

(continued from previous page)

different to the sheep from the calm foothills of the Southern Alps where they were born.

At Rewi Alley's School

Spending the night at Wuwei, we made an early start next morning for Shantan. I arrived in a weapons-carrier at noon on March 24, just as Rewi Alley was reading a letter from New Zealand with a picture of the embarking sheep enclosed. Great was his amazement when we told him they would arrive in four hours.

There was just time for a hurried visit round the school, which is surely the most interesting educational experiment in Nationalist China to-day—a spiritual as well as physical oasis. I had read all the reports that had been written on the school and yet they did not convey the spirit of the place as that short inspection did. The self-reliance of the boys and girls, their industry, their thirst for knowledge and yet their closeness to the grassroots has to be seen to be appreciated. This spirit, created by the tireless labour of George Hogg and Rewi Alley is a rare thing. Rewi Alley knows the life-history not only of every student but also of every animal in the place. The students are wonderful material for the co-operative movement of the future: the most difficult problem is how to integrate them into the movement of to-day.

The truck arrived punctually at 4 p.m. More pictures were taken, one of Rewi with his arms round a ram—Jason had found his Golden Fleece. Then the pilgrimage to see the sheep started. The *hsien* magistrate and the garrison commander came, and all the school-boys and school-girls as well as many of the villagers. It was a gala occasion for Shantan.

In these days of rising international tension, it is pleasant to be able to record one small co-operative enterprise carried out to a successful conclusion. To come true, Rewi Alley's dream called for imagination and generosity all along the line. These two qualities were shown, first by the Canterbury sheep-dealers, then by the New Zealand Government, by CORSO, by UNRRA who transported the sheep by ship, by CNRRA who transported them by plane, and by the Kansu Provincial Government.

Breeding is to be started at once, so that the first lambs will be born before winter. Shears, given by the Women's Division of Federated Farmers, arrived with the sheep. A complete wool-washing and wool-spinning set, given by friends in America, is now being loaded at Hong Kong. When the set is assembled under the direction of a Canadian textile expert, the students of Shantan, with their improved sheep and improved machinery, may be able to achieve results which will help the entire Kansu Province.

"ONLY A BEGINNING..."

HARDLY had the foregoing article reached *The Listener* office than Colin Morrison himself walked in, having left Hong Kong just a week earlier. "I saw the sheep take off in Shanghai," he said, "and later I saw them on their new grazing grounds in Kansu. In Shanghai they were a three days' wonder—the papers describing, under five-column wide headlines, *Operation Bo-peep: New Zealand Gift Sheep Aristocrats Airlifted*. But in North-West China—which is a long panhandle of oases stretching into Central Asia between the enormous mountains of Tibet and the Gobi Desert—they are regarded as a continuing miracle. Local inhabitants show them off to visitors from further away, explaining that they produce 10 pounds of wool a head instead of the local one-and-a-half average. (The shearings from 500 local sheep look just like a pile of dags in the corner," says Rewi). And every dusk while I was in Shantan I saw them driven tinkling in through the city gates and along the streets to their corral in Alley's com-

doctor, and other helpers for Alley that CORSO has promised. . . ."

After that we wanted to be reassured that it really was Alley who owned the sheep and not the Kansu Government.

"They are all his," explained Mr. Morrison, "and the wool they produce will be shorn, processed, spun, and woven by the capable young fellows who make up his school. They learn by doing in that place, and will make grand practical leaders in village modernisation wherever they go when they leave him and a new lot of peasant youths take their place. By selling the cloth that the boys will weave and dye from our Corriedales' wool the school will help to pay its own way just as it does now by selling the pottery they make and the flour they grind. That will be just as big a benefit to China in the long run as clothing a region that to-day lives in tatters even although its winters fall sometimes to 40 below zero."

"A very satisfactory end to an eventful story," we commented.

"End? No—only a beginning, I hope," exclaimed Mr. Morrison. "And I don't mean only the beginning of better things for Kansu. Because—do you realise—this gift is the very first thing that New Zealand has done for its own pioneering son, who certainly is one of the world's great men to-day. Americans, Canadians, and British have all given him a lift along at times. But those Corriedales are the first hand's turn that we have done for him. So we must send, as soon as another opportunity occurs, the rest of the 50 head we originally promised him. And meanwhile there's a more immediate and urgent job. CORSO has undertaken to send Rewi three helpers and to maintain them for two years at least—a doctor, an industrial chemist, and a machine-shop instructor. And, since the doctor who is going has a qualified nurse as wife, that will make four New Zealanders plus Alley—a combination, surely, that will do great things. First-class people have offered and now are waiting only on transport and the finance which CORSO hopes to raise. If more money comes to hand than is needed for their passage money, 'keep,' and out-of-pocket allowances, CORSO will send more people. So please don't write 'Finis' to this Epic. Make it 'To Be Continued.'"



MAX BICKERTON, Rewi Alley, and one of the golden fleeces outside the Bailie School, Shantan.

pound, to be returned to pasture each morning at dawn.

"The Provincial Government, too, is delighted with them, for they are the start of new life—clothing, weaving, dyeing, farming—for the whole region. General Kuo, who was Chief of Staff of the entire Chinese armies in the war against Japan, entertained Alley and me at Government House (as I suppose you'd call it) in order to express his delight and gratitude to the people of New Zealand for the gift. He told me, too, how the province is benefited by Alley's spirit as well as by his schemes, and begged me to hurry up sending the New Zealand

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STOP PRESS

FOUR HUNDRED SHEEP AIRBORNE

WORD was received by CORSO in Wellington just as we were going to press that within one month of the 25 gift sheep for Rewi Alley arriving at their destination there were 400 more New Zealand sheep in Kansu province. This, we hasten to explain, does not mean that Rewi Alley and his Indusco shepherds have discovered a way to accelerate the reproductive cycle in their flocks but simply that, the first sheep flown into Shantan having stood the journey so well, air transport was used by the Chinese Government to move 400 New Zealand sheep purchased by UNRRA from Nanking into the North-west. This—the largest airborne movement of livestock ever undertaken in China—was begun towards the end of May and involved ten 2,400-mile round trips out of Nanking every other day, 40 sheep being carried each trip. The operation was under the control of Robert Rousselot, of Missouri, the American pilot who transported the first mob of sheep into Kansu.