

# China: the Pearl of the East

BY R. SINCLAIR.

TO everyone living around the Pacific coast the phrases "Yellow Peril," or "Asiatic Exclusion" are very familiar. After having outlived all the other perils, such as Scotch, German, Bolshevik and Sinn Fein perils, and experienced the ravings of would-be politicians on the first two, we find they are lost again and the skeleton is thrown back in the closet till the next time. They were carefully prepared pills for the people to swallow in order to keep their mind off the real peril which is "Capitalism." Lincoln or Barnum, I am not sure which, but I think it must have been Abe, as Barnum knew better, said, "You can fool the people part of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all the people all of the time." The only trouble with Abe was, he did not know the people. If it was not the case, why is it that the workers give their masters the means and weapons that are used by workers upon workers, to keep themselves in a state of subjection. When your master has no further need of you, and the whelps begin to bark, he goes to the closet and out comes poor "John" again. This is the cause of all your troubles. Then he proceeds to show you that by unfair competition (what that is I don't know) you cannot compete with the Chinese. His food is rice; yours is roast beef, and he gets you worked up so that you cannot look a cow in the face, and you feel like the bull after seeing the red.

Yes, poor John is to blame for you being in the position you are, so the trick is turned again. The reason he dopes your mind is that you have not studied your position, your ideas on exploitation are slight. Surplus values sound to you like some one that wants a hand out and that is why you applaud your masters, Windbags and Mugwumps, when they throw this slop at you. The workers want something simple; I am sure they do not need it. At the last Dominion election, part of the policy put forward by the Liberal party was Chinese exclusion. How honest they were will be seen by the following excerpt taken from the "Review of Reviews," published in Shanghai, China: "The Canadian government, with a view to fostering trade with China, officially opened salerooms in the Ewo Building, Peking Road, Shanghai, China." It goes on to tell about the usual things, they have to sell, and of the strong sales organization in connection. And only for Dr. Ross, Canadian Trade Commissioner, could it be made possible. Great man! It did not mention that the worker had produced so much goods that the boss had laid him off as he could not buy them back, so he must take them to China. Being a philanthropic sort of a fellow he sells the goods to the Chinese. Goods are produced for sale, and that means they must have an exchange value, so they exchange with the Chinese merchant and get some other kind of merchandise that the Chinaman could not buy back, as he was in the same box as you were. There is no "peril" about this; all that is happening is the disposition of the surplus values.

It is interesting to note the official reports as regards Chinese emigrants living abroad, and the figures are high at that. United States has 150,000, and Canada 12,000. The real peril, so far as the workers are concerned, is the exploitation of the Chinese on a large scale. The question is can the financial and business interests of the world hog tie China for that purpose, or will China become a power of its own in the midst of the scrap among the great powers? What we know of China in the past, with its history, traditions and people, is that the last great nation of importance to enter that stage of machine production under the dying system of capitalism is the Chinese. To understand the Chinese thoroughly means a long investigation into the historical records of that race, so a rough outline of the make-up of that country is sufficient here. The total area of China is 4,376,000 miles, with a coast

line of 5,000 miles. Her population is, according to the post office estimates, 427,679,214 people, or about 100 people per square mile. The greatest part of China is mountain land. While on the lower reaches of its main rivers, the Yellow and the Yangtse, are hundreds of miles of the richest soil in the world. Rice is the favorite diet of the Chinese, but the large mass of the population live on millet and wheat, mostly millet.

The mineral properties of China are mostly operated on a small scale, and the possibilities as regards the amount of mineral cannot be calculated. There are eighteen capitals in China outside Peking, which is the capital of all the capitals. The revolution started in the fall of 1911, and the monarchy went out of business in 1912, when the republicans took office. Now we have China with all its untold wealth hardly touched, and we also have that enormous population which, we might say, still uses the hand-craft method of production. A new era has opened for her, capital comes in from all the corners of the globe, the gates are down. When the wall around Canton went down with a crash that echoed all around the world, then all the agents and sewer rats of the capitalistic powers scurried for the Chinese markets. Fabulous wealth was in sight, cheap slaves was the factor. Then all the commercial interests lauded Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the republican chief, for opening the way for the exploitation of the Chinese.

