**Vic's Perennial Peritonitis**

**ACUTE ACCOMMODATION PROBLEM**

**WELCOME TO VICTORIA**

If it is decided to launch a full-scale scheme, the association must aim high. To make the scheme remotely successful there will need to be a full-time paid officer on a living wage. Not only should the idea be presented to the public during the summer—a great time, it must be sold to students, and to the parents of students.

Further, any officer who is to do such a job singly on Saturday will need business acumen, some knowledge of legislation, and a good experience of flats and ways of running flats. Also, by his very position, he will be something of an adviser.

It must be appreciated that to be of any value at all the scheme has to care for hundreds of students not ten; it is obvious, then, that such a plan is likely to change the character of student life significantly, that room must be allotted, and students must have to live comfortably under an unfamiliar system, vastly different from a home.

Briefly, Student Counsellors, clearly marked in front of A. & F. Show Officers, whose job is to help overseas students and Freshers to complete their forms correctly and find the proper rooms were on hand. Senior students, that in their third year, full-timers, gave advice in the Students' Association room on sports clubs, other university activities, student health, SALIENT, Elstern, Capping and so on. Marvellous!

**RIFLE CLUB**

Re-formed after a period of two or three years, the Defence Rifle Club is holding regular meetings during the month within the rifle range, Trentham Military Camp.

Club members usually practice service shooting on Saturday mornings, and in the afternoon join the Wellington Rifle Association in their application practices, which vary from 300 yards to 500 yards. Some members visit championship meetings which are held during the season throughout Wellington province.

One of the objects of the club is to field a combined Massey-Victoria team at Easter Tournament. This year a seven-man team will be selected to represent them in Auckland.

Equipment, etc., is provided, and any student interested should get in touch with the secretary, Ian Chestow, SI-005 (H) or 45-405 (W).

**PRESIDENT SAYS HELLO**

I am grateful to "SALIENT" for giving me this opportunity of extending a sincere welcome to all students at Victoria this year. Many of you will be returning from your vacations for another year; others will be coming to University for the first time, and to you I extend a special welcome.

There are times when all of us, especially in the latter part of the year, wonder whether all the time spent over our books is worthwhile. I think we all realise it undoubtedly is time well spent, even though for some of us we may face the discouragement of failing one or two units. Ultimately, I don't think that that matters, for even in failing our exams we learn; but let me hasten to add that to succeed is even more rewarding.

Students at Victoria in 1959 are in for a very interesting year. First, an event that has not happened for several years, we will have an election within the first month of the academic year. When four resignations occurred then a new election for vacant positions is required, and three new executive members and a secretary must be elected by you before the end of March.

Secondly, there is a select committee overseeing our whole executive organisation. When you read this the committee will have presented its report. The result of this may well be that our whole election and nomination system will be altered.

Thirdly and most important of all, there is the new Student Union building.

This building has been planned for more than 3 years—that's a long time and the students this year will be the first to have the use of it.

If you have seen the plans posted in the glass case of the entrance hall you will realise just how comprehensive the building will be, and how it will provide so adequately the many facilities we require. To be successful, however, the building, and the theatre, must be used to the maximum; and this is what is planned, so don't begrudge that extra pound on the Students' Association fee—you (unlike others before you) will have the benefit of it next year.

A final word about the association. YOU are the association and YOU appoint the executive to do the day-to-day running. There are many times when you'll wonder what on earth they do—probably because you see what they should, but don't do. The executive would be the first group of students to agree that we only touch the surface, but if we have your help and support there is far more we can and will do.

Your main purpose in coming to Victoria is academic, and don't be turned from that course. But while succeeding here you can enjoy your life at Victoria through the social, sporting and non-curricular cultural field. The clubs try to provide those facilities for you to agree that we only touch the surface, but if we have your help and support there is far more we can and will do.

**President's Illness**

SALIENT is sorry to hear of the recent illness of Mr David B. Wilson, and takes this opportunity to wish him a speedy and complete recovery.
Editorial

SALIENT

ITT HAS BEEN TRADITIONAL for past editors to state their policy for the coming year. If only because it has sometimes been a little difficult to see any connection between stated policy and later issues were are loth to follow that tradition.

When we applied for the job the publications committee was told that the policy would be decided according to developments. That still applies, modified perhaps by thoughts that this is a University mouthpiece and as such will be first, and foremost concerned with university and Victoria in particular.

