

Labor And Capital In China.

THE NEW CHINESE MINISTER TALKS OF TRADES UNIONS AND CAPITAL COMBINATIONS AMONG THE CELESTIALS.

The Great Guild of Shansi Bankers, Who are the Jews of the Empire—Government Loans and Why They are not Liked—The New Railroads and How Some Americans Lost a Gold Mine—Our Trade With China—The New Board of Commerce—The Chinese Expulsion Law as an International Outrage.

Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 23.—It was by appointment that I met Sir Chentung Liang-Cheng, the Chinese minister, in the offices of his legation this afternoon. I had arranged by telephone for an interview with his excellency and our talk was held in a room furnished in modern style, the minister sitting in a swivel back office chair before a Grand Rapids roller-top desk. He was clad in Chinese cos-

“The bankers,” replied the minister. “The bankers of my country come almost altogether from one province, that of Shansi, lying west of Shanghai. That is a state of rich men, and those men make a business of banking. They have a natural aptitude for it. They bring their sons up to be bankers, putting them into the counting rooms when they are boys, and gradually raising them until they graduate as bankers. They go from there to all parts of the empire, and they are really the financiers of the country.”

our people are not anxious for government securities.

I suppose the men who made the application wanted to secure merit or office for their generosity?”

“Very likely,” said the minister. “Who knows?”

GUILDS AND TRADES UNIONS.

“But you have employers’ associations to regulate the relations of capital and labor, have you not?”

“Yes,” replied the minister. “We have such associations, but not especially to regulate labor. Many of the guilds are associated with the cities. The Canton merchants of Shanghai have a club, and the Ningpo merchants have one. There are also unions in almost every branch of trade, tea guilds, silk guilds and bankers’ guilds. Such associations, however, have more to do with the prices, discounts and the handling of goods than with labor matters.”

“How about organized labor? Does it exist in China?”

“We are not so advanced as you in that respect,” replied the minister. “There are many local labor organizations, but they are more like mutual life, sickness and accident insurance companies than your trades unions. Indeed, we have but few unions devoted to regulating hours and wages. There may be some at the treaty ports connected with the large factories. At Shanghai, for instance, the river for five miles is now lined with silk mills and cotton factories. These labor is somewhat organized, notwithstanding most of the employees are girls. They are always ready to strike and do so when they think they are imposed upon. As factories increase in China, I suppose our labor will become organized and we shall have our walking delegates.”

“How about labor on the railroads?”

“It is not the quietest in the world,” replied the Chinese minister. “The workmen there strike every now and then. Just now there is a strike on the Hankow Canton Line which has stopped the construction.”

HOW THE AMERICANS LOST A GOLD MINE.

“That is on the concession granted to the American syndicate. How are the Americans handling their concession?”

“I don’t think they are handling it very well,” replied the Chinese minister. “It would have been a gold mine if they had held on to it, but I understand that they have sold the control of the road for a comparatively small sum to Belgian capitalists. That concession was a most valuable one. It was given to the American syndicate largely in return for the great friendship which your country displayed towards China in the settlement of its difficulties with Japan. Different concessions in the way of loans and other things were made to Russia, Germany, France and England. The United States was the only nation which did not ask for anything and was at the same time about the most friendly to China. As a result our people felt grateful and we were glad to give your capitalists this concession with the authorization of a large loan to build the road and the privilege of having the profits of the sale of the bonds above 50 cents on the dollar. I can’t conceive why the Americans did not hold on to it. As it is now the Belgians have secured one of the most valuable railroad properties of China. They have a large interest in the line from Hankow to Peking and this extension gives them a great trunk line from Peking to Canton, tapping what is perhaps the richest agricultural and industrial district of the world, inhabited by several hundred million people. The road will pay from the start and I regret that the Americans have allowed it to slip out of their hands.”

“Are they working on it now, your excellency?”

“Yes. Work is going on at both ends and on both branches. Indeed when I go back home I hope to be able to travel from Canton to Peking by rail.”

CHINESE AMERICAN TRADE.

“But there is plenty of money in China,” said I. “Why do not your own people build railroads?”

“They will do so when they understand them better. We have many rich and well-to-do and some are investing in banks and modern factories. Hongkong and Shanghai banks are owned by Chinese. Our people, however, are slow to adopt new inventions and new things.”

