

CHINA'S CRUSADE AGAINST OPIUM



An Imperial Edict Compelling the Closing of All Dens in the Empire the Forerunner of a Great Wave of Moral Reform.

ONE of the most far reaching and startling edicts ever issued by the Chinese imperial government was made public last fall. It came like a thunderbolt to the Chinese nation itself, and it was scarcely less astounding to the civilized world in general. Even from that land of amazing edicts such a sweeping order seemed to be incredible. It was a positive command to the Chinese people to give up the use of opium!

The period of ten years was specified in the edict as the time in which this great reform must be accomplished. The restriction of the cultivation of the poppy was to be effective at once. The text of the document was eloquent in its arraignment of the "curse of foreign drugs," as it is termed in China. It was accused of having increased the poverty of the people and the weakness of the nation. No language was so forcible for its condemnation. The text of the imperial order for its abolition would have been regarded as radical in sentiment even on the lips of a missionary.

Next to China itself the nation most interested was Great Britain. That highly moral and eminently thrifty power had good reason to be agitated, and it was, that was because much of the opium used by the Chinese was raised in India, and anything that in-

terferes with the East Indian trade is properly disquieting to John Bull. The news of the imperial determination to stop the traffic was received with mingled alarm and incredulity in London. Some of the influential English journals were frank enough to deplore the loss to British commerce. Some of them declined to put faith in the good intention of the Celestial government. The London Times treated the matter as follows:

"While we have not the least wish to belittle any patriotic or enlightened impulse that may have prompted the edict, experience teaches us to be cautious about taking announcements of Chinese reform at their face value. Distinction has followed such promises too often for us to accept them with confident assurance. Too often has it been found that the reforms, instead of being inspired by an honest desire for improvement, were merely advertised as a ready means of captivating the foreigner. Especially has this been the case in matters which are known to interest the west on moral or religious grounds. When Mr. Burlingame's Chinese mission—the first of those missions which China has dispatched at intervals for spying out the west—came to Europe in 1867 one of its trump cards was China's invitation to Protestant missionaries to come and plant the shining cross on every hill and in every valley. An undoubted impression was made by this at the

time, but so far from China having planted the cross it would be truer to say that she has watered the hills and valleys since then with missionary blood."

Wrong Again.

Time has shown pretty conclusively that the Thunderer was wide of the mark. Today the antiopium crusade which is rolling like a great tidal wave over the empire of China seems to be a serious and earnest movement in which the very best efforts of the well disposed among the vast population are actively engaged. At first the imperial directions were received with marked skepticism by the rank and file of the Chinese public, the popular opinion being that the high and mighty powers of the country were amusing themselves at "bluff" and that there was really no intention of carrying the drastic measures into effect. Now, however, matters are vastly

different. Even the most reluctant to believe among those who distrusted the government's honesty of purpose are compelled to acknowledge that the empire is actually trying to uplift itself and to admit that there is an increasing feeling against the use of the "foreign drug." The movement seems to be steady and is spreading with commendable rapidity. This is especially true in the southern part of the empire, in which antiopium societies exist in great numbers.

At the present time many of the most prominent officials in the empire are joining in the crusade with energy. The antiopium societies, of which there are many hundreds, are composed largely of young men, students and those of the more intelligent classes, and they are frequently managed by Chinamen of foreign education, many of their presidents being young men who have attended American schools. These societies co-operate with the authorities in the enforce-

A Poppy Plantation.

ment of the regulations, and great good has resulted therefrom.

In order effectually to abolish the opium evil in China the authorities realized that it would be necessary to prohibit the cultivation of the opium bearing poppy. Steps were taken at once to that end. To avoid too great hardship for the owners of poppy plantations it was announced that the reduction in the number of poppy farms would be made gradually. It is in this feature of the reform that the real test of China's sincerity lies. If the edict is only a cleverly devised scheme on the part of the Celestial authorities to shut out the foreign trade in the drug, the government hoping thereby to stimulate the home production, it will happen that the restrictions against the home growers will not be enforced, although some show of doing so will be made for awhile. That is precisely what the resident foreigners who have been notified to abandon the culture of the drug in the empire are now asserting. British and French owners of plantations declare that thus far no native grower of the poppy has been molested and that the cultivation of the plant is markedly on the increase. The British opium growers in China

and the East Indian exporters of the drug are no certain that the whole business is a deep game played by China to get exclusive control of the trade that they have made a big fuss in parliament over the matter. Thus far, however, they have only been ridiculed for their pains. There is no doubt that the Indian opium is far superior to the Chinese grown article, and it has always commanded a higher price in the Celestial markets. In the competition the Chinese grown product has always suffered greatly. Notwithstanding the enormous duties levied on Indian opium, it has had no difficulty in maintaining its own until now. It has been only the poorer classes of Chinese who have used the native drug.

In Good Faith.

