

600 MILLION BUILD INDUSTRY



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Foreword

In the spring of 1958 the whole Chinese people joined in a sweeping movement to build industry. Small and medium-sized factories and mines sprang up in every province, city, autonomous region, special region, county and township; they even appeared in agricultural co-ops. And they are run in line with the principle of achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results.

Nanchung Special Administrative Region, in the province of Szechuan, built 43,000 factories in two months. Acheng County, in Heilungkiang, erected the "Vanguard" furnace, producing its first smelt of iron 35 days after the first brick was laid. During the big leap forward in agriculture, the Hsukuang No. 1 Co-op in Ngocheng County, Hupeh, built a granular fertilizer factory, a farm implements factory, a plant for the processing of farm products, and a methane power station; in a little more than one month, the co-op turned out over twenty tons of granular fertilizer, and manufactured and repaired 421 farm implements and other tools.

Most of the new factories, mines and power stations are simple, requiring no investment on the part of the government. They take little time to build and can go into operation quickly. A number of them are turning out new, important articles on a trial basis. This greatly accelerates the rate of China's socialist industrialization,

and expedites the development and modernization of agriculture.

China is a large, but economically backward nation. How can this state of affairs be changed quickly and China be transformed into a powerful socialist country with modern industry, modern agriculture and modern science? The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and Comrade Mao Tse-tung have pointed out the way: To speed up construction, and adhere to the policy of building more, faster, better and more economically. In other words, effort must be made to realize the general line for building socialism, exerting the utmost and pressing ahead consistently.

How, in practice, will this be achieved? According to the analysis of the Party's Central Committee and Comrade Mao Tse-tung, China is a large agricultural country, with five of its six hundred million people engaged in farming. The peasants are a mighty force both in China's revolutionary struggles and in its national construction. The Chinese working class will be able to win only if it relies on this great ally, and arouses its positive, constructive spirit. That is why, while giving priority to heavy industry, China must simultaneously develop industry and agriculture, national and local industries, small and medium-sized enterprises as well as the large ones.

All this will stimulate the biggest labouring force in the world to expand the production of grain, cotton and industrial raw materials, to contribute its inexhaustible strength to create limitless wealth and accumulate vast funds for China's industrialization. At the same time it will create a tremendous demand for industrial goods in the largest domestic market in the world which, in turn,

further hastens industrial growth. It will also encourage every level of local enterprise — right down to the agricultural co-ops — to start its own industry. “The fire burns high when everybody adds wood to it,” as a Chinese saying goes. Through the concerted efforts of the whole nation, China will be able to build more, faster, better and more economically.

China’s agricultural big leap forward began in the winter of 1957. The whole country built water conservancy projects, accumulated fertilizer, planted trees and improved farm tools. It was a big success. The flourishing of agriculture vastly increased the demand for chemical fertilizer, tools, power-generating equipment, equipment for processing farm products. . . . This was a great stimulus to industry. At the same time, the startling accomplishments scored by the people demonstrated what a powerful force they are in the battle against nature. This opened new vistas to the thinking of the administrative personnel and all the people, heightening their political consciousness and encouraging them to think, speak and act boldly.

It was under these circumstances that the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party called in good time for demolishing the mysterious concept that industry can be run only by a few people. It put forward the policy of running industry by relying on the whole Party and the whole people. Given positive leadership and with the people’s initiative brought into full play, an all-out drive for industrial expansion began to sweep the country.

The rapid development of industry in the countryside necessarily required the transfer of part of the labouring force from agriculture to industry. It meant going beyond

