

SPENT LOAN ON STATUES

Mongolia Used Lot of Russian Money in Buying Buddha Images—Rest on Goods from China Has, However, Righted Financial Situation.

Peking.—Among the quiet backwaters of the world that have been affected by the war is Mongolia. The inhabitants of this great waste-land acknowledged allegiance to China until the revolution, which put an end to the Manchu dynasty. When the Manchus fell the Mongolians, like the Tibetans, turned the Chinese out of their country and declared themselves independent.

There were particular reasons for the action of the Mongolians. Chinese settlers had been slowly but persistently colonizing the southern and eastern edges of the plateau of Mongolia, and the Mongols were feeling nervous as to the intentions of their ungaily neighbor. Russia also at this time developed apprehension of the pensive powers of the Chinese because of their extending colonization in North Manchuria as well as in Mongolia. She took the Mongol side in the dispute with China and signed an agreement whereby Russia recognized the independence of Mongolia and incidentally secured for herself commercial and other advantages in that country.

The Chinese revolution came in the nick of time for Russian designs; the Mongols were encouraged—and assisted—to stand up against China; and Russia got what she wanted. After two years of futile attempts to re-enter Mongolia, China gave in and signed the tripartite Kiachin convention in 1915, whereby Mongolia retained the rights recognized in the agreement with Russia. Russia likewise retained what she had gained, while China recognized the Russo-Mon-

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gol agreement, but was accorded certain shadowy rights which gave her "face" but no power over Mongolia. The convention, however, gave China control of Inner Mongolia, the narrow strip of territory on the southern and eastern slopes of the Mongolian plateau.

Situation Revolutionized

The collapse of Russia, however, has completely revolutionized the situation in Mongolia. The latter country no longer has a powerful protector, and the Chinese are keen to reassert the ascendancy which they once held. On the plea of the danger of a Bolshevik invasion of Mongolia they have increased the small guards permitted to their official agents under the terms of the Kiachin convention and have long been threatening to march a division of troops across the Gobi, ostensibly to protect the frontier against Bolshevik penetration, in reality to occupy Urgan and establish control over the country. Mongolia knows not what the future may bring forth and is an aspirant for the protection of the League of Nations.

The Mongols are anxious about their independence and desirous of its recognition by the new institution which is to secure the supremacy of right over might.

Few students of Oriental things ever expected good results from the new autonomous state set up by the Kiachin convention. The Kiachin, an exiled Buddhist ruler second in importance in the Buddhist world to the Dalai Lama of Tibet, is a confirmed alcoholic and blind into the bargain. As a reincarnation of Buddha, however, his influence over his own people is supreme. Intelligent enough when sober, the Hutukhtu formed a cabinet whose salvation has been that it is fairly representative of the most powerful elements in the country.

A big start was made by borrowing 4,000,000 rubles (\$400,000) from Russia for the purpose of establishing the finances on a sound basis. Part of the money was expended upon the purchase of arms, but the greater part went to Warsaw to pay for 10,000 brass images of Buddha. The financial situation, however, has solved itself satisfactorily, for the new government has levied a five per cent. duty on goods entering Mongolia from China and has saved a large sum to liquidate the debt to Russia. Otherwise the government has been a success, mainly because little administration is required. The patriarchal system, whereby each tribe is self-contained and self-governed, obviates expenditure on defence, police, judiciary, and so forth, while public works are virtually nonexistent.

Nation Is Prosperous

Contrary to expectation, then, the Mongolian government did not engage upon a financial debacle leading to the usual result, but has managed its small revenue and left the country to manage itself. Mongolia today, therefore, is free, peaceful, and prosperous, and likely to remain so while undisturbed by aggression from without.

The Mongols are nomads, and are found settled only in the few towns of which Urgan, Ulaanbaatar and Kharak, are the principal. The wealth of the country, therefore, is in the shape of horses, camels, sheep and cattle, which move from place to place in search of pasture. The Gobi is a carpet of luxuriant grass and beautiful flowers in the spring and early summer, sand being confined to limited regions and appearing only in narrow strips in the gorges. The amount of pastureage is illimitable and much beyond the necessities of the widely scattered tribes. In normal times great numbers of animals are exported into Russia and China, and the trade in hides and furs is steadily increasing. The Mongols in exchange require principally brick-tea, cloth and utensils.

Since Russia broke down the ruble has disappeared from circulation, and the country is without a currency. Much business is conducted by barter, but the China dollar is beginning to fill up the vacuum left by the ruble. Virtually all of the trade and finance is in the hands of Chinese who are recognizedly the intellectual superior, and thus, naturally, objects of suspicion to their simple-minded clients. Two or three foreign firms based at Kalgan have been doing a flourishing business during the last few years, especially since the connection with Russia has weakened. These firms send into the interior, during the last few years, a growing variety of manufactured goods.

