

CURRENT BACKGROUND

PEOPLE'S COMMUNES IN COMMUNIST CHINA

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Unless otherwise indicated, these materials
are full translations of articles appearing in
Chinese Communist newspapers or releases ema-
nating from Chinese Communist news agencies.

PEOPLE'S COMMUNES IN COMMUNIST CHINA

THE MOVEMENT FOR PEOPLE'S COMMUNES

Greet the Upsurge in Forming People's Commune

- Hung Chi editorial -

(Hung Chi /Red Flag/, No. 7, Sept. 1, 1958)

(English translation issued in NCNA-English release dated Aug. 31, 1958)

following the great victories in agricultural production this summer and autumn, peasants over wide areas are becoming further organized: small cooperatives are being amalgamated into large ones, the agricultural producer cooperatives are being transformed into people's communes where the town-ship and the commune become one entity and industry (the worker), agriculture (the peasant), exchange (the trader), culture and education (the student) and military affairs (the militiaman) merge into one. The establishment of people's communes is shaping up as a new irresistible tide of the mass movement on a nation-wide scale. In nor a few places peasants of entire counties have organized themselves in people's communes in a very short period of time. In places where communes have not yet been set up the broad masses of peasant activities are making preparations. They will strive to found communes through mass airing of views and debates around the time of the autumn harvest. The existing people's communes have shown even greater superiority over the farm cooperatives, in spurring the initiative of the masses in production, raising the rate of utilization of labor power and labor productivity, enlarging productive capital construction, accelerating the cultural and technical revolutions and in promoting public welfare.

The fact that the broad masses enthusiastically welcome the establishment of people's communes shows that this is the logical trend of development of the present situation. The main foundations of the development of people's communes are the all-round and continuous leap forward of China's agricultural production and the constantly growing political consciousness of the 500 million peasants. The Chinese peasants, having defeated capitalism economically, politically and ideologically and having overcome right conservatism in agricultural production, have carried out agricultural capital construction on an unprecedented scale, adopted advanced technical measures in farming and thereby are doubling farm yields or increasing them by several, a dozen or scores of times. At the same time, small and medium industrial enterprises are being rapidly developed in the countryside (including county seats and towns) so as to develop agricultural production further, to develop industry over wide areas of the countryside to promote the integration of industry and agriculture and to raise the standard of living of the rural population.

These changes in the countryside enable the peasants to see that the original organizational form of the agricultural producer cooperative which is relatively small in scale and has relatively few fields of

operation, can no longer meet the requirements of the development of the productive forces. In fact, peasants in many places have already had to break down the demarcation lines between small cooperatives, between small townships and sometimes even between counties, in the course of constructing irrigation works, levelling and improving land, afforesting, struggling against natural calamities, mechanizing agriculture, building hydro-power plants and improving communications and living conditions in the countryside on a large scale. Besides, for the farm cooperatives to operate agriculture alone has become entirely backward. The farm cooperative not only has to become a unit for joint management of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, side-lines and fisheries at one and the same time, but it also has to become a unified organizational unit where industry, agriculture, trade, education and military affairs merge into one. Thus, the merger of the township people's council and the farm cooperative facilitates unified leadership and the rapid expansion of the social productive forces, while the separation of the township and the cooperative has become entirely unnecessary. To make full use of labor power, to enable women to play their full part in field work and to ensure that there is no waste of the labor time to men and women, the farm cooperatives must be not only organizers of production but also organizers of the way of life; not only do they have to collectivize labor further, but also to organize the collective way of life. On the basis of this urgent need, public canteens, nurseries, kindergartens, tailoring teams, etc. are being formed in large numbers. All this demands that the agricultural producers' cooperatives take an additional step forward - to transform themselves into people's communes.

This transformation involves not only the enlargement of organization and the scope of management but also important changes in the relations of production. The people's communes in many places - for instance the Weihsing (Sputnik) Commune in Suiping County, Honan Province, that is described elsewhere in this issue of Red Flag - have wiped out certain last vestiges of private ownership of the means of production (owing to the ever-growing need to work collectively and the extension of public canteen service to all the members, it becomes both impossible and unnecessary for them to keep small personal plots of land and breed their own pigs). And they have gone beyond the pattern of collective ownership in certain respects. Moreover, from such developments as the supply system of grain within the commune, people can easily see the budding sprouts of Communism.

Of course, when the people's communes are established it is not immediately necessary to transform collective ownership into ownership by the whole people and it is even less appropriate to strain to advance from socialism, i.e., the primary phase of Communism, to its higher phase. The transition from collective ownership to ownership by the whole people is a process which may be fairly quick in one place and slower in another. After a period following the transition to ownership by the whole people, the productive forces of society will be expanded even more greatly; the products of society will become extremely abundant; the Communist ideology, consciousness and moral character of the entire people will be raised immensely; and education will be universal and raised to a higher level. At the same time, differences between workers and peasants, between town and country as well as between mental work and manual work - the remnants of old society that cannot but be retained during the socialist period - will gradually disappear; the remnants of unequal bourgeois right which reflects these differences will also gradually disappear. Then the function of the state will only be to deal with aggression from external enemies and will not operate internally. By that time our country will enter a new era, from the socialist era based

on the principle of "from each according to his ability and to each according to his work" to the Communist era based on the principle of "from each according to his ability and to each according to his needs."

The present people's commune offers our country a good form of organization to accelerate socialist construction and the transition to Communism. It will not only be the primary unit of our society at the present stage but will grow and become the primary unit of the future Communist Society.

The fact that the broad masses of working people, without any hesitation, accept this form of organization, the people's commune, and change some outdated relations of production, is due not only to the fact that the productive forces of our society are developing at flying speed, but also because the Chinese people have grasped the guiding ideology of the Communist Party's Central Committee and Comrade Mao Tse-tung on uninterrupted revolution. The working people want no pause in the course of the revolution and they see that the more rapidly the revolution advances. The more benefits they will derive. In the course of their advance the working people have put forward these slogans which are full of revolutionary spirit; get organized along military lines, do things the way battle duties are carried out and live collective lives. "Get organized along military lines" of course does not mean that they are really organized into military barracks, nor does it mean that they are really organized into military barracks, nor does it mean that they give themselves the titles of generals, colonels and lieutenants. It simply means that the swift expansion of agriculture demands that they should greatly strengthen their organization, act more quickly and with greater discipline and efficiency, so that like factory workers and armymen they can be deployed with greater freedom and on a large scale. That is why they have come to the conclusion that they should organize along military lines. The peasant leaders who have put forward these slogans don't know perhaps that Marx and Engels in the Communist manifesto had long since advanced a program for the "establishment of industrial armies, especially for agriculture." But they and the broad masses of the peasants who have gone through the long years of the armed struggles of the people's revolution know perfectly well that military lines are nothing to be feared. On the contrary, it is only natural to them that the whole population should be citizen soldiers ready to cope with the imperialist aggressors and their lackeys. Although the organization of agricultural labor along military lines at present is for waging battles against nature and not human enemies, it is nonetheless not difficult to transform one kind of struggle into another.

While no external enemies attack us, the people's communes, in which the workers, peasants, traders, students and militiamen are merged into one, aim to storm the fortresses of nature and to march to the happy future of industrialization, urbanization and Communism in the countryside. If and when external enemies dare to attack us, then the entire armed population will be mobilized to wipe out the enemies resolutely, thoroughly and completely.

Would this breed commandism? In our opinion, for the people's communes to be organized along military lines and to arm the entire population is a completely different matter from commandism. Without the people's communes, without the organization along military lines and without citizen soldiers, commandism can occur all the same. On the contrary, with the people's communes, with organization along military lines and with citizen soldiers, commandism can be avoided and the highest degree of democracy can be realized. Actually, as the productivity of labor is being constantly raised, as the mechanization and electrification of farm work is more and more developed, as there is a constantly increasing amount of social products and the people's educational level is further raised, labor time will be gradually shortened, the intensity of labor will be gradually reduced and in this way the possibilities of overcoming commandism become greater and greater.

To organize along military lines, to do things the way battle duties are carried out and to live collective lives certainly does not mean that the intensity of labor should be infinitely stretched. As the Central Committee of the Party has pointed out, we should do our work rhythmically and combine hard battle with necessary rest and regrouping. Besides, discipline and centralization in work must be built on the voluntary and democratic basic of the masses.

The very establishment and development of the people's communes must go through the process of thorough mental ferment among the masses. Only through a full airing of views and debates, only when the people in a locality are willing to go in for it entirely out of their own accord should the agricultural producers' cooperatives be transformed into people's communes. In the present conditions when the upsurge of our country's agricultural production is so welling up, when the revolutionary consciousness of our peasants is so mature and the cadres of our Party have become so closely knit with the masses in the course of leading the rectification campaign and production, we believe that the people's communes, with their inherent advantages, are sure to grow rapidly throughout the country.

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Raise High the Red Flag of the People's Commune and
March Forward

- Jen Min Jih Pao editorial -

(Peking Jen Min Jih Pao Sept. 3, 1958)

(NCNA-English excepted for sidelined portions which have been translated
by this office from Jen Min Jih Pao)

People's communes, which mark a new stage of the socialist development in China's rural areas, are now being set up and developed in many places at a rapid rate.

The movement has been started by the masses of the peasants spontaneously on the basis of their great socialist consciousness. When the small number of the earliest communes proved successful, many agricultural cooperatives immediately followed their example, so that the movement gradually developed. Now, with the encouragement and guidance given by the Central Committee of the Communist Party and Chairman Mao Tse-tung, it is making even bigger strides forward.

The masses of peasants in many areas have written large numbers of wall newspapers, applications and resolutions, asking for the establishment of people's communes. Virtually all the peasants in Honan and Liaoning provinces are now in people's communes while the movement is reaching its high tide in Hopei, Heilungkiang and Anhwei provinces, and is spreading to other provinces in Northwest China, along the Yangtze River and to the south of it; with preparations for the establishment of people's communes in different stages and groups after the autumn harvest.

Where people's communes have already come into existence, the peasants, beating drums and cymbals, celebrated the occasion with revelry and their enthusiasm in production has reached a new peak. The poor and lower middle peasants, in particular, rejoice in it and regard it as "the realization of a long cherished hope."

Of the basic features of people's communes, the first is that they are big in scale and the second is that they are "communal".

The people's communes are big in scale, having a great number of members and vast land. They can develop agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery and subsidiary production simultaneously and merge industry, agriculture, exchange, culture and education, and the militia into one.

The people's communes so far established generally embrace some 10,000 members or even 10,000 households and their area is equal to that of hsiang (where the original hsiang are too small, they can even be expanded and merged). With large numbers of people and greater strength, they can do many things which are impossible or not easy for the smaller farming cooperatives, such as bigger water conservancy projects, factories and mines that require higher technique, bigger projects of road and housing construction, establishment of secondary schools and higher educational institutions and so on. The question of manpower shortage also becomes easier to tackle.

The people's communes are "communal" in that they represent a higher level of socialist development and collectivization than agricultural producer cooperatives. Their massive scale of production requires a higher efficiency and greater maneuverability of labor as well as the participation of women in production. Therefore, more and more common mess halls, nurseries, tailoring teams and other similar establishments are being set up and the last remnants of individual ownership of the means of production retained in farming cooperatives are being eliminated. In many places, for example, the reserved plots, livestock and orchards of individual peasants, and a portion of the larger production tools, and so on, have been transferred to the people's communes in the course of their establishment.

Ownership of the means of production by the whole people has been instituted by a few communes on the basis of the self-consciousness and spontaneous agreement of the masses. In distribution they have carried out the wage system or supply system on an experimental basis. These experiments are useful because they point out the road to the further development of productive relations in the countryside.

At the same time, because people's communes have gone beyond the limits of solely economic organizations, and have combined economic, cultural, political and military affairs into one entity, there is now no longer any need for the separate of the governments of the hsiang level, and these must be integrated with the communes. The administrative committees of the communes are in fact the people's councils of the hsiang. There is also the tendency for a federation of people's communes in a hsien to become one with the people's council of that hsien. This facilitates unified leadership, closely combines the collective economy of farming cooperatives with the state owned economy of hsiang and hsien and helps the transition from collective ownership to ownership by the people as a whole.

Therefore, people's communes are the most appropriate organizational form in China for accelerating socialist construction and the transition to Communism. They will become the basic social units in the future Communist society as many distinguished idealists of socialism down to Marx, Engels and Lenin predicted on many occasions.

The transformation of agricultural producers' cooperatives into people's communes is the inevitable trend in the development of Chinese history. China has now some 700,000 farming cooperatives, mostly set up in 1955 during the high tide of socialism, and gradually transformed into higher cooperatives thereafter. They are undoubtedly far superior to individual farming, mutual-aid teams and even the lower farming cooperatives, and have contributed enormously to the steady increase of China's farm output in the past few years. However, with the growth of agricultural production, especially the great leap forward in agriculture since last winter, these cooperatives have gradually become inadequate to meet the needs of development fully.

The scale of these cooperatives are generally small, and the average membership of each cooperative in the country as a whole is only a little more than 100 households. Manpower is lacking, accumulation of common reserve is limited and slow, the development of multiple economy is restricted by the small number of people and limited resources.

In order to achieve a high speed advance in agriculture, to rapid change the face of the countryside and to improve the peasants' living standards as quickly as possible, as the facts show, it is necessary to carry out large scale capital construction that will fundamentally change the natural conditions, adopt new farming technique, develop agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery and subsidiary production simultaneously build industries that serve agriculture and the needs of peasants as well as big industries, gradually carry out mechanization and electrification, improve transport, communications and housing conditions in rural areas and set up educational, health and cultural establishments. All this is beyond the reach of a farming cooperative of a few dozen or hundreds of households.

The agricultural cooperatives which merged into the present Chaoying Commune in Shangchang, Honan province, had little industry before, though they have rich natural resources. After the formation of the commune, 2,500 cadres and 17,500 members were allocated to the work and in 10 days 4,530 iron and steel, machinery, chemical fertilizer, cement and other factories were built. The superiority of people's communes is clear here.

The fact, in the work of building water conservancy projects, afforestation, fighting against drought and flood prevention since last winter, the agricultural cooperatives in many places acutely felt that the small cooperative was inferior to the big cooperative, and that the original labor organization was inadequate for the further unearthing of labor potentials and the raising of work efficiency. Many small cooperatives had joined hands, or carried out socialist cooperation between cooperatives, hsiang, hsien, or even provinces. This shows that the original agricultural cooperatives with a smaller scale of organization, with the handling of simpler items of production, and with a lower level of collectivization, have begun to stand in the way of the further development of the productive forces.

It must be pointed out that the rapid growth of people's communes definitely does not stem solely from economic causes. The keenness shown by the masses of the peasants toward people's communes speaks first of all of their great increased socialist and Communist consciousness.

Through the 1957 great debate among the rural population on the socialist and capitalist roads of development in the countryside, the Communist Party smashed the attack of the bourgeois rightists, landlords, rich peasants and counter-revolutionaries, and overcame the capitalist trend among the well-to-do middle peasants. Later, through the rectification campaign, it fundamentally changed the relations between the cadres and the masses and overcame right deviationist, conservative ideas in agricultural production. During the current leap forward in agricultural production and rural work as a whole, the masses of the peasants have not only witnessed an increase many times over in agricultural production, but also seen the happy future of industrialization and the urbanization of rural areas.

As a result of all this, the prestige of the Party has become the more consolidated than ever among the peasants. The peasants have shown an unprecedentedly firm determination to achieve socialism quickly and to prepare conditions for the gradual transition to Communism in the future. In their striving for the quickest advance in production and in culture and education, the peasants are also trying to establish new productive relations and new organizational forms best suited to the development of the productive forces. Without political consciousness as the basis, the development of the people's commune movement would be impossible and incomprehensible.

The establishment of people's communes has provided good conditions for the further development of rural production relations. The expansion of communes and the merger of communes and townships into one entity, which facilitates the rapid advance of the rural areas in industry, communications, culture and education, makes it possible gradually to eliminate the differences between rural and urban areas, between peasants and workers, between peasants and intellectuals and also between collective ownership and ownership by the people as a whole.

However, the present people's commune movement does not require the immediate transformation of collective ownership into ownership by the people as a whole in all cases without exception. Even less does it mean the transition from the lower stage of socialism, where the principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his labor" is carried out, to its higher stage, i.e. the stage of Communism, where the principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs" is practiced.

Some individual people's communes may have gone farther than others but, generally speaking, the transformation of collective of ownership into ownership by the people as a whole is a process that will take three or four years, even five or six years, to complete in the rural areas. After a number of years, when the quantity of social production will be greatly increased, the Communist consciousness and morality and the educational level of the whole people enormously raised, the differences left over from old society between workers and peasants, urban and rural areas and mental and manual labor and also the remnants of unequal bourgeois rights which are the reflection of these differences will gradually vanish. The function of the state will be limited to protecting the country from external aggression but will play no role at home. Then, and only then, will Chinese society enter the era of Communism.

Now the establishment of people's communes is developing into a mass movement even more gigantic than the cooperative movement in 1955. Party committees in various places must work out appropriate plans and give active guidance to its development according to local conditions. The development of the people's commune movement will inevitably differ in the time of fulfillment, in scale, in steps and in methods in different areas, and there should be no attempt to force uniformity. The establishment of people's communes must be carried out on the basis of the real self-consciousness and spontaneous desire of the local masses through blooming, contending and debating. Particularly we must not permit the adoption of any attitude of haste, rashness and "commandism in instituting any change in the system of ownership of the means of production. Due to the fact that at the present moment in many areas the work of the management of the autumn crops is in a tense state, and timely arrangements have to be made to prepare for production next winter and spring, in all areas, whether the building of people's communes has already been started or is not yet attended to, the current production task must receive the fullest attention.

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Peasants Set Up People's Communes

(NCNA-English, Peking, Sept. 1, 1958)

The establishment of people's communes is the current topic of discussion among China's 500 million rural population. Applications to set up communes are pouring in to the offices of the county committees of the Communist Party. Meetings everywhere show keen interest and support for the idea among the peasants and nearly all the "big-letter posters" in the villages, a major medium for airing of views, deal with the topic.

In many places the peasants have sent delegations to the county Communist Party organisations to express their determination to set up people's communes.

A report from Heilungkiang, Northeast China, says that the first 52 people's communes, set up in the province during the first ten days of August, are finding from their three weeks' experience that the new form of organisation, formed through the merging of several agricultural cooperatives in each case, provides greater scope for managing land and manpower and stimulates the forces of production. In sparsely-populated Heilungkiang, though many cooperatives have their own tractors, their land is relatively small in scale and the use of the tractors is limited. To meet the members' needs for different kinds of crops, seven cooperatives in Suihua County had their land divided into 927 different plots, causing a waste in the use of tractors. Every cooperative planned to set up a machine plant, rice mill and a flour mill, but could not carry out the plan because each cooperative could operate such plants for only three months in the year.

Now the founding of the communes is solving these problems and will also make it possible to find local supplies of fuel for the tractors and of spare parts.

In Tsinghai Province, Northwest China, all the cooperatives of five of the 11 counties have amalgamated to form 61 people's communes embracing more than half the total number of peasant households in the province. In most cases one commune has been set up to a township, but in other cases a commune includes several townships.

In the Liuchow Administrative Region in the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region, all the 3,067 agricultural cooperatives have merged into 256 people's communes, averaging 2,500 households to each commune.

Szechwan, China's biggest rice-producing province, expects an upsurge in the setting up of communes between September and October. The four administrative regions of Ipin, Loshan, Mienyang and Wanhshien plan to have all the existing 38,400 cooperatives amalgamate into 1,420 people's communes.

The people's communes not only stimulate agriculture but also step up industrial development in the rural areas. The newly established "Red Flag" People's Commune in Noho County, Heilungkiang Province, has built 52 small fertiliser plants. It now plans to apply about 10 tons of chemical fertiliser per hectare next year. The "East Wind" people's Commune in Sining, Tsinghai Province, was able to allocate 800 people to help with iron and steel smelting in nearby counties on the very next day after it was founded. The "Pine Tree" People's Commune in Minho County, Tsinghai Province, has set up 27 iron smelting furnaces, 28 ball bearing plants since it was set up. In five days all the carts in the county and all farm equipment with wheels were equipped with ball bearings. In Szechwan Province, it took only two days for the "East Wind" People's Commune in Pihshien County to build a small hydro-electric power station.

The transformation from cooperatives to people's communes also involves the setting up of large numbers of public service restaurants, nurseries, kindergartens and tailoring teams, in order to make full use of labor power and free women to play their full part in farming and other work. The setting up of public service restaurants has led many peasants to give up their small private plots of land on which they grew some vegetables or raised pigs or poultry.

The people are finding the communes to be a good form of organisation to accelerate socialist construction and the transition to Communism.

* * *

Chinese Peasants Flock to Join People's Communes

(NCNA-English, Peking, Sept. 2, 1958)

China's agricultural cooperatives are rapidly changing over to people's as the idea catches on among increasingly wider sections of the people in the rural areas.

In many areas, the peasants celebrated the founding of their communes as during festivals, with whole families going to the celebration meetings attired in holiday dress, holding aloft red flags and beating drums and gongs.

Where communes are not yet set up, members of farming cooperatives are inundating the local Communist Party committees with applications. The first groups of people's communes have already been set up in the outer areas of Peking and in Hopei, Heilungkiang, Kirin, Tsinghai, Kansu, Anhwei, Kwangtung, Kiangsi, Kiangsu, Szechwan and Shansi provinces and the Kwangsi Chuang and Inner Mongolian autonomous regions, according to reports so far received here.

Honan Province in Central China, which led the country in the recent bumper wheat harvest, has become the first province where nearly all the peasant households are now in people's communes.

In Anhwei Province, East China, 322 people's communes were formed up to yesterday by some 2.34 million peasant households, or one-third of the total number. There are an average of 7,268 households in each commune.

The experience of these communes will be popularised throughout the province. It is expected that all peasants in the province will be in people's communes before the end of this year.

In many areas of Anhwei, peasants queued up at the local organisations of the Communist Party, waiting their turn to state their case and their determination to establish communes as quickly as possible. At a meeting called by the Makang Cooperative in Feitung County to discuss the matter, the attendance grew quickly from the envisaged 100 to 2,900. Most members had to stand outside the meeting place in the rain.

In Kiangsi Province, south of the Yangtze River, all the peasant households, without any exception, in 32 counties and municipalities joined people's communes in a few days. There are only 27,000 peasant households at the Yehping township in Juikin County, but over 35,000 applications

were handed in because many of them applied twice or three times. Another township in the same county stirred with the sound of drums, gongs and firecrackers nearly all night after the Party organisation there announced the endorsement of its application to transform the area into a people's commune.

Labor efficiency has been raised considerably since the formation of 32 people's communes in Suichuan County of the province, with their 26,000 hectares of late rice field weeded twice or three times in a few days.

In the multi-national Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region, people's communes have already been set up in the Ulan Chap, Chahar, Cherim, Hulunbuir and Chao Uda Leagues. All peasant households in Tungliao County, Cherim League, and the Chahar Right Wing Front Banner, Ulan Chap League, have joined people's communes.

During the discussion of the superiority of the communes, about 150,000 "big character posters" were written by the peasants and functionaries of farming cooperatives in Tungliao County to explain their views. The number of applications sent to the county committee of the Communist Party reached 100,000.

