

POPULATION

# China, of All Places, Harassed by Labor Shortage

It Is Estimated That 2,000,000 Men Have Been Killed,  
Another 5,000,000 in the Armed Forces; Few for Farming

**C**HINA with its teeming millions is harassed by a labor shortage in the topsy-turvy state of the 1941 world.

A gigantic surplus of Chinese male population, estimated at 8,000,000 before Japanese invasion, has been so used up or diverted to fighting duties that not much man power now is available for farming and industry, according to an analysis by Kurt Bloch, reported in the United States to the American Council of the Institute of Pacific Relations.

Citing oral reports which reveal the

situation, strange for China, Mr. Bloch states that farmers in Szechuan did not plant a third crop in 1940 for lack of labor, although multiple cropping is the practice in wide areas of this western province.

Japanese were disappointed in the size of the 1940 tobacco crop in Japanese-occupied China, another condition ascribed to scarcity of available laborers.

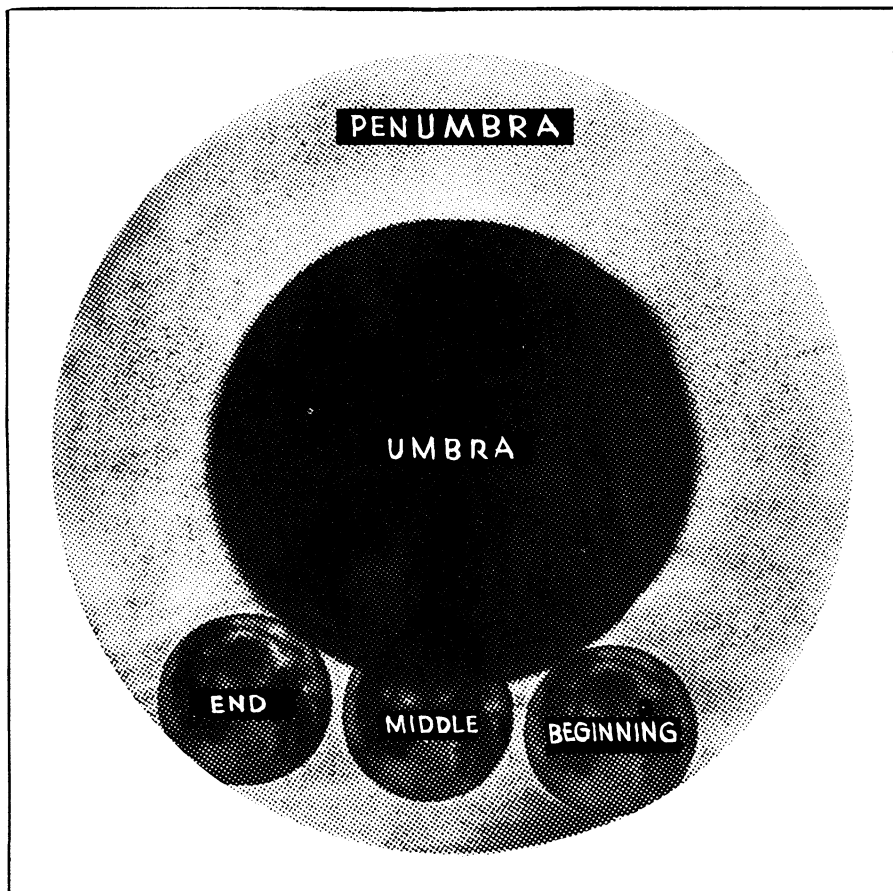
Reports on China's 1940 crops as a whole, which have been "none too favorable," seem to confirm these impres-

sions, Mr. Bloch finds. He points out that a labor shortage in China's farming areas would be likely to result in a decline in the level of land rent, which Chinese farmers pay in farm products rather than money. Oral reports do point to falling rents.

Governmental organizations of free China, which are working to release occupied areas from Japan, require large totals of man power, not only to fight but to do road work, mine coal, make munitions, and work in steel mills and clothing factories.

Accounting for China's labor shortage statistically, Mr. Bloch figures that three years ago China had at least 8,000,000 men in its man-power reserves. Of these, he now concludes that possibly 2,000,000 have been killed in fighting, 5,000,000 are probably in the armed forces of the Chinese republic and in addition, hardships and illness and "punitive expeditions" by Japanese forces have taken lives of many more men than would have died in normal conditions.

*Science News Letter, March 8, 1941*



MOON IN EARTH'S SHADOW

*Partial moon eclipse, on March 13, shown in a drawing prepared for Science Service at the Fels Planetarium of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia. North is to the top.*

ASTRONOMY

## Partial Eclipse of Moon Visible on March 13

**I**F YOU get up early on the morning of Thursday, March 13, and the weather is clear, you will be able to see the first eclipse of the year. Then the moon will enter a little into the earth's shadow, producing a "partial lunar eclipse."

The earth's shadow has two parts. There is the umbra, the dark core, where the sunlight is completely cut off; and the penumbra, surrounding it, from which a rocket ship observer would see the earth only partly covering the sun's disk.

At 4:38 a. m., eastern standard time (for central time, one hour; mountain time, two hours, and Pacific time three hours earlier), the moon will start entering the penumbra, but not much effect will be seen. The real beginning comes at 5:55 a. m., E. S. T., when the moon's northeastern edge will begin to enter the umbra. At 6:55 a. m., the middle, the moon will be darkest.

The edge of the earth's curved shadow will then cover nearly a third of the lunar diameter. At 7:56 a. m., comes the end, when the moon will be out of the umbra. At 9:13 a. m., it will be entirely out from the penumbra as well.

Since the moon sets in Washington