

Opinion

Newly-rich peasants make education pay off

Banyuetan (Fortnightly Chats) on the correct attitude towards newly-rich peasants:

At a recent national conference on rural work, a topical question was how to treat peasants who are getting rich quicker than others.

There have been some incorrect views on this problem. Some people, before doing any investigation, asserted that those peasants who are getting rich quicker than others are often not the people who rely on hard work, but instead "the people who are engaged in malpractice, speculation and profiteering." They discriminate against, mock and find fault with these people. This has upset and worried the peasants, and has dampened their initiative in production.

The problem with these fault-finders is that they have not done the necessary investigation. They simply parrot what they have heard and mistake non-essentials for essentials.

Surveys have shown that the majority of peasants who are getting rich quicker than others are educated young people, workers who have returned to their home

villages, ex-servicemen, rural cadres and craftsmen, who have acquired a considerable level of scientific and cultural knowledge. They are what we today call households engaged in specialized production.

Very often, these people are less conservative, more far-sighted. They believe in the party's policies, and have the technical and managerial know-how. They are actually the representatives of advanced productivity in China's rural areas.

Our Party's policy is to let these people get rich first but always keep the whole peasantry in mind. In other words, we should use their experience as an example to promote the whole rural economy towards prosperity for all.

Some people have claimed that few "honest people" can become rich merely by toiling in the fields. This is, at most, partly true. But it proves that working hard and relying on old tradition and experience are not enough for modern agriculture, which also requires the study of science and technology, quick absorption of useful information, and better management.

In the Chinese press



Parties' co-operation

Renmin Ribao (People's Daily) on co-operation between China's Communist and democratic parties.

The national congresses of China's eight democratic parties and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce were held in Beijing between early November and late December.

The co-operation between China's Communist and democratic parties is an important character of Chinese socialism and suits the fundamental requirements of its national political system.

The activities of China's democratic parties are guided and protected by the national Constitution. Multi-party co-operation helps promote people's democracy

by soliciting opinions from different sectors of society.

Multi-party co-operation is possible in China because the democratic parties have a long history of co-operation with the Communist Party. And this tradition still continues today.

The democratic parties represent the interests and opinions of their members. The ruling Communist Party must constantly heed different voices so as promptly to find and correct mistakes including subjectivism, bureaucracy and privilege-seeking — all problems apt to occur in a ruling party. The democratic parties include among their members many learned and politically experienced people, and their opinions and criticisms are helpful to the Communist Party.

The democratic parties have played an important role in the country's political life and modernization drive over the past few years. Co-operation should be strengthened between the Communist Party, the democratic parties, people without party affiliations in State organs and the Peo-

ple's Political Consultative Conference. All Party organizations, should improve their relations with non-party cadres and give them treatment equal that of Communist Party cadres.

Rights for all

Jiefang Ribao (Liberation Daily) on the legal rights and interests of women and children:

It has been a basic policy of the Party and government to protect the legal rights and interests of women and children, which have been set out in China's Constitution and laws.

Shanghai has nearly two million women workers, who represent 43 per cent of the city's labour force. In textiles, commerce and service trades, women account for more than 70 per cent of the employed.

However, owing to feudalism and bourgeois influence, there still exist cases where legal rights and interests of women and children have been neglected and even violated. Some people still regard men as

superior to women. They maltreat women and children, and have even committed crimes against them, especially against female infants and their mothers. It is not uncommon for some parents to intervene and try to extort money upon the marriage of their children. All these evil-doings must be resolutely stopped.

We should make known to every citizen the laws for the protection of the legal rights and interests of women and children, which is the common responsibility of the whole society.

In dealing with malpractice, we must differentiate between crimes and ordinary mistakes. While meting out severe punishment for crimes against women and children according to the law, we should criticize or take disciplinary action against those who have made mistakes by violating the legal rights and interests of women and children. As for the great number of disputes on love, marriage and family affairs, we should strengthen education as well as mediation work.

Milk: the drink of champions

A senior Chinese statesman believes that one reason why Chinese soccer teams always fail in important world competitions is because the Chinese people do not have enough milk to drink.

