

# China Is Determinedly Closing Her Opium Dens

**THOUSANDS OF THEM NOW CLOSED IN PERSUASION OF IMPERIAL EDICT—A GREAT WAVE OF MORAL REFORM SWEEPING OVER THE KINGDOM—IMPORTATIONS TO BE STOPPED—TEN YEARS OF GRACE ALLOWED BEFORE THE USE OF THE DRUG MUST CEASE ALTOGETHER, BUT A DRASTIC BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE.**

(Special correspondence to the New York Evening Post.)

Shanghai, China, June 22—Today all opium smoking dens in the native city are to be closed in compliance with orders issued by the Shanghai Taotai the first of the month. It is not probable that there may be some trouble when the Chinese authorities carry the order into effect, as the proprietors of opium dens are not at all disposed to welcome the new order of things. The Chinese are in good faith and it is evident that the Chinese authorities intend to enforce the law. Every precaution has been taken to prevent disturbances, and police and military forces are in readiness for any demonstration. It is not expected or intended, that the smoking of opium will be stopped immediately, but all public opium smoking places will be closed. Confirmed smokers will be licensed—as in former sections of China, where the anti-opium edict has already gone into effect—and will be allowed to continue to use the drug under certain restrictions.

The anti-opium crusade, which is rolling like a great sea wave over the whole of China, seems to be a serious, earnest movement. When the opium regulations were issued from the throne at Peking last autumn, they were greeted everywhere with considerable skepticism, particularly by the foreigners, and the popular opinion at that time seems to have been that China was "bluffing," and that she really had no intention of enforcing the drastic measures. Even the most reluctant of the foreigners, of the class who refuse to believe that China is really endeavoring to uplift herself, are now forced to recognize the increasing feeling throughout the great empire against the use of opium. The movement is steadfast and spreading rapidly, and the number of anti-opium societies, particularly in the south, is increasing from day to day. The most prominent officials have joined in the crusade with energy, and, generally speaking, the movement has assumed proportions which may be said to be of a nationally patriotic nature. The anti-opium societies, of which there are hundreds, are composed largely of young men, students and the like, and usually are headed by foreign-educated Chinese. In co-operation with the officials, these societies have done quite as much toward the suppression of the vice as the officials themselves.

**FUND TO RELIEVE THE TRADE.**  
It is not expected that the smoking of opium will be stopped at once, in fact, the decree allows nine years more of grace, and so vast is the empire that there will be many districts and even provinces probably where the law will not be enforced for years. Opium denkeepers of Shanghai—there are about 5,000—held a meeting last week and petitioned for a postponement of the closing date, but their request was refused. Thousands of employees of opium houses will be thrown out of work, and the authorities have arranged to apprentice many of these to learn trades. A fund has been started, headed by a contribution of a thousand taels from Taotai Jui, to purchase all smoking apparatus at a nominal price. Silver medals were awarded to the owners of many dens in Shanghai who closed their places before today.

Of course, the new law was enforced first in Peking, Tientsin, Pootung and other places near the capital. Many wealthy officials, bankers and Government employees stopped the vicious habit and prepared an organized movement for the suppression of the vice. The lamps and pipes formerly seen in every shop soon disappeared. With the exception of the French, Austrian and Russian concessions, all opium dens were closed in Tientsin last month, and those in the settlements named will be closed with the end of June. The regulations throughout the empire are enforced by the local magistrates, who are under orders to close the opium dens and with the opium dens are included morphia injection houses. The Peking Government has proposed to instruct all viceroys and governors of the provinces to severely impeach magistrates who fail to put forth every effort to suppress the vice, and department heads have ordered the dismissal of employees who use the drug. If one may judge from the tone of the orders issued, there is no questioning the fact that China—for the present at least—is sincerely determined in this gigantic undertaking.