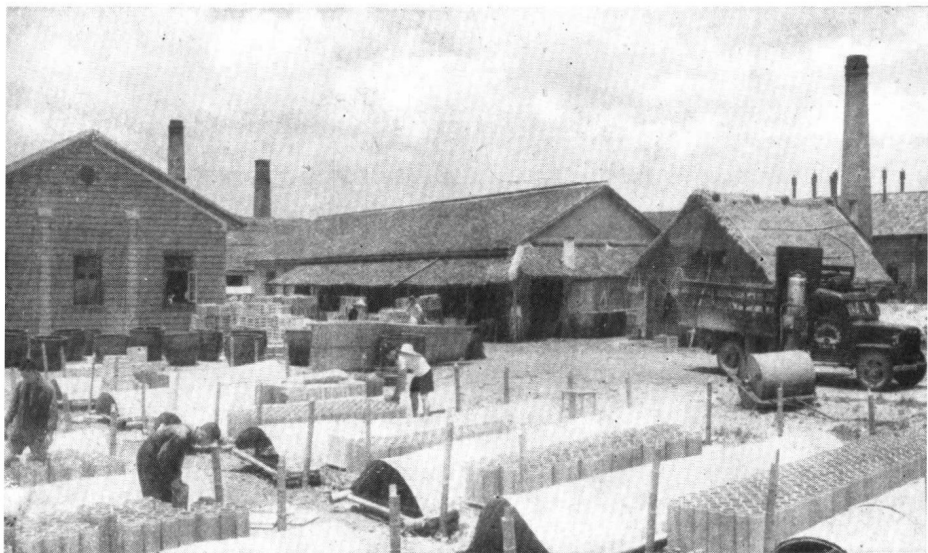
the confines of the agricultural co-ops and reallocating personnel on a larger scale. The co-ops, with only a few dozen or a few hundred families in each and engaged in agriculture alone, couldn't cope with the new situation. The peasants demanded the formation of people's communes that could engage in farming, forestry, animal husbandry, side-occupations and fishery, and merge industry, agriculture, trade, culture and education, and military affairs into one. Thus, the whole people running industry was a powerful impetus to the formation of people's communes throughout the land.

Now that people's communes have been formed, each with a few or ten thousand households, it is easier to utilize manpower according to unified plans. Funds and technical skill that formerly were spread thin among the many co-ops, now are concentrated. Having at their command much greater manpower, the people's communes can do things more efficiently than the co-ops, give a wider scope to the productive forces, and are thus creating still better conditions for the growth of rural industry.

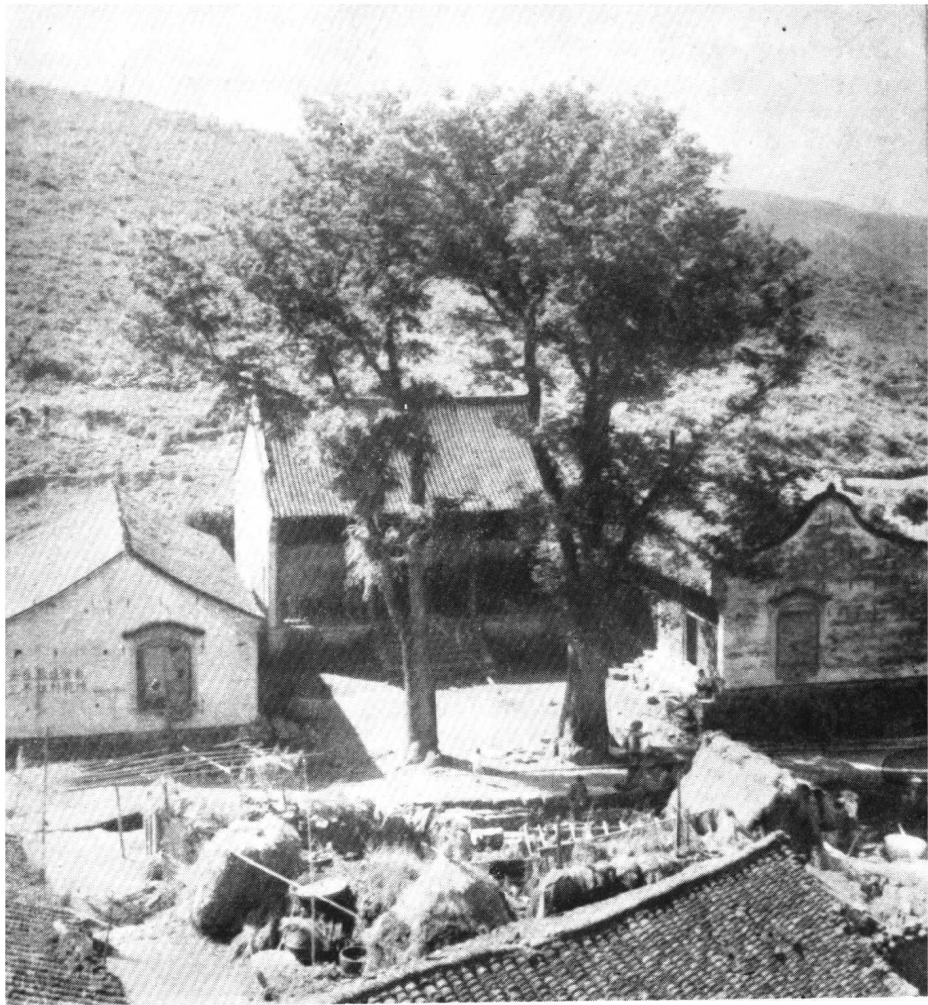
Many foreign friends and readers are aware of the rising tide of the whole people building industry in China. They have repeatedly asked us to give them more details. How do the local industries obtain funds, technically skilled personnel and equipment? How do they solve their various knotty problems? How do they learn management?

