

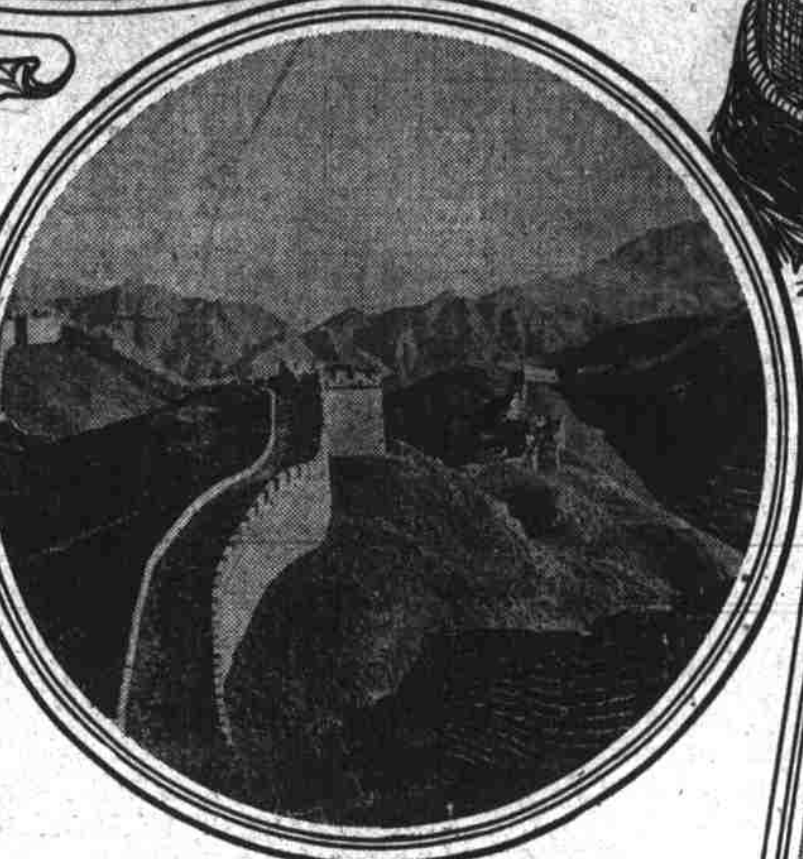
# Centuries of Manchu Misrule



SOOCHOW CREEK NEAR SHANGHAI



H. B. MILLER OF PORTLAND



SECTION OF THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA



MIAOTSE OF YUNAN - OF GREEK TYPE



GUARD OF CHINESE SOLDIERS



MODELS OF THE POOR CLASSES



THE EXECUTION CAGE



PUNISHMENT OF MINOR CRIMINALS

## Conditions in China Reviewed by H. B. Miller of Portland, for Five Years Consul-General to That Country

Written for The Sunday Journal by Will T. Kirk.

WHILE the great Chinese Empire, with its more than 400,000,000 almond-eyed inhabitants, is writhing in the throes of a revolution and its rivers are running red with the blood of thousands whose lives are a sacrifice to the evolution of a nation that has clung to superstition and paganism while the rest of the world marched on in the light of modern civilization, it is interesting to get a glimpse, through the eyes of one who has spent ten years of his life in the Orient, five of them as United States consul-general in China, of the present upheaval in China and of the conditions which brought it to the surface.

It is generally understood that what is called the new and progressive China is struggling to throw off the yoke of a dynasty that has held these 400,000,000 of people in abject ignorance and stagnation for more than 300 years. But why the Chinese people look upon the Manchu rulers as usurpers of the throne and call them foreigners, and, if they are foreigners, why 400,000,000 Chinese have submitted for three centuries to be ruled and pillaged by 4,000,000 Manchus are things which are not known except to those who have made a study of Chinese history.

