

In addition to the numbers of meteors, a statement of the location, cloud conditions, names of observers, etc., should be reported. If any unusually bright meteors appear, their path among the stars should be reported, as accurately as possible. From such data, obtained at scattered locations, the real path of the meteor in the sky may be calculated.

Observers are often fooled into thinking that a meteor falls much more closely than it does. Some years ago, when I was connected with a museum in Philadelphia, a very brilliant meteor, or "fireball," flashed over the city, toward the northeast, in the early morning hours. The next day I received a phone call from a taxi driver. He said he had been returning home just as it appeared, and that it landed in the field near his house. If we wanted it, he would get it for us. Though doubting that it was so close, I assured him we would be delighted to have it. A few days later he

called again, to say that he still had not found it, but expected to do so soon, and he would keep on hunting. We never heard any more from him. This was hardly surprising, since astronomical calculations, made on the basis of reports from a number of northeastern states, showed that it had passed over Connecticut, and had fallen in the sea several hundred miles east of Massachusetts!

**Time Table for August**

Aug.	EDST	
2	1:28 a. m.	Moon passes Venus
5	12:13 a. m.	New moon
	4:00 p. m.	Moon nearest, distance 222,400 miles
9	12:46 a. m.	Moon passes Mars
11	3:40 p. m.	Moon in first quarter
12-13	after midnight	Perseid meteors
14	12:24 a. m.	Moon passes Jupiter
19	1:32 p. m.	Full moon
20	5:00 a. m.	Moon farthest; distance 252,600 miles
27	2:46 p. m.	Moon in last quarter
30	11:15 p. m.	Moon passes Venus

Subtract one hour for CDST, two hours for MDST, and three for PDST.

Science News Letter, July 24, 1948

least 90% of the cuttings will live. In a few months, erosion will be checked, and there will be at least a little fuel available for winter use. However, withes suitable for basket-weaving will not be ready before the spring of 1950.

From here the farmers have made further advances on their own. On petition to the Nanking municipal government, they have obtained ten tractors and a considerable number of modern farm machines, as well as four large power pumps. These are to take the place of farm animals, formerly rented from the mainland at considerable cost. The farmers have organized a cooperative to take title to the machinery for the community, and to pay off the loan with which it was purchased. They will also have to face the problem of buying fuel and oil to keep their machinery running.

The experiment is proving the ability of the Chinese farmers to improve their lot by cooperation, as well as the value of joint effort on the part of government and private organizations. Most important of all, if the experiment succeeds it will serve as a model to be followed elsewhere in China's big job of getting out of the hole.

Science News Letter, July 24, 1948

AGRICULTURE

# Chinese Re-Plant Willows

► CHINESE capacity for self-help, and therewith China's chances for getting "off relief" on a world-burdening scale, are being tested on a small but encouraging scale on the island of Pa Kua Chou, in the Yangtze river about six miles downstream from the city of Nanking.

A population of about 10,000, mostly farmers, support themselves on the island, which has approximately 10,500 acres of farmland and some 1,200 acres of swamp. They would probably never have needed to ask help from anyone, but for a crisis produced by the war.

When the Japs moved into this part of China, they cut the island off completely, forcing the inhabitants to use up for fuel the willow-trees that had formerly lined its dykes and shores. This had two disastrous effects: the islanders could no longer weave baskets, and rapid erosion began to rob them of their soil.

To set the people of Pa Kua Chou back on their feet again, a cooperative project

for planting more than 2,000,000 willow cuttings was undertaken by a group of Chinese and foreign agencies, including the Extension Commission, the National Forestry Research Bureau, the China Relief Mission and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The cuttings were made from willows elsewhere along the river, the work being done by refugee labor paid for by the China Relief Mission.

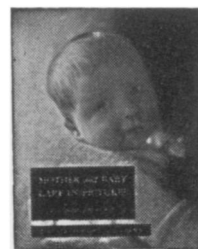
From here on, however, the islanders took over. As most of the cuttings were brought to Pa Kua Chou, they became the property of the farmers, who planted them on their own land. Some of the cuttings, planted on public lands, became public property and will be administered by a committee representing the cooperating agencies and the farmers' organizations. The farmers have agreed among themselves not to indulge in premature cutting.

FAO experts, who have served as advisers throughout the project, estimate that at

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