

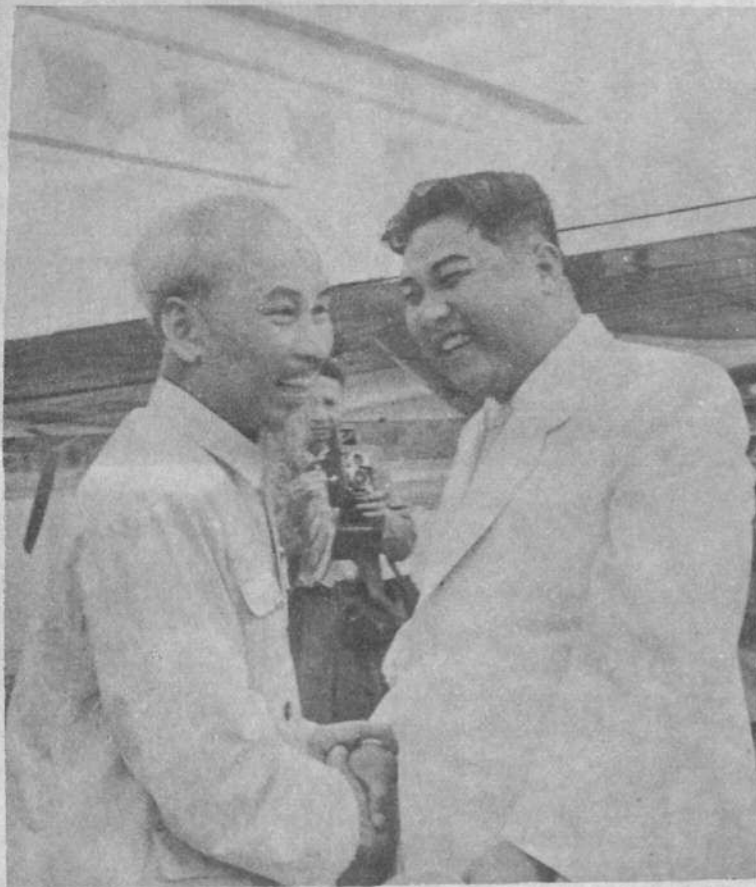
NEW KOREA



MONTHLY
JOURNAL

9

1 9 5 7
SEPTEMBER



Premier Kim Il Sung welcoming President Ho Chi Minh at Pyongyang Airport
Central News Agency Photo

Pyongyang City Mass Rally in honour of President Ho Chi Minh Photo by Kim Jum Yung



OUR HONOURED GUEST

Ho Chi Minh, President of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam, and his party visited our country on June 8-12. The Korean people greeted warmly President Ho Chi Minh, the distinguished leader of the Viet-Nam people, who led the Viet-Nam people in their long resistance against the foreign imperialists and to the glorious victory.

During their stay in our country, President Ho Chi Minh and his party visited many of our major factories, farms and schools and encouraged the Korean people in their socialist construction.

NEW KOREA

MONTHLY JOURNAL

Published by FOREIGN LANGUAGES PUBLISHING HOUSE

Pyongyang

September 1957

CONTENTS

KIM SEUNG HYUNG: Korean Question and World Peace	3
Election Campaigns are in Full Swing	5
SUH MAN IL: Current Trends in Korean Literature	10
AN PA YUNG: A Miner's Life	14
ABDEL SALAM BADRAN: My Impressions of Korea	18
PAK TAI JOON: Social Insurance in Korea	20
KIM SAM BOOL: Korean Classical Opera	27
PAK SUNG JI: Grandpa Kwon "Dawn in the East"	35
In the Korean Press	38
Two Korean Nurses Awarded Florence Nightingale Medals	40
Book Review	41
Cultural Life	42
In the News	44

FRONT COVER: Lake Byuk Rang at the Woosanjang Rest Home
Photo by Kim Wun Joo

BACK COVER: A Fairy in relief on the bell of the Bongduk-sa Temple

Printed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Korean Question and World Peace

KIM SEUNG HYUNG

THE KOREAN question is one of the most urgent international questions to be solved for the cause of peace in the Far East and the world and for the relaxation of international tension.

This question has been one of the most important political questions discussed at every annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly in recent years. The World Peace Council also keeps on urging the peaceful settlement of the question. Especially the Conference of Asian Countries held in New Delhi in 1955 attached great significance to this question.

It is no exaggeration to say that no international meeting or organization, whose mission is concerned with the preservation of world peace and security, has not shown interest in the Korean question.

World opinion has shown keen interest in the settlement of the Korean question. This fact tells of what an important bearing the question has on the development of international relations.

In its resolution on easing world tension, the recent Colombo Session of the World Peace Council stated as follows: "To unify Korea in accordance with fair and just proposals as prescribed in the international agreements constitutes an important step for peace."

This statement is indeed the voice of hundreds of delegates representing over sixty nations demanding the solution of the Korean question by means of negotiation instead of force.

For the solution of the Korean question under present conditions, a certain international guarantee is required along with proper measures to be taken by the Korean people themselves.

In consideration of this requirement, the Government of the D.P.R.K. has repeatedly claimed that an international conference with the broad participation of states concerned must be held at the earliest possible date for the promotion of the peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

Along this line, the Government of our country again put forward a proposal in its declaration of June 26.

In his speech at the rally in honour of Ho Chi Minh, President of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, who visited Korea on July 8, Premier Kim Il Sung made clear once

again the stand of the Government of the D.P.R.K. on the question of the country's peaceful unification, emphasizing:

"We maintain that the provocative acts of the American side in preparation for a new war must be stopped immediately, and an international conference with the broad participation of states concerned be held to discuss the Korean question.

No one doubts that such a meeting will make a great contribution to the solution of the Korean question, first of all, by effecting the withdrawal of the foreign armed forces from the Korean territory, a prerequisite to the realization of the country's unification.

Now that the Korean armistice is exposed to a serious menace by the provocative acts of the American imperialists, the sincere effort of our Government to solve the Korean question peacefully is enjoying the warm support of the peace-loving people the world over.

On June 27 the Government of the People's Republic of China made public an announcement giving a full support to the proposal of the Government of the D.P.R.K., which urged the convening of an international conference of states concerned.

On July 6, the Soviet Government also issued a statement in support of the two governments.

Government authorities and social circles of many other countries are also giving support to the proposal of our Government.

For instance, the *Tokyo Times* was in favor of this proposal editorially. And the *Al Akhbar* published in Egypt wrote: "The Korean question ought to be settled by peaceful means."

However, the U.S. imperialists who keep on obstructing the realization of every practicable measure for the promotion of the peaceful settlement of the Korean question let out once again their scheme to enforce the colonial enslavement policy on South Korea instead of seeking a way for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. At a press conference held on July 2, U.S. Secretary of State Dulles said that at present the prospect for holding such an international conference is not good.

Trying nonsensically to slander the Korean-Chinese side as "provocative", Dulles repeat-

ed his view that only when our side accepts "elections under the U.N. supervision", which are aimed at converting all Korea into an American colony, will an international conference be held. It is no wonder that the American delegate of the Military Armistice Commission announced that his side would unilaterally abrogate paragraph 13-d of the Armistice Agreement.

The provocative scheme of the U.S. imperialists, who are more interested in provoking another war in Korea than in the peaceful solution of the Korean question, has aroused the indignation of the people throughout the world.

According to Moscow radio "The Soviet people, together with the Korean people, are much incensed at another U.S. provocative act of opposing peace in Korea."

The Soviet Government issued its statement, which reads:

"The aim of the provocative act of the U.S. Army is to undermine the Korean Armistice Agreement and convert Korea into one of their atomic bases in the Far East. It runs counter to the common desire of people for the enhancement of trust between nations and for the consolidation of peace in Asia and the rest of the world. The Soviet Government warns against the U.S. illegal act of undermining the Korean Armistice Agreement, and considers it necessary to make it clear that the United States Government must be held fully responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom."

The Chinese paper *People's Daily* of July 28 stressed in its editorial as follows:

"The declaration issued by the Government of China expresses the firm resolution of the six hundred million Chinese people to safeguard peace in Korea. The Korean Armistice Agreement is the fruit won by the blood of the Korean and Chinese peoples, and the unswerving endeavour of the peace-loving people of the world. The unilateral abrogation of any one paragraph of the Armistice Agreement and any scheme to destroy peace in Korea and Asia will never be tolerated."

The peoples of the Soviet Union and China — an invincible fortress for world peace — are on the side of Korea. Their firm stand signifies a grave warning against insane American provokers.

It can be said that the Korean question is, as it were, a touchstone whereby we can test the attitude of any government or any individual; it distinguishes the path of peace from that of war. It is clear that to follow the dangerous American line on the Korean question means aggravating tension in the Far East and augmenting the danger of another war in Korea.

The unjust stand of the American side on the Korean question has met with strong opposition not only of the countries in the socialist camp but also of neutral nations and even some of American satellites.

Prime Minister of India Nehru, who made contribution to the conclusion of the Korean Armistice Agreement, condemning the American move to introduce new weapons into South Korea, said:

"To supply atomic weapons to the whole world sows the seed of suspicion, distrust, and danger among states."

Among the Japanese people, one of the neighbours of Korea, unrest prevails, for they fear the direct effect of the American adventure upon their own nation.

Slashing the U.S. plot of undermining the Korean Armistice Agreement as an act of sowing trouble, the Japanese leading paper *Asahi Shinbun* commented: "The U.S. sabotage of the Korean Armistice Agreement

Election Campaigns are in Full Swing

ELECTIONS to the highest state organ, the Supreme People's Assembly, are to be held on August 27. Now election campaigns are in full swing throughout the country. Elections of deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly will take

is a menace to the people who are aspiring after peace in Asia."

America's stand on the Korean question is the target of adverse criticism of the public quarters in Thailand which has been drawn into SEATO by the United States. At a press conference Khlu Norapati, Secretary of the Sethakors Party and member of Thailand parliament, said: "The people of Thailand are firmly opposed to this kind of move on the part of the U.S. To tell the truth, the United States is a swindler of the most cunning type in the world."

Public opinion in Britain is that the move taken by the U.S. will make the realization of peaceful unification of Korea impossible after all.

Thus the tide of world opinion turns to the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. This fact demonstrates that the stand of the Korean people is just.

International developments around the Korean question clearly reflects the struggle of the forces of two camps — peace and war. In the course of settling the Korean question the United States is becoming more and more isolated in the international arena, which means the general failure of the U.S. colonial aggressive policy.

All the peace-loving peoples in the world are always with us Korean people. This is a reliable guarantee of peace in Korea.

when the nation-wide struggle for the peaceful unification of the country is in the ascendant.

The elections will mark an event of great importance in fortifying further the people's power which was established at the unanimous will of the Korean people and defended with their blood. Moreover, they will serve to promote the peaceful unification of the country, and demonstrate the political and ideological unity of the Korean people.

The Koreans, who are bent on building a happier life under the banner of their glorious country, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, will show their solidarity in administering a telling blow to the American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique who are scheming to provoke another war in Korea by wrecking the Armistice Agreement.

It was in August 1948 that the Korean people elected for the first time in their history the highest organ of state representing the will of the entire nation. As a result the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was founded in September of the same year. The forthcoming elections of deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly will mark the second time.

In the first nation-wide elections held on August 25, 1948, 572 deputies representing the people from every walk of life both in North and South Korea were elected.

In North Korea, 99.97 per cent of the registered voters went to the polls, and 212 deputies were elected with 98.49 per cent of the total votes.

In South Korea, violent suppression and terror by the American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique made it impossible to conduct direct balloting. Such being the situation, the deputies from South Korea to the Supreme People's Assembly were elected through indirect suffrage. 77.52 per cent of the voters in South Korea, despite terror and suppression, took part in electing 1,080 representatives from every walk of life to form the Conference of People's Representatives of South Korea. And the representatives elected by secret ballot 360 deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly, one deputy for every 50,000 of the population. The deputies thus elected represented all political parties and social organizations, and individuals without any party affiliation were also elected.

The First Session of the Supreme People's Assembly held in Pyongyang on September 2, 1948 with the participation of 572 deputies elected both in North and South Korea adopted the Constitution of the D.P.R.K. The decision on the formation of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was endorsed at the Assembly.

Many years have passed since the first elections. Article 36 of the Constitution of the D.P.R.K. stipulates: "Deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly are elected for a term of four years." But in 1950, the American imperialists and Syngman Rhee clique invaded the northern part of our country, and we had to fight over three years to repel the American aggression. And the post-war situation obliged us to postpone the elections of a new Supreme People's Assembly. Article 46 of the Constitution stipulates: "Should extraordinary circumstances arise, the sitting Supreme People's Assembly may exercise its power exceeding the term of office provided for in the Constitution as long as the circumstances continue."

The new Supreme People's Assembly will be instituted as provided for in Article 45 of the Constitution which reads: "Prior to the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme People's Assembly, its Presidium shall arrange the holding of elections to the succeeding Supreme People's Assembly." Thus the new elections are held under a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly.

The present situation is different from the time when the first elections were held. As is set forth in the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, the elections will be held only in the areas where the Democratic People's Republic of Korea exercises its power. It is now impossible to extend such elections to South Korea due to the American occupation. But the forthcoming elections will be held on a popular and democratic basis, which has on a larger scale been extended with the progress of the country. In the previous elections citizens who had reached the age of twenty enjoyed the right to elect and to be elected, whereas the new election law lowered the age to eighteen. Such a change is of great significance for the political life of the Korean people. The foundation of our country has been further

consolidated under the correct policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K. in the struggle for the peaceful unification of the country and for socialist construction in the northern part of the country.

The past twelve years witnessed a great material and cultural advancement and enhancement of political consciousness of the people.

Given such political right, our young people will display their creative initiative for accelerating the peaceful unification of the country and for advancing socialist construction in the northern part of the country.

Special mention should be made of the new measure to restore political rights to those who committed crimes in the past against the country and the people. This time they will be pardoned, provided they take an active part in the struggle for the peaceful unification of the country and for socialist construction in the northern part of the country. They will be allowed to exercise the right to vote in the coming elections.

This is evidence of the constant extension of the democratic principles in relation to our election system.

The democratic character of our election system finds expression in the strict observance of the fundamental principles of election (universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot) as well as in the implementation of all provisions of election regulations — register of voters, establishment of constituency and sub-constituency, functions of election committees, procedure of nominating candidates and voting, and confirmation of returns.

The principles of democratic elections have been established in our country in only ten odd years and the implementation of them has become a national tradition of our country.

What then are the basic characteristics of our democratic election system?

Firstly, all voters are guaranteed the right to express their free will.

Secondly, election committees are organized by voters themselves, their everyday business being subject to the control of the masses of the people.

Thirdly, deputies elected are answerable to their constituents in their activities. In

this way, the constituents are able to play to the full their role as the masters of the state.

But, what is the picture of South Korea? In South Korea the people are deprived even of their elementary rights: freedom of speech, the press, assembly and association, not to speak of universal and equal suffrage. The so-called "elections" the Syngman Rhee clique staged now and then under the direction of the American imperialists are nothing but a farce.

