Greatest Man in the Chinese Republic

(Copyright, 1913, by Frank G. Carpenter).

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 21.—I want to tell you something about Yuan Shih Kai, who has just been re-elected president of the Chinese republic. He is the Napoleon, the Bismarck, the Li Hung Chang of the 400,000,000 who make up the China of today. He is greater and more powerful than Li ever was, and wrapped up in him is the immediate future of that mighty country. I have been traveling in the footsteps of Yuan off and on for the last twenty-five years. I first heard of him when I went to Korea in 1888. That country was then a kingdom under the protection of China, and Yuan Shih Kai had been sent there by Li Hung Chang to dictate to the king how the country should be run. He lived at Seoul in great state, with hundreds of retainers about him and wives and concubines galore.

It was due to Yuan that the Japanese were driven out of Korea shortly before my visit, and he was really the cause of the first war between China and Japan, which resulted in the humiliation of his nation. A little rebellion had broken out in Korea and Yuan, contrary to the treaties of 1885, by which each of the great powers agreed not to land troops in Korea without informing the other powers, had Chinese soldiers brought over to quell the uprising.

That was in 1894. I saw something of the rebellion. There were envoys kneeling out in the street in front of the king's palace for day after day while I was in Seoul, and later, when I crossed the country on horseback and bullback, traveling for several weeks through the mountains, I met everywhere a dissatisfied people and was only safe because I had a special letter of protection which was given me by the king. This commended me to the local governors, who were instructed to further my travels in every possible way. The rebellion increased later on, and by the time I reached Japan the war between China and Japan was brewing. As a result of it Yuan Shih Kai was forced to leave Korea, and he fled to Tientsin, leaving his mother and concubines behind.

Yuan Fang

Li Hung Chang

Protege of Li Hung Chang.

Yuan was an especial protege of Li Hung Chang, and it was through him, in connection with Li, that the modern army of China was organized. When the war with Japan closed, he was for a time sent into retirement, but long before the Boxer troubles he had come again to the front and had been made viceroy of Shantung. He was a special favorite of the empress dowager and had won her gratitude by his treachery to the young emperor. When the Emperor Kwang Su began to introduce foreign civilization in connection with Kank Yu Wei, he took Yuan into his confidence and gave him so many offices that he became known as "Yuan, the reformer." He was allowed to drill and equip modern soldiers and he was really at the head of the best troops in China.

In the meantime the old empress dowager, who had nominally retired from the government, was dictating to the young emperor how he should do, and Kang Yu Wei and the emperor concluded to put her out of the way. Yuan Shih Kai was selected as the tool for this purpose, and while he knelt on his knees before the emperor in the palace, his majesty commanded him to move his army to Tientsin and there kill the Viceroy Yung Lu. After that he was to come on to Peking and surround the palace and kill the empress dowager. This was a big contract, and Yuan said he would have to have sealed instructions before he would undertake it. These orders the emperor refused to give. Thereupon Yuan Shih Kai apparently consented and left Peking, the emperor expecting he would do the job.

After considering the matter for twenty-four hours, Yuan concluded that the job was too dangerous, and he went to Tientsin and laid the whole plot before Yung Lu. Yung Lu took a few soldiers and went on a special train post haste to Peking. He marched out to the summer palace, where the empress dowager was then living, and laid the situation before her. At her orders he then came into Peking and entered the palace. He captured the emperor and confined him in a building on a little island in the palace grounds. A day later the empress dowager came back. She dethroned the emperor, and from that time until her death she was supreme. When she died the emperor suddenly took sick, and it is supposed that he was poisoned by her orders. Some say he was killed by Yuan Shih Kai for fear of his revenge should he again be on the throne.

Yuan a "Wise Guy."

In this way Yuan and Yung Lu really saved the empress dowager's life, and it is no wonder that she was grateful. It was as a kind of thank offering to Yung Yu that she had his grandson, the little Pu Yi, elevated to the throne, and it was not her fault that the boy is not emperor today. She also gave Yuan Shi Kai many high offices and showered him with commissions of one kind or other.