"It's a problem of physical power," Wang Zhen complained to Economic Daily. "The annual per capita milk consumption is no more than five kilograms in our country, compared to more than 150 kilograms in the United States. Nutritional quality of our food is still low, so people's physical condition is not good enough."

He expressed the hope that while modernized milk production centres were built up, collective-run dairies and individual households would also help provide the nation with a better diet.

The milk shortage is especially serious in large cities. This situation is aggravated by the fact that a large proportion of milk is used by the food industries and not individual consumers. In fact, city dwellers get less than half of the country's milk production.

Economic Daily noted, however, that there has been a recent increase in milk supplies to urban residents. Rural collectives and peasants have been allowed to own dairies since the government adopted its flexible agricultural policy in 1978. Now, small cities and some medium-sized cities have sufficient milk supplies.

Large State-run dairies have been urged to help collective and individual dairies, by providing cows, techniques and veterinary care, and to buy their products on favoured conditions.

While China's grasslands are endangered by over-exploitation and deterioration, there are altogether 60 million hectares of grass yet to be fully employed in the country's farming areas. Composite fodder, which helps increase cows' production of milk, has not been popularized. Economic Daily said efforts should be made in these two aspects.

Hotel shortage in Shanghai

The shortage of hotels for foreign tourists in Shanghai, one of China's leading tourist centres, can become critical this year, according to an article in World Economic Herald.

Shanghai, has only 3,000 hotel beds for tourists from abroad. In 1982, the city received 370,000 visitors, and last year the figure is expected to be about 400,000.

During the peak period last autumn, 1,600 tourists had to be taken about 300 kilometres to the cities of Nanjing and Hangzhou to find accommodation. Another 1,900 visitors' schedules had to be brought forward, delayed or even cancelled. Still another 1,600 had to stay in poorly equipped hotels, the article revealed.

Completion of the new hotels now under construction will add 5,000 beds, enabling 800,000 tourists to visit Shanghai each year, but they will not be ready before 1985.

Since Shanghai is expected to receive 440,000 visitors in 1984, emergency measures should be taken to cope with the problems in the interval, the article said.

It suggested that prices be varied between peak and slack seasons. No large-scale international meetings or exhibitions should be allowed during the busy months of May, August, September and October. Some old hotels could be refurbished to ease the shortage, the article said.

Saving water—vital task facing China's cities

Water shortage is a growing problem for many of China's urban areas.

The newspaper Economic Daily reported a survey of 236 cities which showed there is a daily shortage of 12 million tons of water. And supplies of water will become even more strained as the economy develops.

In terms of per capita volume, China has smaller water resources than most other countries. Each Chinese person has only 2,700 cubic metres, one fourth of the world's average.

In addition, resources are dispersed unevenly: there is more water in the southern and eastern areas. About 70 to 80 per cent of annual rainfall in the north comes between June and September. Throughout the country, annual rainfall is also uneven, and there is the problem of periodic drought.

Under these circumstances, water-saving has grown in importance in recent years. But emphasis should be placed on saving water for industrial use, because in urban areas, 80 per cent of water is used by industry.

Shanghai, the biggest industrial city in the country, while increasing output at an annual rate of 4 to 5 per cent in the past three years, has saved 40 million tons of water each year in production. In Qingdao, a coastal city in Shandong Province in east China, the output value of industrial production has increased 82 per cent from

3.7 billion yuan in 1976 to 6.8 billion yuan in 1982.

At the same time, consumption of water for every 10,000 yuan of output value has dropped by 60 per cent from 129 tons to 52 tons.

Economic Daily said transformation of backward technology and old equipment is an effective way to save water in industry.

At present, many factories use up to ten times more water than their counterparts in developed countries when producing the same amount of goods. Often, the reason is old equipment and backward technology. To make one ton of steel in China, 30 to 40 tons of water is needed, whereas the figure is only five to 10 tons in industrialized developed countries. To produce one ton of paper, 300 to 500 tons of water are used in China, but only 100 tons in developed countries.

Some Chinese enterprises have made progress in this respect. An example is Shenyang Metallurgical Plant, one of the 10 biggest water users in Shenyang City, northeast China. There, water-saving projects have been given priority in receiving funds in recent years. As a result, consumption has dropped with each passing year.