In order to maintain their doomed fascist rule, the Syngman Rhee clique amended on several occasions their "Constitution," "election regulations" and others. Not infrequently they come out with new "rules and regulations" to exclude from elections anti-Syngman Rhee elements even within the ruling circles, let alone the working people. Syngman Rhee's "election regulations" denies the nomination of the representatives of the working people. According to the "draft regulations for elections to the national assembly" which the Syngman Rhee clique have worked out for the elections next year, one who wants to run for the "national assembly" must deposit 500,000 hwan with the Syngman Rhee's government.

Such restrictions are seldom found even in other capitalist countries. Moreover, citizens under 25 years old are not granted the right to be elected in South Korea, with the result that a large number of young working people are totally precluded from government and political life. In addition, the Syngman Rhee clique place various restrictions so as to suppress election campaigns of the oppositions, and, still worse, to make free with violation of the "regulations", and to concoct "wins" with the help of terror and intrigue. The "election of President and Vice-President" on May 15 last year is a good example of the true character of the South Korean "elections."

But what is the situation in North Korea? The people have a feeling of honour and pride of being the masters of the land. They will soon exercise their franchise in a free atmosphere in the areas under the jurisdiction of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Now the political and labour enthusiasm of the people who are resolved to further consolidate the people's power is greatly



Poster for elections of deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly

enhanced; in such circumstances the elections are in full swing.

The Central Election Committee has been formed to guide electoral work with the representatives of political parties, social organizations, and individual personages. And by July 8 provincial and city People's Committees helped to form district election committees. Establishment of constituencies has also been done.

The C.C. of the United Democratic Fatherland Front, all political parties and social organizations have dis-

cussed and taken measures for the successful conduct of elections.

The C.C. of the United Democratic Fatherland Front addressed an appeal "To the Entire Korean People in Connection with Elections to the Supreme People's Assembly." It calls on all voters to take part in the elections for building a still happier life, and for promoting prosperity of our country.

In response to the appeal of the C.C. of the U.D.F.F. the North Korean Democratic Party, Chundokyo Chungwoo Party, Buddhist League and the North Korean Christian Union held meetings to discuss ways and means of ensuring the elections, and each adopted relevant decisions.

The C.C. of the North Korean Democratic Party decided to carry on propaganda among its entire party members, merchants, industrialists, and Christians so as to help them understand the political significance of the forthcoming elections, the superiority of the people's democratic system, achievements of the people's power after liberation, in sharp

contrast to the anti-popular character of the rule of the American imperialists and the Syngman Rhee clique in South Korea. The decision stresses that the entire party members should take an active part in the work of consolidating the U.D.F.F. with the Workers' Party of Korea, the guiding and leading force of the Korean people, as its core.

In towns and villages factory and office workers, miners and farmers are holding meetings to nominate their candidates. Party and government leaders, public figures, production organizers, labour innovators, noted literary men and artists and other patriots from every walk of life are being nominated. In many constituencies voters have nominated Party and government leaders.

On July 14 when the nomination of candidates began, Kim Il Sung, Chairman of the C.C., Workers' Party of Korea and concurrently Premier of the D.P.R.K., was nominated in many constituencies — Moonduk and Seungho, South Pyongan Province, Sadoong in Pyongyang, Yeungheung, South Hamkyung Province, Ryongchun, Pakchun and Sakjoo, North Pyongan Province, Hwangjoo and Songrim, North Hwanghai Province, Pohang, North Hamkyung Province, Byoksung, South Hwanghai Province, Anbyun and Chunnai-ri, Kangwon Province.

When nominating Premier Kim Il Sung at the employees' meeting at the Anjoo Colliery belonging to the Moonduk constituency, Kim Sung Chan with his career of over thirty years in the mine said:

"Comrade Kim Il Sung, the beloved leader of our people, is a genuine patriot and an outstanding leader who has devoted himself to the interests of our people and working class. So it is the greatest honour for us to nominate Comrade Kim Il Sung as a candidate from our constituency."

Next speaker was Rim Soon Nyo, widow of a deceased miner and a mother of four children. Under the profound solicitude of the Government, she is given every care. She said at the meeting:

"Premier Kim Il Sung has fought for the emancipation of women. I express my full agreement to nominating Premier Kim Il Sung."

To greet the elections labour enthusiasm of the working masses is mounting.

Li Moon Hyon working on the construction site of the Bongoong Chemical Factory told:

"Since the decree on the elections to the Supreme People's Assembly was made public, our work of expanding the sodium shop has been speeded up, showing the rate 1.2-1.5 times higher than before. Greeting the elections, we're resolved to complete the project ahead of schedule, by the end of July, and then undertake another one."

Members of the Daian agricultural co-op in Sariwon called a general meeting on June 30, and renewed their resolve to harvest 114 tons of grain, which was planned at the beginning of the year.

Election campaigns now carried on serve to show that the Workers' Party of

Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K., the reliable champions of the interests of the Korean people, enjoy the warm affection and support of the entire people, and that the people show boundless loyalty and patriotism, and that the Party, Government and the people are unbreakably united as one.

The Koreans, who passed through the miserable situation of a nation without sovereignty, have won national independence and become masters of the state — the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Proud of this, all people make every effort to strengthen the people's power. No wonder they are displaying their enthusiasm for electing a new Assembly — a crystallization of their united force.

RESULTS OF THREE-YEAR PLAN

(1954-1956)



Current Trends in Korean Literature

SUH MAN IL

TO DWELL upon current trends in Korean literature, one needs to retrospect the Second Writers' Congress held about a year ago. For the Second Writers' Congress manifested an affirmative role, marking a new mile-stone in our literary history.

The Second Writers' Congress was greatly encouraged and inspired by the historic 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U. and the Third Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U. boldly freed the consciousness and life of mankind from all shades of doctrinairism. It mobilized collective wisdom and ability in solving complicated problems and surmounting all hardships and difficulties. It enabled the people to spread freely the creative wings of Marxism-Leninism. Men began to speak out more freely their own mind and recognize their shortcomings. Men also began to think in a creative way.

The success of the 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U., which has brought about tremendous changes and guaranteed a brilliant new victory on the ideological front, stimulated our writers' urge for creation.

Then the Third Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea further promoted the unity of ideas and will of our writers, and enhanced their creative zeal. In consideration of the priceless experiences and achievements attained by the advanced Parties of other countries our Party Congress urged each of the Party members to consolidate the Leninist principles in his Party life. At the same time, the Congress set forth the fundamental line of the First Five-Year Plan aimed at socialist construction in the northern part of the country, and indicated the most effective means of accelerating the peaceful unification of the country — the immediate and most urgent task of the Korean people.

All writers assembled under the banner of the Writers' Congress. The hall was alive with many keen discussions in a free, creative atmosphere. Voices were heard from the rostrum. Some discussed the Leninist principles on aesthetics; some developed their theoretical views on the ideological unity of writers; others spoke about the narrow-minded interpretation of Socialist realism, pointing out the errors that appear in creative work. Many writers stressed an artistic, true reflection of life and rejected the harmful pseudo-sociological views. They accused the easy-going writers of putting a gloss on reality.

Of all these discussions, the one which attracted most attention of the audience was a question of getting rid of doctrinairism and schematism, which run counter to Socialist realism.

Merciless criticism of doctrinairism, dogmatism and schematism in literary works, and the struggle for eliminating their consequences, were in themselves the very reflection of the spirit of our time, marking a turning-point in the development of our literature.

Thus we could say that our writers went to the heart of matters at the Congress.

What, then, emerged from these discussions?

It was made plain, first of all, that doctrinairism originated from an incorrect understanding of partisanship, from a vulgar interpretation of Socialist realism, and from a lack on the part of writers to understand real life and the laws of its development.

Our writers, therefore, during their earnest discussions, never voiced distrust in Socialist realism as a creative method nor tried to blame others for their shortcomings.

In fact, all errors were made in our creative activities rather from our blind love of

literature than from ignorance. Therefore, with the theoretical elucidation that Socialist realism is the most appropriate, rich and excellent creative method of literature, we came to realize that the root of our past errors did not lie in any shortcomings latent in Socialist realism, but in our incorrect interpretation of it.

This can be explained by the fact that some writers have written superficially about life, through a 'rosy colour' and put stress only on the affirmative side of reality without criticism. As a consequence of wrong interpretation of Socialist realism, stereotyped, uninteresting work with no individuality claimed its position in our literary field. To wit, Socialist realism was applied as something of an established formula and prescription in literary work.

Dogmatic or slogan-mongering works are, as is the case with those which distort life, alien to the literary works based on Socialist realism.

In order to depict and develop real life in the historical, positive and revolutionary processes, the writers have to arm themselves, first of all, with the materialistic-dialectic world outlook. Writers are also required to make a profound study of, and positively participate in, life.

Socialist literature calls for more clear-cut individuality, characteristic style, and taste than any other literature. Consequently the writers should acquire a high artistic skill to depict life with true ideological content.

It should be emphasized here that the Korean writers, despite such heated argument on the method of creation, were free from errors and deviation committed by certain writers of the fraternal countries.

Mention should be made of a tendency that up to recently prevailed in some countries, the tendency of letting their animated discussion on Socialist realism take the form of an ideological expression of sharp class struggle. In such cases very often their expressions assume a political nature, going far beyond the aesthetic boundary. In certain countries we find some writers standing for "absolute freedom" or "unlimited rights" in the domain of creation; they went so far as to level vile slander against Socialist realism; when they were unable to turn out good works, or when things were not to

their liking they tended to lay their failing to Socialist realism. Needless to dwell on whom these writers were serving and what consequences were brought about by them.

It is by no means fortuitous that through the discussions Korean writers have shown an ideological unity while each maintained his position. In this way the correct and firm implementation of the policy of the Party impelled our literature and art to new heights.

Mention should also be made of the successful elimination of the criminal influences of certain writers in our ranks. They belonged to a faction of reactionary nihilist writers; among them were pseudo-literary men who occupied leading positions in the administration and careerists who stopped at nothing to gain their ends.

Of great importance in our history of literature was the existence of KAP which was formed in the 1920's by progressive and revolutionary writers and artists who fought for the interest of the working people against the Japanese rule of exploitation. They put up the slogan of "Struggle against Imperialism and Feudalism." Many writers who formed the core of KAP are with us today, playing a leading role in literature. It was the correct policy of the Workers' Party of Korea that guided the KAP to become the main revolutionary current in the Korean literature and brought up many young writers in the revolutionary spirit.

Perhaps at no other time in the history of our literature were there such keen aesthetic discussions. But the discussions are not yet over.

NEW RESULTS

The spirited aesthetic argument following the Writers' Congress undoubtedly stimulated creative impulses of our writers. Particularly it is worthy of note that creative energy was put into the field of poetry. Recently, our world of poetry has flowered with various blossoms, each with its own colour, form and fragrance. Indeed, nothing is more beautiful than the songs that each poet sings in his unique voice about life.

Many poets pour out with passion the joys of the people who are filled with the spirit of the times, while representing lofty ideas in short lyrical lines. Then there are also those who depict life as if it were a picture.

Indeed a wealth of subject-matters and characteristic forms and styles are to be welcomed.

Our two senior poets Pak Pal Yang and Pak Se Yung, after thirty years of their creative work, continue their creation with fresh vigor and vitality. Fatigue is a thing unknown to them, and many patriotic poems have recently come from their pens.

One of the leading lyric poets, Kim Soon Suk shows individuality in combining the inner life of the people with the beauty of the land. And another poet Li Yong Ak created a new patriotic character in depicting the constantly changing aspects of the country.

Space does not allow me to list here even a line of the works of Jo Byuk Am, Jo Ryung Chool, Kim Woo Chul, Pak Ah Ji and poetess Kim Kwi Ryun. Besides these, the works of young poets, Kim Chul, Li Ho Il, Kang Rip Suk and Hu Jin Kye, will be cherished for years to come.

Now it is a very proud thing that no place is given to notorious, slogan-mongering poems to assert themselves in our world of poetry.

Our poets understand more clearly than ever that a mere lining-up of material and political slogans not garbed in artistic projection cannot touch the hearts of the people, and consequently poetry cannot play its agitational role in the building of socialism.

Thus our poets today sing with deep emotion the patriotic, loyal sentiments of the people but each in his own voice, which makes a harmonious, magnificent chorus of people.

Much has been achieved in the field of prose writing. In the first half of this year alone, a number of stories were published. Of course, the authors devoted years of labour to making plots, and put their hearts into their completion. Nevertheless, the part played by the Writers' Congress in stimulating their creative urge cannot be overlooked.

Han Sul Ya's *Mt. Sul Bong* is a new full-size novel, which portrays the anti-Japanese struggle in the 1930's by the peasants who were encouraged by the anti-Japanese partisan movement organized and led by Marshal Kim Il Sung.

Through such characters as Soon Duk, his mother, Hak Chul and Kil Nam, the writer showed that no power on earth could stop the flow of inexhaustible energy or break the

fighting spirit of Marxism-Leninism. The beautiful, heroic inner-world of those who took an active part in the liberation movement is skilfully and vividly reproduced. He succeeded, without idealization or oversimplification of characters, in depicting truthfully the Korean people who built up a glorious revolutionary tradition under the guidance of staunch Communists led by Kim Il Sung. He gives us a living picture of peasants — the strong ally of workers. His powerful pen and rich language successfully depicted a typical aspect of the liberation movement.

Another novelist Li Ki Yung published the second part of his novel *Tumen River*, which portrays one aspect of the uprisings against the Japanese invaders. It deals with the events that occurred in the historical period from 1910 to 1919 — from the time of Japanese annexation of Korea to the March First Uprising.

The main characters, Kom Son and his son Si Dong, who appeared in the first part of the novel, continue to grow in this new part. The humanistic and patriotic inner-world of the people who organized the anti-Japanese struggle is given a vivid description. The young patriot Si Dong is carefully portrayed in his development as a revolutionary fighter against the background of the early 20th century. Giving a true picture of the major events in the Korean history, the author tells of the people's traditions of the struggle for freedom and independence that still manifest themselves today.

Readers are delighted with the national spirit and many traditional customs and witty adages which fill the story.

Besides these two writers, I must refer to Choi Myung Ik's historical novel *Susan Taisa*, and young talented writers — Hwang Kun's *Fatherland* and Chun Se Bong's trilogy *New Spring at the Sukgaiwool Village*. All these works depicted the noble, beautiful yet simple and heroic features of the Korean people and many aspects of their life.

Such achievements are not limited to the genre of long novels; medium-size novels such as Li Sang Hyun's *Sirocco*, Jo Joong Kon's *Fresh Greens* and Li Keun Yung's *The First Harvest* were welcomed by the readers, while Jun Jai Kyung, Pak Tai Min, Kim Hyung Kyo, Yoon Si Chul, Suk In Hai and women writers Yim Soon Deuk and Li Jung Sook wrote good short stories.

In these stories, first of all, one will notice profoundness of their artistic description. A common characteristic of all these works is that the writers pay attention to the heroes and heroines who displayed mass heroism in the anti-Japanese struggle and in the Fatherland Liberation War and who are overcoming difficulties and obstacles in the way of consolidating the countryside along socialist lines.

However, the most welcoming feature in our literary world is the creation of live individuals and their characters whom we can take as models, as well as the artistic projection of their individuality.

So far there has not been a Korean dramatist who advocated in theory or in practice "non-contradiction." Nevertheless there appeared some pieces representing "non-contradiction" or glossing over reality. It is probably due to their insufficient knowledge of life and lack of artistic technique. But it is gratifying to note that such undesirable things are gradually being bowed out from dramas.

