

General Yin Tchang and the New Chinese Army; What the Celestials Have Done In the Last Three Years



The showing made by the reorganized Chinese army, which has recently held its first important maneuvers, comes as a surprise to the world at large. The appearance and discipline of the new army amazed the military experts of foreign countries who were present. Thirty officers of other powers were on the ground, and they are unanimous in their verdict that the progress made by the Chinese military department during the last three years is little short of marvelous. There is no longer any doubt in the minds of American diplomats in the east that China is preparing for some event of supreme importance. What that move is to be is still a matter for conjecture.

Coinciding with this military activity on the part of China is a corresponding watchfulness on the part of certain other powers, notably Japan and the United States. The success of the island empire in the late conflict with Russia has done nothing to heal the differences which arose at the time of the war between these two oriental neighbors. China has been a witness of all that her rival has accomplished, and imitation is the strongest Chinese characteristic. The Japanese astonished the world with their ability in accumulating military strength, but the Chinese are repeating the achievement with even more speedy results.

America, too, has incurred the enmity of the entire Chinese nation. From the Chinese viewpoint, the Americans have treated them so badly that any species of retaliation would be justified provided it were severe enough. They have done and are continuing to do everything possible in the way of commercial retaliation. American goods of all kinds are practically boycotted throughout the empire. They look upon



GEN. YIN TCHANG
THE NEW CHINESE INFANTRY

the exclusion act as a veritable declaration of Uncle Sam's hostility. It is to be recalled that the American government is at all disturbed over the Chinese military activity, but it is a fact that the forces in the Philippines have recently been increased very materially. It has just come to light that the Peking authorities have ordered 1,000,000 rifles of the most modern pattern

from European makers and 300 power batteries designed for Chinese fortifications. The new army will number 1,250,000 men and will cost \$600,000,000, an immense sum of money to be raised in a country so badly governed as China. Two years ago the entire effective force of the empire numbered less than 100,000, but today it consists of at least 200,000 well trained men, and

as it is now planned before the beginning of next summer over 400,000 men will be in active training under the dragon flag. The men will be selected with great care and will serve three years as regulars and six as reserves. It has long been a theory among military observers that the material for a powerful army was to be found among the numerous races embraced in the

Chinese empire. All that has been wanting is proper leadership. That prime essential seems now to be exemplified in the person of General Yin Tchang, China's greatest soldier, who for the past three years has been representing his country at the court of the German kaiser. It is absolutely certain, also, that the new army will be modeled closely after that of Germany.

General Yin Tchang would not be satisfied to accept any other pattern. Sent by his government when a young man to study the art of war in the school of Moltke and his fellow tacticians, he was brought up as a German officer, served for seven years in the kaiser's army and returned to China in 1892, just in time to take an active part in his country's struggle against Japan a year later. It was this man who conducted the brilliant defense of Tientsin against the mikado's army of invasion. Since that time he has been recognized as the most able military man in the empire. At the conclusion of the peace treaty Tchang entered the diplomatic service, going first as minister to Vienna and afterward to Berlin.

China's natural aversion for the Japanese has not prevented her military authorities from employing experts from the island empire to drill the Celestial army. Since the close of the Russo-Japanese war many young officers of the mikado's army have crossed over to the mainland to enter the service of China. There are also many German instructors and several British engineers of established reputation.

In his task of modernizing the Chinese army General Yin Tchang will be likely to benefit greatly by the advice of seven clever young Celestials who, taking him as a model, have been serving their apprenticeship in the German army. Sons of mandarins and representatives of new China, these keen-witted young orientals are not novices at the game of war. Each of them has finished a four year course at the great Chinese military academy of Wuchang, which is conducted in the German fashion, and they have been doing post-graduate work in Europe.

Although the Emperor William is the author of the "yellow peril" scare he was not unwilling to receive these students at the earnest solicitation of the Chinese government. A refusal would possibly have been detrimental to the

German policy in the far east and for the "yellow peril" business was permitted to slumber. These young warriors have been assigned no command in the German army. They accompany the officers in their rounds and attend drills and maneuvers and are given every opportunity to learn.

