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RESULTS OF HEILUNGKIANG 1958 ECONOMIC PLAN

- Communist China -

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RESULTS OF HEILUNGKIANG 1958 ECONOMIC PLAN

- Communist China -

[Following is a translation of an article by the Heilungkiang Provincial Statistical Bureau in Heilungkiang Jih-pao, Harbin 6 February 1959, pages 1 & 3.]

The province of Heilungkiang gained an unprecedented victory in Socialist construction in 1958 which resulted in great changes in its national economy. During the year, the people in the province, under the direct leadership of the Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, the enlightened guidance of the Central Committee of the Communist Party headed by Chair Mao, and under the glorious general line of socialist construction and the victory of the rectification campaign, unceasingly liberated their ideology, broke away from superstition, and thoroughly carried out the policy of "doing several things at the same time." The people in the whole province were mobilized and organized for the struggle, whose rocketing enthusiasm and hard work led to the overall great leap forward in the national economy. Follow is a summary of the great leaps achieved by the various departments of the national economy in the past year.

1. The Unprecedented Increases in the Total Value of Production of the National Economy and the Total Values of Industrial and Agricultural Production

The total production value of the province's national economy in 1958 amounted to 12,710,000,000 yuan (all monetary figures based on 1957 prices), or 68% higher than in 1957. Industrial production and agricultural production -- two major productive departments of the society -- created new records. The combined value of industrial and agricultural production totaled 10,590,000,000 yuan, or 73% higher than in 1957. The absolute increase in the past year was twice as much as that achieved in the whole First Five-Year Plan period, and the rate of increase in the past year was 7.3 times the average annual rate of increase in the First Five-Year Plan period (10% per annum). Of the total value of industrial and agricultural production, industrial production accounted for 6,840,000,000 yuan, or 88% higher than in 1957, and its rate of increase was 5.6 times as much as the average annual rate of increase in the First Five-Year Plan period (15.8% per annum). Agricultural production accounted for 3,750,000,000 yuan, or 51% higher

than in 1957 and its rate of increase was 15.5 times as much as the average annual rate of increase in the First-Five-Year Plan Period (3% per annum). The ratio of industrial agricultural production has also undergone great changes. In 1952 (the base year of the First Five-Year Plan period), industry accounted for 44.9% of the combined value of agricultural and industrial production. In 1958, it increased to 64.6%.

The foregoing statistics indicate that the reconstruction in the years after liberation under the leadership of the party and the great leap forward in the past year have made Heilungkiang one of the most important industrial bases in the nation, being centered in heavy industries and built on the buldwork of modern large-scale enterprises. Heavy industries such as metallurgical facilities, electricity generating facilities, machine-building facilities, coal mining, lumber industry, ferrous and non-ferrous refining industries, which are essential to the nation's industrialization movement, accounted for 81.6% of the province's total value of industrial production. While industry is being developed, agricultural production has simultaneously increased. In the rural areas, people's communes have been organized. This is a social revolution having far-reaching historical significance. There are great changes in the social, economic, cultural and moral outlook in the province. The traditional nickname of 'great northern idle land' for the province has gone forever, and a new and prosperous Heilungkiang is making great strides forward.

2. Accelerating Industrial Development to Support the Nation

The industrial production in the province in 1958 made a great leap forward. The province's industrial production is valued at 6,840,000,000 yuan which is equivalent to 139.5% of the planned target for the year, and is 88% higher than in 1957. Its absolute increase was 1.7 times that for the whole First Five-Year Plan period. The industrial production increase in 1958 was featured by increases in each succeeding quarter, by the greater development of heavy industry which was 124% higher than in 1957 by the appropriate increase in light industry, by the renovation of industrial technology, and by the widespread mass movements in the industrial enterprises.

Under the directive of making the steel industry the vanguard of the great leap forward movement, our province built up a steel industry from a shoestring in a short period of several months. The province built up 449 iron refining furnaces and 113 steel furnaces. Steel production reached 357,000 tons which doubled that in 1957. The output of commercial steel products numbered 200,000 tons or four times as much as in 1957. Total iron production in the year amounted to 79,000 tons, thus taking our province out from a list of provinces which produce no iron.