Recycling water is also an effective form of conservation. Much industrial waste water can be reused directly or after simple treatment. Cooling water, accounting for 70 per cent of all industrial water, can be reused almost immediately.

At present, the rate of use for recycled water in industry has been increased to above 50 per cent in Shanghai, Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang and Xi'an (Shaanxi Province), 70 per cent in Qingdao and 75 per cent in Dalian (Liaoning Province). But the average rate throughout the country is only 20 per cent.

It is estimated that if this figure is raised to 40 per cent, 13 million tons of water can be saved every day. That means a saving of 2.6 billion yuan in water-saving projects.

Meanwhile, progress has also been made in saving water for everyday use in urban areas. Although a Chinese city resident consumes only 130 litres of water a day on average, compared with 300 to 500 litres in developed countries, much of the limited supply is wasted. Many work units pay cash to water companies and in turn charges its workers, but only a fixed amount is involved regardless of volume used. As a result, in some areas, an individual can use 30 tons a month, a few even more than 100 tons.

The situation has changed, however, in places where there is one water meter per family. Institutions of the National Sea Bureau in Beijing, for instance, used to consume 60,000 tons of water every year. After fixing water meters for each family, annual consumption dropped by 48 per cent to only a little more than 30,000 tons.

there should be a continuous struggle against hegemony to safeguard world peace, Chen Hansheng added.

Contradiction in world economy

Rising military spending and insufficient educational funds constitute a salient contradiction in the world economy, according to Professor Chen Hansheng, a leading Chinese economist.

"While military spending goes up in most countries each year with increasing exports of weapons, illiteracy still exists and more and more people are living in poverty," the economist writes in the Shanghai-based World Economic Herald.

Annual military spending is \$600 billion, about \$1.3 million per minute. In prewar America, defence expenditure averaged \$75 per person, and it climbed to \$855 in 1982. The Soviet Union is more heavily burdened. In 1980, its economic level was only half of the US, yet defence spending amounted to more than 10 per cent of gross output value.

Military spending in big countries outpaces educational budgets, Chen points out. There are now 824 million illiterates throughout the world. In countries such as Niger and Somali, 90 per cent of the population is illiterate.

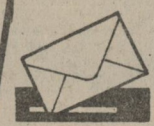
Even in developed countries, about 22.5 million people are unable to read or write, Chen says.

Rising military spending means a cut in welfare budgets for the poor. In the US, for instance, plummeting social welfare spending drove 2.6 million people, or 15 per cent of the total, into hardship between 1981 and 1982. Throughout the world, about 435 million people were starving in 1975.

Professor Chen considers the economic contradiction between military spending and educational and welfare funds a reflection of the intensified superpower rivalry. "It

caused a staggering waste of manpower and wealth," he says.

To improve education and living standards throughout the world,



Letters to the Editor

Lucky baby is born on train

Editor:

Recently I was a passenger on a train heading south. It was night, and the passengers were sleepy. Suddenly I heard a cry. I turned and found a young woman bathed in sweat. Her face was grey and she was moaning.

There was a doctor among the passengers and he said the woman was about to give birth. By this time, all the passengers were awake and offered tissues, milk-powder and clothes. Some foreign passengers offered the use of their sleeping compartments for the labour. Three army men and I carried the young woman there.

Two hours later, it was announced over the loudspeaker system that the woman had given birth to a boy. The announcer thanked all who had helped.

The woman was Chen Jiao, a 28-year-old textile worker who had left Hengyang for her hometown Zhanjiang in Guangdong Province.

Baoji, Shaanxi

Chen Dexi

Good film

Editor:

After seeing the film "Crossing the Chishui River Four Times," I was deeply impressed. The features of our honourable Chairman Mao Zedong and other veteran revolutionaries came alive again for me.

The film shows the bitter struggle between the Red Army and the Kuomintang reactionaries in 1935. At that time, Chiang Kai-shek dreamed of wiping out the 30,000-strong Red Army with his 460,000 soldiers. Nevertheless, under Chairman Mao's command, the Red Army crossed the Chishui River four times, beat the enemy's encirclement and went to the Anti-Japanese front. The battle was won because of Chairman Mao's ingenious tactics, the bravery of the Red Army soldiers and especially the people's help.

