

# ROUND THE WEEK

## National Day Echoes

Echoes of the 10th anniversary celebration are still reverberating throughout the land. What with so many things going on in so many places at once and the pressure of holiday deadlines it was impossible to cover everything. This week we would like to fill in the picture of the greatest celebration in the history of New China. The three-day holiday (October 1-3), plus a Sunday on the 4th, made quite a stretch for the festival. The people took part in the parades and festivities, went to the theatres which were offering their best, visited the exhibitions, spent time with family and friends, and, of course, feasted.

In Peking, despite unwelcome showers, more than a million and a half citizens thronged spacious Tien An Men Square, danced and made merry under the clear October night sky illuminated by fascinating fireworks, till the wee hours of the morning.

On Peking's many stages, memorable performances were given ranging from the traditional Peking opera, Kwangtung, Szechuan, Shaohsing and other local operas to modern stage plays. Themes ranged from tales of the Han dynasty to the big leap forward of today. The world-famous Bolshoi of the Soviet Union added colour to the festival with its rich series of performances and China's No. 1 Peking opera artist Mei Lan-fang gave a memorable portrayal of Mu Kuei-ying, the famous maiden warrior of Sung times.

On the evening of October 3, the Ministry of Culture presented a grand variety show in honour of the guests from many countries who had come to Peking to greet the Chinese people. Thirty-five art groups from various parts of the country and more than 2,500 performers took part in the gala performance.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung, Chairman Liu Shao-chi, Chairman N. S. Khrushchov, and the many honoured guests, came to see the performance. The varied programme included a 540-voice chorus rendering *The East Is Red* and other songs; a 300-piece orchestra presenting the famous Chinese composition *The Spring Festival Overture* and Beethoven's *Egmont Overture*, and a selection from the Chinese dance-drama *The Magic Lotus Lantern*. The audience enthusiastically greeted the action-packed Peking opera selection from *Uproar in the Dragon King's Palace* in which the famous Monkey Sun Wu-kung heads an army of hundreds of jumping and somersaulting monkeys storming the Dragon King's palace fathoms below the sea. But the Generals' Chorus—an amateur

group—stole the show. 230 generals from the three services of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, most of them veterans of the Long March and the early days of the revolution, sang the songs that were popular among the rank-and-file soldiers of the people's army during the Second Revolutionary Civil War and the War of Resistance to Japan.

Throughout China there were parades on National Day. With charts of production figures and displays of products on floats, the people cheered their achievements in the first decade of the People's Republic and demonstrated their determination to continue the big leap. The floats, charts, and sample products in every city eloquently spelt out the story of the tremendous change that has taken place in China during the past ten years. **Shanghai** is as good an example as any. Gone are the days when it was a paradise for the imperialist adventurers and one of the notorious badspots of the East. In ten years it has become a clean city and one of the major industrial bases of New China. 600,000 people marched past Shanghai's People's Square in its National Day parade. The models of their new achievements included a 25,000-kilowatt steam turbine generator, a 5,000-ton steamer, precision grinding machines which can work to a tolerance of 1/63 of a hair, high-quality nylons and plastics and other products of light industry that have given the city international fame.

In the north China port city **Tientsin**, a huge float in the parade depicted a giant carp leaping over the dragon gate—a traditional symbol for great prosperity—with a worker riding the carp and holding a red flag inscribed with golden characters proclaiming: "Industrial Output Increased 13-fold in Ten Years." This is Tientsin's story in a nutshell. In **Wuhan**, the triple-city on the Yangtze, the paraders happily reported that on the eve of National Day Wuhan's new iron and steel works had produced the first heat of steel from its first open-hearth furnace and that its No. 1 and No. 2 blast furnaces broke records in the daily output of iron. The triple-city is well on its way to becoming a new giant steel base.

The same spirit prevailed throughout the countryside. In towns and villages, the peasants, with unhidden pride, displayed samples of their harvest and the advantages brought them by the first year of the people's communes. The Chinese peasants increased the value of agricultural output by 150 per cent in the past ten years. The nightmarish

decades of importing rice, wheat and cotton before liberation had finally been brought to an end. Today China's total grain output stands first in the world and its cotton output ranks second. In **Heilungkiang**, China's northernmost province, for instance, the people hailed the transformation of the "Great Northern Wastelands" into a granary of the north. The peasants of **Yunnan Province** in the south paraded in the streets of **Kunming**, the city of eternal spring, celebrating the upping of the province's total food grain output by 150 per cent in ten years.

Among the gayest celebrants all over the country were the people of China's many national minorities. In Kwangsi, Sinkiang, Inner Mongolia, Ninghsia, Chinghai and other regions where the national minorities live, the minority peoples joined the festivities in large numbers. They sang and danced in their colourful national costumes to celebrate the good life that the People's Republic had brought them. In Lhasa 30,000 people turned out on the square before the Potala to greet the tenth birthday of the People's Republic. Crowds happily marched past the reviewing stand, cheering and waving flags.

## National Minorities Get Together

While their fellow Tibetans were rejoicing in Lhasa, Panchen Erdeni, Acting Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Autonomous Region of Tibet, and the two Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, Living Buddha Pebala Choliehnamje and Ngapo Ngawang-Jigme, were participating in the jubilee celebrations in the capital.

On October 3, they attended the banquet given by Vice-Premiers Ho Lung and Ulanfu in honour of the more than 1,100 representatives of over 50 national minorities in China who had come to Peking to attend the celebrations.