Playwright Shin Ko Song impressively pictured through his *My Village* the reality of our countryside which is marching forward towards socialist construction. Another playwright Kim Jai Ho, in his *For Life*, described most dramatically the contradiction between a doctor who values human life more than anything else and a scientist who has no concern whatsoever for it.

Li Choong Hyun and Pak Tai Yung jointly wrote the drama *Out of Darkness*, and Ryoo Ki Hong published *Wild Camomile*.

In the field of scenario writing, too, notable gains have been scored not only in quantity but also in quality. Artistic characteristics of recent scenarios which dramatize the truth of life, can be found in expression of militant feeling of our time, the quest for beauty in life, and discovery of typical contradictions.

Juvenile literature came out against open sermons and dogmatic thinking, advocating an extension of the boundaries of children's life and inculcation of profound ideological and artistic principles.

Many of our critics, who up to now trailed behind works, boldly come forward to conduct a systematic study of authors and artistic analysis of their works. Here, too, gratifying results have been gained.

PROBLEMS THAT REQUIRE CLARIFICATION

As above mentioned, we have attained considerable achievements in literary creation. But there are still many problems and shortcomings before us. In order to solve these problems and overcome shortcomings, lively arguments, deliberations, studies and practices are going on. In the first place, the question arises: How should we deal with the current issues of the times and main themes which should be felt intelligibly in writings?

All of the best literary works, which can conduce to elevating the aesthetic taste of the popular masses and enriching their sentiments, reflect the current of the times — the requirements of society. And we know very well through our own experience that any works can stand the test of time only when the permanent theme is closely linked with the current of the times.

Real life is always in rapid progress, rejecting all the worn-out, abstract and stereotyped formula. Life develops and takes on new appearances as time flows. No writer can claim that his writing reflects well the current of the times, if it only depicts the outward aspects of such changes.

If one would keep himself far ahead of others all the time, he should become a world-record-holder, not a writer. As in the case of real life, so is it in the case of literature; there are people who rush about in a great hurry by train while others go slowly on foot. The literary world needs both of them.

Literature is not like sports which require quickness and mobility. No, literature must steer clear of this kind of view-point. It must keep step with living reality and link eternal and truthful aspects of life with themes which move the human heart.

If reality does limit itself to the urgency of the time, the current of the times may be more important than the theme. But this is not true of literature. As far as artistic phenomena are concerned, reality means a vivid manifestation of the profound truth of life and the interests of the people, the social progress and triumph of the new over the old.

It follows from this that the true merit of literary work is determined by the theme, not by the current of the times. It is

necessary to represent reality through creating characters and action. And it is also necessary to guard against the error of replacing mechanically the theme of a work with urgent matters of the times.

Only in this way can writers be relieved of dogmatism that regards literature from the vulgar sociological point of view. They will be thus able to cast off the stereotyped way of depicting real life in an easy-going and superficial manner, and of putting gloss over reality.

The representation of the policy of our Party in literary creation is itself not responsible for the defects of the works, which some of our writers have so far been unable to overcome. No, by no means can one allege that the defects of our writings come from dealing with the Party policy. In fact, these defects have resulted from dogmatic interpretation of Socialist realism as the method of creation and from the fact that in depicting living reality we got impatient and were captured by the narrow political aims.

The reason why inferior works have come out was that the greatest emphasis was

placed only on crude political matters; that language, form, plot and other kind of artistic means were neglected; and that reality was merely duplicated and no profound philosophical thinking was combined with literary creation.

It is high time for literature to be elevated to the level of scientific invention. Just as the true merit of scientific invention lies in its up-to-date and progressive nature, so the true worth of a literary work is gauged by the individuality of the author and his ideological and artistic representation. Every work should be a mile-stone which indicates the artistic progress of the author.

In commenting on the current trends of Korean literature, I feel a stab of pain in my heart, for I am not able to utter a single word as regards South Korean literature.

Today the entire Korean writers are devoting their energy to the sacred revolutionary cause of the peaceful unification of the fatherland with a view to doing away with this national tragedy of the Korean people.

TRUE STORY

A Miner's Life

An Pa Yung

THE MORNING drizzle had changed into a downpour. The rain slashed against windows. But the rain with all its intensity could not dampen the congenial atmosphere of the room.

Six or seven miners sat around the table. Everyone was in high spirits. The table was loaded with good things to eat, and already a few rounds of drinks had been served.

This was the house warming party of Choi Kwang Oh, an elderly miner. He had moved into this new house a few days ago, and he thought he should have a few young

friends of his pit to come over on the first Sunday after his family moved into this comfortable and cheerful home.

Several more wine cups were passed around. Then the host Choi Kwang Oh, twisting his mustache, started off in a serious tone:

"Now you young fellows, listen to me. You guys are telling me I should take a little easier work because I'm getting old. So I should stop the pit work! Do you mean to say I'm no good any more? I don't under-

stand this . . . What do you think of this, young foreman?"

Kim Hyung Sik, the young foreman, who was in his early 20's understood right away what the elder man meant.

"I think you took us wrong. Because you are in our team we are ahead of other brigades. We young miners are learning so much from you who have had long years of experience."

"Thanks, but you are exaggerating a little. We are ahead of others because of your organizational ability and the zeal of ex-servicemen. I only want to know if I'm a burden to you young fellows." Evidently the young foreman's words cheered the old man but he pressed for an answer.

It was not without reason why on this day Choi Kwang Oh had put this question to his workmates.

In the Samshin Coal Mine where he worked there were two Merited Miners. He and his good friend Kim Duk Joon were the two honour members. However, Choi was ten years senior to Kim in mining. He had been at this mine for 35 years. He and Kim had been working all these years, going through thick and thin together. Between them grew a strong brotherly tie.

It must have been about a week ago or so, when he was coming home with Kim. Their conversation touched on the day's work, the families and then each other's health. Then Choi said to his friend:

" . . . You know I don't feel a thing in the morning when I go down to the pit. But it isn't quite so when I come up after a day's work. Do you think I'm getting old?"

"It could be. That's what I've been telling you. There is an old song which runs something like this:

*With a cane in one hand,
And thorns in the other,
To chase coming silver
And to block departing youth,
Alas! There must have been a short cut,
My hair is turning grey.*

"So I'm telling you again. You'd better go easy on your pit work. Perhaps you should take something easier."

Though his friend's words were sincere, Choi was not quite ready to take his advice. In a rather determined manner he said:

"Nothing will stop one's grey hair including the cane and thorns. But our people's power and Workers' Party can help. Don't you remember how much our health has been improved after the country's liberation? Look at me, I'm all round now but I used to be nothing but the skin and bones. Of course, I do feel tired now and then. But I have no intention of quitting the pit. Suppose I, a merited miner, gave up the pit, how would it look?"

Several days after the conversation he was told, more or less, the same thing by Pak Yung Ki, Party leader of the sixth pit, and by the manager of the mine. He was advised to change his job and take care of safety measures in the mine. And many others coaxed him to take an easier job.

The kindness and concern of the people for him moved him deeply. But at the same time he felt resentful when he was told that he was getting too old to do the job.

This was what he told the manager: ". . . I may stop digging when the First Five-Year Plan is completed. But not a chance until then. So I wish you would not say anything like this again."

Since then Choi was very sensitive to the young people's attitude toward him in the pit. He spent one whole afternoon in showing a young new-comer how the work should be done.

Choi was a man of few words. Never did he reveal in the presence of others his feelings. He always did more than his share saying very little. He endured all the pain by himself. He was trusted by everyone.

But lately he was rather talkative and even joked, which seemed strange to his co-workers. Yet they thought it was good for him.

Choi would tell the young miners:

"Look here, this spot. If you see something between two layers you must dig out that stuff first — that's right. Now, you have it. . . . When you see the horizontal layers like this here, you break the lower one first. Then the upper one will fall down of itself."

The young miners did as he told. They digged surprisingly much coal before noon. Watching the men, Choi thought the results would be better if he told patiently the young miners what he had learned in mining.

Sure, he had gone through a hellish life in his younger days, but the experiences

he gained during the 35 years of mining should not be wasted. Furthermore, he was given such an honour as Merited Miner. Again he told himself he should do better.

Choi picked up his cup and looked around at his friends.

"Well, let's have another drink. Let us drink to our brigade!"

He lifted the cup with his callous hand that bore the signs of his hard life. His arms looked as if they were tattooed. But the spots were bits of crushed coal imprinted there. One of the young fellows lifting his glass proposed:

"Now, men, I propose a toast to our elder, Uncle Choi's health."

Then another man abruptly shouted. "Now, Uncle, let's have your love story—the story of your elopement."

"Oh, cut it out. Nobody ran away with anybody. We had to do it, because we couldn't make a go of it." Uncle Choi tried to change the subject but no use. The young friends were insistent.

"All right, if you insist..." started out the elder when a sharp voice from the kitchen interrupted.

"Pa, you aren't going to tell them that again." His wife's voice brought a roar of laughter. Despite his wife's protest he began to tell the story.

It happened when he was 24 years old. So it must have been some 30 years ago, at the time when he was working in a Japanese-owned gold mine in South Chulla Province in the southern part of Korea.

He lost his father at the age of six, and followed his mother who wandered about in search of some sort of menial work. But she died when he was 14 years old. From then on he was kicked around from pillar to post. There was hardly any work—if you call it work—that he did not try.

It was when he was 20 years old, he found a job in some gold mine, where he was made to work twelve hours a day at the wage of 15 juns a day. His earnings did not even feed himself.

While he was working at this gold mine he happened to make an acquaintance with Won Lan, a fair maid of a poverty-stricken farmer—the one who tried to stop his narration from the kitchen.

He used to meet this girl every other day. Once they made promise to meet, neither sweetheart did not show up. He waited and waited. But there was no word from her. After several days of worries and jitters he went to Won Lan's house one night. The house stood in a lonely spot at the foot of a hill. No light was to be seen. Standing behind a tree he pricked up his ears to catch any sound coming from the house. But not a sound! He grabbed up a handful of dirt and threw it at the door. "Who was that?" came the familiar voice. He repeated whereupon she opened the door and stuck her head out.

Even in the dim light he could see her sweet face, but thinner than usual and much disturbed.

When she came out to where he was standing she spoke in sobs.

"My father has so many debts. So he is sending me to Chinju. He is giving me away to get some money." As she said this her cheeks streamed with tears.

Hearing the amount of debt, he assured her that something would be done about it. Then he promised her he would be back the day after tomorrow at this time.

When he went back to his place he could not fall asleep. He had given her his assurance but he could not figure out how to get the money.

At last he woke up his bosom friend Yi Ho Soo who was sleeping by him. To him he could open his heart. They talked and worked out a plan. He decided to run away. One night he and Won Lan with



Veteran miner Choi Kwang Oh sharing his experiences with young demobbed miners

their friend found themselves on a north-bound train. That was a long separation from his native village.

The twenty years that he suffered in coal mine pits under the Japanese rule were beyond description. He saw many a coal miner die in mine disasters, and he himself buried some 60 miners who worked with him.

Early in the morning he had to come to the pit and not until late hours at night could he get home. He hardly saw his family. Every fifteen days or so when he had an off day he had to get acquainted with his children again. He heard the wailing of the wives and children at the mouth of pit, weeping for their husbands and fathers who were never to return.

There were hardly any safety measures provided for miners in those days. Yet the management demanded them to go down the shaft, sometimes a few hundred meters deep, and each miner had to carry up on his back the coal he digged.

They were beaten and subjected to every kind of abuse. But they did not hurry. Physically they were weak, but more than that they did not want to help the grabber. In those days seven miners made one team and if they digged 6.5 tons a day in twelve hours, it was thought very good. But usually they dug less than that.

However, today the team of seven members to which he belonged could dig 21 tons—their daily quota—in eight hours. Sometimes a team dug as much as 40 tons a day.

The country's liberation, therefore, meant much more to him who had such bitter life under the Japanese. He tried heart and soul to protect the honor of being member of the Workers' Party of Korea. And he felt that he possessed an unlimited spring of super-human energy within him.

The Party and Government paid every attention to making a happy life for the miners who were downtrodden so long.

Every safety device was installed in the mine. For the first time electricity was brought into the pit. Miners—new masters of the mine—put the mines in order and put all their energy into mining.

Much of the work was mechanized. The miners do not have to carry the coal themselves. Conveyer-belts are installed. Then there were wagons which carried the coal outside.

But this is not all. Realizing the importance of the coal industry and the miners' role in it, in September 1955, the Government decided to celebrate the third Sunday of September as Miners' Day every year.

The miners who had long suffered in the old days are now enjoying a happy life under the care of the people's power. From among the ranks of miners came many Heroes of Labour, Merited Miners and labour renovators. Choi Kwang Oh is one of the honoured group.

To him no quotas are too big. The Three-Year Plan for the reconstruction of the national economy was surpassed by 20 per cent, and the first half of this year's quota by 15 per cent.

Choi filling the cup continued:

"Do you remember what our good friend Kim Duk Joon said when he took charge of the safety affairs? He said nothing was so precious as human life. A million tons of coal mean nothing compared with a human life. This is our Party's belief." After a short pause he continued: "I'm telling you no good will come from those who do not value human lives. But, of course, you all know that. So why should I say more? Come, now, let's have another round."

While he was talking his wife came in and sat down beside him. Looking at her he said teasingly: "Gosh, seems it was only yesterday. In the moonlight you cried standing in my arms... But now your hair turned grey."

Pretending she didn't hear him she said: "When do you intend to go to see her? It's already late today." She was worried because it has been sometime since he promised to go to see a girl for their son who is in the army.

"I don't have to go to see her. He said she was a model worker and her picture looked very nice. They like each other. So if you want to go, go ahead."

Conversation swung over to their son's wedding.

It was getting late and gradually the guests took leave one by one. When the house was empty of guests the couple felt they were immersed in true happiness and their life richer than ever as there was so much work yet to be done.

My Impressions of Korea

ABDEL SALAM BADRAN

Cultural Attache of Egyptian Embassy
in China

IT IS a great pleasure to me to write down here for your esteemed magazine the impressions I received in your beautiful and wonderful country. Really it has one of the loveliest and the most fascinating landscapes in the world. Its incomparable ranges of hills with varied colour of flowers, crowned with green crescents, with small streams running down their slope, are indeed food for the soul. The interplay of shade and sunlight on the slopes and in the valleys is restful to the eyes and soothes fatigue and anxiety. Truly, it is a land of charms and miracles.

I am sure that the nature of the land reflects the inspiration of its people and the very country itself inspires freedom, bravery, courage, perseverance and resolution. It is not strange that the people of this country have inherited all these virtues from nature. This country suffered more than once great destruction at the hand of colonisers and imperialist invaders. But its people today are reconstructing the country into one of great beauty and splendour.

I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the miraculous underground theatre on the Moranbong Hill, Pyongyang, and heard that it was made in three months. It is truly one of the greatest feats, comparable to those monuments which have commemorated our forefathers for thousands of years. Dug in solid rock, during the war and under air-raids, it is a well organized structure with six corridors and provided with every facility and done in only three months! Marvellous! It is a graphic illustration of the determined character of these people.

