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BETWEEN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND CHINA

REPORT
submitted to the Secretary-General by the
Director of the Section for Communications and Transit,
Secretary of the Council Committee, on his
MISSION IN CHINA
(January - May 1935)
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I.

OUTLINE AND SCOPE OF THE MISSION.

The Council Committee, considering it unnecessary to proceed immediately to the appointment of a new Technical Agent in China, invited the Secretary-General, at its session in September 1934, to take such action as might be desirable to continue and develop technical co-operation between the League of Nations and China, more particularly by sending the Director of one of the competent technical sections of the Secretariat to that country on a mission of short duration. The Secretary-General confided this mission to the Director of the Communications and Transit Section, who is also Secretary to the Council Committee.

I left Europe at the end of December 1934 for a visit to China which was to last about three months—from the end of January to the beginning of May 1935. During so brief a stay, it was impossible to attempt a thorough study of special technical questions or to arrange for the permanent co-ordination of the activities of the various League experts who are assisting in the work of Chinese reconstruction. Although, on occasion, responsible Chinese authorities—to some extent, no doubt, merely out of courtesy—asked my advice on the solution of some technical problem with which they were concerned, and although my presence helped to maintain a team spirit among the League experts and to remind them of their connection with the international organisation by which they were appointed, my mission was very different from that of the Council’s Technical Agent and could, in reality, be nothing more than a temporary mission for the maintenance of contact and liaison with the members of the Chinese Government and those at the head of the Chinese public organisations engaged in the work of reconstruction; my duty was primarily to examine with them, and as they might request, the present conditions and immediate prospects of the work of technical co-operation now in progress, and to report thereon to the Secretary-General of the League.

I began by making a stay of several weeks at Shanghai, and more particularly at Nanking, where I had the honour of conferring with the Chairman of the Executive Yuan, M. Wang Ching Wei, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Yuan, M. H. H. Kung, Finance Minister; with M. Sun Fo, President of the Legislative Yuan, and M. T. V. Soong, former Finance Minister, both of whom are members of the Standing Committee of the National Economic Council; and with
M. Cheng Kung Pao, Minister of Industry, M. Wang Ching Chieh, Minister of Education, Dr. Chu Chia Hua, Minister of Communications, Dr. J. Heng Liu, Head of the National Health Service, and M. Chang Ching-Chiang, President of the National Reconstruction Commission. I was assured by these high authorities that the Chinese Government fully appreciated the exact scope and purpose of my mission, that it was grateful for the efforts of the Council Committee and the technical organisations of the League, and that, in view of past experience, it still attached the same importance to the maintenance and, if possible, the development of the League's technical co-operation. General Chiang Kai Shek, President of the Military Council, who was detained in the remoter parts of Szechwan, and, later on, Kweichow, expressed identical views to me by letter. I was afforded every facility for studying the work done by the National Economic Council and the chief technical departments at Nanking, and for that purpose I enjoyed the willing help of the Secretary-General of the National Economic Council, M. Chin Fen, and the heads of services in the ministerial departments concerned.

On the termination of these interviews and preliminary enquiries, the members of the Government considered that neither conversations in the capital of the Central Government, or in the neighbourhood of the capital, with those in charge of the work of national reconstruction and their immediate staffs, however valuable and necessary they might be, nor enquiries on a documentary basis, could in themselves give an adequate idea of the chief aspects of the work of reconstruction in its present phase, or bring out the major problems and needs, a knowledge of which would be of assistance in deciding the practical form to be given to co-operation in the future. I was therefore invited to travel in the interior of the country. At the instance and under the aegis of the Central Government, I was afforded the rare opportunity of visiting a large number of provincial authorities, and was able to consult on the spot, at the seats of the provincial governments and sometimes even at the seats of district or village authorities, those who are most closely in touch with the demands and troubles of the people, and who have to deal with the everyday difficulties of actually carrying the work of reconstruction into effect. I travelled—frequently by car—through the country districts, and stopped or spent some little time in small local centres. Occasionally, I seemed to catch a glimpse, through some chance incident or as a result of observing some small detail, of the spontaneous reactions of the common people working and living around me and of their attitude to such capital problems as the modernisation of life in China. In this way I visited, much more rapidly than I could have wished, the authorities of Shantung, Hopeh, Shansi, Shensi, Honan, Hupeh, Hunan, Kiangsi, Chekiang, and Kiangsu; and, after leaving Shanghai on my return journey to Europe, I was able, at the wish of the Central Government, to spend some time in Kwangtung and
It is my pleasant duty to convey my grateful thanks to General Han Fu-Chu, President of the Shantung Provincial Government; General Ho Ying-Ching, Minister of War and President of the Peiping Military Sub-Commission; General Yen Hsi-San, Commissioner in charge of the Pacification of Shansi and Suyan; General Shu Yong-Chang, President of the Shansi Provincial Government; M. Sao Li-Tse, President of the Shensi Provincial Government; M. Chang Chi, President of the Reconstruction Commission of the "Second Capital"; General Liu Che, President of the Honan Provincial Government; General Chang Chung, President of the Hupeh Provincial Government; General Chang Hsueh-Liang, Chief of the General Staff of the Presidency of the Military Council at Wuchang; General Ho Tsien, President of the Hunan Provincial Government; General Hiong Si-Huei, President of the Kiangsi Provincial Government; General Wang Sao-Chong, President of the Chekiang Provincial Government; M. Chen Kuo-Fu, President of the Kiangsu Provincial Government; General Chen Chi-Tang, Commanding the First Army Group at Canton; M. Lin Yuan-Kwei, President of the Kwangtung Provincial Government; M. Chow Lou, President of the Sun Yat Sen University at Canton and member of the Political Sub-Commission of the South-West; General Li Tsung-Yen and General Pai Tsung-Hsi, Commander-in-Chief and Vice-Commander-in-Chief of the Kiangsi Fourth Army Group, and M. Wang Yu-Chow, President of the Kiangsi Provincial Government; their staffs, and all the officials of the provincial and local administrations who, by their helpfulness to me personally, showed the active interest which they take in the work being done by the League.

Before leaving Shanghai, I was again received by the members of the Government and the leaders of the Economic Council, to whom, at their request, I had given my observations and suggestions.

I think I may describe here some of my chief impressions, particularly those which bear upon the general aspects of the work of reconstruction; and which may help to illustrate the propitious atmosphere in which this work is being carried out. Though it is not for me to pass judgment upon the efforts of the Chinese authorities, the latter—who are labouring in the midst of considerable difficulties to surmount obstacles of which they are more and more aware—are entitled to the testimony of an impartial observer. Nor should knowledge of the grounds for confidence in the success of an undertaking with which it is associated be withheld from the Council of the League, which is indirectly co-operating in the work of Chinese reconstruction. That these are the doubtless superficial observations of a passing foreigner (though they have been compared with those of more authoritative experts) is a matter of small importance: a short visit to China
after a certain period of absence, though unsatisfactory in many ways, is not without its advantages; the main trend of development sometimes escapes those who are obliged to devote their whole attention to systematic work on the spot. It may be impossible to see the wood for the trees; or, to use not an English but a Chinese proverb, those who stay on Mount Loshan fail to see its real shape.
II.

IMPRESSIONS GATHERED AND INFORMATION COLLECTED IN NANKING.

I had obtained at Nanking, in the course of my conversations with the heads of the principal Central Government services concerned, the information which served as the basis for the short survey of the work of the National Economic Council of China from April 1st, 1934, onwards that was transmitted to the Council Committee on May 21st last and is reproduced as an Annex to the present report. This information, which referred chiefly to the work of the National Economic Council, could only cover that part of the work of reconstruction in which the Central Government is directly or indirectly concerned, either in the form of work done by the actual services of the Central Government or undertaken by the provinces, but with the technical and financial assistance of the Central Government. It made it possible, however, in a preliminary survey and subject to confirmation and supplementary details, to gain a definite impression of the main trend of present reconstruction work and the nature of the principal problems.

Work undertaken by the National Economic Council or in conjunction with that Council bears, as we know, chiefly upon public health, communications, hydraulic works and rural economy.

As regards health, the organic body consisting of the Central Station of Applied Hygiene, the National Health Administration, the Central Hospital of Nanking, the Central Laboratory of Hygiene, the Central School of Nurses, the Central School of Midwives, and the Municipal School of Hygiene of Nanking is now firmly established. This body forms at one and the same time, as it were, a ministry or department for the regulation and administration of public health matters, a centre of technical studies and a school for the training of health officers. Its efforts will, it seems, henceforth be directed principally towards the development, in conjunction with the provinces, of means of action in the interior of the country, in particular in the rural districts.

In the matter of communications, the Economic Council has concentrated its endeavours almost exclusively on road communications. Without directly undertaking (with the one exception of the North-West) any road construction—this being a task devolving on the provinces—the Bureau of Roads of the Economic Council had contributed, at the end of 1934, to the construction of a system of roads of more than 16,000 km., more than 8,000 of which are macadamised and accessible.
at all times to motor traffic, in the Provinces of Kiangsu, Chekiang, Ahnwei, Kiangsi, Hupeh, Hunan, Honan and Fukien, and in the North-West. At present, it appears to be less concerned with the technical questions of road construction than with the development of road transport and research to discover the most economical fuel and the vehicles best adapted to local resources and requirements.

Outside the province of the National Economic Council, the Ministry of Communications is steadily pursuing the improvement and development of the system of telegraphic communications; in particular, it has inaugurated new wireless, telegraph and telephone communications between the South and Centre of China, and between China and Europe, and proceeded further to a methodical administrative and financial reorganisation of the telegraph and postal services. In addition, it is responsible for the remarkable development of aviation: regular lines already connect Shanghai with Peiping in the north, Lanchow in the north-west, Chung King in the west and with Canton and Nanning in the south-west.

Hydraulics.

In the matter of hydraulic works, to which, owing to the physical and hydrological conditions of the country, serious attention is being given in almost all regions of China, the most noteworthy progress consists perhaps less in the work which is still being carried out by the various river commissions, however important that may be, than in the effort recently made to group these commissions and systematise their functions under the direction of a National Hydraulic Commission, responsible to the Economic Council. The organisation of this Commission will doubtless make possible a more rational utilisation of specialists and financial resources, a more effective economic and technical supervision, and a more far-seeing and systematic preparation of the plans of work still to be undertaken.

Rural economy.

As regards agricultural economy, apart from the work successfully carried out by the Cotton Commission and the Silk Commission of the Economic Council and the co-operation of the Central Government with the work of reconstruction in Kiangsi and the provinces of the North-West, the outstanding facts appear to be the definite organisation of the Central Agricultural Station of the Ministry of Industry and the measures recently adopted by the Government, in accordance with the recommendations of a special conference of co-operative organisations, to facilitate the development of the co-operative movement on a sound basis. Agricultural questions, to which reference will again be made further on, have recaptured, both in public opinion and in that of official circles, the preponderating importance which they deserve. The Central Agricultural Station ought to be in a position to keep in touch with the provincial institutions and, without prejudice to its own research work, to lend them the technical assistance which they may require.
The co-operative movement, the scope of which certainly exceeds that of rural economy, but which has hitherto chiefly shown results in that field, is tending to expand beyond the capacity for organisation of its promoters and calls for the creation of special institutions at Nanking and in the provinces to direct and educate its personnel.

In connection with the problems of industrial economy and technique, already touched upon by the Cotton Commission and the Silk Commission's work, the National Economic Council is seeking means to develop certain light industries. The Ministry of Industry and various organisations in conjunction with the Economic Council are studying the possibilities of putting into effect a methodical plan for the establishment or development of heavy industries.

In almost all branches of national reconstruction, in spite of the economic crisis, unremitting efforts are being made, sometimes in the face of political difficulties and uncertainties.

It is not enough to describe the work in progress and the results obtained; an account ought also to be given of the encouraging state of mind of the collaborators of the Central Government associated in this work with whom I have been able to establish direct contact; not of all, certainly, but of many—and no doubt a growing number—of specialists, of modest experts; witness should be borne to their zeal—a zeal devoid of illusions, but nevertheless confident—and to their perseverance in acquiring the necessary competence. The value of their services is not always sufficiently appreciated outside China or even in their own country.