After the 390 cooperatives there were merged into nine people's communes, the Mongolian, Hui, Han and Korean inhabitants marked the occasion with revelry which included singing, dancing, decorating their houses with lamps and also the beating of drums and gongs indispensable for such festivities.

Within a few days after its founding, the "Red Flag" People's Commune in Tungliao accumulated 150,000 cartloads of manure and 475 tons of green fodder, set up 18 factories producing cast iron products, cement, chemical fertiliser, dairy and other products, built a small steel smelting furnace and began turning out ball bearing.

It now has 60 tractors and has set up an agricultural college, a hospital, kindergartens and nurseries.

The fresh impetus given to the peasants by the establishment of people's communes was also seen at the "East Wind" People's Commune in Pih sien, Szechwan Province, which built a small hydro-electric power station in two days. The amalgamation of farming cooperatives into communes has also enabled the peasants to devote greater manpower to the building of water conservancy projects.

In Kwangtung Province, South China, most of the counties began setting up people's communes in August. Reports from various areas show that the overwhelming majority of the peasant households in the province will be in communes before the end of next month.

In Shansi Province, North China, the transformation is expected to be complete before Autumn harvest. All peasant households in 24 counties of the province have joined people's communes and preparations are now being made for the establishment of more than 500 others.

The recent meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party drew the conclusion that people's communes are the best form for accelerating socialist construction and passing from socialism to Communism, and will become the basic social units in Communist society.

It pointed out that the merging and transforming of farming cooperatives into big people's communes, with a higher level of collectivization, is the inevitable trend resulting from swiftly developing production in the rural areas and the peasants' rising political consciousness.

In the people's communes, it noted, industry (the worker), agriculture (the peasant), exchange (the trader), culture and education (the student) and military affairs (the militiaman) merge into one, and the township and the commune also become one entity.

* * *

People's Communes Speed Up Production

(NCNA-English, Peking, Sept. 3, 1958)

The number of agricultural cooperatives switching over to people's communes is rapidly increasing.

The coastal province of Fukien reports that it has set up 130 people's communes. Some of these were established by merging a number of cooperatives, others were based on state farms which absorbed the small cooperatives nearby and were formed into people's communes. In many cases the agricultural research institutes in the countryside were amalgamated into the people's communes, thus combining research work with the experimental plots of the communes.

Up to September 1, Kiangsu Province had set up 268 people's communes. More are being established. Many counties have sent delegates to draw experience from Honan, where nearly all the peasant households have joined people's communes. The papers of various counties are devoting special columns to a discussion of the superiority of this new organisation. Meetings are being held among the peasants and rural functionaries to discuss their establishment.

Peasants in Hupeh Province, who have harvested 84% more in summer crops than last year, have in the past few days crowded the offices of the local Communist Party committees, submitting applications to set up people's communes. The Communist Party Committee of Ocheng has received 400,000 applications. Simultaneously debates on the people's communes are held among the peasants. In the Siangyang Administrative Region, the peasants have put up one million big-character poster, airing their views on the nature, scale and superiority of the people's communes.

Since Pingshun County in Shensi set up the province's first people's commune in mid-August, 25 other counties have followed suit. Most of the peasant households are in people's communes. The province plans to amalgamate all of its more than 20,000 cooperatives into 800 to 1,000 people's communes before the autumn harvest.

With more labor power and larger tracts of land, the people's communes are able to do what the cooperatives cannot do or cannot do well. A people's fishery commune in Fukien, the first in the province, took up agricultural and industrial production after it was founded. The "Red Flag" People's Commune in Chuki County, Chekiang Province, began to reclaim hilly regions and turn them into orchards. 15 iron smelting furnaces have been built or gone into construction, and the people's commune plans to produce 210,000 sets of ball bearings in September.

A people's commune in Hsinhsien County, Shansi Province, set up 73 fertiliser plants after it was founded. It has discovered an iron deposit which has yielded the first heat of pig iron. In only six days after it was founded, the "Red Flag" People's Commune in Yingcheng County, Hupeh Province, has deep-plowed 200 hectares of land, built a water conservancy project capable of irrigating 530 hectares of farmland, set up three gypsum mines and a phosphorous mine, and built two roads. A people's commune in Huaiyin County, Kiangsu Province, plans to build three shipping locks and a hydro-electric power station before next spring.

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Peking College Faculty And Students Help Set Up
People's Communes

(NCNA-English, Peking, Sept. 3, 1958)

Three thousand five hundred faculty members and students from Peking institutions of higher learning are going to villages on the capital's outskirts. They plan to steel themselves as working people in the people's communes now being rapidly set up. They will help the peasants set up the communes and take part in the day-to-day work.

Most of them are teachers and students of social sciences and language in Peking University, China People's University, Peking Teachers' University and Peking College of Law and other higher educational institutions.

They will join the peasants in the airing of views and debates about the people's communes. Some of the faculty members and students will carry out scientific research connected with their special fields.

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PEOPLE'S COMMUNES IN HONAN

Honan Peasants in People's Communes

(NCNA-English Chengchow, Sept. 1, 1958)

Honan has become the first province in China where nearly all the peasant households have set up people's communes. The same province recently drew national attention for its outstanding bumper harvests.

Figures to the end of August show that 1,378 people's communes have been formed on the basis of agricultural cooperatives, embracing 99.98% of all the peasant households in the province. On the average, each commune has 7,200 peasant households, but they range from bigger communes with more than 10,000 households and small ones with less than 5,000 households.

Before the organization of people's communes, the province had 38,473 agricultural cooperatives, averaging 260 peasant households each.

The change from agricultural cooperatives to people's communes is an inevitable development arising from China's socialist revolution and socialist construction and the all-round great leap forward in industry and agriculture in the past year. It meets the urgent demand of the masses of the peasants. The ideological basis for forming the people's communes is the socialist consciousness of the peasants which has risen greatly since the decisive victory of the socialist revolution on the economic, political and ideological fronts. The great leap forward in industry and agriculture, the province's unprecedented summer harvest, the expected bumper autumn harvest and the swift development of the industrial projects of the agricultural cooperatives - all these have provided the material foundations. In this new situation, it was clear to the peasants, the production relations in the agricultural cooperatives could no longer keep pace with the overall, rapid growth of industry, agriculture and construction work.

There were already in existence 495 successful bigger agricultural cooperatives, each with a membership of over 1,000 peasant households, and these were in fact miniature people's communes. Their accumulated experience and the large number of cadres and active peasants they brought forward helped toward the setting up of the people's communes. The movement began in July, after the "Sputnik" People's Commune was successfully established in the Suiping County; and it gathered momentum in early August after Chairman Mao Tse-tung made an inspection tour of Honan Province and indicated the correct direction to take in organizing people's communes.

Most of the people's communes in Honan Province come within the system of collective ownership. Their output, after deducting taxes and the part sold to the state as their obligation toward the unified state purchase plan, is handled independently by themselves. But some of their major means of production already have characteristics of the system of ownership by the whole people.

But in the remaining few, all the means of production are owned by the whole people. In these, the distribution and use of output, the delivery of profit, production costs and the level of consumption are all decided by the state.

Honan also has a number of people's communes which were formed by merging state farms and agricultural cooperatives. Management in these communes is unified, but each kind does separate accounting and payment of wages of the members. The wages of the workers of the former state farms remain unchanged.

In general, the special features of the province's people's communes are these: first, the communes develop agriculture, forestry, livestock breeding, sideline occupations and fishing in an over-all way. They unify the management of industry, agriculture, trade, education and military affairs. They are the best form of basic organization in China for both the period of socialism and the period of transition from socialism to Communism. Second, they grow in size. Every commune has a township as its political, economic and cultural center.

Third, the economic and political organizations are merged in one in a commune. Fourth, the means of production will gradually change from the system of collective ownership to that of ownership by the whole people, and the remnants of private ownership by the whole people, and the remnants of private ownership will be eliminated. Fifth, with their large membership, many-sided undertakings and high enthusiasm among the members a more detailed, stable division of labor arises in the communes. The members are organized on military lines and there is greater discipline in production and daily life. The specialized skills of the members, their general know-how and their production and studies are properly combined. Sixth, life is collective with public services replacing a great part of domestic labor. Seventh, the members are paid according to a wage system and in some communes, a grain supply system has been introduced. Eighth, the communes enable their members to develop full socialist democracy and invigorate their political life.

The establishment of the people's communes has further emancipated the productive forces. The superiority of the communes over the agricultural cooperatives lies in the following. First, the working efficiency of the peasants in the communes is, in general, 20% higher than in the agricultural cooperatives. The productive strength of the women members, in particular, has been liberated. Preliminary statistics of seven administrative regions shows that the opening up of public service restaurants there has enabled 6.9 million women to take part in production. Second, the setting up of people's communes facilitates accumulation of common funds, allows these funds to be applied more rationally and speeds the tempo of capital construction in industry and agriculture and of farming mechanization. Third, the communes enable the peasants to break through the limitations of the agricultural cooperatives and utilize land more rationally, according to its quality, and to fully develop its potential. Fourth, the communes enable the peasants to use labor, capital, land and other natural resources in a more unified way and carry out capital construction to conquer natural calamities. Fifth, the communes facilitate the technological and cultural revolutions and promote the development of culture and education. They will, step by step, institute universal education through the policy of combining education with productive labor, and will provide members with free medical care. Now all the people's communes in the province have already set up agricultural colleges and middle schools. A preliminary count shows that 98,000 colleges have been newly set up in the province, with a total enrollment of 2.4 million functionaries and peasants. The province has already instituted universal secondary as well as primary education. Sixth, the people's communes are the best form to carry out the general line for socialist construction and the policies of simultaneously developing industry and agriculture, simultaneously building large, medium and small projects, simultaneously developing light and heavy industry by both traditional and modern methods. They are the most suitable form of organization to apply the spirit of running industry and all other kinds of work by the whole people. Approximately 350,000 factories and workshops are now run by the province's people's communes. Seventh, in the people's communes the Communist factors will grow continuously and this will help to eliminate the differences between town and country, industry and agriculture, and mental and manual labor. Eighth, the people's communes are helpful to the wiping out of the old ideology and habits of the bourgeoisie, the heightening of the people's socialist and Communist consciousness and the establishment of Communist ethics.

In the movement to set up the people's communes, the local governments at all levels in Honan Province followed the line of firmly relying on the poor and lower middle peasants and the broad masses of peasants, and so guaranteed a healthy development of the movement. The peasants were encouraged to express their opinions freely and they debated the issue as soon as the movement began. The subjects of debates included the questions whether people's communes should be established? Why are they better? and how should they be established? This helped to raise the consciousness and enthusiasm of the masses of the peasants. After the debates the peasants sent in numerous applications for permission to set up people's communes.

Now the management of the people's communes in Honan Province is being strengthened, in order to achieve rapid advances in their work.

New Changes Brought About by A People's Commune

- introducing the Weihsing people's commune
in Suip'ing hsien -

by

Chao Kuang (趙光)

Deputy Secretary, CCP Suip'ing
Hsien Committee

(MCNA Peking, August 18, 1958)

Small cooperatives merged into a big commune

The Weihsing (Satellite) people's commune in Suip'ing hsien was established on April 20 with the merging of twenty-seven agricultural producers cooperatives. The commune embraces 9,369 households with 43,263 persons. Since the accomplishment of cooperation, members of the commune under the brilliant and correct leadership of the Party and Chairman Mao have brought into full play the advantage of cooperation and waged a determined struggle against Nature. As a result, agricultural output has shown a substantial increase, with the per-mow yield of wheat stepped up from 127 catties last year to 653.3 catties this year. All the twenty-seven production teams of the commune have surpassed the production and living standards of the former well-to-do middle peasants in the local areas. However, such a development of production and elevation of output are still far from being able to meet the growing demands of industrial construction and people's livelihood. The broad masses of functionaries and people, with production continuing to leap forward, have come to understand further the infinite potentialities for raising production and brought forward demands for more rapid development of production. Because of their small size, small labor power and inadequate material force, the former agricultural producer cooperatives were unable to meet the demand for more, faster, better and more economical development of production. For this reason, the broad masses of functionaries and people put forward a pressing demand for merging the small cooperatives into a big cooperative. The hsien and hsiang committees of the Party actively led the masses to merge the cooperatives to meet this fundamental demand of the masses quickly. In a little more than three months since the merging of the cooperatives, great achievements have been made in agriculture, industry, water conservancy, forestry, animal husbandry, culture and education.

In agriculture, with forces concentrated on work, application of fertilizer and elimination of the wheat plants of the third category following the merging of the cooperatives, a miracle has been worked this year when wheat output increased by more than four times over last year. This considerably stimulated the efforts and energy of the functionaries and masses. As the greater part of the autumn crops have been overhauled according to terrain, soil, and water resources since the merging of the cooperatives, the autumn crops are now growing well. Judging by the growth of crops, the commune is expected to produce 2,000 catties per mow in the autumn.

Over a thousand factories set up

In industry, the plan formulated after the merging of cooperatives envisaged the setting up of 360 small factories during the Second Five-Year Plan period. The commune has shown fully its superiority after its establishment, thus promoting the ideological emancipation of the masses and aiding the establishment of the Communist style - thinking, speaking and acting with

courage and daring. Consequently, in a little more than three months the original five-year target of industrial construction has been exceeded to a considerable extent. By July, 1,138 factories (22 kinds) in the commune have gone into operation. The Weihsing commune is commencing production of iron and ball bearings, which none dared to think of in the past.

In irrigation construction, before the establishment of the commune only two production teams could undertake gravitational irrigation; now fifteen production teams can undertake such irrigation.

Formerly, there was no centralized grazing ground and livestock farming was scattered; after the establishment of the commune, 11 cattle farms, 8 sheep farms, 57 hog farms, 10 chicken farms and 8 bee-hives have been set up.

In commercial work, the commune has set up 20 supply and marketing stores and 7 agencies, thereby greatly facilitating the purchase of means of production and subsistence by the commune members.

Workers and peasants' universities and technical middle schools set up

In cultural and educational work, the commune is operating one workers and peasants' university with 10 classes and 8 departments attended by 7,700 students in addition to the 19 public primary schools (115 classes with 5,593 pupils) originally established. The commune is also operating one technical middle school with six classes and 264 students and 33 primary schools with 34 classes and 1,680 pupils. The number of primary school pupils accounts for 93.9 percent of the total number of school-age children of the whole commune. 96.7 percent of the illiterates and semi-literates in the commune have removed their labels of illiterates and 5,260 persons have been enrolled in the higher primary schools. In addition, the commune has set up 21 libraries, 21 clubs, 4 basket-ball grounds, 18 bands of singers (584 persons) and 8 spare-time dramatic troupes.

To ensure security of industrial and agricultural production, the commune has organized a people's militia with 2,484 persons and set up five "rocket" lien and twenty "rocket" companies composed of 800 persons as the backbone of the militia.

A basic unity of society composed of peasants, workers, merchants, students and soldiers

With the commune established, the units of production and construction, which were basically a single unit of agricultural production, are developed into a basic unit composed of workers, merchants, students and soldiers and engaged in multiple production pursuits. This situation has given rise to change in the relations of production and change in the thinking of the commune members. Thus, the commune which is the merging of small cooperatives is not merely an agricultural producers cooperative in character but a basic unit of society composed of workers, peasants, merchants, students and soldiers. For this reason, the commune administration and management as well as the system of distribution must be correspondingly changed and improved.

Unified administration and divided control

To begin with, the commune must, on the "unified administration and divided control" principle, place all the means of production and labor power under unified distribution and use and place under the unified administration of the commune all production and construction undertakings like industry, agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, side occupations, supply and marketing, credit, culture, health and communications; the commune is to formulate production and construction plans and to distribute income

under centralized plans. Meanwhile, owing to the large size of the commune and the widespread distribution of its numerous undertakings, the former production teams of the commune must be appropriately merged and expanded on the basis of unified administration and according to the needs of production, and the initiative of all organizations must be brought into full play. The administration and its scope must also be properly defined in such a way as to facilitate centralized leadership and divided control. At the same time, the organizational structures of finance, trade and credit must be properly readjusted through the supply and marketing department and credit department to be set up by the commune. Under the professional leadership of the state commercial organizations the supply and marketing department is to handle sale of all the commune's products and the supply of daily necessities required by the commune. Under the professional leadership of the State Bank, the credit department is to handle deposits by members, loans and regulation of the commune funds.

Basic wages linked up with bonus

Next, the commune system of distribution. In order to press forward the development of production, stimulate the labor activity of commune members, strengthen and improve the system of cooperation and appropriately improve the living standard of commune members under conditions of rapid increase of production and big increase of accumulation, the original measure of distribution - recording work points, carrying out preliminary distribution of income twice a year and making final accounts at one time - is changed into a distribution measure - basic wages plus bonus - according to the "payment according to labor" principle for distribution. That is to say, grain is to be placed under unified control and distributed to the production teams by the commune according to the ration standard fixed by the State, increase of grain production and population; the production teams are to issue grain cards to members according to the standard fixed for each person; members who take their meals in the commune canteen are to get their rice against cards; the rice is to be supplied free and members are to pay to oil, salt etc. The amount of wages is to be fixed in grades properly divided according to the labor intensity, production technique and labor attitude of each member. At the same time, the commune is to set aside a considerable amount of bonus (generally, fixed wages and bonus are in a 80:20 ratio) and to evaluate the work and issue bonuses monthly.

Further, the leadership of the Party is to be strengthened, Party organizations at all levels in the commune to be set up and brought to perfection, the Party ranks are to be properly developed on the existing basis of Party organizations, cadres of all organizations to be properly readjusted and provided, methods of leadership to be changed, and the principle of leadership - collective leadership of Party committees and divided responsibility - to be continually implemented. Activities of Party branches are to be strengthened and the organizational role of all Party members, Young Communist League members and women is to be brought into full play. Active builders of socialism who are both red and expert are to be actively trained and conditions to be created in every way to accelerate socialist construction and gradually pass over to the communist system.

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The Great Advantages of and Four Favorable Conditions for People's Communes

(Peking, Jen Min Jih Pao, August 18, 1958)

Under the stimulus of the all-round big leap forward of the Fatherland, a great social reform marching from socialism towards communism - the movement of establishing people's communes - is full swing in Hsinyang district of Honan province.

Experiences in trial operation proved that this system of people's communes, which merges the hsiang and the cooperative into one and combines industry, agriculture, commerce, school and militia into a single unit under unified leadership and management, is still more suitable to further developing the production power of the rural society in our country; that it has shown its still greater superiority than the cooperatives and its still higher efficiency in urging industry and agriculture to take a still bigger leap forward, thereby speeding up the development towards agricultural mechanization and electrification; and that it is the best basic-level organizational form for developing rural economy and cultural enterprises, and for establishing the communist system in the broad countryside. The setting up of the people's communes indicates that our country's agricultural cooperativization has begun to take another large stride forward.

This great reform is the result of the all-round big leap forward in Hsinyang district during the past year. After a series of struggles - rectification, anti-rightists campaign, socialist education in the countryside, and readjustment of the Party and cooperatives - the broad masses of the people have clearly drawn the line of demarcation between the two roads, and made up their mind to walk the road of socialism. At the same time when a decisive victory was won on the political and ideological fronts, the entire Hsinyang district witnessed a new big-leap-forward situation in production, preliminarily extended its water conservancy projects to cover the entire district, and reaped an unprecedentedly bumper summer harvest. A high tide of setting up industries by the entire Party and the entire people has also been universally formed. During the big leap forward in industrial and agricultural production, the various places wide-spreadly set up nurseries, mess halls, "homes of happiness", maternity homes and other organizations, and brought about a giant-scaled socialist cooperation between the hsiang and the cooperatives. In the struggle for a bumper harvest, the broad masses of people, on the one hand, realized the great role played by collective strength in changing nature, development production and improving living standard; on the other hand, they felt that small cooperatives could not meet the need of an all-round big leap forward, and that they limited the development of productivity. For this reason, to change the existing relations in production and make them conform to and urge the development of productivity has become the urgent demand of the broad masses. It was under such a situation that the people's communes were born.

As early as April this year, the two hsien of Suip'ing and P'ingyi¹ already began to merge small cooperatives into large ones, each hsien setting up a collective with 6,000 or 7,000 household-members. In May and June, all the small cooperatives in the two hsien were merged into large ones, and similar action was being taken by other hsien. By the middle part of July, a high tide was formed in the whole Hsinyang district to merge small cooperatives into large ones and to set up people's communes. Up to the end of July, the work of merging the 5,376 agricultural cooperatives in the whole district was basically completed, and at present there are 208 people's communes with an average membership of 8,000 household each.

The upsurging socialist/communist enthusiasm of the masses demanding the establishment of people's communes has far surpassed their enthusiasm for cooperativization of the higher form. In the Satellite Collective of Suip'ing hsien, the people posted more than 41,000 sheets of tatsepao, applications and letters of pledge, asking for admission into the commune. . . When the Ch'aoying People's Communes in Shangch'eng (商成) hsien was being formed, since the hsien did not map out a unified plan and many people were afraid that they might not be admitted, even farming cooperatives 40 or 50 li away also sent delegates to Shangch'eng, raising high their applications for joining the commune. In this way, nearly 30,000 copies of applications and letters of pledge were written within three days. Consequently, the membership of Ch'aoying Commune rose from the original number of 13,000 households to 15,000 in one day, to 18,000 in the next day, and to 20,457 by the time a celebration meeting was held for the founding of the commune.

In order to fully mobilize the masses and elevate their thinking and understanding, during the process of merging small cooperatives into large ones and setting up collectives the various places conducted big contending and blooming as well as big debate on such questions as "Are we to merge cooperatives and set up communes", "What are the advantages of the communes" and "Can we run the communes in a satisfactory manner". After the debate, the Ch'aoying Commune drew the conclusion that to set up people's communes would have ten great advantages: (1) it can further consolidate the system of commune ownership, and train and enhance our awareness in collectivism; (2) it can further develop industrial and agricultural production, and realize the principle of promoting industry and agriculture simultaneously; (3) it speeds up agricultural mechanization; (4) it facilitates large-scale capital construction; (5) with a large membership and rich resources, a commune is suitable to developing various fields of economy; (6) being large in size, solid in structure and concentrated in labor, a commune can employ labor in a unified manner and train a large number of active builders of socialism who are both red and expert; (7) it can cultivate large numbers of cadres and various kinds of technical talents; (8) it can energetically promote cultural enterprises and enterprises of communications and transport; (9) with a strong force of resistance against calamities, it can raise production and living levels at a still higher speed; and (10) it further strengthens the Party's leadership over the commune.

Apart from this, conclusions were also reached that the following four conditions would be beneficial to running a commune well: (1) the cooperative members merge their cooperatives on a voluntary and conscious basis, and have the determination and faith in running their commune well; (2) they have experience in running cooperatives, and knowledge in management and production; (3) there are comparatively more accumulations in the communes; and (4) there is reinforced Party leadership.

Through the debate, the cadres and masses have their enthusiasm further raised.