Another thing, the marvel of marvels, is the Fatherland Liberation War Memorial Museum which consists of eight pavilions containing not less than twenty halls, well arranged, carefully designed and planned, showing that these people honour heroism

and sacrifice for liberating their fatherland. It was built by the soldiers in forty days. It is unbelievable. It seems beyond the power of man. I am astonished at the determination and resolution of these people.

Another miracle of the twentieth century is the Pyongnam Irrigation System which was made only in two years. Water runs through 12 kilometres of solid rock tunnels, and 882 kilometres of artificial canals: a huge reservoir was constructed at the bottom of a hill and three big pumping stations were set up. Each raises 8 tons of water per second. Astonishment increases when one learns that 6,240,000 cubic metres of earth were dug; 250 thousand cubic metres of concrete poured and 3,300 structures were built. Through this great project, 30,000 hectares of paddy fields are irrigated, bringing an increase of 60,000 tons of rice yearly.

On my way to Pyongyang, I visited an agricultural co-operative which is formed of 200 households or 850 members, 250 of them women. The co-op grows rice on an area of about 238 hectares. It is well organized and provided with every facility for the welfare of its members. I was told that they would increase the grain output from 5.5 tons to 8 per hectare this year.

Examples of such heroic feats are too numerous to mention.

Here is the Textile Combinat working smoothly and efficiently and increasing the output every year despite the wanton destruction suffered at the hands of the aggressive enemy. I saw an iron and steel works which was demolished many times and shifted to many places under or above the ground. It gave the enemy a blow in time of war and brings prosperity to the people in time of peace. Skilled workers are working there with enthusiastic and patriotic spirit.

The Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition displays with artistic taste samples of all the products of the country, giving a clear idea of the advance in every branch. I found many inventions made by the workers themselves, and at the same time, very practical and very cheap.

I visited Kaesong, which really is a typical Korean city. People are very active and perseverant. This is clearly shown in their well-cultivated fields forming a fine contrast to the neglected ones just across the demarcation line. I had a chance to meet the Senior Delegate of the Korean-Chinese side to the Military Armistice Commission. Here, I will not forget to mention one of the greatest miracles—the place where the armistice was signed that was built in three days.

How could they do it?

Lastly, I should like to say about Pyongyang. In less than one year it will be one of the best cities in the world. Why do I say this? I saw the new plans for the city, and

HUMOUR

There was a high official who had to hear flattery for everything he said or did. He loved to make a show of himself. There was nothing he did not know!

One evening he was dined by his friends. After a few rounds of the wine cup this man was in high spirits. All evening he had been boasting, as usual.

Suddenly he offered to recite an impromptu poem. That his poem would be gibberish, everyone knew. But, after all, he was a

big shot and no one could very well stop him. With an inward groan of resignation they settled down to listen.

The old gentleman stepped out pompously and announced the title of his masterpiece-to-be. He was just ready to launch forth when a young scholar, who was usually rather taciturn and reserved, suddenly presented himself before the old gentleman and said in a dignified tone:

"Sir, that was the best poem you have ever composed. Truly, it was the work of a god!"

"Mmm! Thank you! But, young man, you haven't heard my poem yet," said the perplexed old gentleman.

The young scholar answered, "I know, Sir. But I had to offer my compliments to you now. Because when you finish, everyone present here will be complimenting you in unison. Then I am afraid my praise will be drowned in the chorus!"

witnessed the students actively, diligently, and patiently working in the reconstruction of their beautiful city during their vacation. The students are being wisely guided in the direction of a peaceful life. To my great admiration women are working side by side with men in all fields.

In my visits, meetings, parties and trips, the observation which was of great moral value to me was that the people of the D.P.R.K. entertain a sincere feeling of friendship for Egypt. Such feelings are also entertained by the Egyptians for the Korean people. These friendly feelings are displayed towards me wherever I went and this memory will remain forever with me. I shall not fail to convey it to the Egyptians. I am confident that the Egyptians will appreciate these friendly and sincere feelings.

In conclusion I can only offer my hearty congratulations to these gifted people who enjoy such wise guidance and inspired leadership.

A TIMELY FLATTERY

Social Insurance in Korea

PAK TAI JOON
Vice-Minister of Labour, D.P.R.K.

Our readers wrote us inquiring about social insurance in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We asked Pak Tai Joon, Vice-Minister of Labour, to answer this question. His article is given below.

— EDITOR —

STATE social insurance in the D.P.R.K. is one of the major guarantees for the steady improvement of material and cultural wellbeing of factory and office workers.

Since the social insurance system was put into force, the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K. which are always greatly concerned about the improvement of material and cultural standards of the working people, have systematically improved the system, and have been allocating increasingly greater sums to provide more material assistance to them.

Under the social insurance system factory and office workers receive a large amount of extra benefits and allowances, which actually increase their real incomes.

Enforcement of the social insurance was made possible only after Korea was liberated on August 15, 1945 by the Soviet Army.

As one of the series of democratic reforms effected following the liberation, a genuine democratic labour law was promulgated to be enforced on June 24, 1946. The labour law provided, for the first time in Korea, for an obligatory social insurance, the century-old desire of the Korean working class.

Material assistance by state social insurance is the embodiment of the basic rights of citizens of our country provided for in the Constitution of the D.P.R.K. Article 17 of the Constitution stipulates:

"Citizens of the D.P.R.K. who are entitled to the benefits of social insurance have the right to material assistance in old age, in case of sickness or disability.

This right is ensured in the form of medical service and material assistance in

accordance with social insurance provided by the state."

Material assistance by social insurance is applicable not only in old age, or in case of sickness, disability, death, pregnancy or child birth. Social insurance also covers expenses for the accommodation of factory and office workers in sanatoria, rest homes and summer camps which promotes the health of workers.

The social insurance system of the D.P.R.K. is being carried on on the following principles:

APPLICATION OF SOCIAL INSURANCE

Social insurance in our country is obligatory upon every factory and office worker. Unlike life or fire insurance which becomes valid upon signing contracts, our social insurance takes effect with the establishment of labour relations between the employer and the employee.

As stipulated by law, social insurance is applicable to every worker employed in the government, political and social organizations or state-owned or private enterprises. It is also applicable to students studying on government stipends in colleges, university and technical training courses as well as to the family members of factory and office workers.

BENEFITS ENJOYED

Social insurance in our country, with a wide range of applicability, grants benefits in two form: one is granted to workers and office employees who are temporarily incapacitated; the other is given as pensions on retirement.

1. Temporary Allowance Granted to Factory and Office Workers

At present three forms of benefits are in use.

First, allowance is granted to a worker who is unable to perform his duty, due to sickness or injury, thereby losing his wage. It is also granted when he stays away from work not because of his own illness or injury, but because of sickness of his family members, childbirth and the like. And when a worker is obliged to be absent from his work because an epidemic cut him off from communication he does not lose his wage.

The rate of cash payment in such cases is 60-80 per cent of the average monthly wages of the recipient in the last three months, or of the regular monthly pay. The rate varies in accordance with the length of time of his employment. But in case of the transfer of a worker to a new place or a suspension in his employment which did not come of his own making, the time of the previous employment will be added to his present one. Higher rates will be applied to the workers of longer service. When a man of merit who was decorated with an order by the state suffers from disease or gets injured while he is working, he is to be paid 80 per cent of his pay, irrespective of the length of time of his employment.

Secondly, women on maternity leave are granted allowances.

According to the Labour Law, women factory and office workers are guaranteed annual paid holidays of fourteen to twenty-eight days. In addition, a lying-in woman is guaranteed 77 days of maternity leave, 35 days before childbirth and 42 days after birth, with full pay, regardless of how long she has been employed.

Thirdly, a special grant such as infant allowance is given to a woman worker or the wife of man worker when she gives birth. The mother who has given birth to triplets will be given state aid in the form of cash and special benefits.

Funeral allowance is granted when a factory or office worker dies, or when any of his family members dies.

2. Pensions on Disability or Retirement

Pensions on disability or retirement are varied.

Firstly, retirement pension is granted to a man worker or office employee who reaches the age of 60 and to a woman at the age of 55. Pensioners receive for the rest of their life half of their average monthly wages in the last twelve months before their retirement. However, if a pensioner stays on with his work after his retirement age he will receive both regular wage and pension.

Secondly, disability pension is granted to a factory worker or office employee when he is disabled. Disability pension is allowed until the pensioner is able to resume his work. The rate of pension runs to 80 per cent of the average monthly wages of the pensioner in the last twelve months, depending on the length of his service, the degree of disability and its cause (for instance, he is disabled during his work or from another cause).

In case a worker who has had a hand or a leg amputated or otherwise crippled wishes to take an office job or some light work, he is allowed to do so and will receive both his wage and pension in full.

Thirdly, pension is allowed to bereft families when their supporter dies during his employment or dies while he is receiving old age or disability pension. The amount of pension varies according to the average monthly wages of the deceased in the last twelve months and the number of bereft family members.

In addition, the government also supplies pensioners with cotton goods, provisions and other necessities. And for the aged who lives on pension and has no one to look after him, as well as orphans and disabled, special protection or educational facilities, as the case may be, are provided.

3. Medical Service

In case of sickness, injury, pregnancy or childbirth, all factory and office workers, pensioners and their families receive medical service until their health is completely restored.

In our country, the entire people enjoy free medical service, in which case social insurance only covers the expenses for the medicines taken by out-patients — full amount in case of the worker himself, and 60 per cent in case of worker's family.

4. Sanatorium, Rest Home and Summer Camp

For the promotion of health and recreation of factory and office workers, we have many sanatoria, rest homes and summer camps, where workers and office employees spend their annual paid holidays of fourteen to twenty-eight days. And all the expenses including travel are covered by social insurance. Now every year over a hundred thousand factory and office workers go to sanatoria, rest homes and summer camps.

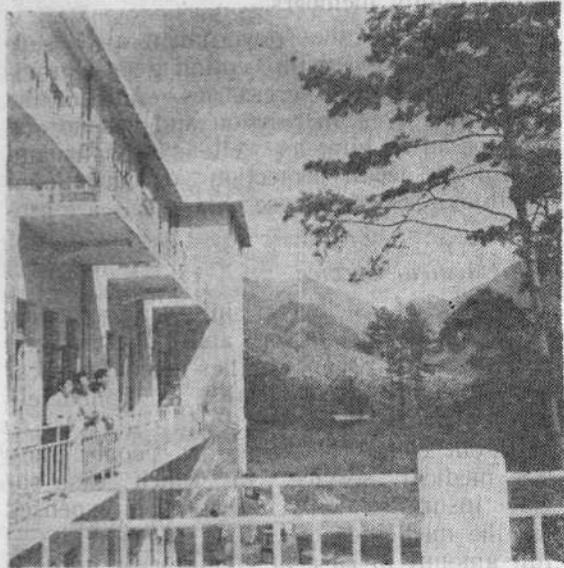
Before Korea was liberated, sanatoria, rest homes or summer camps were only for capitalists and landlords. Workers were excluded from these privileges.

Now, that the state power is in the hands of the people, all of those facilities are serving the working people. The Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K. took measures to set up many new sanatoria, rest homes and summer camps in the regions of mineral springs, hot-springs or on the sea shores.

Workers and office employees who are in poor health or who are recuperating take a rest for a certain period in sanatoria.

Rest homes and summer camps are for the healthy people. Mount-climbing, bathing, sports and other recreation facilities are also provided for them.

Mines, coal mines, iron and steel works and other factories, where work is heavy, maintain their own sanatoria. Workers, who re-



Myohyang-san Rest Home

quire some treatment and special nutrition, take a rest for twenty to thirty days in such sanatoria while they are working.

Summer camping is arranged every year on a large scale not only for workers and office employees but also for students during summer holidays. Social insurance funds cover all the expenses required.

SOCIAL INSURANCE FUNDS

Most of the expenses for social insurance undertakings come from enterprises and organs, which are bound by law to pay social insurance dues amounting to from five to eight per cent of the total sum of the monthly wages they pay their employees, the percentage depending upon the degree of safety devices installed there. Workers and office employees pay only one per cent of their incomes.

Since major industries are nationalized and the absolute majority of workers and office employees are working in the state-owned enterprises and organs, social insurance expenses are in the main covered by the state.

Mention must also be made of the fact that in our country social insurance is managed by the state, with wide participation of workers and office employees. In every enterprise and organ, there is a social insurance committee formed with active model workers and office employees. This committee, under the guidance of the trade union committee in the enterprise or organ, is vested with the duties and rights to cooperate with the state management for the improvement and strengthening of social insurance work, and to supervise and ensure the correct enforcement of the provisions of the social insurance law.

Social insurance in our country is, therefore, of a thoroughly popular character.

Still greater development in social insurance is promised. It is expected that, thanks to the solicitude of the Workers' Party of Korea and Government of the D.P.R.K. which are always greatly concerned about the improvement of the material and cultural standards of the people, allowances and pensions from social insurance will be further extended and their rate will be raised during the First Five-Year Plan period. More sanatoria, rest homes and other facilities for the promotion of health of workers and office employees will be built.

MARKING MINERS' DAY

Photo by Kim Jum Yung



Merited Miner Ryu Ho Pil (left) at work, Sadong Colliery

To greet the third anniversary of the Miners' Day and the fortieth anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution, miners, who overfulfilled by 11 per cent the state assignment of coal output for the first half of 1957, are burning with enthusiasm for increased production.

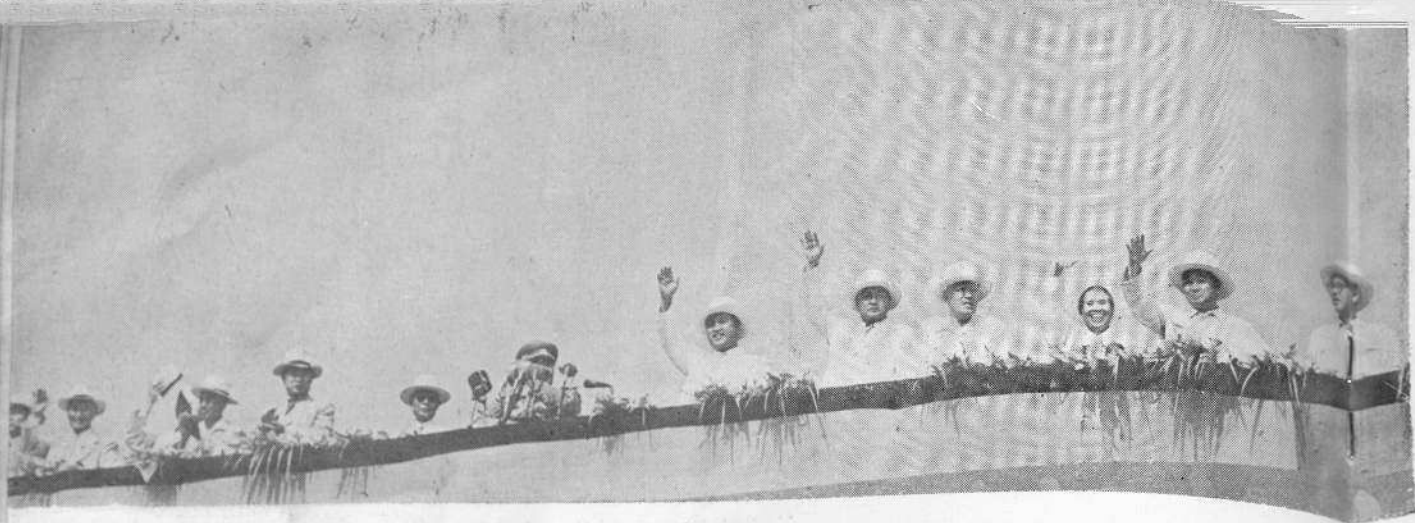
With the mechanization of labour-consuming process and with thorough safety measures, miners are now working free from danger.



