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TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN COMMUNIST CHINA

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TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN COMMUNIST CHINA

[The following are translations of selected articles and extracts from Chung-kuo Fang-chih (Chinese Textiles), Numbers 18, 19, 20, and 21, published in Peiping and covering the period of 21 June-23 July 1959.]

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COMBINING IDEOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY INFERIOR COTTON CAN BECOME FIRST GRADE YARN

[Following is the translation of an extract from an article written by Nieh Li-san, in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 18, 21 June 1959, page 8.]

Though the present quality of raw cotton is rather low, the entire body of workers in the North-West State-operated No. 2 Cotton Mill has a very high confidence in raising the quality of cotton yarns. Especially, since April, the workers' fighting morale has become a strong current, breaking through the difficulties of low quality in raw cotton.

For instance, in the 21 count woof yarns, the grade average of cotton matching ratio was lowered from the 3.24 grade in March to the 4.28 grade in April, length was reduced from 32.05"/32 to 31.92"/32, but the quality rate of the first class first grade cotton yarn rose from 89.16% in March to 100%; first class superior grade rose from 19.09% to 25.36 %; cotton strength also rose to 70 counts per pound.

The grade cotton matching ratio in May was lowered to the 5.2 grade, length was 32"/32, and with the exception of the first class first grade yarn, which continued to maintain the 100% quality rate, the strength of the cotton yarns produced in the first half of May, as compared to those produced in April, again rose to 38 counts per pound. The 23 count warp yarns had a similar situation. Recently, in trial spinning, when the raw cotton quality was lowered to the 5.8 grade and length was 1 inch, raw cotton still could guarantee the 21 count woof yarns and the 23 count warp yarns in the first class and first grade category.

SEVERAL METHODS USED BY LINEN FACTORIES IN LIAONING PROVINCE TO OVERCOME RAW MATERIAL SHORTAGE

[Following is the translation of an extract from an article written by Wang Ping-t'ien, in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 18, 21 June 1959, page 25.]

To overcome raw material shortage in the linen industry, the active utilization of all wild fibers, that could be used for spinning has an important meaning.

Liaoning Province is in a mountainous region and very rich in wild fibers. According to discoveries in the various parts of the province, wild fibers include large snake vines, creepers, "che" flax, "hai-la" flax, flax, "shan-chih" flax, docks, bulrush, vervains, the aspen barks, bitter ginseng (sophora flavescens) and others, totaling more than 60 varieties.

Not only are they numerous in varieties but also great in quantity. Take the large snake vines as an example, in K'uan-tien Hsien alone, the total amount purchased in 1959 is over 300,000 chin. In the case of bitter ginseng, according to the figures given by the Chinese Herb Company in Chang-wu Hsien, its annual production is 2,000,000 chin, while a great quantity of bitter ginseng is also produced in other hsien in Liaoning, including Liao-chung, Hsin-min, Sui-chung, Ch'ang-tu, and Kai-p'ing hsien.

In addition, there are great quantities of bulrush, vervain, and aspen barks. According to commercial statistics, the total annual production of wild fibers in the province reaches 200,000 tons. The strength, length, fineness and elasticity of most fibers are relatively good, and most of them are good linen raw materials. The fibers from the large snake vines can be blended with wool.

In 1959, Liaoning Province, in addition to receiving some raw flax from the Central Government, has adopted the following methods to solve its raw material shortage problem:

(1) Collect and utilize all wild fiber resources in the province immediately.

The Liaoning Provincial Party Committee has listed the collection of wild fibers as one of the subsidiary occupations in the rural areas. It encourages the people's communes to make great collections. In order to give due consideration to the collection of wild fibers, appropriate adjustments have been made in prices. Purchasing has been done by commerce bureaus in the hsien under the direction of the Provincial Commerce Department. Based on their length, the fibers are either used by the linen factories or by the paper mills.

(2) Strive for cooperation and support from the neighboring provinces. In the Northeast cooperative region, with the exception of the Kirin Province's own linen factories, there is a considerable amount of assorted fibers coming from Heilungkiang Province.

(3) Establish close cooperation with related enterprises. For example, after it was discovered that bitter ginseng could be used as linen manufacturing materials, the Liao-yang Gunny Sack Factory, because bitter ginseng is a herb, established a cooperative relationship with the Hsiang-p'ing Chemical Factory. These two factories collect the bitter ginseng. First, the Chemical Factory extracts the bitter juice from the plants, then transfers the fibers to the Gunny Sack Factory for linen production. This not only makes full use of the plants but also solves the raw material problem for both factories. At the same time, production cost is also lowered.

FULLY UTILIZE VARIOUS FIBERS--GUARANTEE PRODUCTION FURTHER LEAP FORWARD

[Following is the translation of an extract from an article submitted by the Wu-hsi T'ien-yuan Linen, Woolen and Cotton Textile Factory, in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 18, 21 June 1959, page 26.]

