

China Fashions New Province In Center Asia

Mysterious Borderland Harbors 'Tea Road' To Inner Tibet

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

With Japanese armies pushing into China's territory in the east, Chinese governmental machinery is expanding in the west. Recently a full-fledged twenty-eighth province—Sikang—was set up when for the first time a governor was installed over the wild and craggy borderland state between China and Tibet. Sikang should not be confused with Sinkiang, westernmost extremity of China north of Tibet.

The newly organized province places a million people and some 372,000 square miles of mystery under the organized authority of the Chinese Republic. Although caravans from Lhasa, forbidden sacred city of Tibet, and Peking, once the forbidden imperial city of China, have tolled back and forth across Sikang for centuries, the region is no better known than a building through which one walks down a corridor without looking into any rooms.

The ancient tea road to Tibet traversed Sikang by cutting across 13 river gorges and climbing the snow-clad mountain ranges between them, clearing ridges through passes 15,000 feet high. The titanic white bulk of Mynya Konka, one of the highest peaks man has ever scaled, soars to an elevation of 24,891 feet on the eastern border of the new province.

Panda Originates Here. Mountain fastnesses shelter that rare bearlike rascal, the giant panda, and the amber-haired little musk deer whose "musk pod" is precious caravan freight found for Chinese and French perfumers. Green and tawny pheasants trail their yard-long tails through mountainous woods, including the 40-inch white-eared pheasant, called "horse chicken" by Chinese.

In the new Chinese province, perched upon the eaves of high Tibet, only 34 per cent of the sparse population is Chinese. Carrying the silk costumes and the Confucian classics and the lacquer rice bowls of the cultured East, they have settled at the trading posts along caravan routes. Their neighbors are mainly tall Tibetans—high-booted fleece-coated followers of Lamaism, with their prayer wheels and Bud-



Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, whose government is being driven back into China by the invading Japanese, and who was responsible for formation of the new Sikang province.

dha images and butter lamps in gilt-roofed lamaserias.

In June, 1914, a treaty between China and Tibet (with Great Britain participating because of India to the south) divided the Tibetan "roof of the world" into "Front" Tibet (facing China, of course) and "Rear" Tibet. The former submitted to Chinese rule, while the latter remained a dependency with almost complete self rule. In 1928, Front (or Rear-) Tibet was further divided into two special districts, Sikang in the south and Chinghai in the north. Now Sikang's provisional government has been replaced by a regularly appointed governor.

Boundaries of the new province gather into a knot, like a drawing, the frontier regions of Szechwan, Yunnan, and Tibet. Sikang reaches from the Tung river in the east into the "Land of Deep Corrosions" to the west, where three famous rivers, in a rugged tract not 50 miles wide, run through parallel gorges for over 125 miles before fanning out across all of southeast Asia. The Mekong goes to French Indo-China, and the Salween pours through Burma past "the old Moulmein pagoda." Mightiest of all, the Yangtze winds through the entire breadth of China to empty at Shanghai.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

Too much build-up is turning Harry Hopkins' oratorical efforts into a dud ... Cutting federal expenses and balancing the budget is seen a virtual impossibility ... New Deal will feel the loss of Joseph B. Keenan's political sagacity.

WASHINGTON.—Whatever else may be said of Harry L. Hopkins' "appeasement" speech, intended to start the wheels of prosperity turning again in this country and to pave the way to his own nomination and election next year, very little poker strategy was shown. The build-up was wrong. The timing was calculated badly. And finally, it became evident that Hopkins simply does not have the golden radio voice of his chief.

On this last point, one wonders if Mr. Roosevelt is really doing his best by this, his second candidate to succeed him in the White House—whether Hopkins, like Robert H. Jackson, is not being "given a run" like a candidate at a presidential convention. For it would seem to the most casual student of Mike Oratory that the President must have known that Harry was not big time so far as broadcasting is concerned, and that he could be improved quite considerably by a little training.

Most people, for instance, figure that Herbert Hoover would like another try for the White House brass ring, but nevertheless he did advise Thomas E. Dewey, just before Dewey entered the New York gubernatorial race, that his oratory simply must be improved. And no one should know better than Hoover, who as secretary of commerce and as President was one of the worst ever known—until Alf M. Landon—but who turned himself, in the opinion of many observers, into the best orator the Republican party has by the time he had been out of the White House for four years.

