

# SALEM TEACHER CHINA CAPITAL

### Miss Conover Tells of Improving Conditions in Oriental Empire

Mrs. O. A. Condit, 885 Oak street, Salem, has received the following letter from Miss Lula Conover of this city, who has long been with the American missionary forces in China. During the time of the uprising that eventuated in the present rule in that vast empire, Miss Conover was at home in Salem, the workers in the station where she had been located, at Nanking, having been driven out. Miss Conover spent her childhood and girlhood in Salem, where her father was a printer and publisher.

The morning of February 13, saw me speeding away on the train for a visit in Nanking, the first in seven years. I went to spend a few days with Miss Helen Skilling, who was my cabin-mate crossing the Pacific last September. I was so happy to be with the friends in Nanking again, but I missed the faces of many friends who were not there. Nanking is not the Nanking that I knew eight and a half years ago when I first came to China. So many missionaries have not returned, the community life that was so fine in years gone by has not been resumed, 10 or 12 missionary houses, and other missionary buildings, stand in abject ruin (a sight that is heart-breaking to missionaries and friends), and the progress of reconstruction looking toward the development of Nanking, as the capital city of China, has given the place quite a different aspect.

**Ancient Wall Stands**  
I was glad to see that the ancient city wall still stands, though there has been much talk of tearing it down. The first change in the city that one notices is the great boulevard that is being constructed in a direct line from the new gate in the city wall to the magnificent tomb of Dr. Sun Yat Sen on Purple Mountain, which is now nearing completion. This boulevard extends a distance of five miles or more. The fact that this great road goes in a direct, straight line from the gate to the tomb is an innovation of modern China. In the ancient times streets must have many turns, to guard against evil spirits. The evil spirits, not being able to turn corners, were misled and soon lost their way in the turning, winding streets, and thus the city was saved from their evil presence.

Most of the way the great boulevard is 120 feet wide, having ruthlessly swept out of its path of progress homes of the rich and the poor, part of a missionary school building, places of business, whatever stood in the way of its progress. I was told that a wealthy Chinese man had just completed a new ten thousand dollar residence, and this was wiped out of existence by the construction of the boulevard. I understand that so far there has been no remuneration for these losses.

**New Sun's Way**  
The construction of this boulevard and the tomb for Dr. Sun will cost millions of dollars. It is a question whether this is in keeping with what Dr. Sun would have desired and with the principles which he set before the Chinese people. And many of us wonder when we think of the starving millions in the famine-stricken dis-

### Blonde Maria's Back



After making four pictures in four countries in as many months, Maria Corda, the blonde star in "The Private Life of Helen of Troy," has returned to Hollywood.

tricts. Yet if they should wait for the development of their capital city until all the starving people of China were fed, they would never have their capital city. After all, is it not the way of all nations? Have they not expressed their patriotism, and their love and admiration for a great national leader, by such monuments to his enduring fame?

Although there is much of unrest and uncertainty, yet it is a wonderful day in which to live in China and watch the sweeping tide of new life transforming China. I wish I could give the time to make a study of the elements in this changing life. The most outstanding of the new elements are aerobics and radio. I was interested in reading the following item in this morning's paper: **Hankow Air Line Ready to Start**  
"With the first batch of aeroplanes purchased by the Wu-Han Aeronautical association for operating a commercial aviation service ready for operation, the association is completing final arrangements for the inauguration of the commercial air service connecting important districts in Hupoh and Hunan. The aerodrome at Hankow was completed yesterday and the test flight of all the aerodromes to be used in the new service will take place on the 20th."

"According to the table of fares, the fare from Ichang to Hankow will cost only \$51 and from Hankow to Sienyang in southern Hunan \$58." (The amount named in Chinese currency, of course, and according to our gold standard it would be only about half as much.)  
The nationalist government is employing a number of experts along various lines to help in the present development of China. In Nanking there is a commission from America who have been asked to come to confer with the government officials and help plan the development of the new capital city. They are known throughout the United States and other countries as experts in city building.

During my visit in Nanking I stayed in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Price, old-time missionaries in Nanking. They were rejoicing in the recent arrival in Shanghai of their youngest son, Harry, who comes from Princeton in a secret

arial capacity and as a member of the expert commission on standardizing the monetary system of China. It is said that the head of this commission has worked out a standard currency for eleven different currencies.

It would be a wonderful thing if China could have a standard currency. I would give a great sigh of relief if I no longer had to struggle with "big money" and "little money" and the various problems of exchange. But I am afraid it will bring down on the heads of the commission the wrath of the "exchange men."

### Changing Customs

One reform attempted by the new nationalist government was not carried through very successfully at this time. For ages past the Chinese calendar has been based on the moon. But now the government says they must follow the solar calendar, taking the 1st of January according to the English calendar as New Year's day, and no longer observing the old Chinese New Year, with its ancient customs. Chinese New Year, coming usually the last of January, this year the 10th of February, is the great day for the Chinese people. That is the day of home-gathering, the day of great social joy. For days and weeks beforehand the women in the homes have been busy preparing food and all sorts of delicacies, and the needle flew swiftly as they made the bright new garments that would be worn by the members of the family on the festive day, and during the days of freedom and play and social enjoyment that follow. During these days whole families will go out together, attired in their rightest and best, to visit relatives or call on friends, to wander along the streets, sometimes stopping in groups to listen to a storyteller who holds the attention of an interested crowd, or to enjoy a Punch and Judy show in progress by the roadside. The little girls often wear bright-colored artificial flowers in their hair. Another innovation was that this year the hats the girls wore—stiff little hats covered with bright-colored silk, sometimes two or three colors, with a flower or part of a peacock feather at one side.

