

Tientsin, the New York of North China, and the New Chinese Growth



DR. YAMEI KIN, HEAD OF CHINA'S FIRST MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR WOMEN.

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TIENTSIN, 1909.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—The awakening of China! I am in the midst of it here in Tientsin. The Yellow Giant has his almond eyes open. Yes, he has sprung from his bed and is fast drawing on the clothes of our civilization. The ruts and filth of the old city are disappearing and macadamized roads, electric trolleys and iron bridges are taking their places. The old wall, forty feet high and twenty feet wide, gray with age, has been torn down, and a broad avenue, as smooth as the drive in Rock Creek Park in Washington, now runs around the great city. There is a car line upon it, and its motormen have driven the passenger wheelbarrow coolies quite out of business.

The tearing down of that wall was one of the ride blows which made Tientsin rouse up and take notice. It was done by the foreign troops at the time of the Boxer rebellion, and that notwithstanding the protests and prayers of the natives. The Chinese became greatly excited and said that destroying the walls would ruin their city. "A town without walls," said they, "is like a woman without a kootau—that is, without pantaloons. It is disgraceful and it cannot succeed."

Nevertheless, the powers took the penalty of Tientsin, and since then the old municipal lady has been trotting along at telegraphic speed. The macadamized road on the site of the walls has been copied all over the place, and there are clean streets everywhere. The city has grown far beyond the old walls and a great new town has sprung up, with factories and foundries and modern schools of every description. The Chinese nabobs have built magnificent residences, some of which are of two or three stories, and they now ride about in their carriages with coachmen and footmen in liveries.



UNCLE SAM'S NEW DEATH DEALER.



STREET SCENE IN THE BRITISH CONCESSION, TIENTSIN.

every one of these powers has its own little city here on the banks of the Pei-Ho. Each concession has its police, its consular court, its town hall and its own troops. One sees companies of Japanese, German and French soldiers marching here and there through the streets. The British have a regiment of Highlanders who show their bare knees and flit their short skirts in the faces of the natives, and Russian Cossacks, with great fur caps, gallop through the city on horseback.

There are altogether ten different settlements in the combined city, so that one may visit a half dozen nations in the Jirikisha ride of a morning. These foreign concessions have magnificent buildings, many of which would be considered fine in London or Paris. The hotel structures in which I am stopping would be good in New York or Chicago, and there is an English clubhouse adjoining it which must have cost several hundred thousand dollars to build. There are magnificent bank buildings here, representing millions of dollars of capital, and there are stores with plate glass windows filled with all sorts of European and American goods.

Big Traffic Center. Tientsin is the New York of North China. It is the chief port for the Great Plain and the thickly settled regions north and west of Peking. Tributary to it is a population of 100,000,000, or more than all the people of the United States, and its connection with this vast mass of consumers is rapidly being opened up by railroad. I came here from Manchuria on the Imperial Chinese railway, going through the great Chinese wall at Shan-hai-kwan, and I shall go in a comfortable train on to Peking. A road from there is now building which takes one northward through the great wall to Kalgan, Mongolia, and which will eventually be connected with the Trans-siberian railroad. Another road has been projected from here south through the most thickly populated parts of China down to the Yangtze, and in time Tientsin will have tracks radiating from her as our roads do from Chicago. This city has now perhaps a million people. What it will have in the future I dare not predict.

British Home Comforts. In the British concession where I live is a large public park where the military bands give open-air concerts, and it has also golf grounds, tennis courts and parks for foot ball and cricket. Tonight the club is giving a dance, and by turning off the electric light in my room I can see the bare necks and short sleeves of the Tientsin foreign ladies who are whirling about in the arms of their partners over the way. The American settlement has a public school for its boys and girls and also a swimming bath. The French concession has a cathedral, a town hall and a park, and the Russians are building up a city over the river, the stores of which are marked with Greek signs. One of the largest of these foreign cities belongs to the Japanese, and is several miles in circumference, and is being rapidly covered with substantial brick buildings, all put up since the Boxer rebellion. There are many Japanese merchants who have come here to engage in trade with the Chinese, and there are some large importing firms with Japanese capital. The Germans have a fine concession, including a magnificent building just erected for the German Asiatic bank. They have a club called the Concordia.

