

# China Faces Prospects of New Famine

Major Drought Bars Planting of Rice in Vast Areas of Nation

By ALBERT RAVENHOLT  
Times Features Correspondent  
HONG KONG, July 20—A major drought earlier this summer prevented the planting of a rice crop throughout large areas of central, south and east China.

Meanwhile, recent floods are ruining a good part of the crops in some of China's richest rice-growing areas north of Nanking and Shanghai.

These natural disasters add up to a threat of another famine such as the one that affected millions of Chinese during the past year.

Promise of renewed mass starvation is building up despite the Chinese Communists' energetic but sometimes poorly executed "anti-famine measures."

Men who have watched previous disasters in China believe that the consequences of another famine this year would be even more serious than they were last winter and spring—Chinese farmers now lack even the slim reserves and physical resistance that enabled many to keep alive then.

## Disaster Unnoticed

The fact that this summer's major crop disasters went unnoticed in the world press suggests the difficulties of reporting on Communist China. However, a detailed examination of weather and crop reports from many areas of China indicates grim prospects.

It is not possible to learn now how they will affect the overall political and military policies of the Peking government.

The drought was first felt throughout large areas of the mainland in May. In June when the farmers should have been transplanting rice seedlings onto their fields reports of trouble began to appear. In one section of the central China Province of Hupe the lack of water prevented transplanting of rice on more than 300,000 acres, according to Communist admission.

In large sections of Anhwei Province the drought prevented the planting of rice on 20 per cent of the fields. In Kiangsu Province 40 out of 65 villages in one community were unable to plant rice because the rains did not come.

Similar conditions are reported from extensive areas of Kiangsi, Honan, Chekiang, Hunan, Shantung and the new north central province of Pingyuan.

## Light Showers in June

Late in June light showers fell in central China and farmers with official Communist encouragement rushed the planting of some late rice, plus dry land crops where rice should have grown. In central and south China the new officials ordered emergency measures including the digging of ditches and wells. But they were unable to make the all-important rain.

Within the last 10 days heavy showers have flooded the Hwai River valley which lies north of the Yangtze River. According to Communist reports floods on this river which formed the old southern course of the Yellow River partly or entirely inundated roughly 2 million acres.

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## Zoning for Drug Store, Supermarket Asked

A petition which asks permission to construct supermarket and retail drug store buildings at the intersection of Churchman Ave. and Raymond St. was on file with the City Zoning Board today.

Estimated cost of the structures proposed in the petition filed by Teamon D. Halcomb, 950 Cameron St., is \$85,000. Parking space for 103 cars is planned. Public hearings on the request will be scheduled by the board.

## CARD PARTY PLANNED

Fidelity Rebekah Lodge will have a card party at 8 p. m. Monday at 1609 1/2 Prospect St. The public is invited.

## RHEUMATIC PAINS

Take time-tested WINTER-X tablets for relief and comfort of rheumatism, neuritis, muscular aches, pains, etc. Buy WINTER-X tablets today with absolute guarantee of quick relief or money back! 100 for \$2.00. KLEIN, 100 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis 6, Ind.



## MANY NEVER SUSPECT CAUSE OF BACKACHES

As we get older, stress and strain, over-exertion, excessive smoking or exposure to cold sometimes slows down kidney function. This may lead to many ills to come, such as nagging backache, loss of pep and energy, headaches and dizziness. Getting no relief or frequent passages may result from minor bladder irritations due to cold, dampness or dietary indiscretions. If your discomforts are due to these causes, don't wait, try Doan's Pills, a mild diuretic. Used once or twice a day for over 50 years, while these symptoms may often otherwise be ignored, it's amazing how many times Doan's Pills have helped help the 15 miles of kidney tubes and filters flush out waste. Get Doan's Pills today!

## Would 'Quiet' Organ

ANDOVER, Mass. (UP)—A retired clothing manufacturer, William A. Trow, left the West Parish Church here a \$50,000 bequest to eliminate "motor and other noises" from the church organ.

## GREATEST GROWTH PERIOD

A child's greatest growth in any one year is from birth to the age of one. However, during the adolescent period, usually from 9 to 13 in girls and from 11 to 15 in boys, they again make great gains both in height and weight.

## 'Enumerators' Feet' Is Census Hazard

BOSTON (UP)—To the list of have befallen the thousands of census enumerators unaccustomed to walking on hard pavements and up and down city apartment stairways, a council spokesman explained.

## THALLIUM IMPORTANT

Thallium, a rare metal of the aluminum family, is recently assuming importance; alloyed with lead it gives a product with a higher melting point than either alone, and, with silver, corrosion resistance is increased.

## New Trouble Spotter For Power Lines

NORWOOD, Mass. (UP)—A Deutschmann Corp. to replace the old method of tracing power lines from manhole to manhole without trouble-shooting instruments.

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