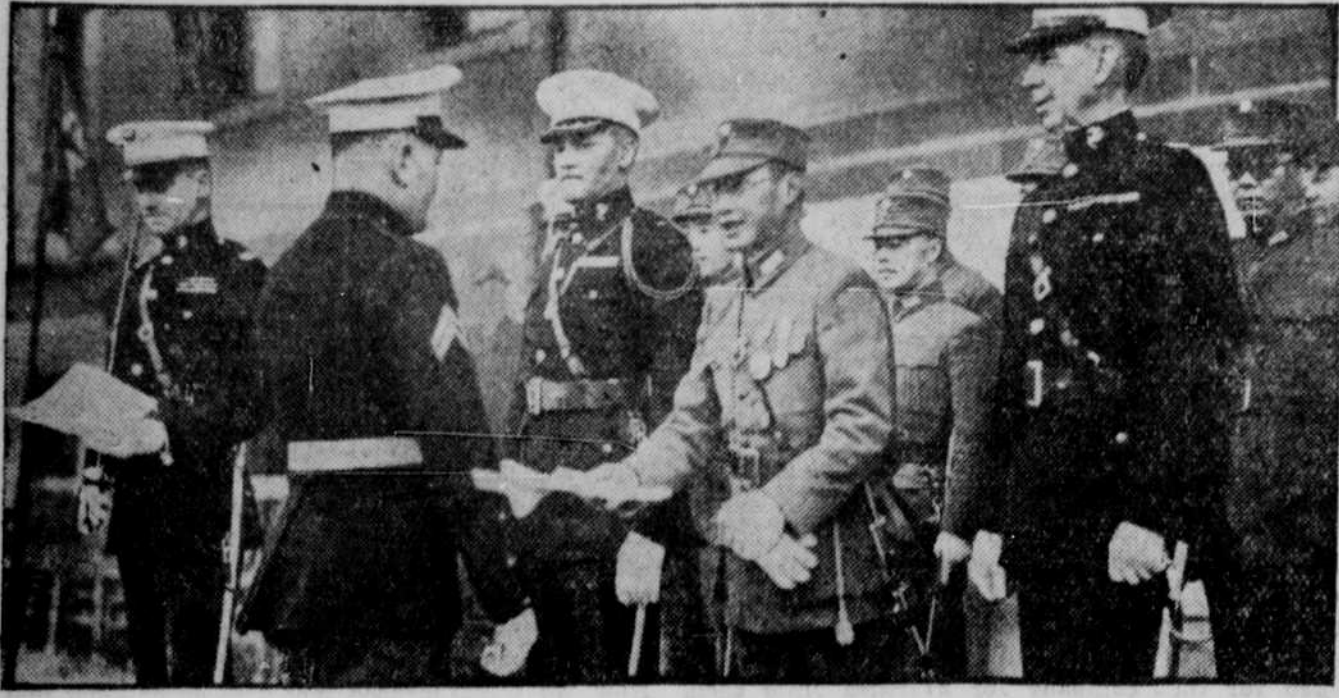


Chinese War Minister Honors Our Marines



For the first time a Chinese minister of war held a review and inspection of United States troops on Chinese soil when Gen. Ho Ying-ching reviewed the marines of the American legation guard in Peiping. He is here seen presenting the first certificate for proficiency in the Chinese language to a marine "graduate" of the school which was started by Col. P. M. Rixey, seen at the right.

Poland Is Growing Aggressive Nation

Taking Its Place in Spotlight of World Affairs.

Washington.—Poland's strategic position between Soviet Russia and militant Germany brings this aggressive European nation more and more into the spotlight of world affairs.

"Twenty years ago the name of Poland could not have been found on any map of Europe," says the National Geographic society. "Today it is the sixth largest nation in Europe, with a steadily increasing population that will soon reach 40,000,000."

"Once before Poland was a great power. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries its territory extended from a point within fifty miles of Berlin to the meridian of the Sea of Azov, and from the Khanate of Crimea nearly to the Gulf of Finland. In those days Warsaw, next to Paris, was the most brilliant city in Europe.