Music circle members of the Shinchang Colliery rehearsing a new piece for the art contest in celebration of Miners' Day



Merited Miner Choi Kwang Oh of Samshin Colliery and his son at his home



Party and government leaders on the reviewing stand

NATIONAL HOLIDAY

The twelfth anniversary of August 15 Liberation was observed throughout the northern part of the country to commemorate the liberation of Korea by the heroic Soviet Army.

In Pyongyang, thirty thousand people participated in demonstrations marking the day, expressing their gratitude from the bottom of their hearts to the great Soviet people who brought them libera-



Women marchers shouting "Long live the Workers' Party of Korea!"



Athletes' parade



A column of marchers goes by



Foreign guests watching the demonstration

tion. The people showed their inflexible determination to attain the peaceful unification and independence of their fatherland by rallying more firmly than ever around the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K.

Parks, streets, squares, theatres, cinema houses and the stadium were crowded with the holiday-making people. Joyous singing and dancing were enjoyed until a late hour.



Dancing on an open-air stage



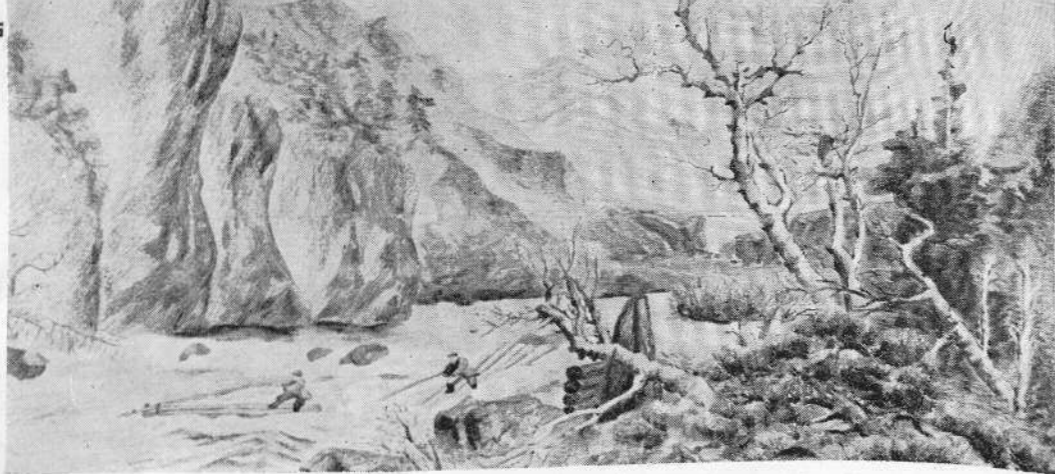
Sawing contest



Gun salute in Moranbong Park, Pyongyang

A night view of Pyongyang city





"Rafts on the Yalu" by Kim Myung Sook, member of the State Embroidery Institute

KOREAN EMBROIDERY

Photo by Suh Jai Hwan
Jun Chang Bok

Korean embroidery is a national art of long tradition. Its subject-matters cover a wide range. However, before liberation, the subject-matters were limited to figures, verses or landscapes, flowers and birds, whereas today various aspects of everyday life are added. Many embroiderers and trainees are making a study of the art of Korean embroidery at the State Embroidery Research Institute in Pyongyang.

Applying creatively the technique of modern painting to embroidery, they are creating artistic works depicting many aspects of actual life of the people.

Kim Yung Soon making embroidery
at the State Embroidery Institute



Korean women embroidering at home
(in Kaesong)

Korean favorites — embroidered cushions and pillows



Korean Classical Opera

KIM SAM BOOL

Chang-keuk, Korean classical opera, is an art of long tradition. It came out from among the people.

It is an ensemble of *chang* (singing), the main element, *nureumsai* (a unique form of dramatic acting) and *balim* (a ballet form of Korean folk dance). These component parts are focussed on dramatic depiction and form a unique ensemble.

Not only *aniri*, a form of musical declamation similar to recitative, but also *chang*, the highly refined dramatic singing, is as eloquent and communicative as dialogue.

These characteristics of the Korean classical opera are closely related to the realistic tradition of its development. In the 250 years of its history Korean classical opera has been able to develop its peculiar style only by succeeding to the ideological and artistic height attained by other genres of national drama that preceded it.

In developing into the stage art of today from its earlier, monodic or monodramatic form, the Korean classical opera had to pass through the following four stages of development:

1. The period of the earlier monodic form of opera, extending over 200 years from the latter part of the 17th century to the late 19th century;
2. The period of the Hyup-ryool-sa Society, from the close of last century to the twenties of this century, in which the protagonist, or director, played the main role;
3. The period of the Vocal Music Study Association, from the 1930's to the liberation of the country in 1945;
4. The period following the liberation of August 15, 1945.

EMBRYO OF OPERA

The early form of Korean classical opera that prevailed in the 18th-19th centuries was *pansori*, which was performed by a single actor to the accompaniment of a drum. The drummer is, as it were, a director of the performance.

The single actor not only played the part of all characters in the drama but carried

out the narrative and descriptive function to make up for the deficiency of this type of theatrical presentation.

Such being its character, *pansori* did not take the simple form of singing but required dramatical movement and dialogue as its component parts no less important than singing. Therefore, *pansori* was the embryo of opera, not merely a sort of singing.

In the course of 200 years of its development, the Korean classical opera produced numerous celebrated actors and operatized many a folklore.

In the history of Korean classical opera the 18th century is represented by three celebrated actors — Ha Hun Dam, Choi Sun Dal and Kwon Sam Deuk. This was a period when *aniri* (recitative) gradually yielded its dominant place to *chang* (singing) — the prototype of the early opera. By this time the three greatest works of Korean classical opera — *Tales of Choon Hyang* (Spring Perfume), *Shim Chung* and *Heung Boo* — had been completed.

It was in the period of Eight Celebrated Actors, from the beginning to the middle of the 19th century, which heralded the appearance of the distinguished artist Shin Jai Hyo, that the early type of opera came to full blossom on the foundation laid by the three celebrated actors, and its artistic quality rose to a higher level of realism. The Eight Celebrated Actors were: Song Heung Rok, Mo Heung Kap, Ryum Ke Dal, Ko Soo Kwan, Choo Duk Ki, Kim Ke Chul, Shin Man Yup and Pak Yoo Jun.

This period is characterized by the fact that singing became the leading element and its dramaturgical basis was accomplished. The development of *chang* as opera singing further consolidated the foundation of *chang-keuk* and opened up bright vistas for this characteristic national classical opera.

Fifteen different rhythms—from the gentle *chinyangjo* up to the brisk *hwimori*—were defined and used. Musicians introduced their characteristic melodies and technique of singing one after the other, thereby ensuring vivid and colourful dramatic depic-

tion. And thus the classical opera became an art playing the role of an inspiring, stirring agitator. The early opera produced in this period a number of colorful texts, including the twelve masterpieces such as Tale of Choon Hyang (Spring Perfume), Tale of Shim Chung, etc.

The latter half of the 19th century, following the period of Eight Celebrated Actors, is characterized as a period when the early opera won the stage.

The diversification of singing, which started from the preceding period, further developed in this period until it gave rise to a number of different schools. And the formation of schools promoted the diversification of melodies and singing methods and greatly enhanced the technique of operatic depiction.

Under such circumstances there appeared excellent artists who exerted themselves for transforming the early classical opera into a modern operatic form.

STAGING OF EARLY OPERA

The leading spirit in this reform of the classical opera was the outstanding artist, director and playwright Shin Jai Hyo. Together with his disciples Kim Se Jong, Choi Sun and others, he made a historical achievement—the bringing on to the stage of the early opera. His work was inherited



Mo Heung Kap, a famous Korean singer (19th c.), giving a performance on Neungna island, Pyongyang

by his followers—Kim Chang Hwan, Huh Keum Pa and others.

Shin Jai Hyo and his disciple Kim Se Jong advocated the theory on the stage direction of the early opera, stressed the importance of dramatic movement as a component part of opera and demanded the dramatical reform of libretti and the linking of the early opera with the stage. Shin Jai Hyo and Kim Se Jong opened up through joint efforts the road of the early opera toward the stage, the former mainly working on direction and libretti, and the latter mainly on practical acting.

The great contribution of Shin Jai Hyo to the reform of the early opera as a stage art can be seen among other things in his method of realistic depiction and in his theory on “experiencing” acting. He emphasized the congruity of singing with acting as well as with drama. In his “Song of the Actor” he laid emphasis on singing, dramatism and acting, and held that only on the basis of their ensemble can the opera fully display its ideological and artistic character.

In particular, the stress he laid on acting decisively turned the early opera toward the stage. The “experiencing” acting advocated by Shin Jai Hyo clearly shows the difference between the Korean classical opera and the modern or Western opera.

Shin Jai Hyo underlined realistic acting in opera, rejecting formalistic singing and acting of every hue.

His outstanding theory was developed by his disciple Kim Se Jong into the theory of “tonality” based on the conformity of singing, acting and drama, and into the theory emphasizing the dramatization and dramaturgical unity of the early opera. He sought perfect tonality in the conformity of singing, drama and acting, and regarded discordance between them as the ruin of tonality.

One of the essential questions which had to be tackled in bringing the early opera on to the stage was that of actors for different parts.

Up to the period of Eight Celebrated Actors, all the actors were male. Shin Jai Hyo attached great importance to the training of female actors, regarding it as one of the fundamental conditions for the reform of the early opera. He trained Choi Sun, the first actress in the history of Korea, and started the training of child actors. Choi Sun heralded the appearance of Huh Keum Pa, Li Wha Joong Sun and other actresses. This paved the road to the solution of the question of casting different actors for different parts, which was indispensable for the development of opera as stage art.

It was natural that such artistic theory of Shin Jai Hyo also required the reform of libretti, which is in a kindred relation with stage-craft. He had to rearrange the texts of the early opera in accordance with his dramaturgy which reflected his advanced aesthetic conception, thus eliminating crudeness resulting from the oral transmission of the early opera. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to achieve the conformity of singing with drama, or of acting with drama.

The realistic and popular conception of stage art attained and upheld by Shin Jai Hyo inevitably led to the hatred and rejection of the feudal contempt of stage art, to the demand for the emancipation of the art from the feudal shackles and to the requirement for the lofty personality of actors and for their maturity attained through ideological and artistic training.

Thus his advanced artistic conception of advocating the educational role of art for the people as well as its anti-feudal role became the cornerstone of Shin Jai Hyo's creative system of realistic opera.

The efforts of Shin Jai Hyo and his disciples to reform the opera in its cradle made it possible to cast different actors for different parts at the end of the 19th century and set the first step toward opera in the modern sense. This great reform of the stage-craft of the early opera had been accomplished before



Scene from Korean national opera “Tale of Shim Chung”

the introduction of the modern drama, and this must be said to be a wonderful national achievement. This was realized at the aesthetic demand of the people growing in keeping with the historical development of society and in accordance with the law-governed development of the opera itself.

MODERN PRESENTATION

The realistic and popular conception of the classical opera, which originated from Shin Jai Hyo, was further consolidated and developed by the Hyup-ryool-sa Society, the operatic organization which unfolded its activity in the period from the 1900's to the 1920's.

The Hyup-ryool-sa Society commenced its activity in the capital, Seoul, and provinces, with Wonkaksa (the imperial theatre of the Li Dynasty) as its base of performance. Its activity was connected with the ideological enlightenment directed against foreign imperialist aggressive forces as well as the feudal reactionary forces within the country and with the Righteous Army Movement and other patriotic struggles of the Korean people at that time.

In this period great importance was attached to acting as well as to singing, and thus the classical opera reached a high level of ensemble.

The opera in this period was not as yet free from lingering elements of the monodramatic form of the early opera. The pro-

tagonist played the main role and the actors in the cast were rather secondary. This notwithstanding, the opera of this period, being not a monodramatic but a concerted performance, developed modern operatic ensemble, proceeding from its own inevitable requirement.

The putting on the stage of classical opera brought about fundamental changes in comparison with the early opera performed on open-air stages.

Stage decor developed from the white background curtain to the five-colour curtain and then to stage settings. There came into being the proscenium arch marking off the stage from the hall. Stage lighting developed from simple lighting to multicolour one, with the device of switching on and off. Musical accompaniment advanced from the single drum of the early period to the concert of kayakeum (lute), juldai (flute), etc. The accompanist who used to sit beside the singer in the early period, gradually receded to the background.

Though the classical opera in the period of the Hyup-ryool-sa Society made a big step forward in its reformation as seen above, it was still unable to overcome a number of defects such as the imperfectness of dramatic depiction and the lack of new works directly reflecting the new reality, owing to the subjective and objective conditions at that time. For all this, however, momentous was the significance of the cornerstones laid by the Hyup-ryool-sa Society for the development of Korean classical opera.

Though the Hyup-ryool-sa Society was compelled by the Japanese imperialists' oppression to discontinue its performance activity, wisdom of the people inherited the national art, which continued to grow.

Despite the temporary stagnation it had undergone, the Korean classical opera registered further advance as an art serving the people in the period of the Korean Vocal Music Study Society starting from the early 'thirties.

The classical opera in this period was connected with the characteristic socio-political conditions of the time when the Korean people's national liberation struggle developed into an active form of the armed revolutionary struggle.

The development of the classical opera by the Korean Vocal Music Study Society was attained on the basis of the introduction of

rich experiences of modern drama and thanks to the enthusiasm and sincere efforts of artists for defending the national art from the Japanese imperialists' policy of obliterating Korean national art and to the enthusiasm and active support of the masses of spectators, which were an expression of their anti-Japanese sentiments.

In this period the classical opera fully acquired the stage-craft of modern drama. With advanced method of stage direction it overcame the lingering elements of the monodramatic form of the early opera, preserving only the essential, traditional methods. As a result, tout ensemble of the stage was remarkably enhanced, with lighting, effect and all other elements well concentrated.

The part of the protagonist of the Hyup-ryool-sa form of opera, the last survival of the early, monodramatic form of opera, disappeared from the texts, and a thorough-going analysis and rearrangement of texts were carried out. Works dealing with current themes began to be written.

With the disappearance of the protagonist from the stage, main characters in the drama played a major role on the stage. This was realized above all thanks to the fact that the opera artists gained some experience in creating modern drama and the recruit of large numbers of new actors became possible.

In the realm of music, composition of new works proceeded along with rearrangement of the traditional ones. Musical accompaniment was extended in scale and enhanced in role. The disappearance of the protagonist gave rise to the new form of "singing aside."

In this period the classical opera reached a higher level of theatrical presentation, overcoming a number of defects which the opera of the preceding period failed to remove. By correctly tackling varied aspects of the theatrical art and giving expression to the characteristics of the sentiments of the Korean people of that time, the classical opera made positive contributions to the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle.

However, under the oppression and persecution by the Japanese imperialists, the artists had no stability of living, their freedom of creation was fettered and their performance activity was not free from censorship and financial difficulty, with the result that the classical opera was unable to register further advance.

