort than the local people could undertake. Following his

advice the Chingchow Special Administrative Region stepped in to allocate 100,000 hands to the job.

Communes in the Battle

Disposing of resources in manpower numbering tens of thousands of people with considerable stocks of equipment and material, the communes have been able to counter-attack drought on a massive scale. Not only are they ensuring the normal growth of the crops on vast tracts of land even under drought conditions but they are taking steps to plant late autumn crops to make up for such losses as they have suffered.

This is of course the result of the great efforts put into building reservoirs, ponds, wells, irrigation canals and ditches in previous years and particularly during the great leap forward last year. These water conservancy works are playing a key role in beating the present drought. Anhwei has made full use of the water conservancy projects it built to store 10,600 million cubic metres of water during the heavy spring rainfalls. This was practically double the amount it stored in the corresponding period last year. It was used, in addition to normal irrigation, to enable the province, even under the threat of drought, to transplant late rice seedlings on more than 3 million *mu*, an increase of 30 per cent over 1958.

A great deal has been written about the "water-melon vine" system of irrigation based on the interlinking of ponds with rivers and streams. In the Siangyang Special Administrative Region, Hupeh, this method has amply proved its worth during the drought. For two months this region enjoyed only a meagre rainfall but the land served by the "water-melon vine" system has not been affected.

Hupei Province, as a whole, actually expanded its irrigated areas during the battle against drought. In more than 30 days, it dug and repaired about 100,000 ditches, sank or struck still more wells and springs, and built



Bringing water to the thirsty fields

thousands of dams along streams and rivers. As a result, 5 million *mu* of farmland were newly put under irrigation.

Guanyi People's Commune in Anhwei's Feihsi County was one of those many that did a workmanlike, thorough job fighting the drought. At the first sign of danger a study of all available water resources was made and a central plan drawn up to use them to best advantage. Those brigades that had ample water, diverted their surplus to those which lacked it. At the same time the area of irrigated land was expanded by some 5,000 *mu*. The commune divided all its able-bodied manpower into two groups, one for beating the drought and the other for reaping early rice, planting late autumn crops and carrying on the normal work of the farms. Guanyi is taking the drought in its stride.

In Honan, the Pohu People's Commune in Changko County has made a very good showing. It has recently harvested more than 20,000 *mu* of early autumn crops. Despite the 50-day drought they suffered yields are 20 per cent heavier than in 1958. Its late autumn crops too are doing fine. Today 42,000 people or 90 per cent of its members are fighting the drought. Using 4,100 draught animals, they can water all the commune's farm land once a week. The rest are collecting manure and doing other work in the fields. The deployment of such a large labour force would have been impossible without the organization of the people's commune. It was only after the setting up of community dining-rooms and nurseries that Pohu's 16,000 women members could take a full part in farm work. The commune was also able to organize its 550 blacksmiths and carpenters to make water-wheels and repair drought-fighting equipment on the spot. Thanks to these and other advantages of the commune system, the Pohu peasants have got the upper hand even of this serious drought.

Not all communes, however, have been as lucky. Those that weren't have had the resources to undertake crash programmes big enough to see them through trouble. When small reservoirs and ponds in some Honan counties were getting to the end of their resources, the communes mustered enough forces to keep irrigation going by opening up new water sources further away. Some even managed to expand their irrigated farm land in the process. The communes in Kuanghua County, Honan, were of this type. As their ponds threatened to give out, their members dammed streams, sank wells and dug fresh channels to bring in sufficient water to irrigate its old fields and put another 120,000 *mu* under irrigation.

First Round Victories

It is these efforts that have brought the peasants victories in the first round of the anti-drought struggle. Honan has met head on and so far held at bay the most serious drought it has faced since liberation. Over 20 million people there are out in the fields every day bringing water to the thirsty fields.

By August 16, they had brought water to nearly 80 million *mu* threatened by drought. This was a great victory. It will tide the crops over a week or so. But over 50 million *mu* still need a second or third watering.

By the first week of August, Hupeh too had saved 16 million *mu* of crops from death by drought. Peasants there are already gathering in a harvest of semi-late rice on 14 million *mu*, 9 million of which were menaced by drought for more than a month. After gathering in its summer crop Anhwei has not been deterred by drought from planting late rice on several million *mu*. The commune members are sure they have the situation under control.

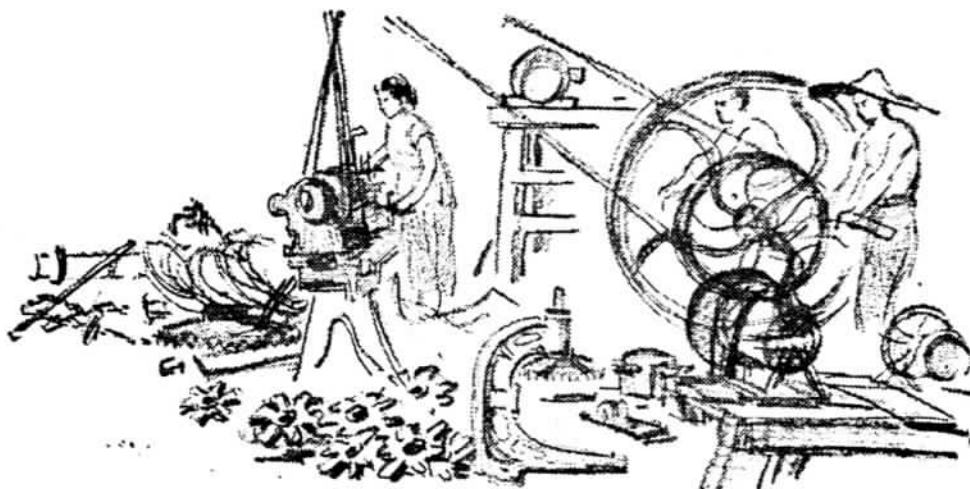
Optimistic Conviction

The success so far achieved has greatly heartened the peasants and confirmed them in their optimistic conviction that the drought will be beaten. This is important. To fight drought you need a stubborn spirit and skill. You can't use up your water resources recklessly. You must get water to the plants right on time not too soon and not too late. The peasants are in good heart too because they know that they have strong resources behind them. Honan, for instance, took in extremely good harvests of winter wheat on large tracts of land and their granaries are well stocked. The communes know too that the whole country is behind them. The non-affected areas have been able to send the stricken areas considerable amounts of equipment: pumps, treadle waterwheels, and other materials. The recent call sent out by the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the State Council stressed the need of large-scale co-ordination and collective efforts to conquer the natural calamities that threaten the crops.

In the drought-stricken areas today you can find workers, students, cadres and other volunteers from the towns working shoulder to shoulder alongside the members of the people's communes. The People's Liberation Army with its revolutionary tradition of sharing the lot of the masses has gone into action on a big scale wherever necessary. Students too have joined the anti-drought campaign.

Like other plants in drought-affected areas, the 13 engineering works of Chengchow, capital of Honan, have sent 720 technicians to tour rural districts and help repair pumps, waterwheels and engines. Honan medical personnel have responded to the need of the moment by organizing several thousand mobile teams totalling 50,000 people which have gone out to the villages and fields.

The central authorities are helping organize the large-scale co-ordination that is often needed and providing special assistance beyond the scope of local facilities. They sent nine aeroplanes and stocks of insecticide to wipe out locusts in Honan. They also arranged the dispatch



Making pumps

Sketches by Chao Chih-fang

of extra supplies of petrol and engines to this central China province and allocations of additional farm loans to finance the purchase of materials used in the anti-drought campaign.

Aid to Honan, as one of the hardest hit provinces, has come from other sources too. Hopei, Kirin, Liaoning, Peking have all contributed petrol, diesel engines, pumps, rubber pipes and waterwheels.

Trade organizations too are giving priority to the drought areas so that their people can devote themselves wholly to the job on hand. In Hupeh's Hsinchow County, 1,000 personnel of trading units have switched temporarily to transporting goods to wherever the need is greatest. The Ministry of Commerce has set up a special office to overcome bottlenecks.