In order to overcome jute shortage, the Wu-hsi T'ien-yuan Linen, Woolen and Cotton Textile Factory has been seeking substitute raw materials for the last year and has experimented with various fibers for blended processing. In succession, the factory tried to manufacture gunny sacks from bulrush, from cotton stalk peels, or to make blended sacks from raw flax and from blended cotton yarns. From 10,000 tan of various fibers, nearly 1,000,000 gunny sacks have been made.

The various fibers used by this factory included cotton stalk peels, bulrush, ripe flax, raw flax, cord grass and spun yarn. The total amount utilized was 11,500 tan. From the standpoint of usage, bulrush is better than the others and next is ripe flax. Fibers from cotton stalk peels are in piece form, while fibers from raw flax contain much foreign matter; these affect the manufacturing process. Cord grass, after preliminary processing, is not difficult to use.

In 1958, this factory produced more than 3,120,000 gunny sacks of various specifications and blending ratios. In the woof yarns, the blending used 10% to 25% stalk peels. From June in the second quarter, it was increased to 50%.

When the factory began to use the various fibers, the fine yarns had a very high breakage rate, rendering the work at the looms very difficult. After a study was made, it was discovered that the difficulty arose from blending, so improvements in the method and technique of blending were made immediately. Experiments proved that combining the fibers from the first returning thread carding machine with the fibers from the second carding machine is a better blending method. After this method was applied, gunny sack quality was raised.

Test results have shown that if the glue extraction process is properly done, the fineness of bulrush fibers can come very close to that of jute and its strength surpasses that of cotton stalk peels. If the carding machine operation is more skillfully controlled, improvements can be easily attained and even the appearance of the finished products would resemble that of the jute sacks.

In utilizing cotton stalk peels, the factory has decided henceforth to use needle cotton machines to spin yarns. As such, yarn quality will be greatly improved. At present, designs are made to create several types of needle cotton machines to manufacture cotton stalk peel yarns. At the same time, tests are being conducted to extract the glue from the cotton stalk peels by the mold method with hopes of raising quality and reducing production cost.

FUKIEN PROVINCE'S FIRST MODERN FIBER FACTORY--THE CHANG-CHOU FIBER FACTORY--BEGINS TRIAL PRODUCTION

[Following is the translation of an extract from an unsigned article in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 18, 21 June 1959, page 27.]

Fukien Province's first modern mechanized fiber factory--the Chang-chou Fiber Factory--has completed all its principal plant facilities and the first installation of its 67 textile machines, and on 1 May, made its first trial production of machine-made gunny sacks.

The Chang-chou Fiber Factory is an important part of Chang-chou's light industry base. This factory has two principal workshops, the spinning and the weaving departments, and affiliated workshops, such as the repair, oil-chemical, furnace and power departments. The principal plant facilities occupy more than 8,000 square meters in area. From the softening of the raw flax to carding, spinning, weaving, hemming the seams and finally baling, the whole production procedure is mechanized.

After the 75 machines are formally entered into production, the factory will have an annual production of more than 6,000,000 gunny sacks, which will meet the needs of the foodstuffs industry throughout the province. At the same time, the jute produced in southern Fukien will be fully utilized. This will in turn encourage further production of jute.

This factory was designed by the Design Institute of the Fukien Provincial Light Industry Department. Its foundation construction began in July 1958. After nine months of vigorous construction, nearly 8,000 square meters of principal facilities, several affiliated workshops and workers' dormitories were all completed by the end of April. While the facilities were under construction, the machines were also being installed at the same time. More than 100 engineering and technical personnel and workers were organized and on 1 February, they began the installation of equipment; on 26 April installation was completed of the 67 machines, 5 days ahead of schedule. From the same day, workers were

organized to carry out the 16 different stages of production operation, from softening the flax through carding, weaving to hemming the seams. After four days of struggle on the part of the technicians and workers, the first batch of machine-made gunny sacks was manufactured on 1 May. Tests show that the quality of the sacks met required standards.

KUEI-LIN TOWEL FACTORY'S GREAT EFFORT TO ECONOMIZE COTTON YARN

[Following is the translation of a short article, written by T'ang P'ei-hs'ung, in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 18, 21 June 1959, page 37.]

The Kuei-lin Towel Factory, recognized as the advanced unit in the Kwangsi Chuang Autonomous Region and in Kuei-lin City, is now promoting a mass movement for economy, with the central purpose of attaining superior quality, high production and high efficiency.

Through the method of arousing the masses to check waste and to make careful calculations, the factory discovered many problems involving waste in cotton yarn. In 1959, negligence in cotton yarn economy has resulted in over-weighted towels and yarn breakage losses. According to statistics, from January to April 1958, the average yarn waste was 9.5%, but in the same period of 1959, the rate rose to 12.3%, which is greater than that of last year by 2.8% and equivalent to 70,800 liang. If yarn waste were not reduced, the total waste for the whole year would be 202,000 liang, which could be made into 151,700 towels, valued at 45,500 yuan. These towels could supply 75,800 persons for one year (based on two towels per person per year), which is equivalent to the needs of 1/3 of the population in Kuei-lin City.