EFFLORESCENCE OF CLASSICAL OPERA

After the Korean people seized power into their own hands thanks to the liberation of the country by the decisive role of the great Soviet Army, the classical opera has made such enormous development as had never been witnessed in the history of our country.

For the efflorescence of national art the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the D.P.R.K. have taken measures to set up art companies and theatres; ensured and encouraged in every way the free creative activities of artists; and gave guidance to the training of young artists in theatres and schools. At the same time the entire artists have rallied in an uncompromising struggle against the nihilistic approach toward national art and against its vulgarization and distortion.

Encouraged by this, the classical opera has attained enormous results through the collective efforts of the creative staff, while creatively introducing experiences of the advanced Soviet stage art.

"Tale of Choon Hyang (Spring Perfume)" and "Tale of Shim Chung" staged in the recent years by the National Art Theatre show the attainment of a remarkable height in the system of stage direction, in the skill of acting and in the scale and content of presentation. The classical opera was able to attain these results only by firmly relying on the creative method of Socialist realism following the liberation.

It is under the people's democratic system that the classical opera has become able to display fully their popular character. This is attributable to the fact that the artists, materializing the popular character of the literary policy of the Workers' Party of Korea, correctly inherited and developed the ideological and thematic foundation of drama and rendered the creative method further scientific. In addition, the creative introduction of the advanced Stanislavsky system of acting contributed to the further development of the classical opera. Our artists have rejected the unscientific approach of the bourgeois critics trying to brand "Tale of Choon

Hyang" as an erotic melodrama. They elucidated its social, historical and class character set against the feudal system and the exploiting class, and expounded its popular significance in developing the dramatic aspects.

The greatest result of the reform attained in the realm of the style of stage presentation is the opening up of new sphere for music. The prelude and interlude by the big national instrument orchestra, based on the graceful and harmonious national melodies, have come to substitute for part of the roles of the protagonist at the time of the Hyupryool-sa Society and those of "singing aside" at the time of the Vocal Music Study Society. The large scale work for the restoration of national musical instruments is promising a brighter future for the national instrument orchestra. Choruses, both monophonous and poliphonic, also have been introduced in singing, besides the traditional monody and antiphon. For this a series of sincere attempts were made; male and female parts of singing have been divided; researches on vocalism undertaken.

In the realm of stage decor, technique of traditional Korean painting has been introduced in scenery and stage setting, and the artistic quality of stage properties and costumes has been enhanced and the scale of stage decor remarkably expanded.

All this proves that art can fully blossom only under the people's democratic system which frees art from the lot of being an instrument of the exploiters and enables it fully to serve the interest of the people.

Bright indeed is the future of the classical opera. The artists and research workers in this field are now discussing how to bring it to full blossom and how to deal with current themes in the classical form. Some of their epochal experiments have entered a practical stage.

The huge results attained in the development of the classical opera testify to the correctness of the literary and art policy of the Workers' Party of Korea, the policy of enriching the developing national art through the sagacity of the people while remaining loyal to all the excellent traditions of national art.

GRANDPA KWON

PAK SUNG II

IT WAS the topic of the day among workers of the City Communications:

"Did you hear Grandpa Kwon had volunteered for telegram delivery?"

"Yes, I did. Strange! Why should he ask for such job? It's an easy job he is doing now...."

Grandpa Kwon, a mail carrier of the City Communication Section, was getting up in years.

The work of carrying mail bags three times a day to and from the railway station was not such an arduous job. Yet he wanted to be a telegram deliverer.

Telegram deliverers have to be on a bicycle the whole day. Even strong young lads get stiff legs and limp after a day's work. More, as soon as a telegram is issued, whether it is in the dead of the night or early morning, they must set off to find the addresses. Imagine it, Grandpa, nearing 60 and not so strong at that, is going in for telegram delivery!

"He's gone mad. The death of his wife must have struck him a blow."

"It seems that he is doomed to hard life. Otherwise he wouldn't apply for such hard work."

People whispered to each other wondering what drove him to such "indiscretion."

Paying no heed to what they said, he went right ahead and became a telegram deliverer.

The people in the Grandpa's delivery area see him every day, rain or shine, on a bicycle carrying a telegram bag. Stooping his already bent back and busily pedalling his bicycle, not too smart a posture, and ringing the bell noisily — this invites a sympathetic smile of an on-looker. But rousing more sympathy is his warm heart.

"Telegram! It says 'Congratulations on your marriage.' Oh, it is a day of rejoicing. I congratulate you too, though we have not made acquaintance." He handed them a telegram with a hearty greeting.

"Well, there ain't any name sign on this house. Happy tiding would almost have turned back in great disappointment. Take this telegram. Your demobilized son is coming home. Load the table for him with food until its legs bend." "Tomorrow," he added, "I will bring a piece of board. You write your name clearly on it and put it up."

The next day the promised piece of wood was presented.

Residents of the area, old and young alike, respect and admire him. On scorching hot days they offer him a cold drink and on cold snowy days invite him to come in and warm. He declines each time saying: "Thanks a lot, but I'm on duty."

Once he was passing his house after delivering a telegram to his neighbour. Seeing him, his 15-year-old daughter (he lives alone with his youngest daughter) rushed out and called, "Daddy, our neighbour has just brought freshly baked bread. Come and eat some before it gets cold."

He was hungry because it was about lunch time, but he shook his head, "You eat alone. I'm on duty." Without looking back he went on his way jingling his bicycle bell noisily.

More news about Grandpa spread among workers of the Communication Section.

"I heard that Grandpa Kwon was recommended recently as a model deliverer."

"He is worthy. Without exaggeration, there'd be no need of the motto, 'Accuracy and Speed in the Work of Communications' if all the workers were like Grandpa. They say he will get the commendation of the Minister of Communications."

"I see now why he applied for that job. Mail carriers cannot get such thing even if they work a hundred years. I bet he had this in mind when he wanted a new job. As the saying goes, 'even eels in the mud can find their food.'"

One of them measured Grandpa thus. Of course there was a reason why he took the new job. But it was not the kind they

said. He was not a person to seek his own selfish aim. A tragic story lay behind his change of work.

It was the late spring of last year. His wife was on her death bed. With her last breath she begged pathetically to see her married daughter. The daughter was living in a village some 30 miles away. Grandpa dashed to the telegraph office and sent a wire, "Mother seriously ill. Come immediately."

It was ten at night when he came back from the office.

"Now, wait a few hours. She must have received the telegram by this time. She will come by the mid-night train."

The sick mother only nodded with her eyes closed.

The tooting of train was heard in the distance. They waited a while but no one came.

"Ah, what is this? Didn't the telegram reach her? Or, did she miss the train?" He could not keep calm. He walked in and out of the house. At last he once again rushed to the telegraph office.

When he returned from the second trip it was already one.

"Wait a little longer. She will certainly come by the next train." He could not tell her that the next one comes at 5 a.m., so he just said "next train."

Her breath was now coming in short gasps. Time passed.

"Hasn't she come yet?" she whispered, slowly opening her eyes.

"She will be here soon. Try to hold on a little longer."

The sick wife quietly closed her eyes again. She was exerting all her efforts out of her great desire to see her daughter.

A few hours dragged by. At last the whistle of a train broke the morning stillness. At this moment a faint smile of expectation appeared on the face of the dying woman.

Grandpa jumped outside with a bound and went to the entrance of the village. However, he did not see any one coming toward the village. He hurried to the railway station. It was already deserted. The electric lights gleamed palely in the early dawn.

Much disappointed, he returned home. His wife said nothing. She slowly closed her eyes and then opened them again.

"Maybe her child is sick or she herself is ailing." Worry overshadowed her waxen-white face.

Her husband tried hard to appear indifferent. "Or, maybe she could not wait for the train and is coming on foot. Hold on. She will surely come."

But his wife shook her head feebly. "I think I am going without seeing her." Tears rolled down her cheek.

It was the morning when the hearse was about to leave that the daughter came. There was no sign of her child being sick or she herself ailing, as his wife had worried.

As soon as she entered the house Grandpa shouted: "Confound you, what on earth... Were your legs broken? What prevented you from coming sooner, you wretch? To the last she was thinking about you. She could not rest in peace, worrying about whether you were sick..." He broke off in a sob.

Sobbing seemed to relieve some of his pent-up grief. The daughter was hanging on to the side of the coffin, weeping bitterly. This sight roused a feeling of regret in him. "Now, now, stop crying. Gone is gone. Only if you had come earlier, she would have been satisfied." He heaved a sigh as deep as the sea.

The daughter stopped crying and began to explain. Dumfounded, the father stood staring at her, unable to utter a word.

Only that morning the daughter had received the two telegrams all at once. The father's eyes flashed ominously as if he was about to do something vicious.

"Who, who is the deliverer there? I will hang that scoundrel before sunrise." He gritted his teeth and shook his clenched fist. At this moment, an unremovable nail was driven into the heart of Grandpa.

"Beast of the beasts! Yet such villain wears a human mask and eats up state ration."

Many a night he dreamed about the telegrams and jumped up with a start. At such times his heart would boil with indignation. It was then that the idea began brewing unconsciously in a corner of his mind.

"Telegram delivery, what a noble occupation it is! If that rascal had delivered the telegram in time! Who can say that such negligence is not being repeated right at this moment? No, such thing never can be tolerated. Never, never! All right, I will become a telegram deliverer, though I am old, so as not to let such a calamity occur again. Would it not be the way of satisfying the eager desire of my wife? Yes, it would. I will

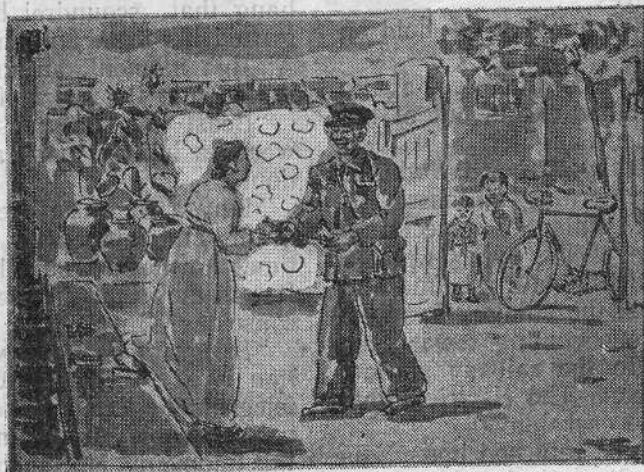
certainly become a telegram deliverer, for the bliss of the dead alone." The idea growing in the heart of Grandpa became at length a clear conviction.

When Grandpa volunteered for this work, all of his colleagues were surprised and some jeered at him. Sympathetic ones tried to stop him saying, "Even vigorous young men jump around like mad in this work. It will be all the harder for an old man who is a green hand on a bicycle."

True, riding a bicycle would not be easy for Grandpa. He had spent most of his life carrying heavy loads on his back until it bent and his legs sagged. When he was young he had borrowed his neighbour's bicycle and learned barely enough to stay on one. Then after the liberation he had a chance to ride a little. This is all his bicycle riding career.

For all this, nothing could break his steel-like determination. His bitter experience drove him on. After long haggling, he became a telegram deliverer.

One winter morning, a half year after he began working at his new job, Grandpa Kwon went to the office to take the morning shift. The one on night duty came to him and unceremoniously thrust at him a telegram saying, "It came just while ago. Deliver it when you go out." Then he started swinging along toward his home.



Grandpa peeped in at the telegram. It said "... will arrive at five."

He stiffened. "Hey, come back here," he called out and rushed after him. The man turned round. Grandpa roared like a tiger: "When did you receive this? Did you say you got it just while ago?" He pushed the telegram under his nose.

"What's the matter with you? It is not for you after all. Why should you care when it came?" The man backed away awkwardly.

"What? Does it make any difference if it is not mine? Do you have even a spark of conscience? Look at this, if you are not blind. You received it at three and what time do you think it is now? And it said he would arrive here at five. He may be a complete stranger here and may have been wandering about for hours on such a cold morning. Even a weasel has a face, but you don't even have that, have you?" Grandpa shouted at the top of his voice, shaking the telegram. The man flushed, ducked his head and stood speechless.

Again today Grandpa Kwon is busily pedalling his bicycle, ringing the bell noisily. His riding pose is no longer clumsy. When people invite him for a short rest, he still says, with a slow smile, "Thank you, but I am on duty."

Now nobody jeers at him. He has won the admiration of all.

TECHNICOLOUR FILM

"Dawn in the East"

THE NEW colour film "Dawn in the East" is jointly made by the Korean and Soviet film-workers.

The scenario is by Korean writers Suh Man Il and Kim Seung Kyoo and Soviet writer A. Perventsev. The film is the joint production of Korean producer Chun Sang In and Soviet producer I. V. Lukinsky.

Both Korean and Soviet actors and actresses appear in the film. Among Korean players are Hwang Chul, Choi Seung Hi, People's Artistes, Kang Hong Shik, and famous ballerina An Sung Hi; among Soviet players are Dmitriev, Arjanov, Merited Artistes, Pugovkin and Dovjenko.

The story of the film is built around a young man named Man Chul who before the country's liberation had gone to Seoul to study. One day after the war ended he returned to North Korea but on a spy mission.

As he saw a new Korea being born, a change took place in his mind. And the film also shows the steadfastness of the Korean people in their struggle for the reconstruction of their national economy, and the noble internationalist spirit of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China which have been rendering enormous help to Korea.

The shooting was done in Mosfilm studios for three months from January this year, and then on location in Soopong Hydro-electric Power Station, Chungsoo and Chunsung along the Yalu river from mid-June.

Despite many obstacles, particularly the language difficulty, the film workers of two countries successfully carried out their joint work in an atmosphere of deep friendship and cooperation.

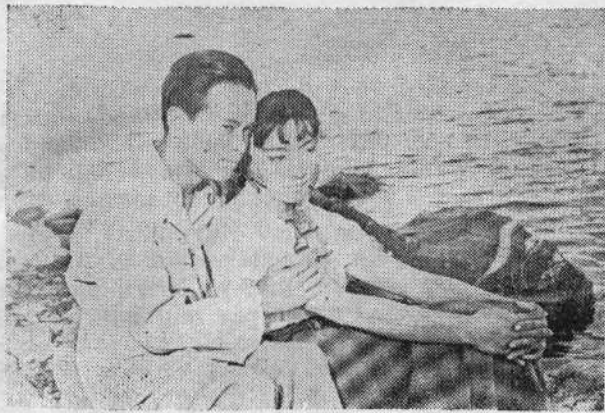
Moreover, in the course of making the film, Korean film workers learned much from the highly experienced Soviet colleagues.

The film "Dawn in the East," which will serve to consolidate further the friendship and fraternity between the two peoples of Korea and the Soviet Union, will be released towards the end of September in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of October Revolution.

The story opens in the hydro-electric power station covered with columns of bomb smoke. It is just before the truce was signed on



Filming of the "Dawn in the East"



A still from the film "Dawn in the East"



A still from the film "Dawn in the East"

July 27, 1953. The barbarous bombing by the American air bandits was continuing.

