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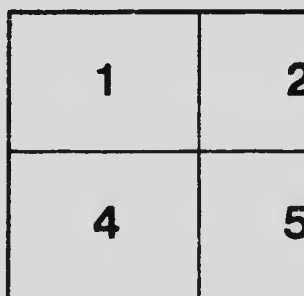
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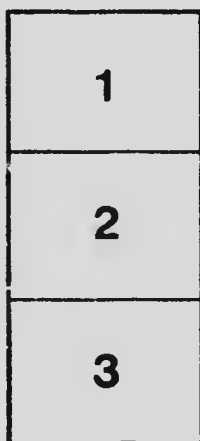
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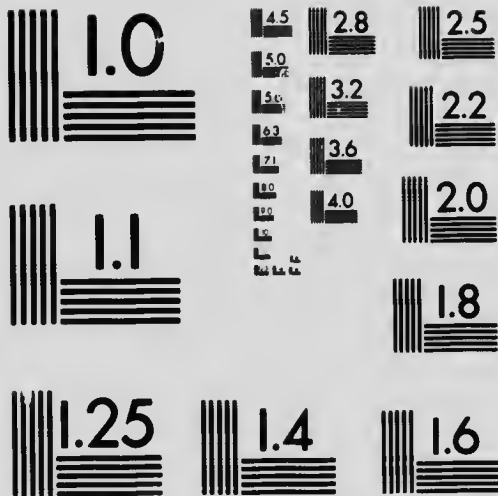
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ANNEX

THE FARTHEST WEST

A Call from China
to Canada



A Street Crowd in a Chinese Village

Published by
The Methodist Mission Rooms
33 Richmond Street West, Toronto

The Farthest West

A CALL FROM CHINA TO
CANADA

BY T. E. EGERTON SHORE.

THE Pacific basin is destined to be the theatre of the great world drama of civilization in the present century. By geographical relations, by simultaneous development of new conditions, by the community of religious, political and commercial interests, Canada and China will inevitably be thrown into close contact with each other. We must therefore consider carefully what effect this relation will have upon the civilization of our own country, as well as upon the civilization of the Chinese Empire.

We cannot evade our responsibility to take our full share in the evangelization of the 437,000,000 people who constitute the Chinese Empire. This is the greatest Mission Field of the world to-day, not only because of the vast number of unevangelized people, but because of the remarkable awakening which has taken place in recent years in that nation, whereby Western knowledge and institutions are eagerly sought by large numbers of influential Chinese people. It is the day of the missionary's supreme opportunity, and if adequate provision is now made by the Christian Church for the preaching of the Gospel, this old heathen empire will, in the new era now beginning, become established in Christian ideals and

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life. To Christians of the Occident, whose deep desire is to see Christ's world aim accomplished, this is an alluring and inspiring opportunity.

We speak of ourselves as Occidentals and of the Chinese as Orientals, but so far as our geographical relation with that country is concerned, these terms should be reversed. This is a case where East becomes West, for the Province of Szechwan, the most westerly part of China, is in longitude directly opposite the central part of Canada. Thus, our Mission Field in West China is to us not the Far East, but the Farthest West. We pass the Great West, with its wide-spreading and prolific prairies, the land of promise in all things pertaining to the making of our nation, and pass again the Far West of rich and varied resources, of towering mountains, clad with abundant forests, and rivers teeming with the wealth of fisheries, bordering on the Pacific Sea. Still again we pass the Farther West, beyond the Pacific, where the spirit of Western ambition and progress is found in the New Japan, to find in far away Szechwan in West China, a Farthest West, a land of exceeding possibility and of loudest call, when it comes to considering the immediate and urgent requirements of the universal Kingdom of Christ.

This call from West China has not to do with the development of material resources, though Szechwan is the richest among the provinces of China. It has not to do with

the problems of future population, nor of growing immigration, for the people are there already in teeming millions beyond calculation, emerging from a dark and degrading past, and awaiting the message of hope and salvation which true religion alone can bring to any people. "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few."

West China includes the three provinces of Szechwan, Yunnan, and Kweichow, with populations of 60,000,000, 12,000,000 and 8,000,000 respectively, or an aggregate for the three provinces of 80,000,000. Among these provinces, nine missionary societies are operating, with a total force of four hundred workers (including missionaries and their wives). Each person, male and female, has thus a parish of 200,000 souls. Each ordained minister has a parish of over half a million. The West China Missionary Conference of 1908 earnestly appealed to the Christian Churches at home responsible for that field, for reinforcements of 1,500 additional missionaries. If these were granted, supposing that one-half the number were men, it would only provide, together with the present force in the field, one male foreign missionary for every 80,000 of the people.

