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Growing Festival Activity

FOR the past nine years, a small number of devoted people in this city have put on annually a Music and Drama Festival. That their efforts have been worthwhile was indicated last spring when adjudicator Burton L. Kurth stated before a Civic Centre audience that our festival quality had improved noticeably.

Now, as the Prince Rupert District Music and Drama Festival Association goes into its decade year, it has looked to its purpose and expanded its vision. Originally established "to foster and encourage the study of music and dramatic art in all its forms," the association has decided that a festival once a year is not enough—that more must be done to hasten the attainment of those objectives.

And so a new program has been announced. Already a series of bi-weekly student recitals has been started in the Civic Centre. If the first one on October 15 was any indication, this effort will be gratifyingly successful. In addition to encouraging the students to do their practicing with a more immediate objective in view, the featuring of adult performers will also encourage more experienced people.

In addition to the recitals, there will also be several performances in the Civic Centre auditorium. It is to be noted in this connection that the association this year is expanding its horizons to include entertainment which has hitherto been excluded from the traditional festival program. An example is the popular variety concert to be held in January. The association will also present a "long-hair" variety concert in February.

The first full scale function is to take place Saturday evening in the Civic Centre when three of the principal bodies which participate in the annual Drama Festival will present one-act plays. Thus will the Terrace Little Theatre, Booth Memorial High School and Prince Rupert Little Theatre make their contribution to the expanded program of the association.

The festival movement was started in Prince Rupert as in so many other communities to stimulate interest in the creation of entertainment by the community as well as for the community. The association has done fine work though it has not always had the support its work and objectives merited. This year, the success of the expanded plans will depend more than ever on the active co-operation of parents, teachers, friends of children, and those who believe that a community should know how to entertain itself.

Evasive Emigrants

IF NOT quite the statistician's despair, emigration must be close to it. Immigrants, even if they arrive illegally, as sometimes they do, can be tallied in the next census, although their means of entry is not thereby disclosed. But the emigrant, regardless of the legality he may possess in the country he enters, just disappears from the land he's quitting.

In Canada's case, to question all persons leaving border ports on whether they will return is next to impossible. This country can only wait until months later, it receives the total of emigrants listed by admitting officers of the United States. And it may not be complete.

As it counts and ponders Canada's 1956 population the Dominion Bureau of Statistics must give long thought to this. Untallied emigrants were a source of much embarrassment to it in 1951.

—Windsor Star.

Scriptures

She became his wife and he loved her. Genesis 21:07. There is an edge in India that when one man loves one woman, and one woman loves one man, the very angels in heaven look down in envy. That was spoken in a polygamous land.

