

and planes (3) Conclusion of arrangements with Britain for the use of the Singapore naval base and immediate orders shifting the U.S. fleet to Singapore.

It is understood that talks are already under way between Britain and the United States to draw up measures to impose a total trade embargo against Japan. A significant press interview was given by Mr. Jesse Jones, Federal Loan Administrator, a few days ago, when he announced that the United States was prepared to make a further substantial loan to the Chinese Government. Mr. Jones said that he was willing to do anything possible to aid China, recalling that there is no longer any limit to the amount of money the Export-Import Bank can loan to China.

With more than a million men soon to be called to the colors in the United States and the Navy ready for any eventualities, a still stiffer American stand in the Far East is anticipated in the near future. In a statement made a few days ago, Mr. Lewis Compton, Assistant Secretary of Navy, bluntly warned that the American Navy "is ready to give a damned good account of itself in the Pacific if we have to do so".

Now that Britain and the United States have committed themselves to a sterner Far Eastern policy and pledged themselves to aid China, there must be no turning back. They must press forward without delay to make clear to Japan that the days of appeasement have ended.

Chinese Tea In Sino-Soviet Relations

By C. Y. W. MENG (孟長泳)

WITH the outbreak of the European War, and with further enforcement of the quota system by the belligerent nations, the market for Chinese tea abroad is indeed no longer so bright as before. The exports of Chinese tea to foreign countries in 1939 were only 50,531,000 lbs. as against 91,767,000 lbs. in the previous year, or a drop of 40,000,000 lbs. Undoubtedly, this is a blow to the Chinese tea industry.

But, on the other hand, like China's famous *tung* or wood oil—the economic importance of which has become far more impressively demonstrated by the conclusion of the U.S.\$25,000,000 Credit Loan to China, which was secured on China's exports of wood oil to the U.S.—tea is likely to become of the same economic importance in Sino-Soviet relations.

According to a study made by Mr. E. Kann, noted statistician, until recent years tea shipments to Soviet Russia, which began as early as 1689, were enormous. In 1880, 350,000 piculs were exported to Russia; representing 17.04 per cent of the total export; in 1915, the figure soared to 1,162,842 piculs, or 65.24 per cent of the total export. Following the Russian Revolution, however, the shipments decreased until only 3,854 piculs were sent in 1938.

In the time when the First and Second Five-Year Industrial Plans were in full application in the Soviet Union when the Soviet leaders were improving the livelihood of their people and were readjusting the production and consumption in the country, there was a drop in the exports of Chinese tea to Soviet Russia, as the following table will show:—

CHINESE TEA EXPORTS TO U.S.S.R.

(1,000 lbs. per unit)

Year	Year
1928 47,566	1933 31,512
1929 49,771	1934 34,326
1930 49,524	1935 25,483
1931 32,110	1936 21,222
1932 30,702	1937 21,401

Although the exports of Chinese tea to the Soviet Union were decreasing during the past ten years, Chinese

tea always constituted a large part of all foreign tea imported to Soviet Union, as the following table will show:

Year	Chinese Tea to U.S.S.R. (1,000 lbs. per unit)	Foreign Tea to U.S.S.R.	Percentage of Chinese Tea in Total Tea Imports to U.S.S.R.
1935	25,483	76,283	33.4%
1936	21,222	54,822	38.7%
1937	21,401	46,401	46.1%
1938	32,300	57,300	56.4%

That is, exports of Chinese tea to the Soviet Union were increasing during the past four years. In 1938, it amounted to more than half of the total tea imports to the Union.

But during the same period, we note that the Soviet leaders have been taking vigorous steps in tea plantation and production, as the following table will show:

Year	Area of Tea Plantation (in acres)	Annual Production (1,000 lbs. per unit)
1935	82,300	7,000
1936	95,000	10,874
1937	107,000	13,838
1938	149,000	19,300
1939	182,000	23,700

That is, both tea plantation and tea production have increasing rapidly during the past five years in the Soviet Union.

However, when the production and consumption of tea in the Soviet Union is studied, we find that what is produced in the Union is not yet sufficient to meet the demand. One of the reasons is that both cold climate and natural environment in the Union are not so favorable to tea plantation and cultivation. The following table will show the annual production and consumption of tea in the Soviet Union:

Year	Consumption	Production (1,000 lbs. per unit)	Shortage
1935	52,221	7,000	45,221
1936	27,022	10,784	16,148
1937	33,490	13,838	19,652
1938	44,800	19,300	25,500

That is, the Soviet Union has not yet produced sufficient tea to meet the needs of their people.