The communes are also taking better care of the health and welfare of the drought fighters. By more rational distribution of labour they have been able to arrange for workers to get adequate rest particularly in these hottest days of the year, although waterwheels in some districts have to be kept going 24 hours a day in three shifts. Communes have also been able to cook better food and prepare summer drinks and send them out to the workers in the fields. Temporary shelters dot the farm land to provide cool rest places out of the sun.

The danger is not over. The winter wheat and early spring crops are in. But to fulfil their plans the farmers must make certain that the later summer and autumn crops too are good. It is these that are still threatened. Szechuan, Hunan, Hupeh have saved and are reaping harvests of semi-late rice. In some areas the weather has partially broken giving a welcome respite, but emergency measures are still continuing till all danger is past in the coming few weeks. The stubborn, successful fight continues.

CHINESE WEIGHTS and MEASURES at a GLANCE

1 *mu* = 0.06 hectare or 0.1647 acre

1 *dan* (picul) = 0.05 ton or 0.984 hundredweight

1 *jin* = 0.5 kilogramme or 1.1023 pounds

CHINA GREETS THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEOPLE'S RUMANIA

by OUR CORRESPONDENT

THE maturing strength of each of its members is a matter of rejoicing to the whole great socialist family. This week they are celebrating the 15th anniversary of the liberation of People's Rumania and its great successes in building a socialist state.

In China, as in the other fraternal countries, Rumania's 15th anniversary was a red-letter day. In Peking, a mass rally was held on the eve of the anniversary at which both Vice-Premier Chen Yi and the Rumanian Ambassador Barbu Zaharescu spoke. This was preceded by special celebration meetings of Peking's workers and Young Pioneers. Peking's residents have flocked to the photo exhibition in Beihai Park to acquaint themselves with the latest facts of Rumania's socialist construction. Thousands attended special public showings of the Rumanian film *Behind the Pine Forest* and performances by Rumanian singers and musicians. The warmth of all these festivities expresses the common bond that links the Chinese and Rumanian peoples.

15 Years of Progress

Fifteen years ago, on August 23, Rumania was liberated from the clutches of Nazi Germany. With the help of the Soviet Red Army, the Rumanian people led by the Workers' Party overthrew the hated Antonescu regime. This was the turning point. From then on, Rumania broke away from the shackles of imperialist domination and feudal and capitalist oppression and took the high road to socialism.

In the lifetime of a state, 15 years is a brief span. Yet during this period, People's Rumania has created an impressive record of achievements. Liberation, followed by democratic reform and socialist transformation and construction, put an end to poverty and foreign exploitation. Now an industrial-agricultural country, Rumania's industrial output this year is expected to be 4.5 times that of 1938, the pre-liberation peak. The petroleum industry, the pride of the country, is now entirely modernized, and last year yielded 11.3 million tons of crude oil, 1.7 times as much as in 1938.

A modern machine-building industry has been built from scratch. It produces locomotives, motor cars, ships, and machinery of all kinds. Gone are the days when Rumania had to import 95 per cent of her machinery. Rumanian equipment can now meet the needs of practically all of her growing industries, and are exported to a score of countries besides.

The face of the Rumanian countryside too has changed. The fast developing co-operatives now embrace 68 per cent of all peasant households. Socialist farms till 67 per cent of the cultivated land. This, along with mechanization, has greatly increased the average yield of all crops.

Notable successes have been registered in the field of culture. Once one of the culturally backward countries

of Europe, Rumania is now free of illiteracy. There is a seven-year compulsory school educational system and an average of nearly four university students per thousand of the population. This is in advance of such capitalist countries as Switzerland and France.

All this naturally leads to a higher living standard for the people. National income has doubled since 1950. Only recently, Rumania announced another price cut in consumer goods and food which it is estimated will benefit the people by about 1,000 million lei a year.

The Rumanian people are not resting on their laurels. At the call of the Rumanian Workers' Party, they are throwing themselves body and soul into the exciting task of completing in the main the building of socialism in 1965.

As a member of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union, Rumania has steadfastly worked for solidarity and co-operation among the big family of socialist states. Her proposal for a conference of the heads of the Balkan states to sign a joint agreement to ensure peace in this area and her support of the Soviet proposal to establish an atom-free zone in the Balkans and Adriatic area are two examples of Rumanian initiative in relaxing international tension.

Sino-Rumanian Co-operation

Sino-Rumanian political solidarity is buttressed by a degree of economic and cultural co-operation that was simply undreamt of in pre-liberation times.

In 1938, Rumania exported nothing to China and imported only 15 tons of Chinese goods. Now the two countries have an ever-expanding trade guaranteed by a long-term trade agreement signed in 1958. Every year, a large supply of Rumanian petroleum, oil tanks and drilling equipment, installations for power stations and cement works are exchanged for Chinese soya beans, rice, minerals, consumer goods, machines and instruments. This exchange provides no small help to each country's socialist construction. Rumania, in particular, is giving China invaluable help in the development of her young petroleum industry.

In the field of culture, there is a lively exchange. In nine years, a total of 1,700 Rumanian and Chinese artists, writers, scientists, musicians and sportsmen have visited each other's countries. The works of such famous Rumanian writers as Sadoveanu and Carageale, Camilar and Dumitriu, and a host of others have become familiar to Chinese readers; and Rumanian paintings, operas and movies are enjoyed by hundreds of thousands in all parts of China. The first Rumanian and Chinese exchange students have graduated from each other's universities, adding still another tie between the two peoples. Now it can truly be said: The Danube has met the Yangtse, the Black Sea the Pacific.

Touring the Latin American Countries

This is an interview with Chou Erh-fu, the leader of the Chinese Acrobatic Troupe which recently returned from an extensive tour in Latin America. — Ed.

Question: During your Latin American tour, how many countries did you visit?

Answer: Our first stop was Argentina, later we went to Brazil, Uruguay and Chile, and on our way back, also enjoyed a short stay in Czechoslovakia. In each of these countries, we performed in the capital and the major cities and went sight-seeing in others. We did most of our travelling by air, but because of the vast distance we covered and the many cities we visited—26 in all—we were away ten and a half months. So, you can say that our tour in Latin America is the longest ever made abroad by a Chinese art troupe.

Q: How did the Latin Americans take to your troupe?

A: The reception we got was simply overwhelming. In Buenos Aires, the first Latin American city we played to, the Argentines fell in love with our acrobatic art even before we gave our premiere. The Argentine journalists and artists who saw the film preview of our troupe gave us the most enthusiastic notices. It is impossible to describe the audience's response on our opening night. There was encore after encore and endless curtain calls but still the audience refused to leave the theatre. When we finally left the theatre for our hotel, late that night, some of the audience were still there at the stage door waiting to greet us with more applause and handshakes. It was like that throughout our stay in Buenos Aires. Day after day there were long queues at the box office. We were very much moved by our success in Buenos Aires particularly when we were told that Argentina is the cultural centre of Latin America.

In Rio de Janeiro, we played at the huge Maracanazinho Stadium which has a seating capacity of 20,000. As we had been warned beforehand that the Brazilian audience is very exacting, we were worried how they would take to our performance. It turned out that our fears were groundless. We played to a full house on the first day and later, rain or shine, all the seats were filled.

The reception we got in Uruguay and Chile was equally enthusiastic. In Salto, Uruguay, standing tickets were sold. In Mercedes, also in Uruguay, people stood in flooded streets for hours after a heavy downpour to queue for tickets. In the end, the manager threw open the doors of the theatre so that those who couldn't get a ticket could also see the performance from the outside.

In all these countries, the newspapers, radio and television stations gave wide coverage to our troupe and commented most favourably on our performances.

All in all, some 400,000 people came to our performances while another estimated three million watched us on television.

As our troupe has a small orchestra, we gave scores of concerts of Chinese folk music and many of these were broadcast to Central American countries we had not visited. In Brazil, records made of our musical numbers sold out like hot cakes.

An interesting sidelight to our visit was the unexpected success our diabolos scored. This game so fascinated the Brazilians that some merchants in Rio decided to produce plastic imitations of it. For a time, Chinese diabolos became a bit of a fad in Rio.

Q: What do you think is the reason for this success?

A: There are several. For one thing, the Latin American people are great lovers of art. They say they appreciate our acrobatic art because it is healthy and has a rich national colour.