Promised His Head Off; Final Effort Beamed Dumb

Coming back to Hopkins' strategy, or lack of it, it is possible that he could not avoid one big mistake. Looking at the whole affair coldly, it is probable that if Hopkins had made that same speech three months earlier it would have been a wow. The whole country would have talked of nothing else for weeks. Business would have been electrified. Everybody knowing how close he was to the President, it would have marked a dramatic and spectacular milestone.

What had happened in that three months to make it seem an anticlimax? To have made it, frankly, a disappointment to business as well as to Hopkins' boosters? The answer is simple. There had been too much build-up. The trouble was that Hopkins meantime had been nominated for secretary of commerce, and had to get himself confirmed. Not only that, he had to go far enough in his campaign to get confirmed to avoid any serious fight over his confirmation. Anything else might have thrown him off what seemed like a clear track leading to the White House before he could get steam up.

So he promised his head off, not in one interview but in dozens. He had half a dozen "spokesmen" on the conservative side in the senate telling their colleagues, and newspaper men, and business men back home, just how safe and sane Harry was going to be. He was specific in his pledges, left nothing to the imagination.

In fact, he said so much, and it was relayed so widely, that it is no wonder his final public effort was a dud.

Balancing the Budget Is Seen Virtual Impossibility

The virtual impossibility of cutting federal expenditures and balancing the budget is clearly demonstrated in the recent senate vote on the proposal to cut \$4,262,000 from the TVA appropriation. It is significant because this was the most logical place for congress to cut this particular bill if it were to be cut at all.

The point is that the house, in cutting more than four times that amount from the TVA appropriation, had included in the projects to be discontinued the Gilbertsville dam, on which the government has already expended some millions of dollars, and which in addition is recognized by all engineers as important not only to the navigation and flood control of the Tennessee river, but to the lower Ohio and Mississippi rivers as well.

In short, it is easy to see that the most determined man to cut appropriations in all congress might easily have been swayed to vote for the Gilbertsville dam money. On this particular point there was no roll call. It was approved by a voice vote.

But on the four-million-dollar appropriation there was no such argument calculated to appeal to senators who want the federal government to balance its budget. Yet the vote to put the appropriation into the bill—to go on spending—was 49 to 31. As four additional senators were paired in favor of the appropriation, the total strength for it was actually 53, four more than a majority of the entire body.

Really Is Part and Parcel Of Old Pork-Barrel System

The really discouraging phase of the whole matter to those who see the necessity of budget balancing has nothing to do with the merits of this particular appropriation. In fact, it is not unfair to say that most of the senators who voted for it were not primarily voting on its merits at all. Some of them were voting for the additional dam because they believe in the government going further into the electrical business. Some of them did so because they knew the White House wanted it. Some of them want to round out the TVA project. For example, had Arthur E. Morgan been a member of the senate when this vote was taken, he would of course have voted for the appropriation, despite his bitter criticisms of David E. Lilienthal, and, inferentially, of President Roosevelt, in the conduct of TVA affairs.

But the really discouraging point is that it is part and parcel of the old pork-barrel system. It will be noted that the senators from many of the states which hope for more federal spending on dams and river control projects went along with the majority.

What so many people who hope for economy from congress do not think about in their wishful talking is that it is good business for politicians to spend public moneys. In fact, that is how politicians live. Sometimes it is crude, as in the case of local contracts, with attendant graft. Sometimes it is more difficult to trace, as in the pork-barrel type of federal spending. There the objective is not graft, but "bringing home the bacon."

New Deal Feels Loss of Keenan's Political Wisdom

The stepping out of the New Deal circle of Joseph B. Keenan, who has been assistant attorney general, leaves really no one on the inside, so to speak, whose knowledge of practical politics and political intelligence commands very much respect on Capitol Hill, with the notable exception, of course, of the President himself.

