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SOURCE Ta Kung Pao.

REPORTS ON RURAL CONDITIONS IN CANTON AREA

Canton, 25 June -- The following report on rural conditions in the Canton area was given by Yeh Chien-ying at the Canton Second All-Circles Delegates' Conference which convened on 1 May 1950:

The latest survey conducted by the Canton Municipal People's government shows that the total population of the Canton suburban areas, including Shih-p'ai, San-yuan, Sha-ho, Nan-an, Hsi-shan, Li-chiao, Hsin-chou, and Fang-ts'un, numbers 100,393. The total area covers 82,143.8 shih mou (one shih mou equals 0.1647 acre), of which about 10 percent is owned by landlords. Because of the limited area of land available, the average holding per person is only about 0.45 shih mou. The following is the latest survey of the land held by the various classes in the two districts of Hsin-chou and San-yuan:

District	Class	Area in Shih Mou
Hsin-chou	Ancestral land	6,757.56
	Landlord-owned land	3,391.30
	Rich farmer-owned land	3,494.32
	Middle-class farmer-owned land	4,787.05
	Poor farmer-owned land	2,401.93
San-yuan	Ancestral land	2,876.1
	Landlord-owned land	3,492.0
	Rich farmer-owned land	1,730.1
	Middle-class farmer-owned land	2,044.8
	Moderate rich farmer-owned land	790.9
	Poor farmer-owned land	1,337.8
	Others	34.9

With regard to annual rent paid by the tenants in the two districts of Shih-p'ai and San-yuan, the average is 4 to 5 piculs, the highest being 7-8 piculs.

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The method of renting the ancestral lands through a number-lottery system in the districts of Shih-p'ai, San-yuan, Hsin-chou, and Li-chiao has not proven too successful. In most cases, the rich farmers have been obtaining these lands for rental through corrupt practices.

Farmers' associations have been organized throughout the suburban areas. To date, 53 associations have been formed and 23 others are in the process of being organized. Membership of these associations numbers 13,324, of which 74.39 percent is poor farmers.

Plans are now being made to institute land-reform program in the Shih-p'ai District during the winter of 1950.

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