But I think the basic factor making for our success is the interest in and regard for New China. Latin Americans know that China at one time was a semi-feudal and semi-colonial country and was cruelly exploited and oppressed by the imperialists. They also know that within the last ten years our country has made vast progress despite all the hostile activities of Washington. They are therefore both very curious to know how we succeeded in what we did and they feel very sym-



Meeting the Brazilian artists

pathetic towards us. Everywhere we went, we were welcomed as representatives of New China.

Q: Will you elaborate on this point?

A: Well, I'll cite some examples to describe what I mean. We took along with us many photos and some of our documentary and feature films. These were very successful when shown. People were particularly impressed when they saw that China was making jet aeroplanes and automobiles and working on the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The appearance of Chairman Mao Tse-tung on the screen was always greeted with applause and cheers.

We ourselves were the recipients of many expressions of friendship. Whether we were coming from the theatre, or from a party or reception, there were always people around wishing to greet us. Many shook hands with us and asked us to give them our autographs. Others simply shouted: Long live China! Long live peace! While walking on the streets people would wave to us and even come forward to ask us questions about the big forward leap in China.

There were many touching scenes of friendship during our visit. One such experience which I will never forget was at the Lunar Park where we gave our last performance in Buenos Aires. Long after the performance,

the 20,000 people in the audience stood clapping and cheering. There were shouts of "Long live China!" "Long live Mao Tse-tung!" Finally the entire place was dotted with dove-like white handkerchiefs which everyone was waving. The whole place resounded to cries of "Long live peace!" It was entirely spontaneous.

Q: What do you think are the prospects for greater cultural and economic ties between China and Latin America?

A: I think the prospects are very good. In Latin America, the desire to promote cultural and economic ties with China is quite widespread. Many leading statesmen personally expressed to me their conviction that such ties are in the interest of all countries. We met many people connected with art, education, science, and business: all wanted more contacts. In our country, the sympathy and feeling of solidarity for Latin America and the desire for friendship through cultural exchange needs no stressing. Our troupe's tour was motivated by this ideal.

The United States imperialists of course are racking their brains to obstruct such friendly contacts. But they are bound to fail just as they failed in their attempts to disrupt our tour. Times have changed. In Latin America, as in other parts of the world, they are being opposed by ever larger numbers of people.

Literature

POETRY IN 1958

by CHUNG HO

THE 1958 *Anthology of Verse* which will be on sale in early September is the fourth such collection published since liberation. The first covered the period 1953-1955; the second and third contained the best poems of 1956 and 1957. Taken together, they give a pretty good picture of recent Chinese verse. 1958, however, was an exceptional year. The introduction to the current anthology describes it as "an epoch-making year in the realm of poetry." There are some excellent individual works, but it was not only these that made the year remarkable; it was the sheer poetic ebullience of the people who poured their emotions forth in poems. These set the tone for an unparalleled year.

Pride of place for individual poets goes very properly to the poems of Mao Tse-tung: *The Immortals*, published in January, and two others under the title *Farewell to the God of Plague*, which appeared in October. Their publication, like that of his eighteen poems in 1957, was a major event in the world of poetry.

The Immortals (an English version can be found in *Mao Tse-tung: Nineteen Poems* published by the Foreign Languages Press, Peking) was written for his friend Li Shu-yi to the melody of *Tieh Lien Hua*. Written in the traditional eight line *tzu* form, it is dedicated to the memory of two comrades-in-arms who died serving the revolution, more than twenty years ago. They were Liu

Chih-hsun, the husband of Li Shu-yi and an old friend of Chairman Mao, and Yang Kai-hui, the author's wife at the time of her heroic death. In an appreciation of this poem, the poet Tsang Keh-chia writes:

The orthodox treatment of such a theme usually describes the revolutionaries' contribution to the cause and then bemoans their loss. Mao Tse-tung rejects such a hackneyed mode. By a brilliant stroke of imagination he links the memory of these comrades with figures from Chinese mythology. In this way he has immortalized these revolutionary martyrs and brings the deities closer to man. There is a large element of revolutionary romanticism in this mode of expression.

The originality of *The Immortals* deeply impressed critics, poets and public alike. It is generally accepted to be a perfect example of the creative synthesis of mythology with reality, lyricism with narration, tradition with original creation, and revolutionary realism with revolutionary romanticism.

Farewell to the God of Plague was written to express the author's joy at the news of the wiping out of schistosomiasis in a certain county. It was composed, as the poet's introductory note to the verses has it, at a moment when "so many fancies crossed my mind that I could not go to sleep." According to the old ideas of poetry, elimination of disease would seem to be a rather thankless sub-

ject for verse, but here the poet has given free rein to his imagination and turned a seemingly humdrum, realistic theme of rural sanitation into a richly coloured, romantic picture.

Publication of *The Immortals* sparked off a rewarding discussion on the creative method of integrating revolutionary realism with revolutionary romanticism. It indicated broad and hitherto unexplored prospects in subject matter, theme and treatment for literary and artistic creation and especially for poetry. It showed again how well a skilled hand can use the traditional forms as a medium of modern expression.

Folk Poetry

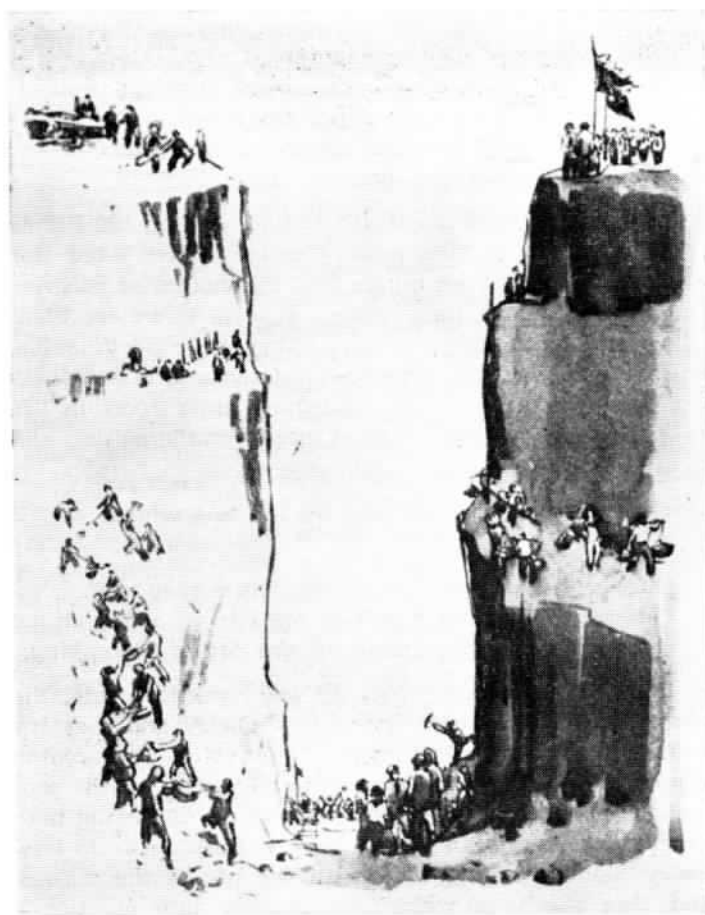
The 1958 anthology gives special prominence to folk poetry. A special section devoted to it contains 35 poems. Yet the editor expresses his regrets in the Introduction that "there were so many of them that we simply couldn't read them all. There were so many good ones that it was very difficult for us to make a selection . . . and we are certain there must be many good ones that escaped our notice." The editor's misgivings are understandable to anyone acquainted with the widespread folk song movement of last year and the big effort that went into collecting and compiling the large numbers of verses composed throughout the country. It has always been part of the literary policy of the Communist Party to lay great stress on fostering and learning from folk literature. Last year's crop of folk song was in fact extraordinary. Inspired by the big leap in agriculture and industry and exalted by a new consciousness of the inexhaustible power of the common people many sought to record in verses their pride and confidence, their joy and hope. It is difficult to choose the most typical but here is one from an Anhwei co-op farm:

*We measure songs in bushels now:
Ten thousand bushels fill a barn.
Don't spurn our use of homely speech:
In fertile soil it turns to grain!*

*Good fields deserve a proper hoe.
Good voices need a rousing song.
We're all of us good singers now —
We'll sing till the Yangtse flows upstream!*

There are many such expressions of the peasants' boundless confidence in their powers. Here working collectively, they think they can even make the Yangtse flow upstream, and that is not really so fantastic a thought as it seems at first sight. Even now a route is being surveyed to lead part of the waters of the Yangtse north to flow into the Yellow River. In many of these songs this confidence is allegorized into the image of a giant, a collective image of China's six hundred millions who in their mighty labours to remake Nature are moving mountains and taming rivers. Now the people have become the masters of their own fate, the traditional celestial rulers, the Jade Emperor and the Dragon King are addressed with good-humoured camaraderie as equals, as in the well-known folk song of Shensi Province *I Am Coming!* (see *Peking Review*, No. 11, May 13, 1958, "Folk Songs of Today"). This is very representative of the feeling of the present generation.

