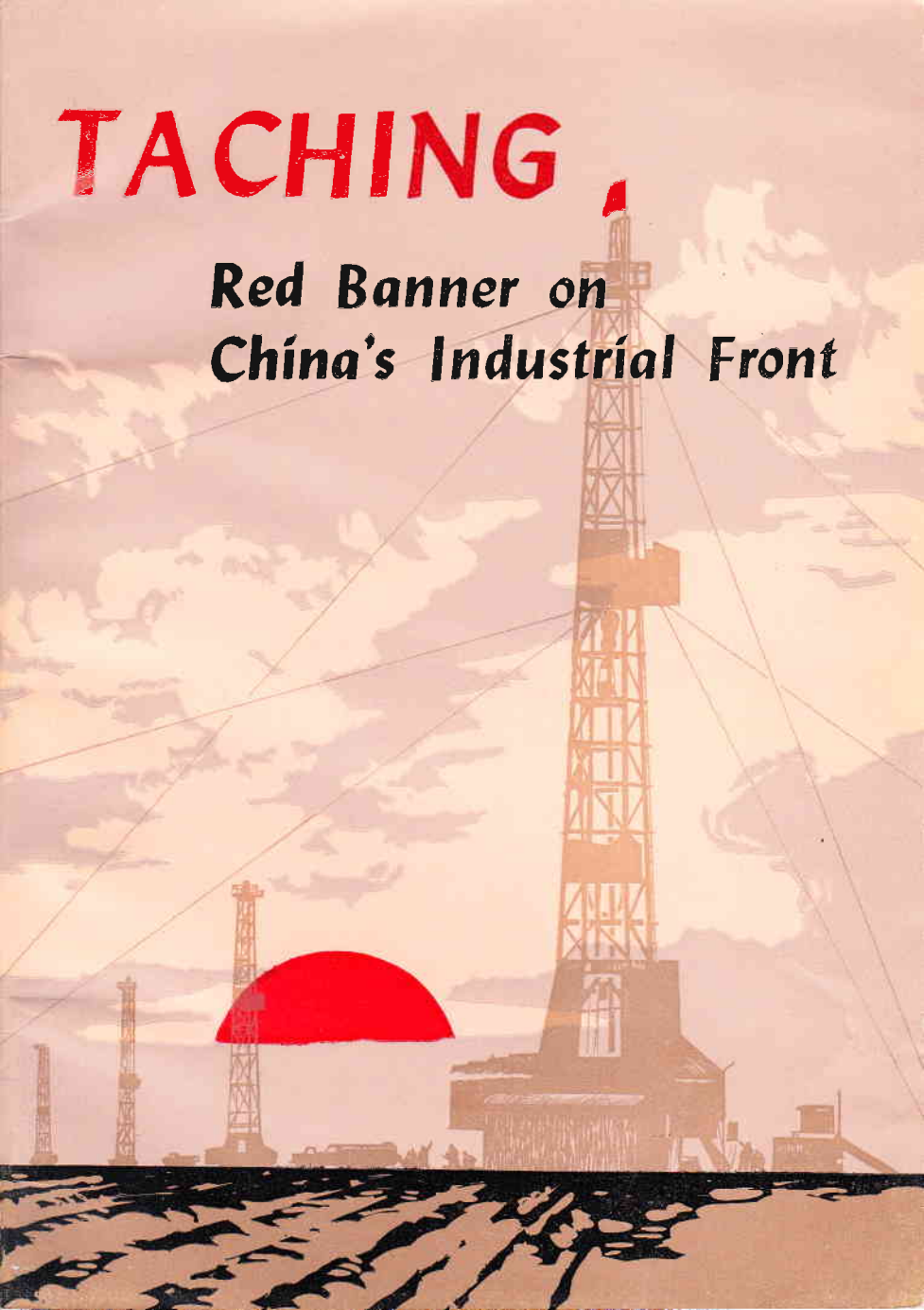


# TACHING

**Red Banner on  
China's Industrial Front**



TACHING — Red Banner  
on China's Industrial Front

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Industrial Front**

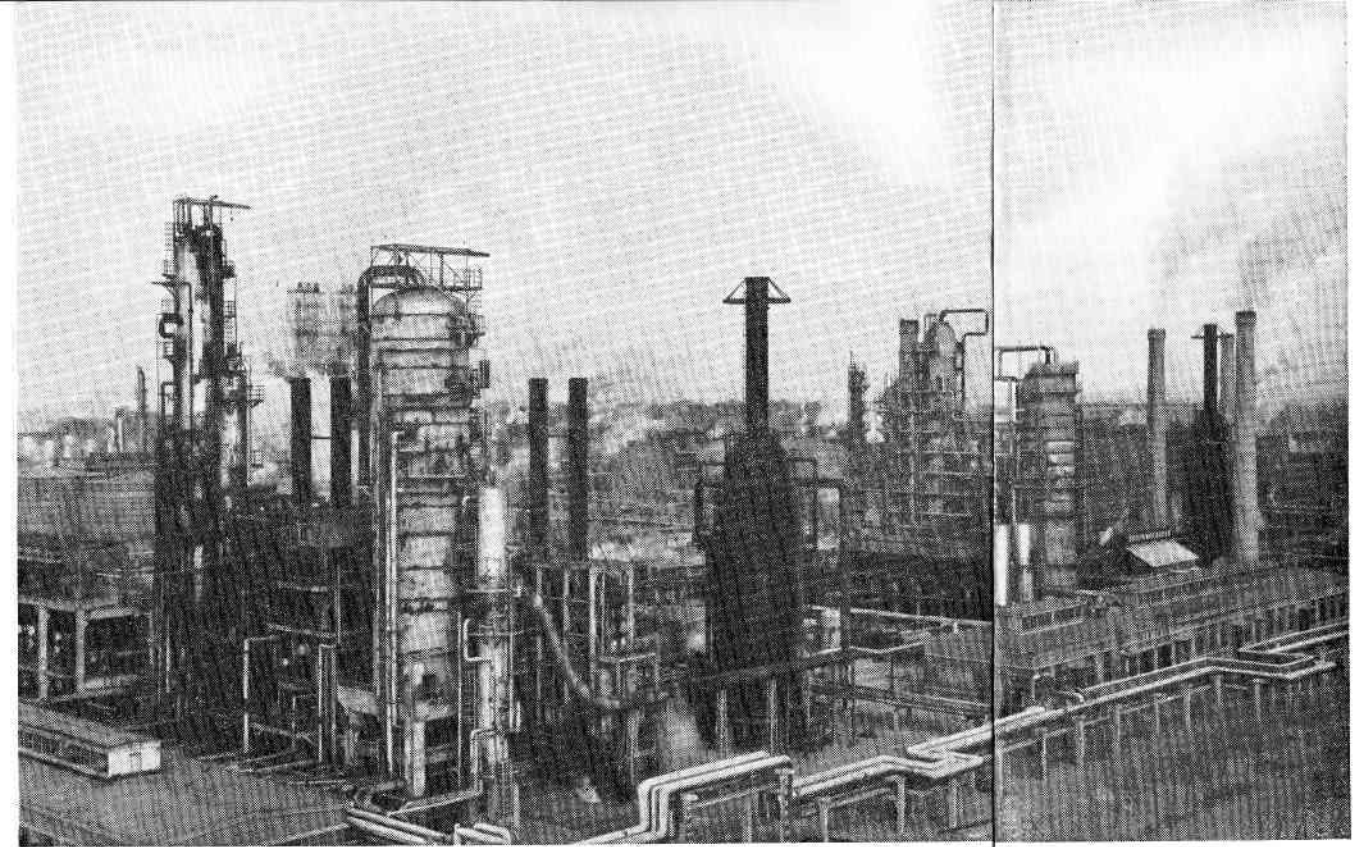
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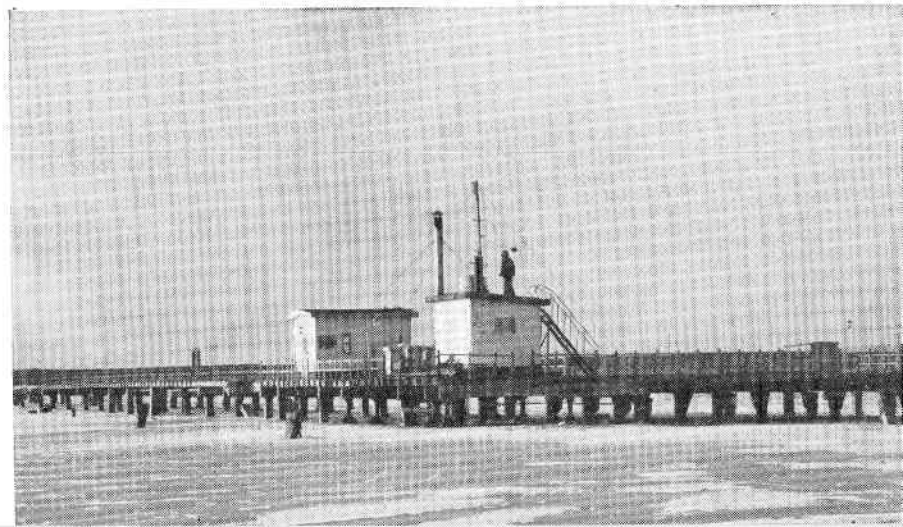
*Taching Oil Refinery.*