We hope to be controversial. We hope to uncover the numerous and sometimes lucidly lurking in the dark corners of our Alma Mater. We think we have made a start with this issue’s front page. If not don’t hesitate to tell us—you will notice there is plenty of room for letters.

Your problems will be our problems but can only be aired if you let us know about them.

Aside from this we hope to present articles of interest such as the series on Professor Buchanan’s recent visit to China.

Executive will figure prominently in the reporting, partly to keep you informed, partly if you are like others before you, you will make little attempt to keep yourselves informed, even when vitally concerned, and partly to keep exec. on its sometimes flighty toes.

But more than anything else we hope to produce something you would want to read.

Cafeteria Prices to Rise Again

In a report to the January meeting of Exec, JOHN HERCUS informed that CAF. PRICES are likely to rise again this year, reports our Exec Correspondent, I.O.G.

As a letter in the Letters to the Editor column points out, there was a brief improvement in the size of servings, following complaints last year. This, however, did not last long.

I.O.G. says “everybody” froze when the announcement was made as well as we might. The announcement followed an inventory of the cafeteria.

BERNICE JENKS has been asked to bring down a report. Whatever that report might produce, SALIENT wishes to remind Exec that the cafeteria is there to provide a service to students first and foremost. It is not there to be a profit-making concern.

We believe Miss Rose and her staff, or anyone else who has the management, is entitled to make a decent living. We also believe the wage and cost structure should be carefully looked at before any changes are made.

Already there are some restaurants in town that charge similar prices for bigger helpings of wholesome food. If prices rise much more it will be cheaper to eat down town.

One of the difficulties students face, as has been shown elsewhere in this issue, is the high cost of living in Wellington. Exec should be considering ways of keeping that cost down, not contributing to it.

If there is no other way, then consideration must be given to a subsidy from association funds, which will, if nothing else, offset the burden. Moreover, quantities must be watched. If there is still no satisfaction, drastic action is called for.

THE CAFETERIA IS A FES- TERING SORE. IT IS YOUR CAF. YOU HAVE THE FINAL SAY IN HOW IT SHOULD BE RUN. BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY IN STAFFING IT, THE CAF. HAS BEEN A PAIN IN THE NECK TO PAST EXECs AND AS A RESULT BEEN A FORBIDDEN TOPIC. BUT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE NOW.

ONE WAY OF SAFE- GUARDING YOUR INTER- EST IS TO WRITE TO SALI- ENT AND OR EXEC TELL- US OF YOUR VIEWS. IF NECESSARY, ASK FOR A SPECIAL GENERAL MEET- ING, AND ATTEND IT IN LARGE NUMBERS.

IF YOU DON’T TAKE AC- TION, IT IS POSSIBLE NO- BODYS ELSE WILL. ACT NOW!!!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(We hope to see this column full to overflowing with everyone’s views and we don’t mean dog’s—Ed.)

Sir,—With the beginning of a new year of study close at hand, may I express my hope that the cafeteria will provide more and better fare for students this year. Last year the A.G.M. of the students’ association passed a motion that the meals were low in quan- tity. This motion was a genuine complaint and was supported out- side A.G.M. The president, Mr. Wilson, made representations to the cata- teria and there was a marked improvement in the quantity of the meals for a few weeks. Unfortunately the standard of meals slipped and in the final few months of last term no traces of Mr. Wilson’s plea could be seen in cafeteria menus.

A satisfying meal at a reasonable price is all I ask. Can some- thing be done about it this year?—HUNGRY.

SALIENT proposes to watch this—Ed.

Sir,—Recent years many lec- turers have moaned about the alarming decrease in the rate of sports. Did they have to contend with the charms of Miss Rose and the dan- gers inherent in a common com- mon room? I think not. The pre- sent undergraduate has even the chance to contend with the intricacies of lifts in the science block and women in slack. I remain yours,

THRICE FAILED.

(try again—Ed.)

Sir,—What girls really want from SALIENT is something lighter and brighter in the literature line. Quite boy says girl or a fashion preview and definitely nothing in the Aunt Daisy line. No unmarried girl should know of the things she talks about and cer- tainly cannot mention them in public.

Perhaps something with a little personal human interest—What happens at 4 a.m. at Congress—I worked hard, by “A Full-time”—, Unceremoniously as I am, by a Weir House Casanova, or even “Why Balbkers?”

Surely there is some talent around Vic (the male popula- tion—not us)—Your anxiously,

FUTURE MOTHER OF SIX (?) (Like some help?—Ed.)

ARE YOU A SPORT?