The people know well the great role played by the Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung in all this



Peasants cutting a way through the mountains

Sketch by Shao Yu

and their thanks are expressed in many verses. A Shantung folk song reads:

*Sun red,
Sun bright,
Sun rays shining from a measureless height.
Two suns are ours,
They are not the same:
One is in Peking,
One hangs in the skies
Giving warmth to our bodies and light to our eyes,
While our Peking sun shines unfailing, bright
Warming our hearts.*

There are many such favourite subjects and themes in the new folk songs but there is an infinite variety too. They seek to portray grand scenes of construction as well as to paint bright pictures of familiar landscapes, like the little boat carrying fertilizer for the fields in a Chekiang folk song:

*Its sculls creaking merrily still,
It passes the willow-clad shore
To melt into Peach Blossom Hill.*

Another new feature of this anthology is the whole section devoted to poems by workers. Altogether nineteen are represented. It well indicates that in poetry people in the factories were not behind those on the farms.

The Girl-Checker by Shen Che, a Liaoning textile worker, has been much quoted:

*The dark eyes of the girl-checker are sharp;
Not a single fault in the warp and woof escapes them.*

*Some I know are afraid of those eyes
But still more are fascinated!
I send her the cloth I have woven myself,
And my heart that can stand any test,
I hope she will take the keenest look at them
With those beautiful eyes.*

In a critical review entitled "After Reading 100 Poems by Workers," Mao Tun, noted Chinese writer, cited this poem along with seven others for "the images of progressive workers which they create. It is as if we see these people and hear their voice... They have poetic skills, which are free of the defects of ostentation, affectedness and over-writing... The skills have their roots in life itself; they are not the result of empty craftsmanship and imitation of others."

Thus a stevedore describes his life and work:

*I am a stevedore
Along the Yangtse. I know my job mighty well.
With my left hand I pull in the city of Shanghai,
And with my right I send off the city of Chungking.*

The workers learn from all good poetic forms; the folk song, the free verse of the new poetry and they try their hand too at classical styles. They voice their opinion on poetry in the magazine *Poetry*, unaffectedly tell the professional poets about their tastes in poems, discussing both content and form, and giving their suggestion as to how poetry should be integrated with the life of the masses. And then they put what they propose into practice—writing poems which, though still young, are full of promise.

Veteran Poets

Last year the veteran poets, too, created more and better poetry. At sixty-seven years of age Kuo Mo-jo produced so many poems last year that people said he had "regained his youth in poetry." His group of poems under the general title *Everywhere Are Songs I Cannot Sing Them All!* have been much reprinted. The poems of this group written after he visited a verse-conscious township, have been selected for 1958 anthology. Written in folk style, the first poem reads:

*Garden Township is a land of fruit;
Garden Township is a land of verse.
Its orchard trees bend beneath the weight of fruit
Its walls are painted with poems.*

Tsang Keh-chia wrote many lyrics in the folk song style as well as poems on political themes. Here is a stanza from one of the latter.

*Shine, you golden sun!
Shine on our rich and happy life!
Strive, peace-loving people of the world,
Defend this happy life with all your strength!
Peace is like the rain in spring:
Its gentleness has captured every heart.
Today the loudest voice on earth
Is yours: the gentle voice of Peace!*

These are the last lines of a long poem written in praise of the historical Declaration of the Moscow Conference of the Communist and Workers' Parties in 1957.

After the rectification campaign last year, many writers and artists went to set up what are called "bases

of life" among the people in factories and on the farms. Thus we heard the poet Li Chi, the author of the ballad *Wang Kuei and Li Hsiang-hsiang* singing from Kansu, Yuan Chang-ching from the Paotow Steel Works in Inner Mongolia, and Ko Pi-chou from China's rice granary, the rich rice-producing province of Szechuan. Working alongside the people and writing poems at Huayuan, Tien Chien reaped a good poetic harvest which appeared in a book under the title: *Songs of 1958*. For all of these poets the experience of going out among the people proved to be very rewarding, as their poems in this anthology show.

A rather noteworthy feature of this collection is the fact that alongside the familiar names of veteran poets, there are very many newcomers. Many of these have become nationally known, such as Liu Chi, a peasant poet in Szechuan, and Sun Yu-tien, a coal miner in Kiangsu. This is a poem by Liu Chi:

*A plain hill has put on a flowery dress
Such as becomes a pretty maid.
The white clouds, enchanted, pause;
Reluctant to part, they linger all day
in the hope of one caress!*

Miner Sun Yu-tien has a style more befitting a worker:

*Firecrackers herald the coming of Spring at the mine.
Multi-coloured confetti adorns the ground like countless flowers.
The workers have written pledges, guarantees and challenges:
A road to the future when put end to end.*

Many poets of the national minorities are now known far beyond their native places. This collection includes poems by Kanglangshuai and Kanglangying of the Tai nationality, Wuchilata of the Yi and several others.

Great Debates

These were the tributaries to the mainstream of poetry. But it was the clearly great influence of folk song on the new poetry that attracted perhaps most attention not only among poets, but among the general public as well. This was the subject of an animated discussion in the press. It touched on related problems too: the relation between the professional poet and the people and how far should he integrate himself with the people. This naturally involved discussion of the relation between politics and art. Finally the greatest controversy revolved around the question of poetic form. This great debate lasted well on into the new year.

The question of the form of poetry is hardly likely to be settled soon! But it is clear that a new poetic trend is in the making. Many poets have been experimenting with new forms aiming at a style that is distinctively Chinese and modern. Some poets have set out from a study of folk forms, others have made a fresh effort to develop a modern poetry based on the classical traditional forms. The editors of the 1958 anthology explain in their Introduction that "It is because of the appearance of this demand to 'usher in a new era in poetry' and the new trends that emerged in 1958, that we have called this year an epoch-making one in the realm of poetry." 1958 was undoubtedly, as it claims, "a year of bumper harvests in verse. The crop was very good indeed."

SIDELIGHTS

Behind the Footlights. For better, for worse Peking opera has broken with a long-established tradition. For the first time women are being allowed to preside over the drum in its orchestras, much to the delight of impartial and open-minded theatregoers. A small affair if compared with its counterpart in a Western orchestra, the drum is an all-important instrument when it comes to acrobatics-studded items in Peking opera, for it acts as time-beater and conductor guiding the action throughout. Legend has it that a certain Ching emperor, a Peking opera enthusiast, once tried his hand at beating the drum and ever since then this instrument in the orchestras of Peking opera has been taboo to women. For over a hundred years no member of the fair sex was ever allowed to play the drum even if she had the talent. This restriction unfortunately also extended to other instruments and Peking opera orchestras became "all-men" affairs. Soon after liberation the Peking Opera School decided to end this taboo. It began training women drummers and other instrumentalists. This summer the girls graduated. They made their debut with the graduation performances, which included *Crossroads*, one of the most popular and—for the drummer—most demanding of acrobatics plays. The orchestra playing for the graduation performances was composed of both boys and girls, often with girls taking over the drum. The next time you go to a show by the company which is made up of graduates of



the Peking Opera School take a look at the orchestra at the side. Quite likely you will find the drummer in pigtails, beating out a stale tradition.

