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REPORTS 4 MILLION MEMBERS IN ACFL;
500,000 UNEMPLOYED IN SHANGHAI

REVIEWS 1949 WORK -- New York Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 16 May 50

During the past year, important achievements have been attained in the work of the All-China Federation of Labor. According to incomplete data, the total membership is over 4,100,000. In large labor centers where labor unions are organized, such as T'ang-shan and Shanghai, the proportion of laborers in the unions is over 80 percent. An actual majority of the provinces and municipalities have formally organized provincial and municipal general labor unions or provisional organizations preparatory to formally organized general labor unions.

Industries or occupations of national scope which have formally organized labor-union national committees include the railroads, posts and telecommunications, and transportation. Groups which have conducted national conferences of representatives and established provisional national committees for the respective labor unions are the seamen, textile workers, and coal miners. Working committees have been set up among electrical workers, iron and steel, foodstuffs, munitions, machinery, and educational workers. The function of these working committees is to make the arrangements for holding national conferences of delegates for the establishment of national labor unions with national committees for the leadership of the respective occupational unions.

There has been considerable progress during the past year in the emphasis laid on the mass nature of labor organization and in correcting the mistakes of the closed-shop policy. Within the past year, the democratic vitality of labor-union organization has been greatly enhanced by promoting the idea of "everybody push labor unions," and through the democratic election of all labor organization leaders. This greater vitality has also been realized through the Chinese Labor Association (Chung-kuo Lao-tung Hsieh-hui) as a group joining the All-China Federation of Labor and simultaneously announcing its own disbanding, thus effecting complete unity in the labor-union organization of China.

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Under the stimulation and leadership of the All-China Federation of Labor, the Chinese working classes, preceding liberation, carried on the struggle to protect factories from destruction by the KMT troops. After liberation, they actively assisted in the work of checking the tally sheets of equipment and stocks at the time of taking over the factories, permitting enterprises that operated in the past on bureaucratic capital, as far as possible, to come into the possession of the People's government. The workers also swiftly resumed production and continued the task of supporting the military front.

The All-China Federation of Labor has carried on among working men a widespread campaign of class education and education in current events, with short-term classes, and discussion groups. It has aggressively raised the political level of the masses of workers, and followed that by gradually eliminating the influence upon the working classes of 20 years of KMT reactionary propaganda. The federation quickly smashed the KMT's so-called special service organization among party, corps, and labor-union groups. Later, in view of the working classes' demand for formal cultural and technical education, the federation energetically pushed the formation of leisure-time vocational schools. Statistics show that in nine cities, including Tientsin and Shanghai, such schools had a total enrollment of 220,000 workers. The federation intends practically to abolish illiteracy among workers within 3 to 5 years.

SEEK RELIEF FUNDS -- Hong Kong Kung-shang Jih-pao, 6 May 50

Hong Kong, 5 May -- According to a recent arrival from North China, both the Shanghai Municipal government and the East China Military Control Commission are busily raising relief funds for the large number of unemployed in East China. He said that Shanghai alone has 500,000 idle workers. To meet this situation, the Shanghai Municipal government has already allocated one billion yuan, while the Military Control Commission is taking the following steps to supplement the fund: (1) urging all employed industrial and government workers to donate a day's wage, and requesting members of various civilian and government organizations, school children, and military personnel in East China to contribute as much food and money as they can; (2) distributing propaganda to inform the people of the cause of and remedy for this situation; and (3) establishing fund-raising committees, and drafting an unemployment compensation law.

POST-LIBERATION CONDITION OF TRANSPORT WORKERS -- Shanghai Wen-hui Pao, 5 Apr 50

Peiping, 3 April (Hsin-hua) -- Immediately after the liberation, in many cities the workers had a revengeful spirit and felt the time had come to settle accounts with their employers. Some wanted to borrow grain from their foremen; others made complaints to the labor union and to the authorities.

The feudalistic foremen at first employed many methods to retain their old power, even being ready to toss hand grenades to break up labor meetings.

However, the labor movement gradually gained momentum in the larger cities through discussion meetings, mass meetings, and delegates meetings. As the worker's appreciation of the meaning of the labor movement grew, training classes were opened. Those who took these courses became progressive stalwarts who campaigned for members and strengthened the organization. As the movement became stronger, the workers began to insist on certain demands.

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They wanted to carry on a conflict with the foremen. With the support of the people's political power they secured the arrest of some and the execution of others, followed by confiscation of the accumulations arising from their extortions. In Tientsin, the police authorities assembled the foremen, forbade them to take any action, and arrested some of the more prominent. In this way, the wicked extortionate foremen were deprived of their power.

However, their influence still persists, and in many places no system has been devised to eliminate contract-labor foremen, assistant foremen, and carriers' foremen, or to institute a new system. Consequently, a great many questions are still unanswered in the transport workers' organizations. There are constant jurisdictional fights over cars, dock space, etc. There is bribery and conflicts between the military, the authorities, and even prison-labor gangs and the workers. Shops and farmers handling their own goods get into trouble with them. Working conditions and wages are unequal; some have plenty, others are hungry. In the Wu-han area, practically half of the 26,000 dock workers are unemployed. In Nan-ch'ang, the wharves were nationalized, operators and labor contractors eliminated and the workers reorganized, but proper results were not obtained. In some places good results have been secured by:

1. Setting up transport companies to unify all transport activities and coordinate transport labor forces. Tientsin, Peng-fou, and Tsinan have done this. Wu-han and Nan-ch'ang are considering it.

2. Organization of transport laborers cooperatives. This method has been employed in Dairen, Tang-ku, Kai-feng, Suchou, and Cheng-chou. The workers are collectivized and divide the income equally with mutual regulation and distribution.

The above two methods have resulted in eliminating jurisdictional disputes and in providing an equitable distribution of income.

Another problem still unsolved in many areas is the matter of uniform and reasonable rates for goods carriage. Consequently, in some places rates are exorbitant and in others insufficient. In Nan-ch'ang and Wu-hsi, rate tables have been established, but they leave much to be desired.

A common phenomenon since the liberation has been an abundance of transport workers and a paucity of cargo. In some areas, large numbers of farmers have flocked into the cities to augment the numbers of the already too-numerous cargo handlers. However, in the Northeast only Ying-k'ou has this difficulty. In Suchow, in a month, the laborers earn only enough for 10 days' needs. Many are existing on bean cake. In Kai-feng, where there are many unemployed, some are beginning to take salt to the country to sell and bring back various sorts of grain to dispose of in the city. In Suchou, the workers are engaging in all sorts of hawking enterprises in order to live. There is a great surplus of labor in many cities.

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