

THE NEW SCHOOLS OF CHINA

HOW THE EDUCATION OF THE
CELESTIAL EMPIRE IS BE-
ING REVOLUTIONIZED.

P Official Correspondence.
PEKIN, 1909.—A series of the great-
est intellectual movement of all
time. This nation of 400,000,000
is starting to school, and thou-
sands of teachers are already at work,
beginning to instruct it along the lines
of civilization. The movement was
started only four years ago by the
great emperor, who by the advice
of Yuen Shih Kai, Chang Chi Tung and
other progressive statesmen, by an
imperial edict, the old system of ex-
aminations, under which China has
been working for centuries, was wiped
off the slate and the new education be-
gan. Now there are colleges in every
provincial capital and modern schools
in the 400 walled cities. A govern-
ment department of education has been
instituted, and over it is one of the
great imperial boards. In the new con-
stitution which was issued last year,
a system of common schools was pro-
vided, and compulsory education along
modern lines will be instituted at the
earliest possible moment. By that con-
stitution China will have its birth-
right within eight years from now, and
the work of training the people for
self-government is to go on by fixed
steps from year to year.

The lines of the development of the
new education have been carefully laid
out. The composition of textbooks be-
gan in 1908, and a large number of
these will be published this year. In
1910 schools for boys learning will be
further extended over the empire, and
by 1912 they will be in all the villages
and market towns. The work will go
steadily on, and in 1916 one Chinese in
every 20 will be able to read and write,
and will have received some education
in our modern civilization.

AN ARMY OF SCHOLARS.

One in twenty. Five per cent. Five
per cent. of these people mean 200,000,
600, and this will be the educational
army with which China will start on its
career under the new constitution. At
present no one in a hundred Chinese
can read the simplest characters of his
language, and it is safe to say that not
more than one in 500 has an education
along the old lines so advanced as that
of our grammar schools. All this is to
be changed, and by the next generation
it is safe to say that the majority of
the people will all have gone to school.

I came here from Japan. It is now
30 years since that country began a
constitutional movement like this which
is now being inaugurated here. I doubt
whether education was more advanced
there at that time than in China now.
Today every boy and girl in the Japa-
nese empire is receiving more or less
education, and more than one-tenth of
the whole nation is going to school. No
one who has not seen the educational
awakening of the land of the mikado
can appreciate what such movements
mean. Here in China they will be multi-
plied many fold by the character of
the race and its vast population.

CHINA'S NEW SCHOOL.

This movement is fully underway. I
found Manchuria stirred up over it, and
attended schools of various kinds in the
city of Mukden. It is going on in
Manchuria and along the borders of Tibet
and away down south on the edges
of Indo-China. Every governor is push-
ing it, and every city is organizing now

schools as fast as it can. In Fuchow
there are 20 native schools of foreign
instruction, also a normal school, a
high school and a military school. That
city has a police training school, a
medical school and a large number of
private schools. Tientsin has all sorts
of educational institutions, from kin-
dergartens to colleges. I have already
written of its half-day and night
schools. There are similar ones in
Peking, and among them a half-day
school for officials who wish to improve
themselves along modern lines. This
was closed during the 27 days of deep
mourning which followed the emperor's
death, whereupon one old scholar of 70
subjected because it interrupted his
studies.

China is establishing industrial
schools where the use of modern ma-
chinery is taught, and where the boys
learn mechanical trades. These are sev-
eral here at the capital, and some are
for Tartars alone. The Chinese city
has an industrial institute under its
board of commerce, which cost 100,000
taels to erect. It was started two
years ago, and it is now in full swing
with 200 students at work. This school
teaches 12 industries and it gives a
course of three years. In addition to
this there are seven other industrial
schools in Peking and the Manchus are
starting some in the Tartar city.

SOME SCHOOLS OF PEKIN.

Pekin is not so far advanced as
Tientsin in the pushing of the new
education. Still it has more than 200
new schools, and over 20,000 children
and young men are working away in
government institutions. The schools
begin with kindergartens, which may
be attended by children from the ages
of three up to seven. At the latter
age they enter the second grade pri-
mary schools, where a five-year course
is taken, and then the first grade pri-
mary for a four-year course. In these
schools they are taught the reading
and writing of the Chinese characters
and they begin arithmetic, history and
geography. In the first stages of their
instruction the children study out loud,
but instead of sitting on the floor and
singing back and forth, each shout-
ing for himself, as in the past, they
now sit on benches and read together
in groups.

After the primary is passed, the stu-
dents enter the grammar or interme-
diate grades. Here they study Chi-
nese, foreign languages, mathematics,
geography and history, and also the
natural sciences, ethics and drawing.
In some schools there are courses in
law and political economy. The most
of these schools are, as yet, not far
advanced, but there are something like
10,000 students attending them in
Pekin alone, and of them, four or five
thousand are Manchus. The Manchus
have a nobler school for the sons of
high officials who are being prepared
for further education abroad. This
school has now 200 students.

As to the middle or second grade pri-



IN THE IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY OF PEKIN.