In an attempt to show our foreign readers something of the true picture and satisfy their requests, we have compiled 13 articles, plus an editorial from *Renmin Ribao* (People's Daily) on the development of local industries in line with the principle of building more, faster,

better and more economically, and are presenting them in this booklet. Although they cannot tell the whole story and the material included may be out-of-date when this booklet reaches the readers, the incidents they relate are typical and offer a view of the over-all aspect.



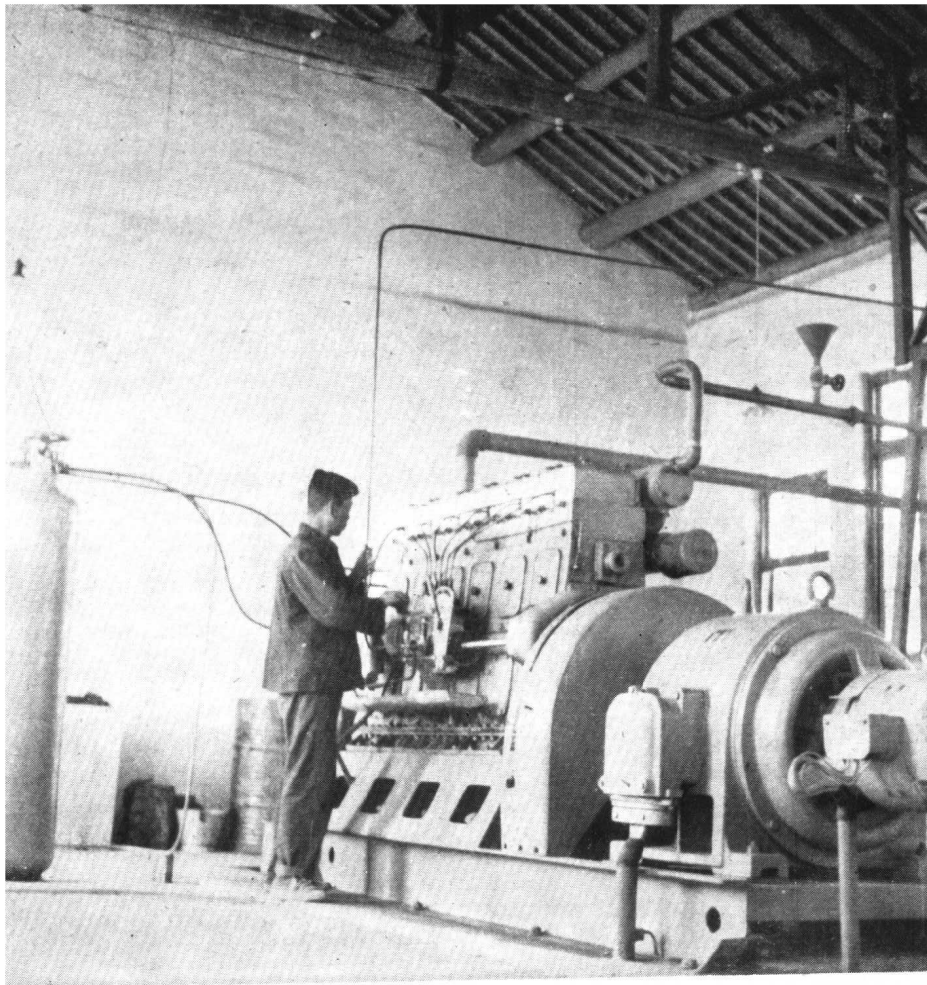
After four years of hard work, the Changhsing Refractory Plant, which started from practically nothing, is now capable of producing first-grade fire-resistant materials



