

## China Has a Move for Unification

VICTORIA, B.C., Sept. 26 (Canadian Press).—Will China's new war prove merely another episode in the long history of Chinese civil wars, or will it become a real struggle between the dominant powers of the Far East—a menace to the peace of the entire world?

The real powers in China to-day are the Manchus or military leaders, each commanding armies sufficiently strong to accomplish a great deal independent of the recognized government of the country, and these Manchus are so given to issuing proclamations viliifying their opponents and exaggerating their own strength and high principle that the news from the war front may for a time give rather a bewildering picture of the situation.

There is every reason to believe that the war is not solely for control of Shanghai, according to words brought here by prominent business men from the Orient. Under the surface, it is said, there are far more important considerations and whether these are allowed to come into the open and become the acknowledged objectives of the rival leaders will depend upon the development of the combat, either as a purely local affair or a military movement of consequence.

disturbing to engage the attention of the great world, which so far are not directly involved.

To Canada, which has so much to gain from the peace and industrial and commercial development in the Orient, this new struggle has particular concern, and it may be interesting to know that the Chinese residents of Canada's Pacific coast who have had opportunity of following the trend of events and expressing their views in their proper perspective believe that a real war, involving millions of dollars and enormous quantities of ammunition, is rapidly approaching.

There has been a growth since the announcement that Sun Yat Sen, the Chinese leader, has decided to enter the contest, and that Chang Tso-Lin, Manchurian dictator who is backed by Japan if his enemies are to be credited, is sending his troops south from Mukden to engage his old adversary, Wu Pei-Fu, at present leading the Chi-Li forces.

There are three main spheres of influence in China to-day. At Peking there is a constitutional government, with President, Premier and Legislature. This is officially recognized by the Foreign Powers. At its head, nominally, is President Tsao Kün. But the real power in Peking lies in the hands of General Wu Pei-Fu, President, Premier and Legislature are said to be mere puppets, for General Wu controls the constitutional army.

At Canton, too, there is a constitutional form of government, but the power there is likewise centered in one man—General Sun Yat Sen, President of the Republic of South China. At Mukden, the capital of Manchuria, Gen. Chang Tso-Lin reigns as dictator of Northern China.

Each of these three generals holds a varying number of provinces in allegiance; and the story of China's troubles in recent years is mainly the history of each general's ambition to win control over the whole country, an ambition each has proclaimed to be the idealistic aim of "unifying China."

The war, then, is rooted not so much in clashing political opinions as in the intrigues of three powerful generals for personal supremacy. Two of these, however, Sun Yat Sen in the south, and Chang Tso-Lin in the north, are at present allies, united against Wu Pei-Fu, the constitutionalist leader.

Two years ago Chang Tso-Lin attacked Peking with his Manchurian troops, but suffered a heavy defeat. Retiring to Mukden, he set about the building of a huge arsenal for the manufacture of arms and ammunition. He employed both French and Japanese military and ordnance engineers, and financed largely, it is said by a friendly foreign power, has steadily turning out the most modern war equipment in China, including tanks, aeroplanes, and gas shells of latest type. His army has grown to 200,000 men, and is considered to be extremely well equipped and disciplined.

Sometime ago Chang Tso-Lin entered into a pact with Sun Yat Sen at Canton to make common cause against Wu Pei-Fu. After "unifying" China Sun Yat Sen was to be given administrative power and Chang Tso-Lin the military leadership, according to the terms of their alliance.

Meanwhile, General Wu Pei-Fu has watched this union of the North and South with growing apprehension. His own 200,000 troops were outnumbered by Chang's 300,000 and in addition was not so well equipped.

Seeing Chang Tso-Lin apparently so bottled up in his Mukden stronghold by the recent devastating floods in Chi Li province, Wu Pei-Fu thought he must seize a last desperate chance of defeating singly his weaker opponents elsewhere in China, particularly Sun Yat Sen at Canton, so that he could draw sufficient strength from his defeated enemies to face the inevitable attack of Chang Tso-Lin.

Thus not the war lord of Kiangsu province, but Wu Pei-Fu himself, is at the bottom of the attempt to wrest

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Shanghai from Chekiang Province. Wars cost money and, controlling Shanghai, Wu Pei-Fu could draw upon the wealth of the richest of Chinese cities. Moreover, Wu Pei-Fu might just as well start his campaign against his enemies in Chekiang province.

Shanghai is not actually in Chekiang province, but lies within the bounds of Kiangsu. It was given to the war lord of Chekiang by Sun Yat Sen, premier of the Constitutional Government at Peking in 1919. The prior right of Kiangsu to the control of Shanghai supplied Wu Pei-Fu with pretext.

If China can be kept in a state of turmoil it will disturb British and American trade very much, and may cause the shutting down of factories, thereby throwing many people out of employment.

## Fortune May Favor Davis

A month ago a good many Americans took it for granted that Mr. Coolidge would be the winner of the presidential race. To-day there is an unmistakable drift of popular favor towards Senator La Follette. People are beginning to say that in many of the northern states Mr. Davis will finish third, and that no one will have a majority of the electoral votes.

This may be true, but at most it means that the next President may be chosen by the House of Representatives. The House may fail to elect, in which case it is taken for granted that the Senate would elect Governor Bryan Vice-President and that he would automatically become President of the United States.

There is another possibility that the political soothsayers are overlooking. Neither Republicans nor Democrats command a majority in the House. But will the House on that account practically delegate to the Senate its power of choosing the next President? Will there not be Republican members of the House ready to help their Democratic colleagues elect Mr. Davis? When they see that a failure by the House to elect anybody would result in the Senate electing Mr. Bryan, Bryan is a Democrat and more objectionable to many Republicans than is Mr. Davis.

However, the popular vote has not yet been taken. The landslide towards Coolidge was followed by a landslide to La Follette. A landslide towards Davis may yet be possible.—Manitoba Free Press.



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