

Yellow Giant Awakens at Last to the Use of His Enormous Strength

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WUCHANG, 1911.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—The biggest army of the world has now its beginning in this fast awakening empire of China. It already numbers 150,000 trained soldiers. Two years from now it will have 400,000 and within twenty-five years, if it goes ahead as did that of Japan, it will have 1,000,000 on a peace footing and 10,000,000 in times of war.

Such an army is not a dream of the opium pipe. It is a live possibility, and it seems less improbable than did the present army of Japan twenty-five years ago. The Japanese army began its creation in 1852. On a peace footing it now numbers 300,000, and its war strength is close to a million. Today, one Japanese in every eighty is serving as a soldier, and at a pinch one in every forty can be thrown into the field. China is already in advance of the Japan of a quarter of a century ago. Her soldiers are now being trained by the best of foreign military talent. They are armed with modern weapons and their organization is on the lines which have brought up the army of Japan.

The military system of Japan came from Germany. That of China is the same, with Japanese improvements. Let us contrast the China of the future with the Germany of the present. The Germans keep 1 per cent of their whole 60,000,000 under arms, and in times of war they could put 5 per cent of them into the field. Their peace army is 600,000 and their war strength more than 3,000,000. In the same ratio China, with its 400,000,000, will keep 4,000,000 soldiers in time of peace and will be able to muster 20,000,000 in times of war. I repeat: These are not visions. The yellow giant is already in the gymnasium. He is swinging dumbbells and Indian clubs under the best of modern physical directors. He is out on the drill ground practicing the goose step and learning to shoot.

China's New Army.

I had a long chat last night with a high military authority who is stationed in Peking. He is a trained officer of one of the great European powers, who has been sent here to investigate what China is doing. It is his business to keep track of the military forces of the empire, to visit them in their camps and attend their maneuvers. He has just returned from sham battles between two of the armies on the Yang-Tse-Kiang, and is full of the changes which are going on in military matters all over this empire. Said he:

"The growth of China's army is fast becoming a serious problem, and it is one which is bound to trouble the world in the future. You can have no idea of the situation without going from province to province. The central government has ordered each viceroy or governor to create one or more army divisions. In addition, one has been assigned to Manchuria and another to Chinese Turkestan. The reorganization is going on after a scheme laid down by Yuan Shih Kai and others in 1904. Yuan might be called the father of the new army. His scheme started in with 60,000 men. In 1905 over 100,000 were drilling, and the enroll-

ment will soon be double that number. It already comprises twelve divisions of more than 12,000 each, and it will eventually be increased to thirty-six divisions, or about 420,000. This number should be under arms by the end of 1911. It will be divided into two armies; one of the north and one of the south."

Chinese Division.

"What is the character of China's new army?" I asked.

"Practically the same as that of the army of Japan. The troops have Japanese military text books, and they use the same physical exercises, the same sanitary methods and the same drill. As to the divisions, they are constituted in the same way. Each has four regiments of infantry, one of cavalry and one of artillery. In addition each division has a battalion of engineers and transport troops, a balloon and telegraph section, as well as a company devoted to sanitary work. It numbers all told 12,312 men, including officers, soldiers, clerks, employes and servants of all kinds."

"Are such divisions already organized in all of the provinces?"

"No. But they have been begun in every province and they are actually in operation in about three-fourths of them. Some provinces, such as Chihli and Szechwan, have three divisions of armies of 25,000 men each, while others, such as Honan, Shanai and Chichiang, have only one."

New Officers.

I asked here as to the training of the troops, and the military expert replied:

"The most of the drilling is done by Chinese who have been educated abroad, although a few of the viceroys and governors have Japanese or German officers in their employ. However, foreigners are used chiefly in the military schools, the actual details of organization being carried out by the Chinese themselves. This country has now many graduates of foreign military academies, and it is anxiously sending more and more army students abroad. There are thirty Chinese studying in such schools in France, six in Germany, two in England and two at West Point. Many are being educated in Japan, and there are several thousand graduates now in the service. The young Chinese began to go abroad for military instruction as soon as the Boxer troubles were over. The majority of them went to Japan, choosing that country for several reasons. One was the forbearance and kindness of the Japanese troops during the rebellion, and another Japan's proximity to China. The fact that education there costs less was a great inducement, as was also the Japanese language, which is so allied to the Chinese that these people learn it more easily than any other. It is for this reason that they have adopted Japanese text books, which are now being translated into Chinese."

China's Military Schools.

"Tell me something about China's military schools."

"They are now to be found in every province and in every large city. The government scheme provides for a provincial military school at the capital of each province and an academy at every one of the larger cities. The provincial schools might be called the primary military schools and the academies the secondary or high schools. In addition there is to be a military university, or war college at Peking."