In this connection, only one question suggests itself: Would not a greater concentration of individual efforts and a better co-ordination of activities produce still better results? Are there not still too many watertight compartments, or some overlapping between commissions, departments and institutions sometimes entrusted with almost identical or at any rate kindred tasks? Certainly, in the present state of Chinese Governmental organisation, nothing must be done simply in the desire for logic and co-ordination on paper that might hamper the freedom of action and research of enthusiastic teams, even when these are almost independent of one another or actually in competition with each other; on condition, however, that even almost independent or competitive teams should not go so far as to ignore one another and that, on the contrary, everything should be done to weld into one common endeavour the fragmentary efforts of these workers.

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1 It is not possible to mention even briefly in this summary all the kinds of work in progress; attention ought to be drawn, however, to the steps taken to start the organisation of the employment bureau for intellectual workers, which is already rendering useful service under the joint management of the Ministry of Education and of the National Economic Council.
One of the reasons for the success of health work in China is perhaps that, for some years past, the technical services connected with public health have all been grouped together in a single organisation, with an expert at its head. It may be asked whether it would not be well to follow this example in other cases and, in particular, to group into one national technical service, whatever authority they may be responsible to at present, the various technical offices and research institutes of the Central Government dealing with public works and agriculture. The institution of one or more advisory technical services of this kind would enable Ministries, which could consult them while keeping responsibility for decisions as to policy in their own hands, to concentrate their regular activity on their own tasks of regulation and administration proper. It would make it easier for the Economic Council, freed from certain purely technical duties, strictly to carry out its principal functions as an organ of liaison between public and private bodies and between the Ministries concerned, with a view to preparing general reconstruction schemes and supervising their execution. It would also enable the National Economic Council to serve the Central Government more efficiently as a permanent link with the reconstruction departments of the provinces and, in this respect, by the proper performance of this essential duty, to fill a gap in the present Governmental machinery which a mere visit to Nanking leads one already to suspect, and which becomes increasingly apparent to the observer who has been able to proceed into the interior of China.
III.

IMPRESSIONS GATHERED AND INFORMATION COLLECTED DURING THE TRIP IN THE PROVINCES.

My tour in the provinces began with a short visit to Tsinan Fu, the capital of Shantung. Some experts from the League of Nations had already had occasion to co-operate with the authorities of that province—in particular, experts on hydraulic problems and one of the experts placed at the disposal of the Chinese Government to examine questions connected with the reform of the civil administration. Anxious to ensure closer co-operation between the provincial authorities and the rural population of the province, the Shantung Government tentatively applied certain administrative reforms, particularly by instituting an administrative organisation serving as a link between the Provincial Government and the district authorities. The most notable works of reconstruction appear to be those of road construction and hydraulic works. 4,000 miles of roads fit for motor traffic have been constructed on which 800 motor-omnibuses circulate. The most important hydraulic works are on the Yellow River and are executed in conjunction with the Commission of that river. The province has also undertaken improvements to the Siao Chin Ho.

All observers bear witness to the order and discipline which reign in this province. My experience confirms theirs. Anxiety to inspire a sense of discipline in all concerned, and especially in the officials, has even caused the Shantung Government to employ somewhat novel methods for this purpose; for instance, the officials of the Provincial Government are obliged to do gymnastic exercises in common, which I had the opportunity of witnessing.

I did not get into touch with the provincial authorities of Hopei, as the work of reconstruction undertaken in that province was chiefly hydraulic, in connection with the system of rivers which has its outlet at Tientsin. This work has already been studied by League specialists.

As, however, I spent several days at Peiping, I had the privilege of hearing the views of General Ho Ying Ching, President of the Military Sub-Commission, on the general problems of reconstruction, and I noted the progress made by the municipal administration. Peiping, which has ceased to be an important political centre, has lost none of its pre-eminence as an intellectual and educational centre. I was able to talk with some of the intellectual leaders of Chinese youth; in particular, with Professor Hu Shih and Professor Chang Mon Lin, President of the Central University.
At the invitation of the Yen Ching University, I visited the experimental station for rural reconstruction organised by that university at some distance to the north of Peiping.

I went from Peiping to Shansi by the Peiping-Suiyan railway, reaching the province of Shansi at Tatung, in the north of this province, and crossed the province by motor-car to its southern extremity on the bank of the Yellow River, stopping some days at Taiyuan Fu, the capital of the province. The Province of Shansi, long famed for the enterprising spirit of its business-men, was, due to the initiative of General Yen Hsi San, the first to possess a modern road system. Up to quite recently, it was the only Chinese province the chief centres of which were connected by roads fit for motor traffic at all times. Doubtless this development of the road communications has materially assisted in establishing and maintaining the perfect order which reigns in the province. The Shansi Government recently opened for use a narrow-gauge railway, which is not yet completed throughout its whole length, but will eventually traverse the province from north to south. This railway has been substituted at certain points for the road, the use of which has, chiefly on that account, become much more difficult. There is little doubt, however, that the Shansi authorities will eventually take the necessary measures to restore the road system in its entirety, without prejudice to the development of the railway. Being constructed chiefly by military labour, the railway is of a type which is being abandoned in most countries, owing to the development of motor transport. The Province of Shansi may, of course, be in a special position in this respect, on account of its mining resources; the operation of a railway, even a narrow-gauge railway, could no doubt greatly facilitate the exploitation of these resources.

The provincial authorities have resolutely undertaken to carry out a programme for the systematic utilisation of the resources of the province. An office for managed economy has been constituted. A company, the North-West Development Company, has just opened some modern factories for woollen textiles and tanneries, which I have visited. The arsenal of Taiyuan Fu at present manufactures agricultural implements and is later to supply rails for the railway. Measures are being taken to encourage the development of the salt mines in the south of the province. The effort at modernisation is particularly striking in this province, where the traveller, wandering through the country districts and stopping at the little towns, may feel that he is indeed journeying through a classic Chinese landscape, surrounded by ancient tombs which occupy a considerable part of the cultivable area, and by a peasant population apparently unchanged and unchanging.

The hydraulic problems of the province have not been neglected; with the collaboration of the International Famine Relief Commission, schemes for the regulation of rivers and for irrigation have been drawn
up for the Fen Ho. The experts of the League have been asked just this year to give their opinion on the plan for the projected works. The situation of the provincial budget has not yet made it possible to proceed to the execution of this plan.

The technical experts of the province have been chiefly trained at the Shansi University at Taiyuan Fu, which recalls in appearance, on a smaller scale, certain English universities.

The Province of Shensi is one of the so-called North-West Provinces, in which the action of the Central Government, and particularly the National Council, is exercised directly; that is to say, it undertakes certain executive duties and does not confine itself to assisting the provincial authorities. The work done by the National Economic Council in the construction of roads, hydraulic works, the development of co-operatives, the improvement of public health conditions, has often been described. It would be unfair not to mention the effective collaboration of the provincial authorities and the progressive spirit with which they are imbued. The Province of Shensi was until recently one of the most backward in China. It had no modern means of communication with the rest of the country. At the end of 1934, the work of extending the railway from Lung Hai to the capital of the province, Sian Fu, was concluded, and the line brought into operation. The extension of this line to 30 kilometres west of Sian Fu is now in progress. The town of Sian is being gradually modernised. I went over some of the roads in the neighbourhood, and after visiting at Sian Fu itself the Provincial Hospital, the Maternity Hospital, the School for Midwives and the Centre for School Hygiene, organised by the National Public Health Service, I reached Tunkwan on the Lung Hai railway, after a trip of two days in a motor-car, which enabled me to visit the district health station at San Yuan, and to inspect on the spot the hydraulic works. The works already completed, or in progress, are on the King Ho and the Lo Ho; the latter include important engineering works: aqueducts and tunnels. The success, not only technical, but economic, of the works undertaken on the King Ho seems to be particularly noteworthy; the resulting improvement of the land has made it possible, without difficulty, to levy a tax on the increase in land value, and the farmers, who can now engage in remunerative cotton-growing, have paid the tax willingly. This system, if it could be applied to other parts of China, would certainly considerably facilitate the financing and execution of a large number of hydraulic works. But, apart from the results already obtained, the atmosphere of confidence in which the work of reconstruction undertaken at Shensi is being carried on deserves to be mentioned. The difficulties in that region, in the territory of a province which has only very scanty financial resources, are greater than elsewhere. This is one of the rare cases in China where the direct support of the Central Government is required for carrying on the work of reconstruction. Those directing
and those executing the work on the spot have no doubts, however, regarding the success of their undertakings, if the assistance which has hitherto been successfully given by the Central Government does not fail them.

My object in paying a short visit to Kaifeng, the capital of Honan, was as much to get into touch with the President of the Provincial Government as to interview the leaders of the Yellow River Commission at its headquarters. The Yellow River problems are dealt with in a separate report by the experts of the Communications and Transit Organisation. The reconstruction work undertaken by the provincial authorities consists chiefly of road improvements and certain local waterworks. This province is also one of those in which cotton-growing has latterly been developed and improved.

From Honan I went by rail to Hankow and Wuchang, the capital of Hupeh, and thence to Changsha, the capital of Hunan. At Wuchang, I had an interview with General Chang Hsueh Liang, Chief of the General Staff, on reconstruction problems as a whole, and with General Chang Chun, President of the Provincial Government, who outlined the chief reconstruction works in progress or contemplated in the province. They comprise road construction, it being intended that the province shall shortly be linked with all the neighbouring provinces by a system of main roads practicable for motor traffic (much of this work has already been done); hydraulic works undertaken with the assistance of the Central Government, and more especially with that of the Yangtse Commission, for the purpose of reclaiming or improving for agricultural use a large area of land to the south of the Yangtse, in the neighbourhood of Wuchang; and technical agricultural improvement works. The Government of the province has also in view the development and reorganisation of the cotton industry at Hankow and Hanyang. Lastly, efforts are being made in the field of popular education, attention being paid to the information obtained during their mission by the group of educationists who visited Europe and the U.S.S.R. following the report of the League of Nations Commission of Experts.

The Province of Hunan would also have been deserving of a more extensive study than I was able to give it during my brief visit to Changsha. The disciplined energy of the people—apparent even in the children in the schools that I visited—is striking. This province is potentially one of the richest in the country, both in population and in natural resources. The only sphere of reconstruction in which I myself, with little time to spare, could judge of the results secured was that of road communications. My observations merely confirmed the impressions received not long before by one of the experts of the Communications and Transit Organisation, a specialist in this field. Bearing in mind the volume of traffic, the road system constructed and maintained by the province bears comparison with anything that could have been done by the most
efficient foreign administrations. The organisation of public motor-transport services, on similar lines to that of the railway service, is also a model. Prospects for the economic development of this province are likely to become still more favourable on the completion of the railway from Wuchang to Canton, which is expected shortly.

I had hoped to go by motor from Changsha to Nanchang, the capital of Kiangsi; then to Hangchow, the capital of Chekiang; and thence to Nanking. There was no technical obstacle. At the end of 1934, the United States Trade Commissioner at Shanghai, Miss Viola Smith, had travelled by motor in three days from Changsha via Nanchang and Hangchow to Shanghai under conditions that would be available to any tourist with no exceptional facilities. This instance in itself suffices to show the rapid progress that has been made in road communications in the provinces of the Yangtse Valley, especially Hunan, Kiangsi, and Chekiang. Being obliged to return to Hankow for one day, I had to go by rail and then to get back to Nanchang by boat on the Yangtse as far as Kiukiang, and by rail from Kiukiang to Nanchang.

The peculiar position now occupied by the Province of Kiangsi, most of which had to be recovered from the Communists in 1933, has been mentioned in the Technical Agent’s report, and is described in one of the documents there referred to (Report of the Group of Experts sent to the province at the beginning of 1934). Reconstruction in that province had to be understood in the literal sense of reconstitution and recovery, and not in the sense of a more or less rapid process of modernisation.

The struggle against the Communists had made modern communications even more necessary and speeded up their development; but, since the disturbances that had occurred in this region, as also in parts of the provinces of Hunan, Hupeh, Honan and Szechwan, were agrarian in character, or, at all events, had certain perhaps predominant agrarian aspects, the efforts of the provincial authorities—assisted, as is generally known, by the National Economic Council, and directly inspired by General Chiang Kai Shek, whose headquarters remained at Nanchang until early in 1935—were naturally directed in the first place, once the whole province had been reconquered, towards securing the permanent co-operation of the peasants and satisfying their needs.