After its establishment, the people's commune has shown that in production it has still more and greater advantages than agricultural cooperatives. For instance, the former Vanguard No. 3 Cooperative, which has now joined the Satellite Commune of Suip'ing hsien, originally had only 270 household-members and not enough labor power to afforest its 300 mow of wild mountains; after the establishment of the commune, more than 3,000 people were deployed in a unified manner, digging 520,000 scaly holes and completing the afforestation within seven days. Among the present constituents of the commune, there are nine small cooperatives in mountainous regions, which formerly had afforested a total of 24,000 mow of land in six years from 1951 to 1957; after the establishment of the commune, 55,000 mow of land was

afforested within a period of seven days. Before the Ch'aoying Commune of Shangchi'eng hsien came into being, conditions of resource in that hsien were already good; but the small size of the former cooperatives had limited the development of cooperative-run industry. Recently, during the setting up of the commune, 2,500 hsiang cadres and commune cadres as well as 17,500 commune members were detached, and they set up 4,530 iron and steel, machinery, chemical fertilizer and cement factories within 10 days; 3,250 of these factories have started production. The various people's communes also established industrial and agricultural colleges and secondary technical schools. For this reason, the broad masses warmly applauded the communes and held one celebrating meeting after another; at the same time they made up their mind to do a good job of their present work in various fields.

At the moment, in Hsinyang district there is a giant iron-and-steel force formed by 350,000 people who are fighting day and night for the target of producing 800,000 tons of iron and 200,000 tons of steel before the end of this year. Throughout the district a farm-tool renovation campaign is in full swing, which is centered at popularizing the use of ball bearings; it is demanded that with half a million people manufacturing 150,000 sets of ball bearings each day, the drive to popularize the universal use of ball bearing will be completed within 15 days. In order to ensure an all-round bumper harvest of autumn crops, all the special-job production teams of the various people's communes are concentrating their efforts on weeding, eliminating insects, accumulating manure, administering more manure to the field, destroying bad saplings, preventing paddy rice from falling, and improving the management of field of saplings.

While cooperatives were being merged and communes set up, all the various places in Hsinyang district paid attention to closely coordinating their work with current production. They raised the slogan of "doing a good job of production to welcome the establishing of communes". All the various small cooperatives, together with their members, are now working hard day and night in order to obtain outstanding achievements in production and report good news to the commune, thus showing their determination in joining the commune. According to statistics collected by the Ch'aoying Commune of Shangchi'eng hsien, within ten days the commune members have planted more than 25,000 mow of yam, saved 27,000 mow of saplings from drought, accumulated more than 4,000 piculs of manure, and eliminated bad saplings from more than 2,300 mow of field.

In handling means of production, all the various places have paid attention to conducting consultation, promoting democracy, following the mass line, and, according to the spirit of the general line and the principle of facilitating the development of socialist collective economy, placing all public properties under the ownership of the commune, thus handling in a really satisfactory manner the properties of various cooperatives. The size of the commune and the setting up of organizational structure have been decided upon under the premise of facilitating the development of production. Based on different conditions in different places, some hsiang share one commune while some others have one commune each. Production organizations are generally unchanged, and only a few which affect production have been appropriately readjusted. Right now the various communes are making penetrating studies to find solutions for a series of administrative problems, such as organizational structure, production management, financial management, distribution system and political work, so as to fully develop the superiority of the people's communes and promote socialist construction enterprises.

Structure of People's Communes Outlined

(NCH, Chengchow, Aug. 21, 1958)

From July 29 to August 5, at the Weihsing people's commune in Suiping hsien, the CCP committee of the Hsinyang administrative district, Honan, held a field conference on the management and control of people's communes in the whole administrative district. The conference emphatically studied a number of important questions, including how to consolidate people's communes and how to develop further agricultural production.

A tremendous, new social change occurred in the Hsinyang administrative district. In this change, the original 5,376 agricultural producer cooperatives in that district were merged into 208 large-type people's communes. This great change highlights the victory of the revolution on the political and ideological fronts and the tremendous forward leap achieved in socialist construction in that area. It unfettered the enthusiasm of the people in socialist construction and promoted development of the production force, giving rise to the development of a new situation in Hsinyang where victories are followed by more victories and forward leaps entail more forward leaps.

In the case of the Yinghsiang people's commune at Chuchshan hsien, a few days after its establishment members of the commune completed the deep plowing operation on more than 1,000 mow of dry land and the weeding task in all its corn, cotton, and millet fields. In the Shangyu people's commune at Pingyu hsien, four months after its establishment commune members set up from scratch 167 factories. The total value of production of these factories amounts to ¥515,000. In addition, commune members completely dredged in seven days and nights two canals 15 li long and 40 meters wide. They also opened an agricultural university.

Following establishment of people's communes, the people have become disciplined by the large-scale collective labor system. Tremendous changes have taken place in their moral views, state of consciousness, and living habits. As a result, public mess halls, nurseries, and sewing teams have mushroomed everywhere.

At present, more than 37,000 people's public mess halls have been established in the whole administrative district. In seven hsien, public mess halls have become almost the only place for people to have meals.

These new developments have not only changed the ideological consciousness of the people and the relationship between man and man, but also greatly promoted the progress of industrial and agricultural production as well as development of the technical and cultural revolution in the Hsinyang administrative district. However, the people's commune is still a new thing. It requires a series of changes in the control of production and in the system of distribution. It also gives rise to a number of new and urgent questions to be solved. This poses a major task for the Communist Party in the Hsinyang district.

In the course of the conference, 15 comrades outlined the concrete experiences gained by their people's communes in setting up their organizational systems, wage systems, finance control systems, and the leadership of the Party. This was followed by contending, blooming, and debating on whether people's communes could be operated properly and, if so, how to do it.

It was unanimously held by all participants in the debate that there are four conditions favorable for establishment of people's communes. They are: (1) The correct principles and policies of the CCP Central and Provincial Committees - the source of the inexhaustible force for the proper establishment of people's communes; (2) The experiences gained in operating agricultural producer cooperatives during the past few years; (3) The large numbers of disciplined activists who could be organized into an invincible hard-core force; and (4) The fact that the great masses of the people have developed their socialist consciousness and their communist spirit and that a bumper wheat harvest has been reaped this summer while a bumper autumn harvest can be expected - these are the ideological and material foundations for consolidation of people's communes.

On the principles of unified management, divided control at different levels, and the development of production under collective leadership, the conference studied and reached the following specific decisions on the structures and organizational systems of people's communes:

1) With regard to the organizational structure: the organizational structures of the hsiang government and the people's commune concerned are identical. There will be one organizational structure and one tabulation of personnel. The head of the hsiang will be concurrently the head of the people's commune; the secretary of the CCP committee of the hsiang will be concurrently the secretary of the CCP committee of the people's commune; the hsiang people's congress will constitute the congress of the people's commune; and the hsiang people's council will constitute the people's commune administrative committee.

There will be agriculture, water conservation, forestry, animal husbandry, industry, communications, internal affairs, labor, armed security, finance, food, commerce, culture, and public health departments under the leadership of the administrative committee of each people's commune. This committee will also have a planning committee and a number of scientific research institutes. Under the leadership of the administrative committee, the various departments will handle their own fields of work and establish large, small, and specialized operational units according to the demands of production.

2) The limitation of authority of the people's commune, and the large and small operational units.

In the field of agriculture, the commune should divide its farmland into a number of cultivation areas and establish a corresponding number of cultivation teams according to the requirements of production, the state of the water supply, and the quality of soil, for full development of the potential of its land. In addition, it should also suitably distribute its manpower, draft animals, and farm tools according to production requirements. The various large and small operational units will be responsible for the management of their own cultivation areas.

In the field of industry, a division of administrative authority should be carried out according to the principles of centralized leadership, unified planning, divided control at different levels, close coordination between industrial and agricultural production, full utilization of favorable topographical conditions, and the easy supply of raw materials from local sources.

All industrial enterprises which require big investments, large numbers of workers, and more advanced technical standards, and which yield very substantial profits should be controlled by the people's commune; all enterprises which require smaller investments, which cannot be properly placed under centralized control, and which can be operated by a large operational unit should be controlled by the latter; and all the enterprises which can be operated by small operational units and which are very beneficial to agricultural production should be handled by the small operational units concerned.

In the fields of forestry and animal husbandry, all major forests and orchards owned jointly by several large operational units should be controlled by specialized units organized by the people's commune. Common forests in general should be controlled by specialized teams set up by large operational units. Small forests and trees surrounding farmlands may be controlled by persons specially assigned by small operational units. Large animal husbandry farms should be controlled by the people's commune and small animal husbandry farms by large operational units according to the principle of coordinating agricultural, forestry, and animal husbandry production properly.

In the field of fishery production, fish ponds should be controlled by the people's commune, by large operational units, and by small operational units according to the sizes of the ponds concerned. In the field of subsidiary production, the small operational units should be encouraged to raise hogs, rabbits, chickens, ducks, bees, and other items. To develop the enthusiasm of these units in subsidiary production, the method of dividing profits between the commune, the large operational units, and the small operational units concerned and the method of conferring awards on meritorious units should be adopted. In the field of culture and public health, all regular educational institutions should be controlled by the people's commune, and all spare time schools may be controlled by the large or small operational units concerned. All motion picture projection teams, theaters, scientific research institutes, and major exhibition halls and libraries should be controlled by the people's commune.

3) The administrative authority of the people's commune, the large operational units, and the small operational units.

The people's commune should set annual and quarterly production targets and assign annual and quarterly construction tasks to organizations at various levels and to various departments of the commune. The planned targets should not, however, be set in too great detail. They should be somewhat flexible and leave certain room for change under the condition that the lower levels guarantee the fulfillment or overfulfillment of planned targets.

For example, in agricultural production the people's commune should stipulate only the total production as well as the acreage and the production targets of such principal crops as wheat, paddy, cotton, and oil-bearing crops. The large and small productive operational units should be given the authority to choose the plots of land for the cultivation of their crops and to raise non-staple cereals at their own discretion so as to develop fully the productive potential of the land and to meet more properly the needs of the masses in livelihood.

In the field of financial control, the people's commune should, according to the demands of all types of production and construction, formulate unified investment plans, and use and control the various types of funds by the contract method, the method of allocating funds according to plan, and the method of supplying materials in lieu of money, according to actual circumstances. For example, the people's commune may adopt the contract system with regard to the administrative expenditure and the other more or less regular expenditures for the repair of minor farm machines, for raising animals, and for the procurement of chemical fertilizer, and adopt the method of planned supply in relation to the trial or non-regular investments such as the investments in the manufacture of insecticides and in industrial or agricultural capital construction.

In the field of labor control, the people's commune should formulate a unified labor control plan, suitably organize the coordinated cooperation between the various large productive operational units and between the various production departments, and inspect the daily productive operations of the various operation units, factories, and mines.

Control of labor within the various operational units, factories, and mines should be handled by the unit authorities without intervention by the commune for the development of the initiative and the enthusiasm of units concerned. The people's commune should formulate, according to a unified standard, different operational sequences and labor productivity quotas for different productive units. However, following the advent of new inventions and creations and the change of production situations resulting from the advancement of operational skills, the commune should permit the various units to change the standard operational sequences as well as some development of production.

With regard to the organizational structures of financial and trading organs, it was held at the conference that under present circumstances no major changes should be made, and that they should be streamlined gradually.

First, the commune should establish a supply and marketing department which will, under the operational leadership of state-operated commerce, handle marketing of products of the commune and supply of necessities. The basic function of this department is to act as a procurement and marketing agent for state-operated commerce. The rate of profit to be earned by this department should be decided by the state-operated commercial organ concerned according to the principle of setting it at a level slightly above the operational expenses of the department.

The supply and marketing department is an independent unit with regard to its accounts. The commune will be responsible for its profit and losses. Its capital is made up by the share funds formerly submitted by the commune members for the establishment of the supply and marketing cooperative, plus some funds provided by the commune when necessary. This department will set up a number of business centers at the various large operational units and at some relatively remote areas for the supply of minor daily necessities, sundries, and materials needed for production, for the convenience of the masses.

Second, the people's commune has a credit department which, under the administrative leadership of a state bank, handles the savings accounts of the commune members and regulates the floating funds of the commune. The credit department may also act as an agent of the people's bank to conduct such banking business as receiving savings deposits and extending loans. Under the leadership of a state bank, the credit department also undertakes to settle noncash accounts between the people's commune and other economic units as well as between the different accounting units within the commune. It will not conduct noncash accounting business for individual commune members.

Third, grain work will remain the same without change. The people's commune exercises full authority in the distribution and storing of its grain.

Fourth, there will be no change in the taxation organ of the state. As the top-level authority in financial affairs within its hsiang, the commune will guarantee the fulfillment of its tax-paying duties according to the regulations of the state, and keep the remaining income itself.

With regard to the question of distribution within the people's commune, the conference analyzed in great detail the new situation arising from the establishment of the people's communes and the conditions for the adoption of the wage system, and decided that the various localities might adopt different distribution systems according to the actual conditions in different localities.

At present, there are three distribution systems in practice in the Hsinyang administrative district. They are: (1) two preliminary distributions followed by one final settlement of accounts are conducted each year; (2) pre-determined wages are paid to the commune members according to the contribution of labor; and (3) the commune members are paid basic wages plus some bonuses.

Although each of these systems has its own good points, the second and the third systems seem to be more progressive than the first. Because of the fundamental difference between the situations of different localities, these systems should be adopted according to actual local conditions. This should be done through discussions by the masses concerned.

The distribution system of paying predetermined wages to commune members according to the contribution of labor requires, first, the predetermination of the pay for each man-day of labor and, then, the issuance of pay according to the number of man-days of labor contributed by each member.

This system is an advanced form of the old system of advancing pay to the members on the basis of their labor contribution. The difference between the former and the latter is that the former has the pay for man-day labor determined already, and the members can receive their pay according to the actual man-days of labor they have fulfilled.

The adoption of this system may eliminate to some extent the accounting complexity involved in determining the amount of pay afterwards. Under normal circumstances, this system may enable the commune members to receive a fixed pay which, in turn, will enable the members to plan for their labor contribution and livelihood more conveniently and to develop their labor enthusiasm more readily.

The drawback of this system is that it may induce a productive operational unit to fix the number of man-days of labor required for the fulfillment of a task as low as possible in order to get more pay for each man-day of labor. For this reason, the commune should assign tasks to its productive operational units on an annual basis, predetermine the pay for each man-day of labor on the basis of the amount of production, and impose stern control over the fulfillment of a labor quota on the part of the members of each operational unit. In addition, the commune should also maintain a reasonable ratio between the pay for labor contributed to agricultural, industrial, and subsidiary production in order to avoid discord between members engaged in different types of labor, thereby adversely affecting the practice of paying according to the contribution of labor.

The system of paying basic wages plus bonus is also a system of paying according to the contribution of labor in relation to wages. Specially, in the distribution of grain it requires the commune to keep all the grain held back by the commune according to state regulations for the consumption of its members under its control. On the basis of this grain reserve, the commune will issue grain coupons to its members according to the latter's individual consumption standards. The members will pay for the grain they consume at the mess hall with the coupons instead of with money.

The practice of this system calls for classifying labor into several grades and then determining the wage for each grade of labor. Approximately 80 percent of the total wage for a task should be distributed to the members on a monthly basis in the form of a basic wage, and the remaining 20 percent used as bonuses.

In agricultural production, the commune will control 50 percent of the bonus fund, large operational units 30 percent, and small operation units 20 percent, while in industrial and other types of economic production the commune will control 60 percent of the bonus fund and factories and mines 40 percent.

The bonus fund controlled by the commune should be used to keep the pay of members of different operational units somewhat in balance. The bonus funds controlled by the large and small operational units, the factories, and the mines, as well as that controlled by the commune, should be distributed to the various units and individuals as bonuses regularly. Collective and individual bonuses should be issued to the various operational units, factories, and mines at the end of each year according to the extent by which they have fulfilled their production plans.

Each large productive operational unit should divide its subordinate small productive operational units and its members into a number of grades according to their production achievements appraised each quarter, and issue the bonuses accordingly. The number of members granted bonuses should generally account for from 40 to 60 percent of the total number of the members.

The following are the qualifications for members to receive bonuses:

- 1) Obedient to leadership and work enthusiastically.
- 2) Actively participate in production and fulfill or overfulfill production quotas according to specified quality and within the specified period.
- 3) Love and protect public property and struggle against evil personalities and evil practices at all times.
- 4) Think progressively, study hard for technical advancement, and play a leading role in the technical innovation movement.
- 5) Work at least 28 days per month.

Those who are up to these qualifications, be they cadres or common members of the commune, should be given some bonus.

With regard to the members who are not enthusiastic in production, who are lax in work, or inclined to be absent from work without proper reasons, they should be educationally criticized or issue basic wages at a discount or, with the approval of the large operational unit concerned or the commune, be demoted in their wage grades.

In the implementation of the bonus and punishment system, if an operational unit comes across some very serious disaster and, through the adoption of effective measures and through the energetic efforts of its members, the damage is reduced to a minimum, this should be suitably rewarded. Conversely, if a unit suffers undue damage because of the lack of a proper sense of responsibility, this should be punished.

It is permissible to accumulate some wage reserves in the course of distribution. This practice calls for withholding a portion of the wages of the members as a wage reserve during bumper harvest years so as to meet wage requirements in lean years.

The basic wage plus the bonus system is easy to carry out. It has received the enthusiastic support of the masses. It helps the commune members develop their labor enthusiasm, improve the management and control of the commune, and continue the development of production by leaps and bounds. The people's communes which adopt this system should generally have the following qualifications:

- 1) Their members are strong believers in collectivism, are of high socialist consciousness, and are in the habit of contributing voluntary labor.

2) Their communes have increased production substantially, have improved their economic conditions, are developing production surely and steadily, and possess substantial reserve funds.

3) Their members enjoy a higher standard of income, and have surpassed well-to-do middle peasants in living standard on an average.

It was held at the conference that the key to the consolidation and development of people's communes lies in the strengthening of the leadership of the Party and in the work of developing the people's communes into combatting fortresses of the Party. It is necessary to carry out the following tasks toward this end:

1) Establish strong Party organs.

Each people's commune should establish a CCP committee, which should include all the principal responsible cadres of the commune. The CCP committee should have a secretary, a deputy secretary, an organizational department, a propaganda department, supervisory committee, and a staff office. Each large operational unit should have a branch of the CCP committee, and each small operational unit should have either a branch or a sub-branch. The establishment of CCP organs and the assignment of personnel to these organs should be determined by the number and quality of the CCP members. Organs of the Young Communist League and of the Federation of Democratic Women should also be established correspondingly.

2) Strengthen the leadership of the Party over the commune, and strengthen the activity of the Party within the masses.

The CCP committee and its branches should include responsible administrative cadres. All major tasks should first be studied and decided upon by the CCP committee or its branches before being carried out. In carrying out their work, the CCP members should follow the mass line by consulting the masses and listening to their views. Criticism and self-criticism should be conducted regularly within the Party to surmount all evil tendencies, to pursue the struggle between the two roads, to popularize the proletarian stand, to condemn the bourgeois stand, to establish a firm and strong Communist ideology, and to enable each and every CCP member to become a vanguard on the production and cultural fronts.

3) Intensify the Party-building work.

In the course of the socialist revolution on the political and the ideological fronts, large numbers of activists with high socialist consciousness have emerged in the various quarters. This has paved the way for the development of the Party.

To meet the needs of the tremendous forward leaps to be achieved in production and construction, the CCP committees at the various levels should truly intensify the Party-building work. In this connection, they should formulate Party-building plans, train a number of Party-building cadres, and enroll a number of new Party members of good qualifications. During the year, Party organs should be established in all productive operational units and in all sizable factories and mines.

4) Actively train cadres.

Advanced cadres should be strengthened. People's communes of relatively large size should have a CCP cadre at the hsien or its corresponding level as its CCP committee secretary. CCP cadres for large operational units should

generally be former directors or deputy directors of small hsiang or former directors of agricultural producer cooperatives. An effort should be made to operate present red and expert schools properly, to cultivate experimental farms properly, and to strengthen theoretical and cultural studies so as to raise the political standards of the commune cadres. Large numbers of both red and expert activists should be trained to consolidate their Communist stand, to raise their standards of Communist consciousness, to keep in close touch with the masses, to study hard on their own line of work, and to develop the Communist courage to think, speak, and act boldly.

5) Intensify the political, ideological, and educational work among the commune members.

The Party organs should place the trend of thought of the commune members under their control at all times. These Party organs should pursue the struggle between the advanced and the backward. They should lend support to and acclaim the more advanced units and individuals. In addition, these organs should continually educate the commune members with the proper relationship between the state and the commune as well as between the commune and its members in an effort to surmount the remnant bourgeois ideology among the commune members.

Attention should be paid to the following points in establishing and consolidating people's communes:

1) The size of a people's commune should be determined by the mountainous and plain areas, the irrigation system, and the trend of economic development of the locality concerned. It should be decided through consultation with the masses in the interests of production. For this reason, it can be big or small. Generally speaking, each people's commune should embrace a whole hsiang, with its member households ranging from 5,000 to 10,000.

2) All the public funds and grain reserve now being held by the various agricultural producer cooperatives should be handed over to the people's commune for control or distribution. They should not be concealed or be privately shared by the cooperative members.

3) The liabilities of the people's commune should be handled in this way: The loans raised by agricultural producer cooperatives for production during the previous years should be repaid by the cooperatives concerned. The loans raised by the agricultural producer cooperatives (for production this year?) whose autumn harvest will be distributed by the people's commune according to a unified plan will be repaid by the people's commune. All loans raised by the cooperatives for capital and public construction will be repaid by the people's commune.

4) The private plots of land formerly reserved by individual cooperative members will be taken over by the operational units of the people's commune for cultivating grain or vegetables for the joint consumption of the commune members. The small plots of forests and orchards formerly owned privately by individual cooperative members will be taken over by the people's commune.

5) Member households of the people's commune are generally permitted to engage in household subsidiary production. If they want to hand over their equipment to the commune for collective production, the commune should accept the equipment and pay a suitable price to its owner. In the future, commune members will be permitted to continue their household subsidiary production operations on a small scale.

Provisional Regulations (Draft) of the Weihsing (Satellite)
People's Commune

(Peking Jen Min Jih Pao Sept. 4, 1958)

Jen Min Jih Pao editor's note: The Weihsing (Satellite) People's Commune in Suip'ing hsien, Honan province, was organized in April this year with the merging of twenty-seven agricultural producer cooperatives in four hsiang areas. The Commune embraces over 9,300 households with 43,000 persons. These draft regulations define the commune's ownership of the means of production, its tasks in the economic, cultural, military and political fields, and its system of distribution, organizational structure, system of management and public welfare amenities. Full texts of the regulations are published below for general reference.

Provisional Regulations (Draft) of the Weihsing
(Satellite) People's Commune

Article 1: The People's Commune is a basic social unit formed by the working people on a voluntary basis and under the leadership of the Communist Party and the People's Government. Its task is to take charge of all industrial and agricultural production, exchange, and cultural, educational and political affairs.

Article 2: The policy of the People's Commune is to consolidate the socialist system and strenuously create conditions for gradual transition to the Communist system.

To this end, agricultural and industrial production, culture and education must be developed more, faster, better and more economically by exerting utmost efforts and pressing ahead consistently, technological revolution and cultural revolution must be carried out and the distinction between town and country and the distinction between physical labor and mental labor must be reduced step by step.

