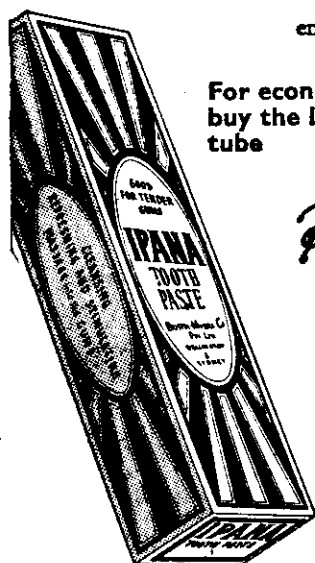


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VISITOR FROM CHINA

(continued from previous page)

non-partisan organisation, and it operates freely in Communist as well as in Nationalist territory. A lot of our first organisers, you may remember, were sent up to North China, with full permission from the Central Government, in 1938; they have remained there and carried on in what has since become 'Communist' territory. It's very hard to get reports and figures, of course; but if I gave you a reasonable guess (instead of that ultra-conservative estimate) for all Indusco members including North China, it might be something like half-a-million."

I asked Mr. Townsend if he had himself seen anything of the co-ops. in Communist-held territory. "Yes, in 1946 I went up to Yen-an to inspect the co-operatives in that district. It was really impressive—there had been amazingly rapid growth. One textile co-op. near Yen-an, for instance, had 200 members operating 80 looms; there was another very big paper-making co-op.

organisation. Technically, he's still an advisor to the Chinese Government; there was some trouble for a time, when certain groups in the Government got the idea that the C.I.C. was a disguised political movement. But I do think that that misunderstanding has now passed, and the Central Government is satisfied that Indusco is in fact just what it set out to be—a method of democratic rural industrial organisation."

"But Alley is no longer a paid official of the Government?"

"His salary—it's quite a good one on paper, 6000 U.S. dollars—is paid by the Indusco Committee in America. Of course, he uses only bare living expenses for himself and the Chinese boys he's adopted: the rest goes into running expenses for the Shantan school, which is always right up against it trying to meet its budget. Alley is paid as Field Secretary for the International Committee, which has its office in Shanghai."

"Have you seen him recently? Some of us here think he badly needs a holiday, and would like to get him out to New Zealand."



DR. and MRS. R. R. SPENCER (a CORSO doctor and nurse) at Shantan, Kansu

using water-power, originally capitalised with funds from Java. And you felt that Indusco here had really raised the whole standard of living of North Shensi." Some reasons for this, Mr. Townsend suggested, might be found in the fact that the Chinese Communists were especially concerned with rural problems—they were particularly active always among the peasants, whereas the Kuomintang, in Nationalist China, included many industrialists and had within its territory most of the established centres of Western-style factory production.

Rewi Alley's Position

"And how does Alley himself stand to-day, in all this?" This was one of the questions I had most wanted to ask, for I knew there had been difficulties during the war years, and stories had come back to New Zealand of personal and political complications adversely affecting the work of the real founder of Indusco.

Peter Townsend, on the whole, was reassuring. "Since George Hogg's death, Rewi Alley has been carrying on at the Baillie School in Shantan, Kansu, concentrating on the job of training boys from the co-ops., and from farming families, to continue the work of

"I saw him last October in Shanghai, when he was down for a flying visit. It's true he hasn't been very fit—though we're all much happier about him now that there's a good New Zealand doctor in Shantan. When some more of your CORSO personnel get settled in Shantan, it might be possible for Rewi to get away for a month or so; but I'm sure it wouldn't be for long."

A New CORSO Committee

I asked Mr. Townsend if he had met any of the CORSO volunteers in China, especially those assigned to work with Alley in the C.I.C. He was warm in his praise of the success of Dr. and Mrs. R. R. Spencer in establishing a clinic at Shantan, where they had come triumphantly through their first hard winter, 6000 feet up among the mountains. The Spencers had been first on the scene; but they had now been followed at Shantan by an industrial science teacher, John Bennett, of Palmerston North; and a machinist, George Masson, of Auckland. Shirley Barton, also of Auckland, is now acting as secretary-organiser with the International Committee in Shanghai.

"These New Zealanders sent over through CORSO are all grand people—and they've settled down to hard work

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