## IMPORTATION TO STOP.

At the request of the Chinese Government the representatives of the powers at Peking have agreed to prohibit the importation by foreigners of morphia into treaty ports excepting for medical purposes. According to a local Chinese newspaper, Sir John Jordan, the British minister, signed an agreement with the Peking Government to reduce the importation of opium gradually until the entire trade ceases at the end of ten years. But the proviso is added that if China fails to prohibit entirely the opium habit within this period, she shall be fined an amount equal to three times the opium revenue she collected annually for ten years before the reduction of the opium importations. In order to carry out the arrangement entered into with the British minister, the Peking Government as long ago as March 1 sent explicit telegraphic orders to all viceroys and governors. All opium smokers under 60 years of age, whether officials, gentry, merchants, or the common people, must banish the habit within the next three years. Viceroys, governors and Tartar generals are exhorted, served, and this is probably one of

to try to make all smokers stop the habit, if possible, within one or two years. All opium dens and other public resorts of a similar character must close their doors within nine months from the first of the Chinese New Year, the officials were instructed. All shops selling opium must put it in tin boxes, and affix Government stamps, without which the drug shall be regarded as contraband. All shops are required to register their names and full particulars in the local magistrate's yamen, and their number is to be limited. No new shop may be opened. All opium smokers must furnish their names, the quantity they smoke daily, and other necessary particulars. Licenses will be issued to such registered smokers to enable them to buy their daily supply from registered opium shops.

## OPIMUM RECEIPTS DROP.

The Journal of the Anti-Opium Association of Peking reports that since the publication of the edict the amount of opium received into Peking has greatly decreased. In the first month of the new year, the loss of duty was over \$30,000, and in the State of Salangar the opium sales were diminished by \$57,000, or thirty-eight chests in one month. This Peking association, of which Foo Choo Chow is president, and Dr. Gnob Lean Tuck, M. A. (Cambridge), is vice-president is doing excellent work in awakening public opinion against the vice, and among other things has opened a hospital for the cure of the habit.

In several places great demonstrations were made in celebration of the closing of opium dens, and it is expected that here in Shanghai, such evidence of public opinion will prevail to effect any anti-closing demonstration which may be attempted by the denkeepers. In many places the demonstrations in celebration of the closing of the places were of such a patriotic character that one might have supposed that the people were celebrating some great military victory. Long processions of students, paraded the streets with banners, lanterns, and flags, and hundreds of shops were decorated.

It is the intention of the Government to sell opium to licensed smokers, but with the closing of the public places sales of the drug will decrease until—if the rules are enforced—it will have ceased in ten years. In Pootung, for example, where there were 3,000 opium houses, not one is open today. In that city as in others, only a few shops will be allowed to handle the drug under Government supervision for sale to licensed smokers. The quantity which each person may use will be gradually diminished, and the price increased, from year to year.

## POPPY CULTIVATION.

To effectually abolish the opium evil in China, the authorities must begin at the beginning and prohibit the cultivation of the poppy as well as prohibit the importation of the drug. Steps have already been taken toward this end. Governors of districts have been instructed to report on the acreage under poppy cultivation, its revenue, and full particulars, so that the plantations may be gradually decreased during the next nine years. Right here lies the real test of China's sincerity in this great national reform. No actual active measures have been taken in respect to the cultivation of the poppy, and it is said that the growth of the plant is increasing, rather than diminishing, although it is difficult to lay one's hands on reliable statistics of any sort in China. No one outside of China can appreciate the vast undertaking which she is attempting, and it is ridiculous to expect her to prohibit the use of the drug and at the same time cut off the supply of the crude article at once. It will take years to do this. If China's sincerity in her effort to suppress the opium evil is granted; it must also be allowed, as a matter of course, that she will prohibit the growth of the poppy in due time.

A great deal of fuss has been raised in the British Parliament over the question of the Indian supply and its importation into China. Really the Indian product is a mere drop in the bucket compared to the enormous consumption of the drug in China. In the first place, owing to the superior quality and higher price of the imported article, it is consumed only by the wealthier class in coast cities. The great mass of opium users in China are to be found in the ranks of the most wretched common people, and in consequence the greater part of the drug used in China is grown and prepared in the country and not imported. The Waiwupu (China's foreign office), has arranged with the British minister, at the request of the viceroy of India, according to a local paper, not to prohibit the importation of opium until 1908, so that this year's Indian crop may be sold.