In and around Nanchang—which, I may mention, is gradually assuming the appearance of a modernised capital, owing to rapid public-building operations—I inspected the public health services, organised under the technical guidance of the national public service of Nanking, the agricultural station where the new plant was being finished, and one of the rural normal schools of the province; in addition to an experimental garden and a poultry farm, the teaching material included a map showing the States which are, and those which are not, Members of the League of Nations. Before leaving the province, I was to spend a night at Kweiki
in another rural normal school, which is doing its present technical work, among the beehives, on the very spot where, under the Sung dynasty, the philosopher Lo Chiang Shan once used to teach his pupils.

The Experts’ report, to which I have already referred, recommended the establishment in the country of some experimental “social welfare” centres, each comprising a public health clinic, a centre for mass education, an agricultural station, and a village co-operative centre, which were to be organised with the voluntary co-operation of the people, on lines dictated by the teachings and experiments of Dr. James Yen, of Ting Hsien. I visited one of these welfare centres at Fencheng; those in charge felt satisfied with the results obtained and with the friendly spirit in which the local population manifested their appreciation of the purpose of their work. Following other methods, which allow more play for the direct action of the public authorities, the Kiangsi Government and the head-quarter services have formed experimental rural reconstruction areas. In certain villages and groups of villages in those areas—I visited the centre at Linchwan—the people are being trained, and likely constrained, to perform rural sanitation work, to construct and maintain public gardens, to establish co-operative institutions, to receive some rudiments of general education, to improve hygienic conditions in their houses, and to observe certain strict rules of politeness and discipline; a public health clinic, a small agricultural station, and, in some cases, a newspaper reading-room are at their disposal.

Important as they may seem, and great as their future development may prove to be, the influence of the social-welfare centres, and even the work undertaken in the experimental areas, has as yet affected only a very small part of the territory of the province. Taking the province as a whole, the work to which the Kiangsi authorities attach most value is what they call the “organisation of the population”. The ancient institutions of heads of families, heads of groups of families, heads of villages, and heads of groups of villages, have been restored and adapted to present conditions, the holders of these offices being appointed by the public authorities, and acting as intermediaries between the district magistrate and the mass of the people. This “organisation of the population” has been felt to be necessary, as will be seen later, not only in Kiangsi, but also in Chekiang, and likely in other provinces as well, and has been developed to a very high degree in Kwangsi. Not only does it facilitate the maintenance of order, but without it, according to the Government of Kiangsi, the construction of the greater part of the road system in the province, and the recent execution of such hydraulic works as the 75 miles of dykes, which I was able to inspect near Linchwan—an engineering achievement which cost the equivalent of a million days’ work—could not have been carried out without a heavy charge on the budget of the province.

Arriving by road at Yunshan, on the borders of Chekiang, I went to Hangchow by the new light railway, which is ultimately to link
Hangchow with Nanchang. This railway has been built, and is being worked, without any foreign financial or technical assistance. The economic position of Chekiang was investigated in some detail last year by a group of experts, headed by Sir Arthur Salter. I simply proposed to interview the provincial authorities. The main reconstruction works so far undertaken, apart from the completion, within the limits of Chekiang, of the Hangchow-Nanchang railway, were concerned with road construction (Chekiang having been the first of the Yangtse Valley provinces to possess a good road system), and with the improvement of sericiculture and the reorganisation of the silk industry. The work proceeding in this connection is closely associated with that of the Silk Improvement Commission of the National Economic Council. Although they are not under the direction of the provincial authority, mention must also be made of the building of the Hangchow-Ningpo railway, and of the work done in Hangchow itself by the municipality, which has made the city at least equal in point of order and appearance to any other Chinese city, whether under Chinese or foreign administration. In Chekiang, however, as in Kwangtung, the decline in the silk export trade has seriously affected the economic life of the province, which is not self-supporting in foodstuffs. As, in the view of the provincial authorities, no relief that may be derived from technical improvements in sericiculture and from the reorganisation of the silk industry can restore the former balance, these authorities consider it essential that the economic structure of the province should be adapted to the present situation and, with that end in view, the Chairman of the Government, following the example of the Governments of Kwangtung, Kwangsi and, to a certain extent, Shansi, proposes to take over the effective direction of the economic activities of the province, to introduce a plan of production, and to control consumption. A Provincial Economic Council, with correspondents and contacts in the various districts, is said to be in process of creation; at the same time, I am told, systematic efforts are being made to organise the population on lines similar to those described in connection with Kiangsi.

Returning to Nanking, in the province of Kiangsu, I visited the provincial authorities at Chinkiang, the capital of the province. A great deal of the reconstruction work pursued under the auspices of the Economic Council, on which detailed information has already been given to the Council of the League—road construction, sericiculture improvement, hydraulic works on the River Hwai, etc.—are being carried out in this province. As to the reconstruction work under the sole responsibility of the provincial authorities, these authorities laid particular stress on the importance of the hydraulic works, especially those ultimately intended to give the Hwai an additional outlet to the sea and to enable land on the lower course of the river to be reclaimed without delay.

I did not visit Kwangtung or Kwangsi until after I had left Shanghai on my return journey to Europe. It was the first time since the
establishment of technical collaboration between the League and China that anyone connected with the work of the League's technical organisations had officially visited those provinces. I hoped that my journey would mark the beginning of a new stage in which the work of reconstruction carried on in the South-west Provinces would come within the orbit of the League's technical collaboration under the auspices of the National Economic Council. I do not think my expectation has been disappointed. The approval given to my journey by the heads of the Central Government, together with the most cordial welcome accorded me by the Kwangtung and Kwangsi authorities, justify the expectation that this extension of the National Economic Council's work of co-ordination and this strengthening of collaboration with the League of Nations will not meet with difficulties. However anxious the South-west Provinces may be to retain their characteristic features and not to compromise, in certain fields, their freedom of research and action, however conscious they may be of the part they are called upon to play in the development of China, the work of reconstruction inaugurated at Canton itself by Dr. Sun Yat Sen is regarded by all circles there as an essentially national work. The pre-eminence of the Central Government is not questioned.

The Province of Kwangtung occupies a place apart in China owing to its resources, to the enterprising spirit of its population (no less than that of the Cantonese who have emigrated east of the Pacific), to its age-long commercial and cultural relations with foreign countries, and, lastly, to the almost traditional boldness—sometimes even the revolutionary character—of its ideas as to future developments and prospects. The budget of the Province of Kwangtung might well be the envy of all the other Chinese provinces; technicians, trained for the most part in the United States of America, are available in greater numbers than can be absorbed by the province and are finding employment in many other regions of the country. It is therefore not surprising that the Province of Kwangtung should have been the first, not only to conceive, but also to put into execution, a detailed and comprehensive plan for economic modernisation and industrialisation.

A three-year plan has been drawn up. It provides for the establishment of a number of State industries, chosen with due regard to the agricultural and mining resources of the province and the state of the available markets within the province and in the rest of China: cement works, sugar refineries, metallurgical works, paper-mills, chemical factories for the production of fertilisers and sulphuric acid, cotton- and silk-spinning and weaving mills. The Provincial Government intends to operate these industries itself, employing foreign experts as far as is necessary and enlisting foreign capital to promote future developments.

I have visited the cement works, the sugar refinery and silk-spinning mills already in operation, and the plants—which are almost completed—
for the chemical fertiliser factories and for the production of cotton goods. All of them incorporate the most recent technical developments. Chinese specialists and foreign experts are confident that these undertakings will prove an economic success. If they are found to be conducted as sound public services, and if this industrial initiative within the province is co-ordinated with similar present or future developments in other parts of China, the application of the plan for the industrialisation of Kwangtung may mark the beginning of a transformation of the economic system of China on new economic lines.

The plan also comprises the construction of a barrage and of a hydro-electric power-station on the Yung-kiang.

As regards public works, more than 32,000 miles of roads (provincial, district and village roads) have been built, most of which, though not fit to be used by motor traffic in the rainy season, are gradually being improved. The scheme for the equipment of a large seaport on the Whanpoo has not been lost sight of. In the city of Canton itself, the municipality has carried out extensive public works, comprising the construction or modernisation of more than sixty miles of public roads; two bridges have been built over the Pearl River, the Hoi Chu and the Sai Nam, the latter intended both for the road traffic and for the railway connection between the Canton-Hankow and the Canton-Samsui railway (this railway to be eventually prolonged to Kwangsi). The Hoi Chu was completed in February 1933; the Sai Nam, of a total length of 1,640 feet in two sections separated by the Belcher Island, is in course of completion.

As regards agriculture, a large number of public and private institutions, which the Kwangtung authorities are no doubt proposing to co-ordinate, are devoted to sericultural research; but the fact which, in this connection, is most noteworthy and most characteristic of the province would seem to be the recent encouragement given to sugar-cane growing and the efforts for the improvement of the conditions of sugar-cane cultivation, which has met with great success, being linked up with the creation of the sugar-refining industry.

In the field of public education, the south-west, which already possesses a large number of educational institutions, will shortly have at its disposal the magnificent new buildings of the Sun Yat Sen National University near Canton, a large part of which is already finished and occupied. I was taken over this university by its President, Dr. Chow Lu. It takes nearly two hours to motor through the University grounds. A notable feature is the predominant importance attached to the faculties whose teaching is closely connected with economic reconstruction, such as the Faculty of Civil Engineering and that of Agriculture. The Faculty of Agriculture, in particular, comprises extensive properties and equipment which will ultimately make it into a centre of production as well as a centre of teaching and research. The spirit in which teaching is being conducted
The Province of Kwangsi, in contrast with the Province of Kwangtung, is regarded as one of the poorest in China and also one of those in which four or five years ago the restoration of order appeared to encounter the greatest difficulties. In the opinion of all observers, however, the work accomplished by the authorities in so short a time is all the more worthy of admiration. It is being watched with passionate interest, beyond the confines of the province, by a large part of the intellectual youth of China.

The Government of Kwangsi, convinced that economic and technical reorganisation cannot be effective or lasting unless accompanied by administrative and political reorganisation, and—in the widest sense of the word—moral regeneration, has attacked some of the fundamental problems of the reformation of the Chinese State. The essential requirement has seemed to be to enlist and keep the active co-operation of the whole population, even to its humblest members. The less desirable elements in the ranks of the officials have been removed; new officials are appointed on the basis of an impartial examination of their qualifications by an examining board; severe penalties are inflicted for negligence or failure; a regular inspection of administrative staffs is carried out; the budget of the province is made public, and strict supervision is exercised to ensure that public funds are employed in accordance with the provisions of the budget. In order that the people may feel that all officials, whatever their rank, from the highest to the lowest, have the same rights and the same duty to ensure disinterestedly and for the benefit of all the inhabitants of the province the working of the public services entrusted to them, all civil officials, from the Chairman of the Provincial Government down to the lowest employee of the province, wear—and are proud to do so—the same simple uniform, which is also worn by the pupils of the colleges and by university students, and differs only in colour from the equally simple uniform worn by the officers and other ranks of the army. All officials are liable to service in the militia. This militia, owing to the manner in which it has been conceived and reorganised in Kwangsi, has become one of the most original institutions of the province and possibly in the whole of China. Its initial purpose was doubtless to ensure the maintenance of internal order, in which it has already proved successful, and has enabled the strength of the regular army and the military burdens of the province to be reduced. It is also designed to facilitate the propagation of a new public spirit among the masses of the people and to ensure the military, economic and social training of the officials and personnel of all ranks. All the inhabitants of the province from the ages of 18 to 45 must undergo training in the militia for four months without leaving their town or village. Already about half of these men have received this training and the

at the university is intended, above all, according to its President, to train producers rather than theorists.
authorities consider that, by the end of two years, they will all have received it. As regards the officials and leaders or future leaders in all ranks of social life, pupils in secondary schools, university students, future magistrates and, in the villages, the future heads of villages and heads of groups of villages must all spend six months in the camps at the headquarters of the militia, where they all receive, not only military training, but elementary civic, economic and agricultural instruction as well. On proceeding to Nanning, the capital of Kwangsi, by road from Wuchow, I saw in some of the villages through which I passed peasants carrying out their various tasks as militia-men in perfect order and discipline; I also visited one of the training-camps. The Provincial Government of Kwangsi is likely to possess in a very short time a flexible and effective instrument of liaison with the whole population, and the population itself will gradually come to feel that it is associated in some way with the work of government. The district magistrates also act as chiefs of the militia in their areas and, on returning from the training-camps, the heads of villages will act, at the same time, as chiefs of the village militia, as directors of the village school and secretaries of the village co-operative; they will thus naturally become the official representatives of the public authority in the village and the spokesmen of the local population.