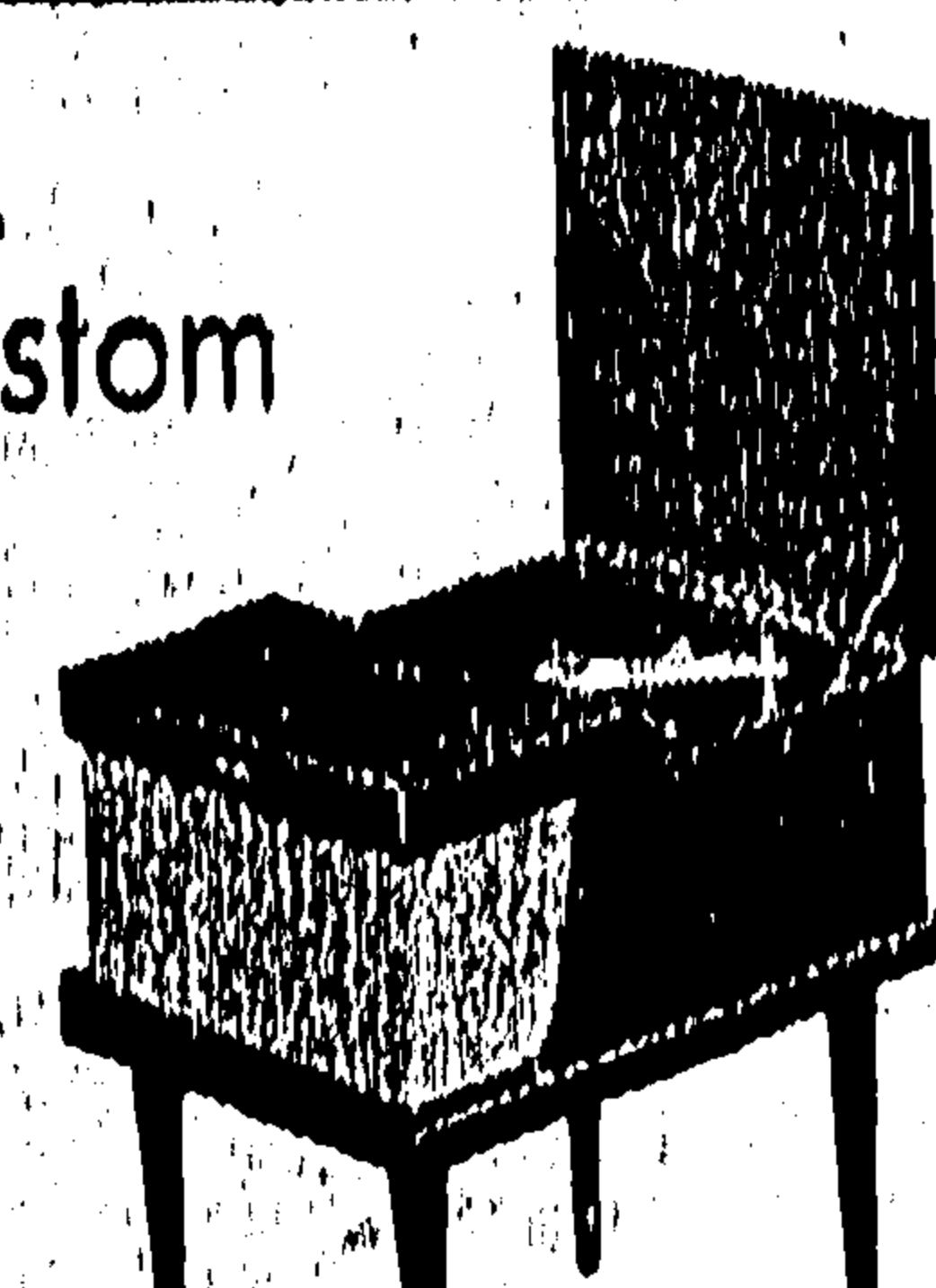
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As I See It

by

Elmore Philpott

China's Steel Mills Booming

ANSHAN, Northeast China—I came to China to try to find the answers to three big questions:

Is the present government of China generally accepted by the people of China?

Is its plan of reconstruction and modernization working out, in actual improvement of living standards of the people?

Has China the material means to make those plans work out? The plans themselves are good on paper.

I had already collected evidence to give a convincing "yes" to the first two questions.

But it was not till I had spent several days here in what we used to call Manchuria that I actually saw and heard the evidence to be able also to answer "yes" to the third and biggest question of all.

For here in Anshan is already in existence one of the great steel and iron production centres of the whole world.

In an almost incredible feat of recent construction and modernization, they have actually increased their already notable production of iron and steel by almost 100 per cent in a single year! And from what I saw on every hand, bigger things are still to come.

I have followed through the production process, right from the digging of the iron ore, to the smelting of both iron and steel, the rolling into I-beams and steel rails, seamless tubes, and all the other numerous products which are necessary to industrialize and mechanize a great nation.

And, only a few hours journey away, in what we used to call Mukden, but what the Chinese now call Shenyang, I have also actually seen the Chinese themselves making the most intricate types of machine tools—automatic machines which can turn out more automatic machines in any required numbers.

Northeast China is different from the rest of this mighty people's republic in many ways. The landscape is very Canadian looking—about a cross between the Alberta prairies and the gently rolling hills of southwestern Ontario.

The cities, too, are very much more North American looking than is the rest of China. That is partly because they are built with wide streets, and with the hotels and apartments not very different, outside, from our own.

They have trackless electric trolley buses in Shenyang, and street cars in Anshan.

The main food crops are soybeans and what we call red sorghum, but which they call "kaoliang." It is a coarse grain, coarser than rice or barley, and grows on tall stocks, taller than our corn.

