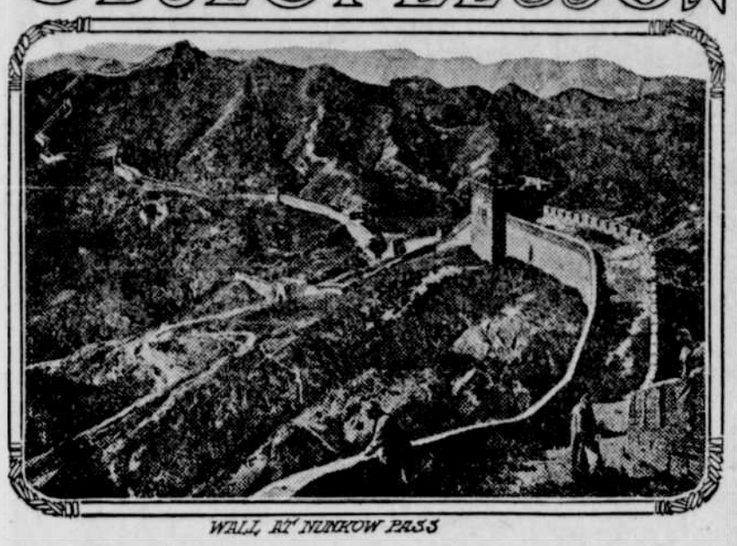
China's Wall An Object Lesson



WALL AT NUNKOW PASS

THE great wall of China never fails to impress the traveler, no matter how many times he has seen it. At Munkow pass, where the magnificent scenery gives it an appropriate setting, it is particularly impressive. It is not so much its height, nor solidity, nor even its seeming endlessness that causes the observer to marvel. It is rather the bold, theatrical way in which the whole panorama of the wall has been staged. The dauntless builders, who erected it over 2,000 years ago, seem to have selected the highest mountain ranges and the most precipitous peaks for the foundations of their wonderful wall. They probably took a delight in placing the wall where it would make the best showing—on the topmost ridges and overlooking the highest precipices, writes Luther Anderson in the Chicago News.

As the eye follows the wall over the mountains to where it loses itself in the hazy horizon one cannot help thinking of the tremendous length of the wall. From its western end in the sandswept desert of inner Mongolia to the Gulf of Liantung, where it comes down to the sea, is a distance of over 1,500 miles. And yet this distance does not represent the entire length of the wall. It has many branches and is in many places doubled and even trebled. At Koupeikou there is a perfect network of walls stretching off in every direction as far as the eye can see. At Nankou the same prodigality of walls shows that the ancient Chinese felt that one wall was not a sufficient protection against the wild hordes of Tartary.

In Days of Old.

One cannot look upon the great wall without picturing in one's mind the days of old, when these ramparts were thronged with soldiers, who guarded the frontiers of the empire against the warlike tribes of the north. The roadway on the top of the wall served as a military highway for the various contingents garrisoned in the fortresses, which stud the wall at intervals of from 200 to 500 yards. Where the wall climbs the steep slopes of the mountains this roadway is provided with long flights of stairs. The bricks of these stairs are well worn, showing that thousands of soldiers must have passed to and fro from one fortress to another. One can picture the reinforcements rushing along the wall and climbing the lofty stairs and hastening to assist their comrades, hard pressed by some hostile army. One can see the fires lighting up the signal towers built far to the south of the wall. One can almost hear the shouts of defiance from the defenders answering the taunts of the besiegers.

Those ancient soldiers of China did their work well. For over 1,000 years they held the wall against the Tartar hordes. When the Mongols finally did break through the barrier in the thirteenth century they were able to do so only because an effete dynasty neglected to send proper reinforcements to the defense of the wall.

The great wall is remarkably well preserved. Though weatherbeaten by the storms, the frosts and the suns of two milenniums, it shows signs of decay only in a few places. The great body of it is intact and in as good a condition as when it was built. The ages have hardened the mortar and bound the brick work together so that the wall is probably stronger today than it has ever been before. It seems to be as eternal as the mountains upon which it rests.

As a bulwark of defense the wall has long since become obsolete, but its usefulness is by no means at an end. It has become a monument to toil, perseverance, will power and to imagination. It serves to inspire all who see it with a new faith in human effort.

At ten o'clock we passed the last of the great ramparts and were "outside the barrier," to quote a Chinese phrase. The region to the north of the wall has always been regarded by the Chinese as a wild and lawless country. Banishment beyond the great wall has always been considered a severe punishment. The Chinese living there have always had the feeling that they were outside of their own country and almost at the edge of the world.