The Selectors in the summer sports clubs are at the moment trying to finalize Tournament Teams: Are you interested in a trip to Auck- land this Easter? Expensive? No. Do I have to be good? Vic at present holds the Wooden Spoon so we cannot count any worse. See the secretary or other club officials and watch the notice boards. Each club has its own notice board in the main building.

Easter Tournament sports are: Athletics, swimming and waterpolo, rowing, tennis, women’s outdoor basketball, yachting, defence rifle shoot- ing, and, of course, the Drinking Horn.

Why not join the throng in Auckland? Act NOW!!

L.S.C. 8th Conference

LEIDEN, Netherlands. The In- ternational Student Conference’s most active years were climax- ed from 15th to 25th February by the meeting of some 70 National Unions of Students near Lima, Peru.

It was the 8th International Student Conference, the most repre- sentative student meeting held anywhere, and the most represen- tative International Student Con- ference since the first one took place in 1950.

Participants from Asia, Africa, Europe, North America and Latin America flew to Peru for the 10- day Conference; 85, approximate- ly half went on a special charter flight from Amsterdam via Bermuda to the conference site. Host for this first I.S.C. con- vened in Latin America was the Federacion de Estudiantes del Peru, the National Union of Students of Peru.

A list of the countries which par- ticipated in the 7th I.S.C. in Ni- derland follows:

Africa and the Middle East:
Algeria, East Africa, French West Africa, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Nigeria, Rhodesia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey.

Asia:
Australia, Ceylon, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaya, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.

CLUB NOTICES

CLUB SECRETARIES: Do you want publicity for your functions? If so, let us have the details in plenty of time and we will do our part.
N.Z.U. TEAM HOPE TO GAIN REPUTATION IN AUSTRALIA

The New Zealand University cricket team now touring Australia has been awarded the claim of the New Zealand Cricket Council that University cricket is at a low level.

For some years the N.Z.U.C. has refused to grant a fixture between a full strength N.Z.U. side and a touring international team. This fixture—the dream of University cricket administrators—could materialize if the present team is able to hold its own with the best in Australia.

Captained by Victoria's J. C. Thomson, the side is playing spirited and imaginative cricket. The batting is strong, with a nucleus of Plunket Shield and provincial representatives. Heading the list are P. Z. Harris, J. C. Thomson, G. T. Dowling, M. L. Hancock, J. A. Leggett and P. Norris. The pace attack is centering around the fiery West Indian bowler, C. Campbell from Massey, and J. H. Zohrab and W. J. Hasell, Victoria.

TEAM PEN SKETCHES

P. Z. Harris, Canterbury: A distinguished Wellington and New Zealand batsman who is player-manager of the team. Captained Canterbury for two seasons in Plunket Shield cricket and was selected to tour India and Pakistan with the New Zealand team in 1953. Played for Otago University for a number of years, and has an N.Z.U. cricket blue.

J. C. Thomson, Captain, Victoria: A bowling all-rounder, Wellington Plunket Shield representative, Thomson is a sound bat and an accurate left-arm spinner. A thoughtful and intelligent captain.

J. H. Zohrab, Victoria: A fast bowler from Timaru, Timaru College, capable of extracting considerable life from the wicket. Toured the N.Z.U. side to Hawke's Bay in 1956 and has been a regular member of the side for four seasons. He attains a good degree of accuracy he should prove troublesome on the fast Australian wickets.

G. Campbell, Massey: A very fit and agile cricketer. He can bowl with long periods with sustained pace and accuracy. Took five wickets for N.Z.U. against Canterbury last year with his late in-swingers. A good field with a safe pair of hands. N.Z.U. blue in soccer.

C. Leggett, Massey: Played Hawke Cup cricket for Nelson which has a good reputation and has been a consistent bat in club cricket. Captained N.Z.U. on their Hawke's Bay tour of Christmas. A clean bowler that will not own the foot front and a good gully field.

D. M. Boyer, Victoria: The sole wicketkeeper of the side. He has turned on some stirring performances in club cricket, batting with one or two brilliant leg-side stumpings. While there have been occasional lapses these are more than compensated for by his ability to rise to the occasion.

P. Cootes, Victoria: Opening batsman who was selected to play for Central Districts this season. Successful Wellington Brabin Shield player and represented N.Z.U. in 1958. Played most of his representative cricket in Hawke's Bay and when in form a punishing batsman.

P. W. Norris, Canterbury: Another aggressive opener who has had a successful season for West Chirch-church-University in Christchurch. A young player who could develop a lot as a result of his experience on tour.