Under conditions of abundant products of the society and the high degree of people's awakening, "from each according to his ability; to each according to his labor" is gradually to pass over to "from each according to his ability; to each according to his need".

Article 3: All citizens aged 16 and over may join the Commune as regular members. Former landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries and disfranchised persons shall be permitted to join the Commune as "unofficial" members; those who have acquired political rights according to law may become regular members.

All members have the obligation to carry out the resolutions of the Commune, observe labor discipline and take good care of communal property. Except for mentally deranged persons, the regular members have the rights to elect, to be elected, to vote and to supervise Commune affairs. The "unofficial" members shall have no right to election, to be elected and to vote in the Commune but economically may enjoy the same benefits as regular members.

Article 4:

Article 4: All agricultural cooperatives merged into the Commune should turn over all their common property to the Commune in the spirit of Communist cooperation. Surpluses shall not be refunded, nor shall shortages be made up. Except those used for production purpose during the current year, which should be settled by the cooperatives concerned, all former debts shall be settled by the Commune. The share capital paid by members of the agricultural cooperatives shall still be entered into the accounts of members without payment of interest. Investments made by members of each agricultural cooperative shall be repaid by the Commune.

Members who join the Commune by moving and attainment of sixteen years of age shall not be required to pay share capital; those who move out and die may not withdraw their share capital.

Article 5: On the basis of the communal ownership of the means of production, members joining the Commune should turn over all their private plots, and place private houses, lands, livestock and trees under the ownership of the Commune but may keep small numbers of domestic animals and poultry as private property. Livestock and trees owned by members should be converted into their investments when they are placed under the Commune ownership.

Independent households, when joining the Commune, shall place all their land holdings, livestock, trees and major farm tools under Commune ownership except small numbers of domestic animals and poultry which they may keep. These means of production should, according to the regulations of the agricultural cooperatives, be converted into their share capital while any surplus amount shall be taken as their investments.

Article 6: The Commune must continue to build irrigation works, increase the fertilizer, improve the soil, popularize improved strains, multiply livestock, prevent and exterminate insect pests and diseases, introduce close-planting properly, carry on deep plowing and intensive cultivation and ensure a continual rise in agricultural production. The Commune must strenuously improve farm tools and realize agricultural mechanization and rural electrification as soon as possible.

The Commune must develop industry as soon as possible, primarily by building factories and mines to exploit mineral resources, make iron and steel, make ball bearings, process farm produce, turn out farm tools, produce fertilizer and building materials, repair machines, generate hydroelectric power and utilize methane.

The Commune must systematically build roads, dredge river channels, improve means of communications and transport, install telephones and gradually build a modernized communications network. Each big team should appoint one or two postmen to be paid by the Commune; these postmen are to serve as members and no additional charges will be paid by members.

Article 7: The Commune shall set up a supply and marketing department as basic-level machinery of the state commercial establishments. Capital for the supply and marketing department shall be allocated by the state commercial establishment at the higher level. Wages for its personnel shall be paid by the Commune. Profits made by the supply and marketing department should be delivered to the state commercial establishment at the higher level but the Commune may draw a certain percentage from the profits. The Commune must see that the supply and marketing department fulfills the State tasks of planned purchase and unified purchase and carry out the plans and systems of the state commercial establishment at the higher level. At the same time, the Commune has the right to exercise concrete professional leadership over the supply and marketing department.

The supply and marketing department shall set up branches with the big teams. Moreover it shall set up counters at the service canteens of production teams. The counters shall open for meals at hours convenient to the masses. The branches of the supply and marketing department shall operate on their own account, and profits and losses shall be the responsibility of the supply and marketing department. The capital for the branches of the supply and marketing department shall be obtained from the share capital of supply and marketing cooperatives paid by members in the past; if the share capital is insufficient, the supply and marketing department shall try to make it up. Such share capital shall no longer earn dividends.

The supply and marketing department shall join the hsien supply and marketing cooperative as a member.

Article 8: The Commune shall set up a credit department as a business office of the People's Bank. Capital for the credit department shall be allocated by the People's Bank at the higher level, and wages for its personnel shall be paid by the Commune. Profits made by the credit department should be delivered to the People's Bank at the higher level but the Commune may draw a certain percentage from the profits. The Commune must see to it that the credit department carries out the plans and systems of the People's Bank of the higher level and at the same time the Commune has the right to exercise concrete professional leadership over the credit department.

The credit department should set up branches with all big teams and service stations and with all production teams, and see that the masses are provided with every facility. The branches of the credit department shall operate on their own account, and profits and losses shall be the responsibility of the credit department. The capital for the credit department shall be obtained first from the share capital of the credit cooperatives paid by members in the past; if the share capital is insufficient, the credit department shall try to make it up.

The credit department and its branches are treasuries of the Commune and its big teams. Payment of large amounts of cash should be handled by the branches of the credit department. The credit department shall handle non-cash settlements between the Commune and other economic units and among the accounting units within the Commune. It shall not handle non-cash settlements among members.

Article 9: The Commune shall step by step train Commune members as cultured laborers with technical knowledge and all-round ability.

The Commune shall enforce compulsory education closely linked with labor. It should set up primary schools and spare-time make-up schools and step by step see to it that all the school-age children will enter schools, and that all the able-bodied youths will attain the standard of senior primary schools through make-up studies. The Commune should see to it that each big team will step by step set up a spare time agricultural middle school so that all able-bodied youths will attain the standard of senior middle school through make-up studies. Where conditions are present, colleges or universities suited to the needs of the Commune should be set up. When production gains a high degree of development in the future, the working hours may be appropriately reduced to enable members to have more hours of study.

The Commune shall encourage and help members to undertake extensive scientific research. The first thing to do is to carry out research and experiments to cultivate improved strains, improve the soil, cultivate trees, multiply livestock, exterminate insect pests and plant diseases, and improve farming technique and tools.

Article 10: The Commune shall arm all the people. Able-bodied young men of military age and demobilized and retired servicemen should be enrolled in the militia to undergo regular military training and shoulder the tasks assigned by the State. During the period of military training and execution of tasks, the militiamen shall receive their wages as usual.

The Commune shall be responsible for mobilizing the militiamen and settling down the demobilized servicemen. Dependents of martyrs, disabled servicemen and the families of servicemen in active service shall be given appropriate preferential treatment by the Commune, they lack labor power.

Article 11: The Commune shall be established with the same boundary as a hsiang, that is, a Commune shall be established for each hsiang. To facilitate work, the hsiang and commune shall form a single entity, with deputies to the hsiang people's congress acting concurrently as deputies to the Commune members' congress, members of the hsiang people's council acting concurrently as members of the Commune administrative committee, hsiang heads acting concurrently as Commune directors, and the working machinery of the Commune administrative committee serving concurrently as the working machinery of the hsiang people's council.

Article 12: The highest administrative organ of the Commune is the congress of Commune members. Important affairs of the Commune shall be discussed and decided upon by the Commune members' congress. The Commune members' congress should include representatives of all production teams and all groups (for instance, women, youth, old people, cultural and educational personnel, medical personnel, scientific and technical personnel, industrial personnel, commercial personnel, minority people).

The Commune members' congress shall elect an administrative committee to take charge of the Commune affairs. The administrative committee shall be composed of the Commune director, several deputy Commune directors and several members. Under the administrative committee shall be set up several departments or committees (for instance, agriculture, water conservancy, forestry, animal husbandry, industry-communications, finance-grain, commerce, culture-education, internal affairs and labor, armed defense, planning, scientific research, etc.) to take charge of the work concerned. Personnel of departments and members of committees shall be nominated by the administrative committee and approved by the Commune members' congress. The administrative committee may elect a standing committee to take charge of everyday work.

The Commune members' congress shall elect a supervision committee to supervise the Commune affairs. The supervision committee shall be composed of a chairman, several vice-chairmen and several members: in work it shall accept the leadership of the state supervision organs.

The Commune members' congress, administrative committee and supervision committee shall have a term of office of two years. Individual personnel who are very incompetent may be relieved of their duties by the electoral units before their term of office is up.

Article 13: The Commune shall enforce centralized leadership and decentralized control so as to realize the responsibility system in production. On the principle of facilitating production and leadership, the Commune shall be divided into several big teams, each of which shall be divided into several production teams. The big production teams are units to control production and enforce business accounting, and profit or loss shall be the responsibility of the Commune. The production teams are basic units for organization of labor. Under conditions of ensuring fulfillment of the general plans of the Commune, the big production teams have a certain flexibility of power to organize

production and capital construction, and to distribute production expenses and awards. If the big teams and production teams overfulfill their production targets or save in production expenses, the Commune and big teams should allocate an appropriate amount of awards as a measure of reward. When agricultural mechanization is achieved, tractor work teams shall be set up, taking the big teams as units. Large factories, mines, forests and livestock farms shall be directly managed by the Commune; small ones may be turned over to the big teams for management. Small machines and equipment (like sewing machines, methane gas ponds and equipment for making granular fertilizer) may be managed by the production teams.

Each big team shall set up a members' representative conference composed of its deputies to the Commune members' congress. The representative conference of big team shall elect on a big team administrative committee composed of a head, several deputy heads and several members, and a supervision committee composed of a chairman, several vice-chairmen and several members. In both cases, the term of office is one year.

The Commune members' congress shall elect one head and several deputy heads of a production team to form a team committee charged with the task of exercising leadership over work.

Article 14: When income is stable, funds are ample and members are able to strengthen the labor discipline consciously, the Commune shall introduce a wage system. Wage scales shall be fixed by the masses according to the intensity and complexity of jobs, physical conditions, technical standard and attitude towards labor and fixed amounts of wages shall be paid monthly and, in the case of those with special skill, technical allowances may be granted in addition. The amount of monthly wages may vary according to the Commune's income and members' needs. In case of extraordinary natural disasters, the amount of wages may be appropriately reduced.

After introduction of the wage system, the labor performed by each unit and each person should be periodically examined and compared. Awards should be given in the case of those who work hard and fulfill tasks satisfactorily; wages may be deducted as a measure of penalty in the case of those who work passively and fail to fulfill their tasks. The maximum amount of awards paid by the Commune in a year may come to one fourth the total wage bill. Awards shall be divided into three parts to be disposed of by the Commune, big teams and production teams respectively. The average advanced norms should be taken as the basis for distributing assignments and comparing the performance of labor.

After introduction of the wage system, wages will be deducted in case of absenteeism but each person may have two days leave with pay a month and woman laborers may have three days leave with pay a month. Expectant mothers may have on month' leave with half pay. Wages shall be paid for the period of recuperation in case of injury incurred in performance of official duties. Those whose livelihood is affected by absenteeism on account of long illness shall be given an allowance out of the welfare fund.

While conditions are not fully ripe, a piece wage system may be introduced first. The value of each working day shall be fixed and remuneration of labor may be issued in part or in total according to the number of working days earned by members.

The administrative machinery of the Commune shall practice retrenchment. The wages for all administrative personnel may not exceed 1% of the total wage bill. Meetings should also be simplified as far as possible so that they will not take up the hours of productive labor.

Article 15: Under conditions of high development of grain production and unanimous agreement of all Commune members, a system of grain supply shall be introduced. All Commune members, irrespective of the number of laborers in their families, may be supplied with grain without payment according to the population of each household. The grain supply system must be enforced in such a way as to ensure that members whose families have more laborers still earn more income than in the past.

Individual lazy-bones who do not work well and who refuse to change their way despite advice may, with agreement of the Commune members, be made to work and reform themselves under supervision.

Article 16: The wage system and grain supply system are based on "from each according to his ability" of all Commune members. Each Commune member should consciously observe the following labor discipline: (1) Take an active part in labor; (2) Take good care of commune property; (3) Ensure quality of work; (4) Obey orders; (5) Voluntarily achieve coordination.

The Commune shall intensify political work, intensify Communist ideological education, launch Communist labor emulation and labor assessment, relying on the activists among poor peasants and lower middle peasants, and gradually translate the "from each according to his labor" into a deliberate action of each Commune member.

Article 17: The Commune shall organize canteens, nurseries, and tailoring teams so as to free women from household work. To facilitate management, canteens and nurseries should generally be established taking production teams as units. Those who do not want to take part in canteens and nurseries are free to have their way. Those who eat in the canteens may provide their own vegetables and dressings. Wages for personnel working in canteens, nurseries and tailoring teams shall be paid by the Commune; service charges received from members should be based on the "no loss and no profit" principle. Canteens should run vegetable gardens, keep pigs and chicken and continue to better the food.

Article 18: The Commune shall step by step set up and perfect medical establishments. Step by step, the Commune should set up a central hospital capable of attending to serious cases in general; the big teams should each set up a clinic capable of attending to ordinary cases in general; production teams should provide health personnel and midwives capable of preventing disease, attending to the sick, and assisting women at childbirth. When conditions are present, the Commune shall set up sanatoria.

The Commune shall provide medical attention on a cooperative basis. Commune members shall, according to the numbers of their families, pay a certain amount of the cooperative medical expense each year and shall receive free medical attention. The central hospital should recommend serious cases which it is unable to treat, to appropriate hospitals for treatment and should pay travelling medical expenses, but for the time being shall not recommend to other hospitals cases of feebleness due to old age and chronic cases. When the Commune is in an economically sound position it will introduce free medical service.

Article 19: The Commune shall be responsible for making arrangements and looking after the aged, the weak, orphans, widows and disabled members who lack or lose labor power and have no way of living. This is to ensure their livelihood. The Commune shall organize "happy homes" for the aged who are childless. The aged should be organized to perform light labor and given the necessary provisions in order to enable them to lead a happy life in their late years.

The Commune shall build communal graveyards. With the agreement of tomb owners the existing tombs may be removed if it is necessary to do so in the interests of production and construction.

Article 20: The Commune shall gradually improve members' housing conditions. Comprehensive and long-term plans for residential areas and housing estates should be worked out and put into effect step by step. Small residential areas may gradually be merged on the principle of facilitating production and leadership.

Houses shall be built according to plans and the Commune shall provide materials and labor under centralized plans. Bricks, tiles and timber shall gradually be taken from the previously-existing houses of members and put to use by the Commune according to need. Newly built houses shall be owned by the Commune and members occupying the houses shall pay rent equivalent to the cost of maintenance and repair.

Article 21: The Commune shall expand mass cultural recreational and reports activities so as to bring up mentally and physically developed Communist citizens. Step by step, a library, theater and film projection team shall be set up for the Commune; clubs, spare time troupes, song groups and ball teams shall be set up for big teams; small reading rooms and broadcasting listening facilities shall be provided for production teams.

Article 22: The total income earned by the Commune each year shall be distributed as follows:

1. Deduct production expenses incurred during the year.
2. Deduct depreciation of communal property.
3. Pay tax to the state.
4. Pay food rations to members.
5. Pay basic wages and awards to members.
6. Set aside a welfare fund required for educational, health, cultural and other welfare undertakings. The welfare fund in general may not exceed 5% of the total income.
7. The remaining part is to be set aside in totality as a reserve fund, The reserve fund is to be used for building up reserves and enlarging reproduction (including communications construction). The Commune shall gradually see to it that grain reserves adequate for one to two years and the necessary wage funds are built up.

Distribution of income should be based on the principle of ensuring a high-speed enlargement of reproduction. Along with the development of production, wages should be raised year by year but the rate of wage increase must be lower than the rate of production growth. After the average wage level of members (including supply of grain) has reached the living standard of well-to-do middle peasants, the rate of wage increase should be slowed down in order to ensure development of industry and agricultural mechanization and rural electrification as soon as possible.

Article 23: The Commune shall introduce planned management and work out long-term construction plans and annual plans in the light of the State economic plans and the concrete conditions of the Commune. The Commune should work out concrete output plans, technical plans, plans for production expenses and plans for use of labor power in respect to big teams, factories, mines, livestock farms, forestry grounds; the big teams should work out similar plans in respect to production responsibility and rationally enforce the reward and penalty systems.

Production plans, capital construction plans, product delivery and sale plans, commodity circulation plans, machinery purchase plans, financial plans and wage plans must be examined and balanced by the State planning organs and relevant departments before they are put into effect.

Article 24: The Commune shall introduce democratic management. The Commune, big teams, production teams, factories, mines, forestry grounds, livestock farms, tractor working teams, schools, hospitals, stores, bank, canteens and militia organizations must build a lively and regular democratic life. The business accounting units should make public on time their accounts and list of awards distributed. As far as possible, all administrative personnel must take part in productive labor. The masses should be mobilized to apply wall newspapers as media of criticism, self-criticism, commendation and suggestions in order constantly to overcome defects in work.

Article 25: The Commune must carry out the principle of industry and thrift. It should set the masses in motion to produce and work hard, make full use of its own strength and overcome difficulties. It should practice rigid economy, reduce production costs, combat waste and unnecessary spending of money, cut non-productive equipment and structures and make do with available things where possible.

Article 26: The Commune must institute a strict system of fiscal control. All accounting units must work out budgets of receipt and expenditure on time; observe the system and formalities concerning the use of cash and settle accounts on time.

Special persons should be appointed to care for communal property. Loss of communal property due to irresponsibility should be criticized, or persons concerned should be penalized by the Commune. Corruption, theft and destruction of communal property should be subjected to severe measures; serious cases should be turned over to the organ of justice at the higher level for prosecution.

Addenda: Alternate Scheme for the Supply and Marketing Department and Credit Department.

Article 7: The Commune shall set up a supply and marketing department. The supply and marketing department shall handle the sale of Commune products and the supply of necessities to the Commune under the professional guidance of the state commercial establishment. The basis on which the supply and marketing department handles its business is to purchase and market on behalf of the state commercial establishment. Purchasing and selling prices must be strictly as fixed by the state commercial establishment. Commission on purchase and sale made on behalf of the state commercial establishment should be fixed by the state commercial establishment according to the principle of making a slight profit after subtracting expenses. After the Commune has fulfilled the tasks of State planned purchase, the supply and marketing department may sell the surplus products within the Commune but the quantity and price of sale should be fixed by the state commercial establishment. Certain odd commodities which the State cannot purchase and supply may be sold to and purchased from sources outside the Commune with approval of the state commercial establishment.

The supply and marketing department shall operate on its own account, and loss and profit shall be the responsibility of the Commune. Capital for the supply and marketing department should be obtained from the share capital of supply and marketing cooperative already paid up by members; if the share capital is insufficient, the Commune shall try to make it up. Such share capital shall no longer earn dividends.

The supply and marketing department should set up branches within the big teams. It should set up a number of counters in several remote localities so as to provide the masses with facilities. The state commercial establishment should set up wholesale points in suitable localities and gradually abolish retail points.

The supply and marketing department shall join the hsien supply and marketing cooperative as a member.

Article 8: The Commune shall set up a credit department. Under the professional guidance of the State Bank, the credit department shall handle deposits by members, loans to members and the regulation of Commune funds. The credit department shall at the same time act as an agency of the People's Bank and handle savings deposits, loans etc. on behalf of the Bank, receiving commissions according to regulations.

The credit department shall operate on its own account, and loss and profit shall be the responsibility of the Commune. Capital for the credit department shall be obtained from the share capital of credit cooperatives previously paid up by the members; if it is insufficient, the Commune shall try to make it up.

The credit department should set up branches with big teams and service stations in remote localities so as to provide the masses with facilities.

The credit department and its branches are the treasuries of the Commune and its big teams. Payment of cash in large amounts should be handled by the credit department and its branches. Under the guidance of the State Bank, the credit department shall handle non-cash settlement between the Commune and other economic units and among the accounting units within the Commune itself. It shall not handle non-cash settlements among members.

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The Establishment of Communes Viewed From the Regulations
of the "Satellite" Commune

- Jen Min Jih Pac editorial -

(Peking Jen Min Jih Pac, September 4, 1958)

Our paper published today the Regulations (draft) of the Weihsing People's Commune in Suip'ing hsien, Honan. A comprehensive study of these regulations will reveal the following specific differences of the communes and the agricultural producers' cooperatives:

(1) People's communes differ from farming cooperatives in that they are organizations not solely engaged in agricultural production, nor are they solely intended to gain an all-round development of agriculture, forestry, side occupations and fishery. Like cities, and factory and mine areas they will develop industry at the same time in order to eliminate gradually the distinction between town and country and the distinction between industry and agriculture.

In addition to production the communes themselves handle commerce (exchange) and credit (banking).

Apart from economic activities the communes develop culture and education (including primary schools, middle schools, specialized courses and scientific research) so as to train all the member masses as highly cultured persons and gradually eliminate the distinction between mental labor and physical labor.

The communes arm all the people. Young men of military age and demobilized and retired servicemen are enrolled in the militia to undergo regular military training and shoulder the tasks assigned by the state.

This means that the people's communes are a single entity of workers, peasants, traders, students and soldiers to shoulder the construction tasks in the political, economic, cultural and military fields.

(2) Being established with the same boundaries as the hsiang, people's communes are much bigger than farming cooperatives. This commune is a merging of 27 agricultural producers' cooperatives embracing over 9,000 households. This considerably facilitate centralized use and unified distribution of manpower and material and financial resources, accelerate agricultural capital construction, multiple economy and public services and greatly accelerate the pace of rural electrification and mechanization. Without communes of this size, many construction projects will be restricted.

(3) The people's commune and the hsiang for a single entity. Their boundaries being the same, there is no need to set up separate administration for the communes and hsiang. Thus, deputies to the hsiang people's congress concurrently act as deputies to the commune members' congress; members of the hsiang people's council concurrently act as members of the commune administrative committee; hsiang heads and deputy heads concurrently act as directors and deputy directors of the communes; the working machinery of the commune administrative committee concurrently serve as the working machinery of the hsiang people's council. This demonstrates that communes are in fact the basic social units of socialism.

(4) People's communes have gone a step further than farming cooperatives toward the development of public ownership. All private plots, private house-land, livestock and trees, etc. gradually come under the commune ownership, and the small numbers of domestic animals and poultry to be kept by private persons for the time being will gradually come under public ownership. The remnants

of individual economy are diminishing in the communes. This advance in the relations of production helps the growth of the social productive forces and the national economy as a whole.

(5) In distribution of income and remuneration of labor, people's communes will gradually, along with the development of production, substitute the wage system (including awards) for the work-day bonus system. Grain will be supplied without payment when grain production is highly developed and when all the commune members unanimously agree to it. This system provides additional guarantees for the income and livelihood of commune members, encourages expanded reproduction and contributes to the further development of industry, transport and communications, education, science, culture, and public services.

(6) People's communes go further toward a collective life, and accelerate the development of public services, including canteens, nurseries and tailoring teams, etc. which facilitate production and set free the labor power of women; medical establishments and sanatoria set up to ensure the health of members; happy homes for the aged, the disabled and the bereft; and new housing estates built according to plans. The socialization of household tasks, the great improvement in the living conditions of the commune members and the development of cultural, recreational and sports activities will entirely change the outlook of the countryside.

All this is revolutionary and progressive because it contributes greatly to socialist construction and the development of productive forces. It will be warmly received by the millions.

The Weihsing Commune is in many ways representative of the more advanced communes so far established. There are a number of communes like this in Honan and other provinces, and some communes are better than the Weihsing Commune in many respects. Anyhow, having read the Regulations of the Weihsing Commune, one will get a view of the contour of the people's communes. That is why its regulations are worthy of recommendation. However, the people's communes to be set up in other places must proceed from local conditions and base themselves on the free volition of the local people in tackling all questions and must not blindly imitate the Weihsing Commune. This is an important question of principle in the current people's commune movement.