Sun Kuei-fang, a workers' delegate, made a calculation on the wall-newspaper, pointing out that the work required to loosen tangled yarn alone was a great waste; this daily waste [of labor] could be turned into 20 dozen towels. The total waste in the year could mean the loss of

more than 6,000 dozen towels.

Through this precise calculation, the workers saw these surprising figures and learned a living lesson. To meet such problems, the workers adopted measures such as: strengthened the quality of the towels, implemented the inspection system, established a regulation requiring the workers to return discarded yarn (workers were to return discarded yarn on leaving work and this was to go back to production); thus, yarn waste was stopped in time. The 12.3% yarn waste in the months from January to April was reduced to 8.75% in the latter part of May. Quality was also raised and the rate of finished products reached 99.58%.

STRENGTHEN MANAGEMENT ESTABLISH NECESSARY REGULATORY POLICY

[Following is the translation of an unsigned article in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 19, 3 July 1959, pages 3-4.]

In April 1959, the Shanghai Municipal Textile Industry Bureau, in collaboration with commercial departments and the Shanghai Industrial and Commercial Administrative Control Bureau, organized the various companies and the 495 textile plants for the purpose of conducting quality inspection on 24 varieties of major products and 55 varieties of principal products. These units accepted the opinions of commercial departments and the reactions of consumers, and encouraged the plants to make self-investigations.

On the basis of these self-investigations, the plants were to conduct mutual investigations among themselves and to make key-point inspections, then they were to make recommendations for improvements. After quality inspection, most plants acquired a better understanding in regard to the raising of product quality and the all-out implementation of the "more, faster, better and cheaper" policy. They also discovered many quality, control, technical, and production organizational problems whereby they urgently promoted the masses to improve control and to take immediate action to raise quality.

From conditions disclosed by this all-out investigation

on product quality, the finished-good rate of most products had made certain gains in the past, such as the finished-good rate of the 24 major products in the first quarter of 1959. Compared to that of the 1958 fourth quarter these products showed a rise in 14 varieties and a continuous rising trend in Aprill However, the actual quality and the absolute figures of the finished-good rate in product quality for most of them, as compared to those in the better periods in 1958, showed some lowering and in some cases, the reduction was rather serious.

Principal Reasons for Product Quality Lowering Are One-sided Thinking and Inefficient Management

First of all, there was one-sided thinking. Not enough attention was paid to doing things in a better and cheaper manner. Some people thought: "Production output is most important; production value, production cost, profits, and labor productivity will follow. Quality, if attained, is but merely one goal."

Some said: "To attain production output is the urgent task confronting the workers. It is closely related to the market's supply and demand. The problem of quality is merely concerned with the high or low degree of utility value." Thus, in actual practice, attention is generally given to production output and negligence of quality.

In some plants, when a labor competition was organized, there was only a goal for production output but none for quality. In skill demonstrations, attention was given only to "more and faster" but neglected "better and cheaper." Some factories, in their fervent desire to attain production output, even threw away their quality guarantee measures.

Secondly, management systems were inefficient. Principally, there was insufficient understanding of the policy of coordinating centralized leadership and mass movements. Some people merely thought all that was necessary was to have the masses aroused and were afraid that regulations and systems would hamper the "activity and creativity of the masses". Accordingly, some regulations and systems which never should have been broken were broken, and some which should have been established never were established. Some of the more outstanding examples are:

(1) Finished product, semi-finished product and raw material inspection systems were lax. Some factories abandoned requisite inspections on raw cotton, raw wool, spoiled fabrics, as well as tests of regulated amounts of starch

and soda ash, capillary reaction, and physical standards. Some factories transferred original inspection personnel to assume other duties, replacing them with untrained new workers who did not know the standards of product quality. Some factories operated fabric inspection machines at excess speeds or over-loads; as a result, efficiency was lowered. And, because some testing instruments were out of order, inspection results were inaccurate. Some factories even stopped records of their necessary quality analyses, alternative inspections, re-testing, responsible product quality systems and investigation systems. There were no quality goals for individuals or workshops. There was no control over good or bad quality, so a great amount of inferior products slipped into the market.

(2) There was laxity in technical procedure planning and technical design approval systems. Some factories, after the responsibility of technical planning was left to the workshop or small group, had no unified management nor a requisite approval system. For instance, in the textile plants there was no control over gearing high temperatures, strength tests, and amounts of semi-finished products kept in storage; nor was there control over the prescription of raw materials for production, processing time and processing procedures in printing and dyeing plants; nor control over the number of stitches, dyeing time, dyeing temperature and shrinkage time in the knitting plants. Because the workshop, the small group, or even the individual is free to transfer, to change or to do anything without regard to regulations, there was no uniform control, and dislocation and imbalance existed among the various departments, thus affecting product quality.

(3) The protection and maintenance system for the machines was irregular. For the fixed machinery in most factories, the periodical inspection and repair activities were in great confusion. Some factories merely conducted on-the-spot inspection and repair but never combined the regular and periodical preservation and maintenance activities, nor was the maintenance system strictly carried out, thus machines were operated irregularly.