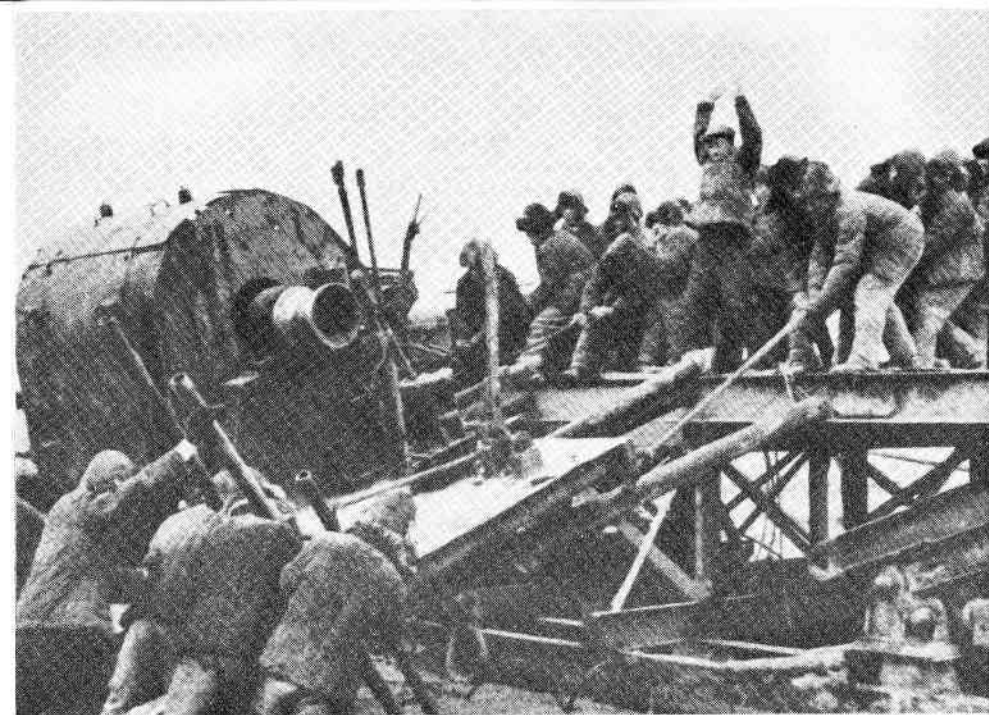
*A view of the oil refinery.*



*Oil ready for shipment to other parts of the country.*



*An oil well on the ice.*



*In the early period of building the Tachang Oilfield, Wang Chin-hsi and his 1205 Drilling Team, in the spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle, carrying and dragging the drilling rig to the well site to be installed.*

*Oil workers of the early period of building the oilfield studying Chairman Mao's philosophical works "On Practice" and "On Contradiction" by a campfire.*





*Chang Hung-chib (right), model worker untiringly serving the people, now Vice-Chairman of the Taching Oilfield Revolutionary Committee, is seen here labouring alongside the workers.*

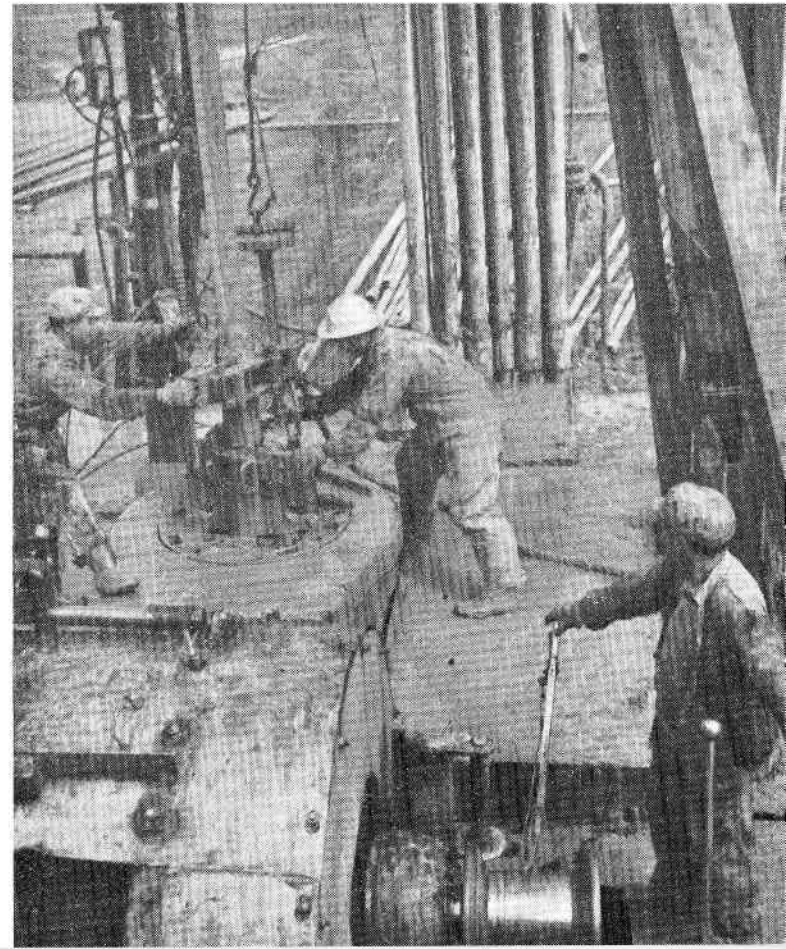
*Wang Chin-hsi (centre) continued to work on the well site after being elected Vice-Chairman of the Taching Oilfield Revolutionary Committee. During his lifetime he educated many young workers in hard-working spirit.*





*A "three-in-one" technical innovation team, with workers as its backbone and cadres and technicians participating, studying a new innovation plan. Taching's technical innovation has scored great achievements.*

*The 1205 Drilling Team working on the well site. The team has created the record of drilling 100,000 metres a year.*







*Displaying their glorious hard-working tradition, Taching people putting up new installations for the multi-purpose use of petroleum.*




*Hsueh Kuei-fang (second right), who led other workers' wives in "making revolution with five shovels" when Taching was first exploited.*

*The workers' family members reaping squash. In the past 11 years, they have produced large quantities of grain and enough vegetables for Taching's consumption.*



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*A glimpse of the Taching mining area.*

## OUR OWN ROAD IN DEVELOPING INDUSTRY

(In Lieu of an Introduction)

TACHING Oilfield has been commended by our great leader Chairman Mao as the Red Banner on China's industrial front. In 1964 Chairman Mao issued the call to the whole country "**In industry, learn from Taching**". Since China started its Fourth Five-Year Plan for developing the national economy in 1971, a new high tide in the mass movement which takes Taching as the example and grasps revolution and promotes production has been surging ahead.

Which road to take in developing industry is something new for the proletariat after seizing political power. A sharp struggle centring around this question has always existed between the Marxist line and the opportunist line. Marxists adhere to Lenin's viewpoint that **living, creative socialism is the product of the masses themselves**. But all opportunists prostrate themselves before the bourgeoisie and negate the great revolutionary role of the masses.

Having summed up the positive and negative historical experience of the dictatorship of the proletariat and socialist construction at home and abroad, Chairman Mao systematically laid down the Marxist-Leninist

theory, line, principles and policies in developing China's industry. He put forward in 1958 the general line of **going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism** and a whole set of principles of walking on two legs, and called on us to practise "**self-reliance**" and "**hard struggle**" and "**break down foreign conventions and follow our own road in developing industry**". Guided by the brilliant thought of Chairman Mao, our working class repeatedly defeated the interference and sabotage by Liu Shao-chi's counter-revolutionary revisionist line and steadily promoted high-speed development of industrial construction.

