

THE VICEROY OF HUKWANG

A TALK WITH A FAMOUS RULER
AND REFORMER OF IN-
TERIOR CHINA.

(Special Correspondence.)
HANKOW, 1909—Have you ever heard of Chen Kwei-Lung, the viceroy of Hukwang? He is one of the mighty men of this great Chinese empire. He rules two provinces three times as big as the state of New York. His subjects are more than those of the kaiser of Germany and his power is greater than that of the czar. By raising his hand he can throw a man into prison, and with a wink of his eye can slice off a head. The viceroyalty of Hukwang lies about 600 miles inland from the Pacific. It is cut by the Yangtze-Kiang, and it includes the two provinces of Hupeh and Hunan. Hupeh is bigger than Missouri and its population is over 35,000,000. It is a rich country, is famous for its manufactures and for its cotton and rice fields. Hunan is over twice the size of Ohio, and its population is 27,000,000. It has tea fields and forests and is so rich in coal and iron that it promises to be one of the great manufacturing regions of China. The Hukwang provinces have many large cities. Hupeh has walled towns at every few miles, and here at Hankow there are three walled cities which have a combined population as great as that of Berlin. These are Hankow, Wuchang and Han Yang. Wuchang lies on the opposite bank of the Yangtze from where we are writing. It is the official capital where the viceroy lives in a great yamen, or palace, with many officials.

A VISIT TO THE VICEROY.

It was through a letter from Mr. James Wilson, our secretary of agriculture, whose fame has gone all over the world, that I was able to meet this distinguished Chinese, and to secure from him a letter of good will to the people of the United States. My audience was arranged by our consul at Hankow, Mr. William H. Martin. It was in a steam launch that we crossed the Yangtze-Kiang, and landed at the walls of Wuchang. Our way for two or three miles was up the mighty river, past the business houses of the foreign settlements of Hankow. We took ship in the Japanese concession, and steamed by the German quarter with its fine banks and the branch offices of the North German Lloyd and the Hamburg-American. We next passed the immense brick tea factory owned by the Russians, and then went on beyond the great exporting houses of the Americans, French and British. After that we skirted the native city of Hankow, which is bigger than Boston, seeing the people looking on as we passed. The blue ants as they climbed up the steps from the river to the streets which line the bluff.

During this voyage our captain steered us through shipping such as can be seen nowhere outside of China. There were ocean liners which had come up the Yangtze-Kiang from sea; Chinese, Japanese, British and French river steamers, and hundreds of great Chinese junks, with smaller crafts of all sizes. As we passed the Han river, which flows into the Yangtze between Hankow and Han Yang, we looked up through a long thicket of reeds of such crafts at anchor, enabling us to believe the statement that China has more boats than all the rest of the world put together.

IN STATE THROUGH WUCHANG.

The viceroy had fixed the hour of our coming, and had sent two of his eunuchs to bring us to the palace. One would have sufficed for the consul and myself, for neither is fat, but it was more courteous to send two, and so two we had. Each eunuch had a small, round, black, leather bag, and each carried a small, round, black, leather bag, and each carried a small, round, black, leather bag. They were unpolished in fine Russia leather and equipped with little mirrors that the passengers may trim themselves as they go.

Our way to the palace was through the busiest parts of the city, and we saw everywhere the signs of China's awakening. The streets had been widened. In most places they were clean and well drained, and I saw stone gutters along the sides of the chief business avenues. Uniformed policemen with clubs stood at every corner, to handle the crowd, and every now and then we passed soldiers. His excellency Chen Kwei-Lung is an American half as large as that of the United States, and it is equipped with foreign guns and has been drilled in foreign style. We went by a large drill grounds and barracks, on the banks of the river, and farther on were guarded by troops in blue uniforms. As we neared the palace we saw more and more soldiers and found companies of them on guard in the various courts.

IN THE VICEROY'S YAMEN.

I wish I could show you the yamen, or where the viceroy received us. It is like the official palaces of most great Chinese capitals, comprising the viceroy's residence, his chief law officers' offices. It is laid out in many courts surrounded by administrative buildings, and beyond residence apartments.

DUBLIN CASTLE'S POLICE BUNCO GAME ON TAXPAYERS

(Continued from page seventeen.)

Portadown are in danger. Portadown is the town by the way, where the peaceful inhabitants fought each other for three days a few months ago over a trifling difference of religion.

FIRE CHIEF AT \$100 A YEAR.

Queer things are always happening in the north in spite of its reputation for hard business sense. In Newry the Urban district council has been advertising for a competent and experienced person for the job of chief of the local fire brigade. The salary offered is \$100 a year with free house, fuel, and light. I have calculated that at the rates for such things prevailing in Newry, this works out at about \$4 a week. If there is any American fireman who is anxious for the job I may tell him that it is still open.