(4) The control over operational methods, raw materials and fixed supply was lax. Though some plants knew the operational methods did not meet quality demands and that control of inferior yarns was confused, they would rather neglect quality for production output and would not bother to correct errors. For instance, in raising operational levels, the plants always aimed at "faster reconnecting of broken yarns" and "faster changing of shuttles", but never

paid any attention to recovery work, prevention of breakages, cleanliness and investigation of inferior products. These also hampered the rise of product quality.

Counteract Existing Problems, Recommend Improvement Measures

(1) On the basis of quality inspection, there must be better understanding, unified thinking, definite and all-out implementation of the policy to do things in a "more, faster, better and cheaper" manner, and an establishment of an overall viewpoint. The various factories are requested to learn the experiences of the Shanghai Machine Tool Plant in thoroughly promoting a mass movement for product quality inspection. It is only through a mass movement that the ideological, quality, technical and management problems can be further disclosed, so that the rising of product quality, the all-out implementation of the "more, faster, better and cheaper" viewpoint, the urgent technical improvement and the improvement of management can be more deeply established, strengthening the coordination between centralized leadership and mass movement, in order to create more favorable conditions for improving product quality and the struggle for a greater all-out leap forward in the future.

In the process of arousing the masses, there must be affirmative achievements, at the same time, pointint out the existing quality problems, and the future implementation of the "more, faster, better and cheaper" policy. There must be guidance for self-investigation, eliminating the doubts of the masses, and promoting the masses to launch free debates, to organize struggle, to raise questions, to recommend measures, to make improvement methods and to prevent any one-sided thinking or possible pessimism from occurring, so that the masses will become an active force in promoting production.

(2) On the basis of arousing the masses, establish the necessary control systems. Firstly, establish and strengthen raw material and material, semi-finished and finished product quality inspection systems. According to the conditions existing in the various factories, strengthen inspection activities, strictly enforce quality standards and inspection methods, unify inspection viewpoints, train and raise the technical level of the analyzing, testing and inspecting personnel, establish the necessary inspection systems, set periodical correction tests, improve testing instruments, adjust unreasonable fabric testing speeds and

over-loaded inspection equipment, establish and strengthen the necessary defect analysis recording and quality responsibility system, and set up quality goals for the workshops and the working shifts, so that periodical evaluations may be made.

At the same time, strengthen testing and analytical activities on raw materials and materials and semi-finished products, so that the quality of semi-finished products may be raised. With regard to certain principal products, the various companies must organize the factories each month to conduct alternate inspection and mutual inspections, establish necessary statistical reports and tables, foster periodical judgement and competitions and make periodical evaluations.

Secondly, establish and strengthen necessary technical procedural planning and the design approval systems, rectify the existing operational prescription, technical planning, gearing control, and semi-finished product storage methods. All those operational prescription and technical planning methods, after they have been tested and studied, that are contrary to the policy of "more, faster, better and cheaper," should be resolutely improved; and establish the necessary control system, carry out the control at different levels, and unify the three working-shift operation. All improvements concerning product quality, product specifications, production procedure and technical planning, must be approved and the necessary control system must be established.

Thirdly, re-establish and strengthen preservation and maintenance activities, establish the necessary preservation periodical inspection, preserve the quality exchange system, protect the buckles, shuttles and spare parts, establish an inspection, repair and maintenance system over the machines and raise the quality of the preservation and maintenance activities. The existing preservation and maintenance activities in woolen and linen, textile, re-fabricating, knitting and silk factories are not satisfactory, struggles must be made in the second and third quarters of the year to hold fast to the opportunity to make a mechanical readjustments so that the machines will regain a regular smooth operation. On the basis of this, establish a regular preservation and maintenance system.

Fourthly, strengthen daily production control activity, strengthen regular supply, raise workers' operational levels and strictly enforce cleanliness control activity.

(3) As to those products whose quality is already lowered now, or those products whose quality will be further

lowered because of lack of raw materials and chemical dyes in the second quarter, the production difficulties must be discovered, and the masses must be aroused immediately to promote a technical revolution and adopt measures. For instance, in the textile factories, the inferior yarns must be improved; in the printing and dyeing factories, the second class spoiled fabrics must be reprocessed; in the woolen factories, the fineness and texture of the woolen fabrics must be improved; in the silk factories, the quality of rayon must be raised; in the towel factories, towels fluff must be improved. Measures must be taken to prevent the trend of further lowering in product quality.

(4) Strengthen planned control, improve red flag competition methods, increase the content of quality goals, and with the exception of the whole-good rate, supplement the necessary physical goals and other principal quality goals, rectify propaganda reports, eliminate partiality in judgement and competition, strengthen all-out inspection and evaluations.

REMARKABLE RISE IN FABRIC QUALITY FROM THE TSINGTAO STATE-OPERATED TEXTILE FACTORY NO. 3

[Following is the translation of a short article, written by P'an Chieh-sheng, in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 19, 3 July 1959, page 12.]