“How about the Chinese market and American trade?”

“Our market is an enormous one,” replied Sir Chentung Liang-Cheng. “We are good spenders and our trade will increase as we grow richer and as the country develops. It is already increasing as far as America is concerned. We are now taking about one-half of all the cotton cloth exported from the United States.”

“Could the trade be further increased?”

“Yes. We have 400,000,000 people and almost all wear cotton, winter and summer. In the future there will be a great demand for woolen goods for they will take the place of much of the padded cotton now worn. There is also an increase in the use of American food-stuffs and luxuries. We are buying more of your flour every year and more

tobacco and other things.”

THE CHINESE EXPULSION LAW.

The conversation here turned to the Chinese in America and I asked the minister what he thought of our law as to the immigration of Chinese.

“I have but little objection to the law,” said he. “But I do not like the spirit or manner in which it is executed. The law was made to exclude only Chinese laboring men from the United States, but it has been construed as to keep out all Chinese, whether they came on business or on pleasure, as merchants, engineers or students. I don’t believe your government ever intended this, and I blame the treatment which our nation receives from the politicians, who wish to carry favor thereby with the laboring classes and make capital with them.”

“Why, look at it,” the Chinese minister went on. “It is almost impossible for one of our boys to come to the United States for an education. Take the case of Mr. Tong, a relative of Tong the graduate of Yale college whom you met in China some years ago. Young Tong’s father is rich and he wanted his boy to come here to study. He took out the proper papers and sent him to San Francisco. When

he arrived there the officers asked him what he wanted to do in the United States. He replied that he was anxious to learn English. They told him that there were colleges that taught English in China, and he could go back there and study the language. They refused to let him land. He hired an attorney and brought the matter before the courts. He spent more than three thousand dollars in lawyer’s fees and in going back and forth from China to the United States, but in the end they kept him out.”

“Now his younger brother is here and in college. He came with nine other Chinese boys, with me when I was sent here as minister. He got in under the shadow of the legation, but he had a perfect right under the treaty and the law, to come in, and his brother should also have been admitted. I know of many other instances where our boys who have wanted to study here have been kept out. Such things are contrary to the spirit of international friendship which exists between your nation and ours, and they are contrary to the best interests of the two nations.”

“The same policy is adopted as to merchants and business men who are

kept out on similar pretenses. The present treaty under which these acts are performed, will expire this year. In making a new one I hope to have the matter remedied. If it cannot be remedied there is no use of putting any clause as to the admission of my people in the treaty, and if so I shall not advocate it.”

“How about the Chinese in the Philippines and Hawaii?”

“That is a business proposition for the United States to settle,” replied the Chinese minister. “I don’t believe you can run your Pacific Islands successfully without Chinese labor, and that is the belief of your ablest men who have investigated the situation. I came to this country with Mr. Ide, one of your commissioners. He told me that he thought the Chinese were a necessity to the prosperity of the Philippines.”

“What is the new board of commerce of which Wu Ting Fang is the head doing?” I asked.

“It is trying to push Chinese trade everywhere,” replied Sir Chentung Liang-Cheng. “I am anxious to further it in the United States, and I had written a memorial to the emperor asking him to send me a commercial at-

tache, but before my letter got to China I received one from the board of commerce asking me to have our consular officers report on all matters relating to our American trade and directing them to further that trade in every possible way.”

“Do you send much to the United States?” I asked.

“Yes,” replied the minister. “We have now about 70,000 people here, and they all use Chinese goods. They want rice from China, shoes from China; they like Chinese cloths, Chinese tea and many other things Chinese. This trade has fallen off since the expulsion act was put in force, for we then had almost twice as many Chinese as we have now. Our merchants would like to see that trade increased, and they are also anxious to multiply their business connections in other ways.”

“At present I do not think we are at all treated fairly, but just now we have had difficulties with other nations, and we are in no shape to insist upon our international rights. I hope that the day will come when we shall be able not only to demand them, but that such a way that all the world will grant them.”

FRANK G. CARPENTER.



SIR CHENTUNG LIANG-CHENG.

turns, but he spoke in pure English and more like an American than like the representative of a nation which many think to be 1,000 years behind the times.

