

'ALF PENNY BIRTHDAYS

Telling the Tale to Sarah

BY MARTIN PECHER

The dog Peter is ill. Sarah says that he has got ammonia, so Mummy's made a special room for him 'cause she's afraid the ammonia might get on other people.

The houses at the corners of our Square are larger than the houses in between. Sarah lives in one of them. It is the house that has, as Sarah says, "a green door with a silver knocker, just like a palace." I also live in one, but it has not got a silver knocker. In place of that, as is but just, my house has on its door-post six brass bell-pushes, in column, each with its satellite name-plate at its side like the steps of a brazen staircase that set out to reach the stars but stopped short at the attic flat.

I have three-twenty-thirds of the house but two of my twenty-thirds owe their separate being to what seems to be a kind of thick cardboard... I do not know why I am telling you all this. It is not at all interesting. I had meant but to justify the generosity of Sarah's mother in the matter of an isolation ward for Peter by saying in six words that the corner houses are very large.

And yet... I like living in a corner house. For one reason: When I am tired of living in a Square I have but to cross the corner of a room to another window and I am living in a Street. For a second reason: There is the other corner house—the house opposite.

It is a house of the past—a brooding, melancholy, ghostly house. It were stone dead but for one thing, and that is that every morning, while I am dressing, a ludicrously insignificant feather mop, at the end of a long handle, is thrust out of a side window by some unseen person in an upper room, and waved about as though one sought to sweep cobwebs from the sky. A pigeon that loves to rest on the cornice flies away to the black poplar tree in the Square. For three seconds in eighty-six thousand four hundred the house is made a living thing by that ridiculous mop. For the rest, by day and by night, it is a House of Shadows.

But... I know an old man who in his youth knew an old man who remembered Sarah. She, who has usually forty-five questions in leash at the end of a story, had not spoken. I looked down at her, and, if you please, Sarah was crying—crying big, round tears.

"Sweetheart," said I, "what is the matter?" "I wish," said Sarah, trying to catch a falling tear on the tip of her tongue, "I wish I had a million hundred pounds!"

"What for?" said I. "To give them Penny Birthdays," said Sarah.

Later—Peter is better. His appetite returns. He has eaten the straps of Sarah's second-best shoes. "Morning Post."

The latest organization to be formed, viz., the Society for the Study of China's Railways, was formally inaugurated at a meeting held in the China United Assurance Building on Saturday.

Arriving in 1887, Dr. and Mrs. Silsby have given over 40 years of devoted service to China and the Chinese in this city. Dr. Silsby's principal work has been as an educationalist in the Lowrie Institute, South Gate, of which for many years he was the Principal. His students are to be found holding important positions in commercial, professional and political circles in Shanghai and many other parts of China. Many of his old pupils were present to bid their old teacher farewell.

Dr. Silsby also did valuable work in connection with the study of the Shanghai Vernacular. He was Editor of the "English-Chinese Vocabulary of the Shanghai Dialect" and prepared and published two Syllabaries—one in Chinese characters and one in Phonetics. He collaborated with Dr. Davis in publishing "Davis & Silsby's Lessons in the Shanghai Vernacular." He also adapted the National Phonetic Script to the local dialect. For a number of years he was a leading member of the Committee for the translation of the Bible in the Shanghai Dialect.

Dr. Silsby was a man wise in counsel and broad in sympathy, a strong Evangelical and at the same time truly catholic in his outlook. Though quiet and retiring, Dr. and Mrs. Silsby exercised a very real and gracious influence in our midst and their departure from Shanghai will be a great loss to their many friends and to this city in which they have spent 40 years of devoted service.

THE "Shunpao" states that the Spanish Consul-General has handed an official reply to Chev. S. K. Chen, chief of the Shanghai office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, regarding the abrogation of the Sino-Spanish Treaty. The contents have not been disclosed.

