

# CHINA'S FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

Whether modern diplomacy has abandoned the Machiavellian policy or not is open to question, but it cannot be denied that for general astuteness, skill at "wool pulling" and the perfection of evasiveness the Chinese diplomatic service leads all others. And it is only thirty odd years since China sent out her first foreign minister and, through the Burlingame treaty, was placed in direct communication with the world's great powers.

Oriental diplomacy was, according to Macaulay, but a synonym for deception and prevarication, and none of those great Englishmen, like Clive, Hastings and "Chinese" Gordon, who had most to do with eastern governments, believed the truth was in them. The opinion of diplomacy, in fact, seems to be universally the same. "As it was at

the beginning," says a historian, "so it lasted for a long time; the ambassador was the man who was sent to lie abroad for the good of his country."

Said a certain French king to a diplomat he was sending on a foreign mission, "If they lie to you, lie still more to them!"

It is not claimed that the empress dowager of China or the tsungli-yamen at Peking gave any general instructions to their ministers and envoys extraordinary on their departure for other lands, since to a Chinaman that would seem a work of supererogation. As to their ability to hold their own against the trained diplomats of other countries, it has been amply shown. It should be remembered that while China was the very latest to join the international family, yet she has had the advantage of a long and illustrious line of rulers who were adepts in the art of diplomacy. The Chinese mandarins and all public officials in high stations served for life and transmitted to their successors the traditions and accumulated wisdom of their experience.

It must be admitted that the American system of frequent changes and short tenure of office is open to the frank criticism of the Chinese minister at Washington, who recently declared that our consular service was in need of reform. "America's representatives," he said, "are changed too frequently. Seldom do they know the language of the country they are sent to, and, as it is, even the interpreters and vice consuls seldom represent the best talent, for, having no hope of promotion, young men in these positions are always willing to leave the consular service for something better."

qualified in every way for their positions. It is doubtful if more than a small proportion of our ministers and ambassadors abroad can speak the language of the countries to which they are accredited; but this is not often the case with the Chinese. The minister to Paris not only speaks French, but has been complimented as being in some respects more Parisian than many of the native residents.

As to the dozen of Chinese diplomats, Sir Chih-Chen-Lu-Feng-Luh, resident minister at London, the English papers declare that "notwithstanding his intensely Chinese appearance, he

has become quite English in thought and habit," which is a delicate way of conveying the highest compliment of which John Bull is capable. He has a keen sense of humor and an exquisite taste in music, they say, while as a host he is unsurpassed. At the same time he is a model of discretion and in-

the present minister, Wu Ting Fang, received the important post at St. Petersburg on account of his great talents and skill at diplomacy, and it is thought also because he has a Mantchou wife and his connections with the court at Peking. Chih-Chen-Lu-Feng-Luh, however, speaks only Chinese, but his facile entrance made him popular with all classes, while his evident knowledge of international law made him at home with the department of state.

Minister Chih-Chen-Lu-Feng-Luh speaks English fluently, as also does his conferees in the country, Minister Wu Ting Fang, China's highest representative at Washington. Not only has this popular minister a knowledge of English, but he is perfect master of English style, as the who have been so fortunate as to hear him speak can testify. His speech is a model of elegant diction while it would behoove some of our so-called statesmen to copy. It is 12 years since his first predecessor in the Chinese legation came to Washington, at that time Wu Ting Fang was studying English as a

**A TRAVELER'S ESCORT IN CHINA.**  
The interior of China has never been regarded as wholly safe for the unattended foreigner—the Chinese mob is so peculiar in its vagaries and so unreasonable in its dislikes. But even when an escort was provided by the government or by the governor of a



province the traveler was frequently in doubt as to whether it was a protection or not. The Chinese soldier is an object of aversion to all classes, and he returns the dislike with interest, having a common hatred with the people of the "foreign devil," whose ways he cannot understand and whose presence in the Flowery Kingdom he regards as a personal affront.

## BOXER HORDE ASCENDING A CANAL.



The great imperial canal system of China is one of the most wonderful ever conceived, with its main artery, the Grand canal, connecting Peking with the coast, 600 miles in length, and its numerous tributaries. But the canal system of China is an illustration of the limitations as well as the capabilities of the Chinese. They could construct a great inland waterway, but they could not overcome the difficulties offered at different levels. To this day they have no conception of locks, by which canals may be traversed at different levels, and as a substitute have a series of inclined planes. They have a peculiarly constructed glacial, sloping at an angle of about 45 degrees, and by means of capstans worked by hand, boats are drawn up or lowered down from one canal to another. To prevent a boat shipping water a screen of wickerwork is set up at the bow.