The total consumption of tea in Russia before the revolution was put at some 190,000,000 lbs. There was then a violent drop in the demand for tea after the revolution. But by 1938, the consumption of tea was increased to one-fourth of pre-revolution record. In the next ten years, the most conservative estimate puts it that the Soviet Union will consume some 80,000,000 lbs. of tea annually. If the present percentage of the Chinese tea imports to the Soviet Union (i.e. 56.4% of total tea imports to Soviet Union) still stands, China will have to ship some 50,000,000 lbs. of her tea to the Soviet Union!

At present about 70 per cent of China's total export of tea goes to the Soviet Union to fulfill a barter contract which was entered into between China and Soviet Union in 1938 providing for the exchange of tea for the supplies needed by the Chinese.

With the increase in the purchasing power of the masses in the Union and the improvement of the livelihood of the Soviet people, there is indeed greater demand for tea than the Soviets could produce themselves. By the launching of the National Economic Reconstruction Movement throughout the country, China will need more Soviet machinery and Soviet financial and technical assistance, for which, China hopes to repay by her tea! So, tea will likely become a commodity of great economic importance and will play a great part in Sino-Soviet relations!

In other words, China, the Soviet Union and the United States—three Great Democratic Nations bordering the Pacific—have now re-invoked the Oriental principle of regulating the friendly and commercial relations among the nations. This famous principle provides: 以其所有易其所無, meaning "To exchange with one another what we have for what we don't have." China and the Soviet

Union are now exchanging what they want with what they have in surplus. The result is that *both are benefited* by the transaction, and none is permitted to enrich himself at the detriment of the other. The whole arrangement is not one that regulates the relations between a creditor and a debtor, but it is based on the principle of exchanging of the surplus for what is needed.

Such an arrangement is the conclusive evidence of the *cordial relations* which must have been existing between China and the Soviet Union, arising not from sentimentality, but rather from mutual understanding, mutual sympathy and mutual assistance. Without such friendship and mutuality, such an arrangement would indeed be impossible.

At the same time, such arrangement is a good lesson to the nations which embark to an aggressive adventure on the ground that they are the "have-not nations." If such arrangement could be followed systematically, and such Oriental principle of regulating commercial relations among the nations could be invoked, both the "have-not nations" and "have nations" could adjust themselves, and live harmoniously to the benefit of both.

At any rate, both China and the Soviet Union have now made another contribution to the world by demonstrating that nations can readjust themselves *economically* without resorting to war, and that war is avoidable and war is not necessary if the nations are sincere and *bona fide* in their desire for peace.

Therefore, underneath all these barter agreements concluded between China and the Soviet Union, there is one great principle involved, which may be worked out as one of the greatest principle for the remaking of the world, for the readjustment of the economic relations among the nations in the world, and for the preservation of the world peace at large, after the present European War!

Appreciation of Art in the Chinese Opera

By HSU TAO-CHING (許道經)

LIKE many other Chinese fine arts, the Chinese opera is today neglected by many people. Among those who undervalue the Chinese stage are those who, although highly cultivated, have too much faith in things foreign and modern, with the result that all things western are better developed than the Chinese. Again, there are those who prefer easy "arts" and take what is only pleasing to be the highest possible satisfaction. Since to enjoy an art is the same as to appreciate it, and in order to appreciate the art nothing falling short of some knowledge of it will suffice, no art is indeed "easy" in the sense that it will be welcomed by anybody. Not all music-lovers enjoy symphonies, they must train themselves before they learn the appreciation, for those who are not willing to take the trouble of studying music are always left outside the door to musical literature! The Chinese opera, likewise, cannot be admired by slothful people. Just as one must learn to write with a Chinese brush before he can discern the beauty in the Chinese calligraphy, so one must understand the character of the Chinese music and the form of the stage presentation in order to be delighted by the Chinese opera. On the other

hand, those who like "ready-made arts" need not be troubled with thinking, they simply have to sit before the movie and enjoy it. These people, however, know not art consequently. Modern life is such a busy one that so many people prefer easy recreations that what is popular is seldom artistic. However, those who have eyes for art choose the more profound delight.

Some knowledge in general art is prerequisite to the comprehension of some particular form of it.

The meaning of art, it should be understood, can only be suggested, it cannot be demonstrated. To define art is always a futile attempt, because if we put art under some other category we have a definition of something else, and if we define art as art itself we only obtain a definition which needs be defined again. Thus, when we say: Art is what gives aesthetic pleasure through the medium of the senses and imagination, we are raising a question with an answer—for what then is aesthetic pleasure? Aesthetic pleasure, to tell the truth, is that pleasure bestowed by true art. So we have set ourselves to run along a circle of terms and predicates. In order to avoid meaningless