## GREAT BRITAIN BLAMED.

One of the things most responsible for the lack of progress in China is undoubtedly the opium evil, and no people realize this so well as the Chinese themselves. See him Great Britain for having practically forced opium on China, and cite that in 1839 and 1842 she waged war on China, because the latter tried to prevent the British merchants from smuggling opium into Chinese ports. The vice of China has been the profit of India to the extent of millions of pounds sterling. Opium has eaten into the morals of China's governing and literary class, and the result has been a corrupt government of the first order, and the thinking Chinese lay the blame at the feet of Great Britain. Japan, on the other hand, has long prohibited opium smoking, which is a crime punishable by ten years' penal servitude, and this is probably one of

the causes for Japan's advancement during the last half century. Now that China at last realizes the evil effects of the drug, she feels a bit friendly toward British India, that country desiring to postpone the prohibition of the export of the drug as long as possible. China feels, however, that the home government in England will bring such pressure to bear that the Indian supply will soon be cut off.

In order to show the world in general and the British Government in particular the determined attitude of China in this opium matter, the minister for the interior has issued a notification to the police department in Peking. According to a local Chinese newspaper, this notification states "that a communication has been received from the Waiwupu to the effect that they had handed to the British minister in Peking a memorandum of six articles regarding the prohibition of opium smoking, and at the same time forwarded a copy of same to the Chinese minister in London for transmission to the British Government."

## NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRITAIN.

Minister Wang has now replied to the Waiwupu intimating that the British Government had expressed willingness to give its hearty support in the matter, but the Indian Government desired the prohibition to begin taking effect in 1908. Since the British Government has promised to render assistance, it is expected that the matter can be arranged with ease. But in the discussions on the subject, which had recently taken place in the British parliament, a general misgiving was manifested that China was seeking to extend the consumption of native opium in place of the foreign drug. If, continued Minister Wang, faithful measures be adopted to reduce the planting of Chinese poppy, the matter could be satisfactorily settled. He therefore requested the Waiwupu to issue circular instructions to the different provinces to carry out the object. The Waiwupu states that the importation of opium, being an international affair, could be arranged by the British minister in Peking and themselves, but the reduction of poppy planting lies within the executive administration of the places concerned.

"It occurred in the opinion expressed by Minister Wang that despite the general sympathy of the foreign powers, and the support of Great Britain, in whose dependency opium is produced, unless China take effective steps to reduce native poppy cultivation, justice could not be done to international relations and the general position would be prejudiced. "It was necessary, therefore, to strictly instruct the local authorities in the different provinces to abide by the new anti-opium regulations issued by the department of state affairs, by ascertaining the acreage under poppy cultivation and the quantity of the product in their jurisdiction, and compelling returns for transmission to the ministry for purposes of reference."

Henceforth a report should be made once a year on the reduction of the cultivation, which is to cease entirely in nine years. Proclamations in the matter shall be posted in all cities, markets, villages, and farmsteads for general information, so that the reform might be carried out, and no pretext given to foreign countries to place obstacles in the way. To eradicate the poison and reinvigorate the people depends entirely on this step. The Waiwupu had communicated with the viceroys and governors of all the provinces, and requested them to issue orders to their subordinates to carry out the reform."

## WESTERN DICTIONARY-MAKING.

The following communication was received in the early mail yesterday by this newspaper:

To the Editor—I see by your local columns that one of your reporters makes use of the term "haswasser." Would you be so kind as to inform me what a "haswasser" is? and greatly obliged. A CONSTANT READER.

The best we can do is to attempt to give the definition, which is now being prepared by an eminent lexicographer for the new edition of a universal, unabridged and standard dictionary. This definition is:

Haswasser (sometimes incorrectly spelled "has wasser"), n. From "has" and "was," or, rather, the compound "was," meaning "used to be," but isn't any more.

A person who was, but is not.

One who may have been but cannot prove it.

One who was said at one time to be, but is not considered at present.

One who is not, but thinks he is.

A person who can easily recall the time when he thought he was, but is unable to remember the time that he certainly ceased to be.

One who is "down and out" and will not believe it, even when told by his best friends.

One who has been practically dead for some time, but does not realize it.

One who never really was, but only thought he was.

Lo, the haswasser, with a familiar grin, Is always here and always butting in. —Byron.

He's a haswasser—I'll stake my all upon it.

He soon will tell us that 'twas him who done it.

—Wordsworth.

What! the haswasser? See him every day.

