

Despite Industrial Upswing, Humans Carry The Load In Red China

By JOHN STROHM
NEW YORK (NEA) — Almost everywhere you go in Red China your nostrils are assailed by a sulphurous smoke that reminds you of Gary or East Chicago.

Red China is out to make the "great leap forward" in steel production by twin programs, one old, one new.

In farmyards, on school playgrounds, college campuses and vacant lots, the belching vest-pocket blast furnaces of the old way pollute the landscape with smoke and soot.

And those who smoke them with hand-crushed ore, coal and limestone are the farmer and his wife, the schoolchildren and college kids.

Thus did America produce pig iron in the mid-1890's on myriad "plantations" close to the land (for ore) and the forest (for charcoal). They are not new to China, but the program has exploded in size.

I must have seen more than 1,000 of these furnaces during my tour of Mao's domain. They range from three feet to 30 feet high, their output from 100 pounds to 100 tons daily.

Red China's economists reason thusly: to save transport, take the furnace to the raw materials and only move the pig iron to the factory. The iron pigs are fed to the great new rolling mills

like those I saw at Hankow and Anchan.

But Red China is by no means betting on its backyard ironmongers. At Anchan I visited a sprawling mill where 100,000 workers making an average of \$32 a month turn out one-third of China's iron and steel.

They mine their own ore, get nearby coal and make pig iron, steel, iron rails, steel beams and seamless tubing.

A tiny trousered woman was jockeying one electro-magnetic crane that lifts 40 tons of steel rails and stacks them as lightly as chopsticks.

One of the chief engineers of this plant gestured with satisfaction at the smoke-plumed stacks.

"The Japanese," he said, "sneered that the Chinese don't know how to run factories and will probably start growing sorghum here."

Indeed, the Chinese are demonstrating an aptitude for manufacture that few Westerners once would have believed. I talked with businessmen from Denmark, Britain and Germany and the consensus of their comment was: "Chinese learn fast, can operate well."

Several Red engineers and plant managers told me they keenly desired to see U.S. plants and methods but, realized that was impossible, because, as one put it, "Your

Mr. Dulles has erected a Bamboo Curtain that would prevent it." This assertion that the Bamboo Curtain was erected by the U.S. and not Red China is a recurrent Red refrain.

"Before the liberation," a Chinese plant official told me, "we produced only 923,000 tons of steel and 1,600,000 tons of pig iron. Last year we produced 5,300,000 tons of steel. This year's goal is 10 million tons and next year's is 20 million—almost as much as Britain."

Britain's net tonnage of ingots and steel for castings in 1957 was 24,300,000. America's was 112,700,000. Thus Britain's production is the first plateau the struggling Chinese hope to reach. They talk about achieving economic parity with Britain in 10 to 15 years. A few optimistic Communists even talk of five.

Who knows whether these goals are solid prospects or wishful planning? One only sees today that there is a vast flexing of muscle, a tremendous state-directed upsurge of effort and that

the first signs of an industrial civilization are beginning to stamp themselves upon mainland China.

China's industry may not look impressive to an American but there are indications the Russians have begun to sit up and regard it with some seriousness. (It could, if increased, make Peiping as independent of Moscow industrially as it has begun to be ideologically.)

And the visitors from the rice paddy and ox cart countries of Asia who come here to visit stand around in goggle-eyed amazement at Red China's trickle of industrial wonders.

There's an atomic reactor (which I did not see) and they're turning out television sets, jet planes, automobiles, tractors and machine tools.

At an export exhibit in Shanghai I picked up sales literature in English for 6,500 products which were said to be exported to 82 countries. Copies of American toothpaste, sewing machines and fountain pens were easily recognized.

Although they manufacture trucks, the bulk of commerce teeters along in baskets slung from shoulder poles or on two-wheeled carts drawn by two or three human horses.

China makes the "East Wind" automobile but you can't own a car in China so everyone except high government officials walks, bicycles or goes by pedicab.

An industrial exhibition showed a giant crane with a five square yard bite. But out on the dams and irrigation ditches construction was by tens of thousands of men and women, digging, carrying and tamping in ways no different than when the Great Wall was built in 300 A.D.

There is something that clutches the throat in the sight of 20 or 30 thousand human ants swarming over one of these great earth-moving projects. The earth is tamped by lifting a heavy concrete block and letting it fall, in time to a sad rhythmic song that sounded much like the chant I'd heard in a Peiping Catholic church.

In Shenyang I saw a modern lathe factory where 5,000 workers were said to be turning out 4,000 precision lathes a year. "By next year we'll be making 10,000 and our factory will be as big as one

I saw in Moscow," the vice-chairman reported proudly. And he added: "I don't know about the United States. I'd like to see some of your factories."

Every conceivable short cut and steel saving device is taken. In Nanking an engineer showed me truck cranks made partially

government to make him a joint owner?" I asked a woman of 45. "I realized that as a capitalist I was exploiting my employees. I had to worry about getting materials, about competition. So I petitioned the government."

"And how has it worked out?" "Oh, much better. Our production has gone up. I get the same salary as my income when I owned the shop. (This is \$82 a month, almost twice what the factory manager is paid.) And I'm paid five per cent interest on the value of the property for five years."

A great "rectification" campaign that swept all Red China is now drawing to a close. The purpose was to encourage workers to make suggestions for doing things better, easier, more economically. Suggestions were hand brushed on paper and stuck on the factory walls for discussion.