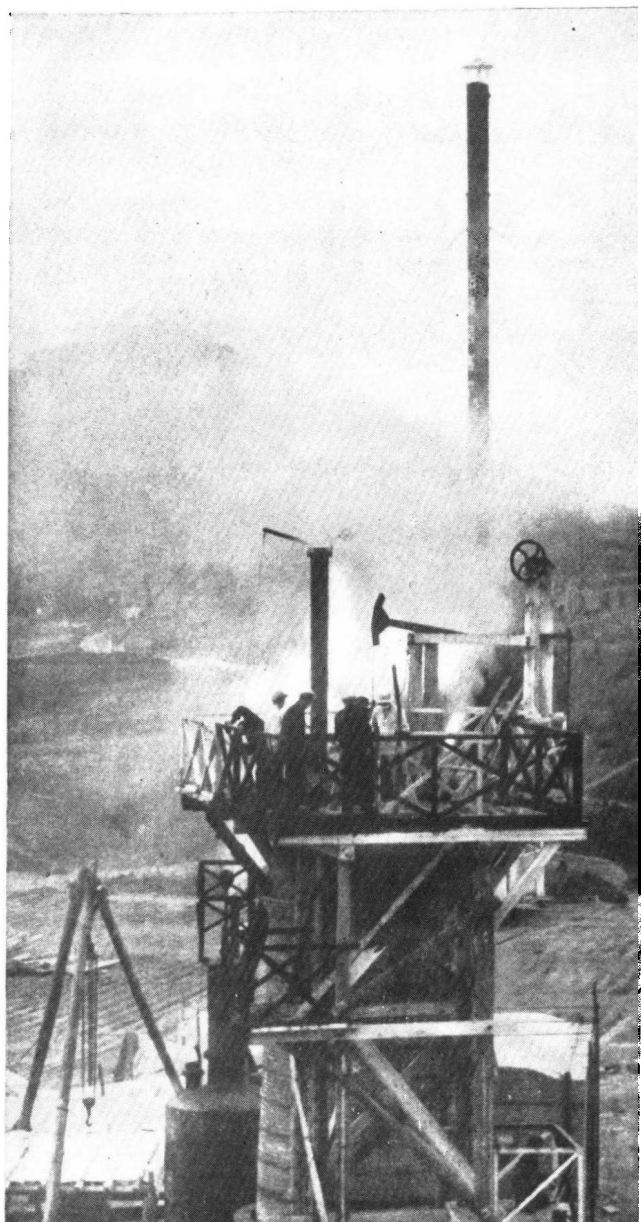
These three ramshackle houses were the only buildings the Chang-hsing Refractory Plant could find when it first started



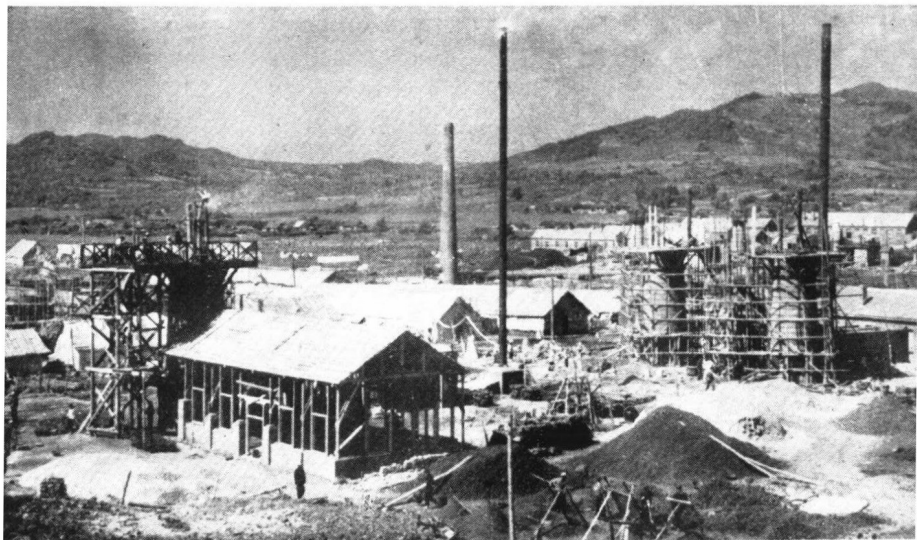
An external view of the small thermo-power plant run by the Hanchiawa Co-op