The Kwangsi Government tersely describes its threefold object as: self-defence, self-government, self-sufficiency. The militia does not merely ensure self-defence. Although it does not permit of the immediate achievement of self-government, it tends by its training to create conditions which will bring real self-government nearer realisation. As regards self-sufficiency, the militia constitutes the instrument enabling the Provincial Government to orient the production and consumption of the province according to its own plans.

These plans are being prepared by a Provincial Economic Council recently set up. Up to the present, the chief economic and technical works carried out have been the construction of an up-to-date road system, the establishment of a provincial health service and, in the agricultural field, in addition to the agricultural station of Liuchow, the establishment of a veterinary station which is nearing completion and will manufacture serum against cattle plague, with which it will supply the rural population. As regards the future, the Kwangsi Government is anxious to develop the mining resources in the north of the province and to establish certain State industries; it also has in view the construction of various railways.

In its opinion, however, economic and technical work cannot be separated from that of the general reorganisation of the province and the education of the population, with which it is in fact closely bound up. The Provincial Government is already contemplating, possibly for next year, the introduction of compulsory and general elementary education.
Statistics showing the number of children of school age who are not receiving any education at the present time have been compiled village by village; an institute of mass education at Nanning is studying the methods of providing at least rudimentary instruction for the whole population, taking into account the available resources.

I first came into contact with this province’s work, of which I have only been able to give a brief outline, showing its most striking features, at the technical university of Wuchow, where I had been invited to give a short talk to the professors and students on the present stage of Chinese reconstruction. My first impression of simplicity, earnestness and enthusiasm for their work, in both teachers and students, remained with me throughout my all-too-brief visit. What I saw during the rest of my stay in the province merely confirmed this impression, which I feel truly depicts the spirit of Kwangsi leaders and people, and seems to me to apply more generally to the whole work of regeneration performed in Kwangsi.
IV.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

There might be some possible arbitrariness in attempting to apply to the whole of China a series of observations derived from the examination of the situation in some limited area or in some particular place or region. However, though every district, every province, has its own characteristics and brings to the work of reconstruction its own contribution, which varies according to its aspirations and needs; though the problem of chief importance in one place may be only of secondary interest in another; though modern methods are being introduced more rapidly in some parts of the country than in others; and, lastly, though the character of the people differs in the east and the west, in the north and the south, no traveller, even merely passing through this immense territory, can fail to be struck by its homogeneity or to admire the deep-rooted unity, forged by thousands of years of common history, of the nation that owns it. In spite of the diversity of conditions in the various regions of the country, the existence of common aims and aspirations is already apparent, and national endeavour seems to take a definite direction. It is therefore legitimate to try to outline in some brief observations the general trend of the development of reconstruction in China.

I am aware that, side by side with this sketch, other less flattering pictures could be drawn, which would reveal altogether different features. Indeed, it would be most surprising to find that, in the course of a single generation, the defects which the Chinese themselves were the first to ascribe to the Court and officials of the Manchu dynasty had entirely disappeared; that scepticism in some and a tendency in others simply to repeat the lessons they had been taught had vanished sufficiently for the forces of passivity and inertia to have lost all their hold. In comparing the impressions derived from my latest visit to China with former impressions, I have merely attempted to plot the curve of a progression; and, from among the complex and often contradictory characteristics of a country in transition, to select and to co-ordinate those features which in present-day China appear to presage and foreshadow the China of to-morrow.

A.

The internal and technical reconstruction of China and the establishment of a modernised and renovated Chinese economic system and State possessing all the resources of Western technique have for long, under the inspiration of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, been among the principal objectives of the Chinese "People's Party", which has been in control of the country since the revolutionary crisis of 1928. Dr. Sun Yat Sen's book,
"The International Development of China\" which appeared in 1922, traced the programme to be followed, and laid down a systematic doctrine of some boldness. Nevertheless, despite the steps taken and the results already achieved in certain parts of the country, notably in Kwangtung and Shansi, one of the first public acts by which the Chinese Central Government gave evidence, on the national plane, of its firm decision to place the problem of reconstruction in the forefront of its practical aims was the announcement to the League Council, in 1931, of the creation of the National Economic Council, and the request for League co-operation. This was again a programme, though soon to be followed by practical steps, which were delayed by events outside the Chinese Government\'s control; but it was already more than a programme, for it involved the adoption of a definite procedure of study and the trial of a method of application. Above all, it was a political gesture for purposes both of information and of propaganda at home and abroad—by which the Chinese Government endeavoured to concentrate and utilise the forces of reconstruction that were latent in the nation as a whole.

The watchword thus given has been observed; the call has been heard. While, during the period immediately after the revolution of 1928, the main stress was laid, among the claims of the Chinese nationalist movement, on those connected with China\'s international status as a fully sovereign State and her relations with foreign Powers, to-day, while abandoning none of its aspirations, Chinese public opinion, both in official circles and among the young intellectuals, appears—and this is one of the first impressions to be noted—to give priority to the needs of internal reconstruction and national economic and technical revival. Discussions on general questions of international and external public law usually yield precedence to the study of the best means of raising the standard of life of the people and increasing the country\'s material resources; and Chinese opinion tends to concentrate on the specific problems of Chinese organisation. As political readjustment and economic reorganisation are closely linked together in the process of building up the new modern State, anxiety to consolidate internally and remould the national political and economic community is becoming more and more predominant and even determines the attitude of many people towards problems of foreign policy.

Certain questions which are assuredly fundamental, but the total solution of which, being made up of a series of partial solutions, can only be attained gradually as a result of arduous efforts and patiently repeated technical adjustments—such as those connected with the organisation of public health, the renovation of agriculture, the creation of certain industries, flood protection and the reclamation and irrigation of land, or the development of a modern system of communications—are now not only the subject of deliberations by the \"Yuans\" or of instructions or directions issued by the ministerial departments or general headquarters, nor do they
merely rank high among the preoccupations of the members of the National Government and its most influential leaders. Visit a few provinces and converse freely with the chairmen of their governments or with their reconstruction commissioners, and sometimes with the district magistrates, and you will find that, after the necessity for maintaining internal order, it is the examination of such practical reconstruction problems that now claims universal attention and forms the stuff of the true public life of China.

Below the leaders, and often far removed from them, there is no lack of collaborators who are ardently devoted to the progressive work of reconstruction. We cannot do better than repeat, while confirming and amplifying it, the Technical Agent’s observation in his report to the Council: to an increasing extent, in every technical sphere, and doubtless in nearly every part of the country, young men are to be found who are working modestly, courageously, silently, aware of the obstacles and methodically attacking them. The services of the Economic Council, certain institutions in liaison with that Council, through its technical committee or in touch with the research organisations created under the inspiration of General Chiang Kai Shek, and certain universities, are active centres of research. The task undertaken by the Central Government in the poor and remote North-West has found the zealous, able and voluntary labour demanded; while, at the other end of the country, General Chen Chi Tang and President Lin Yuan-Kwei at Canton, Generals Li Tsung-Yen and Pai Tsung-Hsi and President Wang Yu-Chow in Kwangsi, have been able to surround themselves with an enthusiastic band of chosen helpers. Educationists tell us that the best members of the coming generation, far from engaging complacently, as their forerunners sometimes did, in theoretical discussions of universal remedies for China’s troubles or in the illusory search for panaceas, have a love of action and even of risk, and desire to play a worthy part in, and make an effective contribution to, the national reconstruction by the pursuit of limited but tangible aims, each in his own career.

Henceforward, Chinese reconstruction has its pioneers. No efforts are being spared to procure for their endeavours, in the widest spheres of public opinion and even among the masses, that atmosphere of comprehension and sympathy which alone could guarantee success. Posters are put up in the country districts by official and unofficial organisations with the inscription: “To preserve our national independence we must reconstruct our country”. There is no reason to suppose, indeed, that the Chinese peasant masses, to whose feeling and needs the economic institutions and technical creations of the new China must in the last resort respond if they are to survive, have acquired an unyielding hostility to change in the course of centuries of a stable and rigid civilisation, long adapted to their material conditions of life. Whenever new crops or new methods of cultivating old ones have been suggested to the Chinese
The present realistic spirit; empirical methods in reconstruction, taking special account of national characteristics.

peasants and shown to be practicable and profitable, they have not been slow to adopt them; the recent development and improvement of cotton-growing in the centre and north-west, and of sugar-cane cultivation in the south-west, are clear examples of this. Of late years, the co-operative movement has in some provinces assumed proportions which would rather call for counsels of prudence and seems to exceed the present organising capacity of its promoters. On the roads recently opened, in the absence of private motor-cars, which are too expensive, hand-carts of a new type and bicycles are to be seen. Even in the north-west, which was until lately a backward area, no sooner is a modern hospital or dispensary opened than it is inundated with patients. The attitude of the crowd which gathers round the first motor-car to pass through a village is, of course, one of rather naïve curiosity, as it was at first in every country; but there is nevertheless an impression of keen and serious interest. Many observers, particularly those who have lived in China for a quarter of a century or more, admire the reviving forces of reconstruction and the awakening of a second youth in this ancient people, and they find it difficult to recognise a country whose children, when they have the opportunity, engage in athletic sports or go into camps run on boy-scout lines.

The Chinese Government, Chinese authorities of every rank, and their assistants, can now set out without fear on the path of reconstruction; public opinion, which is behind them and prepared to follow them, is already more critical of inertia or timidity than of boldness, of insufficient than of excessive initiative.

Eager for practical achievements, but arming themselves against possible disappointments, many Chinese prefer to describe the constructive work already accomplished, the results already secured, as experiments. Experiments they are, in the sense that the introduction, into an immemorially stable society, of economic and technical forms developed in different climates and against different historical backgrounds, necessarily entails continual adjustments and adaptations. From time to time, a difficult choice has to be made, and can only be made successfully if the cautious and moderate methods of experimental research are followed. But "experiments" is not the right word if its intention is to depreciate the benefits already secured, or to imply that they are precarious.

The surest sign that Chinese reconstruction has passed the stage of projects and is entering upon the period of application and action is to be found in the increased consciousness of the national and local conditions and characteristics for which practical allowance must be made, and the national and local difficulties involved in the work of reconstruction. The lessons of the first attempts—lessons in realism—have been learnt.
There is no longer any idea of waving a magic wand and transforming China overnight into a Power with the economic structure and technical equipment of the United States or Western Europe; nor of copying a foreign model and imposing it upon the reality of Chinese conditions, whether it suits them or not, without any attempt at original invention or gradual re-creation. The first essential is to understand China, to grasp its immediate possibilities, its contemporary needs, its present position, interpreted when necessary in the light of its past. Foreign economic systems derived from the West or the Soviet Union provide matter for reflection, or, at the most, lines of guidance. Western technique, or rather technique without any label of origin—for, although China is and has long been borrowing from the West, the West has often borrowed from China—is merely an instrument; and in every case it is necessary to verify the conditions under which that instrument can be properly applied to the Chinese problem, for the use of technical methods may lead to different results in China from those it produces elsewhere, since the practical conditions are not the same.

It is essential to proceed empirically, with a thorough grasp of national characteristics. This applies, though in varying degrees, to every field of reconstruction: education, which has everywhere a national tinge, and even when modern—especially when modern—must always be contemplated in the light of the precise functions to be performed by its subjects in the national community; administration, which cannot be reformed without regard to its ancient traditions; rural organisation, which is linked by secular custom to the most archaic but still respected beliefs. But it applies also in the field of industrialisation, where room must be found for local arts and crafts, and even in public works and public health. The conditions for the safety of a bridge, or the preservation of a man's health, belong to universal science and are everywhere identical; but the methods of constructing, maintaining, or financing a system of roads, the rules for irrigation or for the development of public health in rural districts, can only be determined by reference to the needs, habits, mode of life, and administrative and social organisation of the communities concerned, and they vary according to the community, according to whether it is in China or elsewhere, or in one part of China or another. No preconceived principle, no formula, is valid, once we leave the theory of reconstruction for its practice.