With the push in steel production, the machine-building industry in our province had also greatly developed, which, together with the steel production, gave strong support to the whole nation. In 1958, the total value of production in the machine-building industry was 1.2 times as much as in 1957. The increases of major machinery products in 1958 over those in 1957 were as follows: high and medium pressure steam furnaces increased 1.2 times, steamship engines increased 1.9 times, steamship generators increased 3.7 times, alternate current electric generators increased 2.7 times, transformers increased 13 times, ball bearings increased 1.5 times, meters increased 1.8 times and pumps increased 118 times. Products that were not produced in 1957 but were in 1958 included: 21,000 tons of metallurgical facilities, 50,000-kw steamship engines, 100,000-kw. steamship electric generators, and 55 tractors.

To assure the fulfillment of steel and machinery production, other industrial departments rushed to their support and accomplished a great deal. The fuel industry overfulfilled the need of the steel and iron industries with a total annual production of 21,500,000 tons, which was 62% higher than in 1957; coal production amounted to 630,000 tons, which was ten times as much as 1957. In addition, 2,561 tons of petroleum were produced. Some 10,710,000 cubic meters of lumber were exported from the province, or 43% higher than in 1957. With the mobilization of the party members and the people, electricity production in the year amounted to 1,670,000,000 watts, or 57,000,000 watts more than 1957. The total capacity of the electricity-generating facilities operated by the people amounted to 12,000 kw. By the end of the year, the province's total electricity-generating capacity reached 354,000 kw. Ferrous metal refining was 2.8 times higher than 1957. In the construction industry, total cement production amounted to 700,000 tons, or 28.3% higher than in 1957. In the chemical and light industries, 395,000 sets of rubber tires were produced, or 84.2% higher than in 1957. Chemical fertilizer production amounted to 190,000 tons, or four times that in 1957. In addition, 5,700,000 tons of pulvinated and native-processing fertilizers were made. The production of 8,710,000 pairs of rubber shoes was 51.2% higher than that in 1957. Machine-produced paper amounted to 89,000 tons, or 118.8% higher than in 1957. The production of 91,000 bales of cotton yarn was 1.5 times that produced in 1957.

In industrial management, the province's industrial enterprises have adopted the "two consultation for one revision" policy advocated by the Ching-hua and Chien-hua factories which have greatly increased efficiency in industrial administration. The mass movements and encouragement for technical innovation have greatly raised the technical level and produced countless inventions. In the industrial departments, labor productivity in 1958 was 18.4% higher than in 1957. In the year, the employees and workers in the industrial departments had submitted 5,100,000 renovation suggestions, of which 340,000 suggestions produced economic results which economized and increased production by 660,000,000 yuan. The province has experimented successfully in the production of 100,199 units of machines by native methods, of which more than 3,000

units were native-made lathes. In 1958, the province also experimentally produced 1,457 kinds of new products successfully, of these one-third was designed by the employees and workers in the enterprises. The experiments proved that these new products could be produced quickly and of better quality. Some of these new products are almost up to the planned standards designated by the superior agencies. Some big and fine facilities which some people first thought we could not make ourselves have been produced. Major new products included 72,500-kw. electric generator, 50,000-kw. steam engines, 50,000-kw. internal electric generators for refrigerators and large and precision lathes. Automation has been adopted by the enterprises, which included the electronic model lathes. Many varieties of measuring and surveying instruments have been produced. Other new products included 17 types of tractors and many machines for the chemical industry. In the industrial technical renovation, experiments in producing dynamic lathes have been proved very successful. New techniques in the machinery industry--such as electrowelding, infrared drying and electro-drilling, the substitution of ceramic for steel for making tools and tubes, the use of hydraulic power for coal mining, and tubeless tires have been adopted. In addition, fertilizer, oil and marsh gas have been abstracted from ash to supply the necessary materials for mechanization and electrification in the rural areas.