Educational Associations. Tientsin has a large number of educational associations. In the province of Chihli there are 120, and in addition thirty local boards of education. The city has an educational museum, in which the methods of teaching and all school appliances of the various foreign countries are shown. These are classified according to schools, as well as to subjects. When a

teacher, chosen for a certain school, asks about the books and character of teaching required, she is referred to the educational museum and she spends some time there in preparation. Near this there is a commercial museum and also an industrial museum which are largely used by both teachers and pupils.

Military Education. Tientsin has long had its military academies; and it has today large schools for training soldiers. There were army and naval academies here before the Japan-China war. They were organized by Li Hung Chang while he was viceroy. Li had already seen the need of a reorganization of the Chinese army, a need which he came to appreciate more and more during the China-Japan war and the Boxer rebellion. In the first he lost his yellow jacket, and the strain of the second was so great that he died soon after.

After Li left the viceroyalty other progressive officers were appointed for Chihli, and among them was Yuan Shih Kai, who acted as such until a short time ago. Yuan Shih Kai was the author of the most progressive of the new institutions of Tientsin, and under him not only the military but every form of education has been pushed. Today there are a medical college for the education of surgeons for the army and schools for the training of officers for the army and navy. More than this, military officials are assigned to drill the boys in all the schools and academies, and Young China now learns to handle the musket before he has reached his teens. The boys drill in uniform, they are taught modern military tactics and are exercised every day.

Girls' Schools. I find many girls' schools here in Tientsin. Woman's education has never been encouraged by the Chinese, and today almost no Chinese girls, taking the vast population into consideration are going to school. In the new schools of the province of Chihli there are ninety-nine boys to every girl receiving instruction. Girls' schools, however, are being started, and the center of the movement is here. I understand that about 10 per cent of the Tientsin school children are now girls and that their schools embrace all grades from the kindergarten to the high school. There are also normal schools where Chinese girls are being trained for teaching the primary schools, and there

is a school of domestic economy, where they learn cooking, sewing and house-keeping.

Medical College for Women. The only medical college for women in China is in Tientsin. It was established by Yuan Shih Kai, and is supported out of the salt revenue. Salt is a government monopoly and one of the chief sources from which the government funds come. This medical school is an academy rather than a college. It is to train women to act as teachers in medical schools which are to be established, to fit girls as matrons for the new hospitals and as aids in the new sanitary work which is to be carried on throughout the empire.

The head of the college is Dr. Yamei Kin, a Chinese woman of twenty-five or thirty years, who was educated in the United States. She spent a part of her life in Washington, and came here with Roosevelt. Dr. Yamei Kin is a graduate of the medical college of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children, the educational part of which institution has since been merged into the medical college of Cornell university. She speaks English fluently, and I had a most interesting talk with her today concerning the school and its possibilities.