That is why so many "experiments" are now in progress all over China—numerous trials of new methods of road transport, or new kinds of fuel, and in some cases new types of railway; experiments in the organisation of the population, and managed economy, in Kiangsi and Chekiang; experimental rural hygiene areas; experimental areas for popular education and agricultural improvement; experiments in the introduction of State industries, as in Kwangtung. In some cases, indeed,
Tendency to devise original solutions with strict regard for national conditions.

Example: health.

an entire province is the theatre of a large-scale experiment in reconstruction, affecting general and local administration, economic life, education, and the organisation of internal security, as in Kwangsi.

The needs of economic and technical reconstruction, or the lessons of a few years of practical reconstructive work, have not indeed in themselves sufficed to create this new state of mind, at the same time more realistic and more national, whose influence extends also to many other aspects of Chinese public life. It has had other contributory causes, as it has had other effects. There has been what is perhaps a normal and logical deepening of national sentiment, which, in the early days of the Chinese revolution, though fervent and sometimes violent, was curiously allied in many people with servility to foreign inspiration. China has found herself obliged to rely entirely on herself for her reconstruction, to draw everything, or almost everything, from her own material and spiritual resources, and to renounce the easy and dangerous hope of speedy help on a large scale from abroad. Be the reasons what they may, modern China, as she tends to conceive herself to-day, gives the impression that she counts primarily upon herself—that she has, as it were, recovered her identity, and, though anxious to achieve modernity, yet intends to remain, or rather to become once more, herself. The new life preached by General Chiang Kai Shek is in some respects the ancient life—a return to neglected virtues; the renovation undertaken by Generals Li and Pei in Kwengsi seems in a sense a conservative movement, tending to reconstitute the traditional civil service of the country by educating its members and training them for modern duties. One of the most westernised of Chinese, M. Chang Chi, has undertaken, in the neighbourhood of Sianfu, in Shensi, to preserve and make accessible to all the tombs and monuments of the Chou, Han and Tang Emperors—to transform those almost deserted lands, those evidences of ancient greatness, into places of pilgrimage and sources of encouragement for the younger generation.

In such an atmosphere, even while investigating their economic or technical problems, those who are directing and those who are carrying out the work of reconstruction, though following the teaching of Western science and technique, must inevitably be impelled to individual research into national peculiarities and encouraged to devise original solutions conceived with strict regard to the special conditions of the country.

In the two fields of reconstruction in which the progress made is most visible and is, indeed, matter of common knowledge—communications and public health—development has not followed, or seems unlikely to follow in future, the exact lines of a pre-established system valid in almost every latitude. After the successful execution of its first three-year plan, which was chiefly concerned with the formation and operation of the central organisations in the capital, and with various health problems mainly affecting the urban centres, the National Health Service has
attacked the wider and more specifically Chinese problem of public health in the rural districts. It is endeavouring to train and organise a corps of specialists of every kind—doctors, sanitary engineers, nurses and midwives—to serve in the interior. In so doing, it has been forced to depart from the practices generally followed in the principal Western countries and, in view of the inability of the majority of the population, especially in country districts, to pay for attendance and medicine, it has had to adopt the bold conception of the medical profession as a public service.

In the case of communications, whereas in the early days Chinese statesmen and publicists laid chief stress on the disproportion between the mileage of railway track per head of population in China and in Western countries, more especially the United States, and urged first and foremost the speedy construction of an extensive railway system with the help of foreign loans; whereas until 1931, although an example had been set by certain provinces such as Shansi, no general effort on a national scale had been made to construct and organise a system of motor-roads, the sudden development of road communications presents itself as the great novelty and, notwithstanding the growth of flying and the systematic and successful effort to improve electric communications, as the form of progress most characteristic of the last few years. District centres are being gradually linked up with provincial capitals, and the latter among themselves. I have covered nearly 5,000 kilometres of these roads, which are used by regular motor services, with stations at intervals and frequently a telephone system. Their construction has been financed almost entirely with Chinese funds; in some cases it has not, strictly speaking, been financed at all, but carried out by local labour. This development was doubtless called forth or hastened by reasons of internal policy, and primarily to meet the need of the Chinese State for a more solid groundwork on which to maintain order and consolidate the country. It is already producing economic effects on certain currents of trade and psychological effects on the process of national unification. It is not based on any theory—indeed, it is criticised by certain doctrinaires—but has grown from a sound national instinct, and from the needs of the country and the time.

The national realism which is growing stronger to-day—this return in every sphere to a truer conception of the Chinese case—is not merely suggesting original solutions to a country which has never at any time in its history been content simply to copy the foreigner; it is bringing about a change in the order of precedence of the various reconstruction problems. Nothing is more characteristic in this connection than the importance that has lately been attached—I might almost say the pre-eminence that has lately been given—to questions of rural reconstruction. Nobody denies that China must industrialise herself, create new industries, and improve some of those she already has; the ideal of industrialisation is...
being maintained, but no longer without discernment and qualification. Chinese opinion, both in the Central Government and among the provincial authorities, may be influenced temporarily by the deficit on the balance of foreign trade, and more permanently by nationalist aspirations, to reduce imports from abroad and to seek economic self-sufficiency; but, in actual fact, the industries that are being organised, or reorganised, on a national scale by the Economic Council and its affiliated institutions, or on a provincial scale by the authorities of Shansi and Kwangtung, are essentially, apart from industries connected with public reconstruction works and national defence, those concerned with the working-up of agricultural produce and those that cater for the farmer's needs—the textile, sugar and chemical fertiliser industries.

Even in the eyes of those who are pushing industrialisation, agriculture and industry are bound up together. Encouragement is being given to cotton and sugar-cane growing, the best seeds are being selected and distributed, and steps are being taken to improve the quality of the silk output, at the same time as the kindred industries are being created or reorganised. The industrial progress of China as a whole, including that of the industries not so closely related to the products of the soil, is equally, though less directly, bound up with the progress of agriculture. In a country where the enormous majority of the population lives, and will always live, on the land, the principle stated by Sir Arthur Salter in his report on Chekiang—that the industrial development of China can have no sound foundation except in an increase in the purchasing power and an improvement in the conditions of life of the rural population—is now but seldom lost sight of.

Apart from these economic considerations, the necessity—accentuated by insurrectionary disturbances which are either of agrarian origin or are exploiting or pretending to exploit the agrarian situation—for giving the political structure of modern China a more stable foundation, more firmly based upon the spontaneous consent of the peasant masses, has helped to bring two fundamental problems into the foreground among reconstruction questions. These are the problem of reconstituting village public life, and that of establishing, between the village and the higher centres of public life, links both flexible and, at the same time, close enough to enable the governing and administrative authorities of every grade to keep a constant grasp of the views and interests of the country people and gradually come to represent them, while the peasants on their side may come to recognise in the political and administrative organisation of their country, not an extraneous mechanism, but their own property, their own organisation, dependent on them and placed at their service. Hence the experimental attempts that have been started with the support of the authorities—for instance, at Ting-Hsien in Hopeh, at Chow-Hsien in Shantung, and in various districts in Kiangsi—to rejuvenate the village cell and
group around it a coherent system of new or renovated institutions, mutually dependent and complementary, adapted to national and local traditions, and in some cases embodying such traditions. These institutions are the elementary magistracy of the village headman, the rural school, the co-operative society, the militia, the medical dispensary, and the elementary agricultural improvement centre. Hence also come what may be called the efforts to organise the population which are being made by the Kiangsi and Chekiang administrations, with the object of restoring, under modernised conditions of recruitment, the immemorial series of intermediaries—heads of families, heads of groups of families, headmen of villages, headmen of groups of villages—between the district magistrate and the mass of the population under his administration. The time is past when most political reformers concentrated their attention on the organisation of the chief political bodies or the highest administrative grades, when educationists thought they had done all that was necessary for economic and technical progress in the countryside by founding and multiplying agricultural colleges; just as public opinion is beginning to realise that all political and administrative progress and all technical improvements would remain superficial and precarious unless they were gradually made accessible to the humblest peasant, and were ultimately reflected by some practical improvement in the daily conditions of rural life. This may also be the standpoint from which the achievements of the Province of Kwangsi in almost every field of public life can best be appreciated.

C.

In a country of the size of China, some of whose provinces are as large as European States, and where only recently the distances were (and still are to some extent) increased by the lack of modern means of communication, the provincial authorities must be in many cases the real centres of direct action and experiment. Nevertheless, the fundamental unity of China, its quasi-biological cohesion—the equivalent in its own way of a collective training, although difficult to express in terms of Western public law—enables Chinese reconstruction to proceed smoothly notwithstanding the existing differences in regional and local conditions and the inevitable dispersion of efforts.

It is the duty, and it should be the essential task, of the Central Government to maintain this unity and harmony of the national endeavour. Outside its own exclusive spheres, the Central Government in many cases is called upon chiefly to co-ordinate provincial activities, to encourage with its technical and financial assistance those which appear to it to serve the national interest and to discourage those of which it considers the continuance to be contrary to this interest. The mere work of the provincial authorities as the main centres of direct action in reconstruction; essential importance, however, of the task of co-ordination incumbent upon the Central Government.
of co-ordinating, assisting and supervising these activities is in itself a heavy task. The actual stage in the work of reconstruction reached by each province in regard to each of the problems involved is sometimes imperfectly known. A province concerned with some particular technical problem may be ignorant of the steps taken to solve that same problem in a distant or even in a neighbouring province. Even the department concerned in the Central Government is not always aware of them.

One of the main tasks of the National Government in the matter of technical reconstruction is to devise some means of keeping in close touch with the provinces, facilitating the exchange of information between them in regard to the results of their experiments, and thus collecting at Nanking the fruits of the common experience in order to make them available for the whole of China. In this connection, the League's technical co-operation can also be beneficial. It is enabling the Government to add to national experience for the benefit of all public institutions participating in the work of reconstruction the conclusions that may be drawn from the research made and the results obtained in foreign countries.

The technical organisations of the League take only a very modest part in the work of reconstruction thus pursued. Not to overrate or overestimate its bearing is one of the essential conditions of the success of the League's co-operation.

The methods of co-operation as they have been contemplated in the requests from the Chinese Government, and in the Council resolutions, may vary according to the nature of the technical field in which the co-operation is exercised, and in relation to each separate problem under consideration. A small number of experts or representatives of the League's technical organisations may be detached for a long period to assist a Chinese technical service in the continued study of the group of problems falling within its province. Certain highly qualified and specialised experts may be sent on a shorter temporary mission to be consulted by the Chinese authorities on some particularly delicate or important question. In other cases (especially those relating to some problem of reconstruction the solution of which depends less on the conclusions which could be drawn from world experience and technical science as such than on the consideration of national and local elements), the League's technical co-operation may be confined to facilitating the studies and enquiries of Chinese specialists visiting other countries. Lastly, it may take the form of studies entrusted to the competent committees or services of the League at Geneva dealing with technical problems of general interest which have engaged the special attention of the Chinese administrative authorities. But whatever the method of application adopted, the object of the League's technical co-operation is the same—to assist in training the Chinese technical staff and to increase its efficiency, and to place at the disposal of the specialists of the Chinese administration the results of foreign
experience, whenever that experience is likely to prove useful to China. This, then, has been its sole aim, and beyond this it has not gone.

Such League co-operation, in strict keeping with the duties conferred upon it by the Chinese Government and the Council of the League of Nations, carefully refraining from any infringement upon the fields of internal policy or external relations, cannot give rise in any quarter to any kind of discontent or suspicion. I have been glad to note, on the contrary, how highly it had been and was appreciated. Subject to certain beneficial observations and suggestions, of which account will be duly taken, the services already rendered have been pointed out to me in too kind words, the courtesy of which moved me deeply; and, apart from the material service rendered, I often gathered the impression that the moral meaning of the gesture of the League of Nations, by which the League participates within its means in the work of Chinese reconstruction, thereby asserting the international public interest attached to the national rehabilitation pursued by the Chinese nation, that the meaning of this gesture kept its permanent value, and maintained, beyond the present, its full significance, almost its promise, for the future.

The favourable prospects for Chinese reconstruction, which is progressively developing, as it were, at a deeper level than that on which daily political events occur and, whatever the course of these events may be, cannot be affected by them very seriously or for long, should, as I felt able to assure the members of the Chinese Government, confirm the Council of the League in its intention, so often expressed, of sparing no efforts to ensure, in conformity with the desire of the Chinese Government, the continuation and the development of the work of co-operation in progress.