It has frequently been a matter of comment that Mr. Roosevelt, from the day he yielded to Alfred E. Smith's urging that he run for governor of New York in 1928, did not make a single serious political mistake until he had entered on his second presidential term. It is also frequently pointed out that a great many positive actions, which were of the highest order of political sagacity, contributed to his success in the period a little short of seven years which is included in this span. His first political mistake, according to the consensus on Capitol Hill, was his proposal for the enlargement of the Supreme court, made in January, 1937. Then followed the purge, and a long list of actions which approach the definition of an old-time political leader that "It was worse than a crime, it was a blunder."

Many critics insist that it is not merely a coincidence that during the brilliant—always measuring by the test of pure political judgment, and not by whether the actions were otherwise sound or unsound—period Mr. Roosevelt had the advantage of the advice of loyal Louis McHenry Howe, and that the period since, when blunders have been frequent, came after Howe's death.

Farley Definitely Excluded From Political Councils

Be that as it may, the administration is recognized as having definitely excluded James A. Farley from its political councils almost ever since the 1936 election.

The President actively entered three of the purge contests himself.

In one case, Maryland, Farley is known to have hoped that Senator Millard E. Tydings would be defeated, though his judgment was that it could not be done. In fact, he is known to have told close friends, during the Maryland primary, to bet on Tydings. In the other two cases where the President personally spoke his wishes to the voters, South Carolina and Georgia, Farley not only thought the purge could not succeed but did not agree with it. In short he would have opposed fighting Walter F. George and Cotton Ed (E. D.) Smith even if he had been sure he could beat them.

Considering the whole picture after Howe died, and when Farley's political judgment was being ignored, Joe Keenan, who was the ace politician of the New Deal, so to speak, did not make a very favorable record. But Keenan is not blamed for this. He did not make the big decisions. He simply tried to carry out the orders once they had been given.

Farley is not apt to regain his political leadership. The New Dealers regard him as a candidate for the presidency himself.

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WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

NEW YORK.—Lester P. Barlow, temperamental inventor of bombs and other war weapons, recently said he wasn't going to congress with his bad news about the devastating new German air bomb, because they "put him in the dog-house" when he tried to tell the house naval affairs committee something last year. But his story gets into the Record, via Senator Bennett C. Clark, who relays to Maj. Gen. H. H. Arnold the news of the bomb, as he had it from Mr. Barlow, and asks the general what about it. The general tells of army reports that the German bombs in Barcelona "killed every human being within the range of a quarter of a mile."

The U. S. A. was supposed to have used about \$300,000,000 worth of Barlow bombs and weapons in the World War. Several weeks ago, the senate voted him \$592,719 in royalties for the wartime use of his patents. He is a prolific inventor, now consulting engineer for the Glenn L. Martin Co., of Baltimore, builders of bombing planes. He describes the new German bomb as truly horrendous, basically a combination of liquid oxygen and carbon, but with other ingredients, such as magnesium and aluminum. He thinks he can just about match it with his L. O. X. bomb.

In 1932, he offered to President Hoover a simple button-pushing rig which would wipe out a city hundreds of miles away. Even with the backing of Senator Frazier of North Dakota, he failed to get the government interested and was said to have offered his device to Russia and Germany. Later, he had other disappointing encounters in congress, offering, among other things, a shock-proof battleship, on whose ribs the heaviest projectile would be just the pat of a powder-puff.

BIG, Bucko Giuseppe Creatore, puffing smoke from a cigar as unflinching as Vesuvius, makes a grand comeback, as he nears 70, to his own and everybody else's complete satisfaction. The Bronx recently celebrated its 300th birthday with a big splash of 40-cent grand opera, with Signor Creatore finding in "Aida" something in the range of his titanic energies. The opera company will be permanent, financial wind and weather permitting, to be supplemented by a series of symphonic concerts.

As a band conductor, Signor Creatore used to earn as much as \$5,000 a night. He slipped out of sight, and then, in June, 1935, was conducting one of the park bands of the New York Emergency Relief bureau. His cigar and his baton were still bold and unwavering and he told the reporters he was pacing the country back to better times. He had with him about half of the players in his old band of the days of their tuneful and triumphant national tours.