"These schools are first-class, and are run along modern lines," the expert went on. "I visited one the other day at Hankow, about 900 miles from the sea up the Yangtze river. The school there has 1,000 students, and buildings have been put up to accommodate 2,000. The pupils are bright young soldiers, detailed by the regimental commanders of the forces at Hankow. They range in age from 15 to 24, and enter the school for a course of three years. They are actual soldiers who live in the barracks and who go through their regular drill, although they put in several hours every day in the school. They are the



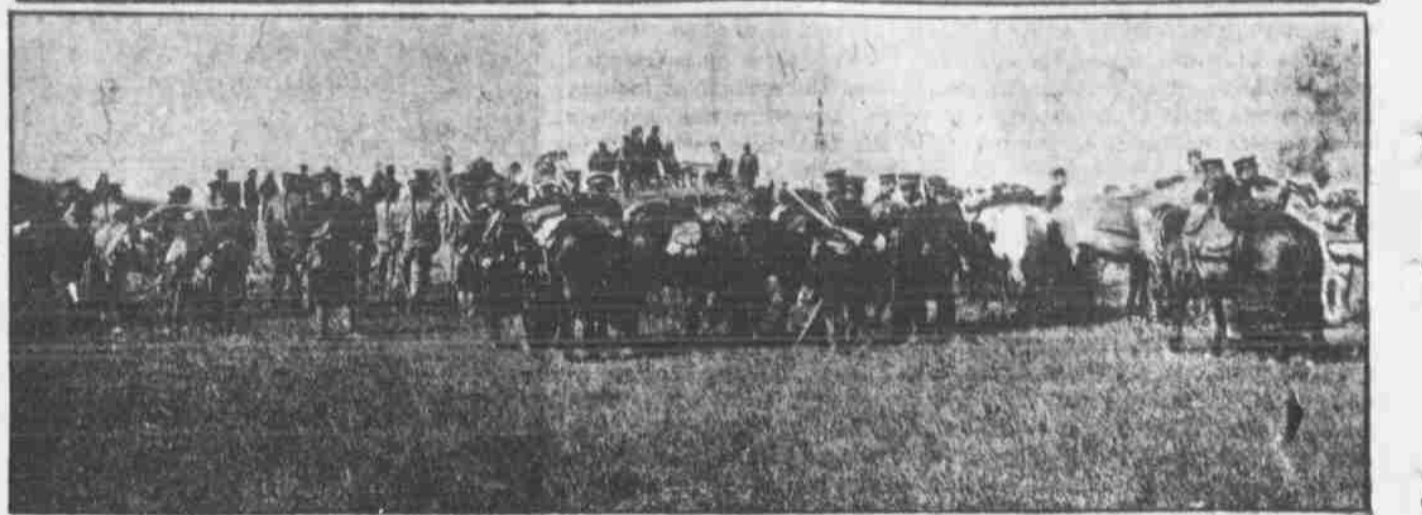
YUAN SHIH KAI, Father of China's New Army.

lightest young men of that army and are being educated to become the officers of the future. Those who rank highest will be given the best places and put in command, while the others will teach in primary military schools. When the academies are started the best of the graduates will be admitted there, and they will not be appointed as officers until they have gone through them. The present scheme contemplates four of such military academies. They will correspond to West Point and will probably be located at the chief cities of Chihli, Hupeh, Kiangsu and Shenai."

Great War College at Peking.

"How about the military university?"

"That will be at Peking. It will be modeled on the same plans as your new War College in Washington, and will give the highest class of instruction. It will deal with military problems of all kinds



PART OF CHINA'S FUTURE ARMY OF TWENTY MILLIONS. NEW CHINESE CAVALRY IN THE FIELD. CAMP AT THE RECENT YANGTSE MANEUVERS.

and of army organization on the broadest scale. The buildings have already been constructed. They are connected with the Department of War and cover several acres. The War college and the War Department together have about the largest modern buildings erected since the Boxer rebellion.

"In addition to these military schools," continued the colonel, "every one of the new public schools in all parts of the empire is drilling its students. The government requires that the boys have uniforms and that they be taught military tactics. The little 8-year-olds and 10-year-olds are put through their military evolutions on certain days every week, and all practice athletics and physical training. In some schools this training is superintended by officers detailed from the garrisons nearby, and in others by Chinese teachers educated in the military schools at home and abroad. In this way every Chinese schoolboy is being fitted to enter the army and a vast amount of excellent material is in process of creation."

Soldiers Becoming Respected.

"Has any change taken place in the opinion of the Chinese as regards the military profession?"

"Yes. A great change. Until now the soldier has belonged to the lowest class of society. The celestials have always held four grades of respectability. At the top are the scholars who have studied or passed the examinations. To this class largely belong the officials, and teachers and writers of every kind. The second highest class embraces all who have to do with tilling the soil; the farmers and gardeners. After them come the mechanics, and still further down the scale the merchants and tradesmen, with the

lowest of all. Today the soldier is better paid and the government at Peking has so elevated his standing that the army is now looked upon as a desirable profession. Many of the younger sons of the best families are being sent abroad to be trained for service, and many are in the army and naval schools here. A military school for the sons of nobles has been established at Peking. We had eighty-eight of its students at the maneuvers. They were all noble, and among them were many of the sons of the highest officials. The military training in the common schools is also raising the social standing of the soldiers, and as the army grows in size and importance, China may develop a military aristocracy such as now exists in Germany and Japan."

China's Military Equipment.