Divided by Powers. "Then came weak rulers and internal dissension that paved the way for Prussian, Russian, and Austrian expansion. In the three disastrous partitions of 1772, 1793, and 1795 these powers divided Poland between them, then legalized the proceedings by the congress of Vienna in 1815.

"The state had ceased to exist, but the people never lost their fierce nationalism. After a century and a half of oppression came the proud day in November, 1918, when Marshal Pilsudski returned to Warsaw to be acclaimed as chief of the new independent Polish state. The treaty of Versailles established the western boundaries of the new nation, and after a serious struggle with Russia, the eastern border was fixed by the Riga treaty of 1921.

"Under Pilsudski's leadership Poland has developed rapidly, despite tremendous handicaps. Long years of fighting had devastated the land. Russia, Prussia, and Austria each left the stamp of its domination, different systems of government, education, and law.

"The Versailles treaty left Poland surrounded by nations jealous of land that had once been theirs. Today peaceful relations have been established, particularly with Germany and Russia. It is significant that the last year these two nations, together with Great Britain, provided the best markets for Polish trade.

"Pilsudski remains the arbiter and hero of his country.

Economic Progress. "Economic progress has kept step with political growth. Devastated areas have been reconstructed. From marshlands to mountains, agriculture has been brought back to pre-war levels. Factories idle or destroyed have been rehabilitated. The currency has been stabilized. Railway mileage has been increased, and a uniform gauge adopted so that rails bind Poland together instead of tearing it apart.

"The Pole, whose horsemanship

Shantytown Finds Times Are Better

Seattle.—Times are better in Hooverville, Seattle's suburban shantytown.

"For sale, 2-room house, 2 bucks," a sign posted at the entrance to Dutch's "realty bureau" proclaims the change.

Not long ago \$2 would have bought nearly all of the dwellings in town. Houses, of tin cans and scrap lumber, are now a little more substantial than when Hooverville was new. Mayor Jesse Jackson has a radio and seven Filipino residents, "automobiles," though they have no gasoline.

Since the city of Seattle forbade building any more shantytowns, construction work has gone to improving those already built.

SEEN and HEARD around the National Capital

By CARTER FIELD

Washington.—A new gold strike in Alaska, old-timers who know that territory insist, is the only thing that will save the pioneers who are now being taken to that distant land by the benevolent government in the hope of giving them a fresh start in life and making them self-supporting.

For the simple truth is that Alaska, while a most interesting part of the world for tourists, is not precisely the sort of Canaan that our forefathers came over in the Mayflower, or earlier with John Smith, were seeking. Nor is it the agricultural paradise that the later pioneers found along the Ohio and Missouri rivers. There is plenty of evidence to support this contention, but it is an old saying that no one, much less any government, is willing to profit by another's experience. The cruel facts have to be discovered afresh for each generation.

Warren G. Harding dreamed the same sort of future for Alaska that the Relief administration envisages for the down and outers it is sending to the frozen North. When a small boy in school, he read about the acquisition of this marvelous territory for only a few million dollars. He had read how more gold than the purchase price had been taken out. Yet there remained marvelous natural resources, coal, lumber, furs, water power without end—and salmon. Not to mention an agricultural domain so rich that its products, put up in glass jars, has played an important part in inducing congress to vote \$50,000,000, in the early Wilson days, for the construction of a railway to open this marvelous territory up to one and all.

The railroad was built, but the expected results did not follow. The population of the territory was actually declining instead of increasing. Harding was told what was the matter. It was that governmental red tape snarled up every effort for advancement. Everything had to be transacted via Washington, which was a long way off, both in miles and time.

Herbert Hoover, then secretary of commerce, was also impressed. He grew fond of the story of the three bears, one variety being under the Department of the Interior, another under Commerce, and the third under Agriculture! He made speeches about the absurdity of it.