The American legation in China places no credence whatever in these insinuations against Celestial good faith in the matter of the edict. Influential Americans long resident in Peking and other large Chinese cities, some of them connected with missions and others in the service of the imperial government, put the most implicit confidence in the integrity of the throne and in the genuineness of its determination to effect a great reform. It would seem also that the responsible British authorities hold the same opinion. Sir John Jordan, the British minister at Peking, recently signed an agreement with the Chinese government to reduce the importation of opium gradually until the entire trade comes to an end—in ten years. There is a proviso attached to this curious document which shows that the British lion does not mean to be caught napping. If China fails entirely to prohibit the opium habit within ten years, she is to be fined an amount equal to three times the opium revenue she collected annually for ten years before the reduction of the opium importations.

In order to carry out its part of the agreement the Peking government last March sent peremptory telegraphic orders to all viceroys and governors. All opium smokers under sixty years

of age, whether officials, gentry, merchants or the common people, must abandon the habit within the next three years. Viceroys, governors, Tartar generals are exhorted to try to make all smokers stop the habit, if possible, within one or two years. All opium dens and other public resorts of a similar character must close their doors within nine months from the first of the Chinese new year, the officials were instructed. All shops selling opium must put it in tin boxes and affix government stamps, without which the drug shall be regarded as contraband. All shops are required to register their names and full particulars in the local magistrate's office, and their number is to be limited. No new shop may be opened. All opium smokers must furnish their names, the quantity they smoke daily and other necessary particulars. Licenses will be issued to each registered smoker to enable them to buy their daily supply from registered opium shops.

This order was supplemented by the closing of the opium dens in most of the large cities. In one month the loss on duties amounted to about \$20,000, and in one province sales were diminished by \$57,000. In several places great demonstrations were made in celebration of the closing of the dens, and in many instances they were of such an enthusiastic and even patriotic character that one might have supposed that some great victory was being commemorated. Long processions traversed the streets, and hundreds of shops along the line of march were decorated.

GEORGE H. PICARD.

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The Last Meeting of Three Interesting Men; Surviving War Governors to Appear at Saratoga

THE national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic will open at Saratoga, N. Y., Sept. 8, and at least one of its features promises to be of unusual interest. This will be a reunion of the surviving governors of civil war times. At first the men who had been governors of northern states held annual reunions, but in time their ranks became so thinned that the custom was discontinued. That was fifteen years ago, and since then the number of survivors has grown exceedingly small.

Now only three of these war governors are in the flesh. Two of them—Frederick Holbrook of Vermont and William Sprague of Rhode Island—have signified their intention of being present at the opening ceremonies of the encampment, and Samuel J. Crawford of Kansas has promised to gratify the desire of his friends to have him unite with the venerable New Englanders in this last meeting before the final roll call.

From the Sunflower State.

Of these three remaining war governors the Kansas man is the best preserved in spite of his unusually strenuous career. He took an active part in the conflict on the border, and was present at all of the numerous battles fought in that region except two. He went into the volunteer army as a private and left it as a brigadier general. While still in the field he was elected governor of the Sunflower State and resigned his position in the army to accept the civil honor.

At the close of the war Governor Crawford went actively to work to build up his state. He established an immigration bureau to encourage the going to Kansas of ex-soldiers, and he made his address so attractive that great numbers of them flocked thitherward and took up claims. He was so popular that he was re-elected, and it was during his second administration that he demonstrated that he had not forgotten the arts of war. An outbreak among the Indians of the western Kansas plains threatened to put an end to all colonization in that region. The doughty governor resigned as chief



EX-GOVERNOR CRAWFORD OF KANSAS.

EX-GOVERNOR SPRAGUE OF RHODE ISLAND.

EX-GOVERNOR HOLBROOK OF VERMONT.

executive, organized a regiment of cavalry and joined Sheridan and Custer in a campaign against the lawless depredators. His services were so appreciated by his Kansas friends that they resolved to reward him with the dignity of United States senator. With that end in view a majority of the members of the state legislature went to the capital instructed to that effect.

In these early Kansas days the legislature grew restive under instructions. In the case in point the members did not stay instructed, but flew the track, and another than Governor Crawford was elected. This experience was quite enough for the gallant soldier.

He forsook politics forever and engaged in the practice of the law, at which he has been uniformly successful, becoming in time one of the richest men in the state.

From the Green Mountain State.

Vermont's war governor recently celebrated his ninety-fourth birthday. In spite of his advanced age he is still in excellent health and has recently presided at the sixtieth annual meeting of the board of directors of a bank of which he has been president for thirty-four years. His neighbors in Brattleboro declare that he has never missed a meeting of the board since he became a member. This same Fred-

erick Holbrook is reputed to have exercised a tremendous influence over Lincoln in the days following Antietam. He wrote to the president advising him to call out 500,000 men without delay. He declared that if the government were too poor to equip Vermont's quota he would do it himself and wait for reimbursement until peace came.

The letter came to Lincoln while he was in consultation with his cabinet on that very point. He read it, and then spread it to his advisers. "It solves all difficulties," he declared. "There's Holbrook buried in Vermont snows for half of the year, yet I would give more for his opinion than for that

of all the politicians in Washington." Although these same politicians advised strongly against it, the call for 500,000 volunteers followed immediately. Vermont raised her full quota under the nine month call. She also sent the first regiment under the three years' call. So there was no draft in the Green Mountain State, and her war governor saw in it that the troops were equipped properly.