W. J. Haskell, Victoria: Toured New Zealand, with the New Zealand colts and represented them against the West Indies in 1956, represented Wellington in Plunket Shield cricket. An outstanding bowler of fast-medium pace.

J. Nicholls, Auckland: Right-arm offspinner. Very successful in club cricket and bowed well on the Christmas tour in Hawke's Bay. Flights the ball well and may have a lot of work ahead of him on the hard Australian wickets.

T. Timpson, Canterbury: A senior left-arm slow bowler who usually very accurate. A veteran "tournament" player with a successful record.

M. L. Hancock, Victoria: A Wellington colts representative who has shown fine form this season. One of the leading run-getters in Wellington and senior cricket. An N.Z.U. representative for two years and should get a lot of runs on tour.

TALES OUT OF SCHOOL

The fish that got away

Aussie swimmers make whoopee.

How do they keep the tempo?—This question was asked all over New Zealand when the University swimming team visited here in January. All-night parties, training at 8 a.m. for two to three hours, sightseeing in the afternoon and carnivals in the evening, followed by parties, etc., etc.

The various swimming centres the team visited turned on everything they could want, (we believe the chaps jacked up their own turnouts), and the people who were left gapping were the hosts, especially when one boy stood on his head to drink his beer in Napier. The Australians had no sense of time or tolerance. It is credited that a bus was to leave Rotorua at 8:30—one of the girls turned up at 7 a.m. and said, "One, this is Bili; he'll take you home. Goodnight." It is reported he left alone about 4.30 a.m.

When the team was travelling to Wanganui they heard the fire alarm in Dannevirke. All plodded out to watch, and much to their surprise they were not coming and began to push it to get it started. When it did start it went away with a roar doing 20 m.p.h.

Referee difficulty

Each carnival had its high points but the water police, who played in the murky Gouville Pool, Wanganui, must go down as the strangest of water police of the tour. The referee, supposedly impartial, had great difficulty trying to guess what was going on under water, and therefore was in danger of ending up in the pool himself on many occasions.

On the Sunday afternoon tour of the Australians helped judge the Mile Wanganui event. Fortunately enough, the winner was well-known to certain members of the team. One contestant from Napier had a peculiarly Australian accent, and one from Whanganui looked remarkably like a girl who had dived for N.Z.U. the previous night—Coincidence?

The Australians got used to the New Zealand habit of starting carnivals about ten minutes late. In Palmerston North, John Conroy, the Australian captain, was having a warm-up swim when at 7:30 sharp "The Queen" was played. How do you stand at attention in the middle of a swimming bath?

The team arrived in Wellington early—only the time on the tour. On the first night in Wellington a cocktail party was provided by a local sportsman who had the Aussies drunk three times the amount of beer Steinbecke had anticipated. The Aussies spent the cold tour complaining about warm New Zealand beer, and bought their own. Who was responsible for the bottle of beer that was found in the oven in a party in Wellington? The oven at this time had been heated for cooking.

—W.H.
EXEC NOTES

BRICKBAT AND ROSES

Practically everything the 1858-59 Executive has tackled is not yet done with. This article will be concerned with personalities, not achievements. Most of its members have worked well enough—few have yet been in a position to complete their various jobs.

The Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association Executive gives the Executive a full name: an annually elected body of 13 members, the association, has two committees, the Student's General Executive Committee, and the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association Executive Committee. The former has all the power and responsibility to act on behalf of the students, the latter has only the power to act on behalf of the students.

Most of the Executive's work is done through small committees of three or more members who then report back with findings or recommendations. Many of the studio's committees have members who do not sit on Executive.

During the academic year Executive meetings have been held each week to integrate the findings and working of the committees, shape a broad policy for the association, promote student interests and work together in providing a better corporate life for students' life of the student body.

STORM IN A SAMOVAR

A letter was received from a club at the December meeting announcing, some seven months later, its change of name from "Social Democrat Club" to "Labour Club.

BARRY HUME stepped in with a motion that Exec not approve the change of name. "No club of ours, he said polemically, "should have the polish on the land movement. We were quite happy to have these people in the Social Democrat Club—but to my mind they shouldn't be called the Labour Club."".

As DAVID DAVY said, "They might, in an uprising, ruin our good name." Accordingly the Exec voted against the change of name, 7-3. Miss Thompson and Meers Shaw and Hrecus asid to have their dissent recorded.