What Harding Found

So Harding took the three secretaries to Alaska intending to listen to the various problems and difficulties by day, and sit around the table each night with the three cabinet members involved, snipping away the red tape. Beautiful! But what did he find? That if he cut away this red tape, and the red tape winders went back to the states, Alaska would lose its chief industry—red tape winding! The clerks and officials whose jobs depended on this same red tape would return to "civilization" and the white population of Alaska would be reduced by just that number.

Which is no joke at all when it is considered that the total population along the fifty-million-dollar government railroad, from Seward to Fairbanks—longer than from Washington to Boston, just the distance from San Francisco to Los Angeles—is 6,000, including Eskimos!

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, father of the present incumbent, discovered that the rich agricultural land so much boasted about has a normal rainfall of less than that of eastern Colorado. It would grow good crops the first year after the frozen lands was plowed, and after that would really need irrigation! Secretary Hoover discovered the salmon industry was suffering from too much activity. They were killing off the fish.

Secretary of the Interior Work was distressed to learn that the coal, which had been thought so valuable it had been protected into a naval coal reserve, was of such poor quality and cost so much to get on shipboard, that down through the panhandle, including Juneau and Sitka, they bought coal from British Columbia instead!

All discovered that the boys who had gone to war from Alaska did not come back. They stopped off somewhere in the states where opportunities looked better. So let us hope for the sake of those now pilgrimaging toward Skagway that a new gold field is discovered!

New Commerce Head

Despite the fact that the Chamber of Commerce of the United States has picked a new president who happens to be a very close personal friend of President Roosevelt—a classmate at Harvard, both of old upstate New York families, and all that sort of thing—prospects remain that the chamber will continue to have just as little influence in Washington as it has since Hoover left the White House.

If anyone could be calculated to "get somewhere" with the White House, it would be Harper Sibley. In the first place, the personal relation of the two families is so close that Mrs. Roosevelt, who stopped in Rochester with Mrs. Caroline O'Day

last fall, stayed at the Sibley home. In the second, Mr. Sibley's economic views are by no means as far removed from those of the President as the news dispatches about the chamber's meeting would have one believe. A very close friend of many years' standing tells the writer that he is one of those rich men who regard the rich as being "trustees," not "holders" of wealth! Which sounds very New Dealist, indeed.

There is another angle, however, on which his fellow members of the chamber, in picking him for president, relied, rather than on their misinformation about his economic views. This is his ability to work out a compromise, and to induce those with whom he is working to co-ordinate. He is said by those associated with him, either in his lines of business, charitable or church interests, to be marvelously persuasive, though no one claims that he is an orator.

But the whole picture is wrong—meaning the picture viewed by those who think that Mr. Sibley is going to be able to steer the President tactfully away from the New Dealers and brain trusters, and back into safe and sane economic channels. President Roosevelt is just not that kind of person, and there is no club, whatever, in Mr. Sibley's hands which rouses any fear, whatever, in political minds.

Can't Scare 'Em

It is not possible for an organization like the Chamber of Commerce of the United States to frighten politicians. It is a collection of very potent figures, in business, but their potency is too diffuse, too scattered, spread out too thin, to bother men running for the house or senate. Or even for President.

Two accomplishments very dear to business hearts have been put over in the last few months, but the machinery that accomplished it was not the chamber, nor any other huge aggregation of widely diversified and spread out business interests.

One of these was repeal of the pink slip publicity for income tax returns. This was done by two agencies, working independently. One stirred up the newspaper editors of America. Practically all of them began writing editorials against income tax publicity, many of the editorials advising people to write to their senators and representatives. Later they carried extensive stories about the effect of letters and telegrams on congress, which naturally provoked more.

The other was the Pitcairn organization, which circulated repeal slips, and worked up the people to write to Washington. It was this resulting avalanche of letters which did the trick.

Then there was the modification of the public utility holding company legislation. This was made possible, despite the power of the President on Capitol Hill, by the utilities inducing their stockholders to write to their senators and representatives. Most of the legislators were amazed to find how many utility stockholders were among their constituents. And when they saw these stockholders were watching the legislation, the picture changed.

