CHINESE FAMINE SCENES HORRIBLE PAST IMAGINATION

Conditions in Central Zone Desperate; Men, Women and Children Are Starving to Death in Hordes.

(Special to The Journal.)

Shanghai, China, Feb. 20.—Conditions in famine-stricken China are almost too horrible to be imagined. Reports from all parts of the famine zone tell of suffering and hardships seemingly unendurable.

The Central China Famine Relief committee has sent agents over all of the stricken region. Earl A. Cressy, one of the agents, makes this report:

"It was thought best to investigate as closely as possible a limited area which might be taken as typical, and for this purpose the township of Lu Pi was selected. It is 55 li north by east from Tsing Kiang Pu in the northern part of the province of Kiangsu.

500 Persons to Square Mile.

"The township of Lu Pi extends 16 li from north to south, is 17 li from east to west, and thus contains roughly 25 English square miles. In it dwell 2700 families, aggregating 14,000 individuals, so that the population is oven 500 to the square mile. This sample famine district contains about one half of one per cent of the total area and population now famine stricken in China.

"Several neighboring villages were examined in each of two widely separated groups, taking every house large or small, in all 55 homes, and there is no reason to believe that they are not representative of the township as a whole. One of the local gentry, the head man of the township, accompanied me, and contributed much general information. He has been found thoroughly reliable in previous famine relief work, but all his statements were checked up by conference with those who had charge of the relief work in this district last year.

Houses Are Examined.

"The method followed was to assemble the family and count and question them, and then thoroughly to examine every part of the house—looking into the cooking vessels on the stove to see what was in preparation, and then using an electric flash-light to go through all baskets, jars and boxes where food was likely to be kept. These were all country people who seldom have money on hand, so that the supply of food actually on the premises is a good indication of their condition. Under other conditions such an examination would have been an impertinence, but the head man explained, and the people seemed to appreciate the interest that was being taken in them.

"A straw stack indicates that there has been a crop. I found straw in four yards—one in 13. Grain was found in only seven houses out of 55, and in no place over a peck of it. The food in process of preparation was invariably greens—sweet potato leaves or carrot tops, a thin, acrid smelling mess of the appearance of stagnant water and about as appetizing, only once in a while containing a bit of vegetable or grain. About one out of every three were eating elm bark, which they prepare by reducing it to a fine sawdust and then making it into cakes. Whole rows of trees have been thus stripped of their bark. Of even such sorry food as this, only a few have any great amount on hand. After it is gone, they will eat the bark of the willow and mulberry, which cause swelling and hasten death. Except for these, the country side is absolutely bare.

Only One Crop in Five Years.

"In considering the plight of these people, it must be borne in mind that they have had but one fair crop in the last five years. Five years ago was a big famine. A good year followed, but this is the third year of famine since then. Last year they sold their work animals, so that except dogs, among the 55 homes visited, the only animals found were two calves and one chicken.

"Household utensils have also been sold, and in some cases the timbers of a part of the roof—and rest of the house is made of mud and thatch. I found the average holding of land to be 12 mow (about two English acres), the largest 50 mow and the smallest three. Questioning showed that the average crop this year among the families visited was four Chinese bushels per family. Last year's crop was only double this. The cause of famine is lack of drainage, so that the rainfall, which is as great as 16 to 20 inches in two weeks, simply stands and drowns out the crops. I went over the ground with C. D. Jameson, the engineer sent out by the American Red Cross society, who gave his approval to a simple plan of drainage proposed by the local committee, by which it will be possible to prevent another famine in this township.

Many Starved to Death.

"Last year, in spite of the fact that in this township the famine relief committee carried 650 families through the season and the Chinese government gave 1800 families enough to last them about a month, 100 persons, at a very conservative estimate, died of starvation, and 20 children and six or eight wives were sold. Children brought from one to three dollars Mexican and wives about 10 times as much. The object in such sales was as much to provide for the one sold as to secure food for the seller, and the sale was not always into a life of vice. This year two persons out of every three are certain of death unless help comes from outside, while the cost in suffering is simply incalculable. In the 55 homes visited four dead men were found, and many more who were in the last stages.