As the real highways of China are the canals and streams, they have been used by the hordes of Boxers from the interior, who have swarmed along their banks and in boats on their waters, looking to the seat of war in vast numbers, with no fixed idea in view except that the outbreak promised unlimited opportunities for plunder and for revenge upon the hated foreigners.

## MANTCHOO SOLDIER "MOUNTING GUARD."



As a nation, says an English traveler, the Chinese may be said to be incurably "run shy" and rather prone to peace than to war. But, while cowardly by instinct, the Chinaman will fight like a rat if he is cornered and cannot run away.

He has no fear of death, as has been proved in a thousand instances, but he is superstitious and likely to yield to a panic on the slightest provocation. But the bulk of the soldiery is drawn not from the many millions of Chinese, but from their old time conquerors, the Mantchoos, who have ruled them ever since 1644.

Every Mantchoo is ostensibly a soldier, whether he may be in the ranks or pursuing some trade or profession. He is enrolled among the "braves" and entitled to carry arms. "It would be easy," wrote the author of "Chinese Characteristics," "to raise an army of a million men in China—nay, of ten millions—tested by competitive examination as to their capacity to go to sleep across three wheelbarrows, with head downward, like a spider, the mouth wide open and a fly inside." And this sarcastic reference of the writer to the Chinese soldier's inclination to seek his ease on all occasions is illustrated by this picture of a Mantchoo soldier supposed to be "mounting guard."

## THE CHINESE GOD OF WAR.

The Chinese are decidedly polytheists in their religion, if they may be so called. They have no religion. At any rate, they have more gods of various kinds than any ordinary people would know what to do with. Their gods run up into the millions, but they are chiefly the images of a few deities, such as the King of Heaven, the goddess of earth, etc.



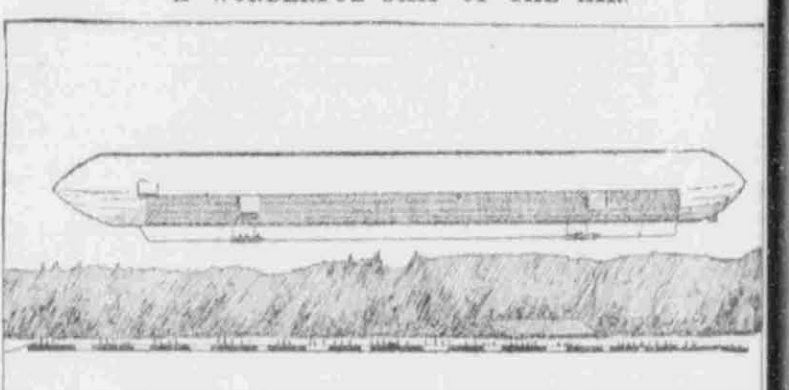
Sing, or god of literature; the King of Heaven, or ruler of the whole universe; Ma Chu, the goddess of salt; Ngn Heng Kung, the god of things, etc.

While clinging to no god in particular, the Chinese are prone to give their idols a chance, and if one prove successful he is discarded and another temporarily substituted. Just now the favorite deity is Kuang Ta, the god of war, before whom the Boxers have been placing offerings and performing incantations.

## ON GUARD AT TIEN-TSIN.

The climate of Tien-tsin is not at all favorable to soldiering in the summer season, and in the winter the cold weather is so prolonged as to become monotonous. Those of the allied army who had seen previous service in China came prepared for either extreme, and the Russians from Port Arthur carried along their great shaggy overcoats, in which they had taken refuge to the elements. After Tien-tsin had been carried by assault, the Boxers and imperial troops driven out, the different nationalities divided the city between them for the purposes of protection to property and guard mounting. Even then, after the foe had been expelled, amid the ruins of the native quarter the sentries were compelled always to be on the alert, lest some Chinaman in the guise of noncombatants should creep upon and murder them. It has been reported that the allies who first essayed that perilous trip to Peking were compelled to kill most of the captured wounded, owing to their treachery, even after being taken to the hospital and tenderly cared for by their captors.

## A WONDERFUL SHIP OF THE AIR.



The latest invention to traverse the upper regions independently of aerial currents is that of Count Zeppelin, which was tested a little while ago and made a voyage of 35 miles without mishap. The airship proper is 425 feet long and 87 feet in diameter, with a capacity of 400,000 cubic feet. It weighs 7,200 pounds and is propelled by two 15 horsepower motors fixed on cars which stand on a gangway beneath the ship.