In 1960 when China met with temporary economic difficulties, the imperialists, revisionists and reactionaries frantically opposed China and the renegade, hidden traitor and scab Liu Shao-chi and his gang ordered that the industrial enterprises built during the big leap forward should be closed down. The heroic Taching workers, defying the arrogant reactionaries at home and abroad and breaking down the conventions of bourgeois technical authorities, began the battle of exploiting the oilfield. Living and working in the wilderness, they displayed the revolutionary spirit of fearing neither hardship nor death and built China's first-rate big oilfield in less than three years. They thus tore up the label "China is poor in oil" imposed on us by the Western bourgeoisie. During the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the Taching workers closely followed Chairman Mao's great strategic plan, persistently grasped revolution and promoted production, defended Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line with their outstanding achievements.

The exploitation and construction of the Taching Oilfield is a great revolutionary practice in China's industrial history. The road taken by Taching is a road of developing industry in accordance with Chairman Mao's revolutionary line.

That is why Taching has been praised by the people throughout the country and has become an example on China's industrial front for other units to follow.

Taching is an example in studying Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. In exploiting and building the oilfield, Taching people always put Mao Tsetung Thought in command of everything. They take Chairman Mao's philosophical works "On Contradiction", "On Practice" as their guide, regard the three articles "Serve the People", "In Memory of Norman Bethune" and "The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains" as their maxim, and adhere to dialectical materialism and historical materialism to conscientiously remould their world outlook and solve the various problems in class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment.

Energetically learning from the People's Liberation Army, they regard the instructions by Chairman Mao on the army's ideological and political work as those meant for themselves, put proletarian politics and ideological work in the fore in building the oilfield.

They have persisted in the principles of combining centralized leadership with the mass movement, a high revolutionary spirit with a strictly scientific approach and combining technical innovations with building our country through diligence and frugality, thereby em-

bodying in an all-round way the goals of achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results set forth by the general line of building socialism.

Firmly taking the road indicated by Chairman Mao's May 7 Directive, they mainly engage in industry and at the same time study military affairs and politics, raise their educational level and criticize the bourgeoisie. According to conditions in the oilfield, they have developed farming and side-occupations and built Taching into a new-type socialist mining area which combines industry and farming, city and country and is of benefit to production and convenient for people's livelihood.

The mass movement to learn from Taching in industry has promoted and will further promote China's industry to advance courageously along Chairman Mao's revolutionary line.

## AT THE TACHING OILFIELD

A revolutionary scene of activity was all around us when we arrived at the Taching Oilfield, the Red Banner on our industrial front. Trains loaded with oil were running, engines rumbled under towering derricks, cattle and sheep grazed in the grassland between rows of oil wells, teams of oilfield building workers worked with a will, groups of oil workers' wives brought fertilizer to the fields, oil refinery's tall chimneys belched smoke. . . . A magnificent picture of a new-type socialist oilfield!

**Taching's  
First Well** Everywhere people in Taching praised "Iron Man" Wang Chin-hsi<sup>1</sup> for his heroic deeds and talked about his proletarian revolutionary spirit. Though he died of illness, the spirit displayed by this "Iron Man" always inspires people forward.

We visited the first well drilled by the team he led in the first spring of the 1960s. The site was different from 11 years ago, but we saw many things reminding

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<sup>1</sup> See pp. 34-46.

us of their past exploits, including the hovel in which "Iron Man" Wang had slept, the well they sank to provide water for drilling the oil well and the pit they dug to make unloading heavy equipment easier.

The comrades of Taching told us of the moving deeds of the "Iron Man" when he worked there.

In the spring of 1960 China met with temporary economic difficulties owing to serious natural calamities. China's oil industry was then very backward and imperialism and modern revisionism tried to use our shortage of oil to put pressure on us. Carrying his *Selected Works of Mao Tsetung*, Comrade Wang Chin-hsi led the 1205 Drilling Team to hurry to Taching from Kansu Province's Yumen. Standing in the grassland and facing the big oilfield, he was deeply moved. With bitter hatred for imperialism, revisionism and the reactionaries, he was determined to win honour for our great leader Chairman Mao and the Chinese people and made the solemn pledge: "Throw the backward state in our oil industry into the Pacific!"

At that time, the vast grassland was covered by ice and snow and conditions were very unfavourable. There were countless difficulties in exploiting the oilfield. In addition to the lack of equipment, there was not even a warm place to sleep in! But Wang Chin-hsi was full of confidence, saying: "Never retreat before difficulties. We'll advance when there are the necessary conditions; when there is none we'll also advance by creating them!"

When there were not enough trucks to move the drilling rig, he led the whole team to carry and pull the rig parts to the well site. When water was needed for

drilling, the team got shovels and picks to dig a well on the ice-covered grassland. When the drill reached a mud loss formation and they had used up the well water, Wang Chin-hsi mobilized his team members to fetch water from a pond about one kilometre away. They took basins and pails and broke the ice to get water. Wang Chin-hsi ate and slept at the well site and stayed there several days and nights running. Adhering to the principle of self-reliance and hard struggle, he led the team to drill the first oil well in the Taching Oilfield. This smashed the so-called theory that "China is poor in oil" as cooked up by Western bourgeois "authorities" and delivered a heavy blow at imperialism and modern revisionism.

"He is really an 'Iron Man'!" This was what the local people had spoken of Wang Chin-hsi. Thus the name "Iron Man" spread far and wide in Taching.

Guided by the Party's general line, the Taching people have conscientiously studied Chairman Mao's philosophical works and "Serve the People", "In Memory of Norman Bethune" and "The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains", carried forward the spirit initiated by the "Iron Man", and within a short period of less than three years built a first-rate oilfield by world standards at the site where foreign bourgeois "authorities" had denied the existence of any big oil deposits. This contributes greatly to China's self-sufficiency in oil.

In 1964 Chairman Mao issued the call: "**In industry, learn from Taching.**" Tremendously inspired, the Taching people advanced along Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line with firmer and more militant steps.

But the struggle between the two classes, two roads and two lines in the Taching Oilfield has never ceased. "Iron Man" Wang always stood in the forefront of the struggle. As Taching was a Red Banner commended by Chairman Mao, a handful of class enemies unreconciled to their defeat attempted to pull it down during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

In the spring of 1967, class struggle was very acute and complex in Taching. Wearing a sheepskin, Wang returned to the first oil well site where he took out his copy of *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tsetung* and studied Chairman Mao's teachings on class struggle. Inspired with enormous courage and strength, he said: "Taching was built according to Chairman Mao's teachings; whoever attacks the Red Banner, Taching, we'll knock him into the dust!" He went to every part of the oilfield to propagate Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and together with the revolutionary masses smashed the class enemy's criminal plots and triumphantly defended the Red Banner represented by Taching.

The strength of example is inexhaustible. Carrying forward the spirit set by the "Iron Man", the heroic Taching people marched steadily from victory to still greater victories. In the past decade, they feared neither hardship nor death, battled the elements and continuously developed the oilfield. The present scale of oilfield construction is 2.5 times what it was in 1965 before the Great Cultural Revolution; crude oil output and refining capacity have both doubled. The whole oilfield successfully fulfilled two years ahead of schedule the production targets set by the Third Five-Year Plan.

### 1205 Drilling Team

We went to the place where the 1205 Drilling Team is stationed. Forming a U-shaped courtyard, the team's movable rooms made of planks were like a few railway cars in the field. Written on the placards in front of the courtyard were Chairman Mao's teachings: "**Self-reliance**" and "**Hard struggle**". Along the road were movable blackboards with articles by workers on their gains in studying Mao Tsetung Thought and their pledges to learn from Wang Chin-hsi. The tall derrick stood near the courtyard and the drilling machine was in operation.

In the past decade, the team has travelled widely in the Taching grassland with the derrick and other equipment and movable rooms. Its total drilling footage exceeded 390,000 metres, or more than six times the nation's combined footage in old China. Spurred on by the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the team created the world annual drilling record of 100,000 metres in 1966.

The team makes continuous progress. After they set the world record, its members conscientiously studied once again Chairman Mao's teaching: "**The comrades must be helped to remain modest, prudent and free from arrogance and rashness in their style of work. The comrades must be helped to preserve the style of plain living and hard struggle.**" This teaching has guided them to advance victoriously.