Below are our views on the size of the communes, methods of setting up the communes and the question of economic policy.

(1) The size of communes. As things stand at present, it is generally advisable to set up a commune in each hsiang to embrace 10,000 persons or 10,000 families. In certain hsiang which are vast in area and thinly populated, several communes may be set up in each hsiang to embrace less than 10,000 persons each. In some localities, several hsiang may be merged into one hsiang and a commune embracing 10,000 families may be set up according to topographical conditions and the need for development of production. As to big communes embracing ten or twenty thousand families each, they may be tried out according to conditions; it is inadvisable at present to promote communes of such size widely.

A tendency exists for people's communes in their further development to be merged into federations within hsien boundaries. Therefore, it is necessary to blueprint the rational distribution of people's communes in a hsien immediately. The name "federation of communes" seems to conform to the situation. But they may also be called "general communes" or "hsien communes" as in some places at present.

The comprehensive development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, side occupations and fishery and of workers, peasants, traders, students and soldiers following the expansion of the communes makes it imperative to introduce proper division of labor in the administrative machinery of the communes. On the principle of organizing efficient functionaries and keeping functionaries attached to productive work, several departments should be set up to divide labor and responsibility. At the same time, government and communes should form one single entity: the hsiang people's councils serve as the commune administrative committees, and hsiang Party committees serve as commune Party committees.

(2) The methods and steps to merge small cooperatives into big cooperatives and transform the big cooperatives into people's communes. The merger of farming cooperatives and their transformation into people's communes is the universal demand of the masses of the people. It is firmly supported by the poor and lower-middle peasants and most upper-middle peasants also favor it. On this question, it is necessary to rely on the poor and lower-middle peasants, encourage the masses to air their views fully, unite with most of the upper-middle peasants, who endorse the merger and transformation, overcome vacillations among the remainder and expose and smash rumor-mongering and sabotage by the landlord and rich peasant elements. The broad masses of peasants should be enabled to merge small cooperatives into big cooperatives and transform them into communes on the basis of ideological emancipation and self-awakening and voluntariness. Coercion should be guarded against. If small cooperatives can be merged into big ones and big ones can be transformed into communes at one stroke it is certainly desirable to do so; if this cannot be achieved at one stroke, it may be done in two steps in a smooth progress which appears slow but is actually rather fast. For it is comparatively easy to set up the frames; with frames set up, autumn harvesting and plowing and agricultural capital construction in the winter can be undertaken on a scale suited to the communes. It will be more convenient to study other problems of the communes in the course of carrying out the above tasks. All hsien should carry out experiments first and gradually popularize the experiences afterwards. If the masses want things to be done urgently, experiences may be popularized at the same time as carrying out experiments. This will prevent the enthusiasm of the masses from being dampened.

The merger of small cooperatives into big cooperatives and their transformation into communes must be closely linked up with the production efforts at present. Instead of hindering the present production efforts the movement should serve as a powerful force to press forward a still bigger leap forward in production. In view of this, the "change at the top and no change at the bottom" method may be adopted at the initial stage of merging the cooperatives. First of all, the small cooperatives may jointly elect an administrative committee of big cooperative. This administrative committee may set up the frames and unify planning and disposition for work. The former small cooperatives can be changed into farming areas or production teams. The original production organs and system of management may remain unchanged for the time being. All things that should be readjusted and all concrete problems that should be resolved in the course of merger should be dealt with later step by step in order to ensure smooth progress of production. These are concrete measures of two steps. Another method is to merge small cooperatives into middle cooperatives embracing several hundred families and then to merge the middle cooperatives into communes embracing 15,000 persons or 10,000 families. This step can also be taken.

The size of communes, the pace of merging small cooperatives into big cooperatives and transforming them into communes as well as the methods and steps should be determined according to local conditions. But whether the merger is to take place around the autumn or in coming winter and next spring, steps should be taken now to bring together the small cooperatives that are prepared to merge into big cooperatives and consultations should be held while unified plans should be worked out for agricultural capital construction after the autumn harvest and preparatory work should be arranged for winning a still richer harvest next year.

(3) Economic policies and economic systems involved in merging the cooperatives. In the course of merging the cooperatives, we should intensify education and prevent a few cooperatives controlled by elements imbued with serious capitalist thinking from developing departmentalism, the manifestations of which are to set aside little or no accumulation and to distribute more before the merger. On the other hand, it must be understood that, the foundations of different farming cooperatives being different, their communal property, debts, etc. will not be entirely the same when they are merged into big cooperatives. In the course of merging the cooperatives, Communism should be inculcated in the minds of the functionaries and the masses. They should recognize such differences and should not resort to method of levelling up or down and should not set a big store by trifles.

In setting up the people's communes, questions like private plots, odd fruit trees and share capital, etc. should not generally be settled in a hurry, nor should express regulations be pronounced. Generally speaking, private plots may be transformed into collective ownership, odd fruit trees may remain private property and the question may be dealt with later in the course of merging the cooperatives. The question of share capital may be put off for another one or two years; along with the development of production, increase of income and the raising of consciousness, it will naturally become public property.

After the establishment of the people's communes, there is no need immediately to transform collective ownership into ownership by the people as a whole. Generally speaking, it is better at present to maintain collective ownership to avoid unnecessary complications arising from the transformation. In fact, collective ownership in people's communes already has some factors of ownership by the people as a whole. These factors will constantly grow in the development of people's communes and gradually replace collective ownership. The transition from collective ownership to ownership by the people as a whole is a process that will take three or four years in some cases and five or six years or even a little longer in others. Like state-owned industry, the people's communes still are socialist in character where the principle of "from each according to his ability; to each according to his labor" is observed. An even longer period will be needed for the transition from socialism to Communism in which the principle of "from each according to his ability and to each according to his needs" obtains.

After the establishment of the people's communes, there is no need either immediately to change the original system of distribution lest an unfavorable effect should be produced on production. Concrete conditions should be taken as the point of departure. Where conditions are ripe, the wage system may be introduced. Where conditions are not ripe, the original systems like contract and award, remuneration based on working days, etc. may remain in force; they may be changed after conditions are ripe.

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HSUKUANG NO. 1 COOPERATIVE IN HUPEH

New Society, New People

by

Ch'en Po-ta (陳伯達)

(Hung Chi [Red Flag], No. 3, July 1, 1958)

To carry out gradually the technological revolution and cultural revolution simultaneously with the socialist revolution on the political and ideological fronts, to develop industry and agriculture simultaneously with priority development of heavy industry, to develop central and local industries simultaneously under centralized leadership, over-all planning and in coordination and to develop large, medium-sized and small enterprises simultaneously are the main points of the general line laid down by the 2nd session of the 8th National Congress of the Party on the basis of Chairman Mao's recommendations for socialist construction - to build more, faster, better and more economically by exerting efforts to the utmost and pressing ahead consistently. It is proved ever more clearly that these main points are of great revolutionary significance for accelerating the socialist development of our country, particularly for stimulating the creativeness of localities and the people.

The high degree of creativeness of localities and the people has been demonstrated in the irrigation movement and accumulate-manure campaign since last winter and autumn. The present movement for developing medium and small industrial enterprises once again demonstrates the might of such a high-degree creativeness.

According to data released by the State Bureau of Statistics, the local units and agricultural producers cooperatives have started construction work this year on more than 800,000 small and medium-sized factories and mines. It is remarkable that before June this year 12,680 small blast furnaces will have been built capable of increasing the iron-smelting capacity by 20,000,000 tons, that before June next year more than 200 small converters will have been built capable of increasing the iron-refining capacity by 10,000,000 tons, three times the existing capacity of the Anshan Steel Works, and that after completing more than 1,400 small and medium-sized nonferrous metals mining enterprises, output of copper and aluminum will top the 1957 national level.

Thus, in a little more than one year a number of departments will catch up or surpass the national scope of the First Five-Year Plan as regards development of medium and small industrial enterprises. Thanks to the massive development of local medium and small industrial enterprises, some departments of industry are expected to reach this year the output targets which they originally planned to achieve by 1962 i.e. the end of the Second Five-Year Plan period.

In agriculture, it can also be seen generally that barring extraordinary natural disasters, output of some main crops this year will also reach or approach the output envisaged for the last year of the Second Five-Year Plan.

Such is the outlook of leap forward achieved in the productive force of society through the full display of local creativeness and mass creativeness.

True, possibility does not amount to reality. But when we think of the heroic spirit of the millions shown in working miracles and when we think of the inexhaustible potentialities of localities, we shall be convinced that the above possibility will certainly be translated into reality.

The main points of the general line thoroughly solved the problems arising from the general revival of our national economy and its high rate of growth, thereby constantly reforming the society as a whole.

The first issue of Hung Chi carried two news letters from the Ochiaeng hsien committee in Hupeh - "Hsukuang No. 1 cooperative sets up small factories in traditional ways" and "How does the Hsukuang No. 1 cooperative direct and manage small factories". Both news letters related new things developed in a cooperative. The first news letter dwelt on how a cooperative set up a series of "small factories" which pressed forward the development of agriculture. The second news letter dwelt on how to unite the agricultural administration and industrial administration. This cooperative is a brilliant example showing the high-degree display of local creativeness and mass creativeness and is actually a miniature of the general revival of our national economy. It said: that "these small factories are marked by fast construction, fast production and great results": this shows the part the local and mass creativeness will play in the industrialization of our country. From these two news letters we see China leaping forward and new society and new people emerging. Here the people are almost all heroes with great vigor and strong will. They dare to think, say and act; and when they act they are able to listen to the opinions of all, take a firm footing and keep good order. In a word, they have ideal and methods. In Chairman Mao's word, they are "writing the newest and most beautiful characters" and "painting the newest and most beautiful pictures" on a clean sheet of paper.

The methods adopted by this cooperative consist generally of the following:

(1) To transform a cooperative into a basic-level organization of both agricultural cooperation and industrial cooperation, actually a people's commune in which agriculture and industry are combined.

(2) To develop industry for the purpose of meeting the needs of the cooperative and serving agricultural production and not for the purpose of profit-making.

(3) To make do with available things. Small factories to be built first and then gradually expanded.

(4) To launch an "all-round men" campaign. Members are to master the farming technique as well as techniques of industry. "Peasants in the field and workmen in factories".

(5) To learn while working and acquire experience everywhere. To acquire some ordinary knowledge of science and technology first and then gradually raise their knowledge. Technological revolution is integrated with cultural revolution.

(6) Administrative personnel are to learn both the art of administration and the industrial technique. They are to be both functionaries and workmen.

(7) Except in individual and special cases, work points are to be recorded for industry as is done for agriculture. In general, work points applicable to factories may not be higher or lower than those applicable to agriculture but should be flexible in certain ways. They should vary with different types of work.

(8) Working hours are the same for industry and agriculture. If extra work is done in night time, work points are to be given at progressive rate as a measure of reward.

(9) On the principle of coordination between industry and agriculture, small factories are to draw up both annual targets of struggle and seasonal targets of struggle.

Can it be said that what this cooperative is doing is actually an indication that our country can develop the productive forces of the society at a rate unknown in history, can quickly eliminate the distinction between industry and agriculture and the distinction between mental labor and physical labor, thereby to open a road on which our country can smoothly pass over from socialism to communism? I think it can be said.

Over a hundred years ago, Engels stated in his "Communist Principles" that after the abolition of the private property, "overproduction that exceeds the immediate needs of the society will, instead of causing a disaster, ensure satisfaction of the needs of all citizens, will give rise to new needs and at the same time will create means to satisfy such new demands". "Production undertaken by the forces of the whole society and the new development of production arising therefrom will need new people and will create new people". "Industry undertaken by the whole society in the common interests according to plans will all the more need all-round men i.e. men versed in the whole system of production". "Education can speedily acquaint young people with the whole system of production and can enable them to get transferred from one production department to another according to the needs of the society and their liking". "... contradiction between town and country will disappear. Those performing agricultural and industrial labor will be the same persons instead of two different classes." What Engels said at the time was an ideal based on the law of development of society. Can it be said that illuminated by the general line of our Party for building socialism more, faster, better and more economically, the Hsukuang No. 1 cooperative is concretely and gradually realizing such an ideal of the founder of the scientific communism? I think it can be said.

The titles of both news letters used modestly the words "small factories". But such "small factories" linked up with agriculture have infinite vitality because what they represent is invincible, new and progressive force, a communist force.

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Hsukuang No. 1 Cooperative Sets Up Small Factories
in Traditional Ways

by

CCP O'cheng Hsien Committee

(Hung Chi (Red Flag) No. 3, July 1, 1958)

In the days of big leap forward in agricultural production, the Hsukuang No. 1 Agricultural Producers Cooperative in Tushan hsiang, O'cheng hsien, Hupeh, set up a granular fertilizer plant, a farm tools repair plant, a united farm produce processing plant and a methane power

station. These small factories were built fast, production was quick and great results were obtained. In a little more than one month, some 40,000 catties of granular fertilizer were produced, and 421 pieces of farm tools were repaired and made. The centralized processing plant has started milling flour. Shortage of fertilizer has been solved and granular fertilizer turned out by the plant has been applied to the cotton field. Production of fertilizer is now being sped up to provide rice and cotton crops with additional fertilizer.

These small factories press forward the development of agricultural production, increase the income of the APC and cut its expenditure. Originally it was planned to buy new-type plows costing ¥18.00 each; the plows produced by the APC plant cost only ¥8.00 each. Originally it was planned to buy cotton seeders at a price of ¥34.00 each; the seeders converted from three-tooth plows cost only ¥2.00 each. The granular fertilizer produced by the APC plant costs only ¥1.20 per 100 catties as against the market price of ¥5.60. In a little more than one month, the cooperative saved some ¥4,000.

These small factories give an impetus to the technological revolution in the countryside. In the past two years and more, the cooperative had devised and innovated 13 types of tools and working methods; after the setting up of small factories, 12 kinds of tools were devised in two months. The use of power-driven tools was beyond the imagination of all; now, a few persons spent one evening and made a sailing boat at a cost of only ¥12.00. As Comrade Hsiao Kung-tze, director of the farm tools plant, said "where there is a will there is a way". The small factories also indicate to the cooperative members the bright prospective of rural industrialization. Some old cooperative members commented: "Industrialization was invisible to us in the past but is more and more clear to us now."

This cooperative did not ask a single cent from the State in setting up these small factories. Nor did it ask a single man or a single machine from the State. Relying on the masses it set up these small factories in the hard way the traditional way.

This cooperative observed three principles in setting up these small factories: (1) Set up only small factories at the start and gradually expand them afterwards according to available force and resources. (2) To serve agricultural production, not simply to make profit. (3) Set up the factories urgently needed by agriculture and according to the degree of urgency and importance.

Problem of funds resolved through mass cooperation

The first problem encountered in setting up the factories was the source of funds.

These small factories would call for ¥35,000. Although the production fund and common accumulations set aside by the cooperative amounted to ¥45,000 in 1957, these funds and accumulations could only serve to defray expenses in connection with agricultural production and side occupations for 1958. The cooperative management called a special meeting to discuss the question. It was decided to draw ¥2,000.00 on the agricultural production fund for setting up the factories and to refund the amount after harvesting rapeseeds. But this amount of money was not enough. Comrade Hu Ch'ang-pi, the APC director, recalled to mind what Comrade P'eng Ying, secretary of the hsien committee, had said: "All difficulties can be solved by the masses". The cooperative management therefore decided to rely on the masses for making investments to solve the fund problem. The management also drew up investment regulations containing the following provisions: "reasonable pricing, purchase according to price, payment by installment, payment of monthly interest".

Members of the cooperative had warm expectations of factories and industrialization. They greeted the plans of the cooperative with great rejoicings. They sang:

"Green shoots of willow trees every year,
 "Spring is with our cooperative,
 "Three factories set up in one month,
 "Ten steps taken in one stride

"APC sets up own plant to produce its tools,
 "Granular fertilizer is good to use without waste,
 "Methane power is cheap and wonderful,
 "Machines husk rice without rolling,
 "Machines gin cotton like silver waves,
 "Machines produce fine flour in automatic operation.

"Stone rollers and mills will go to the museum
 "Where they will remain idle as objects of exhibition"

The masses displayed great energy and efforts in setting up the factories. When they heard that funds and raw materials were short they made investments on their own accord. Chou Tzu-jung took out timber which he kept three years ago for making furniture on the occasion of his wedding. He had this to say: "A wedding is an occasion for joy of one person; setting up a factory is an occasion for joy of all". Old member Lu Chui-chi was prepared to invest in the cooperative ¥100.00 which he saved for building a house. He persuaded others to invest, saying: "In the old time we were advised to be liberal in our spending - for taking better food and wearing better clothing - lest the money should be spent by others. We should be liberal in our spending now. What is the use keeping money in our hands? Take out the money and set up factories. There will be happy life for our descendents and we ourselves shall live several decades longer". In this way, members of the cooperative invested 5,000 catties of timber and over ¥2,000.00 in cash. The difficulties arising from the shortage of funds and raw materials were initially solved.

Make do with available things and build factories
 from scratch

When the funds were raised, some wanted to build factories on the same scale as the large factories in cities. Member Hu Yun-lung said: "If we want to build factories, we must do it on a grand scale. Build the houses first and then tackle the other problems". Some wanted to start production after all the problems like factory premises and equipment have been solved. The cooperative management regarded this idea of seeking perfect and big things to be a tendency that must be given attention. The management called a general meeting of cooperative members, at which director Hu Ch'ang-pi told members: "We will start work on factories soon. We have got only a certain amount of money. It is suggested that we should build the buildings and buy machines. What are we going to do?" Discussions took place among members. Some said: "Anyhow a building must be built." Others said: "How could it be? Before a baby is born, it is given a name. Build a building before setting up a factory. How much will be spent, who knows? Several old peasants had a talk and then stood up,

saying: "We old men have an idea. We don't know if you young people will agree". "Speak out, sirs", other members asked. "We think we can have a good time only after we make production a success. Our idea is to vacate the club and use it as a factory premise. After we have fulfilled our production plans, let's build a big club including a cinema and theater." With one voice all the members endorsed this suggestion. The management accepted this suggestion. But to provide members with facilities for reading books and newspapers and for entertainment on festival days, the management removed the club to a small room. The original club was thus converted into a factory premises. Guided by the make-do idea, the management found an old thatched room and, after repair and plastering, used it as premises for a granular fertilizer plant.

The greater part of the equipment and tools were collected by members by hook and by crook. The united processing plant had no stone mill. Member Liang Hai-ch'ing removed a stone mill from his old house a few li away and turned it over to the cooperative for a certain price. Ch'en Yu-ch'ang invested his stone mill in the cooperative. Members took out many axes, saws etc. and placed them in the cooperative which priced these small tools. Some equipment was borrowed and some was replaced. The fertilizer plant wanted to build a cement drying-terrace which would cost too much; instead, reed mats were used. Earthenware vessels were used as tin-trays for soldering jobs. In addition, they made such articles as fertilizer mixing boards, funnels etc. They spent some money only on things they could not produce like iron wire, leather belts, canvas. The power problem was solved with the use of five diesel engines which were seldom used in the past. To save diesel oil and reduce cost, the cooperative set up a methane power station and made preparations to use methane as power. The problem of equipment was thus satisfactorily solved.

Where the technical force was found?

Where did the technical force come from? At the start, some suggested asking the hsien agricultural machinery plant to send down several technical workmen. Some suggested that workmen of the cooperative who worked in other areas be called back. After discussions, it was agreed that neither of these suggestions was a sound one. Both agriculture and industry were leaping forward and no men could be sent down or called back. At this particular time, factories in towns put forward the aid-countryside slogan; the handicraft departments in Fankou chen put forward the "technology to the countryside" slogan. This was a big news and the Hsukuang No. 1 APC sent nine members to the Fank'ou iron-ware cooperative to learn such techniques as tire and tube repair, gas lamp soldering, sprayer repair etc. One member was sent to Hankow to learn the technique of generating methane. Five members were sent to Och'eng to learn the technique of making granular fertilizer. Moreover, the hsien agricultural machinery plant, the Fank'ou iron-ware cooperative and ship-yard arranged to send mechanical workmen, carpenters and forging workmen to the cooperative as technical instructors. The cooperative also built regular contact with the Fank'ou handicraft cooperative which would send men to give concrete guidance to the cooperative over the manufacture of the new tools required. Handicraftsmen from the chen often went to the countryside to give technical guidance. Members of the cooperative commented: "To send workmen to the countryside is like sending fuel during cold weather; to send men to learn technique is like adding flowers to embroidery". The functionaries and masses were ever more enthusiastic in developing their factories.

The cooperative did not neglect its original technical force. Four unskilled carpenters were organized; with unskilled hands they sawed and planed timber. Two members capable of using power machines led others to learn how to operate machines.

While learning on the one hand and working on the other, an upsurge of tools innovation was raised by the workers, peasants and students. Peasant Hsiao Kung-tze together with workmen and student Hu Ch'ung-fen sent down from Wuhan trial-produced a belt-conveyor, motor-boat, power-driven mill, etc.

Having learned some technical knowledge in general the cooperative members wanted to acquire more and deeper knowledge. Thus, the political, cultural and technical night schools of the cooperative set up special courses with technically-trained persons acting as teachers. The cooperative also launch an "all-round men" campaign, choosing peasant inventor Hsiao Kung-tzu as a model. After discussions, members set an "all-round" criterion: male members are required to master complete set of farming technique and 10 trades - carpentry, ironware-making, masonry, brick-laying, operating power machines, repair, designing, feeding and navigation; female members are required to master complete set of farming technique and 10 skills - managing households affairs by industry and thrift, operating power machines, driving cattle, effecting repair, making designs, feeding, sewing work, bookkeeping, giving theatrical performances. Those who have learned five items are given the honorable title of "all-round men" and given citations. A grand technological revolution was developed in the cooperative and number of people mastered simple technique and achieved the target - "peasants in the field and workmen in factories". The first group included only 12 "all-round men"; the second group included fifty-eight.

This was how the Hsukuang No. 1 APC took the first step to overcome their difficulties arising from shortage of technical forces.

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How Does the Hsukuang No. 1 Cooperative Direct and Manage Small Factories

by

CCP Och'eng Hsien Committee

(Hung Chi /Red Flag/ No. 3, July 1, 1958)

The Hsukuang No. 1 Agricultural Producer Cooperative recently set up a farm tools repair plant, a united farm produce processing plant, a granular fertilizer plant and a methane power station etc. How can we operate these factories that have been set up? This is a new question. In its practical work the Hsukuang No. 1 Cooperative has acquired some preliminary experiences through groping and constant improvement.

Functionaries serve as workmen and master technique

To exercise all-round leadership over production the APC management divided the cooperative activities into four fronts - agriculture, side occupations, industry and finance-economy - with a deputy director exercising leadership on each front.