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Fruit from the Western Hills. Tien Han's next play will be about Princess Wencheng, queen consort of Sron-tsan Gampo, King of Tibet in Tang times. A couple of months ago the veteran playwright withdrew to his retreat in the Western Hills, a holiday resort on the outskirts of Peking, when he set his heart on dramatizing the story of this fascinating historical figure, wife of one of Tibet's most illustrious monarchs 1,300 years ago. Most of Tien Han's plays after liberation were written in the charming tranquillity of the Western Hills. It was here that he wrote his recent hit, *Kuan Han-ching*, which has a Cantonese opera version now playing in Pyongyang, Korea. While writing *Wencheng* he took up gardening for relaxation on a little plot of land by the porch of his house. On his trips back from town he always remembered to bring back some choice seeds. One day some friends came to see him and admired the sprouting vegetables the playwright had planted. "As you sow, so you'll reap!" he said. He started the writing of his first act just as he planted some pumpkin seeds. When at last he was able to write the word "curtain," the harvest was in. The 61-year-old dramatist has returned to his Peking home with both a newly written play and a prize crop of pumpkins.

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New Medical College. In Peking, the China Medical College, a new school of medicine founded on the basis of the former China Union Medical College, has begun enrolling students for an eight-year course. The first three years, to be spent at Peking University, will be devoted to foundation subjects; the next two years to basic medical knowledge; another two years to clinical medicine with one year more as an intern. English and Russian are compulsory foreign language courses for all students. Many of the senior research fellows of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences will be teaching at this college. It has the job of training a new type of highly skilled doctor to meet the rapidly increasing demand for more medical workers in all parts of the country.

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Beyond the Great Wall. When the Lanchow-bound train of the Paotow-Lanchow Railway speeds into the Ning-

hsia autonomous region of the Hui people, the first major stop will be Shihchuishan (which means Stone Mouth Mountain), a town marked on the better maps but hardly known to most people. In 1956, Shihchuishan was still a sleepy town of some three thousand souls in the shadow of the Great Wall. Two ancient temples were the largest buildings for miles around and camel caravans made their way in and out at leisurely pace. Today, the town is a city of 60,000 people. The hovels and huts which were once dwelling places have given way to new buildings. More cars and lorries are seen than camels. In the last three years Shihchuishan has been developed into a coal-mining centre. Its growth was even more rapid since the new grassland railway running through the region was opened to traffic last year. An iron and steel complex is now being built here which soon will produce its first flow of iron. When night falls now electric lights illumine the shadows cast by the ancient Great Wall, silhouetting the outlines of coking ovens and blast furnaces. Industry is striding into the former wilderness beyond the Wall bringing a modern life to the people of the grasslands.

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After Work at the Talien Shipyards. Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays after work are recreation time at the Talien Shipyards. On the seaside sports grounds built specially for the workers, hot ball games proceed under cool sea breezes. Many are busily practising for the coming sports meet in the shipyards, a big day on their calendar. Others who go in for opera-singing, dancing, acrobatics, etc. are following their pursuits in the big clubs and open-air recreation grounds. Particularly active are the drama groups, which entertain workers during breaks with short skits and other numbers taken from shipyard life, many of them impromptu items. The workers here are proud of their achievements in this field as well as in production. Many of the nation's top football teams have members who come from the shipyards, and Li Feng-chin, a top woman cyclist in the country, also hails from here. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights are just as busy and interesting for the workers. More than 10,000 of them attend spare-time study classes. Many are enrolled in the shipyard's own spare-time school, which includes courses in ship-building, general education, art and politics.

Mexican Film Week

The Mexican film week which was held from August 15 to 21 in Peking, Shanghai, Wuhan and Changchun was a tremendous success. Peking audiences gave warm and enthusiastic receptions to the Mexican film delegation when it visited several cinemas in the capital. Three films, *The Hidden River*, *The Abandoned Woman* and *Wet-backs*, were shown. They played to full houses the whole week. These films are all noteworthy for the hard-hitting realism with which they attack the same sort of cultural backwardness, poverty, national oppression and exploitation which the Chinese people fought in their thirty years of revolutionary struggle against foreign imperialism and domestic reaction before liberation. They show too a great humanity and sympathy for the people's hopes for a happy life. It was this and the artistry of the films that won Chinese applause.

Chinese cinemagoers have seen other excellent Mexican films, *The Right to Be Born* and *Roots*, in recent years. So they have some acquaintance with the work of the young Mexican film industry which began to flourish in the early thirties and grew particularly rapidly after the Second World War. In the decade 1948 to 1958, it was already producing an average of about a hundred feature films a year. Many of these were at once boldly experimental and tackled social problems from a progressive angle. The three films shown during the film week gave abundant proof of the vitality of the progressive cinema in Mexico.

Hidden River begins spectacularly with shots of a series of murals telling the history of the Mexican people in their struggle for national independence and for a modern life. This sets the background to the 1860s and the story of Rosaura Salazar, a young teacher who has dedicated herself to help educate the people and lift them out of their cultural backwardness. She soon finds that those who exploit the people are in no hurry for them to get an education. But despite ill health, she triumphantly carries out her task in the mountain village to which she has been assigned. She rouses the villagers to a consciousness of their rights by her resolute struggle against the village tyrant and his gang of toughs. But the effort of struggle takes her life.

The film struck an answering chord in Chinese audiences with its noble image

of a teacher whose story could be paralleled many times in China's struggle for freedom. It is a well-told story, well acted and finely directed. The camera-work is of a high order.

The Abandoned Woman, which tells the tragic life-story of a young woman, shows the sympathy the common people have for one another and pungently exposes the hypocrisy of capitalist society. Margarita, pretty and innocent, is forsaken by her husband two weeks after their marriage. Disowned by her father and desperate to support her child, she becomes the mistress of an impostor. When he is exposed and killed, she is convicted of being his accomplice and is sentenced to eight years' imprisonment. She gives her son into the care of an orphanage. When she comes out of prison, she finds that her son is showing promise as a lawyer. Fearing that her past may affect his career, she keeps her secret and refuses to impose herself on him.

In this story of maternal love, Dolores del Rio, who made her name as a star of the silent screen, gives a moving portrayal of Margarita. She is ably directed by Emilio Fernandez who has the skilled co-operation of the cameraman Gabriel Figueroa.

But the film that most moved Peking audiences was *Wet-backs*. In Latin America there is a popular saying which runs: "God is too far away from us, while the United States is too near!" This film is a forceful indictment of the U.S. imperialists, and their ruthless exploitation of the Mexican people. Driven by unemployment and deceived by illusive promises that everything will be all right once they get to the United States, thousands of Mexican workers risk their lives to cross the river which forms part of the border between the two countries. Some of them get killed in mid-stream, others who succeed in reaching the opposite bank find they have to work like slaves to make a bare living. Through the experiences of one of these "wet-backs" called Campusano, the film exposes the humiliation and suffering to which these men are subjected north of the Rio Grande. Campusano gradually gets to know the truth about the so-called "free world." He risks his life again, swims the river and returns to his homeland. One day, he meets by chance the agent from the north who has come to Mexico to find more cheap labour. When Campusano recalls how he has suffered under this bully and how many Mexicans have lost their lives crossing the border, he determines to settle the score. After licking the agent in a man to man fight,

Campusano forces him to learn what it is like to be a "wet-back." He is compelled to swim across the river just as many Mexican workers have been forced to do. Before he reaches the opposite shore, he is shot down by his own men on watch for intruders.

Wet-backs is one of the best films directed by Alejandro Galindo who, incidentally, is the acting leader of the Mexican film delegation. It is a forceful reflection of the resentment which Latin America feels for the bullying imperialism of the United States. Through Campusano, the director has skilfully portrayed the gradual awakening of the Latin American people and their urgent desire for genuine political and economic independence. Campusano's final cry is: "We've taken our revenge. But this is not enough! We must throw all these agents and henchmen of the imperialists into the river! They are doing a dirty trade. They are taking advantage of the hunger and suffering of our fellow countrymen."

—WANG LEH

SONG and DANCE

Indonesian Artists in Peking

Several Indonesian art troupes have visited China since liberation and entertained their audiences here with charming performances. The first Indonesian troupe which came in 1954 was followed by another from the island of Bali in 1956, and a third from Maluku in eastern Indonesia two years ago. The memories of these visits are still fresh, and now Chinese audiences have the opportunity of enjoying the performances of a song and dance ensemble from Sumatra which is touring the country.