This aerial monster was built at Lake Constance and launched from a great raft or floating stable with the assistance of a steamer. It floated easily and readily rose into the air, where it was run by two pairs of four-bladed propellers, one pair at each end of the ship. The framework consists of a band of aluminum seven inches apart, over which is stretched a double layer of hempen netting. It is subdivided by 16 network partitions, in each of which a gas bag of corresponding shape is inserted, so that altogether there are 17 balloons, outside of the whole being a cover of water-proof silk.

The inventor of this airship, Count Zeppelin, is a general in the German army, but went through the American civil war in a private capacity and made his first balloon ascension within the Federal lines.

## SORTING TEA IN KIU-KIANG.

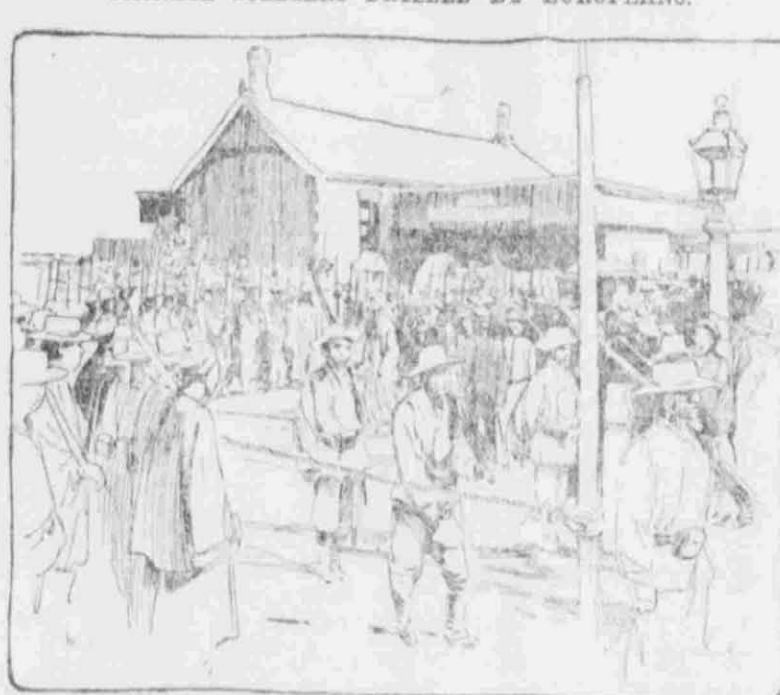


The picking and preparation of tea in China is mainly carried on by women and children. A smart tea picker can gather about 15 pounds of leaves a day, and, though the climate is very hot in summer time, the employment is light and agreeable.

The tea plant is cultivated in patches on sloping hillsides. It grows to a height of about three feet, and the first picking is the most important, though the women and children strip all the branches and twigs of the young leaves. The most precious product, the dainty buds, is gathered for the use of the rich and high mandarin.

After gathering, the leaves are spread on shallow trays to dry, where they are frequently turned, as shown in the illustration. They are then thrown on heated pans for a few minutes, in order to curl the leaves and disperse moisture. Then they are rolled on rattan tables before being exposed for a few hours out of doors. This process is then repeated, and after the tea has been scented by means of fragrant flowers, such as jasmine, orange blossoms, etc., it is ready for packing.

## CHINESE SOLDIERS DRILLED BY EUROPEANS.



It has been a cause of complaint of late that the Chinese soldiers were better drilled than they ought to be. In other words, while it was supposed that there were only a few well drilled battalions of soldiers in the empire and that the bulk of the army was undisciplined and crudely armed, the truth was that a large proportion had received more or less benefit from European instructors.

The allied powers have now had brought home to them the error of furnishing the Chinese with modern weapons and teaching them how to use them. The soldiers shown in the illustration are a few selected from the army of the viceroy of Shanghai, who were drilled by German instructors and armed with the newest German pattern of the deadly Mauser rifle. They show what can be made of the raw, ignorant coolies taken from the lowest class of Chinese and forced to conform to European ideas of dress and drill.

## INTERESTING CHINESE NOTES.

China could raise an army of 1,700,000 men, but it would be undisciplined and only one-third equipped.

General Tung Lu, at one time the present emperor's tutor, is Chinese imperial treasurer. He is most favorably inclined toward foreigners.

