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AND

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IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL

SHANGHAI, FRIDAY, 18th MAY, 1906.

THE SPIRIT OF UNREST.

THE immovable, unimpressible Chinese, the nation of peace-lovers who regard the occupation of the soldier as among the lowest in the social scale, are, perhaps not so paradoxically as it sounds, chronic sufferers from unrest. Rebellious have been part of their everyday history for centuries; brigands are accepted by the authorities as a matter of course, if they are not actually in league with the authorities; riots are merely a crude but easy method of expressing public opinion. Facts like these, so well known to all who live in the East, make it unnecessary to pay too much attention to the reports of riots and disorders, usually of a purely local character, which have

lately come to hand from many parts of the country. Yet in view of the increasing demand on the part of Young China for complete freedom from outside interference, it is worth while recapitulating once again the list of riots which have come to notice in our own columns during the past month or so. In Kiangsi province in the districts of Poyang and Singtze, there were disturbances aimed at the local officials requiring the dispatch of troops from Nanchang, and in a district consequently which might be thought to have had its fill of riot lately. In Hunan, which from being the most reactionary of provinces is laying claim to be the most progressive, there was a disturbance in the district of Pingchiang. Nearer Shanghai we have recorded disorders in Chiahsing prefecture, Chekiang province, and in Chihli, the strong rule of Yuan Shih-kai himself has not prevented an outbreak at Kaoyi. In this connection also may be mentioned the mysterious placards with which Peking has again been recently posted, and the mischievous appeals on behalf of the Patriotic Fund which have been circulated throughout the north.

None of these incidents is possibly of much importance in itself. Collectively even they represent nothing like the violence from which a great Western nation, which equally with China is reaching out towards modern ideas, is suffering in the process of transition. Yet are they all indications that the hands of the Government, central and provincial alike, are still far from strong. New authorities are being constantly created, the formation of a new Great Board or the organising of a fresh province is becoming an ordinary occurrence but in too many instances it is merely a transference in name, and when a change has been intended in any sense to be effective, it has been ordered not so much with a view to improving defective conditions as to assert claims and dignities, which have nothing substantial to sustain them. The perpetual insistence on C' sovereign rights is not only ng but pointless,

signed by representatives of all the missions in Changsha. There has not yet been time to communicate with those in other stations along the Siang, but doubtless as soon as possible they will be only too ready to co-operate in any measures of relief that may be made possible through the sympathetic help of all the charitably disposed.

For the convenience of remitting money to Changsha the two following are acting as treasurers at Hankow, to whom all contributions should ultimately be sent:—

Dr. R. Wollendale, London Missionary Society, Hankow.

Rev. Louis Byrde, Church Missionary Society, Hankow.

If I may venture to suggest it, will not the Bank Managers be so good as to allow all cheques sent to Hankow to be free from the usual discounts. In Changsha it is necessary to have cheques issued from Hankow; hence the necessity of having the money sent here in the first instance.

The waters have begun to subside just a little at Changsha, the 4th inst. being the day of the turn. Masses of debris and dead bodies were floating down the river. The whole country was one vast lake, the houses and trees being entirely covered. It will be long before any clear conception of the awful catastrophe can be obtained. It seems almost certain that very little will be possible now to save the ordinary rice crop, though sowings may take place for a later crop. The Chinese authorities are administering relief in Changsha, but very little is likely to be done for all the country places. Every dollar now given will help to relieve some homeless or starving people. At Changsha the highest level of water seems to have been 40ft 4in., or nearly four feet beyond all known previous Chinese records. In the city it was up to the magistrate's yamen. The shops along the river streets were entirely submerged. The water was also up to the foundations of the London Mission house outside the North Gate. The Custom House had water in it up to the top of the windows.

At Siangtan the water came almost up to the Presbyterian Mission Houses, but the other Mission houses must have been deep in the water.

The Siang River flood has greatly filled up the Yangtze, the volume of water entering at Yochow apparently amounting to about two-thirds of the stream. I hear also that up at Chungking and Iohang the great river is rapidly rising, the rains of the past month having been very general. Perhaps after this exceptional rise of the Yangtze in so short a time, it will be admitted that its rise is not entirely due to the melting of the Tibetan snows, as has generally been accepted as sufficient cause. It has been too cold for there to have been much melting, and as a matter of fact the snow area must be but a very small proportion of the basin of this great river. Let me again plead for immediate and abundant succour for at least some of the sufferers in this Siang River tragedy, and request that all subscriptions be sent to the Hankow treasurers and not direct to Changsha.

THE PHILIPPINES REPORT ON OPIUM.

A CHINESE TRANSLATION.