Watching his chance to get in with his "Say."

—Kipling.

It would be impossible, of course, to give the coming definition in its final form, but we take pleasure in giving it as the lexicographer conceives it at the present time. —Chicago Inter-Ocean.

## ALWAYS A GOOD FRIEND.

In health and happiness we need no friends, but when pain and prostration come we look for friendly aid from sympathetic hands. These hands can serve us no better than as Robbing Dr. Thomas' Electric Balm, for when the Oil is in the pain is out. It has brought relief to thousands who will not be induced friends.

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## THE ROOF GARDEN IN NEW YORK CITY

**TENS OF THOUSANDS SPEND THE EVENING THERE IN HOT SEASON.**

The roof garden season is now in its zenith, and every night finds tens of thousands of New Yorkers on the tops of lofty buildings. Apartment houses and big hotels are affected by the open-air spirit, and every night tenants and guests spend their evenings in the beautiful Italian, Dutch or French gardens high above the din and uproar of the great city. Two of the most popular roof gardens in town are illuminated with over 20,000 electric lights each, and it is said it cost over \$40,000 to decorate them. They are equipped with the latest graph, connecting with the kitchen and wine room. In town are illuminated with over 20,000 electric lights each, and it is said it cost over \$40,000 to decorate them. They are equipped with the latest graph, connecting with the kitchen and wine room. In town are illuminated with over 20,000 electric lights each, and it is said it cost over \$40,000 to decorate them.

On many of the modern school buildings the public park and school yard are far below, therefore, the delay in serving the guests is obviated. The waiter writes an order, an electric pen duplicates it instantly many stories below, and an electric dumb waiter shoots skyward with the filled order. On a hot night on certain hotel roofs may be seen the same class to be found during the winter at Sherry's or Delmonico's. Members of the "Four Hundred" who have fled conservative pleasure of mountain and Newport life for a more bizarre evening in town may be seen in numbers. Then, seated about the tables listening to the sweet strains of the orchestra, may be seen actors, theatrical managers, and chorus girls. The city and the settlement workers have done wonders along roof garden lines for the East Side. On many of the modern school buildings the public park and school yard are far below, therefore, the delay in serving the guests is obviated. The waiter writes an order, an electric pen duplicates it instantly many stories below, and an electric dumb waiter shoots skyward with the filled order. On a hot night on certain hotel roofs may be seen the same class to be found during the winter at Sherry's or Delmonico's. Members of the "Four Hundred" who have fled conservative pleasure of mountain and Newport life for a more bizarre evening in town may be seen in numbers. Then, seated about the tables listening to the sweet strains of the orchestra, may be seen actors, theatrical managers, and chorus girls. The city and the settlement workers have done wonders along roof garden lines for the East Side. On many of the modern school buildings the public park and school yard are far below, therefore, the delay in serving the guests is obviated. The waiter writes an order, an electric pen duplicates it instantly many stories below, and an electric dumb waiter shoots skyward with the filled order. On a hot night on certain hotel roofs may be seen the same class to be found during the winter at Sherry's or Delmonico's. Members of the "Four Hundred" who have fled conservative pleasure of mountain and Newport life for a more bizarre evening in town may be seen in numbers. Then, seated about the tables listening to the sweet strains of the orchestra, may be seen actors, theatrical managers, and chorus girls. The city and the settlement workers have done wonders along roof garden lines for the East Side.

## HEROINES OF HISTORY; STORY OF JOAN OF ARC, THE MARTYR MAID

By A. P. Terhune, in the New York World.

In the great cellars under the circus buildings at Constantinople at the beginning of the sixth century dwelt a queer assortment of people and animals. Gladiators, buffoons, animal tainers, acrobats, actors, lions, elephants, tigers, bears, all jumbled together in the black, ill-smelling, underground labyrinth. A motley, misbegotten crowd they were, living and dying for the amusement of the sun-thrifty populace. Among them—one of the humblest members of the subterranean community—was Aecilius, feeder and trainer of the fierce bears. He had one child, a slender, fair-haired, precocious little girl, whose impish ways and ready wit made her the pet of the place. Her name was Theodora.