Since the beginning of 1959, the weaving workshop in the Tsingtao State-operated Textile Factory No. 3 has promoted a mass movement and strengthened control, so quality has shown an obvious rise and exports have attained a monthly increase. Take the principal product, 30x36 high-grade fine fabric, as an example: the storage finished-good rate in January was 90.93% and it was raised to 97.37% in May. The rate of exported fabric in January was 74.5% and increased to 94.61% in May.

In the 1958 great leap forward, this workshop made trial production of about 10 consecutive varieties of export goods and won awards from the Tsingtao Textile Industry Bureau and commercial departments. The workshop's production output, as compared to that of 1957, was nearly doubled. However, because the workshop was not able to understand

the regulations for high speed and high production in its "four-high" movement and because it was not able to get the masses to solve all problems, this workshop was not able to attain high production and at the same time to guarantee superior quality.

After the year began, in order to fulfill the task of exporting on time, of good quality and the right variety of finished products and to carry out fully the "four-high" and "four-economy" policy, whose central theme is high production and high quality, this factory has placed the goal to attain high textile quality in an outstanding position and set the finished good in storage rate at 95% and the fabric expert goal at 80%.

In accordance with the experiences gained in the 1958 great leap forward, this workshop made full use of the mass movement, and at the same time, strengthened centralized leadership, rectified control at key points, re-established quality inspection personnel and related advanced quality operational regulations, and set up the repeated inspection system to guarantee cotton fabric quality. All these measures created favorable conditions for the promotion of a non-inferior fabric movement.

Owing to the rising of its cotton fabric quality, this workshop, in the inter-factory textile quality competition held in Tsingtao City, has won the first and second awards, respectively, during the months of March and April.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY OVER-FULFILLS SECOND PRODUCTION PLAN

[Following is the translation of an unsigned article, in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 20, 13 July 1959, page 3.]

In the second quarter of 1959, textile enterprises throughout the country, under the various provincial (city, autonomous region) Party Committee guidance, actively responded to the appeal made by the First Plenary Meeting of the Second All-China People's Congress for the promotion of the increase-production economy movement, launched a mass movement to raise product quality and to increase product varieties, so that the various principal textile industrial products, with guaranteed quality, will over-fulfilled the State plan.

According to the preliminary calculations of the second quarter's production: cotton yarns will fulfill the state plan by 107.97%, cotton fabric by 109.45%, printed and dyed fabrics by 118.04%, woolen fabrics by 112.53%, woolen yarns by 123.06%, gunny sacks by 121.13%, silk by 113.64%, silk fabrics by 123.57%. Compared with that of the same period in 1958, the output of cotton textile, silk, and woolen fabrics has increased considerably.

In the second quarter, the textile enterprises in the various areas, under the principle of raw material economy, extensive use of inferior fibers, and the utilization of assorted fibers and scrap materials, had done their utmost. To utilize inferior raw materials, assorted fibers and scrap materials to make into finished textile products has a definite effect on the over-fulfillment of the State's production plan, and the satisfaction of market demands. In addition, the general textile raw materials, though their average grade was lowered, satisfied the market demand for high ranking products and the average count of cotton yarns and silk threads also rose considerably.

Take cotton yarns as an example, according to statistics from 11 provinces and cities: Peiping, Hopeh, Shanghai, Kiangsu, Chekiang, Hupeh, Honan, Szechwan, Shensi, Shantung,

and Liaoning (equal to about 90% of the total output): the January average was 21.50 counts, but it increased to 23.25 counts in May; it was higher than the January yarn count by 1.75 counts. The rise in the average yarn count not only suggested the needs of summer products but also increased the cotton yarns' proficiency rate in fabric production and attained the effect of increase-production economy.

In raising product quality, the textile industry in the various areas put in great efforts and attained definite achievements. For instance, in the textile enterprises, the use of inferior grade cotton in the second quarter was greatly increased, but owing to the strengthened raw cotton control and the various technical measures, the movement to make good yarns out of inferior cotton did make progress; thus, the product rate of the first class first grade cotton yarns in the principal production areas as Peiping, Hopeh, Shanghai, Shantung, Honan, Shensi, and Liaoning, was greatly increased in May as compared to that in February. For example, in Peiping City, the 63.59% in February was increased to 95.25% in May; in Liaoning Province, the 62.09% in February was increased to 93.73% in May (to 97.34% in the first half of June).

For instance, take the product rate of the first class first grade cotton yarns for consideration, those surpassing 95% during the five months included: Peiping, Shantung, Honan, Liaoning, and Sinkiang, and those attaining about 90% included: Hopeh, Shensi, Heilungkiang, and Kwangtung provinces.

In the woolen enterprises, though there are still certain problems existing in product quality, the industry was still able to attain certain increases in the principal areas in May as compared to that in February. As to the product rate of first class woolen fabrics, in Hopeh Province, the 96.73% in February was increased to 99.02% in May; in Shanghai City, the 96.01% in February was increased to 97.59% in May; in Szechwan Province, though its first class product rate was rather low, the 72.66% in February was increased to 77.35% in May. The above facts have shown that textile product quality in the second quarter has made a gain over that of the first quarter.

