

NEW STRONG MAN  
ARISES IN CHINA

Chang-Tso-lin Said to Hold  
All Manchuria in the Hol-  
low of His Hand.— Re-  
garded as Genius.

Since the death of Yuan Shi-Kai Chinese affairs have been in much the same disordered condition as those in Mexico since Porfirio Diaz was forced to abdicate, says the Toronto Mail and Empire. The land is in anarchy, with the authority of the central government in Peking being derided by millions of Chinese. Nor is there any prospect that the existing government will be able to extend its powers. The country is being ruled by the Tutchuns, and there are hundreds of them, all self-appointed. A Tutchun, strictly speaking, is a military officer with rank corresponding to that of major-general in charge of a division, and his authority should be subordinate to that of the civil governor. But as a result of the conditions which have existed since the rebellion of 1911 the Tutchuns have been the only source of authority and so have set themselves up in great number and are governing China from their little thrones. The Tutchuns are not unanimously or perhaps even generally bandits or anarchists. They are maintaining some sort of order. They refuse to recognise the authority of the central government at Peking, and since this authority over the greater part of China is non-existent, they may be justified.

The Super-Mandarin.  
The most powerful of these Tutchuns, the man who has all Manchuria in the hollow of his hand, and is today master of more territory and a greater number of Chinese than any man since the death of Yuan Shi-Kai was recently the subject of an article by Mr. J. O. Bland, a correspondent of the London Times. Though dwelling in distant Mukden, Mr. Bland found that the name of Chang-Tso-lin was known in every part of the empire. The other Tutchuns agree that he is easily the most powerful and the ablest among them and may declare that he is the man fit to step into the shoes of Yuan Shi-Kai, who was the

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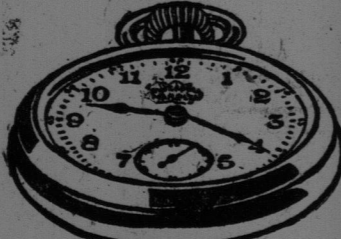
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only great ruler produced by China since the days of Li Hung Chang. They said that it would be an almost impossible task for one man to restore order in China and place the country again on the ordered path of government from

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which it strayed at the time of the revolution. Nevertheless, with co-operation among the Tutchuns the feat could be accomplished. The Chinese people themselves are willing to set up a government that will maintain order. So anxious indeed are they for the suppression of disorder that they will readily obey any leader who can do this much for them, no matter what little claim to rulership he may possess.

Chang-Tso-lin.  
Chang sin his forty-seventh year, being comparatively young. Like most of the leading Chinamen of the day, his

former history is somewhat obscure and it is more than hinted that he is a reformed bandit, though how far reformed is a matter of conjecture. In the interview he had with the chief Tutchun, Mr. Bland was greatly impressed by the fine intellect of Chang. He says, "He has the subtle instinct of the super-mandarin, which tells him just how far he may go without undue risk in any direction, and in the matter of official trading his countrymen (no man judges) regard him as a positive genius." It also was plain that Chang had an understanding of Chinese character, the equal to that possessed by the late Empress Dowager, ever a model of Oriental statecraft. Though dwelling in splendor, Chang wears sober civilian attire, and gives the general impression rather of a scholar and dilettante of the classical type than of the foreful man of affairs, and powerful military leaders. He has a polished manner, and as a diplomatist should take high rank, but it is because of other qualities that he has become the chief figure in China.