Anshan itself has been an iron and steel centre since 1917 when the Japanese started the first mill. Just outside the city itself is Anshan, or "saddle" mountain, where they mine enormous quantities of high-grade iron ore by the open cut method. It runs from 30 to 70 per cent iron content.

CHINESE JUST HELPERS

The highest production under the Japanese was 1,000,000 tons, however, reached by the end of the war year 1943.

The fixed policy under the Japanese occupation was to have all skilled work done by imported Japanese workmen, and the Chinese were never allowed to become anything but helpers and cleaners. Chinese were never told more than about \$10 per month in those years.

When the Japanese were finally defeated in 1945, and Manchuria was liberated by the Soviet Army from Siberia, the departing Japanese contemptuously warned their exultant Chinese ex-subordinates that they had better go back to growing cotton, for the steel mills would be out of business for at least 20 years.

During the final stages of the Chiang Kai-shek regime it looked as if the contemptuous Japanese prophecy might come true, for Anshan never produced more than 8,000 tons in any one of the four years in which this city was ruled by Chiang's men.

But soon after the Communist conquest of China the new government began to make and apply plans to make Anshan one of the great iron and steel production centers of the world, and that is exactly what it is now in process of becoming.



(When the Russians entered Manchuria they stripped the area of practically all its industrial equipment, leaving factories bare shells. This equipment was not given back until after the Chinese Reds took over.)

In 1955 Anshan produced 44

per cent of all the iron and steel

turned out in China, the actual

Anshan output being 1,240,000

tons. This year the Anshan pro-

duction will be at least 2,300,000

tons. Moreover, as I have seen for

myself, the construction and ex-

pansion program here almost

staggered the imagination.

There are literally scores of

thousands of workers, working

at high speed, I have yet to see

a Chinese leaning on his shovel.

They are utilizing an amazing

variety of tools and techniques.

They have some of the most

modern tools for construction.

But they do not scorn to use the

more primitive methods either.

Most of the hard labor here is the

"equivalent of pick and shovel

work—and there is a vast amount

of precisely that.

TRANSPORTATION VARIES

Transportation of building ma-

terial and equipment also ranges

all the way from the most mod-

ern to the most elementary.

There are trucks and cars galore

(I have been riding around in a

big black Buick). But most of the

heavy goods are carried in two-

wheeled, big rubber tired Chinese

parts, usually pulled by two ani-

als, mostly a Mongolian pony

and a donkey. But in the coun-

try I saw three-animal teams—

a horse, hitched to a donkey and

a cow.

I saw a four horse team ponies

pull a four wheeled section

of structural steel across a

mud hole which would have

bogged down most of our heavy

trucks.

It is the same wherever you

look—the mighty new China us-

ing all the resources she has to

get all the possible results in the

shortest possible time.

The supreme goal that they are

striving for hereabouts is for

China to produce 14,000,000 tons

of steel per year by 1962.

Judging by what I have seen

myself, I think they will make it.

The managers of the Anshan

Iron and Steel Company acknowl-

edge their gratitude to the Sovi-

et Union for help in rebuilding

and expanding here. All the new

machinery was supplied from

Russia, and all the plants were

laid out according to the latest

Soviet designs.

But the Soviet technique of

teaching the Chinese to operate

the machinery was simplicity it-

self.

All the Russian technicians and

advisers instructed Chinese right

from the beginning, and when the

Chinese were able to carry on by them-

selves, the Soviet technicians

went home.

There were some hundreds of

Russians who came over to as-

sist at the beginning. But for

most of the instruction period

there were never more than 50

Soviet advisers in Anshan, and

now only eight remain here.

I went through the stainless

steel factory at Chanthaburi in Thailand where they were turning out

heavy type railroad tracks, saw

the open hearth blast furnaces,

and I did not see a single Rus-

sian at work.

I saw the Chinese directing

the whole operation from the

electronic control room.

I saw scores of thousands of

Chinese men and women at work

—and I literally saw one de-

voted invented by a Chinese roll-

ing mill worker that solves a

problem none of the big steel

engineers had even been able to

solve, even in the Western World,

where we have been making steel

for decades.