The queer things do not all happen in the north, however. A few days ago there was a discussion at the meeting of the Cork county council about the qualifications of the veterinary inspectors appointed for duty in Irish speaking districts. Candidates are supposed to pass an examination in Irish, but complaints have reached the council that most of the men appointed can't understand the people whom they are appointed to help and advise, and now it turns out that the examiner who passed them in Irish didn't know Irish himself and contented himself with ask-

ing them if they knew the Irish words for "cow" and "horse" and "sow." Those who passed this test were accepted as having a sufficient knowledge of Irish for all purposes.

POACHERS' ARGUMENT.
The Cork Anglers' club has been agitating for one free day's fishing each week on the river Lee, and it has put forward the amusing argument that if this concession is granted by the Lee conservators the fish will be better protected. Reduced to the baldest language, the claim is that if a day's free fishing is allowed each week a number of people who now fish on moonless nights will join the club and content themselves with daylight fishing on the free day. The club supports its case by the report of the Bandon conservators which declares that since the granting of a similar privilege poaching has practically ceased and the number of fish in the river has increased greatly.

It will not be long before the area of Dublin is materially increased, and this will be due directly to the public health agitation which has been going on lately. Dublin is a very unhealthy city and a number of her medical men have just issued a manifesto stating that much of the disease is due to the filthy condition of the 30 miles of streets which are virtually in Dublin but not of it. These streets are outside the city limits and are therefore not in charge of the corporation street cleaning department. The filthy dust from them is caught up by the wind and distributed all over the city, thus nullifying much of the work of the department in cleaning the streets within the city area.

THE VICEROY OF HUKWANG.
My talk with the viceroy was carried on through an interpreter, a Chinese who speaks English as well as I do. He is a tall, thin, middle-aged man, with a high forehead, and a pair of eyes that seem to look straight into your soul. He is dressed in a black silk gown with a high collar, and a black hat with a long tassel. He is sitting on a low stool, and his hands are resting on his knees. He is looking at me with a steady gaze, and his expression is one of calmness and confidence. He is a man of great power and influence, and his words are of great weight. He is a man of great power and influence, and his words are of great weight. He is a man of great power and influence, and his words are of great weight.

of various kinds, the whole covering acres. We entered the grounds by a road-way guarded by immense marble lions on pedestals. The lions were painted bright blue, and their wide open jaws we intended to terrify all who came in. Still farther on were three gates, leading into the great courts upon which the main yamen buildings faced. After two side gates were opened, but the one in the center had immense wooden doors, upon each of which, in red and black, was painted the figure of a lion leaping out about 20 feet high. Such giants are found at every such entrance, and they are considered terror inspirers. It is only the viceroy himself and men of high honor who are permitted to go through this central gate, all common people passing in at the sides.

As we came up the doors of the middle gate were closed, but we halted our carriages until the great padlocks could be removed, and then drove on in state until we reached a temple-like building facing the court, which was walled on all sides by buildings much like the one which had been long in the country knows well how important it is to insist that himself and his country should be paid the proper respect. These were of the size of a page of note paper, were bright red in color, and bore the Chinese characters representing our names. They were taken by the officials into the yamen, and a few moments later the viceroy, accompanied by a dozen retainers, interpreters and deputies, all fine-looking Chinese dressed in silk gowns, came forth. The viceroy put his two yellow hands together, and bowed low as he did so. We folded our hands and did him one better by bowing still lower. His excellency then led us through a room into a hall where we came into a long hall, in which was a dining table, set with plates of bananas, orange, apples and pears, as well as dishes of food. The Chinese character for "guest" was written on the table, and had been evidently impressed in this.

The viceroy directed the American consul to take the chair at his right, and placed me at his left, the seat of honor. In the cups of delicious tea were now brought in, a bottle of champagne was opened, and a glass of the latter placed before each of us. We did not touch the tea nor the champagne until the close of the interview, and then not before his excellency had raised his own glass and begged us to drink. Chinese etiquette provides that a guest must not drink until after his host, and also that the caller must never begin drinking until his host has indicated his pleasure.

CHINA'S NEW CONSTITUTION.
The viceroy opened the interview by asking me the usual questions as to how long I had been in China and whether I was going. He spoke kindly of the United States, and in referring to our return of the Boxer indemnity said that his people from one end of the country to the other felt grateful to us, and that they were glad to be able to send so many students to be educated in the American schools. At this point the consul remarked that I was an author of school books and had written books on geographical subjects. This evidently improved my standing in the viceroy's eyes and he talked of the modern educational movement in China, saying that it had come to stay and that there would eventually be up-to-date public schools in every city and town.

I asked as to the new constitution. His excellency replied: "There is no doubt that China will have a constitutional government, but as for it it is well established, and the preparations are now going on. It is a great task to reorganize a government like ours. We have been moving on the present lines for over a thousand years, and we have to introduce our new administrative methods step by step. We have a fixed plan for educating the people to the new government, and this is already in operation over the empire. Our educational plan runs through eight years and at the end of that time we shall have a parliament at Peking and shall have become a constitutional monarchy. The prince regent is in favor of the scheme, and since the deaths of the emperor, Kwang-Su, and the great dowager a number of imperial edicts have been published urging that the



CITY OF HANKOW, WHICH IS BIGGER THAN BOSTON.

Photographed for The Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.