They said: "Our achievements indicate only what we have done, but not what we are doing and even less of what we shall do in the future. We will follow Chairman Mao's teaching to make continued efforts and always go forward!" Despite the severe cold in January 1971,

they successively created records by drilling 570 metres per shift, 1,030 metres per day and 8,700 metres per month. All these beat earlier winter drilling records.

The team has been loyal to our socialist motherland. Working wholeheartedly for the revolution, they have stood up to all difficulties, remained modest when they scored successes, held on under unfavourable environmental conditions and pressed forward even when their lives are in danger.

One day in September 1970 as they were putting down the casing after drilling a well, the brake suddenly broke down. Their drilling tool weighing more than ten tons went out of control and fell down from the more than ten-metre-high derrick at a speed of seven or eight metres per second. A serious accident could have taken place in two or three seconds. Driller Kao Chin-ying was under the tool and he could avoid the danger by taking a few steps sideways. However, he took one step forward and with all his strength accurately moved to the well head a wedge block which was used to block the casings. The block stopped the drilling tool on the derrick two metres above his head. Thus, he protected state property and the lives of his comrades-in-arms.

Kao Chin-ying, a young worker, has constantly joined the veteran workers in diligently studying Chairman Mao's works. He has often said: "Chairman Mao teaches us: **'When we die for the people it is a worthy death.'** Working for the revolution, we oil workers never retreat even half a step in the face of death!" By his concrete action, he has written an oil workers' militant song of not fearing hardship and death.

## Taching Oil Refinery

The Taching Oil Refinery, commissioned in the early 60s, is a big, modern plant built by our own efforts in one and a half years. New changes took place when it entered the 70s.

Taching workers told us the following: The equipment in the No. 2 atmospheric vacuum distillation workshop was considered to be of an advanced level in the 60s, overfulfilling its quota every year and creating a lot of wealth for the state. With the arrival of the 70s, the Taching people have made further efforts in unfolding a mass movement in studying Chairman Mao's brilliant philosophical works, which gives rise to an incessant revolution and production upsurge. When workers in the workshop questioned: "How can a modern oil refinery make a bigger contribution to the state?", a heated discussion ensued. Through studying Chairman Mao's "On Practice" and "On Contradiction" and having conducted deep-going investigation and study, the workers boldly raised the revolutionary proposal to renovate the equipment in the No. 2 atmospheric vacuum distillation workshop.

But some people said: The equipment was made for a set pattern and operated to full capacity. The workers answered: Chairman Mao teaches us, **"In the fields of the struggle for production and scientific experiment, mankind makes constant progress and nature undergoes constant change; they never remain at the same level."** The assertion that the equipment was made for a set pattern and operated to full capacity was a bourgeois metaphysical viewpoint in opposition to materialist dialectics and Chairman Mao's teaching. Veteran worker Wang



Teh-jun said: "Whether one dares to renovate advanced equipment is a major question of whether one dares to **'follow our own road in developing industry'**. Not daring to make innovations means trailing behind!"

The plant's revolutionary committee supported the workers' renovation proposal. A "three-in-one" designing group was set up with Wang Teh-jun as leader. By mobilizing workers to contribute their ideas and doing deep-going investigation and study, the group finally made the advanced equipment more advanced after three months' careful designing and one and a half months of hard work to make it. This raised productivity by 73 per cent. The successful renovation gave production in the whole refinery a vigorous push forward. Output at the dewaxing workshop, redistillation workshop and the platinum rearrangement workshop all doubled.

In this modern oil refinery there are also many small factories turning out products by indigenous methods. The small chemical fertilizer factory run by the oil workers' wives is one.

The used catalyst from one of the refinery's workshops was always considered a burden. To avoid the chlorine from the catalyst poisoning the people and animals, the workers carted it some distance to a pond where they dumped it. Now it has become a "treasure". Using this catalyst as raw material, the housewives have produced a great amount of highly efficient phosphate fertilizer for the state in the past few years. They also built a number of small light industrial and chemical factories by self-reliance such as a candle works, a factory handling the regeneration of machine oil waste, a soap plant, an electric bulb factory, a pharmaceutical plant, which use

the oil refinery's waste gas, waste water and the slag as raw materials. They have produced a great amount of wealth for the state annually.

**History of "Builders' Town"** The Taching Oilfield has both urban characteristics and rural flavour. While mainly engaging in industrial activity, the oil workers also take part in agriculture and side-occupations; their wives in turn run some small factories though their main task is agricultural and side-occupation production. The Taching Oilfield area looks like an "urban town" as well as a "rural city".

In the last decade, the Taching people have built on the grassland dozens of living quarters which combine industry with farming, city and countryside and which benefit production and are convenient for daily life. They named them worker-peasant towns. Builders' Town is one of them.

Builders' Town consists of a central town and a number of living quarters in the neighbourhood. Well cultivated fields lie between the central towns and the living quarters. The town has stores, schools, grain shops, post offices, clinics, kindergartens, bath-houses, barber shops, shops for repairing radios, bicycles and other things, flour mills, oil pressing mills, bean-curd mills, soya sauce mills, vinegar mills, tractor stations and meteorological stations, etc.

It would hardly occur to a newcomer to Builders' Town that ten years ago this was a stretch of waste land haunted by wolves. In 1960 when the oil workers and

their families came to Taching from the four corners of China, the place was a vast stretch of uninhabited waste land covered by snow. Having studied Chairman Mao's teaching "**Will the Chinese cower before difficulties when they are not afraid even of death?**", they worked night and day in severe cold dozens of degrees below zero, with the sky as their roof and the grassland as their floor. They were determined to open this big oilfield to smash the enemy's blockade. The oil workers' wives said: "We are not afraid, no matter how much we have to do or how big the difficulties are. The oil workers are strong men and we are strong women!"

Hsueh Kuei-fang, a woman near 50, and four others made up their minds to reclaim the waste land. With bedrolls on their backs and shovels on their shoulders, they came to the grassland and lived in a movable hut. In cold and windy weather, they got up before dawn every day and cultivated the land bit by bit. The first torch of the oil workers' wives' revolution was lighted.

Housewives then organized themselves into groups, working shoulder to shoulder with the oil workers. They reclaimed the waste land one piece after another. They themselves tamped the earthen walls for building simple style houses and set up the housing units — worker-peasant towns — one by one. Among these is Builders' Town. They built nearly 30,000 square metres of dwelling houses and houses for three schools, a 50-bed hospital, a tractor station and a group of service centres.

On May 7, 1966, Chairman Mao pointed out: "**While mainly engaging in industrial activity, workers should also study military affairs and politics and raise their educational level. They, too, should carry out the so-**

**cialist education movement and criticize and repudiate the bourgeoisie. Where conditions permit, they should also engage in agriculture and side-occupations, just as people do in the Taching Oilfield.**"

Chairman Mao's directive was spread to all the housing units in the Taching Oilfield. Greatly encouraged, the workers and their wives living in Builders' Town marched with firmer steps along the road pointed out by Chairman Mao's May 7 Directive. Together with other workers and their wives, they smashed the renegade, hidden traitor and scab Liu Shao-chi's fallacy that Taching workers engaging in agriculture and side-occupation "ran counter to the division of labour" and his plot to lead the collective productive labour of housewives on to the capitalist road. By adhering to the correct political orientation and displaying the revolutionary spirit of hard struggle, they built their living quarters into a strong socialist position. They not only contributed to the development of China's oil industry, but also opened up some 8,000 *mu*<sup>1</sup> of land and bred livestock by collective efforts. Ten years ago, Hsueh Kuei-fang and four others made revolution with five shovels. Now the town has ten tractors, two combine-harvesters, one truck and other farm machines and implements. They persist every day in studying Mao Tsetung Thought. They raise their educational level, study military affairs and carry out revolutionary mass criticism. A vigorous revolutionary scene prevails.

The housewives of Builders' Town always display the spirit of not fearing hardship. To get a better harvest

<sup>1</sup>One *mu* equals 1/15 hectare or 0.1644 acre.

in 1970, they collected as much manure as they could. To meet the shortage of carts, the whole town—men and women, old and young—came out to carry the manure in baskets or by shoulder poles to the fields. In several days, they brought over one thousand tons of fertilizer to the fields, which ensured a bumper harvest. The per-*mu* yield of grain doubled that of 1969. Vegetable production was raised nearly 100 per cent. Hsueh Kuei-fang said: “One must not make revolution for some time but for the whole life. We should work hard generation after generation and always forge ahead along Chairman Mao’s revolutionary line.”

