

## JAPAN'S INFLUENCE ON THE CHINESE REVOLUTION

Chinese Students From Tokio the Leaders

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NOTE—Through the ever-ready courtesy of the General Secretary of the Vancouver Y.M.C.A., (Mr. J. M. Graham) the Managing Editor of this Magazine was introduced to Mr. Wallace, who contributed the following short but informative article. As Secretary of the International Committee of the Foreign Department of the Y.M.C.A., Mr. Wallace has had about seven years' experience in the Far East. He was about two years in Shanghai and latterly was engaged in organization work among the Chinese students resident in Tokio. Mr. Wallace, who is at present travelling in Canada and the States, on furlough, will return to the work in Tokio.

The failure of the Boxer movement and the occupation of Peking by the allied armies, finally convinced the leaders of the Chinese nation that if China were to remain a nation, she must speedily adopt Western civilization. Then followed the defeat of Russia by Japan. It was only natural that the Chinese leaders should as a result turn to Japan as their leader in the great task which lay before them; for Japan herself was an Oriental country, and by adopting modern civilization had been able to defeat one of the great Western powers. As a result there started in from every part of the Chinese empire a great student migration to Tokio; students were sent by the Imperial Government, by the provincial governments, by local societies and guilds, and of course large numbers went at their own expense.

By the summer of 1907 there were some 15,000 Chinese students gathered together in the capital of Japan, eager to learn there the secret of Japan's success. The leaders of thought in China saw the significance of this body of men and that they were destined to return to their native country as

the leaders of the New China. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the great revolutionary leader, in an interview recently in Shanghai, referred to this. He said: "We saw that if these men could be influenced and led to enter the revolutionary societies that the whole country could be influenced in a way not possible through any other means; we saw to it that when these men went back into the army, the navy, into the commercial houses, and the schools of the Empire, they went back as the centres of revolutionary propaganda." The revolution of last year was made possible by the gathering together of these strategic men in one centre.

The leaders of the Christian movement in China were not less quick to see the opportunity. Dr. Arthur Smith, one of the greatest authorities on things Chinese, said at that time, writing to one of the Christian workers in Tokio: "There is a greater opportunity before you men in Tokio to influence the future of China during the coming year than lies before the whole missionary body in China itself."

The Y.M.C.A. was asked by the Pro-