Banking Up-to-Date.  
The wisdom of the serpent and the manly quality of self-reliant courage are responsible for Chang's success, Mr. Bland continues—

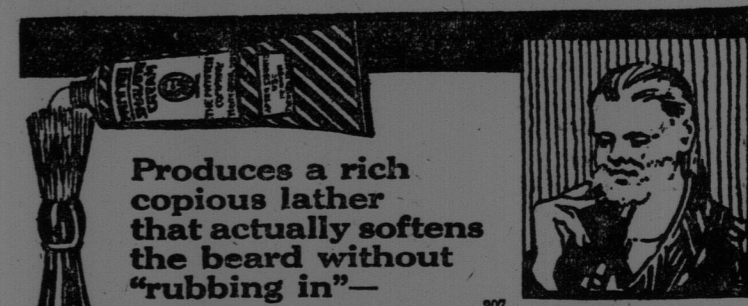
"He manages his own bank, his own farms, has a finger in every commercial enterprise, and his influence is felt, like a live wire, throughout the three provinces. As banker and Tutchun combined, his methods of dealing with his own competitors in local finance appear to be somewhat drastic. It is reported, for example, that when certain local banks engaged in a combine to control exchange in a manner unduly profitable to themselves, Chang called a meeting of those chiefly concerned, and in his role of Tutchun gently intimated that any further attempt to corner the cash market would result in the summary execution of the offenders. The stock of the Tutchun's own bank has been a good market ever since. In the bean trade, the rice trade, the timber business, and the operations of the railway transport companies the supple hand of Chang-Tso-lin pulls the strings and his privy purse takes toll. Not only in Manchuria but at Peking and drawn south his commissaries are many and active. If report speak truly, they play a leading part in the speculative but profitable opium traffic.

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Manchurian provinces pay tribute to him and the tolls he takes must be prodigious. Nevertheless the Manchurians are willing to pay, because Chang gives them protection for life and property, and has relieved them of the expense of making contribution to the central government at Peking. Chang-Tso-lin has a large army, and it is well paid. He knows that it only by playing fairly with his troops can he maintain himself in power. He sees that the soldiers are well fed, and he runs his own commissariat. Under this self-appointed despot the people of Manchuria are more contented and more prosperous than they have been for many years. They are not concerned about the fate of the wonderful constitution that was drawn up for them several years ago and which would in course of time have given the Chinese people complete self-government and democratic institutions. Chang may have been a bandit at one time; he may now be amassing one of the greatest fortunes in China, but he has banished lesser bandits from Manchuria, and would probably banish them from all China if he had the power; and the power may yet be his.



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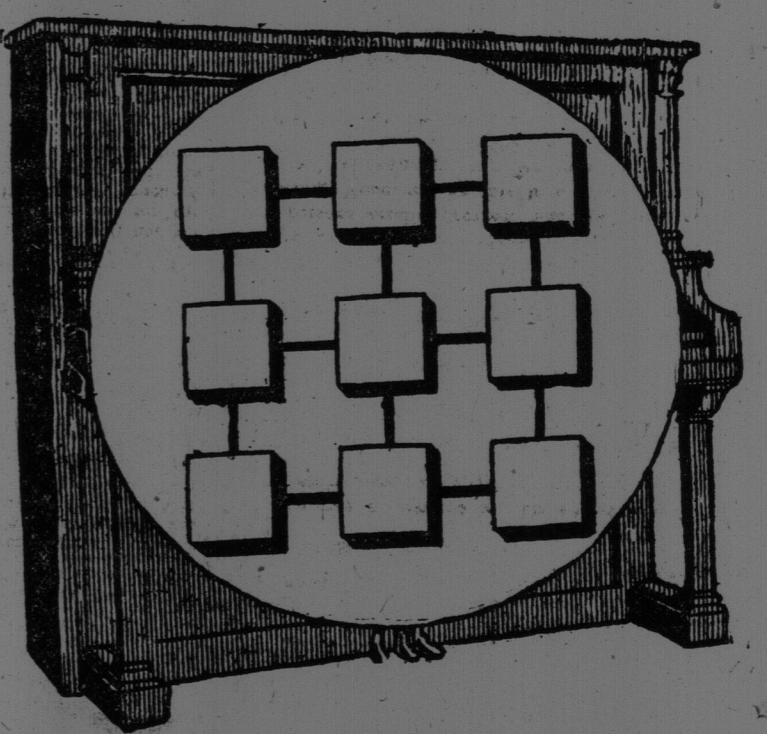
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