Interesting sidelights are thrown on the Chinese situation by H. B. Miller, who served a year during the Boxer uprising with the United States consul-general in Shanghai and served four years as United States consul-general in Manchuria, where he had charge of all the interests of this country in that district. He was there during the Russo-Japanese war, during which time he also represented Japan in Manchuria. Later he served five years as consul-general in Japan, until his health broke, and recently moved into his new home at Brasse and East Twenty-first streets north, in the Irvington district, which is furnished with Chinese and Japanese bric-a-brac of great value.

citizens from which the mode of punishment has descended. One of the favorite modes of "capital punishment" in the Flowery Kingdom is to place the victim in stocks, with a pile of brick under his feet, then one by one remove the brick until he is suspended by his neck. Two weeks time is usually consumed in removing the bricks, the while the victim is given neither drink nor food but dies a slow, tortuous death.

There is no more deplorable and rotten government on the face of the earth than the Manchu government in China, is the opinion expressed by Mr. Miller, who gives an interesting account of the establishment and rule of that dynasty. There are 4,000,000 Manchus who for 300 years have been rulers over 400,000,000 Chinese.

"The present occupants of China are not the original people of that country," said Mr. Miller. "There are still remnants of the original tribe in the province of Yunnan, in the mountains in the southwestern part of China near Tibet. The time when these people ruled China is not known as there is no record or history of them. They have been driven back from the coast by waves to the mountain fastnesses. They have peculiar features that resemble the old Greek type, as also does their dress. Their forms of art resemble in character those of the Greeks.

"They continued to war against the Chinese and finally mastered them from the great wall to Peking, where they captured the throne and overthrew the Ming dynasty.

"The Chinese had become a strong commercial race—a race of merchants and the spirit of war and conflict died out among them to such an extent that they accounted it brutal and dishonorable for a man to fight. There was no honor to be gained by military prowess. For a man to use physical force marked him a brute and indicated that he did not have sufficient intelligence to make his way by use of his brains. This had been the spirit of the Chinese for centuries and dominated their social philosophy. No other thought was permitted in the Chinese social and political economy until they were defeated by the Japanese.

"The Manchus were strong fighters, the masses of the Chinese were satisfied to permit them to take over their government and do their fighting for them. They were willing to leave it to the Manchus to maintain the integrity of the nation while the people of China proper pursued their vocation of merchandising. That was the feeling which has permitted the Manchus to hold control over the Chinese government for 300 years. The Manchus, however, have never succeeded in establishing a good, stable, reliable government in any part of China, not even in Manchuria.

of Shanghai paid for his post in 1890 about 200,000 gold dollars. This money was paid to higher officials who controlled the appointing power at Peking. Every official in China pays tribute to the man higher up.

"When a man is tried before a magistrate in China for any cause or crime, he never thinks of trying to prove his innocence, however innocent he may be. No lawyers are permitted. The magistrate acts as prosecutor and judge and has supreme power and control. So the accused never undertakes to argue his rights or privileges, or claim his inalienable method.

"The New Zealand State Guaranteed Advances Act," passed in 1909, provides for an office, the superintendent of which may lend money for purchasing or erecting a dwelling for workers whose income is not more than \$72 per annum, and is not the owner of any land other than the allotment on which it is proposed to build. The advance is secured by mortgage and must be repaid, with interest, within 25 1/2 years.

ence, but asks the simple question of how much the magistrate wants. If the amount comes within the scope of his financial abilities, or that of his friends, the amount is paid and he is set free. The government of China, therefore, is perhaps the most worthless, immoral and rotten of any government on the face of the earth. A very good illustration of the worthlessness of the Manchu government and its failure to assist in protecting the interests of the people is exemplified in the methods of protection devised and carried on by the merchants of Manchuria.

"Immense quantities of produce are brought from the interior by carts and teams for hundreds of miles during the winter months, and great quantities are brought down the rivers in boats during the summer. There is a large, well-organized military force, under the control of one man, which is scattered generally throughout Manchuria, and is used by this chief either as a police force for the protection of traffic or as a band of robbers to prey on traffic. This organization at times has thousands of armed men. During my sojourn in Newchang, in Manchuria, the head office of this band, known as the Hughtze, was established in every city. This office levied a tax on every cart coming into the city from the interior and on every cart leaving for the interior carrying produce. By payment of this tax they were protected by this band of Hughtze and allowed to travel unmolested. They were given small flags to carry, which was a sign that the tax was paid. To travel without this protection was impossible as robbery always resulted.