## MOTIVE FORCE BEHIND HEROIC DEEDS

ONCE a vast wilderness, Taching has become a forest of oil rigs and clustered refinery towers. The many oil wells that now dot the area mark it as a first-rate, large modern oilfield in China.

New building of the oilfield has been done during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. In 1970 crude oil production rose 150 per cent compared with 1965, fulfilling the state plan two years ahead of schedule according to the Third Five-Year Plan. Refining capacity doubled that originally designed for, and multi-purpose use of petro-chemical materials has been initiated and developed.

These advances have followed the Taching workers’ study and integration of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought with practice.

### In Face of Difficulty

In 1960, China was hit by serious natural calamities. The imperialists and modern revisionists were furiously opposing China, and Liu Shao-chi and his gang were sparing no efforts to obstruct and undermine the revolu-

tion. It was at this time that our government decided to exploit the Taching Oilfield. Tens of thousands of workers gathered on the Taching grassland within a short period, but there was a shortage of equipment, material and means of transport, it was difficult to get even the bare necessities of life. Should these workers go ahead or should they retreat? What were they to rely on in building this big modern oilfield?

Despite Liu Shao-chi and his gang's attempt to prevent the broad masses from studying Chairman Mao's works, the oilfield Party committee's first decision was to call on all workers and staff to study Chairman Mao's articles "On Practice" and "On Contradiction", and to analyse and solve the contradictions involved in building the oilfield by using dialectical-materialism. Thus Taching workers, cadres and technicians started conscientiously studying Chairman Mao's works. In groups of three or five, they read seriously and had lively debates beneath their towering oil rigs, in windy tents, shelters which were semi-dugouts, or out in the open.

Mao Tsetung Thought has moulded many heroes like "Iron Man" Wang Chin-hsi who are fearless of hardship or death. With revolutionary pride and enthusiasm the Taching people plunged into the battle to build the oilfield.

One night Ma Teh-jen, leader of the 1202 Drilling Team, was studying "On Contradiction" with his mates beside a campfire. Sentence by sentence he read out: **"There are many contradictions in the process of development of a complex thing, and one of them is necessarily the principal contradiction whose existence and development determine or influence the existence and**

**development of the other contradictions."** In the light of Chairman Mao's teaching the workers analysed the various contradictions facing them. Ma Teh-jen said with deep feeling: "True! Problems of living and eating are contradictions as are the problems arising from equipment, material and transport shortages. The principal contradiction, however, is the one between China's oil production and her oil needs."

The imperialists tried to make China a permanent dumping ground for their oil. Before liberation they sent one group after another of their so-called geological "experts" to China to make "investigations". They preached that "the types of rock and their geological age in the greater part of China fail to show any possibility of oil deposits" and arbitrarily concluded that "China is poor in oil". The modern revisionists also said that China lacked oil, and tried to restrict our economic development by oil embargo. Ma Teh-jen angrily refuted these reactionaries, saying: "But Chinese prospectors overcame all such obstacles and finally discovered big oil deposits right here!"

His face shining in the light of the campfire, Ma continued excitedly: "Comrades! There's oil right under us here. We must continue the battle and solve this principal contradiction, or we'll go on being bullied by the imperialists and modern revisionists!"

Through study and discussion, the drillers determined to carry on the fight and build this big oilfield, come what may.

When "Iron Man" Wang Chin-hsi led members of the 1205 Drilling Team to carry and pull the parts of the

drilling rig to the site before the hoists and transport vehicles had arrived, Ma Teh-jen immediately followed Wang's example and the drilling rig was set up without delay and an oil well sunk. The workers' hands and shoulders were rubbed raw but they said, "As long as we can overcome our backwardness in oil production, this hardship brings us only joy."

Oil wells were being built one after another. Team leader Hsueh Kuo-pang led his team to extract oil, but without oil storage tanks. Where could they store the oil? They got busy and dug a big sump into which they conducted the black crude oil. Then, trains of oil tankers arrived, and the problem of loading them came up. The crude oil was so viscous that pumps were of no use. Hsueh and his team put their heads together and devised steam heaters. Soon the oil at the edges of the sump was fluid, but the centre remained a solid "blockhouse". Hsueh jumped into the sump with a heater and attacked the solid centre, and soon the crude oil was streaming into the tanks. After forty days and nights of hard struggle, the first oil train left Taching.

Once a loaded oil tank caught fire. In this emergency, maintenance team leader Hsi Hua-ting thought of such great communist fighters as Chang Szu-teh and Dr. Norman Bethune, and climbed atop the flaming tank despite the danger. He tore off his thick coat, threw it over the ventilation hole, and sat on it hard to smother the fire. A serious accident was avoided.

And so with the others. Armed with Mao Tsetung Thought, the Taching workers with their firm will and hard work overcame the many difficulties that arose and opened up the oilfield.

## Mastering Science and Technique

Study of Chairman Mao's works has enabled the workers and technicians to combine their revolutionary spirit with a strict scientific approach, disclose the oilfield's underground secrets and solve many important scientific and technical problems in opening up the oilfield.

Knowing the true features of the oil layers and mastering their laws of variation are first necessary in doing a good job of exploiting an oilfield. Buried far below the earth's surface, the layers have widely different features. Some bourgeois scholars held that an adequate knowledge of them was out of the question. A certain geologist listed "nine major difficulties" in ascertaining oil layers, concluding in despair that it was no use trying to attempt the impossible. Influenced by this, bourgeois geologists treated the widely different oil layers as evenly distributed. They formulated their plan for exploiting the field according to the average calculations of the big stratigraphic unit based on limited prospecting materials and data, which did not show the actual conditions of these layers. As a result, the work of opening up an oilfield met with difficulties from the very beginning.

Acting on Chairman Mao's teachings, Taching workers and technicians were determined to "**break down foreign conventions and follow our own road in developing industry**". The Party committee of the oilfield mobilized the masses to probe the oilfield's buried secrets.

The Taching people were convinced that no matter how complex the oil layers, they were governed by

objective laws, and these laws could be understood if only they were carefully studied. They divided up the oil layers into smaller ones, obtained as much materials and data from each as possible and conducted detailed study and research. To get more first-hand information, the technicians left their offices and ate, lived and worked together with the drilling workers at the site whether in hot summer or cold winter. From every well drilled they collected all the 20 kinds of materials and 72 data needed for the study of underground layers.

Once when a squad of the 3249 Drilling Team was extracting a six-metre length of core from rock, an inch of it fell by accident back into the well. Squad leader Fang Yung-hua showed great concern and said: "An inch missing from the sample will make our judgement of the stratum less scientific and our work more difficult." The workers made up their minds to retrieve the missing inch. The team leader tried to persuade them to put it off till next day, but the workers were firm. The political director sent food to them at the well and urged them to take time off to eat. After 20 hours of hard work they finally retrieved the inch of core by using a specially-made drilling bit.

Such determination has enabled the Taching people to raise the rate of obtaining core to 95 or 100 per cent in most wells. They have extracted miles of core and surveyed thousands of miles of various stratigraphic curves, bringing up various materials from beneath the ground from which abundant data have been obtained.

In analysing oil layers, including small ones, they clarified the laws of strata variation and analysed their interrelation. They made hundreds of thousands of

analyses of rock samples and did even more analytical experiments and effected still more correlations of strata, further revealing the laws governing variation of oil layers.

After a great deal of scientific research, the Taching people had a better understanding of the oil layers — which are thick and which are thin; which sustain great pressure and which sustain less; which have good permeability and which have poor — as if they had gone beneath the earth's surface to get them.

**A Red Banner** Taching has produced oil, created experience and trained many cadres, contributing outstandingly to China's socialist construction. In 1964 Chairman Mao called on the nation: "**In industry, learn from Taching.**" Taching became a model for the whole nation to emulate.

How do the Taching people look on the successes and honour they have won and on the praise accorded them? "Iron Man" Wang Chin-hsi, outstanding representative of the Taching working class, said: "We should not keep accounts of our successes. All merits should go to the Party, to Chairman Mao and the people of the whole country. I'll keep accounts only of my shortcomings."

Enlightened by Chairman Mao's teaching that "**one divides into two**", the Taching people search through their success for points where they lag behind, and honour makes them more modest. The oilfield leadership mobilized the masses to find out shortcomings in work. Once when oil pipes were being pneumatically welded,

the wind blew grains of sand into the joint and the pipes were joined with the sand inside. Then the welder thought that this would affect quality and cause a leak in the future. He sawed open the joint, cleaned the surfaces and welded the pipes again. By setting such high demands on himself, he raised the quality of his work.