To the January meeting came TOM STEINER, of the "Labour Club", and a most inflammatory letter from club secretary TERRY KELLHER. Mr Davy read the letter with gentle satire. The "Labour" Club particularly resented the fact that no reasons were given for the decision; the refusal was "reactionary," and a great deal more besides.

Mr Steiner, who resembles in carriage the young Bevan, reiterated this and pointed out that the "Labour Club" was prepared to carry the whole matter to the membership, to the Council, to the very courts. To our keen delight, the Exec saw a motion that the "Labour Club" be called the Labour Club.

"Good God!" said Hrecus, acting chairman, in a rare outburst of blasphemy, "We are a university!" High time. The motion passed.

FOOTNOTE: Members of Exec who have been making anxious inquiries as to what has been said about them.

SAINTEN should now be able to relax.

GO THUMP A TUB

ELECTIONS ARE TO BE HELD THIS MONTH to fill the position of Antony and two of the Men's Committee. There have been two nominations, the number which makes an election necessary. They were Peter O'BRIEN from the Senior Class and the election last year. David Davy, to be the second, and Neil Plimmer. Mr Davy, and Mr Nandan, co-opted to the Executive to speak on behalf of Asian students, has not shown his colours much. His place is to be contested along with Mr Plimmer's, at the elections next month.

FOOTNOTE: Members of Exec who have been making anxious inquiries as to what has been said about them.

SAINTEN should now be able to relax.
EVANGELIST IS EVANGELISED
One Man's Thoughts from S.C.M. Conference

The summer conference of the New Zealand Student Christian Movement, on "The Nature and Function of the Church," succeeded in convincing me that in spite of appearances to the contrary, life is really found throughout the Church of Jesus Christ. I can do little more here, unfortunately, than state the conviction that God's inescapable purpose is for the fellowship of believers, and the uniquely wonderful experience of being in a worshipping body of Christians.

What I would like to report here are some of the conclusions about the S.C.M. drawn from the affirmation of the Church.

Wherever Christians are, there is the Church. The S.C.M. is a part of the Church and it is none the less to speak of it as being the Church, or cooperation between the two. It has a special role to play in the life of the Church, as students should always be most aware of the failings of the Church and the changing need of the world.

Organisationally and intellectually they are freeer to explore new fields than other branches of the Church. Christian students must try to bridge the gap that exists between the advanced thinking about the Church and the actual life of the churches. Hence the S.C.M. has a responsibility to the whole Church as well as to the University.

Life and Mission

The special endeavour of the movement at the moment and for the next few years is a study and teaching programme on "the life and mission of the Church," of which the recent Conference of the N.Z.S.C.M. was a part.

The programme has been undertaken by the World Student Christian Federation and its members because there is a growing awareness among Church leaders and thinkers that the Church's outreach to the world—her mission—has been frustrated by changing circumstances and hence to some extent neglected.

There is a clear need for a new kind of mission based on a deeper understanding of the world and this can only be reached by serious study in a context of evangelical involvement. In the university situation the S.C.M. has tended to follow the conventional pattern in the Church and the need to concentrate again on mission is essentially clear.

Mission of Reality

The Church's mission, showing to the world the reality of life, giving to the world the good news of Christ, evangelism if you like—is her essential mission and not the fundamental aim of the S.C.M. Contributing nothing to her mission is not the fundamental aim of the S.C.M.

I hope any differences between religious groups in the university are not caused by divergent perceptions of evangelism, not of degree but of intent. In our time, it is a result of our concern to help all men to a knowledge of God, then we owe an apology.

Our evangelism does not mean, I suppose, a conscious impression-making, which would inevitably lead to introspection and possibly hypocrisy. But by merely being a Christian, or being thought such, one cannot help evangelising. Nor can one draw a line between evangelist and evangelised. No matter how sure or unsure we may be we are all involved in both, and we may thank God for it.

A. J. REID, President, V.U.W.S.C.M.

UNIVERSITY CHURCH SERVICE

The annual Victora University church service will be held in St. Andrew's Church, Tauranga, on Sunday, March 8. It will be conducted by the Rev. J. S. Somervillo.

Members of the staff and the Council will join the procession in academic robes.

Last year was the first time this service was held.

PAY AS YOU EARN OR TAKE AS YOU GO

The following is taken from a letter to the New Zealand University Students' Association from the deputy Commissioner of Inland Revenue, Mr J. E. Curran, explaining the procedure to be adopted by full-time students who wish to recover any overpayment of PAYE tax.

It should be noted that normally a taxpayer cannot have his income assessed on annual basis but must have deductions made at the time the income is earned.