[Following is the translation of an extract from an article written by Huang Hsien-chih and Mi Chih-wei, in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 20, 13 July 1959, page 6.]

The weaving workshop of the North-West State-operated No. 1 Textile Factory, under the guidance of the Party Committee, promoted a mass red flag competition movement to attain high production and high quality. The workshop paid much attention to daily technical control activity, to strengthen machine inspection and repair, to establish and strengthen the various control systems that are related to production; thus, the prospect of production in the workshop showed a great change, cotton fabric quality was greatly raised.

The product rate of first class cotton fabrics when they came off the machines rose from the 80.79% in March 1959 to 86.44% in the middle of May; the product rate of the first class cotton fabrics in storage rose from 98.75% to about 99.5%; and machine efficiency reached above 90% (machine speed 215 revolutions/minute). Production overfulfilled the State plan.

REGARDING THE QUESTION OF A STANDARD DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN FIXED ASSETS AND LOW-COST EASILY DEPRECIATED ARTICLES

[Following is the translation of an article written by Wu Yen, in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 20, 13 July 1959, pages 14-15.]

Since 1958, the textile industry enterprises in the various parts of the country have decided their own standard differentiation between fixed assets and low-cost easily depreciated articles. The number of years in standard differentiation is uniform in all areas, and one year is the standard. But the monetary amount in standard differentiation is not uniform; some have 500 yuan as the standard and others, 200 yuan.

The reasons for using 500 yuan as the standard are: with a somewhat higher standard, there is no necessity to undergo capital construction planning in order to add certain equipment; convenient purchasing; easily satisfied production needs; at the same time, there is no necessity to use a large portion of the profits from the enterprise to purchase odd assets and there will be more reasonable planning for the use of enterprise profits.

The reasons for using 200 yuan as the standard are: the textile industry is only a light industry and it is not like a heavy industry enterprise where there are frequent additions of relatively high-cost new equipment; where the standard is somewhat lower, working capital can be saved and extravagance prevented.

Both sides have definite reasons, but the reasons for the two sides are from large and medium enterprises that have modern equipment. As everybody knows, the textile industry includes many enterprises, including cotton, printing, woolen, linen, silk, knitting, re-processing, etc. Of these different enterprises, there are large, medium and small sizes and their production equipment is not the same. Some are modern "foreign" equipment, some are "semi-native and semi-foreign", and some are entirely "native." There is a great difference in the value of fixed assets among them. Accordingly, the question of setting a monetary standard differentiation between fixed assets and low-cost easily depreciated articles for the whole industry is something worthy of further study.

When the monetary standard differentiation is made in accordance with the conditions in those enterprises where modern equipment and relatively high-cost principal production equipment as in cotton, woolen, linen, silk enterprises, a higher standard is more suitable. But using a similar standard for enterprises such as knitting socks and manufacturing ribbons, where the plant buildings are the only fixed assets, or with the exception of some principal equipment, all the others are not fixed assets, as such; these assets do not show how many productive tools such an enterprise may possess; thus, such a standard is unreasonable.

At the same time, it is possible that under the name of low-cost easily depreciated articles, some principal production equipment may be blindly added, seriously affecting the planned and proportional development of the national economy. On the contrary, if the monetary standard differentiation were made in accordance with the conditions in those enterprises where equipment is not modern or where principal equipment is relatively low-cost, the standard should definitely be lower.

Such a low standard will not be suitable for those enterprises where equipment is modern and where principal production equipment is relatively high-cost because when these enterprises desire to add some equipment, they must make use of capital construction planning or a portion of the enterprise profits. Such things will definitely affect production and the workers' welfare.

Under these circumstances, it is quite clear that to set a uniform monetary standard differentiation for the whole industry is not suitable. But is is more advisable to set the standard in accordance with the value of the principal production equipment in each enterprise. In those enterprises where equipment is modern and where principal production equipment is relatively high-cost (as in large and medium sized cotton, printing, woolen, linen, silk plants), the standard may be set higher.

In those enterprises where equipment is native and foreign, or though the equipment may be modern but the value of the principal equipments is not very high (as in knitting, native wooden weaving machines), the standard may be set lower, while the standard for sock knitting, handkerchief and ribbon plants may be set still lower.

What should be the monetary standard differentiation for each enterprise is a problem that needs further study. But, at present, some areas set 500 yuan as the standard for large enterprises. This seems to be too high. This author thinks 200 yuan seem to be more suitable. Some people may think this is too low and it will affect production

As a matter of fact, in large and medium textile enterprises, those that have fixed assets valued between 200 and 500 yuan are not many. A textile factory that has 40,000 spindles and 800 weaving looms, which constitute only 3% of the total fixed assets, has very few principal production equipment. At present, in some areas such as in Peiping, the textile factories use 200 yuan as the standard differentiation, but nothing has affected production yet.