AN UP-TO-DATE DIPLOMAT.

Sir Chentung Liang-Cheng, himself is by no means behind the times. He is an up-to-date modern diplomat, fitted by education and experience to carry the world about in his big round celestial head, and to fight the diplomatic battles of his nation. He was born in China, but at the age of 11 was sent to the United States to be educated. He studied at Amherst for three years and then went to the Phillips academy, at Andover, where he graduated.

Upon his return home he was taken into the employ of the government, which is another word for the old empress dowager, and he has been in her majesty’s employ ever since. He is said to be closely associated with her majesty, and it is probably due to her appreciation of him that he has been at the front in Chinese affairs for the past 20 years. He came here first as secretary of the legation, returned to China to take a place in the foreign office, and became one of the embassy which made the peace treaty with Japan at the close of the war.

Since then he has been connected with important missions to St. Petersburg, Berlin, London and Madrid, and has carried off honors from all these capitals. Queen Victoria made him a K. C. M. G., the Mikado gave him one of the most distinguished orders of his empire, the czar of Russia did likewise, and so did King Leopold of Belgium. Amherst college has conferred upon him the title of doctor of laws, and all this notwithstanding he is still in his 35th year. What will he not be when he reaches the age when Li Hung Chang was greatest?

MONEY MATTERS IN CHINA.

I opened the interview by asking his excellency about money matters in China. “I want you to tell me,” said I, “something about your millionaires, your trusts and your combinations of employers?”

“I am sorry to say that I cannot give you much about such lines,” replied his excellency, “for I have little to do with organized capital in my country.”

“But you have organizations of capital,” said I.

“Yes,” was the reply, “but not such as you have in the United States. We have millionaires here and there, but the multi-millionaires are few. We have combinations of small capitalists, but no great trusts and syndicates to monopolize our natural products, such as iron and copper, sugar and fuel.”

“What branches of industry are most organized?”

BANKS SELDOM FAIL.

“Are they honest men?” I asked.

“I think so,” replied the Chinese minister. “They are honest and insist on their brothers being honest. If one of the bankers is about to fail, his brother bankers come in, and lend him enough to save him from bankruptcy.”

“There are many Shansi bankers in Peking. They had heavy deposits at the time of the siege, but when their banks burned down and a vast amount of paper money was destroyed, they did not allow their depositors to lose a cent. When the siege was over they called their debtors together and paid them in full.”

THE CHINESE DO NOT LIKE GOVERNMENT BONDS.

“How about the government loans, your excellency, can they be floated at home?”

“Not easily at present,” replied Sir Chentung Liang-Cheng. “Our people do not understand modern methods of national finance. They are rather afraid of government securities. For this reason the government repudiated its obligations during the Ming dynasty.”

“When was that, your excellency?”

“About four hundred years ago,” replied the minister as though it were yesterday, and then went on:

“Indeed, I think it will be some time before the Chinese will invest largely in Chinese government bonds. Just before the war with Japan broke out two of our most patriotic officials presented a plan for a domestic loan. There was no limit to the amount, but the bonds were to bear five per cent, and the government guaranteed the payment of principal and interest. A great deal of care was used in issuing the bonds, and they were labeled with a title which meant ‘Emblem of Honesty.’ Notwithstanding this, only about \$14,000,000 worth of them were taken. These were distributed among the high officials, merchants and other rich people.”

“Well, the interest was paid for a time, but after the war was over the government found itself poor, and a great deal of money was needed to repair Peking and for other purposes. About that time a memorial was sent in to the throne, saying that its signers and the others who held the bonds felt a great sympathy for their country, and therefore had decided to give up their money as a present to the government, and they begged the emperor to declare the bonds null and void. The matter was brought before the board of revenue, and the proposition was accepted. A great number of the bondholders were not consulted in the sending in of that petition. Nevertheless they lost their money, and as a result

WAR FEVER RISING AMONG JAPS IN UNITED STATES.



MAJORS OF LEADERS OF PLATOON

The above photograph shows Consul-General Uchida, presiding at a patriotic mass meeting in New York, held for the purpose of raising money to aid the Japanese government. The Japanese people throughout this country are pouring in contributions to the general war fund as the best expression of patriotism they can show.

WALKER'S STORE.

EMBRROIDERY SALE.