Bailey's Big Fight

Two generations ago Arthur Pue Gorman, senator from Maryland, won undying fame, and nearly attained the Presidency by conducting a filibuster which killed the famous so-called Force bill.

Today North Carolina's senator, Josiah Bailey, is conducting a fight just as dear to southern hearts—the battle against the anti-lynching bill.

The cleavage is along practically the same lines—almost strictly geographical. The chief difference is that in those days northern Democrats and western Democrats—though there were mighty few of them in office—stood shoulder to shoulder with the southern wing of the party. Today the bill so obnoxious to southerners is actually sponsored by a New York Democrat, Senator Robert F. Wagner. Both Kentucky senators are voting with its advocates. (Kentucky has a lot of negroes voting!)

Maryland, though its percentage of negroes voting is as great as that of Kentucky, stands firm by the Gorman tradition. There is a reason, too. Remember what happened to Governor Ritchie?

Boosters of the anti-lynching bill insist the spirit is entirely different from that of the bill talked to death under Gorman's filibuster, despite heroic attempts to force it through by Henry Cabot Lodge. They say anyone who opposes the bill condones lynching. Southerners point to the statistics, which prove that lynchings have decreased amazingly, and ask why the federal government should trample state rights to intervene in a situation which is fast correcting itself.

The object of the present anti-lynching bill is to prevent mobs interfering in the administration of justice—avowedly. Actually its chief purpose is to curry favor with negro voters in the northern, western and border states of those fighting for the bill. It is as purely a local interest bill as a tariff measure, liked in communities where products are protected, hated in communities which as a result may have to pay higher prices.

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Swedish Castles



Vadstena Castle on Lake Vattern.

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

SWEDEN is still a land of castles, although the owners of many large estates have felt the effect of world depression and have been forced to curtail sharply their livag expenses. Yet "modern housing" has made few inroads, except in the large cities; and the country gentleman, as a rule, adheres closely to quaint traditions of homeliness inherited from their ancestors.

It is not so easy to know the Swedes well, especially the dwellers in the country, who for the most part stay at home on their property. Foreigners are often led to think that they are stiff and reserved, sometimes a little sullen or even haughty. But this should be interpreted rather as a sign of their northern shyness.

They are in reality full of fun and of warm feeling; but when it is a question of showing the latter, their shrinking from impulsive gestures and emotional or grandiloquent language is both comic and touching.

Certainly the fetters are loosened somewhat when they are in a festive mood and have drunk a little wine. But it is not then that one gets closest to them. To know and value them fully, one must observe them within their own four walls, in their daily life and activities. Only in intimacy, free from alien, disturbing elements, does their charming individuality come to full flowering. Swedish home life is a cult and a culture unlike anything else, the product of centuries of tender polishing and refining. And nowhere has it attained such perfection as in the old country houses.

There still were families which can maintain to some degree their former luxurious standard of living. Some had the good fortune or the prudence not to invest their fortunes in the securities which had later been affected by the crisis and the Kreuger crash. Others had all their land leased on old and profitable contracts, so long as the tenants could keep up their payments. But these were comparatively few and privileged exceptions.

Big Landowners Suffer.

If the situation is serious for nearly everyone nowadays, it is often catastrophic for the great landowners and territorial magnates. Not a month passes but some of them have to leave home and property.

And where they stick to their old estates despite all their difficulties, they often do so less for their own sake, but more in order not to abandon their retainers to unemployment. In the case of entailed estates there are of course no bankruptcies and forced sales, but it is not much more pleasant to be placed under the management of banks and creditors.

For Swedish agriculture can no longer pay its way. There is the same conflict between agriculture and industry as in most other countries; and it looks as if the former were getting the worst of it.

A series of relief schemes has been started to try to aid agriculture in Sweden, as elsewhere. But there has been no visible result so far. An intensive educational campaign has been set on foot: state advisers and controllers have been provided for every branch of forestry and agriculture.