At noon of July 12 we stopped at an inn in a little hamlet called Pangshihying, where we rested and had tiffin. The proprietor of the inn evidently had a mind to the moral improvement of his guests, for he had ornamented the walls of the guests' rooms with numerous mottoes such as "Seek righteousness as your profit and riches will never be lacking," "Amiability attracts riches a thousandfold; with justice you will enter into a wide region of wealth," "In your casual conversation do not speak of people's failings."

Music Attracts Children.

That evening we stayed at a caravansary in a little mountain village Here we astonished the natives, and especially the little boys, by playing a mouth organ. The strains of "Poor Nelly Gray" and "Hot Time in the Old Town" soon drew a small crowd of half naked urchins, who surveyed us with wondering eyes. Having gotten together our little audience, we proceeded to question them as to what they had had to eat during the day, how old they were and whether they went to school or not. They had all eaten millet porridge, melons and various kinds of vegetables. Meat was evidently a luxury and eaten only once in a great while.

They all said they had gone to school, upon which Mr. Peck examined them like a schoolmaster and made them repeat the san zu ching or trimetrical classic, which is the first book studied by Chinese children. Of twelve boys between the ages of five and twelve only one was unable to repeat the san zu ching, and he was a deaf mute. We were astonished to find that so many of these children of the mountains had been to school. A similar examination in a mountain district in America would not have given better results. These mountaineers were so poor that their children had to run naked in the summer, but they were, nevertheless, able to send them to school. When the examination was over we awarded the boys a few pennies each and urged them to continue to go to school.

Before nightfall the report had spread throughout the whole town that some foreigners had come who made wonderful music and who were so learned that they could conduct examinations in Chinese. Many people came to us asking for foreign medicine. Mothers brought little sick babies and crippled children to us asking us to cure them. They seemed to have the idea that all foreigners were skilled in the art of healing. When we told them that we could not cure their diseases they did not believe us. It was only when we told them that we had not brought any medicines that they went away. It made us sad to think of all the misery that must be endured unalleviated in China. It brought home to us the fact that literature alone cannot make a people enlightened and that without science they must endure all the inconvenience and misery of barbarism.

One sees many strange things in China. At Wangchaiying, where we stopped for the night on the 13th, I saw a piece of brick tied to a donkey's tail to keep it from braying. The muleteer told me that it was a physical impossibility for a donkey to bray with a weight tied to its tail. I lay awake a long time that night waiting for the donkey to bray, but the brickbat seemed to do the work. The donkey never brayed once.

The next day was the sixth out from Peking. We traveled through many beautiful mountain passes and were constantly climbing over rocky ridges or descending into narrow valleys. At several places we saw Chinese placer miners washing the sands of the mountain streams for gold. They were using a wooden cradle very much like that used by the gold seekers of our western states. At Launpinghsien, where we stopped for tiffin, we saw a large monument erected by imperial order to the memory of a French Catholic missionary who had been killed by the boxers in 1900.

About four in the afternoon we came to Kuanjen pass, which is cut in the solid rock, and overlooks Jehol. We stopped there for a while to enjoy the beautiful panorama which lay stretched before us. In the valley, only a few miles away lay the city of Jehol, and beyond it the palaces of the Manchu emperors. After a short rest we pressed on and entered the city. We found a large inn called Poo Yuan Tien, where we found comfortable quarters.

Evening Up.

Mistress—What would you give, Annette, to look as nice as I do?

Maid—As much as you would, ma'am, to be as young as I am.—Fliegende Blaetter.

DISCOVER REAL JOSEPH

SORT OF SECOND AND SECONDARY SON OF JACOB FOUND.

Aged Houston (Tex.) Negro Sends Money to Brother Who, He Claims, Sold the Former Into Slavery During Youth.

Houston, Tex.—Houston has developed a sort of second and secondary Joseph, son of Jacob, who sends necessities back to the crop-ruined land of Canaan.

He was a twisted, white-whiskered old negro, who presented his grizzled head at the stamp window of the post office the other day, and said: "Gimme two special delivery letters, and two stamped envelopes. Dis here am Joseph relievin' de wants of his brethren."

Then he asked a white man to "back" the envelopes, and while the addressing was in progress he told his tale; and he told it with every appearance of truth.