The costs of industrial production have been reduced greatly. The 608 small enterprises in the eight cities in the province reduced their costs of production by 9% compared with 1957. In monetary terms, it means the cost of production was lowered by 170,000,000 yuan.

The value and quantity of industrial production by the enterprises in the province in 1958 were double or several times higher than in 1957. Industrial products, particularly the electricity generating, coal mining and lumber industries, have been shipped to many areas in the nation. Products exported from the province included 7,600,000 tons of coal, or 36% of the nation's total coal supply; 7 million cubic feet of lumber, or 82% of the nation's total coal supply; 120,000 tons of steel, or 63% of the nation's total steel supply; electric generators of 210,000 kw. or 80% of the nation's electric generator supply, which were shipped to the large electricity generating stations in Hsin-an-kiang, Hai-shan, I-li-ho, Liu-chi-ho, Feng-man and Ta-ho-feng; 850,000-kw. of electric motors, or 83% of the nation's electric motor supply; 14 units of medium and high pressure furnaces, or 87% of the nation's supply; and 2,600 units of metal cutting lathes, or 60% of the nation's supply. These products have been shipped all over the nation, including Kwangtung Province and Hai-nan Island in the south, Sinkiang in the west and An-tung in the east.

3. Capital Construction Increased Many Times

The total investment in the province's capital construction projects in 1958 amounted to 1,570,000,000 yuan, or 111.2% of the planned target and 1.1 times that in 1957. This was 47.7% of the total capital construction investment in the whole First Five-Year Plan period.

Of the total investment in the capital construction projects, industrial capital construction projects accounted for 1,160,000,000 yuan, or 73% of the province's total capital construction investment in the year. The steam engine plant, the coal cleaning plant in Hseng-chi-shan and the Electro-carbon plant in Harbin, which are among the 156 state projects, were put into operation. In carrying out the industrial construction projects, the policy was for simultaneous construction of large, medium and small plants, some of them using foreign production methods and others using native production methods. Local industries were blooming and private industries were making headway. This was particularly true in the rural areas where there was an industry in each village and a plant in each commune. By the end of the year, there were 73,000 newly built industrial plants in the whole province. Of these 57,000 units were operated by the rural communes. The major industries included 155 small electricity generating stations, 3,100 farm equipment repairing and service plants, 1,295 iron smelting plants which used native methods, 162 oil refineries which produced gasoline from ash, 4,176 potash plants, 21,000 fertilizer plants which used native methods, 93 cement plants, 3,300 brick manufacturing plants, 2,300 lumber-processing plants, 2,700 weaving plants, 4,500 sewing plants, 3,800 food-processing plants and 300 sugar refineries.

The construction projects for agriculture, forestry, water conservation, communication and transportation, culture and education completed in 1958 were 102% more than those completed in 1957. There were 252 km of newly-built railroad, 780 km of forest railroad, 1,757 km of highways, 39 water reservoirs which have a total water conserving capacity of 750,000,000 cubic meters, and can irrigate 18,560,000 mou of land.

Great progress was made in the technical aspects of capital construction. Work was sped up in many projected areas. Of the 2,034 projects completed in 1958, 408 were done with speedy methods. A big building which used silicate to replace red bricks and cement, used fibre glass to replace steel, and used magnesite to replace lumber, has been fully completed. This building used no bricks, steel, cement and lumber. It is completely new in our construction history.

4. Record-breaking Crops, Rural Communalization and Simultaneous Big Leaps Forward in Agriculture, Forestry, Husbandry and Subsidiary Production