At the start, some functionaries wanted the organizational structure generally found in big factories. Some said: "A factory must have a superintendent, accountant, statistician"

The accounting section was set up but became idle only after three hours' work; it was about to close when some people came up on business; thus it had to be kept open waiting for business. In less than three days,

members raised objections. Yin Mei-jung, head of the women's team, said with displeasure: "While we and members work from morning till night, the accounting section has nothing to do". Yin Mei-jung's remarks were discussed at a conference held on the industrial front. It was agreed that what she said was right. "If the head of a production team has to work together with members while exercising leadership, why can't functionaries do the same?" Besides, Hsiao Kung-tzu, superintendent of the farm tools plant, has set an example. It was decided to emulate Hsiao Kung-tzu. Functionaries should take part in production while exercising leadership over the factories and should manage the factories through productive work. Lu Lung-shan, superintendent of the fertilizer plant, has learned both how to make fertilizer and how to keep accounts. Hu Hsia-p'o, superintendent of the united processing plant, has learned how to do the jobs of blacksmith and carpenter while taking charge of statistical and accounting work. The heads of the methane station and agricultural machinery station are comparatively skilled technicians. In this way, the dividing lines between functionaries, workers and peasants have been removed. Functionaries ask for no allowances and take the lead in production: this gives member masses a profound education. The masses love their factories as well as their functionaries.

Worker and peasant are one: work points mean wages

How the wages for workers be fixed? If they are fixed high, members will raise objections. If they are fixed low, none will work in the factories. Since the launching of the "all-round men" campaign, a new situation has been brought about in the cooperative in which workers are peasants - "peasants in the field and workers in factories". The dividing line between workers and peasants has been obliterated. It is generally agreed that "factory production means agricultural production and workers' wages mean work points". Thus, with the exception of tractor operators sent to the cooperative who receive wages, all workers receive work points for their jobs and take part in distribution in the same way as agricultural laborers. The work points are recorded in different ways. In the case of pumping station where the work is stable, an annual contract is signed for work points; seven pump operators receive work points according to the time of water pumping. In the case of the granular fertilizer plant where production goes on unchanged throughout the year, piece-wages have been introduced. For 100 catties of fertilizer produced the cooperative will credit the plant with 10 work points; the sixteen men working in the plant will receive work points at different rates fixed for different jobs - collecting fertilizer, pulling carts, drying fertilizer, sifting and mixing, etc. In the case of the farm tools plant and the processing plant, the work is comparatively stable but experience is lacking; in view of this, the cooperative recorded work points temporarily according to the standard of technique; a worker whose technical standard is high would get 12 work points in one working day, which is the highest standard for farming jobs. Later, some members complained that some workers still got 12 work points though they did not work in the morning. This was considered to be unreasonable. Therefore, it was changed to a system whereby work points were recorded according to working time and different grades. That is to say, technical standard is classified according to grade and attendance is calculated according to working time. For instance, 10 work points are fixed for third-grade technical standard i.e. $1\frac{1}{2}$ points for the morning, 4 points for noon and $4\frac{1}{2}$ points for afternoon. If the worker concerned does not work in the morning, he will get $1\frac{1}{2}$ points less. The piece-wage system is not feasible in the case of some trial-produced products; in such cases, the only thing to do is to record work points according to time and pass gradually pass over to the piece wage system later on. Generally speaking, work points for factory workers may not be higher or lower than the work points for agricultural laborers. The Hsukuang No. 1 APC maintains three standards in the course of concrete practice: (1) A person whose technical standard is high shall receive the same amount of income as earned by an upper middle

laborer even if he is physically weak; (2) A person who is physically strong will receive the same amount of income as earned by an upper middle laborer even if his technical standard is not high; (3) A person who is physically strong and whose technical standard is high shall generally receive the same amount of income as earned by higher laborer or even slightly higher amount. This will remove possible objections on the part of both those who take part in industrial production and those who take part in agricultural production. Members declared: "We will work wherever we are needed, as we all work for the cooperative".

Rural work, rural system

Shortly after the establishment of factories, a few people wanted to introduce the systems peculiar to large factories. Several members working in the fertilizer plant worked only eight hours a day and came off duty in the afternoon when the sun was still high, playing ball in the factory premises. This caused much discontent among member masses. Members criticized: "You are leaping backward when all are leaping forward everywhere. That is very bad".

The factories operated by an agricultural cooperative are, after all, organizations within the cooperative which are different from large factories. Yet they should not be operated entirely along the lines of agriculture. What can be done? The APC management considered it necessary to institute a set of systems, but such systems must suit rural conditions and serve agricultural production. After discussion, several systems were initially instituted: The working hours must be the same as agricultural working hours; if a night shift is added, work points should be recorded at the progressive rate as a measure of reward. Work clothes (like gloves) in general are to be supplied by the cooperative; but as peasants provide their own rain hats and rain clothes required in rainy days, the work clothes required in factories should be provided by the workers themselves. In addition, the factories also instituted such systems as examination of products, delivery of materials into godowns, issuance of materials etc. The Management fixed charges for husking grain and milling flour done on behalf of members; the factories are to keep accounts and debit the members' accounts under centralized arrangements. Fertilizer from the fertilizer plant is to be periodically reported to the Management which will distribute the fertilizer to the production teams against tickets. As to other jobs and living systems, no complete sets of regulations are drawn up beforehand; the principle to be followed is to solve problems as they arise. In a word, the system of management should be simple and must not be made too complicated in the case of rural factories.

Factories' production plans are subordinate to agricultural production

Small factories must draw up annual plans as target of struggle. The Hsukuang No. 1 APC draws up first of all an annual plan of industrial output according to the needs for the agricultural development. The annual plan is to be carried out seasonally. The plan is to be carried along with the progress of agricultural production, and in this connection the factories put forward corresponding concrete tasks. For instance, in the current campaign for shock harvesting, the cooperative wants to complete the summer harvesting in 10 days under the following militant slogan: "Turn the wheat field into battle field and sickles and carrying poles into arms. Men and women, the old and young, go to the field, The bumper summer harvest is greeted with great rejoicing". According to this demand, the farm tools plant repaired and made 240 sickles and 120 hoes, repaired 38 sprayers and

17 soil-loosening implements and installed 17 automatic spraying carts three days ahead of schedule. At the same time, the plant organized a repair team to repair farm tools for various production teams. The processing plant pledged itself to mill flour day and night. The fertilizer plant pledged itself to provide an additional 50 catties of fertilizer per mow. The winnowing team of the agricultural machinery station set itself the task of completing wheat winnowing in 10 days. In this way, the rural factories really serve to press forward agricultural production. Members put up wall newspapers everywhere and song praise to their small factories:

"Sharp sickles are needed for cutting wheat stalks
"As support is needed for a battle,
"Operate furnaces day and night
"To keep production abreast.

"The processing plant operates day and night,
"Machine-driven mills turn out flour as fine as refined sugar,
"10,000 man-days are saved,
"Hard work and good food.

"Fertilizer plant operates day and night,
"To produce 50,000 catties before opening of buds,
"Ensure increase in cotton and wheat output,
"The small factory is anything but simple".

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May 25, 1958

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SHANSI INTEGRATION OF WORKERS, PEASANTS AND SOLDIERSShansi Builds Up A Labor Army to Bring About the Integration
of Workers, Peasants And Soldiers(Peking Jen Min Jih Pao, August 15, 1958)

The countryside in Shansi is in the course of forming more than 3,660,000 people into a labor army which performs the roles of workers, peasants and soldiers to bring about the integration of workers, peasants and soldiers.

This labor army is to be formed with peasants of both sexes from 16 to 55 years of age in the province. It constitutes the hard-core force on the agricultural production front. In accordance with the principle of "militant life and militarized labor", it will lead people of both sexes in the countryside who are in possession of full, partial or auxiliary labor power to push forward unceasingly agricultural production and all kinds of socialist construction in the countryside.

From this 3,000,000 strong labor army, people from 16 to 45 years of age are selected as reserve workers. About 900,000 people (equivalent to 15 per cent of the labor power) in the province fall under this category. People from 16 to 25 years of age (between 20 and 30 per cent are of the female sex) are classified as hard-core reserve workers. They will work in the industrial, mining, and communication enterprises of the hsien level and above in groups and by shifts on a more or less permanent basis. People from 26 to 45 years of age are classified as ordinary reserve workers. They will work as casual labor in the industrial, mining and communication enterprises, on the construction of large reservoirs and at other worksites in accordance with the need. From among the young and able-bodied people between the ages of 16 and 45, people of both sexes from 16 to 40 years of age are selected to serve as militiamen. Young men from 18 to 25 years of age are to serve as hard-core militiamen. They belong at the same time to the reserve force of the nation. In system of organization, this labor army is made up of command posts (hsien), battalions (hsiang), companies (cooperatives) and platoons.

The establishment of this labor army receives the welcome of the broad masses of the peasants in Shansi. At present, more than 1,907,000 peasants have participated in labor in the province. The work of publicizing, mobilizing and organizing the building of the labor army will be completed basically at the end of August.

The labor forces which have been set up earlier have shown the superiority of getting organized in industrial and agricultural production. A "field corps" (battalion) at Tungfengcheng hsiang in Hsinhsien which participated in the construction of reservoirs has not only completed the task of training militiamen but also double its rate of labor efficiency compared with the general level. It completed in 50 days the reservoir which was originally estimated to take 370 days to complete. A labor force comprising 300 men took only five days of hard struggle to complete the reservoir at Nitsunhsiang, Yangku hsien, which was originally estimated to take ten days to complete.

The "workers, peasants and soldiers division" of Chinhhsien which comprises 5,000 peasants is made up in the main of demobilized servicemen and militiamen. After its formation, the "division" marched to four reservoir sites at Changyuan, Yuehlingshan and Hsuyang to begin its strenuous work. These worksites are provided with libraries, clubs, bathing pools, miniature hospitals, gymnasiums, and schools for training red and vocationally proficient personnel, for eliminating illiteracy and for military training to ensure that the labor force is supplied with material and cultural needs.

From the labor force already organized in the Yutzu Administrative District, more than 1,700 "reserve workers" have been drafted to help in the construction of factories, mines and railways. In addition to this, the two hsien of Tsinghsu and Chiao-cheng in this administrative district have despatched a "field corps" (battalion) comprising more than 2,000 people to participate in the construction of the Fenho Reservoir.

This labor army is built for the purposes of meeting the need of labor for speeding up the development of industrial and agricultural production, fulfilling the need of more militiamen for building up national defense, and manifesting the glorious tradition of the militiamen of integrating armed strength with labor. According to the estimated need of the province for promoting an all-out leap forward in industrial and agricultural production, there is a shortage of 1,500,000 men in labor power. In order to solve the new problem brought about by the leap forward in industrial and agricultural production, the different places have launched new mass campaigns for the reform of tools and renovation of technology, improved the organization of labor, enhanced the utilization of work hours, established collective mess halls and nurseries to free women for labor. The educational and labor system of studying and working half time has been enforced. But the strained issue of labor supply has not been thoroughly solved.

According to the experiment of the Yutzu Administrative District, through organizing a labor army to bring about the integration of workers, peasants and soldiers, labor efficiency has been brought up by about 30 per cent. This labor army is not only capable of taking up production tasks of an arduous and shock nature like farm irrigation and capital construction in ordinary time. In case of need, part of the able-bodied labor can also be drafted to undertake construction on a large scale and to carry out Communist labor cooperation across the borders of cooperatives, hsiang, hsien and even provinces.

After the establishment of the labor army, all people from 16 to 25 years of age in the countryside will be hard-core reserve workers. They will take up work in industrial, mining, and communication enterprises of the hsien level and above in groups and by shifts on a more or less permanent basis. This ensures the mobilization of more than 380,000 people for the support of the task of industrial and communication construction during the second half of this year. The problem of industrial and agricultural production fighting for labor in many places can thus be solved.

What is more important is that this method makes it possible for the fostering of jacks-of-all-trades for national construction purposes. Peasants fit to serve as reserve workers have the opportunity of working in industrial, mining and communication enterprises by turn, thus acquiring the ideological consciousness of the working class, learning to master the advanced technology of modern industry, and becoming socialist workers with a capacity for both agriculture and industry. Moreover, upon their return to the countryside bringing with them the ideology of the working class, the industrial production technique and the advanced scientific knowledge, they can provide for the agricultural front more personnel with a certain technical level and the ideological consciousness of the working class, thus accelerating the realization of technological revolution in the countryside. At the same time, the labor army is also a good form of organization to give the young and able-bodied peasants of both sexes political and ideological education.

The labor army for bringing about the integration of workers, peasants and soldiers has been built this time in Shansi on the foundation of militia work, military service work, and the reserve worker system of the past. The province has a strong foundation on militia work. There are about 1,100,000 militiamen who are from 18 to 40 years of age. Among them, there are about 550,000 hard-core

militiamen who are from 18 to 25 years of age. The reserve worker system in the province, which was first brought into effect in May this year, has also a good foundation. Labor forces this time have been organized by different places on different foundations which were in existence according to the line of "performing the role of workers, peasants and soldiers" and the new spirit of "integrating armed strength with labor". Some were built, some were strengthened and some were reorganized.

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An Important System In the Building of Socialism

- Shansi Jih Pao editorial -

(Peking Jen Min Jih Pao, August 15, 1958)

The decision of the CCP Shansi Committee "concerning the building of labor forces to bring about the integration of workers, peasants and soldiers in the countryside throughout the province" is in the course of being speedily implemented and enforced by all places in the province. A labor army with more than 3,600,000 people to perform the role of workers, peasants and soldiers, has been preliminarily set up. This is something most exciting, for it represents an important system in the building of socialism. This system is not only strongly realistic, but is also of critical and far-reaching significance. For this labor army to bring about the integration of the workers, peasants and soldiers will greatly strengthen the force for the building and defense of socialism. It will swiftly change the aspect of the labor front as a whole. At the same time, it will further the growth of Communist factors.

The shortage of labor is a problem which has become more and more acute since the emergence of the big leap forward in the building of socialism. In the current situation, it is estimated that the province will need another 1,500,000 men to promote an all-out leap forward in industrial and agricultural production. Obviously, the shortage of labor has become a problem the solution of which is of decisive significance if we want to ensure that a big leap forward is to be made simultaneously in industrial and agricultural production.

But the strained labor situation is a difficulty which accompanies the march of socialist construction. It itself embodies many active factors for the subjugation of difficulties. Over the course of the past half year or more, the different places have made many successful renovations to solve the problem of labor shortage. These include the launching of mass campaigns to promote the technological revolution and the renovation of tools, the improvement of labor organization, greater utilization of working hours, the socialization of household work, the liberation of women for labor, and the enforcement of the educational and labor system of spending half time on study and half time on work. The building of a labor army to perform the role of workers, peasants and soldiers is also a dynamic way to solve the problem of labor shortage.

Why is this? First, the building of a labor army to perform the role of the workers, peasants and soldiers is to have the most dynamic labor power in the countryside organized into an organized, disciplined, and militant force. This is extremely valuable in having labor efficiency enhanced. The experiences of the Yutzu Administrative District have shown that the use of this labor army in industrial and agricultural production is capable of raising the general labor efficiency by about 30 per cent, even if it is required to take up the most arduous task. We know that higher labor efficiency signifies economy in labor, and economy in labor on a large scale is naturally of great help in overcoming

the shortage of labor. After organizing "field forces" to perform the role of workers, peasants and soldiers, the Tachianan Firelight Agricultural Cooperative of Peitien hsiang, Yutzu, raised its labor efficiency by 45 per cent compared with the production quota, and there was a rapid change in the tense labor situation. The fact is a persuasive testimony of this point.

Second, because the labor army for performing the roles of workers, peasants and soldiers is organized according to the principle of having industrial and agricultural production collectively planned and simultaneously taken care of, it can overreach the boundaries of hsien, hsiang and cooperatives to carry out labor cooperation on a large scale. This is likewise an energetic measure for solving the labor shortage. Beginning this year, due to the strained labor situation, the phenomenon of industrial and agricultural production fighting for labor has appeared in many places. With a labor army to bring about the integration of workers, peasants and soldiers, this problem can be solved with greater ease. All the people from 16 to 25 years of age in the countryside will become hard-core reserve workers. They will take up work in industrial, mining and communication enterprises of the hsien level and above in groups and by shifts on a more or less permanent basis. A reserve force for industrial construction is thus stored up in agricultural production. It basically ensures industrial construction of a labor supply. The phenomena of idle workers and waste can also be avoided when industrial and mining enterprises suspend operation or operate on a reduced scale. The organization and employment of labor in this scientific way can ensure a big leap forward in industrial production as well as agricultural production.

The building of a labor army to perform the role of workers, peasants and soldiers is not only an important measure to solve labor shortage. It is also a way to narrow down the difference between the workers and the peasants and to nurture Communist factors. The general line of the Party for the building of socialism calls for the building of China into a socialist country with modern industry, modern agriculture and modern science and culture as soon as possible. In order to accomplish this glorious and arduous task, we need personnel, especially personnel capable of doing all things.

With the reserve worker system in force, the several million peasants in the province have a chance of working in the industrial, mining and communication enterprises by rotation. This can help them not only to acquire a general training in the ideological consciousness of the working class, to learn the advanced technique of modern industry, but also to become socialist workers who are capable of taking up both agricultural and industrial production. Furthermore, after their return to the countryside bringing with them the ideology of the working class, the technology of industrial production and advanced scientific knowledge, they can provide for the agricultural front numerous personnel with a certain cultural and technical level as well as the ideological consciousness of the working class, thus accelerating the materialization of the technological revolution in the countryside.

In this way, after a number of years, there will be in the province a large number of up-to-date laborers with cultural and technical knowledge as well as the ideological consciousness of Communism who perform the role of workers, peasants and soldiers, and who will become a hard-core force on the industrial and agricultural fronts. There will be less and less difference in status between a worker and a peasant.

The building of a labor army to perform the roles of workers, peasants and soldiers is also a good way to promote the militia system of "combining armed strength with labor". As is known to all, the "combination of armed strength with labor" is a system of fine tradition in our militia work. It manifested its enormous role during the years in the past. Today, with China making big leaps

forward on the whole front in the building of socialism, and especially with imperialism building up its armed forces to prepare for war, and with U.S. and British imperialism engineering aggression in the Middle East thus gravely threatening world peace, the strengthening of this system is of especial critical significance.

After building up the labor army to perform the role of workers, peasants and soldiers, the 550,000 hard-core militiamen in the province will become the hard-core of the labor army. This facilitates the manifestation of their pioneer role in production, and is of assistance in helping them to raise swiftly their technical knowledge in production. Furthermore, the labor army is a fine form of organization in giving political and military education to the young and able-bodied peasants of both sexes.

Many places have shown in practice that due to the participation of the hard-core militiamen in the labor army in taking up production on the one hand and giving military training on the other, the work of reserve training has achieved greater, faster, better and more economical results, and is much better than the old form of training which was alienated from production. Our militia work is centered on the "combination of armed strength with labor". With the system of "combining armed strength with labor" greatly strengthened through building up a labor army to perform the role of workers, peasants and soldiers, there will no doubt be a new phase of the big leap forward in militia work. In this way, our national defense reserve and local security forces will be greatly strengthened.

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"Field Platoon" Plays Important Role

- Experience of the Firelight Cooperative in organizing a labor force to perform the role of workers, peasants and soldiers is introduced -

by

Li Wen-shan (李文珊)

(Peking Jen Min Jih Pao, August 15, 1958)

In the Yachianan Firelight Agricultural Cooperative of Peitien hsiang, Yutzu, more than 3,800 mow of land are under the cultivation of its 127 member households with 224 men and women contributing full or partial labor power. In past year, the phenomenon of labor shortage was frequently experienced. This year, this phenomenon has become even more serious. On the one hand, the cooperative has taken on a heavier production task. On the other hand, more labor has been drafted to help other places in industrial and agricultural construction this year. Since June, the cooperative has sent to factories, mines and water conservancy projects in other hsiang and hsien as many as 33 cooperative members, all of whom are physically strong and capable of contributing full labor power.

Production has indeed suffered to some extent because of the reduction in labor power. After the wheat crop on 1,020 mow of land was harvested, it was given only an initial crude threshing. Because it rained for several days in succession, the unthreshed crop began to sprout. During the two days when wheat was harvested, many kinds of work like wheat harvesting, re-sowing and hoeing had to be done at the same time. The different production teams could not take care of all things simultaneously. The cooperative originally planned to re-sow all the land after the harvest. But because it was short of hands, more than 300 mow of land were left unsowed. At the same time, many autumn crops had to be hoed ten days later.

The cooperative cadres realized that as agricultural production had to leap forward again and again in future and industrial production was bound to recruit more men from the countryside, the issue of labor shortage must be solved. So a general meeting of cooperative members was called to discuss the matter. All were of the opinion that due to labor shortage, a shock force should be set up to take up important work in the cooperative, and to use initiative to cope with the task of sending labor to other places. All the cadres and members of the cooperative were united in thought, and after the summer harvest, they set out at once to improve the organization of labor power.

The cooperative was formerly divided into five production teams. It decided that these five teams should be retained, and the system of determining work on the strength of production should remain unchanged. But 166 young and able-bodied men and women with full labor power should be drafted from the five teams and organized into two shock forces.

One of these forces is called the "field platoon". It consists of 66 people including men from 18 to 45 years of age, and women from 20 to 25 years of age who are physically strong and are free from burden. It constitutes the hard core of the shock forces and the "field army". The members of this platoon are required by the cooperative to fulfill two tasks: first, to take up the most arduous work in the cooperative; second, to get ready at all times to help other places in industrial and agricultural production and construction.

Another force is called the "local platoon". It consists of 100 people including male workers from 16 to 17 and from 46 to 50 years of age as well as female workers from 16 to 45 years of age. It is the "local platoon" of the cooperative. The cooperative assigns this platoon the task of carrying out the ordinary field labor of the cooperative. Under ordinary circumstances, the members of this platoon are to work with the team as unit, but in case of need, the whole platoon will be organized to carry out shock work.

Apart from these two shock forces, the old, the weak, the disabled and the children who constitute the partial and auxiliary labor power in the cooperative are also organized as the "service team". They are given various kinds of light labor.

The "field platoon" is at the same time an organization of labor force to perform the role of workers, peasants and soldiers. When this force was built, the cooperative has clearly defined that the 58 young and able-bodied male participants in the "field platoon" are the "reserve workers" of this year. All of them can be freely drafted by their superiors.

In order to ensure that labor power is made available to the industrial and mining enterprises in good time, the constituent members of the "field platoon" have determined by the process of democratic appraisal to name P'ang Ssu-mao, Wang Wu-ho and six other young men as the first lot of "reserve workers". These eight men are progressive in thinking, can read some, and are physically strong. Four of them are members of the Young Communist League.

After the first lot of "reserve workers" was concretely determined, the cooperative has also laid down that nobody is entitled to neglect agricultural production on the ground that he is a "reserve worker". If any one is found to have neglected his labor in the cooperative, his qualification as "reserve worker" will be rescinded.

In the "field platoon", with the exception of six young girls, all members are hard-core or ordinary militiamen. Because of this, the "field platoon" is also a militarized organization. Under the platoon, there are three squads. The cadres of the platoon and its squads are all cadres of the former

hard-core militiamen team. Their system is that no matter whether labor is carried out inside or outside the cooperative, they must observe the three principles of militarized organization, militant action, and collective life.