"The same system was in force along the rivers during the summer. The boats paid a certain amount for permission to travel without being molested, and none dared to undertake a trip without the payment of the tax. Sometimes controversies arose between the organization and the merchants' guilds as to the amount of tax that should be paid to the highwaymen for protection. In such cases the traffic on the river was always held up by the robber police until the matter was adjusted.

and on the coast. They are from Canton, Ningpo, Soochow and other districts near the south coast of China. They are mentally far superior to the Manchus. They are much more able, acute and reliable. It should be understood that there is a marked difference between the official classes and the merchant classes of China in the way of reliability and integrity. The commercial morality of the Chinese associated with the business organizations and guilds is perhaps as high as any in the world, while the reliability, integrity and truthfulness of the official class is perhaps of the lowest order.

"The merchants of China and through their splendid organization of guilds, have developed a character for commercial and business transactions that can hardly be equalled and not surpassed anywhere. They do not rely upon courts or officials or government for the correction of misdeeds or bad conduct. Their members are tried within their own organizations for any offense and an expulsion from a commercial organization or guild is practically commercial death to any man. A violator of their code found guilty is practically ruined for life.

"Whether this revolution will prove a success at present depends primarily upon its financial support. If it has the means at its back it will undoubtedly overturn the Manchu dynasty. The problem of reconstruction and the creation of a new government fitted to modern conditions will be the work of years to come.

revolution. From my own point of view I certainly cannot think that China is in any sense prepared for a republic. I do not believe the revolutionists will be able to establish a republic in anything but name. However, I expect and hope that the great financial and mercantile interests of that country will be able to establish a strong and substantial government practically controlled by the commercial classes. That will be a marvelous step of progress and will lead the way to some form of government fitted to the people of China.

"The marvelous thing in this revolution to me is the spirit and courage being shown by the masses of the people engaged in trying to free themselves from domination of the Manchu yoke. It is difficult to believe that these people are so seriously in earnest as to be willing to sacrifice so much in life and treasure for the cause of liberty.

"He Wanted to Go Home. From the Washington Star. A man who takes his vacation in Northern Michigan every summer brought back to Cleveland the other day, says the Plain Dealer, a man servant who had never been in a city before. The sights and scenes along Euclid avenue impressed him peculiarly. Recently he went to his employer and said: 'Mr. Employer, I guess I'll have to go back home.' 'Why, Jim, haven't we treated you well here?' 'Yep, treatment all right. But I'm scared about my health.' 'Are you sick, Jim?' 'Nope. But I seen four funerals pass that house today, and I guess Cleveland ain't a healthy town!'

### New Zealand Finance

NEW ZEALAND has some rather unique features in her financial system, especially in the details of deposits of security to the government—there is the postoffice savings bank system, which has 359,714 open accounts, or one to 2.8 inhabitants. At the close of the year 1909, the credit of all accounts was \$81,643,458, an average of \$171.38 for each account. The rate of interest is 3 1/2 per cent on deposits up to \$1460, and 3 per cent on deposits from \$1460 to \$2920. Above \$2920 no interest is paid except to charitable institutions, which may draw the maximum rate for any amount they choose to deposit.

The government loans money to settlement workers and local bodies on first mortgage security, and guarantees the payment, under certain conditions, of bonds issued by local bodies and land associations. It also furnishes land and builds homes for workers under certain conditions.

There is also a "Workers' Dwellings Act," which provides that the governor and council or the minister of labor, may set aside crown land, and may erect or alter buildings to be suitable for workers' dwellings. These may be sold to employees whose earnings do not exceed \$351.53 per annum, the purchase price to be paid (together with 5 per cent interest) in installments covering 25 1/2 years.

Not Ready for Republic.