For example:

For a person earning $20 a week, the PAYE deduction on the $20 is assessed as if the taxpayer works the full year and earns $1040.

The department has agreed to give a full-time student a concession, meaning that should he earn $20 a week for 15 weeks he will be assessed on an annual income of $300 and not on the basis that total earnings would amount to $1040.

The department has agreed to give a full-time student a concession, meaning that should he earn $20 a week for 15 weeks he will be assessed on an annual income of $300 and not on the basis that total earnings would amount to $1040.

1. This scheme applies to full-time students and not to teachers or training college students who work any other way.
2. On taking employment during the vacation a full-time student should complete a tax code declaration (IR.12) and hand it with any tax payments to his employer.
3. When each employment terminates the employer should return to the student the taxpayer's portion of the Form IR.12. Before doing so he should complete the details of the amount earned and tax deducted.

ELIGIBILITY

To obtain this benefit, however, a full-time student applying for a refund for deductions on his earnings for the year ended March 31, 1959, must enrol as a full-time student for 1959. The department considers that if a full-time student does not intend resuming full-time studies this year he automatically becomes a normal taxpayer when the academic year finishes.

The steps to be taken by a student who wants to have in- come tax on vacation earnings assessed on an annual basis are summarised below:

A. J. REID, President, V.U.W.S.C.M.

(c) A certificate from the Registrar of his University or College stating he is enrolled as a full-time student for the current academic year is needed for a full-time student during the previous academic year. In the case of a first-year student it will be necessary to obtain a certificate from his school that he was a full-time student in the previous year.

The concession to full-time students recognises that they earn comparatively high incomes over a short period and very little, if anything, while the University is in session.

NOTE

A teacher or training college student or any other student who receives an annual taxable salary taking account of tax during the vacation should complete for the vacation the appropriate part of the tax code declaration on Form IR.55. This will mean flat rate deductions based upon the tax code. If these rates are too high—for example, the regular annual salary or income from sources other than wages may not cover all the special exemptions the student could claim—application may be made to the local district office for a special tax code giving a suitable rate for deduction of tax.
INSIDE CHINA TODAY
Man and Nature in China

Among the most striking achievements of China in the last decade has been the dramatic change in the attitude of the Chinese people to their environment. The hopelessness, the feeling of helplessness in the face of natural or man-made calamity which long characterised man's attitude to nature in China, have given place to an unswerving faith in the capacity of man to dominate his environment and create a world of plenty.

The quality of Chinese traditional peasant life is vividly depicted in the novels of Pearl Buck. Between population and food supply there was a delicate equilibrium—an equilibrium measured to the limit of exactitude, poised on the knife edge of starvation. It was an equilibrium shattered easily by any one of the great natural calamities which ravaged China with monotonous and tragic regularity—by flood or by drought, by typhoon or locust plague, too, by man-made calamities such as war or civil strife.

In the face of these calamities the peasant was helpless, driven by a fatal resignation. In "The Good Earth," the father of Wang Lung sees his family starving, reduced to eating grass and bark, yet can still say "There have been worse days, there have been worse days. Once I saw men and women eating children."

Here was a society whose material poverty could scarcely be described; nor much thought was given to the standard of living in the western sense; in which man existed, was the standard. ... The peasant was dumbly acquiescent in this fate and his explanation of the fate shared by most western scientists. It's true the fate of the scientists expressed itself in different terms; it invoked shortage of arable land, overpopulation, the "procrustean rigidity" of the peasant, as root causes of the situation. But both peasant and scientist accepted the inevitability of hunger, the helplessness of man confronted with a task beyond his power.

NEW SPIRIT

Today, western scientists are having to re-examine their conclusions; the humane spirit is sweeping through the peasant peoples of East Asia. It is expressed in the words of the chairman of a peasants' co-operative: "We've got achievements here."

China's Mao Tse-Tung: "The working people of the People's Republic of China have really begun to rule this land." And in this phrase Mao refers not only to political control, but also to the control the Chinese are beginning to exercise over their environment. It is expressed in the posters and murals which are dotted all over China depicting vividly the taming of China's rivers, the reclamation of her hills with trees, the achievement of bumper harvests. It is expressed best of all in a great outburst of popular poetry.

"We stamp our feet, and all the heavens tremble; We blow the breath, and the rearing river makes way; We lift our hands, and mighty mountains shiver; We stride forward, and none dare block our path; We lift our voices, our strength is invincible."