The 10 million peasants in our province, who work ceaselessly under the party's glorious general line of socialist construction, produced record-breaking crops in 1958. The province's total food production (including soybeans) increased from 15,700,000,000 catties in 1957 to 24,000,000 catties in 1958, for an increase of 153%. The yield per mou averaged 274 catties, which was 164.1% of the yield in 1957. The amount of food per capita in the province increased from 1,062 catties in 1957 to 1,600 catties in 1958. The production of oil-bearing crops amounted to 810,000 piculs, or 131.8% of that in 1957. Jute production numbered 1,280,000 piculs or 135.5% of that in 1957, sugar beet production amounted to 44,130,000 piculs or 209.3% of that in 1957. In addition to the record-breaking crops, high-yielded fields were found this year. The food production in Tung-ho and Hsiao-yuan hsiens more than tripled 1957, and the yields in 15 other hsiens (and cities) were more than double 1957. In addition, there were 16 hsiens (cities) who broke the 400-catties-per-mou target some nine years in advance that was laid down in the Outline for Agricultural Development by the state. Their sowing areas accounted for 16.5% of the total crop sowing areas in the province and their total yields accounted for 25% of the province's total food production.

In 1958, the natural conditions were not too favorable for agricultural production in our province. Crops were afflicted by serious drought. The basic assurances for bumper crops were to strengthen the party's leadership, to follow the mass line and to promote the "eight character constitution." In water conservation, projects completed in 1958 totaled 480,000,000 fang, or 14 times the target for the whole First Five-Year Plan. The irrigated areas were expanded by 3,427,000 mou. In increasing the use of fertilizer, the total areas fertilized accounted for 92% of the total sowing areas, or 40% more than in 1957. The amount of fertilizer used totaled 280,000,000,000 catties, an average of more than 3,000 catties per mou. The areas which used selected seeds were expanded by 75,000,000 mou, or 91% of the total sowing areas. The density of planting was 25% higher than in 1957. More than 1,770,000 pieces of 2,000 types of farm equipment were improved and renovated in the spring, summer and fall in 1958. The field management policy was aimed at having a strong grip in the rural areas. The job of field management was not considered finished when food production was not increased. Insect and plant disease control was strengthened. It can be said that insects and diseases have been basically under control. By the fall of 1958, work has been completed in plowing back the farm land.

Owing to the continuous big leaps forward and to the ideological awakening of the people, in this province, as in the whole country, there has emerged a rural communalization movement. The province's 9,707 higher farm cooperatives have been organized in 692 communes, and the province's 1,930,000 farm households have nearly all joined these communes. In early 1958, there were 9,000 farm cooperatives or some 200 farm households per cooperative. Each cooperative had more than 300 able-bodied men, and 10,000 mou of farm land. At the present, each commune has more than 3,000 farm households, 6,000 able-bodied men and 140,000 mou of farm land. As the communes are bigger, their labor, land and means of production can be planned, allocated and utilized uniformly, which result in higher efficiency. The people's communes are the coordinated bodies of handicrafters, businessmen, peasants, soldiers and educated people as well as the coordinated bodies of administration and social structure. They are the new roads for the economic and social construction in a socialist society.

There were 244 state farms in the province in 1957, and the number has increased to 276 farms in 1958. These state farms have 15,400,000 mou of farm land, or 53% more than 1957.

As the province's food production increased, animal husbandry was simultaneously expanded. By the end of 1958, there were 600,000 head of cattle, or 7.3% higher than in 1957; 360,000 head of goats, or 11.2% higher than in 1957; and 3,260,000 head of hogs, or 22.4% higher than in 1957. The number of horses remained the same for both years. In veterinary medicine, new vaccines have been invented to control diseases in hogs, horses and other animals.

The province's forestry also made remarkable achievements in 1958. Afforestation areas amounted to 5,700,000 mou, or 2.7 times of the total afforestation areas in the whole First Five-Year Plan period. In fishery, the total catch in 1958 amounted to more than 50,000 tons, or 150% of that in 1957.

5. The Whole Party and All the People Were Mobilized for Communications Development to Assure Industrial and Agricultural Expansion

Under the policy of "mobilizing the whole party and all people for communications development," the province's communications and transportation works have made remarkable achievements. The freight turnover volumes by the province's railroads, highways, rivers and airlines totaled 19,400,000,000 ton km, or 102.2% of the planned target for 1958, and 24.4% higher than in 1957.