Some time before the big war his father's master at his death freed his slaves and divided part of a Louisiana plantation among them, for he had no friends or relatives among the white people to whom he could leave it.

The old man's father and mother prospered and had a family of three boys, of whom he was the youngest. One day the old man, then a boy of six or seven, went to town with his two elder brothers, who were eighteen and fifteen. The father had given them some money with which to buy supplies, but they got into some sort of a gambling game and lost it. They feared to go home without it. So they sat down in the road to think. Then a happy idea struck them.

There was a circus in town and they carried their younger brother over and sold him to the ringmaster for a boy to brush away flies at meals They claimed that they had been sent by a white man who owned all three. Perhaps the ringmaster knew that such could not be the case, but he was getting a negro boy for the ridiculously low price of seven dollars, and he was willing to risk running afoul of the law. And besides the glamor of a circus filled the little negro with joy and he bore his brothers out in their lie.

The two older ones went home and told the father and mother that "that little fool Dorrie slipped away from them and runned away with the show and they couldn't catch him." And the simple old country negroes, not understanding exactly how boys did "run away with shows," but thoroughly understanding that his fortunate disappearance left them one less mouth to feed, wept a few tears and nearly forgot about the whole matter.

Years slipped away and finally Dorrie went home to find his father, mother and oldest brother dead, and the second brother and another who had been born after his leaving, still farming on the old place. Then Dorrie came to Houston and made money.

The Mississippi river ran all over the little farm in Louisiana and fairly wiped it off the map as a living producer for this year. And the negroes, now old and feeble, were penniless. The government would feed them, but still they were short. So they got some one to write Dorrie 'way over in Texas for money. And the day he got the letter the old negro was at the post office asking for special delivery stamps to hasten the movement of two money orders for $20 each.

"And I'm gwine to send 'em just as much as I can spare from now on," he said; and just to show how much he knew of the Bible he once more likened himself to Joseph.

KILLS GUEST; WAS OWN SON

Thought He Was Stranger—Mother and Daughter Hanged Themselves on Learning Truth.

Kieff, Russia.—Rabiusin, an old peasant of Kristoff, had a son, Ivan, in the army. After serving his term he worked for some years at the customs and saved $800—unheard of wealth for his class. He went home on the quiet. The old folks were out and his young sister did not recognize him after ten years' absence. He thought to play a joke, said he was a traveler, asked for food and bed and paid two dollars for three eggs she cooked him. Then he went into the garden for a nap.

The old folks came home and heard of the rich traveler whose wallet was stuffed with notes. "Let us kill him," suggested the old wife. But Rabiusin lacked courage, said he would think of it, and went to the spirit store to get up pluck. Here he learned that the traveler was his own son and had come home to share his wealth with his family.

Old Rabiusin rushed home crying out to his wife, "Don't kill him; it's our son." He then fainted.

On recovering his wife said: "Don't bother about the traveler, he is dead. I polished him off myself."

When the old man told whom she had murdered, mother and daughter hanged themselves and old Rabiusin went raving mad. The police found Ivan's body in the garden. His mother had strangled him as he slept.

Bachelor a Moral Coward.

St. Louis.—Hear what Rev. Louis Scott De Burgh saith: "The old bachelor obstructs the social pleasures of our church. With the sophistry of a seasoned diplomat he impedes the road of true love, wooing but never wedding. He is a moral coward."

DESTROY THE STORKS

IN GERMANY THEY ARE CONSIDERED ENEMIES OF SPORT.

Prejudice Is Resulting in Their Systematic Slaughter in Parts of the Fatherland, and the Birds Are Rapidly Being Thinned Out.

No one who has any delight in Hans Andersen's tales can hear unmoved that the stork has fallen upon evil times. Four years ago it was noticed that they were building less on Turkish house-tops and their diminishing numbers were regarded by the superstitious Ottomans as an evil omen for the future of the race in Europe. On leaving Europe at the end of summer, they seem to penetrate far down the interior of Africa. One that had been caught and marked in Prussia was captured in Natal, near Colenso. Whether the disappearance of wild animals from South Africa before the advance of the settlers also affects the storks is a question not yet settled.

However that may be, attention is being drawn anew to their dwindling numbers in Alsace, now that they are getting ready to leave for the south. German scientists have ascertained that they are also getting fewer in the Palatinate, Hesse, and Franconia. The country people are making valiant efforts to maintain the numbers of their visitors by placing artificial nests on the roofs of their houses, and even by feeding them artificially.