"In addition to all this, it is war time. Five thousand soldiers mutinied and looted Tsing Kiang Pu so thoroughly that many shops have not reopened, although that was three months ago. The whole district was for a while in a condition of anarchy, and at the present time robbery is frequent, so that we made our investigation accompanied by retainers of the head man with rifles at their backs.

"To look back upon it, the whole seems like a bad dream. The gloom of the wretched homes, the whirling snow, without, driven by the bitter wind, the hungry garrulousness of the old women, the modest shyness of young matrons at sudddenly finding themselves in the presence of a foreign man, little children crying over their pitiful food, the dumb agony on the face of the woman whom he had to tell that her husband had just breathed his last, the dead with mummy faces and claw-like feet—all this is only a small part of the grim tragedy of the famine in China where 2,500,000 are facing conditions like these."

The central China famine relief committee is making every effort to save life in this township and the adjoining regions. Rice is being shipped in, bean cake purchased locally, and men are on the ground ready to start the work the moment that the government is able to guarantee the maintenance of order and give protection.

Contributions may be sent to the International Banking corporation, New York or San Francisco, which will cable the money to the treasurer of the central China Famine Relief committee in China.

Warehouse and Manufacturing Floors.

Low rental. In new brick building, 35x100, just being completed at Hood and Baker streets. This is the best proposition in South Portland from a rental standpoint. A. L. Fish, care The Journal.

FAVORS COLORED PLATES TO SHOW OREGON APPLES

Senator Chamberlain Would Get Appropriation in Aid of Standardizing Fruit of the Northwest.

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.)

Washington, Feb. 20.—Senator Chamberlain is trying to get the appropriations committee to provide in the agricultural appropriation bill for making a number of colored plates of Oregon fruit, from originals in the possession of the department of agriculture, which will serve as guides in standardizing fruit. The Oregon State Horticultural society, the Northwestern Fruit exchange, the Chamber of Commerce of Portland, and in fact many other organizations, are much interested in this matter, and some of them have been carrying on a correspondence with the senator regarding it. It is reported that the Lafean bill, amended, is to be pushed at this session. Its provisions for the standardizing of fruit are not wholly acceptable to the horticulturists at large, and the senator from Oregon is giving his attention to this matter to the end that no injustice shall be worked on his constituents.

Oregon Fruit Leads.

Talking about fruit, there is no apple in this market that for general flavor, juiciness, firmness and all-round excellence, can be compared with the Oregon apple. The writer has tested all of the vaunted Virginia apples, from the valley of the Shenandoah and from beyond in West Virginia, and he has found none that can excel, and few that can compare, with the delicious fruit from Oregon.

Perhaps apples from Washington, Idaho, Montana, and a few sections of California may be as good, but one seldom sees them here, while the Oregon beauties are on sale in almost every fruit stand and grocery store. They bring better prices side by side with the Virginia and New York apples; and they bring more because they are considered better. In its apple lands Oregon has a vein of wealth which will never be overworked and which will yield more yellow gold than ever was taken from the mother lode.

Registering by Mail.

Not a few of the Oregonians here seem to contemplate going home to cast their ballot, if one may judge by the number that are registering by mail. This is a novel idea to many persons, but Oregon voters are not slow to avail themselves of it.

There is a flourishing society here which bears the name "Society of the Oregon Country," which includes persons who have resided in Oregon, Idaho, Washington and part of Montana. This society recently held a meeting and appointed a committee to make arrangements for a banquet in commemoration of some historical event in the history of the Oregon country. J. V. Robinson was appointed chairman, and with W. P. Borland and Max Pracht will fix the time and place. William Steele, of Medford, Or., gave an interesting talk about the Crater Lake National park. The officers of the society are A. W. Prescott, president; J. V. Robinson, vice president; Mrs. E. R. Williams, second vice president; Mrs. Sue Fite Ramsey, secretary; J. B. Ofner, treasurer.

Mr. Prescott haa been doing nicely since his operation and it is thought he will be able to be out.

The Case of General Smith.

Great interest is being shown in the case of General William Sooy Smith, of Medford, Or., and many appeals are being made to congress to pass Senator Chamberlain's bill making General Smith a brigadier general on the retired list of the United States army. One of the recent appeals of this character is from the Chicago commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Captain Roswell H. Mason, recorder. This organization recently passed resolutions urging the passage of the Chamberlain bill and forwarded the same to congress.