The justification for this new-found faith in man's achievements during the first Five Year Plan, above all, in the achievements of 1955, the "Year of the Great Leap Forward." Tree-planting on a vast scale, water conservancy projects designed to eliminate flood and drought, the extension of irrigation, new technologies in agriculture and new forms of social organisation—all these have contributed to the great expansion of food production. Grain output was doubled last year, and with the food problem solved the old feeling of helplessness, bred partly by malnutrition, has been replaced by an unbounded confidence in the future.

Much of China's rural poverty has been explained by geographers in terms of difficulties of the physical environment such as shortage of arable land, uncontrollable rivers, or the vagaries of the Chinese climate. These factors may have played a role, but their importance was aggravated by the defective organisation of society, by the instability and ineffectiveness of the Central Government and by a landholding system which facilitated the ruthless exploitation of the peasant.

THE LIBERATION

Because it removed these social and economic weaknesses, the 1949 Revolution was in a very real sense a Liberation. The fact that the Revolution was broadly based and carried through with the enthusiastic support of tens of millions of peasants helps to explain the remarkable change in peasant attitudes. As one Chinese writer has put it: "Revolution, land reform and success in co-operative projects has given the peasants a realisation of their collective strength; they feel today that they can conquer the fates, the mountains and the rivers, and mould nature." To quote again the popular song:

"We blow a breath, and the earth trembles; We lift our hands, and mighty mountains shiver."

I would find the explanation for the great and accelerating transformation of the land of China, not in any merciless regimentation of the people of China, but in the release of the suppressed and latent energy of 500 million peasant folk. I would stress that the process of change did not finish there for, if social change made possible the shipping of a new environment so, too, the process of modifying the environment itself stimulated further change. As men transformed nature, their own way of thinking was transformed too.

As more ambitious schemes of water conservation or afforestation were implemented the need for bolder consumption of manpower and capital became obvious. The agricultural co-operative was too small a unit for such schemes—and so the commune system was born. It was born in the countryside, but so unpremeditated, so impetuously, that the peasantry could not adjust to the new requirements. It is significant that the "grassroots" origin of the commune system can be understood in the enthusiasm of the commune system can be understood in the enthusiasm of the peasants through the length and breadth of China.

REMODELING OF CHINA

The conscious remodelling of China geography by 650 million people takes many forms; I can give here only a few examples. The Chinese living space has been expanded by man for many thousands of years. Over the centuries the natural shape of the plains has been cleared to make way for cropland; the forests on the upland areas have been relentlessly destroyed as a result of the increasing space for fuel.

Today only one-tenth of the country is forested. Deforestation has caused a shortage of fuel and constructional timber; even more important has been its effect on the country's river regimes. A forest cover reduces rates of run-off and regularises river flow; deforestation means rapid run-off and violent flooding of the rivers after heavy rain. Because of the obvious benefits of afforestation there has been a vigorous programme of tree-planting. Some 28 million acres were afforested under the first Five Year Plan.

The hills of Southern and Central China are being rechristened in forests and, on the desert margins of China, the barren and scarred hills are carefully terraced and planted with young trees. The North China Plain is gridded with young shelter belts, and along the margins of the Gobi a new Great Wall is growing, 2,000 miles long and a mile wide, is arresting the drift of sand and the scorching winds from the interior. Around the villages and along the roads and railway lines the planting of millions of trees have been planted. 800 million in the first three months of 1958 alone. The vegetation map is being completely transformed and in less than a decade the ravages of centuries made good.

Some of the most striking achievements have been in the field of flood control and drainage and food were the twin ravages of most of China. Theparse of the floods and the imprudent and inefficient government could only exacerbate these dangers. Water conservancy programmes are taking shape now. There has been a great proliferation of drainage and irrigation schemes and the building of small dams, construction of small
scale dams and storage ponds—may pay in efficiency if it is planned and co-ordinated over a years-long time frame. These are major projects such as the Taos Canal system near Lanchow, which benefits 30,000 acres and serves a population of 41 million.

Before the floodwaters of the Yellow River. By 1960, the annual output of Bohai Bay, which has had a great expansion of agricultural productivity achieved significant strides in productivity, together with more efficient types of agricultural organisation—the collective farm, the brigade and the new cooperatives. In the meantime, the climate has become more extreme, with the average temperature rising by 0.6 degrees Celsius, and the yield of the grain in a single year.