I am told that some of these commissions would have resulted in Yuan's ruin had he carried them out, but just as he refused to obey the emperor, so his good sense showed him that he would have to disobey the empress dowager. One of these cases occurred during the Boxer rebellion. I was in southern China at the time and one of Yuan Shih Kai's foreign advisers told me the story.

The empress dowager was supreme at Pekin. The Boxers were rampant at all the chief centers, and here and there they were slaughtering missionaries and demanding that all foreigners leave. The empress dowager sent word to Yuan Shih Kai to take his troops and move forward to Tientsin and kill all the foreigners there. Yuan delayed on one plea or other until the siege of Pekin occurred, after which the old dowager got a holy fear of all outsiders. She was forced to leave the Chinese capital, and only came back to power under the most bitter humiliation. She then realized that had Yuan carried out her instructions as to Tientsin China would have been ruined. At any rate, Yuan was never called to account for his delay. He made himself popular with the foreigners by his protection of them during the Boxer rebellion and at its close was found to have great influence with the foreign powers. As soon as the troubles were settled he came to the support of the empress dowager and took his place as the strongest and most progressive man of the progressive movemen which was then inaugurated.

I was in China at the time that the empress dowager died, and Yuan was then the viceroy of Chihli, and was the greatest man in the empire outside the government. He had introduced modern schools and industrial establishments. He was reorganizing the army and instituting all sorts of reforms.

After the empress dowager's death he had much to do with the government under the baby emperor, until the Manchus and others who were bossing the administration concluded he was getting too powerful, and they sent him into retirement on the ground that his legs were too sore for him to perform his duties. Then the last great revolution came on, and Yuan again sprang to the front. The empire was shattered, and the republic arose. I doubt not he could have taken an army and gotten possession of the throne himself. Many thought he would do so, but he was content to let China be a republic, and he is now its president and practically its dictator.

This, very briefly, is the outline of the career of a republican president who is the ruler of four or five times as many people as Woodrow Wilson. It is only the outline. His whole career has been full of romance, and the story would make a book of surpassing interest. Yuan Shih Kai was only 31 years old when I first saw him in Korea, and he is only about 55 now. He started life as a poor boy, but like many poor Chinese boys, was given enough schooling to enable him to pass the examinations and get into the army. He rose so rapidly that he was resident general of Korea before he reached 30, and from then on he has been in the thick of things and making history.

During his stay in Korea he was dictatorial and insulting to the Koreans and the foreigners. The Chinese-Japanese war made him a diplomat, and he is now one of the most conservative of statesmen. He thinks twice before he acts, and still he is not afraid to make decisions and act promptly.

How He Put Down Rebellion.

I was told in Peking how Yuan Shih Kai put down a rebellion while he was viceroy of Chihli. This was just after the Boxer rebellion, when the foreigners still held Tientsin. Yuan had moved with his viceregal court to Pao Tingfu. The country was still filled with the turmoil of the revolution, and it was necessary that Yuan should show the foreigners that he could control. He sent orders to the rebels that they must submit and upon their refusing to do so ordered a regiment of soldiers to march to the town where they were, and, if they did not at once put down their arms, to slaughter them en masse. The rebels showed fight and Yuan Shih Kai wiped out the town, killing 1,000 of the people in less than one hour.

The day after this Yuan said to the American who told me this story:

"I suppose your people at Tientsin will criticise my action, but if they do so you may tell them that that is the way I do business and that future rebellions will be handled like this."

The story of this slaughter went over north China, and it struck terror to the hearts of the Boxers. It also convinced the foreigners that Yuan meant business.

I am told that Yuan is a born military leader and that he would rather talk any time to a military man than to a civilian. He looks best when he is in uniform and is riding at the head of his troops. Of late years he has grown fat and his complexion is sallow and discolored. He is short and heavy, with a big head, on broad, flat shoulders. He has little black eyes, which shine out of puffy slant lids. His hair is now white and his mustache is the color of snow. He looks shorter in the European clothes which he now wears than he did in the gorgeous Chinese silk costume, embroidered with gold, which formed his official attire up to the time of the last revolution. He has also cut off his queue, and altogether has lost much of his striking appearance. He is, I venture, six or eight inches shorter than was Li Hung Chang, and, physically speaking, he is by no means so impressive.