But the storks in Germany have to contend with a prejudice most difficult to eradicate. They are looked upon as enemies of sport. It is true that they sometimes raid the families of hares or find their food in ponds well stocked with fish. But the damage they do in this way is negligible in comparision with the great boon they confer on farmers by destroying mice and moles.

If we we are to believe the German ornithological paper. "Mitteilungen uber die Vogelwelt," a bad example in the treatment of this useful bird has been set in high places. The Grand Duke of Oldenburg is said to have given orders for the curtailing of the number of storks in his state. Fifty per cent. of them are to be shot down. By depriving the female birds of their male admirers, the Grand Duke hopes to "cut down the birth-rate." The German paper containing this announcement protests against a barbarity which deprives villages of their old-established guests, but it adds that similar cases are reported from Upper Franconia, where the owners of sporting estates are actually compelling the peasants to remove the storks' nests perched on their cottage roofs.

The paper appeals to the public to put a stop to this work of destruction. In Alsace happily such brutal methods are unknown. There the bird which symbolizes such venerable traditions is treated with universal respect.

Couldn't Stand for Wager.

Baylis Steele, capitalist and promoter, one day became involved in a dispute over a question of Biblical history.

"Elijah was a lucky man," he remarked. "Instead of being compelled to linger and die of some unpleasant disease, he was carried to heaven in a whirlwind."

"You're wrong," protested the party of the second part, who happened to be afflicted with an impediment in his speech. "Bay-Bay-lis, you're r-r-r-wrong. Elijah went to heaven in a chariot of fire."

"You can't convince me that that good old man was struck by lighting," retorted Steele, and the dispute waxed warm. After it had raged for some three minutes it reached the betting stage.

"Bet you I'm right," said Steele.

"T-t-t-taken," said the party of the second part.

"What'll we bet?" asked Steele.

"W-w-w-well," stuttered the other, "seeing that you d-d-d-don't know any m-m-m-more about Scripture than you do, I g-g-g-guess it had b-b-b-better be a-a-a Bible." And Steele admits that right there he backed out.

Bought and Paid For.

"You say this is worth $5," said the wary customer. "Now, do you guarantee that I'm getting $5 worth of value for my money?"

"Five dollars' worth of value!" flashed the bright young clerk. "Why, mister, for every one of them things we turn out there's four middlemen, seventy-eight drummers, five banks, two railroad pools, eighteen advertising agencies, seven lawyers and 842 billboards all running up expense accounts and adding value to that there article so fast that the company's practically giving you the 34 cents spent on patent royalties, shop upkeep, raw material and labor."—Puck.

Getting Even With "Greatness."

"It is my delight to meet a Great Man," grimly said the Old Codger. "I extract a deal of glee from having a paunchy, self-important, ultra-inflated, prominent citizen in a fancy waistcoat announce to the Personage: 'Oh, Senator Humshak, permit me to present to you Mr.—er—Hawhum!' Then, as the Presence graciously grasps my hand with the clinging clutch of a cuttlefish and unctuously remarks that he is gul-lad to see me, I like to note how it seems to galvanize him into new life and causes him to submit me to instant and keen scrutiny, to have me innocently inquire: 'What is the name, please?'"

BAD ROADS COST MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

The illustration shows the type of mud road that the recent Peoria (Ill.) convention want eliminated.

CARING FOR ROAD FINANCES

Most Modern Methods Urged for Financing Construction and Maintenances of Thoroughfares.

Realizing the need for the most modern methods of financing the construction and maintenance of public roads in the United States Lee McClung, treasurer of the United States, has accepted an invitation to preside over the finance section of the American Road congress.

In an interview just made public Mr. McClung calls attention to the urgent need for the introduction of reforms in the management of road finances.

"My observations," said Treasurer McClung, "lead me to believe that in comparatively few instances is the same care taken of funds for road improvement as is taken by financial institutions for private enterprises. The same care and judgment displayed by bankers in making investments should be shown by state and local highway departments in the expenditure of public moneys for the improvement and maintenance of roads. Legislation and regulation should so be urged in each state as to provide for the levying of road revenues on carefully prepared estimates, for the introduction of simple yet thorough systems of accounting and cost keeping for a system of regulating bond issues which would insure economy and wise business management.

"As one of the possibilities worth considering I might simply refer to the difference between the sinking fund method and the serial bond method as applied to bond issue—and their relative merits."