"How are the soldiers armed?"

"They have modern weapons, although not always of the latest pattern. The regulations as to such things are issued at Peking, but the arms are selected and paid for by local governors, and they are bought at the lowest rates. There is undoubtedly fraud in many of the purchases, but the government sends out its inspectors to examine the army equipment, and, on the whole, the weapons are effective. Of those now in use, the most came from Germany, but many are from Japan. The Japanese guns are of the latest pattern, and of excellent make. As a rule the Mauser rifle is used. It is intended that the arms and ammunition shall eventually all be standardized."

"Does China use any American guns?"

"I think not; I have seen none in the camps I have visited. Your arms are too costly."

"Are the various divisions under the control of the governors who create them?"

"Yes, but all are subordinate to Peking and may be directed from the capital. The forces of the viceroys are becoming more and more a part of a large combination, and in time they will form one army. As it is now they are rather a bunch of small armies than one compact homogeneous organization. This is necessitated through their being supported by the provincial governments. When the imperial revenue system has been reorganized, as it will be some day, the celestial government will decrease."

Well Paid Soldiers.

"What wages do the troops get?"

"Comparatively speaking, they are well paid. They are now receiving more than the soldiers of Europe, and in consideration of the low cost of living and the wages of the other classes of society, they receive almost as much as your men at home. The American private receives about 4 cents a day, or \$13 a month. The lowest private here gets 12 cents a day and a clothing allowance. Sergeants receive about \$3.75 a month, lieutenants \$7.50 and captains \$45, with an allowance for entertaining. The major of the Chinese battalion is paid 120 taels, or \$75 monthly, and he has in addition 140 taels, with 200 taels extra, and a general commanding a division has 400 taels, with an allowance of 600 taels. This gives the general 1,000 taels monthly, or about 750 American dollars. That is \$2,000 a year. It is not at all bad."

"How about the drill of the army? And is it being made into an effective force?"

"The drill is excellent, and that is as in every division I have visited. The men go through their evolutions as well as any troops I have seen. As to shooting, they have not had much practice at that. Ammunition costs heavily, and so far the army has not had enough money to spend a great deal on target practice."

"Speaking of their effectiveness, while the Chinese soldiers are not as efficient, man to man, as the European or Japanese

Government Quelling Rebellions.

"There is nothing that has done so much to make the army popular as the two or three rebellions which have been put down by the new troops within the last two years. The railroads have enabled the soldiers to be quickly moved to the scene of trouble, and possible revolutions have been stamped out in their beginning. There was one such rebellion on the western borders of Shantung about a year and a half ago. The government telegraphed the army commander at Hankow, and by the Hanyan-Kow-Peking railroad, an effective force was soon on the ground. It was only a year ago that a rebellion was put down in Yunnan by the foreign trained troops, and last November a revolution which would have involved all China was nipped in the bud at Anking on the Yangtze. That was perhaps the most serious trouble that has faced the new China, but it was quelled by means of the telegraph and the army, backed by a governor who had nerve enough to use them. Indeed, I think it safe to say that from now on China can control its own people; that the beginning of a well organized empire has been made and that it will soon be well under way."

How One Governor Saved China.

Since my talk with this man I have learned more about the rebellion at Anking. It took place at the time of the deaths of the emperor and the empress dowager, and had it not been for the prompt action of the governor of Anhui it would have involved China in a civil war that might have been equal to the Taping rebellion, in which 20,000,000 were killed and whole provinces were ruined. It would have probably caused the killing of many of our missionaries, and would have put China far back on its march of civilization—if, indeed, it had not resulted in the breaking up of the empire and its division among the foreign powers. This rebellion was planned by a large secret society that had sworn to drive out the Manchus as soon as the great empress dowager died. The society had persuaded two of the modern battalions to start the rebellion. They were to seize the city of Anking, and then two regiments of infantry were to join them. At the same time they thought the whole province of 12,000,000 would come to their support and that the revolution would be extended to all parts of the country. This rebellion actually started, but it was prevented by the energy, courage and resourcefulness of the governor of Anhui, a protégé of Yuan Shih Kai, who was at Anking at the time. He had learned of the plot and prepared for it."

How Rebellion Was Quelled.

Anking is a walled city, and the gates are closed at nightfall. The mutineers had caused fires to break out in their barracks, expecting that the fire companies of the city would be sent out to extinguish them, and that they could rush through the gates thus opened, and take the town. There was a vast deal of ammunition in the armory, and this would have sufficed for the start of the rebellion.

The governor had given special orders (Continued on Page Three.)

Their Majesties, Ak-Sar-Ben XV and His Queen



BROWNIE BESS BAUM



ARTHUR C. SMITH

Special Maids of Honor to Her Majesty the Queen of Ak-Sar-Ben XV



Louise Lord, Marion Haller, Gladys Peters, Hilda Hammes, Jean Averigg, Miriam Paterson, Elizabeth Congdon, Louise Peck, Frances Nash, Alice Carey McGrew, Dorothy Morgan, Ruth Moorhead. OMAHA SOCIETY GIRLS WHO ATTENDED THE QUEEN.