Yuan Shih Kai is said to have aged greatly since he came back to power. He has always been a high liver. He has a half-dozen wives of various degrees, and it is currently said that he loves them not wisely, but too well. The late ambassador Bryce, who went to China after leaving Washington a short time ago, has been reported as saying that Yuan is sadly addicted to the opium habit and that he observed that the president was under the influence of opium during the audience. I do not believe Mr. Bryce said anything of the kind. He is too much of a diplomat to have done so, even though he were sure that the above were a fact.

Young Men at the Helm.

Yuan Shih Kai is the last of the really great statesmen of the old regime. The most of the other men are comparatively young. Many of them are graduates of our colleges, and the day is soon coming when China will be ruled by men who are educated in America. Tang Shao Yi is a graduate of Yale. The present Chinese minister at Washington went to the high school of the national capital and graduated at Cornell. Sun Yat Sen, who is now in this country, was educated in the English schools of the Hawaiian Islands and the whole empire begins to throb with young blood.

As to Yuan Shih Kai—he ties the past to the present. He was a great man thirty years ago and he has been a part of all the history of China during the last generation. He was co-temporary with Prince Ching, Chang Chi Tung, Yung Lu and Li Hung Chang. He was brought up as it were by Li Hung Chang, and the two for years worked together. He was close to the empress dowager and to the emperor Kwang Su. He has known every foreigner of note who has come to China within the last thirty years, and although never outside Asia, he has a good knowledge of our civilization and of what the great powers are doing in the work of the world.

Indeed, it seems to me that some of the most interesting characters of the last generation have been Chinese. These people are a strange mixture of barbarism and civilization. They love their friends and they kill their enemies; and the man in power has no hesitation about cutting off the head of him who stands in his way. During my last visit to China, about five years ago, I met Tuan Fang, the viceroy of Nanking, a great scholar, a well known general, and the ruler of more people than we have in the United States. He traveled around the world as one of a commission to get up the present constitution of the Chinese republic, and in a sense was the Thomas Jefferson of the new republic. During his travels he stopped in Egypt and made a collection of mummies, which he brought back with him to found, as I suppose, a museum. He showed me these mummies, and also many rare archeological objects which he had gathered from different parts of the Chinese empire. Some of his finds dated back for 1,000 years before Rome was founded, and he had one stone tablet which was written in 1500 B. C. The other day Frederick McCormick, who is connected with the American-Asiatic Archeological society, dropped in upon me fresh from China. I spoke of Tuan Fang and asked what had become of him. He replied:

"His enemies have cut him shorter by a head."

Such was the fate of a man who in many respects was like Gladstone, and who was as much of a patriot as was Jefferson or Washington.

Li Hung Chang's Fame Grows.

I am told that Li Hung Chang's name grows greater in China as the years go on. A memorial tablet has been put up for him in Peking and temples have been erected in his honor in the many cities where he ruled as an official. I visited the temple in Tientsin. It is in the heart of the new section of the city, surrounded by great schools and factories. Two mighty marble lions, larger than life, guard the entrance; it has a high wall about it, and also huge gates with tiled roofs. The temple grounds cover acres. A wide stone pavement leads from the front gate to the main building, in which is a great tablet of stone bearing an inscription commemorating Li Hung Chang's greatness and services. The temple is large; it is beautifully carved and magnificently decorated with red and gold. On the road leading to it stand twelve marble tablets, each about four feet wide and twice as tall as a man. Upon them is inscribed a short history of Li. In this building is an altar upon which sacrifices are offered.

There is a statue of Li at Shanghai and he has a temple at Canton. I am told that he could have made himself emperor of China at almost any time during the last twenty-five years of his life, and that even before that General "Chinese" Gordon planned to do this. Gordon had asked Li for the use of his army for a month, and Li had consented, supposing he intended to put down some minor rebellions nearby. He was about to start when Li asked where he was going. General Gordon replied that he was about to march on Peking and proclaim him emperor of China. Li at once countermanded his promise and the plot fell through.