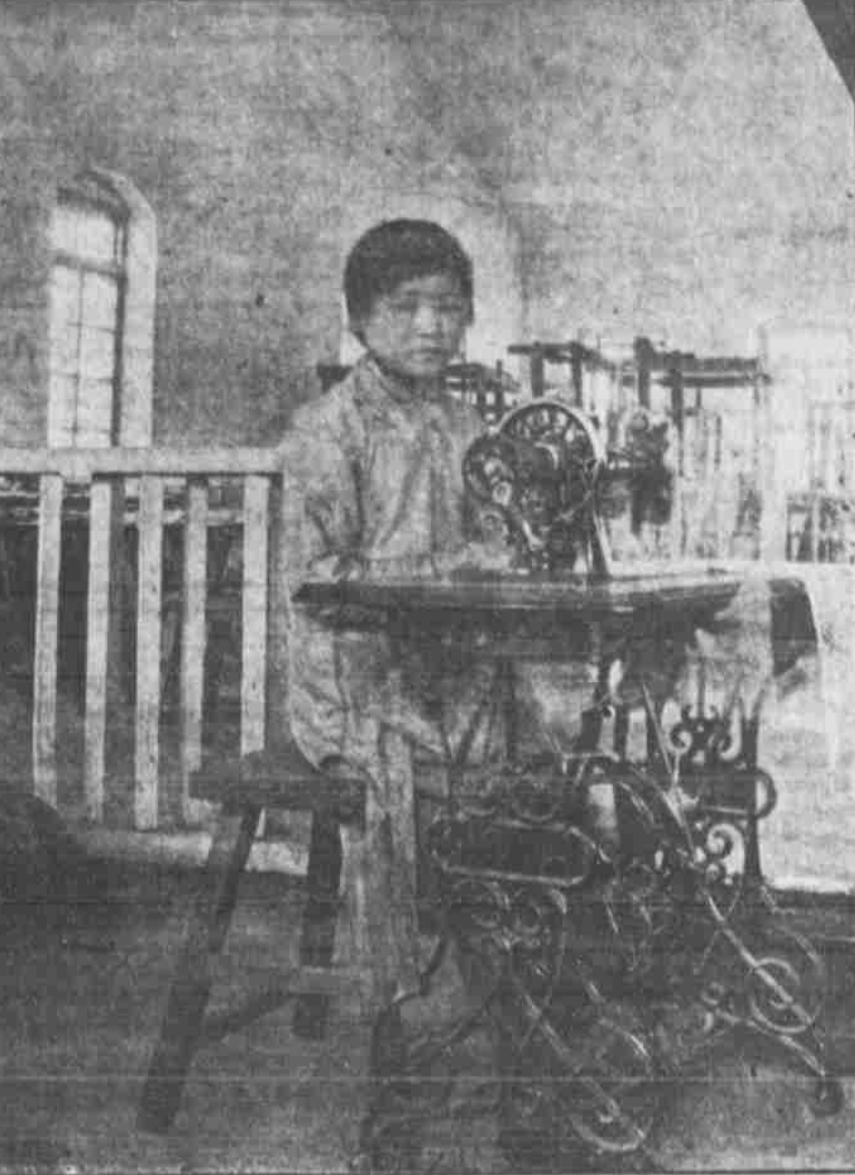
It was in company with Mr. Williams, our consul general to Tientsin, that I called. We found the school in the old Chinese city, on a street so narrow that we were crowded to the wall by the carts and Jirikishas as we made our way in. Entering a low door, we came into a compound filled with many one-story buildings of Chinese architecture. The roofs were the shape of a bow, and they overhung brick walls, in which were lattice-work windows, backed with white paper. They seemed old, and upon

inquiry, I found that they had been used for more than one hundred and sixty years as a Chinese orphan asylum. The asylum was founded by an emperor who reigned more than thirty years before our Declaration of Independence was signed and the institution has been kept up with money furnished by the Chinese government from then until now. Dr. Kin tells me that there are still one hundred and eighty girls in it, and that it admits about one hundred orphans per year.



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Women Doctors for the Chinese. During our stay Dr. Kin took us over the institution, saying that the orphan asylum had been moved to buildings on the opposite side of the river, and that these buildings were to be devoted from now on to her school. There are enough of them to accommodate hundreds of pupils, although, so far, only twenty-five have been admitted. Said Dr. Yamei Kin:

"Women doctors are greatly needed in China. Our customs are such that it is not proper to call in men to attend women, and in most of our cities there are neither female doctors nor trained nurses. The few Chinese women who have received medical education abroad have all and more than they can do. Those trained in the mission schools are largely employed in the mission hospitals, and it is almost impossible for us to get Chinese women teachers for this instruction. As it is now, we do not claim to be a college. We are, rather, a medical academy, and we give such an education as is common in England and America for district visiting nurses. The institution is supported by the government and the tuition is entirely free. Our students will enter the government service as soon as they graduate, and they will work for the government for a fixed number of years. For this they will receive salaries, and afterwards, if they wish to practice as physicians, they will always have more than they can do."