Nanking seemed to be observing Chinese New Year with unusual enthusiasm and gaiety. Everywhere were the beautiful paper lanterns which the Chinese make so artistically—lanterns representing rabbits, ducks, frogs, horses, or the beautiful lotus flower, or many other beautiful and interesting designs. In the day time these are carried about and at night they are lighted with a candle inside, and it is a beautiful sight to see them.

### Christian Cooperation

While crossing the Pacific last September in company with some of the Nanking missionaries returning to their work in that city, I admired the courage and faith of those missionaries in going back to start the work again and to build up where so much had been destroyed. But since visiting Nanking and seeing the ruins of the missionary houses and school buildings which still stand to remind them of that awful day, March 24, 1927, my admiration for the missionaries has increased. With unwavering courage, with a high faith, with self-sacrificing devotion, they go on with the work, and are carrying forward that which they have undertaken in the name of the great Master Workman. And generally there is a fine spirit of co-operation among the Chinese Christians. Having suffered much themselves during the trying days of the past two years, and having carried on with supreme courage and devotion, they have welcomed back the missionaries who have returned and they

### Pensive Audrey



What could Audrey Ferris be thinking about? Maybe about how her popularity is growing so rapidly, but, then, why be so sad?

rejoice in their friendship and co-operation with the Chinese Christian leaders, rather than taking places of leadership themselves.

### Chinese Christian Officials

A new feature of official life in China is the fact that there are more than 200 Christians in official circles in Nanking, at this time. These, and also many of the non-Christian officials, are very cordial in their associations with the missionaries.

For many years the Chinese New Year time has been a season of special evangelistic effort on the part of the missionaries, daily religious services being held in different sections of the city. One day my friend and I went to a great union hall where evangelistic services were being conducted.

The hall was filled by about 450 people, who for the most part listened attentively to the Gospel message, which was given by able and earnest Chinese preachers. Assisting as ushers and helpers were the young men from the Nanking Theological seminary and some women from the Bible Teachers' Training school. I never cease to wonder at the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ when I look at the faces of some of these Christian men and women set against a background of heathenism. Often the contrast is startling. The Apostle Paul had seen it—"the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" reflected in the faces of some of his humble followers on earth—and it gave him courage and conviction to say, even while standing before some of the mighty ones of this world, "I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believeth."

### Among Old Friends

Coming back to Shanghai Saturday afternoon, February 16th, I remained over Sunday at the Missionary Home. There I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Allison and Miss Marian Wilcox, of the Kiangyin station (where I used to work). They had come down for the southern Presbyterian mission meeting, which is in session in Shanghai this week. It was so good to see them again, and we just talked and talked about Kiangyin, our former students and friends, and many things of mutual interest. Kiangyin seems like my China home place, and the Kiangyin friends will always have a warm place in my heart. That feeling seems to be reciprocal, judging from the lovely letters that come and the welcome greetings when we chance to meet.

### Work in College

Mr. Dzung has not been well for ten months past, and I have wondered if he was going to be able to continue his work in the league. I was so thankful to hear him say, and I could see for myself, that he had quite recovered his health and strength, and seemed ready for renewed effort in the cause of Christ and the children of China. He says this is certainly in answer to prayer, his own prayers and the prayers of his friends. What a wonderful Saviour we have!

Sunday morning I went out to the American Community church, having invited some missionaries from India and Burma to accom-

pany me. It was a good service, and we all enjoyed seeing so many Americans.  
Now I am back at the college, and classes begin day after tomorrow. I will continue my teaching work in the academy. The campus is busy and bustling today, with motor cars and rickshaws, and young men and boys arriving, and young women, too. Those whom I have met seem to have come back in a good spirit, and I think the work will be far less difficult at the beginning of this term than it was when I first came. It is hard to accomplish much with these boys, but I do hope very much more may be done during the coming term than I was able to do last term.

We go forward "looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."

### LULA CONOVER.

Shanghai College, Shanghai, China, February 19, 1929.

## Little Extra Touch Will be Added to Man's Outfit To Provide Spring Gayety

The new spring clothes for men will please the fastidious, for every effort has been made by manufacturers to create clothing with just that little extra touch that means so much in the smartly groomed man's apparel.

More than ever before, the spring for this year calls for a display of gayety in color—plus a new feeling in drape. A feeling that reflects the tendency towards a longer slenderizing silhouette. Topsuits will be developed in lightweight knitted fleeces, tweeds and coverts. One

### Evening Suits Popular

What will the really well dressed man wear this spring? Let us follow him through his usual rounds—and see how he meets various occasions sartorially:  
At weddings, balls, formal dinners, theatre parties and receptions he will wear an evening suit with evening tail coat lapels, silk faced to edge, with cloth or silk collar. Silk covered buttons. The color will be black or midnight blue, in dressed or undressed worsteds—plain weaves. Waistcoat of white washable materials, with a hollowed V opening or extremely hollowed opening.

### At Informal evening affairs he

will wear black dressed or undressed worsteds, plain or fancy weaves, in an evening tail coat or evening jacket.

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