I have had a half dozen interviews with Li Hung Chang during my several visits to Asia. Before I first went to see him in 1888, when he was viceroy of Chihli, I was warned by our consul that it was foolish to try to get a newspaper story. Said the consul:

"You will not have a chance to ask a question. The old viceroy will turn you inside out like a glove. He will ask you about everything under the sun and will keep you talking while he himself says nothing."

Forewarned in this way, I decided to tack a question to my every answer and did so. The plan worked like a charm. Li's brain was a dynamo which could not help throwing out sparks if anything struck it, and as a result my questions gave me three columns of excellent stuff. I pursued the same policy in future conversations and was always successful.

My last interview with Prince Li was at Canton in the year 1900. The conversation covered a wide range, and among other personal questions his excellency asked me how much money I made in my newspaper work. My answer was evasive, but I tacked the question at the end of it, saying: "It is currently reported in the United States that you are the richest man in the world. Our papers say you are worth $100,000,000. I have wondered whether that is true."

The old viceroy laughed and replied: "Most of my riches are in American newspapers. Indeed, I am so poor—here he chuckled—that I think you rich American editors ought to raise a fund for me."

When Li died he left an estate which was actually worth over $12,000,000. He owned pawnshops in almost every city of the empire and he had millions lent out in that way. One-third of his money was in pawnshops. He owned poppy farms and opium factories, although he was avowedly an opponent of the opium evil. He had a great deal of stock in the Hongkong and Shanghai bank and was interested in other banks and in railroad and steamship companies. He was a man of great business ability, and had he been one of our princes of finance he would have led in the money market.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Digging for Radium.

Just how great the value of radium will prove to medicine it is much too soon to guess. It is at all events an extremely potent agent of which much is expected beyond what has already been realized, and that was a notable announcement made Thursday at the American Mining congress that two wealthy philanthropists have provided for a free supply. Dr. James Douglas of New York and Dr. Howard A. Kelly of Johns Hopkins university have provided funds for the purchase of twenty-seven claims in Paradox valley, Colorado, which will be worked by the National Radium institute, the precious metal extracted to be used in the service of humanity. It is a splendid gift.—Springfield Republican.

Get New Vim in Your Nerves

Kellogg's Sanitone Wafers Drive Gloom from Your Brain and Vitalize Every Nerve in Your Body.

50-CENT BOX FREE TO MEN AND WOMEN

Here, at last, is a real nerve vitalizer—greatest joy-bringer of the age. It thrills brain and body with real strength and vitality, making old folks feel young again. It renews ambition and courage when life just drags along, and clears up dull, muddled brains. When your thoughts come hard, your muscles go weak and you feel like "losing your grip," Kellogg's Sanitone Wafers renew your nerve-force and bring back your vigor and vim.

MEN: Men need Kellogg's Sanitone Wafers when they're run down and don't know why. Get your nerves revitalized with Kellogg's Sanitone Wafers and constipation will vanish soon — likewise headaches, neuralgia and many other troubles. Don't waste money on body-medicines or doctors when your nerves are all that's wrong; don't travel, take electric treatments or massage. If your nerves are in bad shape, Kellogg's Wafers are your safe, sure remedy. Get a 50-cent box free; know the real joys of living at your age.

WOMEN: Women need Kellogg's Sanitone Wafers when they break down from nervous worry—"get the blues" over nothing and grow weaker and thinner every day. No woman is wholly womanly when her health and nerves go wrong. If you would be at your best—banish backaches, headaches and sleeplessness—get your nerves "right" with Kellogg's Sanitone Wafers and your life will be all sunshine.

All first-class druggists have Kellogg's Sanitone Wafers in stock, at $1.00 a box, or they will be mailed direct upon receipt of price by F. J. Kellogg, 1994 Hoffmaster Block, Battle Creek, Mich. No free trial boxes from druggists.

A 50-cent trial box of this great discovery will prove that they do the work. They are guaranteed—every wafer. Send coupon below today for free 50c trial box of Kellogg's Sanitone Wafers.