General Smith is the oldest living alumnus of the Ohio university and the alumni are rallying to his support.

VOTE TO EXTEND LINE TO EAST MT. TABOR

Residents of the East Mount Tabor district are rejoicing over the successful efforts of the committee headed by Rev. Father James B. Fitzpatrick to secure a carline extension for the populous section between the end of the present Mount Tabor line at East Sixty-ninth street out to East Eighty-eighth street.

The street committee yesterday recommended that the franchise for the extension sought be granted. Father Fitzpatrick and other members of the committee announced that they had settled the details of financing the line. The property owners of the district will have to bear half the expense of procuring the right of way and of construction.

It will be necessary for the route of the extension to pass through a corner of Mount Tabor park and over a portion of the water board's reservoir tract, but the city attorney has ruled that the council can grant the franchise without waiting for the park and water boards to give their permission for the right of way. Under the agreement made between the company and the property owners the new carline down the east slope of Mount Tabor must be completed by December 31.

Members of the committee of property owners were: W. E. Allen, Rev. Father James B. Fitzpatrick, E. Gould, W. W. Amburn and T. S. Gaylor.

CHINESE IS ARRESTED; PACKED CONCEALED GUN

Patrolman Bunn yesterday arrested Ah Wey at Park and Flanders streets for carrying concealed weapons, following the discovery of a huge revolver in his belt. Several other cases against Chinese for carrying concealed weapons were set for today, but all were continued until next Saturday.

Martin Zimmer was arrested at 7 o'clock this morning by Patrolman Frey at Forty-first and Holgate streets for carrying concealed weapons. He is employed in the Southern Pacific shops, and is said to have claimed that F. W. Younger, one of the superintendents at the shops, advised him to carry the gun. It was on his belt in a holster, but a flap over the holster concealed the gun, thereby constituting an offense. The case will be tried by a jury next Wednesday.

New Use for Horseshoes.

(Special to The Journal.)

Stevenson, Wash., Feb. 20.—E. P. Ash, one of the leading general merchants of this city, in making improvements on his building required eight concrete foundations 2x6 feet each. Not being able to get spiral iron in time to finish the work he purchased 500 pounds of old horseshoes which were used for reenforcing. Expert cement men pronounce this plan even better than spiral iron. Old horseshoes sell for less than a quarter of a cent a pound.

Archdeacon Asked to Resign.

London, Feb. 20.—The eccentric Archdeacon Colley, rector of Stockton, has resigned by request. Eight years ago the archdeacon had his coffin made and stored in the rectory.

PENNSY ALUMNI WILL BANQUET

Oregon Members to Meet at Arlington Club Night of February 22.

Oregon alumni of the University of Pennsylvania will meet in annual banquet the night of February 22 at the Arlington club. Colonel C. E. S. Wood will deliver an address and a program of college songs and yells will be given.

The meeting of the alumni in Portland will be one of many similar gatherings of University of Pennsylvania graduates, which will be held at the same time, Washington's birthday, throughout the United States and in foreign lands. For 30 years it has been the custom for many "Old Pennsy" men to get together on February 22, at the Academy of Music, Philadelphia. A banquet is served and some nationally prominent speaker has given an address on a timely topic of interest to the university and the nation at large.

In the past these annual sessions have been attended by all alumni who have been able to go, still a small percentage of the total number of graduates. It is to make these reunions more general in scope that the university trustees have urged alumni the world over to arrange for general gatherings at points nearer their homes which will make it possible for those within a considerable radius to attend, but still at less expense and loss of time than would be required to attend the meeting at Philadelphia.

It is planned that at each of these banquets at 10 o'clock at night a toast to alma mater shall be drunk, accompanied by the singing of the university hymn. It is believed the movement will tend to strengthen old college ties.

FRESNO PROGRESSIVE COMES OUT FOR COLONEL

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Fresno, Cal., Feb. 20.—Chester H. Rowell of Fresno, president of the La Follette league of California has declared for Roosevelt and called a state meeting of progressives to be held in San Francisco February 28.

The Oregon Alumni association is desirous of knowing the whereabouts of any Pennsylvania alumnus in the state who has not been formally notified of the banquet. Full information may be secured by addressing "University Day Committee," 324 Medical building, Portland.

12 minutes from First st. to Oaks rink.

The Eastern Boy's First Letter Home