

## DISMAL PICTURE OF CONDITIONS IN STRICKEN CHINA

Cholera Adds to Distress of  
25,000,000 Famine-Stricken  
People.

Peking, Oct. 15.—(Associated Press correspondence)—Cholera is adding to the general distress in the famine-stricken district where from 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 people are facing death by starvation.

The Associated Press correspondent, who recently traveled through the heart of the territory most seriously denuded of food, found conditions even more desperate than had been indicated by information previously received here.

In the town of Hwai-an where there were 100 families, thirty persons had died of cholera, and similar reports are common from various other districts.

Terrible Conditions.

The picture presented to the eye of the correspondent was a dismal one. The soil barren as in mid-winter, prices soaring, migration of those having more money or enterprise, the people living on a diet of weeds, chaff, thistles and leaves; children, especially little girls, offered for sale at the average price of the small Chinese mule; cholera from underfeeding, suicides of individuals in extreme despair, old women and children gleaming patches of weeds, men with no work to do and clusters of refugees living in the shelter of temples in market towns.

Information obtained by the correspondent indicated that the present suffering is only a forecast of that to come in the course of eight or ten weeks when the real crisis will arrive. Conditions in the belt he traversed in a journey by cart between two railway lines near Tschow are believed to be typical of those generally existing throughout large areas in the provinces of Chihli, Shantung, Honan, and Shansi. He found indescrib-

able misery and stoical facing of starvation by millions of people who already had disposed of everything salable and saw in the future nothing but death.

### Facing Starvation.

When the frost will have killed the unseasoned leaves and weeds there will be literally nothing to eat for at least half the population. One out of ten has already migrated without money and without destination. In the worst spots half the people are already subsisting on the proceeds of the sale of furniture and clothing, which means that those temporarily escaping starvation will ultimately die from cold and exposure.


In the town of Chi Chow, which is typical, the magistrate informed the correspondent that out of every three families two are quite sure to starve before the end of the year, barring effective relief from outside. There are 300,000 people in the administrative district in question.

### Failure of Crops.

In Ning Ching two bankers who were engaged in raising relief funds said that the crop had been an absolute failure, following two or three previous and serious shortages. Of 10,000 families, they estimated that eight out of ten were practically without means. One of the

informants said that he was the owner of the largest pawnshop in the vicinity. "There are constant streams of farmers coming with clothing, furniture, implements, anything upon which to realize a few coppers. They are selling their children where possible, or leaving them where there is hope that they may be fed," he said.

Chaff and the residue from cotton seed after the oil has been extracted have become valuable beyond the reach of the average person, who exists on a watery concoction chiefly of leaves and weeds, with perhaps a few kernels of grain, and a sort of cake, if he is affluent enough made out of the cotton-seed waste.



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## THROUGH WOMEN TWO OF BANDIT GANG TRAPPED?

Hamilton, London, Guelph  
and Local Robberies Re-  
called—Sunday Shooting  
Sequel.

(Toronto Globe.)

What may be a sequel to the shooting of W. C. Bucke and also to many robberies which have taken place in this city, in Hamilton, Guelph and other nearby cities can be seen with the arrest of Thomas Goddard and William Gardiner by Detectives Levitt, Armstrong, C. Young and Mitchell last night at a garage on Sumach street. Just as Goddard and Gardiner went to open the garage door the detectives pounced out on them.

The arrest came just a trifle too quickly. Coming after the two who arrived first in their high-powered car were three others in another auto. Seeing what had happened they turned quickly and fled at top speed. Their car, hired at the garage at the same time as the other, was afterwards found abandoned on Spruce street.

Both Goddard and Gardiner are charged with shop-breaking. Goddard gave his home as Detroit, but both men were rooming on Berkeley street. Goddard escaped from Burwash in September, where he was serving a term for robbery, and Gardiner confessed to having just completed a term in the same month at the Jail Farm for a like offense.

About the only confession which the police could extract from Goddard was his escape from Burwash, and he made a strange tale of it. He claims that he had to swim the river near the farm, that pursuit forced him into the woods, and that he was chased by wolves on his way to freedom.

Gang of Ex-convicts? The police believe that the two are members of a gang of seven ex-convicts who are responsible for most of the robberies within a radius of many miles. It is claimed that stolen high-powered cars, quick work in cleaning out the stores visited and then flight to a cache at some obscure point are the secret of the gang's success.

If they are the same who staged the wild-west gun-play on Saturday night, the happening was either a mistake or a celebration of a celebrated robbery, the crime which forgot caution for the moment.

The charge upon which the two were held is that of being implicated in the robbery of a clothing store in Hamilton kept by a man named Patrick. The burglars drove off in a motor with about \$5,000 worth of clothing, and much of what is believed to be the missing stock was found in their rooms.

Two Other Arrests. In addition two men, Bloom and Heblum, were arrested for having in their store on Lapping avenue eighty pairs of trousers believed to have been bought for \$100 from the men arrested.

The clothing which the two wore is thought to have come from Guelph via a burglary and a stolen ride in a stolen car. There are also goods to be accounted for from London and Hamilton which the gang is supposed to have carried off to their hiding place.

Goddard and Gardiner, in company with three other men, visited the garage on Sumach street yesterday and engaged two high-powered cars. In these they are said to have carried away a large quantity of goods to some point near Oakville, for they were observed in that town during the afternoon. The detectives got wind of things and set a trap for them on their return, into which two fell.

Trapped Through Women. In Louise street two women had been taken in, charged with vagrancy, and a quantity of goods taken from their rooms. One of these women was able to give a description of a man she knew them talking over robberies, the safest place to hide stolen goods and other matters of interest to the burglarizing profession. In this conversation the breaking into a United Cigar store was mentioned, and also of other places.

Both men refused to talk matters over with the police, and the only information volunteered was the highly-colored account of Goddard's escape from Burwash. Gardiner carries a broken nose, a souvenir given him by Detective Black with a "billy" on Yonge street when Gardiner was arrested for shop-breaking.

PERHAPS SOME OF  
OUR MEN HAVE  
MET THIS FAMILY

The Duboreperes Receive  
Prize for Rebuilding Home  
Without Help—16 Child-  
ren.

Lens, France, Oct. 28.—(Associated Press correspondence)—The Duborepere family of the little village of Metereu near here has been awarded a prize of 15,000 francs, given by Norman Davis, of Washington, through Madame Jussier, wife of the French ambassador, for the family which should rebuild its destroyed house in the devastated region without the assistance of carpenters, masons and other expert building workers. The material was furnished by the Davis Fund through the Secours d'Urgence and in three months the house was finished.

The Duborepere family consists of father, mother and sixteen children, all living. Experts say the house is worth more than 50,000 francs. The material cost 15,000.

The town of Metereu is well known to Canadian troops, some of whom were billeted in the town while engaged in the Ypres and Lens sectors.

### CONDITIONS IN THE CRIMEA

Berne, Oct. 28.—(Associated Press correspondence)—Barefooted millionaires are reported prevalent in the Crimea, according to a letter of a Swiss woman quoting prices in depreciated Russian rubles.

The income of peasants is great because the land there is productive and a pound of wheat sells, roughly at 1,000



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