Those who remember the sorry spectacle which has always been furnished by the Chinese army in time of action, may be inclined to doubt. John Chinaman has always been cited as the man without patriotism, a being absolutely devoid of all love of country and its institutions. This is true no longer. The unwilling, mandarin driven warrior, dragged from his home to fight the battles of his taskmaster, had nothing in common with the liberty loving Celestial of today. The whole empire is undergoing a change. The time is close at hand when Chinese love of country and contempt for death will be as marked as it is in Japan today.

An enthusiastic American military engineer who was present at the recent maneuvers declares that there was nothing to choose between the Chinese soldiers and the best drilled European troops. Physique, equipment and deportment, he affirms, are practically the same. At attention the Chinese infantrymen stand like heroes, rigid and impassive, yet in attitudes instinct with life, the expression on their faces firm and often suggestive of strong character.

ALLEN J. BELL.

UTILIZING RIVERS.

According to a German publication Sweden is planning to use for electricity every ounce of water now going to waste over her falls and in her rivers. Engineers are in the hills making surveys, and capital is getting ready for the call that is sure to come just as soon as the surveys are completed. The same may be said of Norway, where the waters have shorter distances to run, but are often of tremendous volume.

great hall into which, I hear, she will enter when it takes place, in the very same Sedan chair as that in which Mrs. Bradley Martin was carried on the night of her never-to-be-forgotten fertility. It is impossible to imagine a greater contrast between mother and daughter than that which exists between these two ladies. Lady Craven is an exceedingly shy young woman, is domesticated to a degree, and takes little interest in things outside her husband's famous abbey with its unique kitchen gardens and fowl yards. Of poultry she is the greatest fancier in the kingdom, and the most successful breeder, so much so that her name is a household word in every farmhouse in England. It is merely to please her mother that she ever enters into society with a large S. But for all that she has many fast friends and is an ideal chaperon for the historic home of the Cravens.

KING EDWARD'S PRESENT.

King Edward had difficulty in deciding upon the gifts for Miss Roosevelt on her marriage. His majesty does not believe in selecting presents promiscuously. On the contrary he bestows the greatest thought and attention to suitability and the likelihood of the article being acceptable to the receiver. Yet again he proved his fine tact and diplomacy in one of the gifts he is sending the president's daughter. It is a brooch which represents in diamonds, sapphires and rubies, the flags of England and the United States crossed. This beautiful jewel was designed by the king's second daughter, Princess Victoria, who inherits the artistic temperament of her aunt, King Edward's sister. The execution of the design has been entrusted to a well-known Piccadilly jeweler.

WHAT QUEEN SENT.

Queen Alexandra having heard of Miss Roosevelt's predilections for photography sent her the handsomest single-lens camera that could be procured, complete in every detail, together with a number of photographs "taken" by her majesty herself. These include the immediate members of the royal family and the children of the Prince and Princess of Wales all of which are signed by the royal photographer.

HER TWO LITTLE BOYS.

The health of her two little boys has been a great source of anxiety to the Duchess of Marlborough. They are both afflicted by curvature of the spine, but I am told they have so greatly benefited by the treatment of a famous Harley street specialist, that it is but a question of time when a permanent cure may be effected. The duchess herself frequently accompanied the children to the physician's residence and remained while they were put through the species of Swedish movements which constitute an essential part of the treatment. The duchess, on one occasion, thought that the room in which they were through these movements was not warm enough for the tender little lords, and in a manner that implied a command, rather than a request, intimated her desire that the temperature should be increased. But the physician has reached that degree of eminence in his profession which permits him to ignore caste distinctions, and, in effect, he daily told her grace that he knew best what he was about; that he would not make the room warmer to please her or anybody else, and that if she were not satisfied with his treatment of her children she should find another physician who would prove more amenable to her wishes.

RADICAL NEWSPAPER TALES.

Some misguided plibben has been writing a radical newspaper, pretending against the appointment of the Duke of Manchester as captain of the Yeomen of the Guard, and indignantly demanding to be informed what he has done that he should be given a court job that is practically a sinecure and pays \$5,000 a year. Of course the answer would be "nothing," unless marrying an American wife and thereby bringing a lot of American money into the country is to be regarded as an act of public service. But what would become of the privileges of our aristocracy if peers were to be required to do something to merit appointments to snug, good paying billets? That would be treating him just as plain, ordinary folk who have to work for a living, and would play the mischief with our grand old traditions. If the duke had really done something great, and were ambitious of real distinction, he could not be hired to play the role of a glorified court lackey such as he now fills. He would resent the idea of making a show of himself in a "court" position. The fact that he has done nothing to

deserve the post is proof of his eminent qualification for it. Court appointments are for the "do-nothing" peers. And there is no danger that the supply of them will run short. It is of the other kind there is such a lamentable scarcity.

