

SUPPORTS BOYCOTT

Ex-Minister Wu Ting Fang Favors Chinese Boycott.

REFORM MOVEMENT GROWS

Former Chinese Minister to United States Says China is Passing Through Period of Transition — Reforms Are Urged.

PEKIN, Feb. 23.—Wu Ting Fang, former Chinese minister to United States, when interviewed for the first time today on the existing situation in China, spoke in support of the boycott. Wu Ting Fang is now living quietly at Peking, devoting his time to codifying the laws of China one of the numerous reforms under way. He suffered for a long time from deafness from the effects of the explosion of the bomb near him at the railway station last September, but has now recovered.

Speaking of present conditions Wu Ting Fang said:

"China is at a crisis and is passing through a transition stage. Her statesmen and people feel that China needs reform but there are great differences of opinion regarding the means. There are several classes of reformers. There are those who speak foreign languages and who have been abroad and who have had experience on both sides of the question.

"They favor sensible and useful reforms, but not too radical, so as to make China first able to stand upon her own feet. The number of these sensible reforms is few.

"The ruling classes also know that something should be done but they are at their wits' end to know what to do.

"The third class is composed of young students who are too rash. They need training and experience.

"Financial reforms should be carried out in the first place, but without foreign advice and capital it would be impossible to do so under present conditions.

"I was working out a scheme which had to be abandoned because it was necessary to call on foreign advice.

"One thing upon which the majority of Chinese are agreed is that China has been deprived of many rights by concessions and territorial grants and by the way her people have been treated by foreigners in China and foreign countries.

"Many Chinese who have gone abroad to America, Australia and the Philippines write home complaining of arbitrary discriminations made against the Chinese which are not to be attempted against other foreigners. Therefore everyone is angry and hence the boycott on American goods, illustrating the feeling against the unjust exclusion laws. It has spread all over China and is solely in relation against unjust discrimination and is not anti-foreign. The Chinese people and officials are on good terms with all foreigners and have no hostile feeling toward them. The Chinese merchants have the best feeling toward them.

"The majority of the people in the interior are indifferent to all foreigners traveling in the interior who write that they are well treated with no signs of hostility against them.

"These rumors of anti-foreign feeling are not well founded. Sensible men advise boycotters and agitators to be reasonable and only boycott goods and not to treat persons unkindly but to seek their friendship as before.

"Unfortunately the disturbances in several places are now arising from the boycott, but there is no sign of an outbreak against foreigners."

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