A group of women with an anxious look stand in front of the air-raid shelter on the slope of a mountain, gazing at the sky. Among them is a mother (played by Choi Seung Hi) whose hair has turned grey. She is a widow; her husband had worked at this power station under the Japanese capital. Right after the liberation (August 15, 1945) he was shot by the defeated Japs. During the Fatherland Liberation War she lost her eldest son. The second son is now working at this power station as manager. Her younger one, Man Chul, has been away so long. And no word from him. The mother like every Korean mother wishes for speedy end of the war and for peace.

At last the day of ceasefire came.

The manager Man Sun is walking around the utterly destroyed electric power station. The mother is thinking of her youngest son, Man Chul.

The scene changes to Seoul. An American is talking with Korean lawyer Li. They are in mortal fear of a rising North Korea. They decide to send Man Chul as a saboteur to North Korea. The American says:

"...The war tested the Communists' physical prowess, but they are too strong and powerful. We must, therefore, aim at their mental capacity this time."

Man Chul returns to his native village. The familiar mountains, rivers and banks remind him of his boyhood. He recalls his first lover, Ok Rim.

A number of people are working on the construction site of the power station. Among them Man Chul spots his mother. But he avoids his mother's eye.

He makes friend with Bong Kil, and through him he meets his mother. Soon Man Chul finds a job at an iron foundry of the power station. He tries to give a currency to unfounded rumours to wreck the construction.

The scene changes. An express train with the sign of "Moscow-Pyongyang" is speeding towards Pyongyang. A Korean girl is looking out of the window. She is Ok Rim (played by An Sung Hi), a dancer, who is returning from the Soviet Union after finishing her study. Beside her sit Soviet engineer Kotov (played by Dmitriev) and Vasha (played by Pugovkin), a diver, and in the compartment are many Soviet experts, who are coming to Korea to help with the reconstruction of the electric power station.

At the manager's office of the power station is held a meeting. Chairman of the Factory Party Committee, Man Sun, Soon Hi and other cadres discuss immediate questions. Above all the urgent question is how to carry on an underwater prospecting work before the Soviet experts arrive. It is a very tough job. Who will do the job?

At last they decide to use a caisson invented by a woman engineer, Soon Hi.

Man Sun, after much thought, asks his brother Man Chul to undertake the work. At first Man Chul refuses. "You must not forget what our dear brave father did!" His brother's words move him to go down into the water.

On the bank the people are in the grip of tense atmosphere. Time passes in breathless anxiety. Man Chul comes out of the water. Before he falls senseless on the ground, he tells gaspingly that a bomb has been laid on the turbine by some saboteur.

While Man Chul is being treated at the Rumanian hospital, one day a spy named Li suddenly appears and threatens Man Chul. But Man Chul wants no part in sabotage.

As he lies on the hospital his mind is occupied with the gigantic reconstruction work going on at the electric power station. The Soviet Union, China, Germany and Czechoslovakia and all other fraternal countries are helping Korea. The thought cheers him up, yet one corner of his mind is in agony!

At last the turbine begins to operate. To celebrate the occasion a dance group comes from Pyongyang. Ok Rim is a member of the group. Man Chul and Ok Rim meet.

There is moon. They walk as far as the lake. They sit down together on the shore of the lake. Ok Rim is with him again, prettier than ever. But he feels sore at heart. He sees a shadow of estrangement lying between them. Why?

A few days later Man Chul is haunted again by spies Choi, Li and Suh. On seeing the change of Man Chul's attitude, they try by threats to make him follow their orders. But Man Chul does not submit to their threat. That night Man Chul confesses to his mother. He tells his mother that the stories about North Korea he heard in South Korea were sheer malicious fabrications. Outside spy Choi is eavesdropping. As Choi is turning round the corner of the house, he meets face to face with Bong Kil. Then a duel begins. When Man Chul runs out of his house, he finds the dead body of Bong Kil on the ground.

As he climbs up to the bank holding Bong Kil's cap in his hand, Man Chul feels that he is not his former self. Now he is a reliable youth who loves truth. He embarks on a new path of struggle for justice.

Man Chul sees in the distance a couple—his brother and Soon Hi — on the shore of the lake.

Now he can face his brother without any shame but with pride of a reborn man.

ANCIENT REMAINS UNEARTHED

RECENTLY an excavation of remains of the primitive age was conducted in Chitap-ri, Bongsan County of North Hwang-hai Province about 50 kilometres south of Pyongyang.

Several years ago the attention of archaeologists of our country was drawn to remains of an ancient earthen wall in Chitap-ri. During the period of the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953), a number of precious remains of stone implements and pieces of earthenware were discovered while the soldiers were digging trenches there. Subsequently the work for the excavation of remains was planned.

In 1954, members of the Archaeological Research Institute of the Academy of Sciences were dispatched to investigate the place. The regions are stratiform, showing the different phases of culture through which our ancestors passed. After small-scale field work, systematic excavation was started in April of this year.

More than 10 experts including To Yu Ho, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences and Director of the Research Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, and research workers, Jung Bak Woon and Kim Ryong Han, conducted excavation work for about two months.

The work was carried on in two sections. The total acreage of excavation extended over 431 square kilometres.

The lowest archaean layer (Neolithic Age) was found 1.2-1.5 metres beneath the surface, measuring about 40 centimetres in thickness and the ancient layer was about 60 centimetres in thickness.

In the course of excavation another belt forming the medium layer was discovered, which shows perhaps the last stage of the primitive age. Some 800 stone implements and earthenware articles and ancient bricks, tiles, and broken pieces of stone implements and earthenware were unearthed. The stone remains uncovered in the archaean layer num-

ber over 300. Among them are arrow-heads, spear-heads, fish-net sinkers, ploughshares, sickles, mill stones, axes, chisels, whet-stones, flints, reels and so on.

The rare stone-ploughshares which numbered some 30 attracted much attention of experts. Also more than 400 items of earthenware were exhumed. Among them were pottery in basket patterns. Pieces of pottery, jars and vases were also found, all of which can be reconstructed to the original shape.

A rare find was an earthenware containing carbonized grain. It was found among the materials in the archaean layer. Careful study has shown that the grain is millet.

IN THE KOREAN PRESS

The Tide Cannot Be Turned Back

Leading papers in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are now widely commenting on the crisis of the aggressive foreign policy of the United States.

The events taking place in the world now serve to show ever more clearly that the aggressive policy of the United States, that is, the "policy of strength" which the U.S. imperialists have drawn up allegedly for counterpoising the "menace of Communism" by rallying their capitalist allies, is shaken to its foundation by the powerful forces of peace.

It is not in the "menace of Communism" but in the aggressive policy of the United States that people see grave danger. Everywhere echoes the shout "Americans, go home!"

The anti-American movement has become powerful even in the countries which have been regarded as hereditary dominion or under semi-occupation of the United States — a good example of the total bankruptcy of the aggressive policy of the United States.

In the ancient layer, more than 40 items of bronze rings, arrow-heads, fish-hooks, iron nails, O-sujun (coins of the Han Dynasty), beads, etc., were found.

In the course of excavation remains of an ancient dwelling site were discovered. There were eight foundation stones arranged on one side.

The excavation conducted in Chitap-ri is just a beginning. Along with the excavation work proceeding in North Hamkyung Province and in and around Pyongyang city, it will make a great contribution to the study of archaeology in our country.

There was a big popular uprising against the American imperialists in Taiwan in May this year. In July anti-American demonstrations broke out on two occasions in the Philippines which is regarded as a sort of hereditary dominion of the United States.

Pointing out that the American aggressors are hated and rejected everywhere in the world, the *Rodong Shinmoon* wrote:

"This is not fortuitous, for the people are now convinced that what threatens their security is not the 'menace of Communism' advertised by the aggressive circles in the United States but the 'aid' of the United States and her interference in the domestic affairs of other countries under the pretence of protecting them from such non-existent 'menace'."

Now even in the countries subject to interference by the United States, the broad masses of the people have come to realize what is meant by the military blocs organized by the United States and by the U.S. "aid". And they have

come to see convincingly that the military blocs and U.S. "aid" have ruined their national economy and driven the people's living into the mire of poverty.

Even within the ruling circles in the United States voices demanding the re-examination of U.S. foreign policy find expression in sharp conflict of opinions within the U.S. government.

Korean papers carry reprints of a cartoon from the *Washington Post and Times Herald* depicting Secretary of State Dulles clinging to the mast of a sinking vessel with the name of "embargo against China" and President Eisenhower leaving the vessel.

The papers also point out the chaos within the U.S. ruling circles engendered as a result of the bankruptcy of the notorious "embargo" policy.

In May the British government decided to lift the "embargo" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the People's Republic of China and the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam. The

decision of the British government was followed one after the other by the "allies" of the United States, despite the desperate efforts of the U.S. ruling circles to check the tide prevalent among the member states of the "China Control Committee." France, West Germany, Italy, Australia, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg and Japan decided to relax "embargo" against the People's Republic of China.

Under the caption of "U.S. 'embargo policy' Bankrupt", the *Minjoo Chosun* commented:

"Restriction and prohibition of trade with the countries of the socialist camp constituted an important link in the aggressive policy which the American imperialists had pursued after World War II for the conquest of the whole world.

"It is common knowledge that the American aggressors have set up numbers of military bases encircling the socialist countries and formed various military blocs, while resorting to the 'blockade' policy for the purpose of economically 'strangling' the socialist countries.

"The American imperialists attempted to kill two birds with one stone. They calculated that with the help of economic blockade, they could hold back the rehabilitation and progress of the national economy in the socialist countries, and at the same time, could subjugate their allied countries economically so as to make them meekly follow them in their conquest of the world.

"But the attempt of the American imperialists has been smashed. Proof of this is the achievements of economic construction in the

socialist countries in the ten years after World War II, the bankruptcy of 'trade restriction' or 'embargo' against the socialist countries and the increasing antagonism between the capitalist countries themselves."

America's allies followed the road of their unconditional submission to the "policy of strength" of the United States after World War II. But the fruitless exorbitant military and economic burdens were unbearable to them.

Now their abolition of the "embargo" reveals their resistance against the United States. Such an irresistible development of events has made the American imperialists feel ill at ease.

Korean papers condemn the bellicose elements in their desperate attempt to check such a development.

In Korea, the American aggressors openly announced that they bring atomic weapons into South Korea in flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement; in South Viet-Nam, they are running amuck to build an atomic warfare base, in violation of the Geneva Agreement on Indo-China; they have already brought guided missiles into Taiwan, and are now deporting nearly five hundred thousand people from Taiwan to islands of the Pacific Ocean, as a barbarous reprisal against the anti-American riot of the Taiwan people.

The all-round strategical reorganization aimed at consolidating their aggressive position in the Far East coincides with the above-mentioned manoeuvres; U.S. Far East Command was dissolved; U.S. Pacific Command was set up in Hawaii, and the aggressive "United Nations Command" moved to Seoul.

In his statement, Admiral Stump, commander of the United States forces in the Pacific, said that the "concern" of his command is directed as far as Thailand and Burma and that, if necessary, nuclear weapons would be employed not only in a big war but also in a little war.

The *Minjoo Chosun* wrote in this connection:

"All these facts show that the U.S. ruling circles, who are attempting to retrieve their bankrupt policy aimed at encroaching on Asia by means of tightening the 'policy of strength', continue to make desperate efforts to aggravate international tension.

"But the time when the military blackmail policy of the United States prevailed is gone, and the U.S. ruling circles cannot turn back the wheels of history, no matter what efforts they may exert."

The general trend of international developments at present convinces the people ever more firmly that the imperialist aggressive forces are doomed to failure and the forces of peace and socialism are bound to win.

Pointing to the victory of the policy of peaceful co-existence over the "policy of strength", the leading Korean papers lay stress on the great vitality of the idea of peaceful co-existence. The *Rodong Shinmoon* wrote:

"As no one can turn back the setting sun, so the imperialist aggressors who have lived out their day cannot save themselves from their doom, no matter what move they may take. On the contrary, the peace policy of the camp of peace and socialism headed by the great Soviet Union is gaining momentum and the great idea of peaceful co-existence is invincible."

ART TROUPE ON RAIL

The train pulled into a small station on the east coast.

Everyone on the station staff was happy today. The pointsman with his green flag and the station master raising his hand could not conceal their joy, because the train was a special one.

An art troupe attached to the Ministry of Transport came. As the members of the troupe alighted they were warmly welcomed.

"How are you? We're certainly glad to see you."

"Thank you. We're glad to be here. How is your work going?"

In no time the news of the troupe's arrival spread to nearby villages.

A performance was scheduled for the evening, but preparation was all done before sun-set, and the loud-speaker in the club hall was telling the neighbours of the evening's entertainment.

Railwaymen, their families and the people from the nearby villages filled the hall.

Such scene is not strange to the members of the troupe.

In the past ten years, they visited almost every town and village in our country. And everywhere they went they were enthusiastically welcomed by the local population.

The Art Theatre of the Ministry of Transport with its headquarters in Pyongyang has two groups: one is music and dance, and the other drama.

It is founded for the railwaymen who are playing a significant part in building socialism in our country.

They are provided with a train for their tour of the country. The train comprises a baggage car, a dining and sleeping carriages.

Fine talents, well trained ensemble,



Scene from the "Eight Fairies" given by the Transport Ministry Art Troupe

ble, grand stage settings, and colourful costumes have won the troupe popularity with the people.

Every member of the troupe likes to visit workers in their places of work and perform for them.

A half of the members have been working with the troupe since its inauguration ten years ago. This alone tells how much they are attached to their work.

They spend nearly half the year on rail.

Railwaymen everywhere are, therefore, their old friends!

The troupe has grown from a tiny brass band formed immediately after the country's liberation at the initiative of several workers in the Pyongyang Railway Yard, which dates back to September 1947.

Since then, the travelling troupe has covered seventy-five thousand kilometres, visiting 1,282 towns, villages and factories. 2,689,000 railwaymen and working people were entertained. During these years upwards of 200 original works came out of this troupe. The training of new artistes has never been neglected. At present there are forty odd performers thus trained and 60 per cent of them are former railwaymen.

The Transport Ministry Art Troupe is also known abroad. In 1953, it was in China on a three-month good-will tour that did much to promote friendship, solidarity and cultural exchange between the Korean and Chinese peoples. Twenty members of the troupe at one time or another visited the Soviet Union or participated in the World Festivals of Youth and Students.

But the path the troupe has traversed in the past ten years was by no means an easy, smooth one.

Members of the troupe had to fight against the old ideas on art. And much effort and wisdom were required to inherit and develop further their national art in conformity with socialist realism. The results are very gratifying.

The war, provoked by the American aggressors and the Syngman Rhee, marked a grim period for the members of the troupe as it did for every Korean.

Enemy planes destroyed indiscriminately the theatre buildings, burned musical instruments and stage settings, costumes, and, what was worse, took the lives of members.

No adversity, however, could dampen the spirit of this group. They themselves repaired the

damaged musical instruments. With stage properties, costumes and food on their backs, they kept up their performances. Altogether 15,420 kilometres were covered during this period to entertain soldiers.

Let us back to the little village. It was already late in the evening. But the performance in the club hall was still going on. The second half of the program was just starting. It was the ballet "Eight Fairies" under direction of Choi Ryong Rim, who has been leading the troupe for the past ten years. Contrabass player Kim Won Jung

and trombone player An Il Bok have been with the troupe since its inauguration. An oboe solo by Kim Saing Han fascinated the audience.