Little Rhode's War Governor.

William Sprague of Rhode Island is rather feeble health, but he is determined to meet his two venerable friends at the encampment. At the outbreak of the civil war he was gov-

ernor of Rhode Island, but he entered the volunteer service promptly, participating in the first battle of Bull Run and in the peninsular campaign. For twelve years after the war Governor Sprague was in the United States senate and was a leading figure in Rhode Island and national politics for a much longer period. Recently he has devoted most of his time to scientific research.

Altogether there were upward of fifty governors of northern states during the civil war. Nearly every state had from two to three during that trying period, and half a dozen of them had four. Connecticut had only one, William Buckingham, who served from

1855 to 1866. Indiana elected Oliver P. Morton shortly after the terrible battle and retained him in his service until 1867. Austin Blair was governor of Michigan from 1861 to 1865. When West Virginia separated from the old Dominion, Arthur I. Boreman became governor of the new commonwealth and served until 1869.

Men to Be Remembered.

Horatio Seymour was the only war governor who made the race for the presidency. He was a war Democrat of the most pronounced type and was nominated by his party to lead the campaign against General Grant. Although his loyalty had been made apparent in many instances, notably in quieting the draft riots in his own state, the great soldiers' popularity swept the country like a tidal wave. Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania was a noted wartime executive. He was elected a month before Lincoln came to the presidency. Most of the 34 Pennsylvania regiments were organized during his term of office, and he was an active supporter of emergency war measures. One of his chief legacies to history, however, was the foundation of the system of providing homes for the children of those slain in battle. Governor Curtin was appointed to the Russian mission by President Grant and returned to America in 1872 to support Horatio Greeley for the presidency.

Among the noted western war governors were the famous Dicks of Minnesota—Yates and Oglesby. Alexander Ramsey of Minnesota was the first governor of that state, and he supported the war party with great vigor. In 1862 he was sent to the senate, in which he served two terms, afterward becoming secretary of war. Kansas had three war governors—Charles Robinson, Thomas Carney and Samuel J. Crawford.

During the first year of the conflict all the northern governors assembled in convention at Altoona, Pa., and passed an address to President Lincoln, pledging him the loyal support of their respective commonwealths. Two of the surviving trio of veterans were present at that meeting—Holbrook and Sprague. Crawford was in the field at the time. WILLIAM E. FERRIS.

BRIEF AND TRUE.

The oldest hospital in London is St. Bartholomew's, which was established in the year 1123. In 1547 it contained 169 beds. It was rebuilt in 1729. The apertures which can remain below the surface for about twenty minutes at a time. Then it comes to the surface and breathes fifty or sixty times, taking about ten minutes to do so. The reason why black cloth becomes green with wear is that the chlorine

of potash used in dyeing is converted by the action of the air into green chromic oxide. Hard water can be softened at a cost of about 1 cent per thousand gallons. The life guards cost most of any British regiment in clothe and the West Indian regiment the least. The court of king's bench is so called because in olden times the sovereign used to preside in person. But the

king does not interfere with the decisions of the judges. Tribes were first introduced in England in the reign of King Albert, about 600 A. D. Twenty-four bridges span the Thames within the limits of London. The young of the condor are the only birds which remain in the nest, unable to fly, for a whole year. Catfish feed only on the bottom of the pond. The plumes are not, as some suppose, pulled, but are cut with

a sharp knife. The stumps wither and fall out. For a pair of good ostriches the average price is \$200 to \$250. Hyderabad is the most important of the Indian native states. The nizam's dominions cover 82,300 square miles and contain over 11,000,000 people. Covered carriages were first used in England in 1540. There is a daily average of thirty-five immigrants who apply for admission to the port of New York and are rejected. Calcutta's trouble is cholera, and the

babonic plague is the trouble of Bombay. Each city pays to her trouble an annual tribute of 2,500 souls. The capital represented by Great Britain's cotton trade is \$2,000,000,000 a year and the profits \$50,000,000 a year. The machine which cuts up wood to make matches turns out 10,000 splints, as they are called, in a minute. The bank is run on a cash basis, and occasionally a cashier runs that way also. The average life of a British ship is

twenty-six years, but Scandinavians make their craft last on an average thirty years. The life of an American ship averages only eighteen years. Recent estimates show that New York city now has a population of 4,500,000 and that it is growing twice as fast as London. There are 3,399 Smiths of full age in New York city and 680 of them have for a name. Needle-makers are most subject to consumption of any trade; file-makers

next, then lithographers. Miners and charcoal burners suffer least from the disease and next to them butchers. The same of sailors averages thirty feet in depth, but in some places it has been found 300 feet below the surface. Parisians ate 40,000 horses last year. The horse meat consumption has increased owing to the scarcity of beef. The autograph of Queen Elizabeth is worth about \$20, that of Henry VIII. 140, while an autograph of Henry VII. fetches \$39.