At its premiere on August 13, it presented classical and folk dances of Sumatra, characterized by a serene and dignified beauty. These have richly expressive arm and finger movements. The *Tari Tanggai* (Long Fingers Dance) of south Sumatra was performed by young girls wearing long golden finger-nails. This dance originated in the area around Palembang where, during the Sriwidjaja dynasty (7th-13th century), young girls had the fashion of keeping long finger-nails which were regarded as a tribute of beauty. It is a portrayal of the daily life of young Sumatran girls and the rites of marriage.

LIBRARY

The Tienyiko Library in Ningpo

Research workers in China are getting immense assistance from the increasing number of private individuals who are throwing open to the public their collections of old, rare books. In some cases such collections are simply opened to research workers, in others, the books are microfilmed, and copies sent to libraries and research institutions; many unique editions have been donated outright to state libraries.

One library that has provided particularly valuable service of late is the Tienyiko in Ningpo, Chekiang Province. It has been famous for centuries for its collection of rare books. It dates back to the reign of the Emperor Chia Ching (1522-1567) of the Ming dynasty. This was a period of much scholarly research. The Tienyiko's owner, Fan Chin, was a *chin shih*, a successful candidate for the imperial examinations, who collected during his lifetime more than 70,000 volumes. On his death, he bequeathed these, together with 100,000 taels of silver, to his two sons, with instructions that his rare collection should be safely preserved and handed down to posterity. But during the Opium War of 1840-1842, when the British imperialists invaded Ningpo, the invaders broke into the Tienyiko Library and made off with many valuable books. The library suffered further loss in 1914, when imperialist cultural racketeers, working in collusion with book merchants in Shanghai, hired the robber Hsueh Chi-wei to steal more treasures from Tienyiko. With the list of "orders," Hsueh broke into the building, hid himself in it for more than ten days, feeding on dates, and stole over a thousand rare volumes. Further ravages were suffered during the Japanese invasion and the Kuomintang rule with the result that less than a fifth of its 70,000 volumes remain today.

The Tienyiko received a new lease of life after liberation. Its books are now in the skilled hands of modern librarians: the rooms in which they are preserved are kept clean and dry. Public contributions over the past few years have added several hundred valuable old volumes to its collection. These include many books which formerly belonged to the Tienyiko but which had passed into other hands. In the last twelve months, a thorough inventory of its collection has been made; 13,100 volumes were classified and tabulated. Many books were found badly damaged by bookworms and lack of care. Since September last year, expert book-restorers have been at work

on them. Yen Chun-hang is one of them, with more than twenty years' experience behind him. He has made readable volumes of what, when he took them, looked like bundles of crumpled paper. He expertly irons out crumpled pages and patches up torn sheets. Several apprentices are now learning his skill and experience to speed the job of repairing the thousands of valuable books that still remain to be restored.

The Tienyiko collection of rare books is playing an increasingly important part in research work. It contains a wealth of historical data. Especially valuable are the more than 300 local annals of the Ming dynasty; most of these were compiled during the reign of the Emperor Hung Chih (1488-1506) and the Emperor Chia Ching. These unique volumes, not to be found elsewhere in the country, include the annals of Yichou (Hopei), Ninghsia (Shensi), Shunchang (Fukien), Sinhsiang (Honan), Chienyang and Chienning (Fukien), Yingshan (Szechuan), and Yenping (Fukien). Its volumes on the various border counties in Shensi contain important material on the history of the nationalities inhabiting that region. The Tienyiko also has over three hundred collections of reports on successful candidates in the imperial examinations during the Ming dynasty. These are valuable historical source materials.

In the past few years, Tienyiko has had more than a hundred thousand visitors. Research workers, librarians and students from all parts of the country have come to study or make copies of books in its collection. The Yunnan Library, for instance, has taken more than 300,000 words from its annals of Kweichow, Nanning (Kwangsi) and Mahu (Szechuan), and other books. The South China Institute of Agriculture has had copies made of its *Notes on Weather Forecasting, Origins of Things and Outline of the Art of Calendar Making*. The Academy of Agricultural Sciences is taking copies of all available materials concerning agriculture from the annals of various places. Students from Fudan University in Shanghai have copied materials on economics from over twenty books compiled during the Ming dynasty. For the aid of historians and natural science researchers, the Chinese Academy of Sciences has made photographic copies of 176 rare ancient books. A group of veteran musicians, specialists in the music of the ancient Chinese lute, were excited to find in Tienyiko's archives a copy of music for the lute complete with words belonging to the early years of the Ming dynasty.

It is such treasure-trove that is attracting fresh interests in the Tienyiko's rare volumes.



The "Candle Dance"

Sketch by Li Ke-yu

The *Tari Lilin* (Candle Dance) was one of the most warmly received items. Six young girls dance gracefully with lit candles in the romantic setting of a little village of thatched huts in the moonlight. This used to be an ancient religious dance, but now it is usually performed during festivals. The *Tari Inong* had a different atmosphere. This dance is from Atjeh in north Sumatra, where the people are known for their heroic resistance to the Dutch colonialists. This is a dance of young girls saying farewell to their warriors off to battle. Men dancers take part in the *Serampang Duabelas* (Twelfth Meeting). It describes how young lovers grow jealous and how they become reconciled again. It is a popular dance in Indonesia today and was performed with verve and warmth.

The songs of Tapanuli, north Sumatra, sung in chorus to the strains of the guitar, brought the house down. *Sing Sing So*, one of the most popular Indonesian songs at present, certainly won new fans in Peking. The chorus, led by Gordon Tobing, sang with remarkable charm and lyric beauty how a young man sailed in a boat to a remote island to find his love. The audience was only pacified by four encores and curtain calls.

The Indonesian artists gave four performances in Peking. After performing in Tientsin and Shenyang, they will visit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

— LI YUNG

Vice-Premier Chen Yi on World Situation

Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Chen Yi spoke at two diplomatic receptions held in Peking last week, expressing China's views on some of the latest developments in the international situation.

At the national day reception by the Korean Ambassador Li Young Ho on August 15, Chen Yi touched on the forthcoming Khrushchov-Eisenhower visits. "The Chinese Government and people warmly welcome this measure which helps to ease international tension," he said. "The agreement (on the visits) was a result of the efforts for peace and relaxation of international tension made by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries and the growing demands of the peace-loving countries and peoples of the world for peaceful coexistence and against the cold war. This is acknowledged by the entire world as a major victory for the Soviet Union's diplomacy of peace."

Turning to present U.S. policy, Vice-Premier Chen Yi declared: "While the United States has been compelled to agree to the mutual visits of the heads of the Soviet and U.S. Governments and made certain gestures in favour of relaxation, it is still clinging stubbornly to its policy of aggressive expansion and cold war. It has shown no intention of dismantling its military bases on foreign soil; rather it is continuing to build up and expand these bases. It still persists in a diehard policy on the question of the signing of a German peace treaty, termination of the occupation system in West Berlin and prohibition of nuclear weapon tests. It has obstructed the Geneva Foreign Ministers' Conference from reaching agreement on international issues which are ripe for solution.

"In the Far East, the United States still continues to hold on to China's territory of Taiwan. It is hanging on to south Korea and obstructing the peaceful unification of Korea. Furthermore, it is stepping up its collusion with the Japanese Kishi government to speed up revival of Japanese militarism. In Indo-China, it is brazenly directing the Laotian Sananikone government to extend the civil war of their own making and aggravate tension in this area. The United States has not ceased its wanton calumnies and slanders against the socialist

countries. When the U.S. Vice-President was visiting the Soviet Union, the U.S. ruling circles staged the farce of 'captive nations week' at home. All this should make one wary about American gestures in favour of relaxation. How much sincerity the United States has in this respect remains to be proved by its actual deeds in the future. However, whatever the intentions of the United States are, its actions based on the policy of war and 'positions of strength' are definitely leading ever deeper into an impasse now that we are in an age when the East wind prevails over the West wind. The imperialist policy of war and aggression can assuredly be defeated as long as the forces of socialism, of national independence and of peace all over the world heighten their vigilance, strengthen their unity and carry on an unremitting struggle."