Their great difficulty is transport, which is slow and expensive. Caravans take a month from Kalgan to Urgan, a distance that motor cars have recently covered in two days. There are now two Chinese motor companies carrying passengers from Kalgan to Urgan. These companies make scrap-iron of their cars in astonishingly quick time, but continue to buy more. They get all the passengers they can carry.

Railway Would Aid Country

The universal cry is for a railway, and Russia has first claim to construct the connection between Kalgan and Verkh-Udinsk, on the Siberian Railway. Such a line would immensely develop the commerce of Mongolia and quicken the journey between Europe and Peking by at least two days. Its construction is desirable from all points of view, and should not be delayed. Russia for the time being cannot undertake such an enterprise alone, and the case is one for the projected consortium which can find the capital, build the railway, and give it a non-political character.

The present situation in Mongolia is entirely satisfactory, and the country offers an excellent field for commercial enterprise. There is abundance of coal in the north, alluvial gold is found in considerable quantity, and there is a chaos of mountain and valley in the northern frontier region, which, judging by the known mineral wealth of the contiguous Altai province of Siberia, ought to provide infinite scope for mining endeavor. The Mongolians are perfectly ready to welcome foreign commercial enterprise so long as their independence is respected.

China, however, has designs on that independence, and ought to be warned against any infringement of the Kiachin convention, an excellent document from the Mongolian point of view. There is another movement afoot to disturb Mongolia. The Burats of Transbaikalia and Barga are endeavoring to engineer an independent state which will deprive Rus-

sia of part of Transbaikalia, and China of Barga, and include Mongolia. The Burats have sent a mission to Paris, including some Mongols, claimed to represent Mongolia. These Mongols, however, are not recognized by the government at Urgan, which hopes that the powers in Europe will not be deceived into believing that there is any such thing as a real Pan-Mongolian movement.

BACHELOR OF 70 WEDS

Bath, Eng., Dec. 17.—With much secrecy, the Hon. Charles Hedley Strutt, who had long been regarded as a confirmed bachelor, was married at the age of 70 to Mrs. Percy Broderick Bernard. Mr. Strutt was formerly a member of parliament.

OFFERING A BONUS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

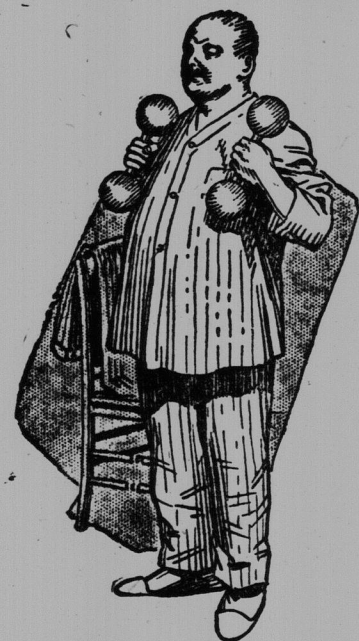
(Industrial Canada)

The Labor delegates at the International Labor Conference seemed determined to force the acceptance of some international arrangement by which the unemployed would be placed on the payroll of their respective countries indefinitely. Unemployment pay brought disastrous results in Great Britain, and it is significant that it is being dropped. In most cases unemployment pay is an invitation to stop working. The introduction of any system of unemployment pay or insurance would be particularly unfortunate in Canada. Here our problem is not to provide for unemployment, but to secure enough people to do the work which is waiting to be done. Before the war we were securing at great expense immigration at the rate of about half a million a year. In normal times there is always a shortage of labor in Canada. As a general rule anyone who wants to work and will accept the kind of work available rather than remain idle, need not be idle. At intervals of seven to ten years in our history there have been periods of depression when there was unemployment for a few months, but in these cases special measures were taken which were as satisfactory as any that could be devised under the circumstances. Even in periods of depression in Canada it was found that a great proportion of the unemployed were people who should never have left the farms, and were attracted to the city by the hope of getting easier work at higher pay and enjoying the excitement of city life. The rapidly with which Canadian industry and agriculture absorbed the Canadian army is sufficient proof that Canada has nothing to fear from the spectre of unemployment. The surest way to create unemployment is to bonus it.

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BY DR. LEE HERBERT SMITH



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Before breakfast take hot water, and occasionally castor oil or a pleasant laxative made up of May-apple, aloin, jalap, and sold by all druggists as Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets.

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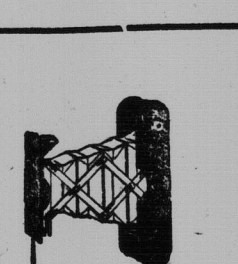
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Christmas Gifts

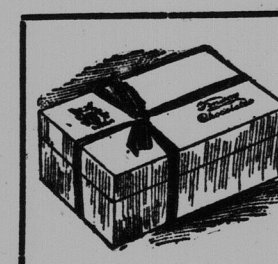
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By "BUD" FISHER