Professor for Widows. I asked Dr. Kin from what classes of society her students came. She replied: "From every grade of Chinese society. We have the daughters of merchants, and also of some high officials. One of our students is a slave girl. We have many widows, and I look for medicine to become a favorite profession with such women in the future. The condition of the Chinese widow is not as bad as that of the widow of India, but it is often unhappy. She must live with her parents-in-law, and if they are not kind she may be a drudge or a slave. Some of our widows are very young, and some have families at home. With a medical education they can earn their own living."

As we visited the classrooms I saw a Chinese professor teaching the anatomy of the brain, with a human skull on his table, and was shown a white skeleton in a case at the back of the room. I happened to glance at the feet of the students, and remarked that they were unbound. The doctor replied: "None of our girls are allowed to compress her feet. They take their bandages off when they are admitted, and are rejoiced at their freedom. Many of the more advanced of them have never bound up their feet, and I believe that this will be the case with all Chinese girls in the not far distant future."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

New Army Rapid Fire Gun Sows Sudden Death Over Wide Range

THE introduction of rapid fire machine guns into the regular field equipment of the United States army is not a new departure, but recent orders have made a squad of men and mules and a gun a part of every battalion of infantry. Before this, the use of the quick firers was rather in the nature of experiment. Now there is no more doubt as to their value and they will be considered necessary. The Third battalion of the Sixteenth Infantry, stationed at Fort Crook, has one of these new guns, and during practice early in the summer at the Ashland rifle range encampment tried it in action.



UNCLE SAM'S NEW DEATH DEALER.

Lieutenant O. E. Michaels was in command, and under him had three non-commissioned officers and eighteen men. The gun outfit is carried by ten mules. The best mule in the squadron is a white one named "Pete," whose ability to gallop at a break-neck speed while loaded with a pack of machinery is famous. The outfit the mules carry consists of the gun, a loading machine and tools for keeping it in order, and water to cool the barrel, all of which is piled on the back of "Pete." On the other nine are water, spades and trenching tools and 16,000 pounds of ammunition. Sixteen thousand rounds of ammunition would last the machine gun just thirteen and one-third minutes if it could



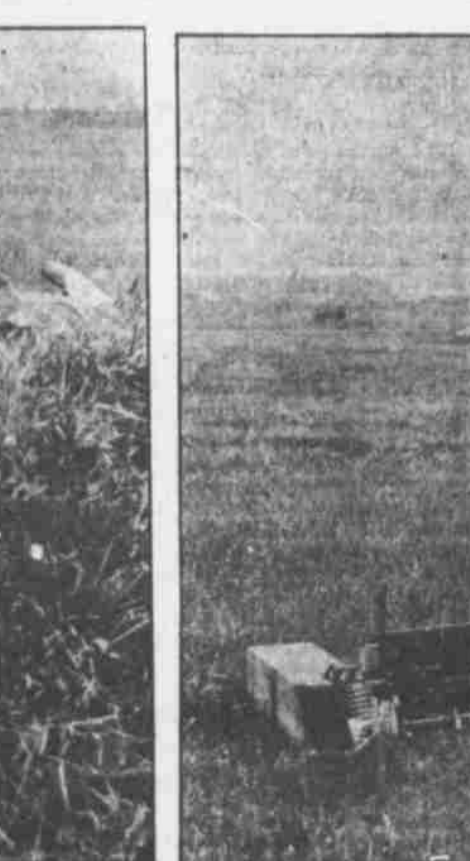
READ FOR ACTION.

be fed into it that fast. The eighteen men include one man to care for each mule and eight who do the trenching and man the gun. They are armed only with pistols, on the theory that with small arms they will not be tempted to abandon the machine and look out for themselves, when action is brisk and the enemy's fire is being directed at their particular vicinity. The enemy's fire, however, is not likely to hold out against them very long, unless they are opposed by another similar piece of artillery, since in actual work their single gun can throw 200 bullets in twenty-six seconds, which would make a good many holes in a company of men who stood up against it. The shooting even at this rapid rate can be done with considerable accuracy. In a recent test by the Third battalion squad, the gunner was able to rake a row of life-sized silhouettes five yards apart close enough to make seventy-four hits out of one loading of 200 cartridges. As the figures were lying and kneeling and the distance was 1,500 yards, or more than a mile, the showing is considered very good. The training of the men in the handling of the gun is largely a matter of speed. With Pete in the best of condition, the squad can start, with the mule packed, run to the firing point, 100 yards away, unpack the gun and put it together, dig a trench deep enough to shelter it and the



