

Chinese Inventors, Chinese Machinery, and the Reason for Establish- ing Peking University Museum.

BY ISAAC E. HEADLAND,

Professor in Peking University and Curator of Museum

1. A Chinese sawmill—two men and a crosscut saw.
2. A Chinese planing mill—a man and a home-made plane.
3. A Chinese axe—a flat-sided tool about the size of a hatchet.
4. A Chinese saw—a flat sheet of steel with teeth filed on it à la buck saw.
5. A Chinese plow—two pieces of wood, a triangular piece of iron, a man and a donkey.
6. A Chinese sausage-cuttar—a cleaver.
7. A Chinese flour mill—two stones.
8. A Chinese waggon—a two-wheeled vehicle without springs, and tires put on in pieces.
9. A Chinese carriage—a Saratoga trunk on two wheels.
10. A Chinese cotton gin—an intestine on a bow, or a piece of rawhide à la bow and arrow.
11. A Chinese street lamp—a tallow candle, oil wick, or small lamp, only lit on moonlight nights.
12. Chinese carpenter, mason, blacksmith, farming, and other tools are as much below American or English tools as a tallow candle is below an electric light.
13. A Chinese boat or junk is as much below an Atlantic steamer as a tub was below the Great Eastern.

It is because of the condition of Chinese mechanical appliances that the Board of Managers of Peking University has decided to open a museum of all kinds of machinery, in order that the Chinese may understand by comparison the clumsiness of their tools. To this end the Hon. Charles Denby, jun., has sent a dispatch to the Hon. Richard Olney, Secretary of State at Washington, D.C., in which he says:

"This is an opportunity which manufacturers should be glad to avail themselves of. Peking, with a population of 600,000, is the literary and political centre of the Empire. Advertising here should be more profitable than in any

other city in the Empire. Peking University is the centre of a wide influence. It occupies commodious foreign buildings, lighted by electricity, and is attended by hundreds of young men in search of Western learning. The museum referred to is to be conducted solely for the purpose of increasing the usefulness of the university and attracting the attention of inquirers. Exhibits of the character above described will be gratefully received by it, and will be advantageously employed for the benefit of exhibitors as circumstances will permit."

Again: "The authorities of this museum would be glad to receive and exhibit working models, photographs or drawings of machinery and inventions, or specimens thereof, such as plows, ships, firearms, cannon, electric machinery, cars, locomotives, windmills, looms, printing presses, waggons, engines, etc. Each exhibit which may be presented to them will be marked in Chinese with the name and address of the maker, together with the description and price, if desired, and a capable translator will explain their use to inquirers."

We wish to thank the various journals which published Mr. Denby's dispatch, and to say that we have had numerous offers from America, England and Germany.

May we ask that all newspapers and journals interested in the progress of China give such publicity to this matter as their columns will permit?

Inquirers may address the writer, Peking, China, or Mr. Charles H. Taft, Treasurer of Peking University, 78 William Street, New York City.—*The Christian Advocate*.

Do not fail to read the *Christian Guardian* about the great International Epworth League Convention, to be held in Toronto, July 15th to 18th. This will be, without doubt, the greatest and most important gathering of young Methodists ever held in Canada. Thousands will come from every part of Canada, and tens of thousands from the United States. Let every Epworth League, as far as possible, send at least one representative of their missionary department.

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