Photographed for The News by Frank G. Carpenter.

mary schools, they are being establish-
ed by the thousands. Dr. C. D. Ten-
ney, who organized the middle schools
of this province several years ago, then
instituted over 2,700, with something
like 30,000 students, and there are prob-
ably one-third more than that number
after the students at work. This was
for the province of Pechili, in which Peking is situated.
A similar work is being more gradu-
ally done in each of the other twenty-
four provinces of the Chinese empire.

High schools and normal schools are
now to be found everywhere. Accord-
ing to the regulation every town and
city has to maintain one, and every
provincial capital must have a normal
school of the first grade. These schools
are all equipped with chemical, phys-
ical and botanical laboratories, and in
some of the cities, such as Tientsin,
there are also teachers' museums
where models and books describing the
teaching in foreign countries, are ex-
hibited. The normal schools are large-
ly attended by those who wish to fit
themselves for work along the lines
of the new development.

CHINESE STUDENTS ABROAD.

Many such went to Japan at the
time the movement was started, stayed
there a year or so and have come back
to take their places in the new educa-
tion. During my stay in Peking last
year I found something like 5,000 Chi-
nese students in the colleges there.
Some were in the Imperial university,
some in the teachers' training schools,
and others in the military and tech-
nical schools and in the schools for rail-
road engineering. Not a few were
studying law and medicine, and some
politics, economics, history and liter-
ature. About one-fifth of the whole
number, but there are many more who
are and they were largely made up of men
who had stood high in the classes and
who expected to come back to China
to teach.

I am told that thousands of the
"literati" went to Japan at the time it
was decided by the government to open
up China to the new education, and
that especially because the govern-
ment had said that it would give
preference to literary graduates who
had such instruction in the selection
of its teachers for its new schools. On
this account 10,000 went there at once
and enrolled themselves. The most of
them stayed less than six months and
then came back to teach. Nearly all
have received appointments and are
now acting as professors. They are not
fitted for the higher branches of mod-
ern instruction; but they believe in the
new education, and by this action of
the government have been made its
supporters instead of its enemies, as
they probably would have been had
they not been given the chance to teach.

HIGHER SCHOOLS OF PEKIN.

During my stay here in Peking I have
visited many of the higher schools and
colleges. The city has no law schools,
government and medical schools. One
of the law schools was founded by Wu
Ting-Fang two years ago, and it now
has 800 students. It teaches law and
government as well as natural sciences,
and one may see 200 students there at
some of the lectures.

There is also a language school of
high grade where Chinese boys are pre-
pared for the foreign office, and for the
diplomatic service abroad. This school
already has 200 students. It is open to
any one who can pass the entrance ex-
amination and give certificates of
good character. In addition to the
modern languages, the school gives a
good academic education along foreign
lines. Every boy is required to take at
least one foreign language. He may
choose either English, French, German
or Russian. English is now the most
popular, and about 80 students are
studying it. French ranks next, and
then German, and after them Russian
and Japanese.

I visited this school yesterday. It is
within the walls of the Imperial city
and not far from the Forbidden city in
which the emperor lives. I had to go a
mile or so around the wall before I
reached the gate. The building is a model
where the college buildings are located.
They are of modern style, and of one
and two stories. The material is gray
brick with doors painted bright blue,
making the building look very new.
The school has a campus, drill ground
and a large examination hall, where
the students sit at tables under the eyes
of their instructors and write their
essays and answers to the test ques-
tions. The examinations usually last
about three days. Upon finishing his
paper, each student writes his name
on a card, and the paper is rolled up
and sealed. The paper is then num-
bered and the judges must pass upon it
without knowing to whom it belongs.
Only after the de-
cision is made is the name unsealed.

TURNING CHINA UPSIDE DOWN.

As I went through the classrooms of
this academy I saw many of the things
that are now turning China upside
down. Every schoolroom had maps
showing that the world is round and
not flat or square. On the walls hung
maps of the various continents, and
some represented China in its proper
scale in Asia. These maps are a con-
stant reminder of the big world away
from home. They are in strange con-
tradiction to the plans of the world
which the Chinese used only a few
years ago. The latter represent a vast
space devoted to China, with a few
patches around the edges. These were
the lands of the barbarians, and com-
prise all of the world that belonged
to the rest of mankind. In one cham-
ber I saw a large map of the United
States, with Boston, St. Louis,
New York and Chicago printed in type
half an inch long, and in the other
rooms were physical maps and others
illustrating physical geography. I
heard a lecture on ethics delivered in
Chinese by a celestial professor, and
saw about 20 boys practicing mathe-

matical drawing. In the latter room I
asked one of the boys if he understood
English. He replied:
"Only a little," but added that he was
studying German. I then addressed him
in German, and found that he
could speak the language better than I
could.

I examined the dormitories to see how
the boys live. There are six students
in every room of about 15 feet square.
The beds are single, and are arranged
against the walls at the two ends of
the room. In the center is the study
table, and about stand the boxes where
the young men keep their clothes. There
is no privacy, and an American boy
could hardly study in such surround-
ings. Still, the rate for tuition and
board is all told less than \$2 a month,
and many of the students who have
scholarships are charged only for their
food. The boys work hard and learn
easily.