THE CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

I here referred to the Canton-Hankow railway, for which Americans had the concession, and asked whether that road would be built. His excellency replied that the matter had been given over to other officials, but that he thought that it would be rapidly pushed on to a completion. I understand that the road is surveyed, and that the rails for it are already being made at the Han Yang iron works.

The viceroy tells me he is anxious to have railroads built throughout his provinces, and that their industrial resources will probably make Wuchang and Hankow great railroad centers. He then referred to the fact that one can now go from Hankow to Paris by rail. Thereupon the American consul rather facetiously ventured that the time might yet come when one would be able to go from Hankow even to New York in comfortable cars.

"But how could that be?" said the viceroy. "You cannot cross the oceans by railroad."

"No," returned the consul, "but we can go under the Pacific ocean at Bering strait, and we might possibly make a bridge there by which we could cross from Siberia to Alaska, and thence go by land to New York. You know, Asia and North America are only 35 miles apart at that point, and if Russia is willing, I think we can build the bridge."

Upon this I burst into a laugh, in which both our consul and the viceroy joined. **CHEN KWEI-LUNG SENDS GREETINGS TO UNCLE SAM.**
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This message has just come in. I have taken it out of its long white envelope bordered with pink, and it lies before me as I write. The message covers two sheets of yellow paper, the characters being beautifully written by the viceroy's hand. Translated, it reads:

"Sir: The friendly relations existing between my country and yours have long been known to all nations on earth. I therefore appreciate the courtesy of a letter from the secretary of your department of agriculture, whose reputation has so long been known to me. I should have been glad to have had a conversation with him, but as that is not possible on account of the great distance that separates us, I appreciate the courtesy of his letter, and I beg that you will kindly present my compliments to him upon your return."

"It is my sincere desire that the friendly relations between our two countries may never be interrupted, so that the blessings of an international peace may abide with us."

"In closing I have the honor to present you with a copy of my photograph, which will serve to remind you of me when we are thousands of miles apart."

(Signed) "CHEN KWEI-LUNG, 'Viceroy of Hukwang.'"

With this came the viceroy's two cards, one on brown paper and one on light pink. These cards were used on account of the imperial mourning period, instead of the bright red always employed in times of joy.

THE VICEROY'S NEW SCHOOLS.
As I left the yamen his excellency requested me to visit his new schools, and he directed the commissioner of education, a fine-looking Chinese, to go with me. We had also another Chinese, who spoke English, to act as interpreter, as well as two young Celestials who have just returned from one of the technical colleges of the United States. During the day we inspected a half dozen schools, beginning with a kindergarten and ending with a normal school, where teachers are being trained for the public schools now starting.

I was especially interested in the kindergarten. It was singular in that in it the Chinese boys and girls are taught together. So far China has had almost no co-education of the

sexes, and only the fewest of the girls have had any schooling at all. This kindergarten had about 100 boys and girls, all dressed in uniforms. The boys wore jackets and trousers of the brightest sky blue and blue caps with visors which shaded their eyes. The girls wore skirts and trousers of gay color. The children were remarkably clean; they looked healthy, and they seemed as bright as any children of the world. The schoolhouses were of Chinese architecture, one-story buildings enclosing a playground of half an acre, in the center of which was a grass-covered hill 200 feet high. I photographed some of the little ones playing on the slopes of this hill. They were delighted to pose for the camera and not at all afraid I should steal away their souls and bring them bad luck, as has been the case with many of the little ones I photographed during my former travels in China.

At the time we entered the school the children were at their meals, and from the way they shoveled the rice from their bowls into their mouths with chop sticks I am sure they have no trouble as to their digestion. In accordance with Chinese etiquette, the boys kept their hats on while at the table, the teachers told me they would consider it contemptuous to en-

ter a friend's house bareheaded. I observed that two or three boys ate apart and asked why.

"Oh, they are Mohammedans," was the reply, "and they would lose caste if they ate with the others."

COLLEGE OF THE TWO LAKES.
The normal schools of Wuchang are known as "The College of the Two Lakes." This college is one of the most beautiful I have ever visited. The buildings are Chinese, with low-curving roofs of black tiles and with walls of wood lattice-work backed with white paper. Some of them are like temples,

covering a great space. Others are low one-story buildings, but they all have verandas, and all face upon two beautiful lakes of perhaps eight or ten acres, the verandas being so connected that they make one cloistered walk around these lakes.

In addition to these lake fronts there are many courts with shaded walks, so that the atmosphere is as scholastic as that of Princeton or Cornell. The teaching of this normal school is modern, as is that of the language school and of the many other schools now carried on in this great viceroyalty.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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The next subject was the boycotting of foreign nations by the Chinese. His excellency said that he hoped there would be nothing of that kind in the future in China's trade relations with us. He thereupon added some kind expressions as to the United States, saying that the Chinese have always felt that the Americans have no desire to take any part of their empire, and they look upon us as their safest friends. It was at this point that I asked his excellency if he would not send a greeting to the people of the United States through this newspaper. He replied that he would forward it to his photograph by one of his deputies to Hankow.

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