The Taching people started a new upsurge in the mass movement to study Chairman Mao's works during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. With Mao Tsetung Thought, they scathingly criticized Liu Shao-chi's counter-revolutionary revisionist line, smashed the class enemy's sabotage which was disguised behind "Left" phraseology but was Right in essence, and by their outstanding achievements defended Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. Commended as a Red Banner, Taching has maintained its name, and added to it.

The 1205 Drilling Team, where Wang Chin-hsi once worked as team leader, firmly implementing Chairman Mao's instruction "**Grasp revolution, promote production**", set for itself the target of drilling 100,000 metres a year. This was no easy job. The record in old China was 71,000 metres in 42 years.

Once the team worked in a temperature under  $-30^{\circ}$  C. without let-up, defying hardship and fatigue. But progress was slow because the drilling bit was often damaged. The workers, determined to find out why, sat down and studied Chairman Mao's "On Practice" and had a hot discussion. A veteran worker Wang Tso-fu read a quotation from Chairman Mao and said: "We haven't mastered the geological laws here and didn't adopt the right method for each different geological condition. We operated the drilling tool at top speed re-

gardless of condition, and when we ran up against a hard layer we damaged the bit."

To fathom the region's strata distribution and their precise positions, they worked round-the-clock beside the mud tank removing bits of rock from the mud as it was brought up from the well. They analysed these rock cuttings and formulated from practical experience a series of methods for flexible and swift drilling. This not only prolonged the life of the bits but greatly speeded up the drilling.

When they found that their bits did not meet the needs of high-speed drilling they tried improving them. With no training in drawing, some comrades kneaded clay, or carved turnips or pieces of wood into bit models, designing more than 40 models within a month's time. Through comprehensive analyses and repeated experiments, they successfully made five new-type drilling bits capable of high-speed drilling and finally set the advanced record of 100,100 metres in a year.

Workers at a Taching delayed coking workshop skillfully handled the drilling rod at the derrick floor of a high coking tower. The drilling bit crushed the huge coke buttons, then the jet-black coke flowed swiftly from the tower bottom to the coke store. The Taching workers made a micro-decoking cutter of advanced level and used it in decoking at high speed.

The cutters they had been using were patterned on foreign ones and were heavy and clumsy. In decoking each tower of coke, they had to use three different types of cutters, and the changing of cutters was time-consuming and fatiguing work. The workers were very con-

cerned and, inspired by Chairman Mao's teaching that we cannot just follow the beaten track taken by other countries, decided to renovate the cutters. A "three-in-one" experimentation group composed of workers, technicians and cadres was promptly formed and, after repeated trials, finally made a micro-decoke cutter to replace the three old ones. It weighed a tenth what each of the old cutters did, and it took only a quarter of the time to decoke a tower.

Since the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the Taching Oilfield has made more than 1,200 technical innovations, some reaching advanced home and world levels.

In 1971, the first year of China's Fourth Five-Year Plan for national economic construction, the Taching Oilfield fulfilled its drilling plan for the year 100 days ahead of schedule. And Taching is still going forward at rapid pace.

## A NEW-TYPE INDUSTRIAL AND MINING AREA

**R**OWS of oil wells in cultivated land make a beautiful pattern of the Taching Oilfield. There are no crowded cities here but scattered clusters of housing units with both urban characteristics and rural flavour, linked by a network of motor roads. Today, Taching appears as a rudimentary socialist industrial and mining area, combining industry and farming, city and country.

**Both Worker and Peasant** When Chairman Mao inspected the Wuhan Iron and Steel Company in 1958 he said: "**Step by step, big enterprises like the Wuhan Iron and Steel Company can be built up as integrated complexes . . . should engage in agriculture, trade, education and military training as well as industry.**" Chairman Mao's words pointed the way for the Taching people.

Since the early days the Taching workers have taken part in farming and side-occupations while building the oilfield.

In spring 1961, Wang Chin-hsi followed Chairman Mao's instruction and arrived with his bedroll at a farm-



ing and side-line production team newly organized by the drilling teams. He and his comrades began turning up the soil when it was still frozen hard. They collected scraps of waste iron and set up a small forge to make shovels and hoes for their own use. That year the farming and side-line production team reclaimed more than 200 *mu* of waste land and gathered in 450 *jin*<sup>1</sup> of corn per *mu*.

A general farming and side-occupation production movement was initiated in the oilfield, and in 1961 Taching's first farm was set up. Now, with a total of more than 1,000 farm workers, it has dozens of tractors and combine-harvesters and has reclaimed thousands of acres of land. The different industrial units of the oilfield, besides doing a good job in their own line, grow vegetables or grain or raise pigs as conditions permit. Oil-extracting teams, refineries and other workshops reclaimed the land near their oil wells and plants, working in industry as well as on the land. The drilling teams and the installation teams, which are mobile have their own small farming and side-line production bases where the workers go to farm by turns.

Besides the oil workers, there are other important forces in farming and side-line production in Taching, and these are the oil workers' wives. The story about "making revolution with five shovels" is very popular among the Taching people.

Shortly after the oilfield was opened some of the workers' families came to live in Taching. The oil workers' hard-working spirit inspired their families, and

<sup>1</sup> One *jin* equals 1.1 lbs. or 0.5 kilogramme.

a middle-aged housewife by the name of Hsueh Kuei-fang said: "The oil workers are strong men; they make the earth yield oil. We should be strong women and make the land yield grain." She and the other housewives studied Chairman Mao's teachings "**be self-reliant**" and "**work hard**", and put them into practice. They responded to the call of the oilfield's Party committee and determined to work together to reclaim waste land.

One day in spring 1962, with a 7-force wind blowing, Hsueh Kuei-fang and four other young wives armed with shovels set out for a stretch of waste land some 10 miles distant. They stayed in a movable hut left by drilling workers and began turning up the soil the next day. Working hard for three full days they reclaimed 5 *mu* of land. Word of this got back and 18 more of the women volunteered to join in, bringing along a borrowed wooden plough. That year the women sowed the black earth they had ploughed and reaped more than 3,000 *jin* of grain in the autumn.

Their success inspired many other workers' wives to join in farm production.

### Maturing in Struggle

Liu Shao-chi and his agents in industry slandered the Taching oil workers who engaged in farming and side-occupations as "ignoring their proper occupation". They said the women's reclaiming waste land was "spoiling the grassland". But the workers of Taching smashed Liu's fallacy and disruption.

On May 7, 1966, Chairman Mao issued the new instruction: **"While mainly engaging in industrial activity, workers should also study military affairs and politics and raise their educational level. They, too, should carry out the socialist education movement and criticize and repudiate the bourgeoisie. Where conditions permit, they should also engage in agriculture and side-occupations, just as people do in the Taching Oilfield."** Chairman Mao's affirmation of Taching's orientation of combining industry with farming greatly encouraged the Taching workers and their families.

With the increase of oil wells and expansion of the oilfield construction more land has been reclaimed, and agriculture and side-occupations have developed rapidly. Now, Taching's agriculture and industry are co-ordinated for mutual support and promotion. Taching started building during China's successive years of natural calamities and economic difficulties, but the Taching people's land reclamation and grain and vegetable production filled the food gap. Now their cultivated land has increased ten times compared with the early years and grows all the vegetables they need. Some units are basically self-sufficient in meat. In the slack seasons, farm workers help in oilfield construction, and industry also promotes agriculture. For instance, workers and housewives built a small chemical fertilizer plant producing high-grade phosphate fertilizer. The water and power supply workers dug wells and built an irrigation and drainage system for 400 *mu* of wheat, and reaped 500 *jin* of wheat per *mu*. In busy sowing and harvesting seasons the oil workers all pitch in and help. With the wives working and incomes being increased for the family, living standards have risen to various degrees.

Primary and middle schools at Taching number in the hundreds, and there is a petroleum institute. Many workers' spare-time schools are run by the units. And Taching has organized contingents of people's militia.

**Worker-Peasant Towns** An outdated way of constructing an oilfield was to build an "oil city" — a residential and welfare community — a dozen miles from the oilfield to which the city was attached. This involved high cost, slow construction and severance of the workers' families from productive labour. The Taching workers are firmly against this kind of "oil city". They build scattered housing units from materials available locally. The workers and their families have the slogan: We aim high politically, strive for better quality production, and always maintain the revolutionary tradition of plain living and hard work. They learn from the peasants how to tamp earthen walls and build houses with their own hands. The cost of such houses is one-fourth that of dwellings with brick walls, and construction is much faster. One after another these clay-walled houses spring up, and housing units take shape.

