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Reported Fighting Japanese" (Chungking by Radio)

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Reds Reported Fighting Japs

(From the Chungking Edition, Shanghai
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CHUNGKING (By Radio)—The first purely objective report covering the recent five-month trip of foreign correspondents to Communist areas in China to be published here appeared in the Shanghai Evening Post. It was written by Maurice Votaw, a correspondent for the Baltimore Sun and adviser to the Information Ministry.

Mr. Votaw stated definitely that the Communists are fighting the Japanese and that he personally witnessed some of the battles and saw wounded 18th Group Army soldiers. He also talked with sev-

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eral Japanese prisoners a few hours after their capture.

Chinese farmers, according to Mr. Votaw's observations, bitterly hate the Japanese and cooperate wholeheartedly with the Communist armies.

One thing which particularly impressed the American newspaperman during his Yen-an visit was the improvement in the people's livelihood made possible, to a large extent, through a betterment in diet and increased weaving of heavy cloth. Efforts have been made to change loafers and beggars into useful citizens. Everyone participates in the production movement through carpentry, spinning, weaving, bee-raising and similar activities in addition to his regular duties.

Political Hotbed

Correspondents criticized some of the highest Army and party officials for devoting two hours daily to manual labor. As a result of this criticism, the practice was halted and the time is now used to prepare specialists for particular tasks. Soldiers, Mr. Votaw said, have become self-sufficient through reclaiming wastelands. Hospitals lack supplies and trained doctors but hospitalization is free.

All Government branches are elected by the people with strict

observance of the Communist regulation that only one-third of the officials be party members. Yen-an itself is a political hotbed but politics disappear in the countryside where the people are interested only in defeating Japan.

Freedom of speech and press is permitted to a "certain extent," Mr. Votaw reported. Party members are not allowed to criticize policies but may criticize the methods by which such policies are carried out.