The freight turnover volume by the province's railroads in the year totaled 18,600,000,000 ton km, or 101.4% of the planned target and 23% higher than in 1957. This was very helpful to the development of the steel and machinery industries. The railroad cars were fully utilized by the administrative bureaus of all railroads. In technical

renovation, experiments in manufacturing diesel engines were successful and telephones were installed in twelve railroads. The traffic volumes of the province's highways and inland rivers both overfulfilled their planned targets, and their freight traffic volumes totaled 850,000,000 ton km, or 66% of that in 1957. A system of attaching trailers to trucks was promoted by the highway traffic departments. An average of 1.7 trailers were attached to each truck. Some 53% of the province's trucks were working two shifts. Two new airlines, one from Harbin to Hei-ho and another from Harbin to I-lan, were opened to traffic.

The total receipts from posts and telecommunications offices amounted to 21,000,000 yuan, or 114% of the planned target and 26% higher than the similar receipts in 1957. Presently, practically every village has telephones, every [production] team has a mailbox, and telephones have been installed in the communes.

6. Trade Helps Expansion in Production and Guarantees Market Supplies

The year of 1958 was an active year for retail trade and for the markets. The trade departments assured sufficient market supplies and stabilized market prices. They helped the expansion in production and obtained much experiences.

The province's total retail sales in 1958 amounted to 2,500,000,000 yuan, or 108.6% of the planned target and 24.8% higher than the retail sales in 1957. The absolute increase in the year was 23.2% higher than the peak year (1956) in the province's history.

As the people's income increased and their standard of living improved, their demand for commercial goods swelled. The comparison of the retail sales of 21 kinds of consumer goods for the years of 1957 and 1958 ran as follows: In subsidiary foodstuffs, sales of pork amounted to 29,000 tons in 1958 or 3.2% higher than 1957; sales of marine products totaled 25,000,000 yuan or 25% higher than 1957; sales of vegetables amounted to 600,000 tons or 81.8% higher than 1957; cigarette sales numbered 185,000 cases, or 36.8% higher than 1957; sales of eggs amounted to 9,860,000 catties or 29.7% higher than 1957; sales of canned goods amounted to 3,560,000 barrels or 1.8 times higher than 1957; sales of milk powder amounted to 1,560,000 pounds or 91.9% higher than 1957; liquor sales amounted to 48,000 tons or 15.2% higher than 1957; and sales of sugar amounted to 24,000 tons or 9.4% higher than 1957. In the sales of daily necessities: sales of cotton cloth amounted to 538,000,000 ch'ih, or 9.2% higher than 1957; sales of towels amounted to 1,070,000 dozens or 61% higher than 1957; sales of socks and stockings numbered 237,000 dozens or 46.9% higher than 1957; sales of summer underwear numbered 573,000 dozens or 27.5% higher than 1957; sales of cotton jackets and trousers numbered 270,000 dozens or 64.6% higher than 1957; sales of winter underwear numbered 469,000 dozens or 91.2% higher than 1957; sales of leather shoes numbered 1,025,000 pairs or double 1957; sales of rubber shoes numbered

11,860,000 pairs or 38.1% higher than 1957; and sales of soap numbered 590,000 cases or 38.2% higher than 1957. The sales of other commercial products: sales of paper amounted to 19,000 tons or 18% higher than 1957; sales of bicycles numbered 25,000 units or 50.5% higher than 1957, and the sales of radios numbered 41,000 units or 1.2 times that in 1957.