He arrived in this country from Italy in 1902, with a lush black mustache and a heavy mane, but little else worth mentioning. Two days later, he was playing on Hammerstein's roof. A contemporary of Sousa, he became one of the country's most famous bandmasters, only temporarily clipped—or eclipsed—by the depression. It is to be hoped.

WHEN Britain and the United States begin to exchange cooking recipes, they are really getting neighborly. Carlota, the British poetess, who arrived here recently, not averse to favoring friendly relations, prefaced her trip with a radio appeal for American recipes. She got more than 2,000. When we get to telling each other about our operations, the entente will be complete.

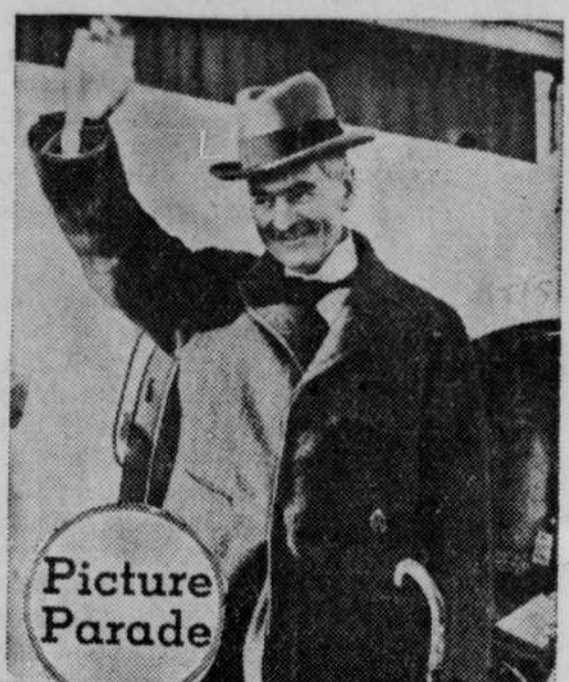
Carlota is the wife of Louis Oppenheimer, managing director of the South African diamond syndicate. She has published many books of poetry in many countries, speaks seven languages fluently, and finds time to convert old houses into charming dwellings or "mews," for working people.

Her London home is one of the great social and political salons of England. She knows the proverbial way to the now somewhat intransigent American heart. Her visit marks a pleasant departure from the customary exchange of recipes for cooking TNT and the like.

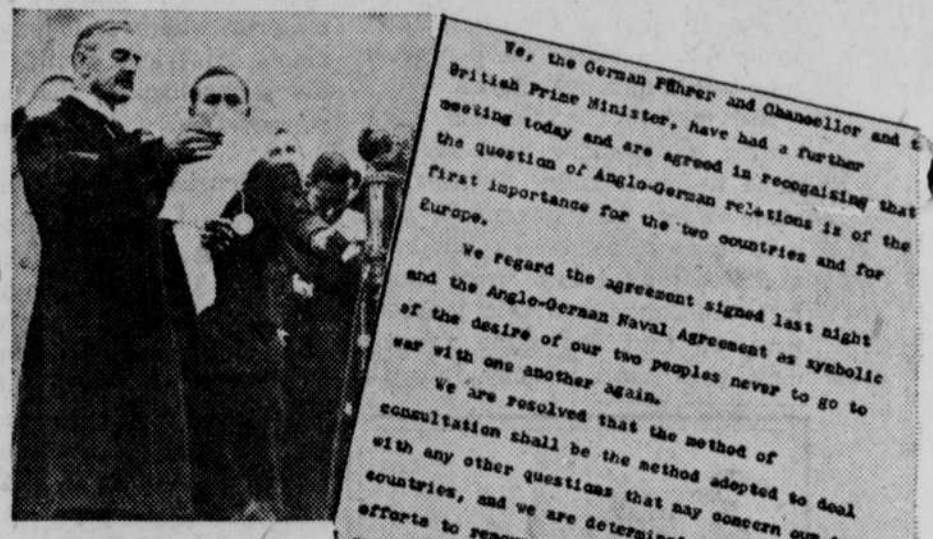
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At 70, Britain's Chamberlain Reviews Life's Busiest Year

Whether the public likes it or not, Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain has tried desperately to maintain peace. On March 18 he ends his seventh—and most eventful—year. Right: Mr. Chamberlain started the world September 14 by paying a precedent-shattering call on Hitler at Berchtesgaden. Photo shows him leaving London, flying for the first time. Below: The second meeting, at Godesberg, on September 22.