Referring to Sino-Korean relations, Chen Yi said, "We are glad to see that Sino-Korean friendship has grown further this year. We are grateful to the Korean people for their support to our struggle against the U.S. imperialists' occupation of our territory Taiwan. The Chinese people likewise support the Korean people in their struggle to bring about the withdrawal of U.S. armed forces from south Korea and the peaceful unification of their fatherland."

Speaking at the banquet given by the Indonesian Charge d'Affaires Suleiman to mark Indonesia's national day on August 17, Vice-Premier Chen Yi said: "China and Indonesia are close and friendly neighbours. In the past years, the two peoples have supported each other in their struggles to uphold national independence, oppose imperialist aggression and intervention and safeguard world peace. They have built up an ever-deepening friendship and mutual trust. There have also been encouraging developments in the economic co-operation between the two countries, in their cultural intercourse and friendly exchanges. The overseas Chinese residing in Indonesia have all along lived side by side on friendly terms with the Indonesian people and have devoted their efforts to Indonesia's economic construction. They have played a role in promoting understanding and friendship between the two peoples that cannot be underestimated,

"This shows that there is no conflict of interests between the two countries. Their friendly co-operation is beneficial to the cause of safeguarding their countries' independence and developing their national economies, and fully conforms with the fundamental interests of the two peoples.

"The Chinese Government and people place a high value on this friendship, built up by the two peoples in times of trial; they will not allow it to be weakened or sabotaged. We are confident that the Indonesian Government and people cherish like sentiments."

Dealing with U.S. plots in Indo-China, he said: "The imperialists will never give up their policy of war and aggression of their own accord. In the Far East, particularly in Indo-China, they are creating new tension and engineering a new conspiracy for aggression. They are exploiting the civil war in Laos which is of their own making, in an attempt to poison the international atmosphere, tear up the Geneva agreements which are meant to safeguard peace in Indo-China and enlarge their Southeast Asian aggressive bloc.

"If this scheme of theirs were realized, not only would the security of China and other countries concerned be jeopardized, the Southeast Asian countries which follow a policy of peace and neutrality would also face anew the danger of aggression and intervention. It therefore behoves the countries concerned to heighten their vigilance and take resolute measures to thwart this criminal scheme of the imperialists."

TRADE NEWS

China is to import from Morocco half a million tons of phosphates valued at 2,240 million Moroccan francs.

This is stipulated in a recent agreement between the Chinese National Minerals Corporation and the Moroccan Cherifien Office of Phosphates. The deal, valid for one year, is covered by the Sino-Moroccan trade agreement concluded last October.

* * *

Busy preparations are under way for the Chinese Export Commodities Fair (autumn session) in Canton this November. This fair will be on a larger scale than the spring session. It will be held in the recently completed new exhibition centre. Samples of China's major export commodities and many new products will be displayed. A large number of foreign businessmen are expected to attend the fair as it comes immediately after the celebrations scheduled for the tenth anniversary of the founding of New China,

CHINESE PRESS OPINION

U.N. Intervention in Laos

Peking's press unanimously supports the Soviet Union's Aug. 17 statement on the Laotian situation, and denounces the current U.S. plot to use the name of the United Nations to mask its interference in Laos.

Renmin Ribao's Commentator (August 21) writes that the Soviet Union's communication is a statement of proper concern by the Soviet Government and people for the deteriorating situation in Laos. It expresses the hope that the present talks between the two co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference on the question of normalizing the Laotian situation will produce good results. The Soviet Government demands that the parties concerned take joint constructive measures to get the Geneva agreements fully implemented as they should be. This, says Commentator, is an important and timely step to preserve the Geneva agreements and end tension in Laos. It also answers the desires of the Laotian people. The people of the world have every reason to expect the British Government, the other co-chairman of the Geneva Conference, to help to preserve and not betray the Geneva agreements. Commentator calls on the British Government to make clear its stand promptly and in accordance with justice.

There is conclusive evidence of U.S. intervention and aggression in Laos, Commentator notes. Nevertheless, the U.S. State Department has recently issued four statements one after the other feigning its innocence while falsely accusing China and the Democratic Republic of Viet-nam of "violating" the

Geneva agreements. These are an obvious attempt not only to cover up its intervention and aggression in Laos but also to find excuses for its next move of direct military intervention.

Both the statement of the Soviet Foreign Ministry and the letter of the Neo Lao Haksat Party to the co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference advocate resumption of the activities of the international commission in Laos; this is an important measure for preserving the Geneva agreements and there is no reason whatsoever for all the countries connected with those agreements to oppose it, Commentator declares.

Da Gong Bao (August 19) in a commentary points out that the U.S. imperialists and the Phoui Sananikone government, while busily extending the Laotian civil war and creating tension, are actively pushing through a plan for United Nations' intervention designed to legalize further U.S. interference in Laos' internal affairs.

The commentary draws attention to the statement by the Laotian Foreign Minister Panya in an interview with AFP on August 12, that the first step was to call the attention of the U.N. Secretary General to the Laotian situation; the second step was to ask the U.N. to send "observers" to Laos and the third, was to ask for intervention by international forces. Now, the commentary points out, the U.S. and the Laotian authorities have taken the second step, that is, to make use of the U.N. to create a pretext for future international intervention.

In instigating the Sananikone government to demand the dispatch of U.N. "observers" to Laos, the U.S. schemes to tear up completely the Geneva agreements and, in the name of the U.N., facilitate its intervention, extend the civil war in Laos and menace peace in Indo-China and Southeast Asia. The dispatch of U.N. "observers" and the possibility of intervention in Laos in the name of the U.N., declares *Da Gong Bao*, "will by no means help ease the Laotian situation. On the contrary, this can only complicate and aggravate it."

It is common knowledge, the commentary says, that the present tension in Laos is entirely the result of the unscrupulous violations of the Geneva and Vientiane agreements by the United States and the Sanani-

kone government and their launching and extension of the civil war in Laos. Only cessation of all acts of violation of the Geneva and Vientiane agreements by the U.S. and Sananikone government, withdrawal of all United States military personnel and arms, abolishment of all U.S. military bases and resumption of the normal functioning of the international commission in Laos—can end tension in Laos.

"The Chinese people are determined to uphold the Geneva agreements. We are opposed to any interventionist plot in Laos under the trade mark of the U.N. The Laotian question concerns the two parties to the Vientiane agreements and all the participant countries in the Geneva Conference. The United Nations has no right whatever to intervene," the commentary concludes.

Inter-American Conference

U.S. designs to use the Inter-American Foreign Ministers' Conference which



In the Caribbean

by Fang Cheng

closed on August 18 in Santiago, as a tool for intervention in the Latin American states is exposed in a commentary in *Renmin Ribao* (August 20). The aim of this conference was to pin a false charge against Cuba so as to create legal grounds for intervention in Cuba's internal affairs and to further subversive U.S. activities against the present Cuban Government, declares Commentator.

The U.S. forced the conference to adopt a resolution expanding the powers of the Inter-American Peace Committee, Commentator continues, so that the committee, manipulated by the U.S. and presided over by the U.S. delegate, can define at will who is the "main offender"



Cold war cargo

by Jack Chen

guilty of creating tension in the Caribbean region. It also means that the U.S., through that committee, can take all sorts of "anti-aggression" measures, including military measures, and force the Latin American states to act in concert with it. Commentator points out that "this resolution is specifically designed to pave the way for U.S. interference in Cuba's internal affairs, to provide excuses for its suppression of the popular struggle against the dictatorships in the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua, and to make preparations for the U.S. to force the Organization of American States (OAS) to intervene in Cuba's internal affairs under the pretext of 'fighting aggression!'"

U.S. Secretary of State Herter at the very beginning of the conference, talked a great deal about the OAS' "principle of non-intervention." But the U.S. forced the conference to adopt its resolutions

and this shows that the OAS is really an organization of aggression used by the U.S. to interfere in the internal affairs of the Latin American states.

But 1959 is not 1954 when the U.S. used the OAS to interfere in the internal affairs of Guatemala, says Commentator. The mask of the OAS has been exposed and this makes it difficult for the U.S. to carry out its tricks under the cloak of the OAS. Moreover, U.S. control over the OAS has weakened. At the conference, Herter's proposal for the establishment of a committee to supervise the "realization of democracy" in the Latin American states was rejected as the result of firm opposition from Cuba and Venezuela. The U.S. did not even dare to propose the establishment of an "OAS police force" at the conference because of the universal opposition of the Latin American states. The U.S. also suffered a setback when the question of the

under-development of the Latin American economy, discussion of which was opposed by the U.S., was put forward at the conference and led to heated debates.