At last the program was all over, and the performers were enthusiastically greeted by the audience. The station master personally came up on the stage and presented Kim Yoon Shik and Kim Joon Hong, two national instrument players, with bouquets and embraced each of them.

The troupe had to leave that very night for another program.

The platform of the station was crowded with the people see-

ing the troupe members off, although the night was far advanced.

The station master reluctantly raised his white-gloved hand and the locomotive engineer answered with a blast of the whistle.

The train began to puff slowly out of the station.

"Good-by, everybody!"

People on the platform and on the train shouted to each other, waving their hands.

The troupe members looked back at the crowd until the figure of the pointsman holding a green lamp was lost in the darkness.



"Bamboo-Hat Dance" performed by the Viet-Nam Art Troupe

GOOD-WILL PERFORMANCES OF THE VIET-NAMESE ART TROUPE

A Viet-Nameese Art Troupe on a good-will tour in Korea visited many parts of the country following their first performance at the State Theatre in Pyongyang on June 27. Everywhere they appeared, they were warmly received.

The troupe, led by Hong Cuong, consisted of 80 artists — dancers, singers, instrumentalists, etc.

Their program includes 20 items such as folk-songs, dances

and instrumental performances which expressed the lofty emotions and feelings of the Viet-Nameese people, who struggled heroically against the imperialist aggressors and who wish ardently to unite their country peacefully.

"Bamboo-Hat Dance" and "Bamboo Dance"—a folk-dance in the northwest region of Viet-Nam and Prize winner at the 1954 Viet-Nameese National Art Festival — impressed the audience with lovely emotions of the Viet-Nameese people, gracefulness and rhythmical movements.

The melodious folk-songs of

Viet-Nam were applauded by the audiences.

The audiences gave stormy applause to the mixed chorus "At the Sangma River" depicting the earnest desire of the Viet-Nameese people for the peaceful unification of their fatherland divided into two parts by the Sangma River, the men's chorus "Hanoi-Peking-Moscow" expressing the indestructible friendship between the fraternal countries headed by the Soviet Union, and the Korean song "Driver's Song" sung in fluent Korean.

Soprano Kim Neu Ob sang Korean folk-songs "Nyunghyun-Ka" and "Maibongsan Taryung" to the accompaniment of Korean national instruments "Kaya-keum" and "Chanko". The audiences heartily applauded her.

Women's chorus of the Viet-Nameese folk-song "When Spring Comes" and a one-stringed instrument solo — the Viet-Nameese national instrument — performed by Ma In Tang also won the admiration of the audiences.

The performances of the Viet-Nameese Art Troupe in Korea helped to strengthen further the friendship between the fraternal peoples of Korea and Viet-Nam.

RUMANIAN MUSICIANS IN KOREA

Of late Rumanian musicians visited our country under the 1957 Korea-Rumanian Cultural Exchange Plan. Following their first performance in Pyongyang on July 12, they appeared in many parts of our country.

The three Rumanian musicians were soprano Cornelia Gavrilescu, Merited Artiste, Mihai Constantinescu, violinist, and Nora Petrovici Sadoveanu, pianist.

Their repertoire covered a wide range from classical to modern music. Mme. Gavrilescu sang arias from Mozart, lieder from Schubert, Grieg's "Spring" and Rubinstein's "Nocturne" and others.



Soprano Cornelia Gavrilescu

Her beautiful voice, her fine musical expression and artistry were highly appreciated by music lovers. Tartini's "Devil's Trill," Khachaturian's "Nocturne" C. Porumbescu's "Ballad", Dvorak's "Slavonic Dance" and Paganini's "La Campanella" were performed by the violinist Constantinescu, whose mastery of his instrument was well received by the appreciative audiences.

Nora Petrovici Sadoveanu was an excellent accompanist.

The visit of the Rumanian musicians was not only a welcome treat to the Korean musical world but also a great contribution to the friendship between the Korean and Rumanian peoples.

Korean Armistice Agreement and demanded firmly the convocation of a meeting of states concerned.

The telegram also emphasized that all foreign troops in Korea should be withdrawn for the peaceful unification of Korea and for relaxation of international tension.

NORTH KOREAN CHILDREN TO HELP SOUTH KOREAN BROTHERS

Recently, a voluntary campaign by the Young Pioneers—the school children organizations in the D.P.R.K.—is being carried on throughout the country for relief of South Korean children, whose lives are in misery. In South Korea there are more than 900,000 children who are deprived of schooling and over 500,000 school children are pressed by hunger. When these facts are known, the Pioneers of Pyongyang Middle School No. 2 held a meeting on July 5 and decided to send a relief fund to the unfortunate school

children and war orphans in South Korea.

Taking an example of the Pyongyang middle school every Pioneer group throughout the country is enthusiastically collecting money for the suffering South Korean children.

FORMER ROK ARMY MEN WELCOMED

In honour of former Lt. Col. Kim Hai Sik, the adjutant of Staff of Operations of the Second Corps of the ROK army, former Captain Kang Yeong Joo, the quartermaster of the Eighth Division of the ROK army, and 24 other ROK army men a meeting was held in Pyongyang on July 27. Of late they crossed over to North Korea. The meeting was attended by people of every walk of life and men and officers of the Korean People's Army. Also present were former ROK army men who, having come over earlier to North Korea, are studying at various schools.

Hong Zeung Sik, Secretary Gene-

ral of the C.C. of the United Democratic Fatherland Front, addressed the meeting. Lieutenant-Colonel Kim Hai Sik spoke on behalf of the 26 men.

Orders of the Minister of National Defence were read at the meeting. In accordance with their wishes Kim Hai Sik and Kang Yeong Joo were permitted to serve the People's Army. And both were commissioned to be officers of the People's Army. Also prizes were awarded. General Choi Hyun, Vice-Minister of National Defence, conferred on Kim Hai Sik a title of Colonel of the Korean People's Army and prize of 50,000 won in cash, and on Kang Yeong Joo a title of Captain of the Korean People's Army and prize. The rest were also decorated under the Ministry orders.

RUMANIAN RED CROSS MEDICAL CORPS WENT HOME

The Rumanian Medical Corps that had given the Korean people tremendous medical assistance since the outbreak of the Korean war left Pyongyang for home on July 27.

Before returning home, the Rumanians presented all their medical equipment and supplies to the Korean people. Papers on the transfer of equipment and supplies were signed on July 26 in Pyongyang, and a grand farewell meeting was given to thank them.

A MACHINE-TOOL FACTORY BUILT WITH HUNGARIAN AID

A new machine-tool factory is under construction in Koosung with the material and technical aid of the fraternal Hungarian people. Numerous machines and materials for the new factory are coming in from Hungary.

Various types of metal cutting machines including lathes, boring and milling machines, etc., for the processing shop and forgery equipment are already set up under the direct guidance of the Hungarian engineers.

Inspired by the proletarian internationalist aid of the fraternal Hungarian people, the workers of this factory are showing ever greater enthusiasm in the construction work.

NEW PRECISION MACHINE TO BE MADE

As foreseen in this year's production plan the Hichun Precision Machine Factory is now turning out several kinds of new precision instruments including air-stamps

which are being produced for the first time in our country.

It is envisaged that one hundred air-stamps will be distributed first to foundries in various parts of the country during the month of August.

FERRO-CONCRETE BLOCK YARD UNDER CONSTRUCTION

A ferro-concrete block yard is being built in Pyongyang which will occupy an area of fifty thousand square metres. It is expected to complete the construction by the day of the twelfth anniversary of August 15 Liberation. And the assembly of machines will be finished by the end of October. The factory will supply 45,000-50,000 tons of prefabricated building materials.

THE D.P.R.K. FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION JOINED THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Recently, the D.P.R.K. Football Association was notified by the International Football Federation that the application of the Korean Football Association to join the International Federation was tentatively approved at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Federation held on June 20 and 21.

The General Meeting of the International Football Federation which will be held in June 1958, will take up the decision of its Executive Committee to confirm the full membership of the Korean Football Association.

COLOURFUL PROGRAMMES FOR KOREA-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP MONTH

Korea-Soviet Friendship Month is to begin from October 7. The Committee for Celebration of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution has already worked out colourful programmes for the Month.

Throughout the country—in cities, towns, factories, offices, farms, and in army units—meetings will take place to mark the anniversary and the opening of the Month.

During the Month, it is planned to carry out preservation work on the graves of the soldiers of the Korean People's Army, Chinese People's Volunteers and Soviet Army and the tombs of the Korean revolutionaries along with liberation monuments and war memorials. Historical monuments in Chungjin and Wonsan, built in memory

of the landings of the Soviet Army, will be repaired.

Discussions, reports and lectures on the great influence the October Revolution exerted on the national liberation movement in Korea and on the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea which is guided by Marxism-Leninism will take place during the Month. Many theatrical, concert, opera, and other performances representing the Korea-Soviet friendship are also scheduled.

Soviet football teams are invited for friendly matches during the Month. Goodwill games between the volleyball teams of Korea, China, Viet-Nam and Mongolia will also take place in Pyongyang.

TITLE OF MERITED MINER ESTABLISHED

On July 29, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly issued a decree on the establishment of the title of Merited Miner. And the "Regulations on the Title of Merited Miner of the D.P.R.K." were also made public.

Miners and colliers who have worked with distinguished records for ten years consecutively underground or fifteen years on the surface will be awarded the title of Merited Miner.

With issuance of the new decree, the "Establishment of Title of Merited Collier" of December 11th, 1954, will be repealed, but the title of Merited Collier which was conferred under the old decree will be equally effective under the new one.

CONTRACT SIGNED BETWEEN THE KOREAN FOOD TRADE CORPORATION AND BRITISH LAMET TRADING CO. LTD.

On July 22, a trade contract was concluded between the Korean Food Trade Corporation and G. F. Wallis, representative of the British Lamet Trading Co. Ltd.

According to the contract, the former will export to Britain maize and corn-starch, amounting to five thousand tons respectively, and in return, the latter offer two thousand tons of zinc coated wires and three thousand tons of wire for manufacturing nails. Nampo is named as the port of entry.

HISAO ISHINO OF JAPANESE-KOREAN ASSOCIATION IN KOREA

On July 16, Hisao Ishino, Diet

IN THE NEWS

THE KOREAN FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS SENT A TELEGRAM TO U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL

On July 1, 1957, the Central Committee of the Korean Federation of Trade Unions sent a telegram to Mr. Hammarskjold, U.N. Secretary-General, requesting him to transmit the unanimous wish of the Korean working class for a general disarmament and an immediate stoppage of stock-piling and tests of nuclear weapons to the U.N. members and U.N. Disarmament Subcommittee.

At the same time, the telegram resolutely protested against the unilateral abrogation by the United States of Sub-Paragraph 13D of the



Algerian students arriving at the Pyongyang Station

ALGERIAN STUDENT DELEGATION IN KOREA

On July 16, an Algerian student delegation of five members arrived in Pyongyang at the invitation of the C.C. of the Korean Democratic Youth League.

Our youth and students warmly welcomed the guests. On the evening of July 16, the students in Pyongyang held a grand open-air gathering to honour them.

During their stay the delegation visited schools,

construction sites and places of historic interest. They were received by leaders of the Party, Government and social organizations.

The visit of the Algerian students has made a great contribution to further strengthening the common aspirations and desire of the youth and students of the two countries who have risen up against war and colonialism, for peace, friendship and unity.

member and member of the Executive Committee and Director of the Organization Section of the Japanese-Korean Association, arrived at Pyongyang at the invitation of the Korean Committee for the Promotion of Foreign Trade.

During his stay in Korea, he exchanged views with many leaders on deepening friendship between the peoples of Korea and Japan, on establishing diplomatic relations and improving cultural and economic interchanges between the two countries.

On July 24, he was received by Vice-Premier Choi Yong Kun, on which occasion he delivered two letters addressed to Premier Kim Il Sung from Mosaburo Suzuki, Chairman of the C.C. of the Socialist Party of Japan and from the Japanese-Korean Association.

DELEGATION OF THE INDO-KOREAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION VISITS OUR COUNTRY

On July 26, a delegation of the Indo-Korean Cultural Association came to our country at the invitation of the Korean-Indian Cultural Association.

The delegation consists of P.N. Sharma, Chairman of the Indo-Korean Cultural Association, and Balwant Gargi, a playwright.

They are to stay about one month in Korea, and will have talks with members of the Korean-Indian Association for the promotion of friendly relations and cultural interchange between the two countries.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY COMMEMORATED

On July 31, a celebration meeting was held in Pyongyang in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Leaders of the Workers' Party, Government and social organizations and many generals and officers of the Korean People's Army were present at the meeting. Also present were representatives of the Chinese People's Volunteers, diplomatic corps in Pyongyang and other foreign guests.

General Kim Kwang Hyup, Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, was the main speaker.

A congratulatory flag was presented from the working people of Pyongyang City to the representative of the Chinese People's Volunteers.

JOE NORDMANN IN KOREA

On July 30, Joe Nordmann, General Secretary of the International Democratic Lawyers Association and a barrister of the Court of Appeal of France, arrived in our country accompanied by Mme. Nordmann at the invitation of the Korean Democratic Lawyers Association.

On July 31, Vice-Premier Choi Yong Kun received them, on which occasion also present were Kim Chang Man, Vice-Chairman of the C.C. of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Taik Yung and Li Bong Kye from the K.D.L.A.

In a friendly atmosphere opinions were exchanged on questions concerning world peace and on developing the contacts and strengthening friendly ties between the Korean and French peoples.

TO HELP CO-OPS DRAW UP FIVE-YEAR PLAN QUOTAS

Recently the Ministry of Agriculture sent some 200 agricultural experts to various parts of the country to help the farm co-ops to draw up their production figures to be achieved during the Five-Year Plan period.

These farm experts, together with some 1,200 agricultural workers who will be dispatched by various provincial cities, will help farmers to work out the plans by the end of September.

A NEW KOREA-SOVIET CULTURAL HALL

A Korea-Soviet Cultural Hall is being built in Chungjin to greet the fortieth anniversary of the October Socialist Revolution.

Chungjin is located on the east coast of Korea. It is the first city that the Soviet Army landed in August 1945 to liberate Korea from Japanese colonial rule.

A total floor space of the building will cover 1,450 square metres. It will have two auditoriums, each with a seating capacity of 650, an exhibition hall, a hall for cultural circles, a hall for Russian language course, a library, an art gallery, a billiard-room, a movie hall, etc.

It will be completed and open to the public by the end of September.

Folk song

J = 120 Lively

Ong he ya

Ong he ya ha ha ha ong he ya gumnyonbo ri

al al i do dzaliköt da ong he ya danduliman ong he ya

ha dü raido ong he ya yöltssümi na ong he ya hanündüsi

D.C

ONG HEYA

Refrain

Ong heya, ha ha ha, ong heya,

1. Barley-crop turned out well this year, ong heya, You and I, ong heya, we thrash, ong heya, We will make, ong heya, ten work-hands.
2. When unhulled, ears of barley are bushy, ong heya, Hulled and boiled, ong heya, nice food, ong heya, When brewed, ong heya, sweet wine, ong heya.
3. O, the young! O, the old! You thrash, ong heya, Turn the bundle, ong heya, turn it over, ong heya, Thrash hard, ong heya, thrash fast, ong heya.