There are two kinds of housing units: the central towns and the living quarters, the latter, usually from three to five, on the periphery of a central town. Taching has at present dozens of central towns and several hundred living quarters.

One of the central towns named "Red Rocket" was a wilderness ten years ago. Now the town and its five

living quarters accommodate 1,400 oil workers' families. Each household has its own kitchen and is provided with natural gas for cooking and heating. The rooms are well-lighted. Each living quarters has a grain shop, department store and tailoring service. Children from two months to seven years may be cared for by the day in the nursery and kindergarten, where working mothers may go at regular intervals to nurse their infants. These and other social services free women from child-care and other housework so that they are able to contribute in productive labour. Children from seven study in the neighbourhood primary school. The local medical centre treat common diseases. Daily necessities are available at each living quarters.

"Red Rocket" Town, within a mile of each of its living quarters, has a screw factory where workers and housewives, 150 all told, produce all the screws the oil-field needs. Here also are a food-processing plant, brewery, bean-curd mill, soya sauce mill, dining room, book-store, post and telegraph office, photo studio, bathing facilities and radio repair shop. A thousand students attend a nine-year school. A 50-bed hospital provides both traditional and Western treatment and can handle ordinary surgery.

Central towns like "Red Rocket" — a housing and productive community — have mushroomed throughout the oilfield. These "urban villages", or "rural cities", serve both production and the workers' livelihood.

A new generation is growing up in the new-type oilfield at Taching. Youths are given all-round training so that they can work in a factory and on a farm, write articles and fight as soldiers.

Lu Hua, a young woman of 21, became an oil extractor after graduating from middle school in 1968. The well in her charge has recorded a steady, high output due to her mastery of extraction technique, which gives her a better understanding of oil wells and how to prevent accidents. She is also able in farm work and can apply fertilizers, sow, mow and thresh. She writes articles criticizing Liu Shao-chi's revisionist line. She praises the socialist motherland in poems she writes, and composes and sings songs about the local good persons' good deeds at evening parties. As a militiawoman, Lu Hua has scored 27 rings in three rounds at rifle practice.

Lu Hua is typical of the young people brought up by the Party in accordance with Chairman Mao's May 7 Directive.

## WANG CHIN-HSI — OUTSTANDING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHINESE WORKING CLASS

Wang Chin-hsi was a driller at the Taching Oilfield. He had worked with might and main after liberation. Fearing neither hardship nor death, he battled the elements and the handful of class enemies at home and abroad, combated erroneous ideas and strove for the consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Firm in his class stand and with an iron will, he staunchly defended Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line. During the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, he was elected deputy chairman of the Taching Revolutionary Committee, and was elected a Member of the Party Central Committee at the Ninth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party.

### Unyielding in Battle

Known among the Taching workers as an "Iron Man", Wang Chin-hsi lived in misery in the old society, doing odd jobs at the Yumen Oilfield owned by the comprador-capitalists. It was only after liberation when the oilfield had returned to the hands of the people that he became a driller.

Together with his mates, Wang the "Iron Man" worked indefatigably at the Yumen Oilfield to develop China's petroleum industry in order to shatter imperialist "economic blockade".

In 1958, Chairman Mao put forward the general line of "going all out, aiming high and achieving greater, faster, better and more economical results in building socialism". This was a great inspiration for Wang. He and his mates worked hard and with ingenuity and set a national record by drilling 10,000 metres in 12 months.

While the nation's petroleum industry was developing steadily, Liu Shao-chi and his gang came out with their "slavish comprador philosophy" and the "doctrine of trailing behind at a snail's pace". The fallacy, "China is poor in oil", manufactured by the imperialists for their needs of aggression, still shackled some people's thinking. Was China really "poor in oil"? To this Wang replied: "I just don't believe that oil is buried underground only in other countries!"

When he came to Peking in 1959 to attend the National Conference of Heroes of Labour, he noticed huge gas bags on top of some buses because of the petroleum shortage, and he felt as if the bags were weighting down on himself.

While the conference was in session, news came that a new oilfield had been discovered. Wang immediately sent in his request to join in opening the new oilfield so as to do his bit in boosting the nation's oil production.

The next spring, thousands of petroleum workers gathered at Taching from all over the country.

At that time China was hit by serious natural calamities and had temporary economic difficulties. Taking advantage of this, the modern revisionists tore up their economic contracts and withdrew their specialists. It also tried to use oil to blackmail us. Infuriated, Wang said firmly: "Nothing will stop us. Chairman Mao has led the Chinese people to defeat the enemy with millet plus rifles and founded the New China. Now the imperialists want to blockade us and the modern revisionists are trying to throttle us. But we'll stand firm as a rock and work with a will!" With other members of the 1205 Drilling Team, Wang hurried to Taching. When he arrived at the vast grassland, he could hardly contain his joy. "Here we are," he said. "This is the big oilfield. Get the drilling rig ready and start work! Let's rid our country once and for all of its backwardness in the petroleum industry!"

The influx of so many workers presented Taching, which was only an expanse of snow-bound desolate land, with problems of housing and food and other supplies. But Wang dismissed them all and said: "There's bound to be difficulties in making revolution. We will overcome them, otherwise we are not worthy of being Communists!" He added: "We must start work at once whether the conditions are favourable or not!"

When the drilling equipment arrived and there were not enough cranes and trucks to move them, Wang led the others to carry or pull the equipment by their own hands from the railway station to the well site. When water was needed for drilling and water-pipes had not yet been installed and water-carts were insufficient in number, they used basins and buckets to bring water

from a frozen pond about a kilometre away. Sleeping and taking his meals at the well site, he and his mates worked doggedly and succeeded in opening up the first oil well. It was a real spectacle when the jet-black crude oil gushed forth!

When the 1205 Drilling Team was moving a derrick one morning, a drill pipe weighing several hundred *jin* suddenly rolled down, knocking Wang in the leg and made him unconscious. Examining his injury, his fellow-workers could not hold back their tears. When Wang came to, he said: "Do you weep over a comrade wounded on the battlefield or keep fighting?" They answered in one voice: "Keep fighting!" With amazing tenacity, Wang was on his feet again and, taking up a small flag, continued to give directions in carrying on the work.

Wang was later sent to a hospital for treatment. But he could not stay in bed doing nothing.

The day shift workers were all asleep one night when a heavy rain came. A knock on the door woke up comrades of the 1205 Team. When they opened the door, they saw Wang standing there, leaning on a crutch. His injured leg was bandaged and he was soaked to the skin and covered with mud. The comrades hurriedly made his bed. But when they turned round to ask him to take a good rest, he had already gone to the well site to rejoin his comrades in the battle.

While drilling was going on one day, a strong gas flow suddenly spouted out of the well and a blow-out was imminent! Unless the flow was checked immediately, a serious incident was inevitable. But they did not have enough barite on hand to do the job. With

great presence of mind, Wang called out to everyone to pour cement into the mud tank to increase the mud specific gravity in a desperate effort to prevent a blow-out. When this was done, they found they needed a mixer to thoroughly mingle the cement with the mud. Throwing away his crutch, Wang jumped into the waist-deep mud, followed by several others. Beating and stirring with their hands and feet, they kept mixing the cement with the mud for more than three hours and succeeded in averting a blow-out. By that time, however, Wang's legs were so painful that he could no longer stand up.

Under the guidance of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, "Iron Man" Wang and his comrades battled for three years on the Taching grassland and built a first-class big oilfield for the motherland.

In 1963, China became basically self-sufficient in petroleum!

But Wang was not contented. He said to his comrades: "We should follow the example of the mountaineers and carry the red banner right to the peak!"

### **Defending Chairman Mao's Revolutionary Line**

Wang Chin-hsi was born in a poor peasant family in Yumen County, Kansu Province. His life in the old society was a nightmare. His father became blind as a result of brutal treatment by the landlords. At six, Wang had to lead his father along and beg for their food. Two years later, he worked as a cowherd for a landlord. At 15 he went

to the Yumen Oilfield and was forced to do the work of an adult. He was often severely beaten by the overseers and police of the oilfield as well as by foreign "technicians". For ten years he worked at Yumen, often going hungry and even unable to buy a cotton quilt.