When the standard in the various enterprises is not uniform, there is one problem that confronts them. It is the problem in which fixed assets cannot be transferred without recompensation. Certain equipment is a fixed asset in one enterprise but is regarded as a low-cost easily depreciated article in another enterprise. If the equipment is a low-cost easily depreciated article in the transferer unit, but the transferee unit regards it as a fixed asset, the transferer definitely demands recompensation in cash, otherwise its working capital will be short and repayment of bank loans will be difficult. On the other hand, if the equiment is a fixed asset in the transferer unit, but the transferee regards it as merely a low-cost easily depreciated article, and if no recompensation is made in cash, the transferee's working capital will be increased, thus creating a disparity between the transferee's capital and the norm. Such a situation is not suitable either.

As a matter of fact, this is not a new problem and it has existed in the various industrial departments for a long time. Under these circumstances, there should be a uniform rule, under which no transfer is permitted, and transactions between enterprises must be recompensated in cash. This is the only solution to the problem. In reality, the transfer of fixed assets between two different enterprises, especially the transfer of principal production equipment is seldom done.

In addition, during the great reform and establishment of regulations and systems in 1958, some areas abolished the low-cost easily depreciated items and used these items as waiting quota expenses or used as materials. The purpose here is to simplify auditing procedure. But this does not coincide with the nature of low-cost easily depreciated articles and is unfavorable to finance management. It is advisable to reestablish the low-cost easily depreciated items.

The above opinions are not widely-accepted, but as the various areas are reforming and strengthening their regulations and systems, these opinions are suggested merely to attract further studies.

MUKDEN KNITTING FACTORY'S GREAT EFFORT TO INCREASE UNDER-GARMENTS AND SOCKS PRODUCTION

[Following is the translation of an unsigned article in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 20, 13 July 1959, page 24.]

In order to produce superior quality and a variety of styles and colors in the people's daily necessity goods such as under-garments, vests and socks, the workers of the Mukden Municipal Knitting Factory enthusiastically launched a "full-hall-red" competition for superior quality, low waste and high efficiency.

In the "full-hall-red" competition, the workers' morale was high, fighting spirit strong, product quality excellent, and production output and variety rose in a straight line. In the two months of April and May, the production of various specifications of socks was more than 40,700 dozens, over-fulfilling the plan by more than 2,500 dozens; the production of various types of under-garments and vests was 3,470 dozens; shoe laces, the production in two months surpassed the plan by 129,000 pairs; the production of cotton gloves reached 38,700 dozens; mouth-covers 1,855,000 pieces. Such production fully supplied the industrial production needs in Mukden and the increasing demands of the people for daily necessity goods.

In order to let the people wear better quality and more variety of vests and socks and other knitted goods, the workers of this factory, especially the experienced old workers in the various workshops, under the Party's guidance, organized a technical study group with the workers, began technical research, improved equipment, increased variety planning and attained great achievements. Within a month's time, they were able to produce net pattern socks, novelty pattern socks, silk socks, wave pattern women under-garments and more than a dozen new products, all of which are now in active production.

An old worker, Li Kuo-ch'i, who has more than 20 years experience, recently succeeded in the study and production of wave pattern women under-garments, which are not only beautiful in style but also very strong in texture.

In order to make the style and color of their socks reach the production level of the famous brand of socks

produced by the Kang-fu Sock Factory in Shanghai, this factory selected 12 workers and sent them to Shanghai to learn, so that they would bring back the experiences to help them raise their sock quality rapidly.

LIAONING KNITTING ENTERPRISES SUCCEED IN TRIAL PRODUCTION OF MANY NEW PRODUCTS WITHIN A HALF YEAR

[Following is the translation of an extract from article, written by Yo Chen-to, in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 20, 13 July 1959, page 25.]

The knitting industry in Liaoning Province, while fulfilling the State plan and at the same time satisfying the demand of the great masses, has launched trial manufacture activities for new products. The knitting factories have promised to let the people wear beautiful knitted goods to make a happy celebration of the tenth national holiday.

According to the incomplete statistics from six knitting factories (Lu-ta, Ying-k'ou No. 1 and No. 2, Mukden, An-tung Knitting Factories and the Mukden Towel Factory), from January to May, these factories succeeded in the trial manufacture of about 1,000 types of new products in new styles, new patterns and new specifications, and 219 types are already put into production, some of which are in large scale production.

Among the new products, there are silk and cotton blended goods, rayon slips, socks, silk-worm silk under-garments, vests and socks. There are fine silk-nylon underwear and socks and the more elastic coarse silk-nylon underwear and socks, the fine yarn under-garments and vests; there are one-surface printed leap forward garments, double-shuttle double pattern socks, and specially heavy double-sole socks. There are plain woolen and printed woolen clothes, front and reverse surfaces scaly pattern socks, printed pattern autumn clothes and towels, various types of flower-patterned kerchiefs, cross-machine knitted cashmere women woolen over-coats and winter sport woolen coats.

The knitting factories, in accordance with the different counts of cotton yarns and colors, have succeeded in making separate types of new products. Among them, there are straight button heavy and light woolen jackets, suitable for old people's wear; there are summer and pre-fall short-sleeve liberty style coats and flesh-color stretch-top net-patterned women stockings. There are men and women people-style garments, made with 16 count cotton yarns, suitable for autumn wear. Though these garments are made of cotton yarns, they appeared to be made of camel hair.