Greater Than Last One, Which is Still Remembered

\$1,500.00 worth to go this week. All new, pretty goods, consisting of nainsook, swiss and cambrie embroideries, edgings and insertions, from 1 to 4 inches wide, ranging in price from 3c to \$1.00 a yard.

INSERTION TORCHON.

A big shipment of these fresh from the factories, insuring you the newest and prettiest patterns, 1 to 4 inches wide, would sell regularly from 5c to 15c, can be had this week at—4c a yard.

Included in this sale are beautiful Swiss and nainsook sets, assortment much larger and patterns much prettier than we have previously shown. MONDAY AND WEEK.

Tremendous Reductions in Dress Goods.

TWO-THIRDS OFF REGULAR PRICE.

The final clean-up of the remaining pieces of short length dress goods, 3 to 7 yards to the piece, any of which will make pretty children's dresses, handsome skirts, or dresses for women.

Two-thirds Off Regular Price. AN OPPORTUNITY.

SPRING SUITS AND SHIRT WAISTS

NOW ON DISPLAY.

SUITS.

The styles of our line of suits are exclusive, they were selected with this in view. Blouse, Etons and Hip length Coats. Plaited, flounce and Full Flare Skirts.

The materials are of broadcloth, tweed, chevots and voiles, in all of the newest colors, beautifully cut and handsomely finished. \$12.50 to \$95.00.

WASH SHIRT WAISTS.

We have a most striking line of spring shirt waists on display in “Ready-to-wear” department. Tailored and fancy styles, beautifully made in Vestings, Linens and fine Lawns. \$1.50 to \$9.50. See them.

BRIC-A-BRAC.

Still on sale at 1-2 price to close out. We are not going to carry this line hereafter, and this will undoubtedly be the last opportunity for the people of this city to purchase choice bric-a-brac at such prices. Jap Bronze, Holland ware, Royal Bond, Teplitz, Carved Ivories, Steins, Vases and Lamps, Lamp shades, Pipe racks, etc. Sale lasts until all is gone.

WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR.

Women's flesh colored union suits, silk and lisle, mixed, sizes 36 and 38, \$6.50 values for—\$4.50.

Women's low neck and sleeveless silk vests, crochet yoke, colors cream, sky and pink, \$2.50 values for—\$1.75.

Women's plain finished silk vests, pink and light blue, \$1.75 values for—\$1.00.

Women's fancy silk plate vests, all colors, 75c values—50c.

Women's blue and white polka dot hose, sizes 8 1-2, 9, 9 1-2, 50c values—35c.

NEW WASH FABRICS.

The New Wash Fabrics are in Much Earlier Than Usual, and More Beautiful.

The wash goods section has been moved into the center aisle, where are being shown wash goods of every weave and ever color.

Wash Poplins 40c to 60c a yard.
Wash Voile 25c to 75c a yard.
Printed Foulards 40c a yard
Printed Organdies 60c a yard.
Printed Tuile Raye 60c a yard.
Silk Mulls, dotted and plain 35c to 60c a yard.
Flake Suitings 25c a yard.
Japan Crepe 25c a yard.

We are showing beautiful mercerized piques in plain cords and brocaded figures. New weaves and styles for this season's suits and shirt waists.

CORSETS REDUCED.

To close out broken sizes of straight front corsets, we are offering these at great reductions.

C. B. corsets \$2.00 to \$5.00 for—\$1.00.
Royal Worcester, \$2.00 to \$5.00 for—\$1.00.
La Vida, \$2.00 to \$5.00 for—\$1.00.

SOAPS AND PERFUMES.

SOAPS.

Passion Rose, regular 25c box.
Passion Violet, regular 25c box.
Passion Heliotrope, regular 25c box.
Vestal Violet, regular 25c box.
Vestal Rose, regular 25c box.
Vestal Heliotrope, regular 25c box.
Supreme Glycerine, regular 25c box
Monday and week for—19c A BOX

PERFUMES.

In Fancy Bottles.
VIOLET,
CRAB-APPLE,
WHITE ROSE,
LILY OF VALLEY,
And other odors.
50c sizes—32c.
25c sizes—18c.

MONDAY AND WEEK.

Walker Brothers Dry Goods Co Walker Brothers Dry Goods Co