The yields achieved on trial plots seem remarkable by Western standards; yields up to 60% of rice to the new are achieved and it is confidently claimed that "the Chinese man dares to make it." It is, I think, difficult to overemphasise the importance of the Chinese farmers in these dramatic developments: it is large enough to be a workable and, if necessary, a more effective control of certain major projects, and it provides a framework within which improved agricultural techniques can be applied with maximum advantage.

The wider implications of these changes are hardly need stressing. The Chinese penury, one-quarter of humanity, at risk of the corollary poverty of their past. But the new agricultural techniques are breathtaking, breaking toil, prisoners of a stagnation that has at least now lifted up their heads and aspiring their capacity to dominate their environment, to bend it to their needs.

"Huge Garden"

Man in China is now an "ecologic dominant." The eventual outcome is a new geography of China, for with rapidly increasing yields it is possible to reduce the area of food crops and to allocate more land to forestry, animal husbandry and fishery. Today, the average yield per acre reaches 30 tons, which Chinese experts claim is an attainable figure, a more than 25% would still support 600 million people. Then, as one writer puts it, "the earth could be transformed into a huge garden."

These developments are of vital importance to the world. They illustrate how the release of human energies and enthusiasm through a social and political revolution has made possible the formation of an entirely new relationship between man and his environment. I illustrate this in the shaping of this new environment, new needs and new opportunities have brought into being new forms of social organisation.

If, as seems likely, the Chinese experiment succeeds, their achievements will have a major impact on the uncommitted countries of South and East Asia. The Chinese successes in controlling the framework of a Communist society, a new world of plenty will be taken as evidence of the superiority of that society by the small and struggling nations on China's southern fringes. At that moment, a new world power balance will be struck.

My first discovery upon reading it was that the Americans make no attempt to base their conduct upon a principle of some sort, because dubious is might be, but they are honest enough to admit that national interests and expediency are not at the base of it. "...the policy of the United States is one of rumpus," creating wards Red China has necessarily been based on objective considerations of national interest." Elsewhere—"recognition would produce no tangible benefits to the United States or to the free world and so forth."

All along I have suspected that American imperialism and "sphere of influence" diplomacy is the real reason why the U.S. refuses to recognize Communist China. Now the Americans have themselves admitted it. Surely the conclusion that recognition is essential to Western interests is nearer. Such a solid Tory as Sir Clifton Webb, former Government to the Attorney-General and Minister of External Affairs, can see no sense in this point of view. In a letter to "The Times" on December 6th last he wrote:

"Moreover, putting aside Red China's rights, it has always been the policy of the Government to the powers' own self-interest to cold-shoulder the Communist regime here, thereby denying them more firmly into the arms of Russia. After all, no solid block of Communism from the regions of West China. I believe there was a time when we had to pinch the middle class over the question of Russia and Red China."

Clifton also said categorically that the non-admission of Communist Chinese representatives to United Nations forums prevented the easing of international tension.

"Startlingly Candid"

Another startlingly candid admission by the American Foreign Relations Committee view that "diplomatic recognition is a privilege and not a right." How absurd is this, is clear on a moment's reflection. If every nation adopted a similar attitude, all international comity and co-operation would immediately break down.

The Americans also rely upon the Chinese confiscation without compensation of the properties of foreign nationals, including immense British investments in the Korean War. Sir Clifton Webb also deeply exposed the weaknesses of this argument.

"During the Korean War seven or eight years ago there were grounds for refusing to recognise the Chinese Communist regime and to admit its representatives to the United Nations, because that it had been declared by the Security Council to be guilty of aggression contrary to the provisions of the Charter. But it is surely incomprehensible, when the Chinese Nationalist regime of Chiang Kai-shek virtually ruled on the island of Formosa (or Taiwan) should be allowed to speak for the whole of the Chinese nation numbering something like 500 million people, or at any rate should be allowed to exercise the veto which was accorded to China as one of the 'Big Five' at the time when the United Nations was formed."

Sir Clifton Webb is right when he says the American position is ludicrous. Indeed, it is scandalous. The Americans build a case upon Chinese the dangers in Korea, but make no mention of their own act of aggression in Lebanon and similar acts by the Israelis, British and French in Egypt.

Exclusive Club

The Americans incidentally have not absolved all the culpable arguments they could have used. An American delegate to the United Nations has accused United States to an exclusive club. Sir Clifton Webb also deeply exposed this bit of nonsense. In his view the true comparison is with a public meeting from which you don't (or shouldn't) exclude a man because you don't like his political philosophy.

I very much recommend the pamphlet to anybody who would like a good laugh.

—T.J.K.