There are also woolen jackets with tower-collars or heart-shaped collars and sweaters for winter wear. There are specially designed double-knitted athletic suits and corduroy children overcoats and infant pants and suits. Again, there are camel-hair women jackets and skirts, which are not only beautiful but also elastic. These products, after exhibition and trial sale, received favorable comments from the great mass of consumers.

SHANGHAI PRINTING AND DYEING INDUSTRY LAUNCHES COAL ECONOMY MASS MOVEMENT

[Following is the translation of an unsigned article in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 20, 13 July 1959, page 32.]

The printing and dyeing industry in Shanghai has changed its past negligence in coal economy and regards this activity as one of the principal items in the present high production and superior quality economy movement. In the entire industry, a coal economy and steam economy mass movement has been launched. Most factories have made plans and measures for coal economy and the range of savings varies from 15 to 20%. It is estimated that the total amount of coal saved for the State in the year would be from 60,000 to 80,000 tons. This amount of coal will be sufficient to produce 100,000,000 kilowatt hours (tu) of electric power, or to roll 700,000 tons of steel materials, or to run a printing and dyeing factory, whose daily production is 5,000 bolts of fabrics, for five years.

The amount of coal needed by the printing and dyeing industry this year is about 500,000 tons and it is one of the industries that consume the most coal. In the past, the printing and dyeing industry attained certain achievements in coal economy activity, but since the fourth quarter of 1958, the leadership personnel of most factories neglected coal economy in their desire to attain production. Some original systems that regulated the use of coal and steam, such as the public fabric unit's coal consumption, the weighing record, the regulation of temperature, the regulation of moisture and the regulation of steam pressure systems, all were either abolished or eliminated; the funnels of a majority of factories leaked steam, return steam cylinders were ineffective, thus, increasing coal and steam consumption. In the first quarter of 1959, the consumption of coal per product, as compared to that in the second and quarter last year, increased by 30 to 50%, therefore, production cost increased accordingly.

Very recently, because coal supply became irregular, under the guidance and assistance of the Textile Industry Bureau and the Coal Economy Office, the problem of coal economy again attracted the attention of the printing and dyeing industry. In order to have designated persons responsible for promoting coal economy activities, the Printing and Dyeing Company called several meetings among the cadres from the various factories to make plans.

Some units, such as the Ta-hsin-chen, Chen-fang, the China Industry, beginning from April, took action. In the Ta-hsin-chen Printing and Dyeing Factory, the Party secretary and the manager assumed leadership, great efforts were put into the coal and steam economy activity, promoted the masses to inspect and repair 59 steam-leaking funnels, strengthened the control over the use of steam in workshops, and regulated the various standards for the production of different products. The relationship between the workshop and the furnace was strengthened, so that no machine would be in motion without producing something, thus economizing steam. Workers at the furnace improved their method of adding coal with the aim to reduce waste in coal. As such, the consumption of coal for the production of 1,000 meters of printed fabrics was immediately reduced from the 300-400 kilograms in the past to 254 kilograms, and about 20 tons of coal was saved per day. At the same time, the tense situation in steam supply also slackened, guaranteeing the fulfillment of production tasks.

In order to carry out the coal economy movement throughout the entire industry, on 22 May, the Printing and

Dyeing Company called an all-industry meeting to exchange coal economy experiences and to make an all-out promotion of the advanced experiences gained by the Ta-hsin-chen, Chen-fang and the China Industry Printing and Dyeing Factories. At the meeting all printing and dyeing factories were grouped into eight groups, in accordance with the location of each factory. An inspection was conducted every two weeks and coal economy experiences were exchanged.

CONTINUOUS RISE OF COTTON FABRIC QUALITY IN VARIOUS FACTORIES IN SHENSI PROVINCE

[Following is the translation of an extract from an article written by Mi Chih-wei, in Chung-kuo Fang-chih, Peiping, No. 21, 23 July 1959, page 32.]

Under the increase production economy movement, with the central aim to raise product quality, more than 60,000 textile workers in Shensi Province, under the Party Committee's guidance and because the Party committees in the various factories were deeply concerned and the Party took political prominence, promoted a mass movement and after struggling for 80 days in the second battle, cotton fabric quality rose greatly.

Under conditions of low grade raw cotton, short fibers containing much foreign matter, strict execution of quality standards and the workshop non-breaking, non-repairing and non-drawing quality inspection system, for the first class product rate for cotton fabrics off the machines, eight factories fulfilled the 70% goal in June. In 23x21 cotton fabrics, the State-operated No. 2 Textile Factory reached 83.57%, the State-operated No. 3 Textile Factory reached 80.43%, the 3036 fine fabrics reached 85.9%; the first class product rate for cotton fabrics in storage in the second quarter, as compared with that in the first quarter, rose about 5% higher, the whole situation reached 98%, and the highest factory reached 99.8%.

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