China has forged ahead since 1912, now they have all kinds of factories in operation. In fact all the ground work has started to put China on an industrial basis. China is controlled or owned by foreign interests. Everything is not well within her doors; clouds are gathering that look black. The workers are organizing and the armies are not exactly under the control of their leaders, as should be. Mutinies have taken place on a large scale, and the troops help themselves. The worker is beginning to get rebellious, and the worst part of it is the surpluses are not being realized as they should be. Britain and America have large holdings in China. They are somewhat concerned over the disturbances that are taking place there. The various interests are now quarrelling among themselves and financing different groups of militarists, who the one day are bandits, and the next the army. In order to get first class information as regards the condition of affairs in China, the Hon. L. C. Dyer went out on an unofficial mission, and this is what he says: "I find China in a condition chaos. Civil war in the south. The west in a turmoil, and armed camps dominating all parts of the north. In Peking, the capital, there are brilliant men, and idealists, but due to military interference, they have no unity of purpose in binding China together as a nation." He says China is insolvent, and shows no regard for any obligations to American merchants and bankers. There are all kinds of bill collectors, from the commercial and financial interests of the U. S. A. Debts that have been owed for years, goods supplied that have never been paid for, and money that was borrowed from the financial interests which is long overdue, also the interest, which seems to be as elusive as the principal. America cannot understand how China allows those defaults to go on.

Next, the "Christian Science Monitor" says: March 12th: "Whether the cause lies in China's public men, or in conditions too refractory to be controlled by statecraft, need not be discussed. It is the result that concerns the world, and the country is more divided than ever it was. And the capital weakens while the warfare of the Governors grows. There is a danger here, and it is by no means confined to China itself." The discouraging part was that the Washington Conference threw out a helping hand, and all the delegates agreed to respect the independence, etc., etc., of China (that is what you

call diplomacy). But the showdown is coming, as the following announcement reads: "The United States has arrived at the position where it must judge China by performances, not promises. The great powers that have interests will themselves have to take steps for their own protection."

Matters are getting worse in China, both politically and financially. So Washington has announced that unless Peking takes steps to set her house in order, it is unlikely that the other powers will wait much longer before taking protective action, even if the United States so desired. So the "Monitor" barks about invasion in China, while she cries stop in the Ruhr. China at the close of the revolution, in 1911 and 1912, had an army of 800,000 men, half a million were fairly well equipped. In 1920 estimates compiled by foreign authorities gave her an army of 1,369,800 men thoroughly equipped. At the present moment of writing her armies are in the neighborhood of 1,750,000 men, according to fairly authentic reports. There is no question that the internal disturbance in China lies with the militarists, who maintain large armies for their own selfish interests, paid for by the Peking government. Of course, there is money comes from outside sources with interests in China, and from Chinese merchants abroad who are loyal to their place of birth, as will be seen by a donation of \$40,000, which was received by Dr. Sun Yat Sen from Chinese merchants and farmers residing in and around Vancouver, B.C.

England before the war held undisputed sway in China, she was well established, and her authority was seldom challenged, but during the war she had to drop the exploitation of the Chinese market and devote her whole attention to the war business. This was how the U. S. A., with conditions in her favor, got quite a firm grip on the Chinese market, and it will only be a question of time when she will have dominant control. England is her only strong competitor, who will not retire from that position of importance which she has held in the past without a scrap. Fight she will, and fight she must, as her very existence is at stake. Japan is also interested in China, and, by the way, not yet reconciled to the treatment accorded her citizens in the land of the free. Dr. Sun Yat Sen has all the backing of financial America behind him. While General Chan salutes his masters, the British. Japan ships arms to China, but it is done unofficially, to be sure. The British Commission in Germany gave passports for quite a load of arms and ammunition, which was also shipped to China. The U. S. A. is reorganizing her navy, and recruiting on a large scale. And M. Joffe, the Soviet envoy is in China to recuperate his health. Of course Joffe makes the statement that communism on the Soviet principle cannot yet be introduced in China because conditions are unfavorable for the success of either.

Russia and China are neighbors. The divisional line between them is the longest in the world. Both these nations are suffering from the schemes of all the great powers, and it is likely that the trend of events in the east and the west will bring them together. This is natural, that they will turn to each other for support in their turmoils of transition. Russia is moving Chinawards, and there is no question that it is to her best interests to make common cause with a nation that is a neighbor, and who is attacked just like herself. China will make terms with Russia without herself going into a Soviet Republic. The way of the east is peculiar to the west, the Chinese were slaves to their own limited reasoning, consuming only what they produced. Industrial organization was unknown outside its domestic affairs. With it all China maintained her civilization and racial ties, while others decayed and died. The Chinese ideas in regard to the world's progress are by no means complimentary. There is

(Continued on page 6)