Mr. McClung said that he was very much gratified to note the activities of the various state bankers associations in the good road movement. He believes that the financiers of the country have a great deal to do with shaping the road movement along the right lines and he expresses the hope that every state bankers association will have its representatives at the conference on road finances which will be held at the American Road congress.

CAUSE OF WILT IN APPLES

Skin Is Rough and Porous, and Not Covered With Coat of Wax as Other Varieties Are.

Ever since russet apples have been grown, says the Rural New Yorker, they have the fault of wilting in storage. It is constitutional with them. Their skin is rough and porous, and not smooth and covered with a coat of wax, as all other kinds are. If anyone will scrape the surface of an ordinary apple with a knife he can easily see that a white wax is gathered on the blade. In some cases it is very noticeable and may be gathered into a little ball.

This wax may be made to shine by rubbing the apple skin, and this is often done by retail fruit dealers and exhibitors at fairs, to enhance their beauty. But it lessens their keeping quality, because of taking off some of nature's protective covering. The russets have almost none of it, and therefore their internal moisture or juices easily pass out. The way to prevent the wilting is by storing the apples in a very damp place. But it must be cool as well, or the apples will ripen and rot.

Split Log Drag.

The split log drag is by far the most important implement yet devised for maintenance of earth roads. The drag, besides leveling out the rough places in the roads, packs the material of the surface and in reality converts it into a layer of brick which with each successive use of the tool becomes thicker and therefore resists the traffic to a greater degree.

BAD ROADS CAUSE BIG WASTE

Declares That $35,000 Be Lost in Illinois Unless Antiquated Methods Are Changed.

Bankers, farmers, automobilists, educators, labor and business men from all over Illinois met at Peoria the other day and approved unanimously a general program for "pulling Illinois out of the mud."

After three rousing meetings they prepared a resolution to the next state legislature setting out the lines on which they think state legislation should be based.

The Illinois highway improvement commission, which called the meeting, declared $55,000,000 will be wasted in Illinois during the next twenty years unless the present antiquated methods are changed.

To prevent this waste the conference urges the creation of a small state railway commission to replace the present army of local commissioners, more active assistance by the state for the trunk lines, and more active insistence by the public on good roads.

It is proposed that prisoners in the state penitentiaries be used not only for the preparation of road building materials, as at present, but, if possible, for actual construction work through the state.

It is proposed to follow the Colorado method, using the honor system, and sending the gangs out with guards.

The legislation recommended by the conference would provide:

State and county co-operation in the construction and maintenance of main highways and bridges.

A nonpolitical state highway commission of at least three competent members, who shall devote their entire time to their duties.

Improvement in such counties as elect to come under the provisions of the law, of main, continuous intercounty highways connecting county seats and other important cities, principally at the expense of the state and county; such roads to be selected and improved by county authorities, subject to the approval of the state highway commission and after improvement to be turned over to the state for perpetual maintenance.

Improvement, maintenance, and control of remaining roads (about 80 per cent of the whole) under supervision of county and township authorities.

Effective measures to guarantee maintenance after roads are once constructed.

Use of the state automobile tax, together with such other funds as the legislature may appropriate, in the improvement of highways.

Use of state prisoners—under state direction—on an honor system, in actual road work when practicable.

Payment of all road taxes in cash.

Compulsory dragging of all earth roads.

Proper construction and guarding of crossings at railroads and intersection of street and highways.

The "platform" of the conference includes resolutions in favor of federal aid for postroads and national highways, and calls attention of Illinois congressmen to this position. It was devised by the committee headed by W. G. Edens of the Central Trust company, president of the association.

Jesse Taylor of Jamestown, O., told the the convention the difference between hauling cost in Belgium and America, 13 cents a mile, meant a waste of $137,500,000 in this year's farm crops alone.

"Think about it," he said, "and then do something, work for local aid and state and federal aid. Joe Cannon believes in federal aid now, because he's heard from home, and if he can be rescued by the folks at home you ought to do something for the other sinners."

The farmers' viewpoint was presented by A. H. Grout, head of the Illinois Farmers' institute; labor's, by Edwin R. Wright, state federation president; the bankers', by B. F. Harris and John D. Phillips, old and new heads of the state association, and H. E. Bradt, their good roads chairman.

Pruning Grapes in Fall.

Grapes are pruned in the fall; usually a half to two-thirds of the new growth is taken off—depending on the system of training that is used—and in northern states the plants are laid on the ground and covered with earth in much the same way as raspberries.