For the near future, so far as can be foreseen at present, the League will probably be called upon to co-operate chiefly in the matter of road transport, hydraulic works, co-operative development, public health and technical agricultural development, as well as in certain questions of industrial technique; it being clearly understood, however, that, within the scope of the League’s co-operation as defined by the resolutions of the Council and the Assembly, the technical organisations of the League would be at the disposal of the Chinese Government in any field of work and for any help which might be within their competence, whether they be called upon to submit to the Chinese Government candidatures of foreign specialists which the Government might desire to engage in its services by this particular method or, as mentioned above, whether their services might be utilised to facilitate the work of Chinese specialists sent on a mission or detached abroad for a particular technical study or work.

Details would be settled, as in the past, with the National Economic Council and with the Advisory Committee of that Council. There appears to be no reason to alter the well-established procedure according to which
the co-operation of the League's technical organisations is pursued through the National Economic Council. It is obvious, however, that, under the auspices of the National Economic Council and on the lines laid down by the Central Government, the League's technical organisations can and must co-operate with any Chinese public institution engaged in the work of reconstruction.


Robert Haas.
ANNEX.


[C./China/16.]

Nanking, April 16th, 1935.

I. INTRODUCTION.

The Technical Agent of the Council, in his report submitted to the Committee of the Council at its session in May 1934, described the progress of the work up to April 1st, 1934, in the various spheres of technical reconstruction which concern co-operation between the League of Nations and China, as established and pursued since 1931 at the request of the National Government of China, in conformity with the Council resolutions of May 1931. The report of the Technical Delegate also described the general organisation of the National Economic Council, the greater part of the work in which the League's technical organisations co-operated having been carried out by that Council and its organs (Roads Bureau, Hydraulics Bureau, Central Field Health Station, Autonomous Commission for the Improvement of Cotton and Silk) or under its auspices and with its help, or at all events in relation with its activities, and the National Economic Council serving also, thanks to its elastic organisation—more particularly by the institution of its Technical Advisory Committee—as a centre for liaison between the League's technical organisations and the various Chinese public institutions subordinate to the Central Administration or the provincial administrations which are helping in the work of reconstruction.

The present position of the work undertaken by the National Economic Council or in liaison with the Council may be summed up as follows, on the basis of official documents received from the competent Chinese authorities or of information obtained from them on the spot.

II. PUBLIC HEALTH.

Since the publication of the First Report in 1933, the Central Field Health Station has greatly extended its activities, both in its own laboratories in Nanking and in the field.

It should be noted that the Central Field Health Station and the National Health Administration (Weishengshu) are inseparable institutions, and these, together with the Central Hospital, Central Hygienic Laboratory, Central School of Nursing, Central Midwifery School, and the Nanking Municipal Health Station, form one medical and health headquarters.

One of the most important functions of this health service is the training of personnel. During 1934, the following training courses were given:

(a) Two six-month courses for public health medical officers;
(b) Two six-month courses for sanitary inspectors;
(c) One six-month course for public health nurses;
(d) Three one-month courses on health education for school-teachers;
(e) One two-year advanced course for pharmacists;
(f) Permanent training for nurses at the Central School of Nursing;
(g) Permanent national institutions for midwifery training at the First and Central Midwifery Schools;
(h) Training of interns and assistant residents at the Central Hospital.

A total of 517 persons received training during the year in one or other of the above courses. The courses for public health doctors, public health nurses, sanitary engineers, and sanitary inspectors are unique, in that no other institution in the country is at present able to give similar instruction. Practical field instruction in public health and medical work, both municipal and rural, has been particularly emphasised. In addition, the Central Field Health Station extended its co-operation to the Departments of Public Health of the National Medical College in Peiping, Hsiangya Medical College in Changsha, Department of Health Education of Central University, Army Medical College, and the Mongolian and Tibetan School in Nanking.

Besides the National Commission on Medical and Midwifery Education, a new Commission on Nursing Education was organised jointly with the Ministry of Education for the purpose of assisting in the establishment of suitable standards and to procure the training of suitable personnel for later work.

In the laboratories at the headquarters, practical research programmes on a number of important points were simultaneously carried out. Noteworthy among the important studies were: (1) the occurrence of cholera phage in water from different sources in relation to case incidence, (2) the serological study of cholera vibrio and related vibrios, (3) the comparative study of strains of typhoid bacillus isolated from different parts of the country and the Rawlings strain, (4) bio-essay of such drugs as digitalis and strophanthus, (5) study of a number of Chinese drugs and synthetic products, their pharmacological actions and clinical application, (6) the activated-sludge sewage-disposal plant, (7) delousing and fumigation methods, (8) sex ratio at birth, (9) infant mortality, and (10) the standardisation of routine methods used in public health laboratories.

The Laboratory of Pharmaceutical Products has been preparing over a hundred different drugs, including two new products—viz., lecithin cakes for treatment of opium addicts and painless bismuth injection.

Diagnostic services, which during 1934 consisted of 13,972 bacteriological, 13,989 serological, and 260 pathological examinations, were offered free of charge to hospitals, physicians and other medical institutions in Nanking and its vicinity.

Analysis and control of patent medicines, drugs, biological products and water were carried on similarly as during the previous year, except that the number of analyses undertaken was double that of last year. Towards the end of 1934, a National Bureau for the Control of Narcotic Drugs was established.

In the field, investigation units and research stations have been operated. These include the following newly organised units: the kala-azar Research Station at Tsingkiangpu, Kiangsu; units for schistosomiasis at Hangchow and at Chulsien, for paragonimiasis at Shaohsing, and for fasciolopsis at Hsiaoshan, Chekiang; the North-west Epidemic Prevention Bureau at Lanchow, Kansu; and the vital statistics projects in Nanking and in Chujung Hsien, Kiangsu.

No serious epidemics of acute disease occurred during the year. However, in view of the high incidence of beriberi, malaria and dysentery in the newly recovered districts in Kiangsi and Fukien, several units were sent to the area to investigate the situation. Nearly 3,000 cases in different hospitals were observed and stool and blood specimens examined. Recommendations were submitted to the authorities on improvement in nutrition. A small epidemic of meningitis which broke out in Tangshan
in March was quickly put under control by a unit sent from the station; 2,500 villagers were vaccinated against the disease.

In addition to maintaining the two national midwifery schools and the centres attached to them, assistance and supervision were extended to eleven provincial, three municipal and five rural organisations. Systematic maternity and child-welfare work has been initiated in the Provinces of Kiangsi, Chekiang, Hunan, Hopei, Kiangsu, Kansu and Shensi.

As regards sanitation, simple water-supply systems were constructed for Tangshan and other rural areas in Kiangsi Province. An extensive programme of sanitation work, involving the renovation and organisation of sixteen hospitals, was carried out. Detailed plans for sewage-disposal plant were made for the Nanking Municipality. Surveys of medical facilities and health conditions in a number of factories in Shanghai, Nanking and Wusih were made.

In co-operation with the Nanking Municipal Health Station, a demonstration of urban school health work was carried out in Nanking, covering a student population of 37,000 in 120 schools. The commission in charge made over 40,000 physical examinations, started correction of 31,000 defects and performed 55,000 vaccinations and anti-cholera inoculations.

The work of the Tangshan Health Station, launched in 1931, was enlarged and extended to other districts of Kiangnan Hsien. As this hsien has been made an experimental hsien of the National Government, health work has been initiated during the year throughout its area on a systematic scale, along with other phases of reconstruction work.

In connection with the above activities, an extensive programme of popular health education was carried out; 744 models, 2,111,816 posters and pamphlets, and 12,723 lantern slides were prepared and distributed during the year. Health exhibits, accompanied by public talks, lantern slides and motion pictures, were given in different hsien. The preparation of transparent specimen and motion-picture films was started. One film on “The Field Training of Sanitary Inspectors” is nearly completed.

During the year under review, rapid development of health work in Kansu, Ninghsia, Shensi, Tsinghai, Kiangsi, Hunan and other provinces, supplemented by emergency medical relief for the Yellow River flood refugees, represented a tremendous task to the station. Much effort was spent in recruiting personnel for many new institutions, providing supplies, drawing up plans and supervising technical matters. Eleven field units with forty-three clinics were organised in connection with the health service of the Yellow River Flood Relief Commission.

It may be remarked that, since the formulation of a national programme by the Ministry of Health in 1930, the three-year period has come to an end and the Government can look with pride on the fulfilment of practically every item enumerated. The conclusion has been reached that State medicine is the only solution to the problem of providing medical protection for the mass of the population in any practical and efficient manner. A new programme has been worked out, which in brief outline is as follows:

For the National Health Organisation:

A. Training of Personnel.

(a) Senior Health Officers:

(b) To reinforce the National Training Centre in Nanking for post-graduate studies on public health.

(At present the training courses occupy so much of the time of the staffs of the Central Field Health Station and the Central Hospital that the other phases
of the work have suffered. It seems wiser to establish a new institution to be called
the National School of Hygiene or Post-Graduate Medical School, where the
different courses may be given more effectively and efficiently.)

(2) To provide other training facilities, such as a national medical university,
municipal and rural health centres.

(b) Other Medical and Health Personnel :

(1) To work out a minimum standard curriculum, list of equipment,
teaching methods, etc., by the special commissions on medical education, nursing
education, and midwifery education.

(2) To assist certain selected medical schools in providing proper teaching
personnel, special fellowships and grants-in-aid in order to enable them to train
students who would eventually take part in the system of State medicine.

(3) To co-ordinate the existing medical and public health organisations and
to utilise them as much as possible for both teaching and demonstration purposes.

B. Demonstration of State Medicine as Part of a Comprehensive Programme of
Rural Reconstruction in a Province or a Group of Hsiens.

C. Continuation and Extension of Other Functions.

(a) Investigation of special programmes in different localities, including
nutritional and animal diseases.

(b) Prevention of extensive epidemics.

(c) Extension of the National Quarantine Service.

(d) Production of biological products, both for human and animal use.

(e) Control and analysis of drugs and food.

(f) Registration of all types of medical personnel.

(g) General supervision of local health services.

For the Provincial and Hsien Governments :

A. Provincial.

(a) Training of junior health officers and local medical workers for different
cities and hsien.

(To fulfil these responsibilities a provincial health organisation should
provide : (1) medical, midwifery and nursing schools ; (2) special courses for
sanitary inspectors, health workers, and other local aid personnel ; (3) well-
equipped hospital and hygienic laboratory ; (4) a municipal demonstration
centre ; and (5) rural health demonstration centre.)

(b) Functions not within the capacity of hsien health centres :

(1) Investigation of endemic diseases.

(2) Supervision of medical workers in different hsien.

(3) Co-ordination of health services in different hsien.

B. Hsien.

The organisation of hsien health centres, each to consist of :

(1) A hospital ;

(2) A diagnostic laboratory ; and

(3) An administrative office.
III. Roads.

Roads for motor traffic are being built in an increasing number of districts throughout China; that, indeed, is one of the most characteristic and significant aspects of the present work of reconstruction. As a rule, these roads are built and maintained by the provincial authorities, the Central Administration acting simply as a co-ordinating agent or giving the provincial authorities such technical or financial assistance as the latter may require. The table, page 42, summing up the situation in October 1934 as regards roads in the building of which the Central Government has already given or is intending to give financial assistance, thus conveys only a very imperfect idea of the present position of road-building in China.

As regards the roads, account of which has been taken in this table, with the exception of the North-West, the rôle of the National Economic Council was to map out general plans for the routes, supervise their construction, and provide loans and technical assistance. In the North-West, however, the National Economic Council has undertaken the responsibility for the building or improvement of two main trunk roads. The first is the Sian-Lanchow highway, which connects the capitals of Shensi and Kansu Provinces. The whole line is 746 kilometres in length. Originally an old courier route, it has been renovated by soldier labour, and for some years has been open to motor traffic, though travel was extremely difficult and slow, and in bad weather all traffic had to be suspended. Within the limits of the financial resources available, the National Economic Council plans to convert the road into a modern highway. Its programme is in three stages: first, to make the road continuously open to traffic in good weather; secondly, to make a modern earth-road good for motor vehicular traffic; and thirdly, to construct a road surface so that it will be serviceable for all-weather traffic.