Many a factory manager has come out of his office to face handwriting on his wall which said: "Comrade Manager: If you did not put on so many airs and

met your workers more often we could increase production."

Some of the fantastic ideas like the wooden automobile I told about earlier came out of this gigantic "suggestion box."

The biggest problem seems to be capital. What help the Chinese get from the Russians and other "people's democracies" costs dearly. So therefore her industrial expansion must be based largely on what can be wrung from the hides of peasants who have struggled for centuries just to keep alive.

And over it all beams the benign face of Mao Tse-tung, who said four years before he took over the mainland government: "Without industry there can be no people's welfare and no national prosperity and power."

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Science Predicts Kayo Of Unconquerable Pests

By DELOS SMITH
UPI Science Editor
NEW YORK (UPI) — There is a new possibility of science winning a total victory over certain insects, including that prime and seemingly unconquerable pest, the cockroach.

The new weapon seems to kill insects by physical rather than chemical means. If that is so, insects won't be able to learn to live with DDT and other poisonous insecticides. It also means people won't accidentally poison themselves while exterminating insects.

The new weapon is a kind of sand. Add two oxygen atoms to the molecule of silicon, which is one of the most abundant of the elements, and you have silica. Nature frequently makes the addition; silica is everywhere, in sands and rocks. Now, toy with silica in technically easy ways, and you have an extremely fine powder which is aggressively greedy for moisture.

An insect walks over a sprinkle of that powder and very soon thereafter it is dead. Science doesn't yet know positively why, but the best theory is that the powder draws moisture out of its body. That's as physical a way of killing as swatting, but it's infinitely easier.

DDT and the other organic insecticides kill by adding ingredients to an insect's body chemistry which the chemistry can't handle. Unhappily insect chemistry adapts to the added ingredients and eventually lines of insects emerge which are immune to what used to kill them, but meanwhile people, birds, fish, and other creatures are endangered.

Silica in any form is notably non-poisonous. The silica powder has been in use for a long time as a filler or diluting substance for resins and other materials. Dr. Walter Ebeling of the University of California discovered by accident that it was an insect killer.

He was diluting DDT with it and discovered that when he decreased the DDT content of his insect poison while increasing the powder content, it killed more insects.

Since then there have been many experiments. In the laboratory, the powder alone will knock down cockroaches in 15 minutes and kill them in 45 minutes, which is faster than DDT, parathion, dieldrin, and a number of other poisoning insecticides can do it. It works as effectively on all insects experimented with so far.

The answer to the critical question of whether the powder is the total victory weapon, now is in the making. The Davison Chemical Co., whose scientists developed the powder formulation which tested best in the laboratory, has released quantities of it to professional insecticide users for strictly controlled scientific experiments under natural conditions. Their results will give the answer.

DRAW FINE

NEW YORK (UPI)—Murray L. Schneider drew a \$5 fine for speeding Tuesday even though he protested to Magistrate Hyman Bushel that he could not have been going too fast because "I was holding on to the wheel with only one hand and I was playing the harmonica with the other."

Battle Against Elements Being Won, Say Commies

TOKYO (AP)—Red China claims it is winning a fight against two age old natural enemies—flood and drought.

Some Japanese observers believe the claims are well founded. Shozo Otani, a Japanese agricultural expert who recently returned from a visit to Communist China, says the mainland is becoming one of the world's leading agricultural nations "at a surprisingly speedy rate."

Red China's agricultural production this year, he said, will double that of last year.

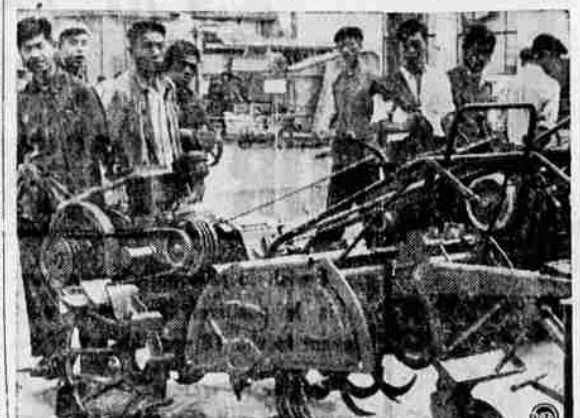
An Indian Cabinet minister, Dr. Pankaj Pannabhai Deshmukh, who made a five-week tour of Red China and Japan, also reported that many of the things the Communists are saying about their "leap forward" campaign in agriculture appear to be true.

Elimination of weeds, greater use of fertilizer and liberal employment of insecticides are some of the factors in the increased production, he reported.

But he noted that the so-called volunteer workers employed in many agricultural projects are not paid.

Otani, a professor of agriculture and technology at Tokyo University, said the rapid agricultural development was greatly aided by irrigation and water control projects.

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TRICKLE OF INDUSTRIAL WONDERS awes these rural visitors eyeing farm machinery at a Peiping exhibit. Back home they still plow with oxen or even with their own muscle.



EVEN WOMEN and children pitch in to hand-crush ore for vest pocket blast furnaces.

from iron, part from steel. "We find they work well," he said. There is no private business left in Red China. Everything is government or joint owned. This last is a device whereby the conscientious capitalist may petition the

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"she prefers a sweater for Christmas"



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