Our Church has accepted the responsibility for the evangelization of at least 10,000,000 people in West China. Our territory is situated in the Province of Szechwan, with our Mission headquarters at Chengtu.

the capital of the Province. Some of the larger cities in our Mission territory are:—

Chengt'u (pronounced Chendu), population	500,000
Tzelutsing (pr. Zilyujin), population	800,000
Luchow (pr. Lujo), population	200,000
Chungking, population	700,000

One of our country districts north of Chengtu has an average rural population of 1,700 to the square mile. Other districts average 800 people to the square mile. Among the 10,000,000 people allotted to our Church we shall have this year not more than fifty-three missionaries. To provide an average of one missionary to every 50,000 people we would require a force of 200 missionaries. Our plan is to send seventy-five additional missionaries within the next five years. In addition to providing for the salaries of our missionaries, we must establish an adequate mission plant, comprising missionaries' houses, churches and chapels, schools and hospitals, for the carrying on of the work. This plant will involve an expenditure of nearly a million dollars, to make suitable provision for the work contemplated within the next five or ten years.

The work of our Mission in West China is carried on in four departments—evangelistic, educational, medical and publishing. All of these are directly evangelistic in their aim, and truly missionary in their spirit. They are all necessary to the de-

velopment of the Kingdom of Christ in that land.

The objective in all missionary work is to build up a strong native church, and an efficient native ministry, through whom the ultimate evangelization may be accomplished. This requires patient endeavor, faith in God, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit in the regeneration of souls and the calling of men for the special work of the ministry. When we remember the centuries that it has taken to produce our Christian civilization, to develop our Church activities, and to mature our spiritual ideals and experience, it is not surprising that it requires generations to produce similar results in the modern heathen world. We have to thank God that so much has been accomplished in the conversions from heathenism and the transformation of lives to the service of God. We must continue to work with this end in view.

We have in Canada one ordained minister for every seven hundred of our population. To provide a similar proportion of Chinese ministers to the population of ten millions for whom we are responsible in West China would require a native force of 14,285 Chinese ministers. At the present time we have twenty-two Chinese evangelists who are in the first and second years of their probation for the ministry. Each missionary can only produce a limited number of native evangelists with the spiritual experience, training in service, and development of

mind necessary for a competent ministry. To produce a native ministry of 14,285 in our field in West China, it will be necessary to have many more missionaries as the instruments of the Holy Spirit in the conversion of the people, and the calling of native men into the work, and the supervision of that work for many years to come.

The mission work of our Church in the foreign fields is under the direction of the General Board of Missions of the Missionary Society and the Board of Managers of the Woman's Missionary Society. These two departments of missionary work co-operate in a spirit of harmony and Christian unity, to make possible the best results among the men, the women and the children in the foreign fields. The Woman's Missionary Society is doing a noble work among the women and girls of West China, along lines of evangelistic, educational, and medical work. Their missionary force in that field now includes twenty workers. These should be largely added to, as rapidly as possible, to enable the work among women and girls to keep pace with the development of the general work under the General Board. The work of the Woman's Missionary Society is worthy of the strongest commendation and the heartiest support of the women in the Church at home.

Those who have made a special study of foreign mission fields say that the Canadian Methodist Church has in Szechwan one of the most opportune and strategic mis-

sion fields in the world. This field has been given to our Church in the providence of God, not to be held for our glory, nor for delayed evangelization. The crisis of missions in West China is upon us now. We can do for Christ and His Kingdom in the next ten years what, if this is neglected, we cannot do in one hundred years to follow. We have an opportunity to establish the Christian Church in that field before the material and commercial civilization of Europe and America has set its hand upon that country, to influence and pre-occupy the people in worldly enterprise and ambition. We can now determine the character of the future of West China by the adoption and execution of a broad, strong, missionary programme, which will bring every man, woman and child of the present generation in that land within a comprehensive knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Christianity was the gift of God to the world through Asia. Let the Christian world now return to Asia a tithe of the blessings which have followed Asia's gift to us, and we shall be twice blessed.

"Oh, East is East, and West is West, and
never the twain shall meet,
Till Earth and Sky stand presently at
God's great Judgment Seat;
But there is neither East nor West,
Border, nor Breed, nor Birth,
When two strong men stand face to face,
tho' they come from the ends of the
earth!"