One of the finest contributions to the new literature in Chinese is the translation of the Report of the Philippines Commission by Mr. N. L. Nyien, of St. John's College, Shanghai. He has put the vigour of his Chinese pen into an effort to show this nation a way of escape from the thralldom of a mighty curse. Strange that Dewey's guns turned one morning upon the Spanish ships at Manila should prove the efficient cause of a fearful moral conflict with China's deadly enemy—"dirt"—as opium is so euphoniouly styled on the sign-boards at the great ports. Dr. Pott happily presents the United States as the champion of the anti-opium cause. In this she has a powerful ally in the empire of the Rising Sun, so to-day we find the two great powers controlling the Pacific basin tacitly forming an

ANTI-OPIUM ALLIANCE

for the suppression of the opium traffic on the coast of Asia. The Report presents in a charming way the parallel lines of action pursued by the two governments.

The Philippine Commission, consisting of a bishop, a colonel, and a doctor, briefly refer to the Report of the Royal Commission in 1895. "The British Report did not close; on the contrary, it only opened investigation regarding a subject in which history, observation, and the progress of scientific methods and knowledge all have a part to play."

It reviews the consumption of the drug in China, Hongkong, Saigon, Straits Settlements, and Java—thus giving an interesting description of things in the China seas—but devotes its principal attention to Formosa and the Philippines, where two great nations are exercising a restrictive power on the use and sale of this poison.

JAPAN.

The Report says: "The opium law of Japan forbids the importation, the possession, and the use of the drug, except as a medicine." "So rigid are the provisions of the law that it is sometimes, especially in interior towns, almost impossible to secure opium or its alkaloids in cases of medical necessity." "The Japanese to a man fear opium as we fear the cobra or the rattlesnake, and they despise its victims." "Neither the desire for opium, nor its vicious use has ever existed in Japan. But with a nation notorious for its abandonment to the habit only a few miles away, guided by wise foresight, the Japanese took every precaution possible to avoid contamination." "Not only are they under the surveillance of an efficient police but one might say, under that of the whole Japanese nation." "The opium question in Japan is viewed solely as a moral problem."

"When action (in Formosa) was eventually taken in 1897 the law that was put into effect took the shape of a regulative system looking forward to the gradual suppression of the use of opium. It might be termed progressive prohibition." "The drug is handled and the traffic and sale controlled solely by the government." "The cultivation of the poppy in Formosa is forbidden." "The possession of the instruments

used in opium smoking is forbidden any but physicians, apothecaries, etc." "No one is allowed to purchase or use opium unless he is licenced to do so as a chronic morphomaniac." "By refusing to give new licenses to the rising generation, the increase of habitués is checked at its source and the company of smokers confined to those who were addicted to the use of the drug prior to 1900." "Decrease in registered smokers, decrease in imports, decrease in revenue, all indicate progress."

AMERICA.

The Report of the Commission says: "It is not perhaps generally known that in the only instance where America has made official utterances relative to the use of opium in the East, she has spoken with no uncertain voice. By treaty with China in 1880 and in 1903 no American bottoms are allowed to carry opium in Chinese waters." "It is due to a recognition that the use of opium is an evil for which no financial gain can compensate and which America will not allow her citizens to encourage even passively."

"In the judgment of the Committee the immediate enforcement of a prohibitive law (in the Philippines) would be warranted only as preventive measure where the vice is as yet unknown." "It is important to note that almost everywhere the Committee found opium-smoking freely permitted; the use of the hypodermic syringe was assuming alarming proportions." "This phenomenon (the irrepressible craving for opium) forms one of the most noticeable characteristics of the opium habitué, At regular hours of the day he is seized, in a manner well-nigh fatal, by an undefinable sensation, as imperious as the sense of hunger. This craving, which constitutes a passion, is a veritable mania."

The laws recommended are: That opium be a government monopoly. That after three years no opium shall be imported or bought except for medical purposes only (prohibition). That habitual users of opium, over 21 years of age, during the three years, be licensed. That the pupils in the government schools of the Philippine Islands be taught the evil and debasing results of the opium habit.

The three years before prohibition are simply to permit opium smokers gradually to break the habit.

To give these facts to the Chinese people has been Dr. Pott's work. A tentative edition of eight thousand has been printed. The first 10,000 of the Philippines Report in English was published by the Anti-Opium League by contributions received from American merchants, officials and citizens in Shanghai. It is our desire to issue a mammoth edition of the translation to be scattered throughout the empire. Contributions for this purpose from the well-wishers of China will be received by Dr. Pott, or by the Treasurer, Dr. W. H. Park. Our generous Chinese friends may with certainty be relied on to render substantial financial aid.

HAMPDEN C. DUBOSE,
President, Anti-Opium League.
Sochow, 14th May.