Free Trial Box Coupon

F. J. Kellogg Co., 1994 Hoffmaster Block, Battle Creek, Mich.

Send me by return mail, free of charge, a 50-cent trial box of the wonderful discovery for nerves, Kellogg's Sanitone Wafers. I enclose 6 cents in stamps to help pay postage and packing.

Name .....

Street or R. F. D. .....

City ..... State .....

The regular $1.00 size of Kellogg's Sanitone Wafers are for sale in Omaha by Sherman & McConnell Drug Co., 102 So. 16th St.; Owl Drug Co., 324 S. 16th St.; Beaton Drug Co., 1501 Farnam St.; Loyal Pharmacy, 207 N. 16th St.; Bell Drug Co., 1216 Farnam St.

A Doctor's First Question Is——?

"How are Your Bowels?" A Simple Remedy that Guarantees Good Bowel Action.

Trace the origin of the commoner ills of life and almost invariably you will find that constipation was the cause. It is not to be expected that a mass of fermented food can remain in the system beyond its time without vitiating the blood and affecting the nerves and muscles. It congests the entire body.

The results are colds, fevers, piles, headaches and nervousness, with its accompanying indigestion and sleeplessness. There is only one thing to do, and that is to remove the trouble; and when nature seems unable to do it, outside aid is necessary. You will find the best of all outside aids a remedy that many thousands are now using for this very purpose, called Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. Many hundreds of letters are received by Dr. Caldwell telling of the good results obtained, and among the enthusiastic letters is one from Lieut. G. W. Vaughan, of 623 W. North St., Decatur, Ill. He is 72 and has had a bad liver and stomach since he came out of the army. He says he tried about everything, but never succeeded in getting permanent relief until he took Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. He is never without a bottle in the house, and he is never without good health.

It has untold advantages over pills, salts and the various coarse cathartics that dryness without paying a large sum to a hair specialist. Just make up and use the quinsoin hair tonic I frequently advise and it will put the scalp in a healthy condition and your hair will grow in thick and beautiful. Here is the recipe. Into one-half pint alcohol pour one ounce quinsoin, then to this add one-half pint water. This gives you a full pint of the finest hair tonic, and I know its use will insure a clean, healthy scalp and a wealth of brilliant, fluffy hair.

LIEUT. G. W. VAUGHAN.

and purgatives, for while these do but temporary good, Syrup Pepsin cures permanently. The effect of its action is to train the stomach and bowel muscles to do their work naturally again, and in a short time all forms of medicine can be dispensed with. It can be bought without inconvenience at any nearby drug store for fifty cents and one dollar a bottle, the latter size being regularly bought by those who already know its value. Results are always guaranteed or money will be refunded.

Families wishing to try a free sample bottle can obtain it postpaid by addressing Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 419 Washington St., Monticello, Ill. A postal card with your name and address on it will do.

Health and Beauty Answers

BY MRS. MAE MARTYN

Guinivere: Yes, you can overcome the results of the careless treatment of your hair which has commenced to destroy its natural beauty and cause it to grow dull, "stringy," brittle and fall out. I would just shampoo occasionally by using a teaspoonful canthrox dissolved in a cup hot water. This greatly invigorates the scalp tissues and hair roots and produces a healthy condition in both, insuring a beautiful growth of even-colored, lustrous, fluffy hair. I have found canthrox shampoo is extremely soothing to tender, itchy scalps and allows the hair to dry very quickly.

A. L.: The delatone treatment for hairy growths is quite harmless and rarely is more than one application required. Mix a little powdered delatone with water and apply to the objectional hairs, then after two or three minutes rub it off, and the hairs come with it. Washing the skin leaves it firm and free from blemish.

Darling: Yes, it is true that fat always destroys the beautiful lines of the figure, but if you do as I have before advised in these columns, you can get rid of the fat and your form will be plump and beautifully proportioned. In one and one-half pints hot water dissolve four ounces parnotis. Let this cool, then take one tablespoonful before each meal. This treatment produces no present or future ill effects and gradually dissolves the unnecessary fatty tissues. Try this parnotis treatment and you will never have any reason to feel embarrassed because of your shape.