After these two shock forces were formed and took up production assigned by the cooperative, the Firelight Cooperative rapidly overcame the problem of labor shortage. The people of the "local platoon" divided its members to take over the routine work of the different teams. The "field platoon" exerted its utmost efforts to take over the shock tasks in the cooperative. Because the cooperative was short of manure when autumn crops called for the application of additional manure, the shock task of manure accumulation fell on the "field platoon". The members of this platoon accumulated manure all day in the village and the field and worked at the manure pits by lamplight in the night. After four days and nights of hard fight, they accumulated more than 20,000 piculs of manure, and sunk five artificial manure pits which were capable of turning out 4,000 piculs of manure every ten days. The phenomenon of manure shortage was thus swiftly remedied.

The cooperative planned to lead water to irrigate the crops, but because no ditches were available, it organized the "field platoon" to carry out the work. The people of the "field platoon" worked seven days and nights in succession to dig eight ditches, and the question of water for the irrigation of 3,000 mow of land was thus solved.

According to the statistics of July, the labor efficiency of the "field platoon" was 45 per cent higher than the production quota. Each member was capable of gaining 14 work points a day, and some were capable of gaining as many as 17.6 work points a day. They had caught up with many lines of business contracted in the past. In some lines of business, they had surpassed other cooperatives. The second hoeing for 2,000 mow of major autumn crops was originally planned to be completed in 20 days, and there was need for 280 more workers. Because of the energetic attack of the "field platoon" coupled with the energetic coordination of the "local platoon", this task was completed in no more than 18½ days.

The birth of the "field platoon" also opens up a broad road for the vigorous implementation of the line of "combining armed strength with labor" and the enhancement of military training for hard-core and ordinary militiamen. Every morning at 4:00 a.m., the reveille is sounded for the "field platoon" to assemble the hard-core militiamen who live together and other constituent members of the "field platoon". They first spend half an hour in double march. Then they carry out the shock task assigned them by the cooperative with a militant spirit.

On the walls in the village, the hard-core militiamen have painted more than 80 street targets. Every hard-core militiaman is required to practice target shooting with three shots before and after meals. When they go to the field every day, they bring with them arms and mobile targets. They practice their pace while they walk, exercise themselves in the field, and while they are at rest, they set up mobile targets to practice taking aim and all kinds of shooting posture. In the evening, they divide themselves into four groups to study cultural and military knowledge. Their slogan is: "We are militarily trained as heroes to defend the country, and are vanguards to work for the transformation of Nature. Turning everything red with the integration of armed strength with labor, the rate of yield at 1,000 catties per mow can be ensured."

In the course of a little more than a month, all the hard-core militiamen have scored outstanding achievements in labor and military training. In alliance with production, the hard-core militiamen conducted two sessions of range practice with live ammunition in which all the militiamen passed their tests, and 94.7 per cent of them gave fine performances. Hard-core militiaman Ch'ang T'ieh-lin was capable of gaining 17 work marks in his day labor. He also made use of his lunch interval and resting time in the evening to make 7 wooden rifles, 20 tripods and 8 grenades for the militiamen. He kept five hogs at home, and every day when he returned from the field, he always carried with him a basket of wild vegetables. (Reproduced from the Shansi Jih Pao with abridgments by the Jon Min Jih Pao.)

MESS HALLS AND OTHER COMMUNAL AMENITIES

Many And Good Common Mess Halls In Rural Areas

- Women's Labor Power Emancipated: A New Way of
Life Appears -

(Peking Jen Min Jih Pao, August 18, 1958)

Efforts exerted by the rural masses to establish large numbers of peasant mess halls, nurseries, laundry units and sewing and knitting units, and to effect semi-mechanization of grain grinding and grain processing are enabling the labor power of women, who make up half of the country's population, to be further emancipated. At the same time, farm production and the outlook of rural life have also undergone tremendous changes.

Statistics for the past few days show that in Honan Province more than 310,000 common mess halls have been set up, with a total membership accounting for 71 per cent of the total population of the province. In Liaoning Province, over 18,000 rural common mess halls, 11,000 sewing and knitting factories (units) and 71,000 nurseries have come into being. In Tsinghai Province over 240,000 peasant households in the agricultural region have participated in the common mess halls, and nurseries have been established everywhere. Besides, large numbers of common mess halls, nurseries and sewing and knitting organizations have been established both in highlands and in plains in Sinkiang, Kwangsi, Kwangtung, Yunnan, Kweichow, Fukien and Anhwei.

These collective welfare undertakings, thanks to the fact the principle of organizing production positively in accordance with the needs of production development has been implemented, have achieved a marked result in guiding women to participate in production. In Heilungkiang the establishment of more than 50,000 nurseries has allowed more than 225,000 women to take part in summer plowing. In the 21 hsien making up Yutz'u Administrative District, Shansi, because 90 per cent of young children are looked after in nurseries, over 344,000 women are allowed to get out of kitchens and grinding houses. In Hsinhsiang Administrative District, Honan, with the common mess halls established, some 800,000 women have become available for labor. In Tali hsien, Shensi, among the 26,200 women who have children ranging from one to seven years of age, 25,000 were required to prepare meals, make clothes and grind grain, and could not participate in production constantly or were unable to do so at all. Now that nurseries and common mess halls have been established in every corner of the hsien, and mechanization of sewing and grain processing has been realized, the 25,000 women are now allowed to participate in production all year round. Large numbers of women stand on the forefront of production, thereby easing to a certain extent the strain imposed on labor.

Owing to the fact that women can now participate in production without worries, "three satisfactory results" have been gained. Firstly, cooperatives are satisfied with the constant attendance rate, high labor efficiency and better fulfillment of production tasks. Secondly, cooperative members are satisfied with the reinforcement of laborers and the reduction of labor tenseness and working hours. Thirdly, the whole family is satisfied with an increased family income and the better health of young children. As a result, wherever the above-mentioned social welfare enterprises have been undertaken, we can see an upsurge in production, harmony in family relationships, unity among neighbors, and the keen study of techniques and culture.

The common mess halls and nurseries established in various places are being developed smoothly, thanks to the fact that the consciousness of the masses has been genuinely enlightened, so that the masses are relied upon to run these

establishments and the spirit of simplicity, diligence and thrift has been implemented. The different needs of the masses have been attended to. For example, early in July, after the Tsinghai Provincial Council convened in Huangyuan hsien a conference for this purpose, a chain of welfare institutions were set up in a matter of two or three days. In Ningch'iang hsien, Shensi, nurseries, mess halls and maternity hospitals have been set up in every corner of the hsien in a short span of five days. In Anyi hsien, Shansi, nurseries and kindergartens have been universally founded in ten days. Because in various places the masses are relied upon to use their strength, and mutual-aid and cooperation are effected, welfare organization are being run economically and efficiently. In Nitu hsien in the Chuang Autonomous Region of Kwangsi, the masses use the houses taken from landlords as mess halls, and use their own pots and appliances. Cooperatives can now establish mess halls without incurring a large amount of expenditure. The masses in Hsunchua hsien, Tsinghai, have established eleven maternity hospitals, and both the state and agricultural cooperatives did not spend any money. In many localities, grain consumption has been economized, thanks to the existence of the common mess halls, and facts about waste of grain being prevented are too numerous to mention here.

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Ten Big Advantages of Common Mess Halls

by

Hsiang Shan.
Chairman of the Women's Federation in
Ch'angshu hsien, Kiangsu Province

(Peking Jen Min Jih Pao, August 18, 1958)

Peimao hsiang of Ch'angshu hsien, Kiangsu Province, is a place bestowed with large broad fields but noted for its labor shortage. On the average each laborer is required to till five or six mow of land. Every year when the time of summer harvests and plowing arrives, a strain is invariably imposed on the labor force. This year, the problem of labor shortage is even more serious. In order to tap potentialities in various ways, apart from setting up nurseries, units for removing night soil and laundry units, each of the 170 production teams in the hsiang has established a common mess hall. A total of more than 15,000 member households, representing 83 per cent of the total number of peasant households in the entire hsiang, are participating in the mess halls.

Establishment of Mess Halls Is A Popular Demand

During the busiest seasons every year, the masses in that hsiang used to prepare their meals together. During the big leap forward this year, farm work is extremely tense. Women cooperative members complain by saying: "Men work outside and do not care a bit about home. We have to do both. We get fewer work points if we do not engage in production. But when we engage in production, we have no time to prepare our meals." At that time, the No. 10 and No. 13 cooperatives, according to the demands of the masses, established on a trial basis a collective mess hall catering for four small teams, and the result was good. The Women's Federation in the hsiang then summarized this experience, and, under the leadership of the hsiang Party committee, worked out a unified arrangement whereby common mess halls were established in the entire hsiang during the period of spring plowing.

Voluntariness, Flexibility And Convenience Are Principles For Establishing Mess Halls

When common mess halls were first set up, some people cherished some ideological worries. More feared that they would be placed in a disadvantageous position, that they would lose their freedom, and that the accounts would be confused. Grain-surplus households feared that they would be asked to surrender their surplus grain for communal consumption. Some rich households said: "This is real Communism! Our farms have already communized, now our grain is communized. In future our houses and furniture will also be communized." Some households short of grain or experiencing difficulties in grain get the idea of depending on others. They go to the mess halls and eat twice the quantity they would eat at home. For all these ideas, persuasion and education are being carried out, and four principles have been laid down following a discussion with the masses. The first principle is that meals are given on production of grain tickets, which are obtained according to the quantity of grain each one has handed over to the mess halls, which will not be responsible for making any readjustment of grain supply. The second principle is that voluntariness must be observed. In no case should collectivization be made compulsory. The third principle is that mess halls should be made flexible and convenient to the masses. According to the grain consumption habits of the masses in that area, mess halls in general give two ration of congee and one of rice. To economize on grain consumption, substitutes are used. Households can, according to their work, make readjustment of their food requirements. Mess halls supply only one or two kinds of dishes, and cooperative members are allowed to bring their dishes along to the mess halls. They can withdraw their membership temporarily from the mess halls when they are unable to work in the fields in the event of heavy rain. The fourth principle is that the size of the mess halls should vary in order to give convenience to the masses. In villages where people are more concentrated, generally one production team should set up a mess hall, and in areas where the people are scattered, several mess halls should be established.

Economical And Simple To Eat In Mess Halls

Houses, cooking-pots, cooking-furnaces, bowls, tins and other indispensable appliances are supplied by the masses themselves. This will not be the business of agricultural cooperatives. People can order their meals from the mess halls, which will see to it that the supply of meals is adequate and not a grain is wasted. At the same time, each mess hall keeps three current accounts, recording the quantity of grain contributed by the members, daily receipts and expenditures, and grain consumption. Each of these accounts is kept by one particular person, and the procedure is simple, in that entry is made in the labor handbook of the members.

Many Advantages of Common Mess Halls

With the common mess halls established, women are relieved from their trivial household labor, and are playing a great role in accelerating production, speeding up work and implementing the policy of running the home with diligence and thrift. Favorable comments have been received from both the cadres and the masses. According to a general understanding, there are the following advantages of the mess halls:

(1) Labor potentialities can be tapped, and the women's role in the field of labor can be fully developed. In the entire hsiang, 4,900 women are participating in labor. In the past 520 of them could not participate in production because of their household work and over 3,300 went to work late and left early. On the average each one of them could only work for six to seven

hours; also, because the time for meals was not fixed, the time for them to go to and leave work was not the same for everyone. It often happened that workers lay idle waiting for the start of work, and at least one hour every day was wasted. After the establishment of mess halls, the attendance rate can be raised generally by 10 percent, the number of hours spent in work increased by 20 to 30 per cent, and working efficiency by 40 to 50 per cent.

(2) Grain can be consumed and saved on a planned basis. Whereas individually each family did not have a plan for grain consumption, thus giving rise to waste; in the mess halls, every one has a plan for grain consumption, which is thus reduced. For instance, Yin Fu-yuan, a member of the No. 2 Cooperative, and his family consumed eight catties and two taels of grain per day; now in the mess hall they consume seven catties.

(3) Waste in the consumption of firewood can be reduced. The 44 households in the fifth team of the No. 2 Cooperative originally consumed 680 catties of straw; now they use 250 catties of firewood.

(4) Mess halls can help in the accumulation of fertilizer. They are now using cooking ovens, and the residue that remain in them can be converted into fertilizer. Mess halls throughout the hsiang can produce 1,600,000 catties of such stuff per month.

(5) Incidents of fire and children being drowned can be prevented. During summer harvests and plowing last year, because children had to prepare meals and look after the home, more than ten cases of fire and children being drowned occurred. No such thing has ever happened this year.

(6) The arrangement of work is facilitated. Cooperative cadres report that in the past they had either to beat drums and gongs or to go here and there before they could hold a meeting and direct the work. Now they can simply make an announcement in the mess halls, and everything turns out all right.

(7) The strengthening of ideological education can be facilitated, and socialist atmosphere activated. By making use of leisure hours of their members, cooperatives organize them to read newspapers and listen to broadcasts or convene short meetings, to make reports. In this way political work can be regularized, and education further extended.

(8) The activities of wiping out illiteracy can be carried out before and after dinner. Every day cooperative members are taught four or five characters by writing these characters on the blackboard in the mess halls.

(9) Owing to the reduction of household labor, both old and young are allowed to engage in sideline occupations, and the income of the cooperative members can be increased.

(10) The result of such way of doing things is this: Members can achieve an "early season" in production, "better quality", "High yield of autumn harvests", "greater labor capacity" and "more work points" as well as "higher income after autumn". Ying Chuen-sheng and his wife, of the eleventh team of No. 10 Cooperative, have three children. Last year his wife only had 30 work days, and their life was difficult. This year, with the mess halls and nurseries established, his wife has had 25 work days in the period of spring plowing alone. Therefore, Ying said: "After the mess halls are set up, I have changed from a debtor to one who has surplus capital."

"In the past people, while working in the fields, were worried about their homes. Husband and wife often quarrelled over their meals when improperly prepared. A moment of carelessness resulted in children being drowned and houses being burned; all kinds of unfortunate things could happen. Now we have mess halls and nurseries; children are looked after, while meals are supplied, more work points are obtained and the quality of work raised. One can devote the whole mind and soul to production. We women are emancipated in the true sense of the word." This is the praise of women cooperative members for their new life.

* * *

How the Mess Hall of the Pa I Agricultural Cooperative Became A Success

by

The Work Team of the Grain Department of Hupeh
Province

(Hung Ch'i [Red Flag], Issue No. 5, August 1, 1958)

Whenever mention is made of the mess hall of the Pa I [August 1] Cooperative, Chingshan hsien, Hupeh Province, praises are heaped on it by both its cadres and members. Broad smiles on their faces, they would burst out in one voice: "As consolidated as our cooperative, this mess hall is unbreakable even when it is beaten with a club!"

The peasants of this cooperative like the mess hall because it has many advantages, conducive to the development of production and the improvement of living.

In the first place, it saves manpower and increases the income of cooperative members. Before the mess hall was started, the housewife of every household busied themselves all day long cooking. Because of this, 28 woman members could not find the time to take part in production the year round. After the mess hall was set up, a kitchen staff of only 15 is now capable of taking care of the cooperative's 252 households. Many woman members now find it possible to participate in production. Chu Chi-fang, a woman member, in 1955 gained only 7 wage points, but in 1957 after she joined the mess hall and worked hard in the field, she accumulated a total of 1,856 wage points to her credit.

Moreover, as all cooperative members eat at the same time during meal hours, they go back to work again at the same time, thus there is no waste of time. For this reason, each man can gain 1.1 extra wage points a day on the average and a woman 0.8 extra wage points. The cooperative has 467 members. Calculated on the basis of 300 working days a year, there would be an increase of 13,314 wage points for the entire membership. This would contribute much toward overcoming the shortage of manpower in the countryside.

In the second place, there is the economy of grain. The per capita food supply (from what is grown by the cooperative, plus what is supplied by the state) of the cooperative during 1956 was 1.4 catties a day. But since at the time not many cooperative members ate at the mess hall and most households cooked their own food, and since the amount of grain received under planned supply was insufficient, over 70 per cent of the cooperative members asked for more grain. This had hampered production and made it necessary for the state to sell over 30,000 extra catties of grain.

With the mess hall set up, conditions are quite different. In 1957, the daily consumption of grain per person was only one catty on the average, and the cooperative found it possible to cut down its state supply by 85,498 catties a year. For instance, cooperative member Peng Shih-hsiang, with a family of eight members, consumed 3,891 catties a year in 1956 before he joined the mess hall. But in 1957 after he did, the total grain consumption by his family was only 3,498 catties, a saving of over 390 catties.

In the third place, with food prepared by the common kitchen, much fuel is saved, which in turn cuts down the expenses of each cooperative member. As this cooperative is located on a piece of flat land, firewood is hard to get. For six months of the year, a shortage of firewood is experienced. After winter crop is sown, usually 50 per cent of the cooperative's manpower has to be spared for trips to the mountains to gather firewood, otherwise a large quantity of straw and grass has to be purchased for use as fuel. Team No. 1 of the cooperative figured that when meals were prepared separately, each household would have to use at least 15 catties of firewood a day, but the common kitchen of this team cooking three meals a day uses only around 400 catties daily, averaging seven catties a day per household, which means a tremendous saving of fuel.

In the fourth place, it will facilitate the raising of live hogs. After each team of the cooperative started its own mess hall, it set out to organize at the same time an animal husbandry team, raising live hogs collectively, with a special personnel placed in charge of growing animal fodder and feed. The left-over from the kitchen and the dish water are all used to feed pigs without any waste. As a result of such efforts, the cooperative last year raised 583 pigs, exceeding the number of pigs raised before the start of the kitchen by 150 per cent. There are 998 persons in the whole cooperative and it is planned that the number of pigs raised collectively this year will reach 998, one pig for each person.

The benefit to be derived from the operation of a common kitchen has been known to the members of the Pa I Cooperative since 1955. However, the kitchen was not well run when it was first started. Thrice did the cooperative try and twice it failed, the main reason being that it was ill managed. At the time, the members of the cooperative had three things to worry about: first, the kitchen might not be rationally operated; second, the persons in charge might become corrupt; and third, the well-to-do peasants would hesitate to join lest it be found out that they are better off. A careful study and analysis was made in April 1956 and it was deemed that while the operation of a mess hall is entirely in keeping with the basic desire of the masses for the development of production and the increase of income, its management must be improved and the people must be dispelled of their misgivings. It was then decided the following steps should be taken:

First, the work was carried deeper and an example set, substantiated by facts, to earn the confidence of cooperative members. With the mess hall of Team No. 1 as the keypoint, the poor peasants and activists using the mess hall were called together to sum up its merits and shortcomings, questions concerning the masses were raised and solutions found, enabling the mess hall to improve its work considerably. In the past, when a person joined the mess hall, he would be issued the same amount of rice as others, no matter how much he ate. Later, it was considered practical to weigh the amount of rice each individual could consume, and the coupon was issued to him according to his exact requirement, i.e., those who eat more were issued a larger quantity while those who eat less, a smaller quantity. Thus was the irrational state of supply eliminated. In the past, the number of meals prepared was taken as the criterion for fuel charges and cooks' wages, but since some people eat more and other less, it was unreasonable for the burden to be shared equally by the cooperative members. As a result, the mess hall could not be consolidated.

With changes effected, charges are now based on the amount of rice each household consumes. The cooks are paid wages as other members in the team but are given extra pay if they work on festival days and during vacations - more work, more pay. Rice is issued to them in the exact amount they require. Accounts are rendered every day and announced once a month. In case of any deficit, it would be shared by all those using the mess hall in proportion to what they pay for their meals, to the fairness of all.

Apart from this, the mess hall also makes it a point to see that the dishes served are good in variety and enough in quantity and according to the demand of the cooperative members. Rice, porridge, bread and green vegetables are made available every day, with meat, fish, etc. served during the month. Tea and boiling water are supplied. The maternity cases and patients are given necessary care. Every household now feels satisfied with and every person is happy about the mess hall which is getting ever more consolidated with the passage of time.

The second step was to get things organized and the management strengthened. A mess hall administrative committee was set up, with the cooperative's financial and economic chief concurrently in charge and with the participation of relevant persons. Then each team set up an administrative team of its own under the direction of its financial and economic chief. The principal task of the administrative team is to scrutinize accounts and supervise those in charge to make public their accounts on time, to hear views of the masses regarding the work of the mess hall, to find timely solutions to problems discovered, and to call meetings periodically to discuss ways and means to improve the work of the mess hall. As the leadership is strengthened, the management system is improved from time to time and the reasonable demand of the masses is given timely attention. The ch'u and hsiang leadership attaches great importance to the mess hall. At each assessment meeting held in the ch'u, the work of the mess hall is brought up for assessment, which has greatly encouraged the Pa I Cooperative. This is also one of the reasons why the mess hall can become more and more consolidated.

The third step was to adhere strictly to the principle of voluntariness when it comes to the question of membership. A well-run mess hall has many advantages to the masses, but like entry into the cooperative, it is entirely voluntary. In the Pa I Cooperative, the mess halls are all established along this principle. Usually, the cadres come to join first and then the masses; the poor peasants first and then the middle peasants, all on their own accord. If one member of a family wants to join the mess hall while the rest are unwilling to do so, he cannot be accepted. In so doing, it does not disturb the peace of that family. To those who do not want to join, grain and firewood are issued according to the principle of distribution. Seeing that the principle of voluntariness is followed and that the mess hall is being better managed all the time, those who originally were not interested in the mess hall are willing to join it.

As improvement is made all the time, the Pa I Mess Hall is becoming more perfect. Beginning with 1957, a mess hall was set up in each of the cooperative's five teams, with 252 households all joining.

Recently, numerous steps have been taken to make a further leap forward in the work of the Pa I Mess Hall. After public discussion, it was decided to pool all the land retained by cooperative members for private use into their respective teams, to grow vegetables using special personnel assigned for the purpose, so that they can supply sufficient vegetables to meet the needs of the masses. Besides, a system has been instituted to ensure that the mess hall is kept clean, hot water is supplied for baths, and that after the day's work, each cooperative member has good and clean food to eat and enough water to bathe with. It is also planned that after the wheat harvest, there will be straw with which to build a new mess hall for each team, so that the whole team can eat together, listen to broadcasts and announcements as to production tasks, read newspapers and engage in recreative activities together.

The New Life of A New Era

by

Tien Kang

(Peking Jen Min Jih Pao, August 18, 1958)

Our state is now in an era of big leap forward. Socialist construction enterprises of all categories are progressing in a manner in which "one day's speed equals to that of 20 years". All that stands in the way of the big leap forward will be removed or transformed; all that helps will be brought forward. In the broad countryside, according to this need, common mess halls, nurseries, and mechanized sewing and knitting units have been born, and household labor has been socialized and collectivized. This is the sprout of a new way of life of a new era.

On the heel of the big leap forward, the problem of labor shortage has appeared in various areas. Women, making up half of the population, constitute a mighty force. To free them from household labor and allow them to participate in production shoulder to shoulder with men will to a very great extent help solve the contradictions created by the labor shortage, and enable our socialist construction undertakings to proceed at a higher speed.

