

Korean village consists of a cluster of mud-walled houses, almost all of which are thatched. The floors of most Korean homes are of mud, hard-packed and clean. The kitchen floor is at a lower level than the rest of the house. This is related to the heating of the house; the flues from the kitchen stove run under the bedroom in order to heat it, and finally converge into a separate round chimney of stone and clay, from which projects a tile tub. Each village is an almost independent social unit and retains much the same democratic flavour it has always known. The buildings are drab and monotonously similar, in contrast to the women's clothes, which are gay and bright.

### **Northeast Korea**

"In the Northeast the country is quite different in appearance from the rest. The terrain is wilder, much more rugged and, because it was not fought over, is greener and more heavily timbered. We spent two nights at a government tourist hotel at a place called Mount Sorak, which could have been in the Canadian Rockies. The warming effect of the Japan Current is not so apparent here and temperatures are some degrees lower than on the West Coast. Iron ore occurs in a number of isolated pockets, and mining for export to Japan is a variation from farming and fishing. Gold, graphite, lead, tungsten, iron ore and coal have been profitably mined at one time or another. The road to Mount Sorak *via* Chun Chon and Inje was a triumph of engineering. The highest pass took us 3,200 meters above sea-level. For exciting motoring and breathtaking scenery, this part of Korea would be hard to beat.

"At the seacoast near Mount Sorak, we were fortunate to see a co-operative project to gather seaweed. About 200 people — male and female and ranging in age from the early teens to the seventies or more — were collecting seaweed, standing waist-deep in the incoming tide. Earlier in the day boats had passed along the beach some distance from the shore dragging a device to cut the seaweed, which was carried ashore by the tide and was now being gathered. Two types were collected; one was for human consumption (it looked like celery and was eaten raw) and the other for fertilizer. There is a considerable fishing industry along this coast, cod and octopus being the principal catch. Fishing techniques are generally primitive and yields per man employed are low.

### **Growing Silk Industry**

"Silk culture is gaining popularity in many parts of Korea, where it has been found an excellent cash crop capable of bringing income during the period between the sowing and harvesting of cereals. So far, the scale of production is small but it is growing rapidly and is receiving government support. Evidence of the extent of the industry was provided by the number of mulberry trees planted about the country.

"While there are many rivers in Korea, none is large or navigable except for short stretches and for very small craft. All are subject to considerable variation