Based upon the "three basic concepts," the trade departments thoroughly carried out the policy of "increasing production, stimulating economic activity and production expansion to meet the increasing material demand of the people" and the policy of "energetic marketing." Great achievements had been made in marketing promotion and much experiences were gained. In 1958, total purchases by the state and cooperative trade agencies in the province amounted to 3,100,000,000 yuan, of which the commercial systems accounted for 2,200,000,000 yuan, which was 760,000,000 yuan or 51.9% more than in 1957. Purchases from the local industries in the province amounted to 680,000,000 yuan, or 37.4% higher than in 1957. The purchases of agricultural and subsidiary products amounted to 1,100,000,000 yuan, or 70.6% higher than 1957. Of this figure, purchases of foodstuffs amounted to 4,500,000 tons (for the crop year) or 47% higher than 1957; purchase of live hogs numbered 1,020,000 head or 31.3% higher than 1957; the purchase of eggs amounted to 11,060,000 catties or 22.6% higher than 1957; and the purchase of hemp amounted to 6,240 tons or 62.4% higher than 1957. Means of agricultural supplied by the trade departments were valued at 156,000,000 yuan, or 2.26 times that of 1957.

7. The Number of Social Laborers Increases and the Standard of Living Of the People Continues to Improve

In the great leap forward in 1958, total employment reached a record high and the distribution of labor among the departments of the national economy underwent great changes. By the end of 1958, the number of employees and workers totaled 2,100,000 in the province, or 768,000 more than 1957. Of this figure, the material production departments accounted for 772,000 employees and workers, or 87% more than 1957. The employment in the circulating departments and non-productive departments was reduced by 4,000, or 1% less than 1957. The labor force in the rural areas numbered 4,380,000, or 28% more than 1957. Owing to the socialization of household works, the number of women working increased greatly. There were 1,530,000 women taking part in social production. In 1958, the wages of the employees and workers were 15.1% higher than in 1957. The incomes of the commune members in the rural areas was higher than 1957. At the same time, a policy of coordinating labor and leisure was carried out, so that the livelihood of the masses could be further improved. Some 46,000 mess halls were established in the rural communes and more than 6,470,000 persons had

their meals in these mess halls. There were 51,000 nurseries and day care centers as well as 35,000 old-age homes, sanitoriums and other welfare institutions.

8. Educational Development Enables the People to Enjoy a Varied Cultural Life

As ideology and production leap forward, new phenomena emerged on the cultural and educational fronts. In the field of education, the aim was to thoroughly carry out the policy of coordinating party education with productive labor. Over 1,920,000 students from colleges and schools took part in labor activities, which accounted for more than 80% of all students in the province. Under the slogan of "setting up factories in schools," a total of 10,631 factories were established within the schools. The students contributed a total of 33,000,000 working days, so that their theoretical learning could be coordinated with practice. Meanwhile, the coordination between industry and agriculture became closer, the ideological awakening of the students became keener, and fuller development in virtue, skill and health could be obtained. In 1958, the province of Heilungkiang had 15,785 schools of all kinds, or 46% more than 1957. Student enrollment numbered 2,346,500 or 23.4% more than 1957. In addition, the province had 25,000 vocational schools of all sorts which had a total enrollment of 2,900,000 students. Educational development is one of two legs of the party. All young men in the province have become literate, which is an accomplishment some nine years ahead of the state requirement. At the same time, compulsory education on the elementary level has been carried out in the province. In the whole province, there were some 2 million peasants and workers taking part in ideological studies. They were enthusiastic in studying Marxism-Leninism and the writings of Mao Tse-tung. There were 22 research institutes set up by the Central and Provincial governments in Heilungkiang, and research organizations of all sorts have been established in various localities, communes, enterprises and schools, which have made remarkable achievements. Under the policy of compulsory education and simultaneous emphasis on quality, the social culture in the province is blooming. The people now enjoy varieties of cultural life. In 1958, 140,000,000 copies of newspapers, 11,060,000 copies of magazines and 33,320,000 pictorial books were published in the province. There were 5,900 cultural centers (stations and rooms) and 1,371 radio stations in the province. Recreation clubs have been set up in all rural communes and broadcasting networks have been put up in 90% of the administrative districts and 60% of the production teams. The four evils have been eliminated, a sanitary movement has been promoted, and rats, harmful birds and mosquitoes have been eradicated in varying degrees. More than 12,000 health agencies have been set up in the province, which is double the number in 1957. There were more than 40,000 hospital beds, which was 65% more than 1957. These health establishments protected the physical soundness of the people in the great leap forward movement.

- END -