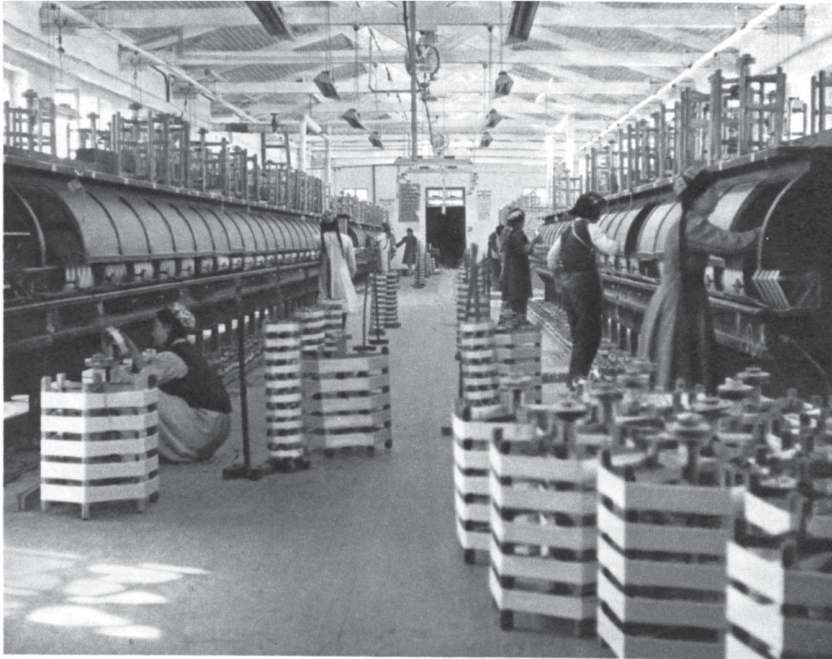


Khotan's Modern Silk Industry

By Wang Lou-chin



A shop of the Khotan Filature



"Ai-te-lai-su", a favorite material of the local people now being manufactured in large quantities



KHOTAN and Sacho in the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region are famous centres for raising silkworms. For a long time in the past the people in south Sinkiang had wanted a modern filature, because in the old days the silk industry there was weak and undeveloped, and the only method of reeling was by hand, using a simple wheel. Their wish was fulfilled. In 1953 the People's Government began building the Khotan Filature, completing it the following year and starting up production.

This modern combine handles weaving and dyeing, as well as reeling. The employees, in addition to Han women workers from south of the Yangtse River, include Uighur, Kazakh and Hui girls, who make up over 60 per cent of the workers of the filature. Born and brought up as they were in peasant and herdsman families, most of them had never even seen a machine



Hsia Hui-ying, a Han worker, demonstrates her methods during an emulation campaign to "compare with, learn from and catch up with the advanced, and help those lagging behind"

Checking up the products

before. To train the first generation of Sinkiang's filature workers, the government chose a number of them to send to Soochow, famous centre of the silk industry, to study. Moreover, Han women workers in the Khotan Filature were organized to pass on their skill to workers of other nationalities. Over the past 10 years or so, quite a large number of technical workers from among the various nationalities have been trained in this factory.

Thanks to the close unity and mutual help between workers of various nationalities, production rises steadily. In the last few years, particularly after a factory-wide labour emulation campaign was launched, the quality of the finished goods has noticeably improved. In the last six months, eight new varieties of product have been added to the output of the Khotan Filature.

