

danger of an epidemic disease was imminent. Suppose you should, for instance, for a week stop up the sewers of your city you could then appreciate something of the state of Nanking at this time. Nanking, however, was far worse off, for it has no sewers at all. The result was that the mandarin was so besieged that he let his prisoner go free and remitted his fine. I find that the Chinese have a fair idea of justice. They will fight against wrong, and there is as much of a democracy here in this respect as there is in America. There is no place where debts are so punctually paid and where credit is so easily gotten by all classes of people. Honesty and integrity are above par in China, and foreigners tell me they would rather deal with the Chinese merchant than with any other business man in the world. He never goes back on his spoken or written word, and Mr. Ewen Cameron, one of the leading directors of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, an establishment which does the biggest banking business on the western Pacific and whose capital amounts to millions, on leaving China not long ago said that in the dealings of the bank with Chinese merchants for a period of more than twenty-years and in sums aggregating hundreds of millions of dollars he had never met with a defaulting Chinaman.

Since this statement was made the bank has been defrauded by a Chinese cashier. In general, however, the statement is correct.

The penalties of the law are often very severe and the Chinese frequently take the punishment into their own hands. All along the Grand canal and the Yangtse you may see at the villages here and there boats cut in half and placed upon ends. I asked what these were, and was told that they were the boats of thieves or pirates who had been caught stealing. The criminals had had their heads cut off, and their boats were thus set up as a warning to others. In Shanghai I saw a dozen men with great boards four feet square and weighing as much as forty pounds each fastened about their necks so that they could not move their hands to their faces, nor brush off the flies. They were thieves. In Wuhu there is a beggar who goes about on the stump of his legs, which have been cut off just below the knees. He was caught several times stealing, and this was the penalty of his crime. In some parts of the empire a man is punished with death at his third conviction of theft, and pirates are always beheaded. Law and order are, however, well preserved, and, I believe that human life and property are as safe here as they are in America.

A large part of the farming of this region is done by irrigation, and the water rights of the Chinese are as full of complications as are those of Colorado. Still there are few troubles among the farmers, and with no fences to mark the lines of their property they work away in peace and quiet generation after generation. It is wonderful how well they work and how much they get off the land. Three crops a year is by no means uncommon, and if any sign of a failure of crop is seen, the seed for another crop is straightway sown. It is wonderful how small the farms are. There are thousands of holdings in China which are less than

an acre. It is estimated that an acre of land will in the better parts of the empire support a family of six, and a volume could be written on Chinese agriculture. The use of fertilizers is universal, and, though there are practically no horses and few cattle, there is no land which is so well fed. Everything is saved. Thousands of men do nothing else but gather up bits of fertilizing matter and sell them. The refuse of a rich family will bring more than that of a poor one, and the slops of the foreign part of Shanghai are farmed out annually for a sum which gives the city the most of its educational fund. Potato peelings, the parings of finger nails, the shavings of the head and ruined houses form parts of the fertilizing material, and this is usually put together in such liquid form that not a bit of it is wasted. The manure is kept in great vats, and the farm is watered like a garden. Each plat gets its daily food and drink. A dipper full from the vat is put into each bucket of water, and the mixture is poured in at the roots of the plants. All throughout this part of China such fertilization goes on, and from twenty to thirty dollars a year is sometimes spent upon an acre of ground.

The tools used are crude in the extreme. I seen men working in the fields near here with long-handled hoes. These have four teeth of the same length as those of a pitchfork and each tooth or tine is about an inch in width. They also use grubbing hoes or mattocks and they have a sort of a spade with a cross piece of wood two inches above where the iron plate of the spade begins.

They push the spade down into the ground by pressing the bare foot against this cross bar instead of on the iron itself, as we do. Their plows scratch the earth and are not much better than those used in Egypt. These are pulled by water buffalos, the ugliest cattle known to man. The buffalos grind the rice, tramp the mud and straw for making the sun-dried bricks of which their houses are made, and do all sorts of farm work. When grazing and when not at work they are minded by the little children, who sit upon their backs and who have a wonderful control over them. They crawl upon the back of the buffalo, getting first upon the horns of the animal, who bends down its head for them. As soon as they are astride of the neck the buffalo will gently raise its head and the boy will slide down its neck till he has a firm seat just behind its shoulders. Here he will stay all day and I have seen little fellows of five and six years sound asleep upon the backs of these animals, who are often dangerous and ugly in their actions toward strangers. A good buffalo is worth about \$20, and farmers often enter a sort of farmers' loan association for the use of a common fund of money from year to year by which they stock their farms.

I have seen some cows, but their milk is not used as food. The Chinaman does not think milk fit to drink, and he only uses it as medicine. When he does that he prefers the human variety and gets a wet nurse. This is by no means an uncommon thing, and the empress Dowager when she was sick not long ago put herself upon a diet of this kind. I venture the old lady did the milking herself. The mutton of this part of China is very fine and its flavor

is said to be much improved by feeding the sheep on mulberry leaves. The hogs are of the lubbery black Chinese variety, the dirtiest and filthiest animals of their kind. They are always minded by a girl or boy while in the fields, and I saw today a little girl of ten whose feet were bandaged so that she seemed to be walking on red hot irons as she tottered about whipping the hogs. The pigs often live in the houses, and you find them grunting around in the busiest of the Chinese cities. There are lots of chickens, ducks and geese everywhere, and the scientific raising of poultry by the Chinese would make a letter in itself. They are sold by the pound by peddlers, who carry them in great baskets of bamboo open work, and are shipped by the boat load from the country to the cities. Eggs are used by all classes, and the favorite egg is from twenty to thirty years old. It is cooked before it is put away, and when brought forth it is as black as your hat, and tastes like chalk. Ducks are pressed and dried, and the cooked ones I see in the market are oiled so that their picked skins shine as if covered with varnish. They are not at all bad to eat, however, and those which I have had in the native restaurants are fully as good as any you get in America.

Frank G. Carpenter

THE "ARMY" ELSEWHERE.

BOISE, Idaho, June 5.—Judge Beatty today sentenced 180 Coxeyites, who stole a U. P. train, thirty to sixty days. General Scheffler was given six months and the other leaders from thirty days to four months in various county jails. The rank and file will be imprisoned in the stockade near Huntington.

PARKERSBURG, W. Va., June 5.—Fry's army was refused aid by citizens last night and was obliged to sleep in the open air during a drenching rain. This morning the army split into three sections. Part, under command of Colonel Boundell, started over the pike for Washington; another division marched in the same direction over the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad tracks, while the third division, fifty-two in number, remained in Parkersburg. This afternoon the fifty-two who remained behind went to the Baltimore & Ohio yards and took possession of a freight train that was being made up. They defied the sheriff, who telegraphed for troops, and with an increased force of deputies succeeded in arresting the army.

It is reported tonight that the party which started up the railroad tracks tried to capture a train, but failed. Two of the commonwealers are said to have been hurt, one fatally.

BRIGHTON, Colo., June 7.—Seven boats of the Coxey fleet which left Denver were upset today and several lives were lost. One body has been recovered.

Twenty-five of the Coxeyites who set sail from Denver are missing, as a result of their boats upsetting. It is thought that about twenty are drowned. Dead bodies can be seen on sand bars and lodged in the trees, but can't be recovered. One of the men known to be dead came from Utah.

CAIRO, Ill., June 7.—Kelly this