The second road is the Sian-Hanchung highway, which lies within the boundaries of Shensi Province, and is about 420 kilometres long.

The construction of these two highways would render the North-West more accessible to the rest of China, and is considered as the prerequisite for the development of that region.

Work is at present proceeding on both roads.

The National Economic Council has also undertaken to begin the direct operation of a motor-lorry service between Sian and Lanchow; the service will be open to the public in May 1935.

The building of inter-provincial highways is considered the first step; the promotion of traffic, however, is felt to be of equal importance. In December 1932, the National Economic Council arranged for an Inter-Provincial Traffic Commission, composed of representatives of the National Economic Council and of experts from different provinces. This Commission is an advisory body. It makes recommendations concerning traffic regulation and management, the provision of bus services, the erection of gasoline stations and first-aid stations, the installation of telephones and road signs, policing, etc. At first only the provinces of Kiangsu, Chekiang and Anhwei, and the municipalities of Greater Shanghai and Nanking, were represented; now it includes, in addition, members from Kiangsi, Hupeh, Hunan, Honan, Fukien, and the North-West.

The Roads Bureau of the National Economic Council is engaged also in various activities of research and experimentation and has taken steps to facilitate the training of technical staff.
**Table showing the Present Status of the Central-aid Roads in the Provinces of Kiangsu, Chekiang, Anhwei, Kiangsi, Hupeh, Hunan, Honan, and Fukien and the North-West.**

(Bureau of Roads, National Economic Council, October 1934.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Total Length of Central-aid Roads (in km.)</th>
<th>Length of Roads Open to Traffic (in km.)</th>
<th>Length of Roads Under Construction (in km.)</th>
<th>Length of Road Projected (in km.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trunk line</td>
<td>Branch line</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Trunk line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiangsu</td>
<td>1,393</td>
<td>2,096</td>
<td>3,489</td>
<td>314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chekiang</td>
<td>1,165</td>
<td>1,440</td>
<td>2,605</td>
<td>1,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anhwei</td>
<td>1,665</td>
<td>1,706</td>
<td>3,461</td>
<td>482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiangsi</td>
<td>1,841</td>
<td>1,489</td>
<td>3,330</td>
<td>1,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hupeh</td>
<td>1,732</td>
<td>2,170</td>
<td>3,902</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunan</td>
<td>2,061</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>2,613</td>
<td>1,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honan</td>
<td>1,689</td>
<td>1,479</td>
<td>3,168</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fukien</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,179</td>
<td>1,179</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The North-West</td>
<td>2,041</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2,041</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>13,587</td>
<td>12,201</td>
<td>25,788</td>
<td>4,632</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Notes:**
- The table provides a detailed breakdown of the central-aid roads in various provinces, including the total length of roads, length open to traffic, length under construction, and length projected.
- The provinces listed are Kiangsu, Chekiang, Anhwei, Kiangsi, Hupeh, Hunan, Honan, and Fukien, as well as the North-West region.
- The data includes both trunk and branch roads, with surfacing and earth road categories.
- The Bureau of Roads, National Economic Council provided the data in October 1934.
For improving the technique of road building, it has constructed two experimental
roads in the vicinity of Nanking. The first road was built with heavy types of pavement,
using only materials produced in the locality. Its purpose was to test the economy
and durability of the different kinds of surface. The second experimental road was
built to study the different methods of improvement of clay-bound macadam, which
is now becoming very popular in China. Co-operation with the technical universities
has been begun with a view to promoting the training of highway and automobile
engineers. Moreover, a training course, organised by the National Economic Council,
for traffic personnel and chiefs of automobile repair shops, has been opened in Nanking
in February 1935.

IV. Hydraulic Work.

The responsibility for the different canals and rivers in China has in the past
been in the hands of a number of water conservancy organisations, the work of which
is, in the main, unco-ordinated. A central organisation capable of co-ordinating the
local activities and of formulating a national conservancy policy has long been
regarded as a pressing need. Such an organisation would decide on the priority of
various projects for hydraulic work, and would find both financial and technical
assistance for those which it deemed especially urgent. Its functions would be not so
much to supplant the local organisations as to advise and direct them. It would
administer all the funds belonging to the Central Government that were allotted for
conservancy work. It would supervise the training of hydraulic engineers, and regulate
the details of their profession. It would supervise also the collection of data, the lack
of which is at present so great a handicap.

In its early stages, the National Economic Council limited its hydraulic work
practically to the completion of the work left unfinished by the National Flood Relief
Commission. Though its work was subsequently extended to include water conservancy
schemes in other parts of the country, its position was scarcely superior to that of the
numerous other organisations interested in conservancy work.

Its status was radically changed by an ordinance of the Government promulgated
in July 1934. This placed all the conservancy organisations, whose funds were drawn
from the National Treasury or the Customs surtax, under the administration of the
National Economic Council. A committee composed of representatives of all parties
concerned was also created. This committee will perform, to all intents and purposes,
the functions of the central organisation described above. Its executive instrument will
be the Bureau of Hydraulic Engineering of the National Economic Council. The
Bureau will have at its disposal a central Hydraulic Research Institute, which was
organised in January 1935, as the result of an agreement with the Netherlands
Government and in co-operation with the Board of Trustees of the Netherlands Boxer
Indemnity Fund.

The main hydraulic works carried out in 1934 and early 1935 by the Bureau of
Hydraulic Engineering or by the commissions now connected with it are the following:

(1) Hupeh Dyke Fund Works.

These works are being carried out under the National Economic Council control
by the Kianghan Conservancy Bureau, an engineering organisation which was created
by uniting the former provincial Hupeh Dyke Bureau with the Flood Relief Kianghan

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1 The materials were grouped in eight categories—namely, "Tan-shih", half-regular stone
blocks, regular stone blocks, building bricks, stone slabs, broken stones, cement, and lime.
Field Office. In 1934/35, a sum of approximately $2,000,000 was spent on dyke strengthening, stone-protections, bank-defence works, etc. The Kingshui sluice works are also financed with this money.

(2) **Hai Ho Palliative Works.**

The purpose of these works is to protect the Hai Ho and the Tientsin Harbour against the silt carried down in spring and summer by the Yung Ting Ho River. In 1931/32, the Hai Ho Improvement Commission created a settling basin northward of Tientsin, in which basin the Tung Ting Ho freshets could get rid of their silt. This settling basin having become ineffective, the National Economic Council reorganised the Hai Ho Improvement Commission into a Hai Ho Engineering Bureau, which carried out the works for a second settling basin, with the necessary sluice-channel, etc.

(3) **Irrigation in the North-West.**

(a) **Shensi.** Repairs and improvements of the Weipei irrigation system. This system is on the lower Ching Ho (a tributary of the Wei Ho, in Shensi, north-east of Sianfu); already existing in the Yuan Dynasty, since then decayed and rebuilt by Shensi Province and the China International Famine Relief Commission in 1931/32. Its operation was started in 1932, but in 1933 it showed many defects. Thanks to improvements carried out in 1934, it has already been possible to irrigate, during the summer of 1934, 350,000 mows of land (16 mows being equal to 1 hectare). The works were carried out by the Shensi Provincial River Conservancy Bureau under National Economic Council control.

(b) **Shensi.** The construction of the Loho irrigation system, on the Loho, another tributary of the Weiho, eastward of the Chingho in Shensi. The work, financed for the greater part by the National Economic Council and carried out by the Loho Irrigation Bureau—a combined engineering organisation of the National Economic Council and Shensi Province—is intended to irrigate 500,000 mows during normal years. Work was started in June 1934.

(c) **Kansu.** Improvement of the Tao Ho and Tung Ho irrigation systems; in Ninghsia, improvement of the Yung Ting system.

(4) **The Hu Tuo Ho Irrigation System in South-west Hopei.**

Work, carried out by the North China River Commission, was started in 1933 and is to be completed in June 1935; it is intended for the first period to irrigate 130,000 mows.

(5) **Work of the Hwai River Commission.**

This Commission is carrying out the first step of its great scheme for flood prevention, navigation, irrigation and reclamation. It obtained a loan of $9,000,000 from the British Boxer Indemnity Fund, and is now constructing three modern ship locks in the Grand Canal. A navigation route of approximately 250 kilometres from the junction of the Grand Canal and the Yangtse, northward, will be open during the whole year for ships of two metres draught. Additional structures are being built to ensure the irrigation of the region eastward of the Grand Canal and to divert the silty "Shantung" water eastward through the Lu Tang Ho to the Yellow Sea. The lock works were started at the beginning of 1934, and will be completed in 1935.
The Hwang Ho (Yellow River) Commission, the Yangtse River Commission, and the Tai Ho Conservancy Commission have undertaken survey work. The Hwang Ho River Commission started a very thorough topographic and hydrological survey of the Hwang Ho valley, downstream of Tungkwan. In the second half of 1934, Professor Engels, in Germany, carried out for the National Economic Council in his hydraulic laboratory, with the assistance of Chinese engineers, several tests concerning urgent problems of the Yellow River.

V. RURAL RECONSTRUCTION.

The Chinese circles concerned in national reconstruction are realising more and more fully the essential importance of all measures for the improvement of agricultural economy and living conditions among rural workers. A large number of public and private institutions are engaged in technical researches with the object of improving agricultural production in quantity and in quality, and also in the testing and experimental application in certain districts of new forms of organisation and education for the rural population.¹

In the matter of technical research, the National Bureau of Agricultural Research, placed under the Ministry of Industry and set up on the recommendation of the Rural Reconstruction Committee of the Executive Yuan, will move into its permanent quarters in the spring at the station near Nanking, of which the building and equipment are nearing completion.

In the matter of social organisation and general and technical education of the rural population, the most noteworthy tendency appears to be to encourage the development of co-operative societies among the population of the rural districts. The co-operative movement has already met with genuine success; it is proceeding with such rapidity as already to reveal the need of a larger number of competent specialised organisers. A national Conference of the organisations interested in the co-operative movement was held at Nanking from March 13th to 17th, 1935.

The Conference was attended by 114 representatives from provincial governments, co-operative unions, banks, leading universities, as well as Central Government departments. The Conference discussed four subjects:

1. The administrative system governing co-operative work and co-operative law;
2. Methods of conducting co-operative business, including auditing of accounts, co-operative marketing, credit co-operation, etc.;
3. Introduction of capital into rural regions and the increase of co-operative funds;
4. Training of co-operative organisers and supervisors.

As a result of the Conference, the Ministry of Industry has been authorised to establish a Department of Co-operation in equal rank with the Departments of Agriculture, Industry, Commerce, Labour, and Mining in the same Ministry.

¹ The whole of the problems of organisation and education were examined at the second session of the Conference of Rural Workers, held at Ting-Hsien (Hupeh) from October 10th to 12th. Seventy-six public and private organisations were represented at this Conference. The following categories of questions were discussed: Rural burdens, rural self-defence and self-government; rural health; rural co-operatives; rural economic reconstruction; rural education; personnel training. The main purpose of the Conference was to enable the various organisations represented to submit communications concerning their experience and views in these various fields.
For the reasons mentioned in the Technical Delegate's report, the National Economic Council has concentrated its efforts on problems of rural reconstruction concerning two regions (the North-West and Kiangsi) and has selected for comprehensive action certain crops of special importance from the standpoint of national economy—namely, tea, cotton and silk.

Owing to recurrent famines, the standard of living in the North-West is exceptionally low. The population consists almost entirely of farmers. Cheap credit is one of the most pressing of their needs, for interest rates in that remote region are higher than in the rest of China. The National Economic Council, working with other interested organisations, such as the China International Famine Relief Commission, is therefore attempting to develop a co-operative movement. An investigation of the conditions of rural finance was made last summer by a number of experts and, on their recommendation, steps were taken to establish, in agreement with the Shensi Provincial Government, a Shensi Bureau for Rural Co-operation.