Generals Kang Yi and Tung Fuh Shan are both rabidly antiforeign and have

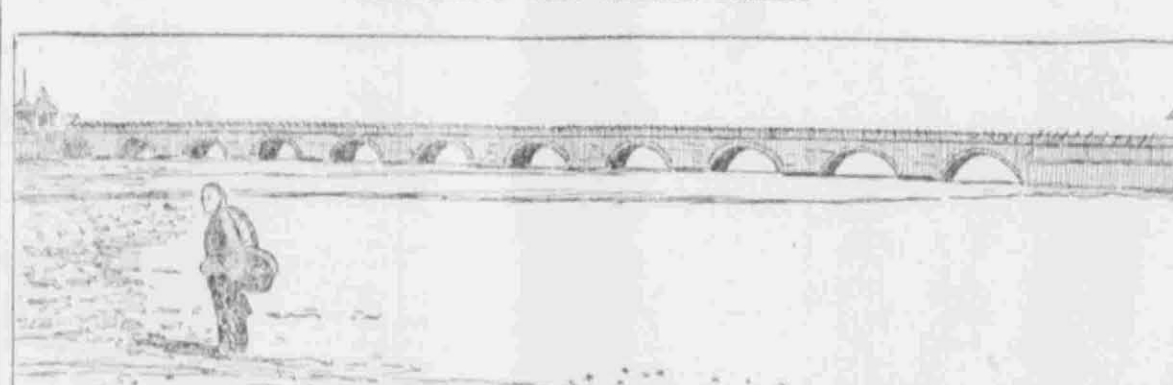
capable of betraying a diplomatic secret.

Two of the most important posts in the Chinese diplomatic service, occupied by men well equipped for their eminent missions, are Berlin and St. Petersburg. The former is held by Hui-Hai-Huan, who was appointed in 1898 and has had great problems to solve in connection with the German occupation of Kiaochow.

The present minister at St. Petersburg is Mr. Yang-Yu, who is remembered as one of the most popular of Chinese representatives at Washington. He was the immediate predecessor of

boy. He studied law in England and was admitted to the bar in 1877. He is now a little over 50 years old and has been successively a magistrate in Hongkong, legal adviser to Li Hung Chang and an official in the foreign office at Peking. He came to this country as minister in 1897 and has gained great popularity for his wit, liberal views and brilliant oratory. His official residence is in a spacious mansion of white sandstone at the corner of Q street and New Hampshire avenue, Washington, and there he has held those popular receptions which have been features of his life in the Capital City.

## THE MARCO POLO BRIDGE, PEKING.



The antiquity of Peking and its former advancement are illustrated especially in the great Liu-ko-Chiao bridge at a little distance from the capital city. It spans the Hun-ho river, with numerous arches of stone and a massive parapet, which in olden times was adorned with rows of stone lions.

It is a notable monument to its builders, but the date of its construction is not exactly known. However, it was standing in the thirteenth century, for the great Venetian traveler, Marco Polo, crossed it many times and has left a description of it. Polo was in China between 1275 and 1290 and was for years attached to the court of the mighty Kublai Khan, the Mongol conqueror of that country.

He was of infinite service to the emperor, who was loath to have him leave, and when he did go loaded him with favors, giving him rich jewels, silks and other treasures. Arriving in Venice finally in 1295, Marco and his father and uncle astonished the people with their wonderful stories and were considered veritable Munchausens, though it is believed that the published accounts of their travels are in the main accurate.

but was finally compelled, with his troops, to join the Boxers.

Good newspapers are printed at the treaty ports of China.

Tung means east; Si, west; nan, south; pei, north; while tsin, kin or king stands for capital or metropolis, as in Peking (northern capital) and Nankin (southern capital).

Fu is a prefecture, tai a governor, tao a circuit or group of administrative

departments; so tsatal is a governor of a circuit, and tsatal is a governor of a prefecture.

Chao or kiao is a bridge, li a Chinese mile, tsai, eight, and thus Pail-kiao is the eight mile bridge.

Tien means heaven, so Tien-tsin signifies heavenly metropolis.

Tsing means pure or clear, so Tsing-kang is clear river.

China has new colleges in engineering, navigation, military tactics, electric science and medicine, with European professors.

Ho or kiang means river, so Pei-Ho is north river; Si-kiang is seven rivers.

Hai is sea, and kwan stands for gate, so Hai-kwan (the maritime customs) is gate of the sea, and Shan-hai-kwan, mountain and sea gate.

Shang is a city, and Shan-hai, city by the sea.

Kwo signifies the empire of the great

pure (name of the present dynasty), and Kwo being a kingdom or empire, Ta Tsing (China).

Ta Mei-ka is the name applied by the Chinese to the United States and means great America.

Shen is a province, and shen-shi is the western province.

Pai is white, and Pail-shan is white mountain.

Yang means ocean and tee son, hence, the Yang-tee river is son of the ocean, and Tien-tee, son of heaven (the emperor).

Hoang is yellow; Hoang-Ho, yellow river, and Hoang-Hai, yellow sea.

Shan is mountain, and Shantung is east mountain, and Shan-shi is west mountain.

The Chinese navy consists of four cruisers and a few useless fighting vessels.