From the film, we can further see how difficult it was to realize our present happy life and this should make us value it more. On the 90th anniversary of Chairman Mao's birth, the film is a suitable way of showing respect to "China's greatest and most outstanding figure" in this century. We must work hard to accomplish the cause he left unfinished.

Beijing

Guan Chingyung



This young mother is selling balloons at a local fair, while her child might be thinking "I hope no one buys my pretty toys."

by Fang Chunzhi in Hebei Province

Facing a world-wide hunger crisis

One-tenth of the world's population suffers from hunger, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates.

This means that there are roughly 435 million undernourished people in the developing countries, where three-quarters of the earth's people live.

Hunger is not caused by shortfalls in the production of food.

Since the "green revolution" began producing record harvests in the early 1960s, there has theoretically been enough for everybody. The problem is one of distribution.

World-wide there is now 10 per cent more food available than is required.

The industrial nations produce one-third more food than the average required calorie intake — a figure which is set quite low for these calculations. But Asia, despite large imports, has only 96.5 per cent of the necessary food at its disposal, and Africa 94 per cent.

This analysis does not include Asia's centrally planned economies, such as that of China, which in recent years have to a large extent been able to solve their food problems.

On a global basis, the gap between rich and poor, well-fed and hungry widened in the 1970s.

While food production increased world-wide by 7 per cent (10 per cent in the industrial countries), it decreased by 2 per cent in the 31 nations classified as the world's poorest by the UN. This trend has continued since 1980.

In these poorest countries, the supply of available calories per capita dropped by 6 per cent to 82.4 per cent of the minimum requirement.

While the world market prices for developing nations' exports have scarcely risen in recent years, imports have become much more expensive. The debts of those developing countries not producing their own oil quadrupled between 1973 and 1980.

It is difficult to say where hunger is greatest since many states have no precise figures, and the term "undernourished" can range from a slight lack of calories to starvation.

In absolute terms, India leads the list with 201 million undernourished citizens, according to the FAO. It is followed by Indonesia (35 million), Bangladesh (27 million), Nigeria (14 million), the Philippines (10 million), and Burma, Colombia and Thailand (five million each).

On a percentage basis, Chad is worst off, with the constant Sahel droughts leaving every second per-

son undernourished. In Ethiopia and Haiti, more than 40 per cent of the population does not get proper nourishment.

Africa has 72 million undernourished (23 per cent), Latin America 41 million (13 per cent), and the Middle East (up to and including Afghanistan) 19 million (10 per cent).

Improvements

Improvements in the food situation have been achieved in the past decade in the centrally planned economies of Asia, in some Middle Eastern countries, and in many parts of Latin America.

But in half the developing countries, the rate of population increase was higher than that of food production.

In mid-September, 33 countries — mostly in Africa — were facing acute food shortages, according to the FAO study.

In Africa, the continent facing the gravest problems, a doubling of food imports during the 1970s barely made up for the drop in local production. But it did not cover the increase in population growth.

Thirty out of 41 African developing countries now grow less food than in the early 1970s and the average African has 10 per cent less locally-produced food available than at that time.

The FAO warns that 22 African states are threatened by a food emergency caused by continuing drought, unusually high numbers of harmful insects, and the renewed outbreak of rinderpest which has devastated cattle herds in many countries. Additional problems are raised by civil wars and refugee movements.

In October, FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma (Lebanon), noting that UN member-states "annually throw 700 billion dollars out the window for armaments," appealed for a doubling of grain donations to the developing nations. This assistance totalled 1.5 million tons in 1982-83.

But he also stressed that foreign aid could solve only short-term problems, and that the developing nations must improve their own food production if a lasting solution were to be found. The FAO charges that many non-industrial states neglect agriculture and favour city dwellers and industry. This leads to low prices for agricultural products and migration from the countryside to the city, thereby contributing to the food crisis.

Land reform is essential in some countries to provide small farmers and workers with access to fields and pastures, the FAO believes. (DPA Features)