"The results of this Inter-American Foreign Ministers' Conference show that U.S. plots of intervention and subversion against Cuba have not lessened and that the U.S. threat to the independence and sovereignty of the Latin American states has increased. Nevertheless, as a result of the further development of the national democratic movement in Latin America, and the support of the forces of peace and public opinion throughout the world, the peoples of Latin America will, we are confident, succeed in strengthening their unity, and support each other and march on victoriously in their struggle against U.S. imperialist intervention and aggression and to preserve their national independence, peace and security," concludes Commentator.

WHAT'S ON IN PEKING

— Highlights of Current Entertainment, Exhibitions, etc. —

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

PEKING OPERA

▲ **THE BOTTOMLESS PIT** Monkey Sun Wu-kung battles against evil spirits in this episode from the *Pilgrimage to the West*. Produced by the China Peking Opera Theatre.

Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. Ji Xiang Theatre

▲ **THE RETURN OF THE PHOENIX** A comedy of errors. A young man wins a bride despite the schemes of a wicked stepmother. Produced by the Peking Opera Company of Peking.

Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. Minzhu Theatre

▲ **THE TALE OF THE WHITE SNAKE** The legendary love story of a White Snake fairy and a scholar. A scheming recluses sets him against her and later imprisons her in a tower. Many years later, she is rescued by her son. Produced by the China Peking Opera Theatre.

Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. Renmin Theatre

▲ **THREE ATTACKS ON CHU VILLAGE** An episode from *Water Margin (All Men Are Brothers)* in which Sung Chiang, the leader of a peasant rebellion, cleverly wins over his opponents in Chu Village. Produced by the Shang Hsiao-yun Peking Opera Troupe.

Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m. Yuan En Si Theatre

KUNQU

▲ **HUNG HSIA** The moving tale of a Kiang-si peasant girl. To save her village from destruction Hung Hsia leads a troop of Kuomintang soldiers up to a precipice from which there is no return. Produced by the North Kunqu Opera Theatre.

Aug. 29 & 30, 7:30 p.m. Renmin Theatre

CONCERTS

▲ **PIANO RECITAL** by Professor Soon Kin Wong of the Luxembourg Music Institute.

Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. China Youth Art Theatre

THEATRE

▲ **A HAPPY REUNION** A new play by Lao Sheh describing the sharp contrast in

morality between the old and new societies. In the old society, poverty drives Wang Li-jen away from home to earn a living. He sends some money home by the hand of a policeman who pockets the money and tells his family that he is dead. He and his family lose contact. In 1958, with the help of a people's policeman, the family is happily reunited. Produced by the China Youth Art Theatre.

Aug. 25-27, 29-31, 7:30 p.m. China Youth Art Theatre

▲ **TSAI WEN-CHI** Kuo Mo-jo's latest historical play. Tsao Tsao, Prime Minister of the Han Kingdom, sends two envoys to ask T sai Wen-chi, who is married to a Hun noble, to return home and continue her scholar-father's work. On their return the life of one envoy is saved by Wen-chi when he is falsely accused by the other of treachery. On the death of her husband, she marries the loyal envoy, is happily reunited with her children, and continues her father's work. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

Aug. 25 & 26, 7:30 p.m. Shoudu Theatre

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

Aug. 27 & 28, 7:30 p.m. Shoudu Theatre

▲ **OPPRESSION • THREE DOLLARS • TILL MADAME RETURNS** Three comedies by Ting Hsi-lin, China's well-known playwright. Produced by the Peking People's Art Theatre.

Aug. 29-31, 7:30 p.m. Shoudu Theatre

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

Aug. 28-Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m. Shiyun Theatre

FILMS

▲ **BEHIND THE PINE FOREST** A Rumanian film dubbed in Chinese. A Rumanian soldier, forced to fight for the fascists during World War II, comes to understand the true nature of the fascist war when he sees the ruins of his native village. He finally turns against the tyrants.

Aug. 25-31 Shoudu Cinema, Da Hua, Xin Jie Kou, Jiao Dao Kou, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema

▲ **RIO ESCONDIDO (HIDDEN RIVER)** This Mexican feature film is about a young teacher who dedicates her life to help educate the people. (See p. 18.) Dubbed in Chinese.

Aug. 25-28, Da Hua, Ertong, Jiao Dao Kou

Aug. 20-31, Shoudu Cinema, Xin Jie Kou, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema

▲ **LAS ABANDONADAS (THE ABANDONED WOMAN)** A Mexican feature film dubbed in Chinese. This life story of a woman deserted shows the greatness of maternal love, and the crime committed by a community which esteems only money and the rich.

Aug. 25-28, Guang An Men, Zhongyang, Peking Workers' Club

Aug. 29-31, Da Hua, Ertong, Jiao Dao Kou

▲ **THE WRECKS** A Polish feature film tells how two Polish divers, although they both love the same girl, become firm friends as they toil with a salvage crew in the depths of the sea. Dubbed in Chinese.

Aug. 25-28, Shoudu Cinema, Xin Jie Kou, Peking Exhibition Centre Cinema

Aug. 29-31, Guang An Men, Zhongyang, Peking Workers' Club

▲ **HAIUKS' OATH** A Bulgarian film tells how the heroic Bulgarian people fought for their independence and liberation against the Turkish aggressors and oppressors more than 200 years ago. Dubbed in Chinese.

Aug. 27-31, Guang An Men, Zhongyang, Peking Workers' Club

EXHIBITIONS

▲ **RUMANIAN PHOTO EXHIBITION** showing Rumania's achievements in socialist construction during the past fifteen years. Open daily (except Mon.) 9:00-12:00 a.m., 2:00-7:00 p.m.

At Beihai Park

ACROBATICS

▲ **EQUESTRIAN ACROBATICS AND OTHER FEATS** presented by the China Acrobatic Troupe. Daily showing beginning from 8:00 p.m.

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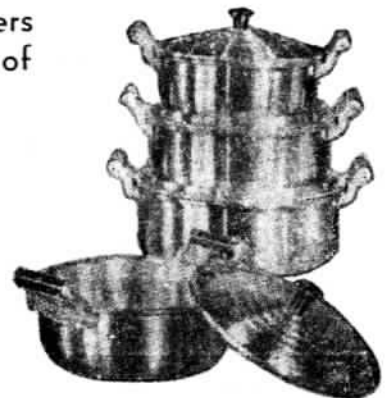
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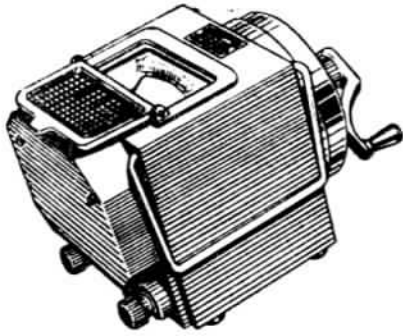
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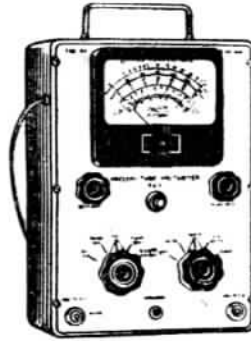
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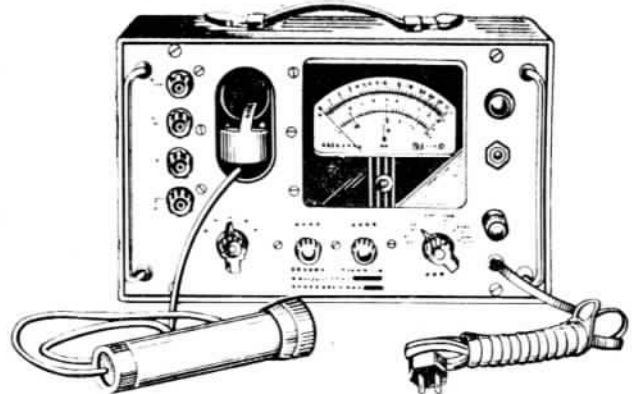
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