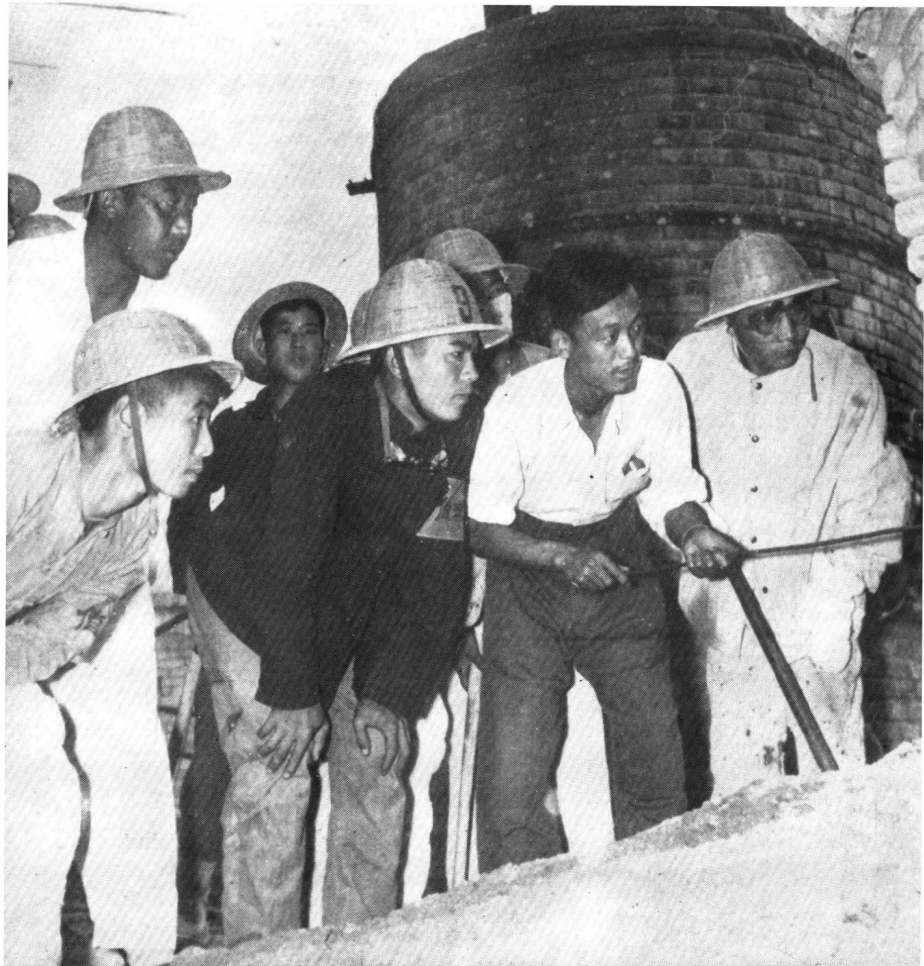
The 84-kilowatt generator in the Hanchiawa Co-op's small thermo-power plant



The "Vanguard" furnace built by the peasants in Acheng



More and more small furnaces are being built in Acheng



Wang Hsiu-ming (*second from right*), Second Secretary of the Laishui County Party Committee, examines a furnace



Iron pours out from one of the small furnaces in Laishui



The granular fertilizer plant run by the Hsukuang No. 1 Co-op



A workshop in the farm tools factory of the Hsukuang No. 1 Co-op