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SMALL MINES SHOULD ADOPT TECHNICAL REFORMS

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

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[The following is a translation of a special editorial in Kung-jen Jih-pao, Peiping, 15 July 1960, page 2.]

The priority development of mining is an important guarantee to the continuous and speedy leap of industry as a whole. In the steel industry, the acceleration of technological reforms in mines is an important measure to insure the fulfillment of the steel production assignment for this year and the further leap forward for next year.

Since 1958, as a consequence of nation-wide participation, thousands of small ferrous metal mines have been established. This year, these small mines are responsible for over half of the ore production of the whole nation. In order to stabilize the productivity of small mines as soon as possible and to make them, step by step, the basic source of raw material for the blast-furnaces, workers in small mines of various locales have been, in the past six months, actively engaged in bringing about technological reforms.

As these reforms progress, there is apparent improvement in the mechanical and semi-mechanical devices used in small mines. Many workers are liberated from heavy manual labor, thus increasing ore production by 50% over the same period of last year. It is a 24% increase compared to the fourth quarter of 1959. Once again this shows the prosperous life of small mines and proves the validity of the walking on two legs system of the Party.

However, we must realize that owing to the rapidly increasing productive capacity of small and medium size steel factories, the amount of ore has to be increased accordingly. This is especially so when the rainy season comes; every factory demands more ore so that production can be carried on as usual and at the same time, they demand ore of higher quality from workers in the mines

so that the quality of steel can be improved. Therefore, workers in small mines are performing a difficult yet important task.

This year, most units have obvious achievements in understanding technological reforms in small mines, but there are still a small number of units which cannot understand this problem thoroughly enough. Even though they have made regulations for reforms, they are either slow in carrying them out or fearful and wait when they encounter difficulties in obtaining material and supplies.

We hope that workers in small mines in various locales realize the situation, and the importance and glory of the responsibility they hold; and that they proceed to strive for the basic completion of technological reforms within the third quarter so that the productivity of small mines can be further raised and an adequate supply of raw material secured.

Based on the problems now facing small mines and according to experience collected from various places in the past six months, there are four points which should be emphasized in carrying out these reforms:

First, technological reforms in transportation inside and outside of the mine should be emphasized. In the first six months of 1960, as a consequence of movements sponsored by the general workers, centering on the "ssu-hua" [mechanization, semi-mechanization; automation, semi-automation], there has been a considerable modification in mining tools. Therefore, the plan for ore production has been completed comparatively well.

However, that is not enough. The ore must be sent out in time so that production of steel will not be hindered. Thus "loading and transportation must be made the basis" of technological reforms in small mines. Steel manufacturing depends on transportation which is in turn dependent upon loading. That is to say, railroads, no matter native or foreign, must be thoroughly repaired in order to solve the problem of transportation.

At the same time, the loading problem must be solved by completely repairing storehouses in the proper manner according to the locale. These must be carried out in such a manner that "manufacturing can be carried on for three days if no train comes and loading can be carried on for three days without any production."

Secondly, a supply of power must be sought in every possible way. The problem of power communication

must be quickly solved in mines near power lines. In mines that are far away from power lines, the solution to self-generation of electricity must be searched for. The prompt shipment of equipment and its installation must be supervised in the small power stations which are established either by the central government or by the individual province.

Thirdly, geological resources must be emphasized. Experience from the past six months has shown that the rate of progress is handicapped in many small mines because reforms are impossible due to the fact that their resources have not been clearly evaluated. For this reason, besides the professional teams, "native" groups must also be organized to take part in surveying, so that every mine has its own surveying team. They should, with the "self-help, the self-searching spirit, and the spirit of rendering service before production," evaluate quickly the exact amount and location of mines which are designated for technological reforms so that later reforms and production can be benefited.

Fourthly, organize and further advocate past experience which is useful. Vigorous advocacy of things like the "inclining wheel" (lun-tzu-p'ò) and the "sliding storehouse" (hua-p'ò k'uang-ts'ang) in transportation; electric drills in mining, and "native surveying team", etc., will greatly accelerate reforms in small mines.

At present, mining reforms are progressing unusually well. The Party Central Committee and committees of various levels look highly upon the development of the raw material industry. Movements for technological reforms in small mines are continuously expanding in various localities and workers have developed from practice much new experience. All these are beneficial to the acceleration of mining reforms.

We believe that under the leadership of the various committees, setting up a serious evaluation and arrangement, and depending firmly upon the people to understand the few above mentioned points it is possible to basically complete technological reforms in small mines in about ninety days.

FOR REASONS OF SPEED AND ECONOMY
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