But the significance of socialization of household labor does not merely confine itself to the solution of the contradictions between the big leap forward and labor shortage. It will also deeply influence our life in various ways. Women leave their homes and go to the farms and factories. This in itself will basically change the relationships between them and society. They have become direct participants in socialist construction. They carry out all sorts of social and cultural activities that men carry out. Thus, full equality between the two sexes will be achieved, enabling women to develop in the same way as men, and enabling them to acquire a complete and thorough emancipation in all respects.

The socialization of household labor also does not limit itself to the emancipation of women. It will inevitably promote the collectivization of the peasants. In the end, this will not only enable social productive forces to develop at a faster speed and furnish many more favorable conditions for the elevation of the cultural and scientific levels of laborers. It will cultivate the collectivist spirit of the people. When people act as one not only in production labor but also in eating and clothing and in upbringing their children, they will feel that they are members of a collective group, and the collectivist thinking will grow in the communal life.

To cherish doubts and worries on the socialization of household labor is an unnecessary mistake. Countless facts have proved that the socialization of household labor is beneficial to all, and harmful to none. Take the common mess halls in rural villages as an example. These common mess halls have prevented any "waste of grain" and "grain shortage", and saved more grain. Certain cadres doubt the socialization of household labor, particularly the establishment of common mess halls. This is because they under-estimate the ideological consciousness of the peasants. Such defects as distrusting the masses and failing to see the speedy elevation of the consciousness of the peasants during the big leap forward should be overcome as quickly as possible. Also, the anxiety of some people in this respect is mainly caused by so-called "habits". Only if we make every effort to make a good job of political and ideological work, adhere to the principle of voluntariness, and let the activists operate common mess halls and nurseries, will the anxiety of these people soon be eliminated. The big leap forward needs coordination in all aspects. A new era also needs a new life.

Beautiful Prospects And Graves

by

K'ang Cho

(Peking Jen Min Jih Pao, August 6, 1958)

While American and British imperialism is engaged in aggression against Middle East countries, we are living in beautiful surroundings in the countryside where buds of Communism are sprouting everywhere.

China is moving forward at the speed of space flight. Not long ago, peasants who were in their fifties were worried because they might not last long enough to see the good days of Communism. Now even the octogenarians and nonagenarians cheerfully and firmly believe that they can enjoy the happiness of Communism. Some old men even firmly believe that they are already living in an age of Communism. The old husband of Aunt Hsieh Kuo-chen of Tassukochuang, Hsushui hsien, is 87 years old this year. Some days ago, when the village power plant began to produce electricity, he went out to the brightly lit street at midnight one night and sat there alone, refusing to go to bed. His old mate, returning home from a night shift in the fields, was astonished to find him still up so late and urged him to go home. He said to her:

"You go home first if you feel sleepy. I want to taste Communism here!"

Of course, generation of power does not amount to Communism, but there is a great deal of truth in what the 87-year-old man said. Like all other agricultural cooperatives in Hsushui hsien, Tassukochuang has its communal kitchens and mess halls for some time. One of the mess halls is for the exclusive use of children and the aged, who enjoy certain privileges. A nursery was also set up a long time ago, the children in the nursery are supported, not by their own parents, but by the cooperative. More important still, private plots of land have been abolished and all grave mounds have been levelled in Tassukochuang as in all other places in the hsien. All the pigs are fed and kept by the cooperative. All the old and dilapidated houses and kitchen ranges have been pulled down. Unfired bricks are used in the fields, while the better grades of bricks are being used for building houses. The houses, when completed, will be allocated according to the number of people in a household and not according to the number of rooms formerly occupied by each household. The supply and marketing cooperative and credit cooperative have become part of the agricultural cooperative. Work in this respect, following the abolition of fairs throughout the hsien, is gradually reducing the gap between the urban and the rural areas. The agricultural cooperative also owns over a dozen machines. There are factories for food processing and making fertilizer. There is also a sewing department and a barber shop. Following the overall adjustment of land, management of the fields has become specialized as has the management of factories. The crops grow wonderfully well under this system of management. Soon the club house will have lantern slide shows, broadcasting, books, music, and everything. In a word, new buds of Communism are sprouting in Tassukochuang and everywhere in Hsushui. The system of people's communes, which are impregnated with Communism, is beginning to take concrete shape here. Who would have thought one year ago, or even a few months ago, that such a perfect ideal could be realized within such a short time? The Party's general line and the magnificent, inexhaustible creative power of the Chinese people are enabling us to live not merely twenty years, but two hundred or even two thousand years, in a day.

I do not intend to dwell any longer on the beautiful prospects of Tassukochuang. However, I have to mention here once more the time when electric power first became available there. It is the first rural power plant in Hsushui.

On the night of July 18, the hsien authorities held a 10,000-man meeting to celebrate the completion of the power plant. As soon as the plant started sending out current, all the electric lights in the place went on, and all at once the hearts of the 300,000 people of the hsien were lit up and glowed with warmth. It was a joyful rally of deafening cheers. But soon the joyful cheers turned into a roaring sea of wrath as the 10,000 people who gathered there raised their arms, shouted slogans against the American and British imperialist aggression against the Middle East and pledged themselves to support with all their might the struggle of their Arab brethren. The boundless wrath reached the skies. It was not only the noise and the fervor of the people. They were encouraged by the beautiful prospect of electrification and angered by the piratical acts of the imperialist powers. People immediately took action. They are trying to excel themselves. Tassukochuang agricultural cooperative has led the rest by raising its target of 10,000 catties of grain per mcw this year to 15,000 catties per mcw. A number of hsiang are already producing 10,000 catties per mcw. The people have guaranteed higher yields per mcw and higher yields over large areas, so that they may overtake Britain and the United States in production sooner and give support to the Arab people. The piratical acts of the imperialist powers stand in sharp contrast with the electrification of rural China. The electric lights inflame the people's fervor, while the black deeds of the pirates anger them so that they work all the harder.

The increase in fervor for work is not confined to Tasukochuang. Thousands of cities and rural districts all over the world are in a great leap forward in construction like Tassukochuang. There are millions and millions of people who have already shaken off or are shaking off the yoke of colonialism, and there are millions and millions of people in the capitalist countries too, who are fighting for peace and democracy. All these people are vehemently protesting and taking practical action against the crimes of the American and British pirates and are giving support to their Arab brethren. In the people's camp the population is larger, the people are willing to work, they have justice, they have the best weapons, and therefore are like the rising sun. The imperialist powers, on the other hand, can make a stand in no department at all. The pirates are like the setting sun, and their mad aggression is like its parting glare. The royal rulers of Iraq, whom the imperialist powers painstakingly brought up, have been overthrown by the people in less than two hours. That shows that the pirates are collapsing at a flying speed. There is no future for imperialism, and where it starts aggression there its grave will be. In rural China, grave mounds are being levelled and public cemeteries built. But the body of imperialism has no right to be buried in a people's public cemetery. There is no place for a cemetery for imperialism. Imperialism will find no place to bury itself!

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SUPERIORITY OF LARGE COOPERATIVES

The Superiority of Large Cooperatives As Viewed From
the Case of the T'aiyangsheng Cooperative
(Liaoning)

by

Lin Wei (林偉)

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In the period of April and May, 1958, Liaoning Province carried out on a province-wide scope the movement for the merger of cooperatives into larger ones. Today in the province as a whole, each cooperative has an average of some 1,800 households. The largest cooperative in the province is the T'aiyangsheng (Rising Sun) Cooperative in Huayuan hsiang, K'aiping hsien.

Toward the latter part of July, I and a comrade from Liaoning together visited this large cooperative. The area of this cooperative is more than 40 li both in length and breadth [i.e., ca. 400 square kilometers]. There are more than 18,000 households, a population of over 95,000, being indeed a hsien of fairly large size itself. Before May this year, there were seven cooperatives with over 2,000 households each, spread over seven hsiang. Now the seven cooperatives have been merged into one large cooperative, and the seven hsiang have also been merged into one hsiang, so that there remains one cooperative to the hsiang.

Because the members of the cooperative were enthusiastic over the development toward Communism, at the time of the merger all agreed to name it the "T'aiyangsheng Communist Farm". Under the cooperative are eleven work districts, and 98 production teams. It is planned to institute the wage system beginning next year, and beginning 1960, to start sending working profits to the state. The measure decided on for the promotion of the wage system is as follows: of the cash earnings this year, 60 per cent will be distributed among members (each worker in the cooperative earns about ¥1.50 per day), while the remaining 40 per cent will be placed in the wage reserve fund, to be drawn on as from March next year. Assuming an average of two units of manpower to a household, each household may draw in advance ¥20 a month. Then the monthly wage system will be gradually instituted.

The present system of grain distribution will also undergo a change. In the vicinity of the grain processing works a grain store will be built to unify the task of the issuance of processed grain at fixed rations to members (referred to as workers and employees here) for consumption, or delivered to the mess halls. In this way, a saving in transport labor will be realized.

After the concentrated consideration of the demands of the masses, the big cooperative has adopted a series of measures for the elimination of private economy:

(1) Small vegetable gardens belonging to different households are transferred to communal ownership, with the production teams or the work districts undertaking the concentrated growing of vegetables in accordance with needs, and specially established vegetable stores delivering vegetables daily to the consumers, guaranteeing the quantity and quality delivered. Prices are also cheap. Members make purchases with vegetable coupons. The advantages of this system, according to the cooperative, are: lowered cost of production compared with individual growing, greater output, and greater variety. Individuals are also prevented from competing with the cooperative in the use of manpower, fertilizer, and capital funds (households too scattered are still allowed to retain 0.03 mu of vegetable land per capita).

(2) Horses and carts, farm implements, fishing boats, and fish nets not yet paid for will be converted into investment in the cooperative, and there will be no further repayment (this article has not yet received final decision, and some advocate repayment at a postponed time).

(3) Fruit trees by the side of houses, and trees giving shelter to houses are transferred to the cooperative without compensation.

(4) Privately owned tailoring establishments and barber shops are transferred to the cooperative, small merchants and pedlars are abolished, and the stores operated by the cooperative will take over their business.

(5) Private houses may be self-occupied. If houses are rented out, the income goes to the cooperative, while the latter also assumes responsibility for maintaining them in good repair. If private buildings affect production and unified plans, the cooperative may pull them down, and allot other buildings to the owners rent free. In addition, there will be the planned and unified development of a housing scheme, the building of a modern village.

In order to break down superstition and to increase arable land, the original graves are all to be removed and buried deeper. Some factory buildings and walls of kilns have been erected with tablets from graveyards, and the peasants in general have not shown any feeling of dissatisfaction. When we visited a lime kiln, the people there spontaneously showed us the tablets on the walls, and they seemed to take pride in them, implying that the peasants had long since got rid of superstition.

For the building of the farm and to realization of Communism, the peasants at the time of the merger voluntarily expressed their readiness to write off debts due them by the cooperatives for the horses and carts given up. Many people voluntarily donated gold, silver, copper, iron, silver ingots and silver dollars.

This place is not yet a state farm. If the monthly wage system is realized this year, it does not mean the state of Communism in which there is "to each according to his needs". Moreover, it will be inappropriate to refer to it either as a "farm" or as an "agricultural producer cooperative", for already it is not a simple organization for agricultural production. In addition to agriculture, the cooperative also takes up animal husbandry, forestry, fishery, salt making, apple growing, and tussah keeping. In addition there are also 98 factories and mines, including factories for the processing of grain and fodder, brick kilns, lime kilns, iron smelters, cotton gins, and alcohol works. There are also many stores and credit organizations, schools and hospitals. These enterprises and industries, and subsidiary production activities are led and controlled by committees dealing respectively with production technique, finance and economics, machinery and electric power, capital construction, animal husbandry, and culture, education and health.

Though Communism has not yet been reached, the march forward toward Communism nevertheless has been greatly accelerated with the expansion of the cooperative. Many things which could not be taken up in the past are now smoothly carried out. Many things which in the past took many years to accomplish are now completed within a very short time.

Mechanization And Electrification Greatly Accelerated

Mechanization and electrification are accomplishments which people have always looked upon as possible only in the very distant future. Now it appears to be realizable very soon. This cooperative already has one steam boat and five heavy motor trucks, and will gradually increase the number. It also has sixteen

tractors which are equivalent to 20 standard tractors. It is planned to increase the number next year to 80 standard tractors (including six large tractors of the Stalin No. 80 type), so that all farming will be mechanized. Fifty-six electric and other motors are in use, and some increases will be made this year, so that the processing of agricultural products and the irrigation of the fields will be completely mechanized. Electricity comes from the state power station, and already 20 li of high tension wires have been laid. Electric lighting is enjoyed by more than 30 production teams. It is planned to lay another 20 li of high tension wire next year, so that electric lighting will be available to all households in the cooperative.

In the headquarters of the big cooperative and many of the work districts, wired broadcasting stations have been erected, the largest of them being as big as the station of Kaiping hsien. More than 2,220 loudspeakers have been installed, and all villages, large and small, can listen to broadcast music and other propaganda items. In the field of communications, it is planned next year to build a trolley bus service, or to operate from 4 to 5 motor buses for the special use of passengers.

The major guarantee for the speedy realization of mechanization and electrification lies in the possibility now to use capital funds in a highly concentrated manner. During the past two years, the seven cooperatives accumulated capital to the total amount of ¥1,670,000. When they were merged into a single cooperative this year, the planned production value totalled ¥25,000,000 (due to drought, the actual output may be slightly lower), and the accumulation for reserve (not including production cost) is about 20 per cent of this, or ¥5,000,000. According to the computations of the leadership personnel of the cooperative, it will need only ¥2,000,000 for the realization of mechanization after autumn this year. It is clear that so long as the central and local industrial departments produce sufficient machinery and electrical supplies, there is no question of the availability of purchasing power at this end.

Agricultural Capital Construction Greatly Accelerated

The original Tung Kuang Cooperative engaged in a project for the restoration of a reservoir which involved 90,000 cubic meters of earthwork. From March till June this year, only 30,000 cubic meters of earthwork was completed, and it looked as if the reservoir would not be usable this year. But after the merger of the cooperatives, the big cooperative concentrated a force of more than 1,500 people and put into use many large wagons, motor trucks, and tractors. With only 12 days of shock efforts, the remaining 60,000 cubic meters of earthwork were finished. The original Hungch'i Cooperative undertook the repair of a sea dike involving 50,000 cubic meters of earthwork, and it was planned to employ 1,500 people for 20 days on the job. The big cooperative concentrated a force of 15,000 people on the job which was finished in eight hours. Such examples are numerous.

But this is only a beginning. After the autumn harvest this year, the big cooperative will start the building of a large dam along the sea, so that the sea water cannot reach land, and water on the land will not flow into the sea. In this way, facilities will be available for the development of a fishing port with an area of 500 hectares, a salt bed of 1,000 hectares, and paddy fields to the extent of 2,000 hectares, leading to an annual increase in production of 70,000,000 catties of salt, 2,000,000 catties of fish, and 50,000,000 catties of grain, with a total value of ¥6,000,000. The project is gigantic and calls for 2,000,000 man-days. In the past two cooperatives had taken up the idea but could not carry it out. In the first place, manpower was inadequate, and in the second place, the interests of the cooperatives were not identical, and each had

its own considerations, so that the project could not be successfully organized. The peasants had said, "Everybody saw this piece of fat meat, but none had the capacity to devour it." Now that the big cooperative has been formed, the question is solved. The big cooperative is preparing to concentrate 20,000 workers to spend 100 days to complete this project.

In the matter of water and soil conservation, during this year there are to be repaired 200 ordinary water-detention dams, so that even in the hilly areas water can be conserved for irrigation. This will mean the complete provision of water conservancy facilities for the whole area.

In addition, before spring cultivation next year, 3,000 hectares of salty and alkaline land will also be transformed. Over each hectare of land 400,000 catties of mud and 20,000 catties of manure will be poured. In this way the arable land will be raised three inches higher.

There are also many plans for deep plowing, afforestation, and housing, which are not enumerated here.

The guarantee for the fulfillment of these gigantic plans, apart from the concentrated use of capital funds on a large scale, is to be found in the large-scale unified regulation of manpower, which is a decisive factor. The unified regulation of manpower by a large cooperative is much more convenient than organized cooperation among small cooperatives, and the results are also much greater.

Peasants No Longer Awed By Natural Calamities

When the east is dark, the west is lighted. When one trade is not doing well, another trade thrives. Calamities are thus eliminated naturally. The income and living of members of the cooperative have greater guarantees.

Whether it be agriculture, fishery, or apple cultivation, there are good harvest years and bad harvest years. Viewed from space, every year either certain villages here, or certain villages there, suffer from calamities. Thus under the conditions of the small cooperative the income and living of the members still do not have full protection (although they are superior compared with individual economy). But now all is well. Everybody has joined the big cooperative. When this village suffers from a calamity, another village reaps a bumper harvest. When agriculture suffers from a calamity, the losses can be made good by industry and subsidiary production (this is the situation this year). The rural people who for centuries have constantly suffered under natural calamities can now get rid of the calamities. Their income is definitely guaranteed.

Will a "poor cooperative" hold back a "rich cooperative"? No. Some small cooperatives, like the Honantsun Cooperative, were originally very poor. After joining the big cooperative, they did not pull back the others. On the contrary, all have become richer, and the poor cooperative has also become a rich cooperative. The reason has been that the big cooperative concentrated forces to sink deep wells and lay electric wires in the area, developing 180 hectares of paddy fields, thereby greatly raising the output in the area.

With income guaranteed and increased, the living conditions of the peasants have also improved. Many ride bicycles, wear wristwatches, and have radio sets in their homes. The people dress somewhat similar to people in Peking. The girls working in the fields sometimes dress themselves as if they are going to a dance party. They have not only generally caught up with, but even surpassed, the well-to-do peasants.

In the field of agricultural production, during the time of the small cooperatives, in order to attain self-sufficiency, many cooperatives had to cultivate grain on land suited to cotton, and cultivate cotton on land suited to grain (such conditions still existed here last year). Now that the cooperative has been enlarged, cultivation can be carried out properly according to the special nature of the land, and the use of the land is further enhanced. This also reduces calamities and increases income.

Manpower in different villages varies. In some there is a surplus, in others there is a deficiency. In a cooperative with inadequate manpower, some land is often cultivated in the "third category crops". In a cooperative with a surplus of manpower, the manpower cannot be fully utilized. What happens now? The big cooperative can transfer from teams with excessive manpower to teams with insufficient manpower, and devote shock efforts to eliminate the fields with "third category seedlings", to stamp out pests, and to fight drought. This year there was a serious drought in the area, and no large downpours of rain fell from the time of the sprouting of the seedlings to the time of weeding. But because large shock forces could be organized for irrigation, the major portion of the crops was saved. This could not have been possible in the past. When we visited the place, in the areas affected by drought there were people practically everywhere, some carrying water, others digging canals. Men and women, young and old, all worked in three shifts round the clock. The people were so enthusiastic, so full of vitality.

In the field of animal husbandry, during the time of the small cooperatives, some had capital for the development of animal husbandry but had no ranches, other had large ranches which could not be utilized. Today, the ranches are utilized under a unified system, and the development of animal husbandry is greatly promoted. The big cooperative has already drawn up plans for the large-scale development of animal husbandry next year.

Accelerated Development of Industry

Of the planned income of the whole cooperative for this year, industry and subsidiary production together occupy about one-third of the total, or about ¥8,000,000. This figure may possibly be exceeded, because agricultural crops, suffering from the drought, may not fulfill the plans laid down, and it is planned to make up the deficiency by increasing income from industry and subsidiary production by ¥3,000,000. Next year there will be a great expansion of industry and subsidiary production, and the planned production value will be increased to ¥25,000,000.

The development of industry calls for capital, raw materials, workers and technical personnel. Raw materials still are mainly produced by the cooperative (such as grain) or collected by the cooperative (such as scrap iron). It is planned to start next year fertilizer plants and machine-building plants, which will also mainly rely on raw materials procured locally. In the past, capital was especially lacking and so was manpower. Today, both these questions are more easily solved. Equipment not too large can now be purchased with the cooperative's own funds. As to technical personnel, they are also more easily found in a large area of tens of villages; there are demobilized servicemen, people who had worked as technicians outside in the past, artisans, and so forth. There are 1,500 ordinary industrial workers now. Because of the large size of the cooperative and the large number of people in it, even in work in resisting a serious drought, such persons need not be drawn up for emergency tasks. They are now more permanently available, and can work the whole year round. In the future, when more workers are needed, the problem can also be easily solved, for men can be transferred from the various production teams. At the moment the unanimous feeling is that factories are still too few; it is considered that 98 plants are not sufficient, and there should be several hundred. In fact, active development is being prepared.

The increase of manpower, financial resources and material resources has changed the range of view of the people and their courage. They now want to develop the mineral resources which the Japanese had attempted to develop but had no time to get to them. Minerals previously not known are being discovered. On the beaches by the sea, people with great interest take handfuls of sand, and find heavy iron ore in their hands. The area with such iron ore is very large, and the trading company in the hsien has started purchases. The big cooperative is also preparing to undertake the mining in places where prospecting has been definitely carried out, and to proceed with the smelting of the ores mined. Deposits at present being worked include phosphorus-bismuth, silicon, fluorspar, soapstone, mica, and granite. So long as there is a market, these minerals will bring considerable income to the cooperative.

For the development of mineral resources, the big cooperative is planning to build its own railways. The first one to be considered is the line from the granite quarry to K'ai-p'ing railway station, a distance of several tens of li.

Development of Cultural, Educational And Welfare Enterprises

In addition to many primary schools here, there are also six middle schools and the number will be further increased. It is also planned to build an agricultural university. There are now more than 30 spare-time schools, and it is planned to increase the number to 90, so that there will be one such school in each production team.

The big cooperative now runs two hospitals, with several scores of beds, on the scale of a hsien hospital. There are 9 health centers, and two of the larger ones will soon be expanded into hospitals. Doctors, nurses and midwives together total more than 130. The hospitals here do not have the operational "system" of the big hospitals, the doctors regularly see patients everywhere, and will come whenever called for. When there are prevalent ailments among the community, they call on households one by one to offer treatment. Their slogan is "delivering medicine to the patients' door". When a patient needing emergency treatment arrives, he is immediately treated without waiting for the formality of registration. The relations between the doctor and the patient are very close. A day's stay in the hospital costs only ¥0.50, and a simple bed (with the dependents of the patient undertaking his nursing) costs only ¥0.20. Many old doctors of the Chinese traditional medical school have donated to the Party secret prescriptions kept in the family. They go to the mountains themselves to collect herbs in order to save money for the hospitals. They are all willing to contribute to the cause of Communism. The hospital we visited has an average of 500 out-patients a day, half of them being non-members of the cooperative.

There is also rapid development in such service trades as tailoring, barbering and laundering. More than 100 nurseries and kindergartens have been organized for children according to their ages. Common mess halls and bath houses are being actively developed. There are more than 40 amateur dramatic troupes, and more than 100 club houses of which 11 are large. The one we visited has accommodations for 1,200 people. There are now 58 libraries, but the books stocked are still inadequate and they are being actively increased. It is planned to purchase three film projectors next year for the screening of films in various teams.

From the economic point of view, this big cooperative looks like a combined industrial undertaking. But it is not merely an economic organization, for it includes many other activities. It may be more appropriate to call it a "people's commune". But it does not have the power for dictatorship, which still belongs to the hsiang. The Party organizations of the hsiang and the cooperative respectively, however, are run by the same group of people.

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