Nurtured by Mao Tsetung Thought after liberation, he was admitted to the Chinese Communist Party in 1956.

He deeply understood the importance of studying Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought in order to make revolution. He always painstakingly studied Chairman Mao's works no matter how busy or tired he was.

At the time of liberation Wang, never admitted to school, could not even write his own name. After liberation he learnt to read and write with great perseverance. By 1965, he had read the four volumes of the *Selected Works of Mao Tsetung* and the more important articles in them several or even dozens of times. While he studied, he wrote a lot of notes. It was because he had really grasped Mao Tsetung Thought that he became an "Iron Man".

Countless difficulties and contradictions confronted Wang and his mates when they were opening up the oilfield. Studying Chairman Mao's "On Contradiction" again and again together with his mates, Wang said: "Of all the difficulties, the greatest one is that our country lacks petroleum, and it is also the greatest contradiction we have to solve." He added: "We should look difficulties in the face, analyse them and overcome them. We must open up this big oilfield at any price." With Chairman Mao's "Serve the People", "In Memory of

Norman Bethune" and "The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains" as their ideological weapon, they gave full play to their initiative. They made the necessary equipment when there wasn't any ready for immediate use. They moved the machinery by pulling or carrying when they lacked adequate means of transport. And when grain and vegetables were in short supply, they reclaimed the waste land and cultivated what they needed. And they built their own houses when there weren't enough living quarters.

In 1963 oilfield stipulations said that the slant of the well to be sunk should not exceed three degrees. Some people took out their books and delved into them behind closed doors seeking "secrets to success" in sinking vertical wells. Wang told them: "In 'On Practice' Chairman Mao explicitly stated: **'If you want knowledge, you must take part in the practice of changing reality.'** If you shut yourselves up in a room all day, you will not be able to sink a vertical well in your life-time."

Having summed up their past experience in sinking wells, Wang and his mates renovated the drills and probed through practice into the methods of sinking vertical wells. In the first experiment their drill got stuck. Again those people poured out abuse: "You simply lack scientific brains and act recklessly!" Wang retorted: "'Failure is the mother of success.' Though the drill gets stuck this time, we'll find a way to make it work properly in the future." Summing up their experience while experimenting, Wang and the workers finally worked out a series of methods and sank the first vertical well with a slant of only a little over two degrees and later another well with only half a degree incline.

Wang said: "In studying Chairman Mao's works, we must think, speak and act in line with what Chairman Mao teaches."

The Taching Oilfield is commended by Chairman Mao as the Red Banner on China's industrial front. During the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, however, a handful of class enemies vainly attempted to pull it down and undermine Chairman Mao's revolutionary line. Wang fought resolutely against the handful.

One night in spring 1967, a great heated debate went on in a well-lit auditorium. One scoundrel with an ulterior motive came out with a venomous slander against the Taching Oilfield. Full of anger, Wang stood up in the throng. Referring to his personal experience, he recounted the Taching people's heroic deeds in opening up the oilfield on the desolate plains by studying Chairman Mao's "On Practice", "On Contradiction", "Serve the people", "In Memory of Norman Bethune" and "The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains". In an energetic and emotional tone, he vehemently denounced the handful of class enemies for their shameless rumours and slanders. He said: "It's because of Mao Tsetung Thought that the Taching Oilfield has come into being. Its every success is a victory for Chairman Mao's revolutionary line."

The enemies' schemes collapsed one after another. But they still struggled desperately. They cooked up stories to hoodwink some people, trying in vain to persecute Wang. Taking him by surprise, they tried to force Wang to sign a note slandering the oilfield, which they

had prepared beforehand. Wang firmly refused, saying: "Taching belongs to the 700 million Chinese people. I won't sign it even if a knife is put to my neck!"

Braving wind and snow, he often went to the drilling teams with his ration bag on his back to propagate Mao Tsetung Thought so as to carry out Chairman Mao's instruction "**Grasp revolution, promote production**". He worked alongside the workers by day and studied and carried out revolutionary mass criticism with them by night. He did all this to defend Chairman Mao's revolutionary line.

**People's "Ox"** Fighting the class enemy like a "fierce tiger", Wang served the people like an ox. He often said: "I tended oxen in my childhood, so I'm most acquainted with their way. They contribute the greatest energy but enjoy the least comfort. I'm willing to be an 'ox' serving the people all my life."

When the oilfield was being opened up, Wang and the workers worked day and night by the well site, defying wind and snow in winter and continuous rain in summer. When hungry, he swallowed a few mouthfuls of food; tired, he had a nap on an improvised bed in a sheltered half underground or on a pile of tubes with drilling bits as his pillow. Day by day he got thinner. The comrades were very concerned about his health, but he would say with a smile: "People suffered misery in the old society. Our present life is far better than in the past. We bear a bit of hardship and fatigue to seek

happiness for the majority of people and our future generations."

One man in the second drilling brigade in which Wang worked sent meat to his house in his absence, but it was turned down by Wang's wife. Wang learnt that the meat the man had sent him was part of the state's allowance for the workers. He sternly criticized him: "Just think, doesn't this mean sucking the blood of the workers? Only the landlords and the capitalists do such a thing!" It was later proved through investigation that this fellow was a class enemy who had wormed his way into the revolutionary ranks.

Chang Chi-kang, a worker who sacrificed his life for the revolution, had an aged mother in his home village in Shensi Province. Wang did not forget her through the years. He asked the comrades of the drilling team in which Chang Chi-kang worked to write at least one letter a month to her. At the time of China's temporary economic difficulties, he heard that a comrade would go on a trip somewhere near Chang Chi-kang's house Wang gave him 100 yuan and asked him to bring it to Chang's mother. Following his example other workers also bought some cloth and other daily necessities for her. When she received the money and gifts, the old woman was deeply moved. With her own eyes she had seen in the old society how the lonely working people had died from hunger and cold by the roadside in their old age because they were deprived of any means of living and had to go begging. Now she was not only given due consideration by the government but also cared for by the workers.



Wang always thought of his class brothers and sisters and not of himself. Once when a veteran Shanghai doctor of traditional Chinese medicine learnt that Wang had a serious case of arthritis, he sent him two doses of valuable medicine. But Wang gave the medicine to other people, one to a worker who sent it to another worker's wife, also a victim of arthritis. When she expressed her thanks to the worker, he said: "The medicine isn't mine, it's Wang's. You should go thank him." So she went to find Wang. But Wang said: "The medicine isn't mine. It's a token of the 700 million Chinese people's concern for the Taching people. You can thank them if you want."

**Ordinary Worker** After becoming a Member of the Party Central Committee, Wang worked as usual with the workers and showed still greater enthusiasm. As in the past, his heart was linked with those of the masses, now even more closely; living in an improvised mud house and wearing overalls, he worked hard and lived simply. He set a still higher demand on himself. The joyful workers praised: "Wang is still an ordinary worker!"

The Taching Oilfield won continuous new victories in revolution and production. Wang noticed that some people who considered the Taching Oilfield a big enterprise with a good foundation threw away iron and steel scrap and other materials as "waste". Wang regarded this as a cardinal question concerning whether or not the revolutionary tradition could be carried forward. So he

proposed organizing a group for recovering used and old materials.

Some people gossiped that being a leader of the rank of a Central Committee Member, he need not handle such trivial matter as collecting scraps of iron and steel. Wang patiently explained: "Chairman Mao has taught us: **'To make China rich and strong needs several decades of intense effort, which will include, among other things, the effort to practise strict economy and combat waste, i.e., the policy of building up our country through diligence and frugality.'** We must work hard from generation to generation so that we can guarantee our socialist motherland will never change its political colour."

Braving wind and snow, he led the group in picking up the scrap and other materials on the grassland.

He became one of the workers of any drilling team to which he went. He went before others to do the dirty and tedious work and appeared wherever danger was involved.

Under his influence, the workers and their families organized teams for recovering old and used materials. They recovered enough scrap and other materials to make a derrick.

He had a relapse in April in 1970. A check-up revealed that he had an advanced case of gastric cancer. On November 15, Wang the "Iron Man", a fine son of the Party and a man with the unyielding integrity of the Chinese working class, passed away.

When he was at the point of death, he gasped out suggestions for Taching's work. With tears in their eyes,

the comrades told him: "You'd better stop thinking of all this." But he argued: "I'm a Communist Party member, how can I stop thinking about . . . I haven't done enough for the Party. . . ."

大庆——中国工业战线上的  
一面红旗

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