As she grew older, Aecilius used his influence with the circus managers to secure for her a chance on the stage in some of the public games. She could not sing. Her dancing was awkward. Her speaking voice was not strong or sweet. There seemed small hope of her earning a living. Yet the city went wild over her. For she was an actress to her finger tips. Her cleverness, her mimicry, her audacity, took the audience by storm. Soon the fame of the bear-feeder's daughter spread throughout Constantinople. And at last it came to the ears of Justinian, nephew of the late Emperor Justin, who had started life as a Dacian peasant. He became a soldier and by brute force and trickery had risen high. When the former emperor had died one of the candidates for the vacant throne had entrusted Justin with large sums of money to win the army over to his cause. Instead, Justin had used the cash to buy his own election as emperor, and now, with his wife, Euphemia, ruled the mighty eastern empire. Justinian (a shrewd, vain, well-educated man of lowly ancestry), with his chief adviser and heir.

## FROM CIRCUS STAGE TO IMPERIAL THRONE.

Rome's early power had been given by Constantine and had once more swayed nearly the whole world. But not long after Constantine's death it had broken down by weight of its own unwieldy wealth and had been split into two empires—the eastern (embracing the Orient), and the western (including Italy and most of Europe). In 476 the western empire

## BEGGARS SWARM ON VESUVIUS

**RICH HARVEST REAPED FROM TOURISTS AS RESULT OF LAST YEAR'S ERUPTION.**

Since the last eruption of Mount Vesuvius the volcano has been extremely profitable to the beggars that infest Naples and its vicinity. They are fleeing the visitors to Boscarease and Ottajano, the two places laid waste by the lava flow last year.

Huddled in groups which might have been led by a skillful stage manager, the population of Boscarease await the arrival of the strangers. Men, women and children, shrieking and howling, begin to depict the terrors of the disaster of 1906. Emotional women are moved and immediately contribute. Those who do not give freely are so beset by the weeping and complaining natives that they are finally convinced that it would be heartless not to help those who have suffered so deeply. Every day the beggars make a highly profitable haul, in spite of the fact that not one of them ever lived or was at Boscarease until after the eruption.

At Ottajano the same appeal is made to the sympathy of the visitors and often by the same impostors. Here the beggars have made a sort of gypsy camp, where they cook beans in the hot lava and lead sentimental visitors to talk with an old man.

Seated on a block of lava, with the wind blowing through his long white locks and beard, he stares in front of him.

"This old man was very rich," says the chief of the beggars. "His house, his fields, his fortune are under this lava. Worst of all his sufferings was to see his wife swept alive under the flowing lava."

At these words all the beggars begin to howl and weep. Many of the visitors contribute liberally to the fund that soon accumulates in the old man's open palm. Some return to Naples profoundly touched by the sight. They would be consoled by the fact, did they know it, that not a person was killed at the explosion last year, either in Boscarease or in Ottajano. The beggars are nevertheless earning a fortune out of sympathetic travelers, who journey there to see the lava fields.



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endured unchanged for many generations and helped to shape the civic destinies of the world.

In 532 a violent revolution broke out in Constantinople. The rebels swept the city and attacked the palace. Justinian was about to flee, abandoning, leaving his country to the victorious rabble. But as he was seeking to leave the palace by a rear gate Theodora threw herself in his way, clad in her robes of state, and cried to the scared emperor and his panic-stricken followers:

"The road is clear! There are your ships in the harbor. They will carry you to safety if you want to run away. Nothing is easier than to save your life. But empire is the noblest winding sheet. So I shall stay here."

Shamed by her words, Justinian remained, put down the rebellion and was once more master of the east, though still the slave of the circus girl he had married. By many another stroke of statecraft she preserved and strengthened his throne and empire up to the time of her death in 547, at the age of 44. Some stories say she was at last disgraced and executed by her husband for a real or fancied misdeed. During her brief reign the royal adventures had made an impression on history that was not for centuries effaced.

The regular first-class travel rate in Spain is 4 cents per mile. Mileage books, however, are charged for at the rate of 2 cents per mile.

In the forests of Canada a motor is in use which is capable of dragging a train of 200 tons weight of logs at a speed of 12 miles an hour.

The last refuge for criminals fleeing from justice were the Bonin Islands, off the Japanese coast; but even in these criminals are now no longer safe from justice.

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