At present there are in the field more than twenty experienced co-operative workers. The following table shows the development which has already taken place:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hsien</th>
<th>Number of villages studied</th>
<th>Number of mutual-aid societies organised</th>
<th>Number of societies recognised</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Amount of loans outstanding (in dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tali</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>6,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaoyi</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1,950</td>
<td>15,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pingning</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lichuen</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>2,822</td>
<td>19,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chienhsien</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hwahsien</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>4,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonan</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>5,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hsienyang</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1,490</td>
<td>12,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>358</strong></td>
<td><strong>251</strong></td>
<td><strong>235</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,038</strong></td>
<td><strong>63,469</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kiangsi Province, which has suffered most severely from the events of the past years, is in pressing need of rehabilitation. The National Economic Council has devised a programme, already outlined in the report of the Technical Agent, and consisting of: (1) the establishment of ten rural welfare centres, (2) promotion of co-operatives, and (3) improvement of rural education and agriculture. The rural welfare centres have as their object the amelioration of the living conditions of the country people by means of demonstration farms, rural schools, mass education, and co-operatives. Up to the end of 1934, six centres had been established at Linchuen, Nanchang, Fenchang, Singkong, Kaoan, and Yungsin, and the other four centres are in process of organisation.

Co-operative work had already taken root in Kiangsi, but is now all the more needed in districts which have recently been replaced under the authority of the Government. For this work, the National Economic Council has made a large appropriation and has set up a Special Committee for the Administration of the Co-operative Fund. The defect of rural education and agriculture in Kiangsi is the lack of co-ordination among various institutions. For this purpose, the National Economic Council has co-operated with the Kiangsi Provincial Government in the merging together of all rural organisations under the Kiangsi Agricultural Institute. This amalgamation makes it possible to centralise the administration and to pursue a systematic development of rural work in the province.
Animal Husbandry.

In the outlying provinces of the North-West there are promising prospects for animal husbandry. A major portion of the native inhabitants are still living a nomadic life; but their primitive methods of husbandry and their animal products leave much room for improvement. The National Economic Council technical experts were therefore despatched to Shensi and Kansu Provinces in April 1934 to make a general survey of the situation and of the possibility of development.

As a result of their investigation, the North-West Animal Improvement Station was formed near Kanping Temple in T'ung-Jen Hsien, Chinghai. This site was chosen only after long and extensive trips made by the Director of the Bureau of Agriculture and his associates on horseback over hundreds of miles in Kansu and Chinghai Provinces. Permanent building operations will soon be started—after the cold winter—in order to house the selected stocks, which are at present kept in temporary shelters. Arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Communications for the installation of a short-wave radio station on the range to facilitate communication with Nanking and other parts of China.

VI. Tea.

The elimination of Chinese tea from world markets has very adversely affected the economic development of the country. For this reason, the National Economic Council has set aside a special fund to be used for the rehabilitation of the tea industry.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Industries and the Anhwei Provincial Government, the National Economic Council has reorganised the former Provincial Tea Improvement Station at Chimen in Anhwei Province, and has made arrangements for the building of an up-to-date tea factory, together with the installation of a set of small-unit machinery and other necessary scientific apparatus. Chimen is one of the most important tea regions in the country, and the station controls over 10,000 mows of tea-growing area.

The lack of grading and standardisation of tea is one of the main causes of the decline of the Chinese tea trade. There are actually thousands of varieties in both black tea and green tea. Experiments are being made to establish a preliminary classification of the grades and standards of tea, and this work will probably require several years to complete.

Investigations have been made of the cost of processing and marketing tea. Every link of the marketing chain was studied, beginning with the tea-grower, the country buyer, the processing house and tea hongs in the country, and ending up with the tea traders, commission houses, and exporting firms, as well as the retailer in the terminal markets within the country. The investigations made by the National Economic Council staff and the Chimen Tea Improvement Station covered eight important tea-producing regions and terminal markets in the Provinces of Hupeh, Hunan, Kiangsi, Chekiang, Anhwei and Fukien. From these investigations were gathered important data not previously available. A similar investigation is being made by a tea expert of the Ministry of Industries in Japan, Formosa, Java, India and Ceylon.

VII. Cotton.

The Committee of the National Economic Council for questions concerning cotton and the cotton industry has begun to carry out its programme, more particularly in the form of measures to encourage cotton-growing and to improve the quality of the crop.
For the purpose of seed improvement, it has created a Central Bureau of Cotton Cultivation and, in collaboration with the Provincial Governments, has set up branch bureaux in the Provinces of Hunan, Kiangsu and Shensi. Each bureau has a station for propagating seeds and a department for distributing them. At the present time, about 1,000 ares of land are being used for seed production, and in 1934 over 30,000 piculs of seeds were distributed. Research work is also a prime function of the bureaux. The bureau in Kiangsu has established a laboratory for the study of various kinds of chemical manure, and the Commission is utilising the laboratory of Shantung University for an investigation of cotton diseases. Statistics, the lack of which is considered as one of the greatest obstacles to practical research in China, are being collected by a special department of the Central Bureau. A computation of the total area under cotton cultivation and the total crop has already been completed, and studies are being made of the costs of production, the fluctuations of cotton prices, marketing conditions, and the volume of trade at the important centres.

In order to improve the marketing of cotton and to eliminate the chain of middlemen between the farmer and the industry, the Commission founded in 1934 forty co-operative societies (the members of which farmed in an aggregate about one million acres) and established a central marketing office in Shanghai to purchase the cotton from the societies and dispose of it to the mills. For this service nothing was charged. Though it is still too early to assess results, the societies appear, especially in Shansi, to have been favourably received by the farmers. A substantial sum, amounting to about $1,436,924, was loaned to the societies. It should be noticed that the Commission does not itself finance the societies. That function it leaves to the commercial banks, which have for some time been seeking to expand their agricultural business.

Measures are also contemplated to obtain a better standardisation of products— the provision of severe penalties for adulteration, arrangements for inspection, and the establishment of special bureaux for the purpose, not only in Shanghai, but also in the important producing areas of Shensi, Kiangsu, Shantung, Honan and Hupeh; in addition, a special grading office at Shanghai will check the unevenness of quality, due, not to dishonesty, but to careless and unskilled preparation for the market.

A third method for encouraging cotton-growing, besides the distribution of improved seeds and the reform of the marketing system, has been to render financial assistance to farmers engaged in its production. The Commission has established a number of societies (of the type usually called utility co-operatives) for the purchase of cotton-gins, packing-machines and other simple apparatus. It has also made a number of direct loans at low rates of interest. Whether such an extension is altogether satisfactory, and whether in future chief emphasis will not be laid on the marketing societies (the financing of production being left to the ordinary credit societies), are subjects now under consideration.

The industrial part of the Commission’s programme has been for the most part deferred. Meanwhile, a careful study of the whole cotton industry is being made, including methods of manufacture and marketing, the types of machinery, the organisation of mills, labour conditions, and taxation. Moreover, a slender beginning of its industrial programme was made when a number of Chinese mills, situated at Tientsin, Tsinanfu, Hankow, Shanghai, Nanking and Shansi, sought the Commission’s advice in various plans of technical and financial reorganisation. A start was also made with the erection of a national laboratory for research in the technology of

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1 In addition, an extension station has been established at Chia Hsien, Shensi.
2 Eventually this office will be taken over by the societies.
3 These societies are also used as the medium for the distribution of seeds.
spinning, weaving and dyeing. This laboratory, a joint undertaking of the Cotton Industry Commission and the Academia Sinica, will take three years to complete and will cost over one million dollars. Research will, however, be possible in the department for spinning and weaving by June 1935. Up to the present, the Cotton Industry Commission has expended $250,000 and the Academia Sinica $150,000.

VIII. SERICICULTURE AND REORGANISATION OF THE SILK INDUSTRY.

The Sericiculture Improvement Commission, organised in January 1934, has devoted its main efforts to the task of improving the quality of seed, taking steps, at the same time, to ensure the distribution of the improved seeds to the farmers, and undertaking to train a special staff for the teaching of improved methods of rearing.

An institution called the International Committee for the Improvement of Sericiculture in China has for the past ten years been experimenting along the same lines, and has started a regular production of seeds of a standard type prepared under scientific conditions and free from hereditary disease. Although a considerable improvement has been brought about, it was felt that other studies, on different lines, ought to be undertaken. The Sericiculture Improvement Commission has therefore established an experimental station to study the qualities of the various Chinese varieties of silkworms and to test the possibilities of crossing them. A few European varieties have also been introduced and experiments made in crossing them with the Chinese variety. The experimental station is directing its main attention to the white types of cocoon, of which there is an amazing abundance in Chekiang, and to the varieties found in North and West China, types which are considered excellent for their extremely fine and clean thread.

For its training courses, the Sericiculture Improvement Commission has already enlisted 400 students, who underwent during the year a practical preparatory training at various egg-breeding stations, and in the autumn and winter were sent to receive theoretical instruction at the sericiculture schools at Hushukwan and Chinkiang. Before completing their training, they will receive a further practical course. These students, reinforced by others at present being recruited, will provide the Commission with a technical staff in touch with the farmers, without which a programme on a wide scale is impossible.

There is a lack of good-quality mulberry trees, and the Commission is therefore cultivating mulberry sprouts and distributing them to the Hsien magistrates. About 600,000 trees have so far been distributed, over 200,000 in one area.

As regards the industrial side of the work of the Commission, about a dozen of the most efficient filatures in Kiangsu and Chekiang have formed a voluntary co-operative organisation, certain rules being agreed upon, especially for the export trade. This association may be the nucleus of an organisation of all the Kiangsu and Chekiang filatures. But, in order to achieve the object for which it has been created, it might prove necessary, in the future, to give the association powers of compulsion and to associate it with some semi-governmental organ, such as the Sericiculture Improvement Commission.

IX. INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION AND TECHNIQUE.

The National Economic Council and its Advisory Committee are themselves carrying out, or have arranged for specialised institutions to carry out, studies on industrial organisation and technique; institutions coming under the Ministry of Industry are particularly concerned in these researches. It was as the result also of
collaboration between the Ministry of Education and the National Economic Council that the Employment Bureau for Intellectual and Technical Workers was organised in August last at Nanking; reference to its creation was made in the Technical Agent’s report.

X. TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND CHINA.

Co-operation between the technical organisations of the League of Nations and the Chinese authorities through the National Economic Council, since April 1st, 1934, has been proceeding, in particular, in the following fields: public health, road-building and upkeep and transport by road, hydraulics, agricultural economy (rural hygiene, questions relating to rural co-operative societies, sericulture).

The Health Organisation and the Communications and Transit Organisation in particular have continued, on the same lines as previously, their collaboration with the National Public Health Service and the Roads and Hydraulic Works Bureau of the National Economic Council. In addition, a group of experts of the Communications and Transit Organisation (M. Omodeo, M. Nijhoff, M. Coode and M. Coursin) visited China in December 1934 and during the first few months of 1935 to examine certain important questions relating to road-building and upkeep and road transport and hydraulics. The investigation of road questions included, in particular, studies in the Provinces of Chekiang, Kiangsi and Hunan and in the North-West. The expert specially appointed to study these questions also visited the Province of Kwangtung. The examination of hydraulic questions bore chiefly on the more urgent problems—for example, irrigation and protection from floods—concerning the river system of Northern China which converges on Tientsin, the Yellow River and its affluents in the Provinces of Shensi, Suiyuan, Shansi, Honan and Shantung, the Hwai and the Yangtsekiang. The final report of the group of experts will be drawn up in June, on their return to Europe, after consultation with the specialist committees of the Transit Organisation.

The Committee of the Council, at its session in September 1934, invited the Secretary-General to “take the necessary measures to ensure the continuance and development of the work, more especially by despatching to China for a short period the Director of one of the competent Sections of the Secretariat”. The Secretary-General sent to China, for the purpose of this mission, M. Robert Haas, Director of the Communications and Transit Section and Secretary of the Committee of the Council. M. Haas consulted the leading members of the National Economic Council and the authorities responsible for the work of reconstruction in the Provinces of Shantung, Hopeh, Shansi, Shensi, Honan, Hupeh, Hunan, Kiangsi, Chekiang, Kiangsu, Kwangtung and Kwangsi. Detailed information concerning this mission will be communicated later to the Committee of the Council, together with any proposals that the Secretary-General may wish to make with a view to the continuance and development of the work of collaboration. It is clear already from the information obtained that the technical collaboration of the League of Nations, whose sole task, to the exclusion of any intervention in the internal or external politics of China, is to assist in the training and perfecting of the Chinese higher technical staff and to assist the Chinese specialists in carrying out their various tasks in the work of national reconstruction, has met, on that understanding, with the unanimous support of the leading men in the Chinese Government and won the sincere appreciation of the Public Administrations concerned.
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