CANNOT RETURN.

Sir Casper Purdon Clarke, who has charge of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, will not be able to return to England for the marriage of his daughter, which is taking place in March, but after the event Lady Clarke hopes to join her husband for a brief stay in New York. Lady Purdon Clarke is bound to be popular among Americans, for although she is essentially a grande dame, yet her gentility and kindness of heart are proverbial. She is still a strikingly handsome woman, and her friends look mystified when she owns to the fact that she has been married quite 40 years, for like all wise women of the age she looks wonderfully youthful, giving the idea of being well under 50. She is a brilliant conversationalist, uniquely so for an Englishwoman, and she knows almost as much about art as her husband. Her London residence is a treasure house of beautiful things in which no one period prevails. Persian masterpieces, Chinese curiosities, Moorish cabinets, Majolica and Sevres wares, perfect of their kind, delight the lover of the beautiful. The house is full of surprise in its nooks, unusual shaped rooms and cozy corners, while the clever pictures peculiarly by artists who have not "arrived" are a proof of Sir Purdon Clarke's unbiased desire to help those who show talent. Altogether the house suggests the fine esthete in art of the host and hostess. LADY MARY.

WANTS TO PROVE MAN CAN LIVE ON WOOD.

Special Correspondence. LONDON, Feb. 18.—In the infirmary of the Mile End Workhouse, London, is now lodged John Maginn who declares that he has made a great discovery which would prove of incalculable benefit to mankind if only the doctors would permit him to demonstrate its efficiency on his own person, and thereby convince a skeptical world. Before the doctors got hold of him, Maginn announced his discovery in a letter to the Times. "Working in the kindling department," he wrote, "I have discovered that common deal wood is a valuable food and medicine, if cut small and eaten. Brown bread cannot be compared with it for tonic and invigorating effect."

The doctors say that Maginn has so depleted his system and impaired his vitality by eating wood that if he were not restrained from indulging in it he would kill himself. As it is, they are extremely doubtful whether they can save him. Maginn asserts that all he is suffering from is the deprivation of his favorite diet and the treatment of the doctors. He says he has so accustomed himself to living on wood that he cannot thrive on anything else, and if only allowed to eat it he would soon be well again. Anyhow, he maintains, in the interests of

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reference he should be permitted to continue his experiment to the end and is quite willing to take his chances of finding that end death.

"As it is," he adds, "I don't get a fair chance to prove the truth of my theory and a discovery of tremendous importance is in danger of being lost to the world, for if I die it will, of course, be said that I killed myself. I was a victim of my own folly and all that sort of thing. But I am going to try to get well despite the doctors and then I'll go somewhere where I can eat wood without running any risk of being interfered with by them. I want to prove that nobody need starve in this country as long as there is any wood to be picked up. That will go far to solving the unemployment problem and the pauper problem and a lot of other problems. There are forests running to waste in this world that would supply with food 10 times as many poor people as are now living in it."

Maginn is no illiterate crank. He is a man of some education who has fallen on evil days. Therein fate seems to have played a large part in his disaster. For if he had not been driven to take refuge in a workhouse, he would never have been set to work on a wood pile and it is conceivable that his great discovery might have been delayed for some centuries—nay, perhaps never have been made. Maginn's remarkable powers first came to light through a strange shortage being noticed in the wood department. Bundles of firewood seemed to disappear in a mysterious way and at the same time it was observed that Maginn's appetite for the ordinary workhouse fare steadily diminished. It was not, however, until he was detected surreptitiously chewing pieces of firewood, after he had rejected a plate of Irish stew, that the real state of affairs became known. He was then taken off the wood-pile and set to work in another department, but still he contrived to procure abundant supplies of his favorite diet. The other inmates, who regarded him as a greater wonder than the Hottentot Ostich, on the night of the last feast, took delight in ministering to his singular appetite. The workhouse authorities shut him up in a room by himself, to try to break him of the habit, but there he nibbled at a chair and was starting to sample the washstand when they clapped him into the infirmary, where, according to the latest bulletin, he is making a gallant fight against the doctors for his great discovery.

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