Speaking at the banquet Vice-Premier Ho Lung said that during the past ten years great progress had been made by the nationalities. Establishing regional autonomy and the organs of national autonomy in the areas where the national minorities live in compact communities has basically been completed. Equality has also been fully ensured for those national minorities in areas where many nationalities lived together and for those minority peoples who are scattered in other regions. In the areas inhabited by the national minorities, democratic reforms and the socialist transformation have been completed and in most areas people's communes have been organized. The Tibetan people, too, under the guidance of the Communist Party, are vigorously carrying out the campaign of



democratic reforms. In the national minority areas tremendous progress had been made in the economic and cultural fields and the life of the people has improved immensely. "Our motherland," Ho Lung said, "has become a great family of socialism in which all nationalities are on an equal footing, are united, co-operative and friendly, and work for the common prosperity."

The Vice-Premier pointed out that the common task facing all the nationalities today is to build China into a strong socialist country with modern industry, modern agriculture and modern science and culture within fifteen, twenty years or more, in accordance with the Party's general line for building socialism, and he called on the national minority peoples to work to fulfil the great task.

Panchen Erdeni, in his speech, said that thanks to the policy of the Communist Party on the national question and the help given by the Han brothers, the national minorities have made great achievements in democratic reforms and socialist transformation during the past ten years, and as a result the productive forces in the minority areas had been freed. The Tibetan people were marching along bravely, closely behind the other brother nationalities, and no reactionary forces could stop their forward march. He pointed out that following the defeat of the counter-revolutionary armed rebellion of the reactionary clique of the upper social strata "the Tibetan people launched a vigorous campaign of democratic reform. After speedily wiping out the oppression and exploitation of the feudal slave system, the Tibetan people, ecclesiastic and secular, will embark on the road of building socialism and will completely free themselves from suffering and poverty and march on the broad and happy road of socialism and communism which will give happiness to all. The aspirations of 'delivering all beings' as prescribed by Buddhist teachings will thus be gradually realized."

### Economy Reaches New High

Meanwhile, as the final quarter opens, the nation's economic situation is better than ever.

The outstanding feature on the industrial front has been all-round rapid

growth ever since the Central Committee of the Communist Party issued the call for further development of the campaign to increase production and practise economy at its Lushan session in August. As a result of the rising mass movement, total industrial output value in August was 14 per cent higher than July and it registered a further increase of about 27 per cent in September. **For the first nine months of 1959, total industrial output value was 45.5 per cent higher than the same period last year.** The increases for steel and coal were 67 per cent and 72 per cent respectively. Output of many major industrial products in the first nine months of this year exceeded the total output of the entire big leap year 1958.

The volume of freight in the first nine months of 1959 registered an increase of 69 per cent over the corresponding period in 1958. The volume of commodities purchased rose 42 per cent and retail sales went up 16 per cent. The market is buoyant and the supply situation of a few commodities that had been rather tense for a time at the beginning of the year has now taken a fundamental turn for the better.

In this continued upsurge, the steelworkers lead. In September, they topped August output by 200,000 tons—more than the total national output in 1949, the year of liberation.

The nation's coal miners overfulfilled their third quarter plan by nearly half a million tons on September 28, two days ahead of schedule.

At a forum held in Peking on October 5, Vice-Premier Li Fu-chun outlined three major tasks on the industrial, communications and finance and trade fronts to more than 1,000 model workers who had come to the capital from all over the country for the 10th jubilee:

1. Consolidate and continue to develop the campaign to increase output and practise economy and strive to overfulfil the targets set forth by the Party considerably ahead of schedule;

2. Make even better arrangements for industrial production, capital construction, transport and communications in the fourth quarter and lay the foundation for the big leap forward in 1960;

3. On the basis of the big leap forward of 1958-1960, strive to catch up with Britain in the output of major industrial products in less than ten years.

The situation on the agricultural front is equally encouraging. The harvesting of 150 million *mu* of semi-late rice in 13 southern provinces, including Szechuan, Hunan, Kiangsu, Anhwei, Yunnan, Hupeh and Kweichow, has been essentially completed. Increases in yields over last year generally range from 10 to 30 per cent, in a number of cases exceeding 40 per cent.

Meanwhile, reports of bumper harvests keep pouring in as the harvesting of the early autumn crops—maize, millet and *kaoliang* (sorghum)—in the Yellow River Valley nears completion. The early autumn crop from 16 million *mu* of land in Kiangsu Province was 70 per cent heavier than last year. Yields in Shantung and Hopei Provinces were generally 10 to 20 per cent higher.

A vast autumn tilling and wheat planting movement is in full swing in China's winter wheat regions. It is expected that 360 million *mu* will be sown to winter wheat this year, 50 million *mu* more than last year. This foretells a rich summer harvest next year and will have far-reaching influences on the entire national economy. As pointed out by Vice-Premier Tan Chen-lin: the big leap forward of 1958 was propelled by agricultural production, especially the bumper summer harvest of that year. So next year's summer harvest will also play a key role in the continued big leap forward of the national economy.

The Vice-Premier was addressing more than 1,300 representatives of outstanding agricultural units and model peasants who were in Peking for the 10th anniversary celebrations, at a forum jointly sponsored by the various ministries related to agricultural production from October 5 to 7. He called on the peasants to develop the varied rural economy and side lines production energetically in the last quarter, in addition to carrying out well the three autumn tasks of harvesting, cultivation and planting. The state plan calls for an increase of 10 per cent in the total value of agricultural production this year.