An active agitation is carried on for "buying Swedish" and for burning Swedish wood in the heating apparatus of public institutions to reduce the importation of coal.

Most of the medieval castles in Sweden are situated on heights surrounded by water or otherwise inaccessible places. Such placement, needless to say, was not due to any considerations for natural beauty, but because it afforded the most advantageous defense.

For these strong stone houses has developed direct from the prehistoric fortifications whose foundations are still found here and there.

Fortresses Made Into Dwellings.

When Sweden, in the sixteenth century, ceased to be disturbed by civil war, the gloomy and inhospitable fortresses were gradually converted into dwelling houses. As time passed these grew more and more comfortable, and esthetic considerations became more decisive. Many of the most beautiful castles in Sweden date from this interesting transition period. From the beginning of the seventeenth century

Sweden was a great power, and remained one till Charles XII's unlucky campaigns impoverished the country and put an end to its domination in the Baltic.

Among the medieval Swedish castles touching the early Renaissance style, Skarhult, Vittskovle, and Torup are the most characteristic and best preserved. They are in Skane, and were rebuilt in the sixteenth century.

Vittskovle and Torup are laid out on a similar plan, with four wings round a courtyard, towers at diagonally opposite corners, stepped gables and firing passages; and both were surrounded for defense purposes by moats, over which drawbridges were lowered in olden times.

At Torup these moats have been filled since the eighteenth century along two of the facades, and replaced by gardens laid out in the old style, with sculptures, rose pergolas, and box hedges. But the charmingly weathered brick walls are still reflected in quiet waters, among water lilies and proud swans.

The courtyard at Torup, with its Gothic cloister and pointed arches, is one of the most remarkable in the country from the standpoint of art and history. A stone tablet is set into the wall over its gateway. Its Latin inscription is dated 1632 and was composed by the owner of the property at that time, Stigvard Grubbe, a scholar and a friend of the king. He calls upon his successors, "whoever they may be," to do all in their power, as he did, to preserve and beautify the ancient building they have inherited.

Baroness Coyet's Estate.

Probably none of them has been better equipped to carry out this injunction than its present owner, Baroness Henriette Coyet. On terms of close friendship with most members of the royal family, she loves to surround herself with eminent personalities in various branches of art and science, and she is a comprehending friend to them.

Nobel prize winners and other foreign celebrities are received at Torup when they visit Sweden. The Swedes in general, the people of Skane in particular, have felt themselves secure in the knowledge that no one could represent them more worthily than this lively, highly cultured lady.

Of course, so energetic a person does not content herself merely with social life and the management of her great house. Her keenness for the promotion of local home industry and the preservation of local treasures has benefited the whole province. The same may be said of her experience and taste in all that concerns gardening and the cultivation of flowers. The extensive park of Torup, surrounded by luxuriant beach woods, the different beds, with old-fashioned roses and herb gardens, are favorite goals of specialists and laymen for purposes of study.

Fine Country Houses.

Big country houses lie all along the seacoasts of southern Sweden, and still thicker in Vastergotland, so rich in ancient memorials, south of Lake Vanern. On the northern side of the lake is Varmland, whose old family legends and traditions have been made known far outside the boundaries of Sweden by Selma Lagerlof's poetical descriptions.

But most of the great country houses of central Sweden, and the finest, are to be found in the provinces which abut on long Lake Malaren, at whose exit to the sea Stockholm lies.

It was there especially that the primeval people of Svea lived; thence sprang Rurik, who laid the foundations of Russia, and the Vikings who ravaged the Mediterranean coasts; and it was there that Christianity was first introduced into Sweden.

Foundations and a few massive stone houses still survive from this long-vanished time, and in certain cases the same family has lived on the same property for three or four centuries. There are estates, which, for 500, or even 600 years, have been handed down from one generation to another without ever being sold, though these, of course, are rare exceptions.

Many lie far from the towns, so that none of the modern thirst for superficial, exciting pleasures has yet found its way to them; that is why the old Swedish traditions in all classes of society are more firmly rooted there than anywhere else.