IN THE PEKIN UNIVERSITY.

From this language academy, in com-
pany with Dr. Tenney, the Chinese sec-
retary of our legation, I went to the
Imperial University of Peking. This is
also in the Imperial city, not far from
Coal Hill, in which the emperor was
temporarily buried a few months ago.
The buildings are altogether Chinese.
They are low one-story structures run-
ning around paved courts. The walls
have large windows of a beautiful lac-
quer work, backed with white paper
and the heavy tiled roofs so over-
hanging that each court has a promenade
round it, reminding one of the quad-
rangles at Oxford. There are many
courts and many buildings, and the
whole has a college atmosphere quite
equal to Princeton, Cornell, Harvard
or Yale.

I was especially interested in the
library, with its thousands of old Chi-
nese volumes, now mixed with a sparse
and scattered collection of books in
English, French, German and Russian.
The Chinese books are on fine tissue
paper, printed in characters like those
one sees on the tea boxes. The most
of them are bound in paper or card-
board, and some of the works com-
prise many parts. There is an encyclo-
pedia, for instance, which closely fills
a set of shelves 12 feet in height and
30 feet long. It contains over 5,000
volumes and has perhaps 2,000,000
pages. It was printed from blocks
within the past five years and each of
its characters had to be specially cut.
These characters must run high into
the millions.

This book is only one of about nine
encyclopedias which are now in use in
China. The most of them are equally
voluminous, and all are largely based
on the great encyclopedia written dur-
ing the reign of one of the first Ming
emperors. That work contained 22,937
books; it took 22,000 scholars to write
it and required fifty volumes for its
table of contents. It was never printed,
but I understand that the manuscript
is still in existence.

In looking at the new encyclopedia I
asked one of the professors if it was
revised from year to year and kept up
to date. He replied that it was, but
that extra volumes were added from
time to time recording the changes. I
doubt seriously if the work is of any
value; it will probably soon be con-
signed to the archives of the old Chi-
nese past.

The Peking university is the same in-
stitution which was founded years ago
under Dr. W. P. Martin. It was re-

organized after the Boxer rebellion,
and it is now teaching the modern lan-
guages and sciences, through Japanese
and European professors, and the old
Chinese literature through Chinese. It
is not a university in our sense of the
word, but its courses will be added to
from now on, and it may some day
become one.

COLLEGE ATHLETICS AND SPORTS.

While at this university I saw the
students go through their regular after-
noon drill. Every boy carried a gun
of the most modern make and the com-
panies marched like veteran soldiers.
And still they seemed odd. They wore
blue uniforms with low-crowned,
broad-brimmed hats of sky blue felt.
The hats looked as though they came
from a millinery store, and as the boys
wheeled about and showed their long
braided queues, they made me think of
girls dressed in boys' clothing.
Nevertheless, they marched well and
were leaving to shoot. I saw a similar
drill at the language school, and in the
schools everywhere a constant military
training is now required by the gov-
ernment. This is so even in the pri-
mary grades, and the result will be
that the new education will make the
Chinese a nation of soldiers.
It will also give the boys physical de-
velopment. Athletic sports are now
popular in all of the schools. Every
playground has its gymnasium, and
the students play baseball, football and
cricket. There are college meets, over
which high officials preside, and the
spectators go wild over the 100-yard

dash, the pole vault, and the broad
jump. Not long ago 8,000 competitors
entered in an athletic meet at Canton,
and at one in Hankow, Chang Chi
Tung, a grand councillor of the em-
pire and its most famous scholar, about
the old lines, awarded the prizes. Truly
strange things are now going on in
this old Chinese empire.

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THE PIAZZA CAT.

The habitat of this ubiquitous ani-
mal is any piazza in the sunny zone,
hence the classification, *Felinus Porci-
bus*. Her chief occupation is scratch-
ing. She is necessarily gregarious,
since she never operates upon herself—
worse luck—but upon the reputations
of those so fortunate as to be of an-
other species. Therefore an assistant
with equally long, sharp claws and
as gentle a purr is a necessity of her
being.

The Piazza cats are usually fel-
loused, and kept in extreme illness
by galley slaves known as husbands,
who grill in red-hot frying pans called
city officers, to fry out the fat of the
land upon which the Piazza cats sub-
sist. This process also supplies the
unlimited amount of leisure required
by *Felinus Porci-bus* for scratching
purposes.

As is the case with all felines, they
can see best in the dark. They have
even been known to detect dark deeds
that were never committed.
They are particularly inimical to
fine fabrics, and will destroy in a sin-
gle afternoon the delicate velvety
duffel quality of her purr. Wise folk
can always detect it, and look im-
mediately for the pins in her pin-
cushion claws.

There is no remedy for her. At-
tempts at extermination on the part
of press and pulpit are useless, as the
galley slaves who breed her are legion
—and they are imbued with a whole-
some fear of her claws. So, like Ten-

nyson's babbling, burbling, bubbling,
unintelligible brook, she goes on forever.
The only alleviation to be looked for
lies in the hope that some glorious
day, some great scientist, gowned in
desperation, will discover an antidote
which shall destroy her scratchability
and be called rough on cats.—Suzanne

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