Pearl: You girls were right when you decided that face powder clogs the pores, even though much is blown off the skin and leaves a spotted effect. You can avoid this annoyance and enjoy a softer, healthier, finer complexion if you apply a spurmax lotion. This is quite inexpensive and is prepared by dissolving four ounces spurmax in one-half pint witch hazel or hot water, to which is added two teaspoonfuls glycerine. The spurmax lotion is invisible when on and requires no further attention. You will find it especially nice to banish summer's freckles and tan and the sallow, unhealthy cast of powder-smothered skin and to give a delightful freshness and youth-tint to your skin.

Johanna: Yes, you have a good reason to feel alarmed about your hair. But you can remove the dandruff and overcome

Lucy: You want to brighten and strengthen your eyes and can easily do so by using this plain crystos eye tonic in which I have great faith because of the good it has done in so many instances, and I am sure if you put two or three drops of it in your sore, aching eye at frequent intervals for a time, the inflammation will disappear. To prepare this inexpensive tonic, dissolve one ounce crystos in a pint of clear water. To dull, lifeless eyes it will lend a youthful sparkle and fascinating expression.

Olive: Yes, I know a sure cure for wrinkles which can be cheaply made at home. I mix one ounce almozoin with one-half pint cold water and two teaspoonfuls of glycerine. Stir and let stand for one day. To remove or prevent wrinkles, apply this vegetable cream-jelly thickly and massage thoroughly. At night leave the face covered with the cream. You will find nothing to equal almozoin jelly-cream to remove wrinkles and keep them away, and it contains no oil or fat which might promote hair growth. You will also notice by its use not only your wrinkles disappearing, but the large pores of the entire face getting much smaller and the skin very soft and velvety.

Dora: For your pimples and redness I am giving the formula for the best blood cleanser I know. It is the best because it acts on the liver and kidneys and if, as you say, you are troubled with severe and constant headaches, it is an indication that your kidneys and blood need attention. To prepare, put one ounce kardene into one-half pint alcohol (whiskey should not be used), then add one-half cupful sugar and hot water to make a full quart. A tablespoonful before meals is the dose. The kardene tonic gently expels poisonous waste from the body and tones up the internal organs so they can do their work well.

Read Mrs. Martyn's book, "Beauty."

E.—Advertisement.

Green Gables

THE DR. BENJ F BAILEY SANATORIUM

Lincoln, Neb.

This institution is the only one in the central west with separate buildings situated in their own ample grounds, yet entirely distinct, and rendering it possible to classify cases. The one building being fitted for and devoted to the treatment of non-contagious and non-mental diseases, no others being admitted; the other Rest Cottage being designed for and devoted to the exclusive treatment of select mental cases requiring for a time watchful care and special nursing.

Try a Little Salts if Kidneys and Bladder Are Troubling You

Salts flushes Kidneys without injury; also neutralizes uric acid, ending Bladder irritation

Kidney and Bladder weakness result from uric acid, says a noted authority. The kidneys filter this acid from the blood and pass it on to the bladder, where it often remains to irritate and inflame, causing a burning, scalding sensation, or setting up an irritation at the neck of the bladder, obliging you to seek relief two or three times during the night. The sufferer is in constant dread, the water passes sometimes with a scalding sensation and is very profuse; again, there is difficulty in avoiding it.

Bladder weakness, most folks call it, because they can't control urination. While it is extremely annoying and sometimes very painful, this is really one of the most simple ailments to overcome. Get about four ounces of Jad Salts from your pharmacist and take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast, continue this for two or three days. This will neutralize the acids in the urine so it no longer is a source of irritation to the bladder and urinary organs which then act normally again.

Jad Salts is inexpensive, harmless, and is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and is used by thousands of folks who are subject to urinary disorders caused by uric acid irritation. Jad Salts is splendid for kidneys and causes no bad effects whatever.

Here you have a pleasant, effervescent lithia water drink, which quickly relieves bladder trouble.—Advertisement.

Help make it a Merry Christmas for everybody by shopping

Early in the season

Early in the week, and

Early in the day

Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway Company