Picture Parade



Then came Munich. On September 30 Mr. Chamberlain returned home to read this document at Heston airdrome. He had also signed the Munich treaty.

Yes, the German Führer and Chancellor and British Prime Minister, have had a further meeting today and are agreed in recognizing that the desire of Anglo-German relations is of the first importance for the two countries and for Europe. We regard the agreement signed last night and the Anglo-German Naval Agreement as symbolic of the desire of our two peoples never to go to war with one another again. We are resolved that the method of consultation shall be the method adopted to deal with any other questions that may concern our two countries, and we are determined to continue our efforts to remove possible sources of difference and thus to contribute to assure the peace of Europe.

Barile Chamberlain



But the policy of "appeasement" bore suspicious fruit. Following Munich, Germany and Italy appeared planning new demands against France and Britain. Chamberlain and Lord Halifax, foreign minister, visited Paris November 21. Below: On January 10 he again stopped in Paris en route to Rome. Photo, left to right, shows French Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet, Mr. Chamberlain, Premier Edouard Daladier and Viscount Halifax.



Next day, January 11, Mr. Chamberlain arrived in Rome to visit Mussolini. The trip was heralded as another "appeasement" mission from which a new totalitarian victory could be expected, but nothing happened. Mr. Chamberlain may have gained nothing, but he tried to break down the growing barriers.



In London the Prime Minister and his wife visit St. James park.

Italy Builds Model Community For New Coal Mining Industry



Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

Italy has a new coal bin from which to draw energy for her developing industrial life, according to reports of extensive coal fields recently inaugurated by Premier Mussolini at Carbonia, Sardinia.

Across the Tyrrhenian sea from the Italian "boot," shaped roughly in the form of a giant parallelogram more than 9,000 square miles in extent, the island province of Sardinia is one of Italy's chief mining centers.

In addition to lead, zinc, copper, silver, and other mineral areas, are the new coal districts along the southwest coast of the island. First industrial town to appear in the wake of "black gold" is Carbonia ("Coal City"), whose surrounding mines are already employing an average of 6,500 workers producing coal at the rate of 60,000 tons a month.

Town 'Made-to-Order.'

Linked by narrow-gauge railway with the nearby port of Sant' Antico, also being expanded as a result of increased shipping demands, Carbonia is at present a town of some 12,000 inhabitants. Made-to-order were its city hall, school, hospital, theater, and nearly 400 buildings to house workers, technicians, and administrative officials.

Mineral deposits of iron, copper, and silver—plus the fertile soil of its western plains—attracted Phoenician colonists to this island long before the birth of Christ. Later the Romans came, and made Sardinia one of the Mediterranean

Part of the crowd of Black Shirts and miners who listened to the speech of Premier Mussolini dedicating Carbonia, southern Sardinia's model mining community.

granaries that fed the empire's armies and citizenry. Its geographic location along the path of Mediterranean exploration and conquest gave Sardinia an inevitable role in the continuous drama of war and exploitation that followed. After the Romans, the Goths, Byzantines, Vandals, and Arabs overran Sardinia in successive waves of conquest.

English Came in 1708. Pisans and Genoese drove out the Saracens and then disputed between themselves for the prize. Spain took over around the end of the Thirteenth century and kept the island until, in 1708, the English fleet captured the port of Cagliari, and turned Sardinia over to Austria.

Later, in return for Sicily, Sardinia was ceded to the dukes of Savoy, who adopted the title of king of Sardinia, eventually exchanged (1861) for king of Italy.

Today, the strategic location of Sardinia brings it more and more into the spotlight of European affairs. About 125 miles west of the nearest point of Italy, it is one of the stepping-stones between Africa and Europe. It is only seven and a half miles south of Corsica, and not much more than a hundred miles north of Tunisia, both of which French possessions have been lately in news headlines as Italian objectives.