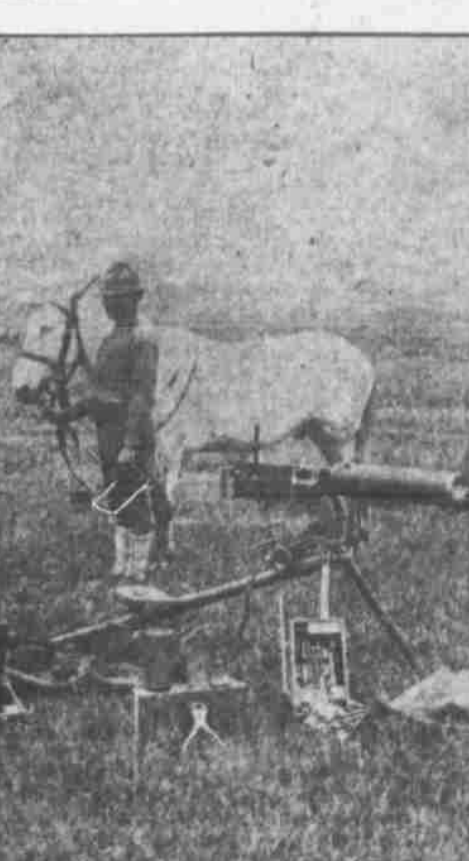
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gunner and commence firing in the space of fifty seconds. This would be impossible, of course, if the gun were not made in such a way as to be very easily put together. The gun itself consists of a barrel about six inches in diameter and three feet long, set upon a metal tripod. On this tripod is a seat for the gunner, who can hold his position at the breach while the discharge is being made. The caliber of the gun is the same as that of the ordinary army rifle, but the actual barrel is encased in a jacket of water to keep it cool. This water jacket has to be refilled frequently and water is always carried as a part of the outfit, so that a hotbox will not incapacitate the gun. The sighting apparatus is at one side and the sights and range finders are even more complicated than they are on the ordinary rifle. Two miles is the farthest distance at which the gun is useful, but by means of the apparatus accurate aim may be taken at life-size figures that far away. The range finders used for this long distance work are separate machines and are carried in a different pack from the gun, along with the signal flags and water boxes. The cartridges are fed into the gun by a canvas belt which runs through a groove behind the barrel and 200 rounds are carried in a belt. When the end of



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the canvas strip is fitted into the groove the gunner sights the gun, holds down the trigger and does his best to stick to the seat while 1,500 deaths a minute are being sent out at the other end of his machine. It is not difficult to see that the speed of the gun while actually firing would not count for much unless it could be rapidly loaded and for this purpose there is a belt filling machine which is in itself an ingenious contrivance. The cartridges are fitted into a brass slide, which lets them drop down one by one in front of a rod moving back and forth like a piston. The spaces in the belt are opened by a little metal strip that is pushed in flat and then turned so that it comes out in such a way as to extend the holes in the belt and the cartridge is pushed in from the other side as it is being pulled out. This machine is run by hand, but it can fill a belt in a very few minutes. When the belt is in the gun the force of the recoil from each explosion is utilized in such a way that the belt is pulled along one notch further, the empty shell ejected and the firing pin drawn back for another shot. This takes place about twenty times a second when the gun is working at its maximum speed. These machine guns have been in the service only three years and have never had a chance to be used in actual warfare, but the tents have all been very favorable and the men are proud of their evident fighting power.



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Had Cause for Complaint. A big, able bodied man of about middle age shuffled into the poor law guardian's office and curtsy bade the clerk good morning. "Wot d'yer mean," he began, "by knockin' off poor Widdler Snagg's parish pay? She's a 'onest, 'ard workin' woman, whose nose is in the washtub all day, an' it's a wicked shame to rob 'er of 'er lawful rights." The clerk took down a big ledger and silently consulted it.



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PETE AND THE GUN PACK HE CARRIES.