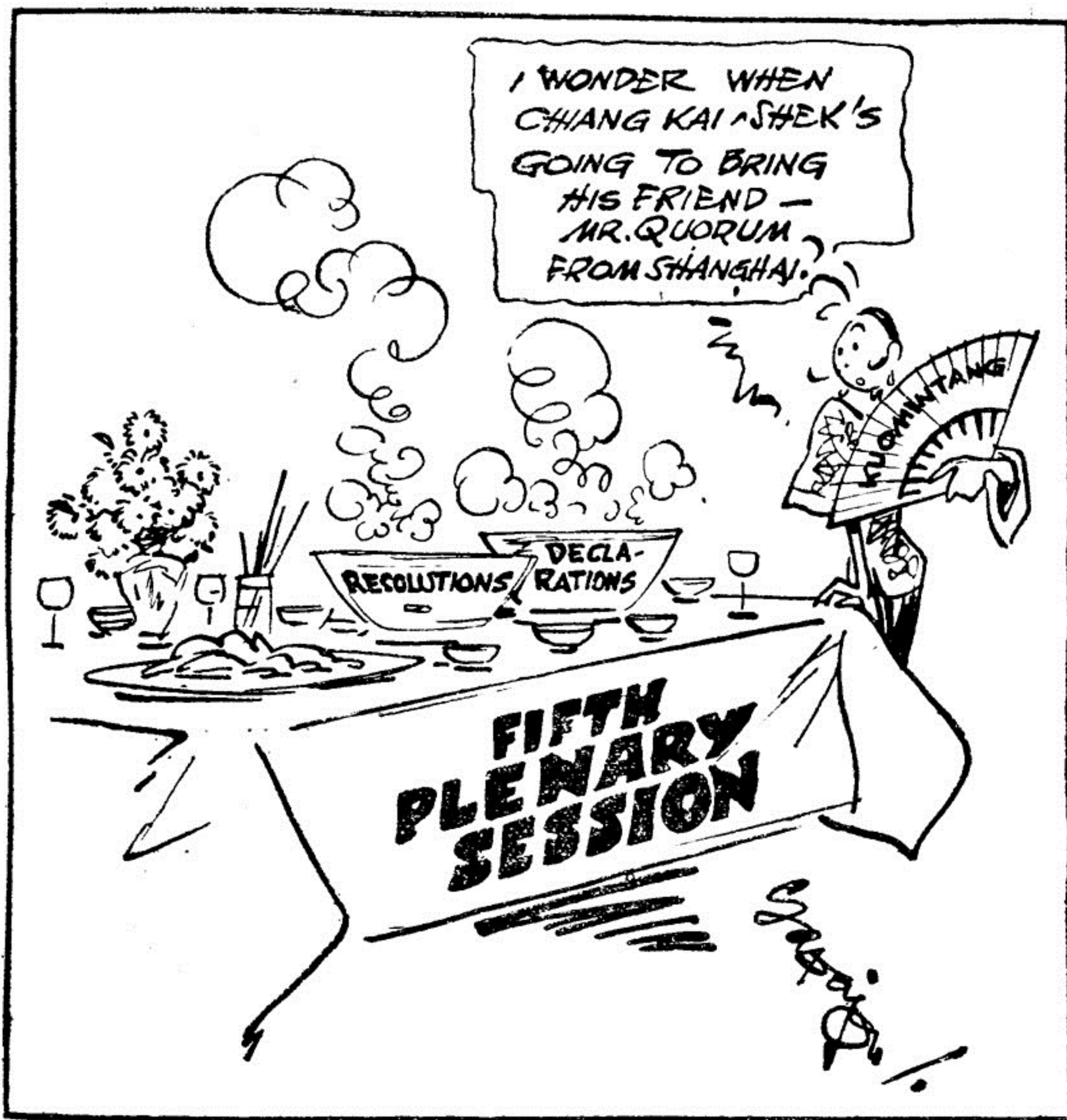
PROFESSOR Martinus Nielsen, who in the 'nineties and early part of this century occupied a conspicuous place in the ranks of Danish dramatic artists, died suddenly on July 10 at the age of 69. Professor Nielsen, who at one time owned and directed the Dagmar and Casino Theatres, produced and took part in various plays by Shakespeare and Schiller. He was married to Madame Oda Nielsen, herself an actress of great distinction, who survives him.

DR. Chung Wing-kwong, Commissioner of Emigration, is said to be working hard in the interests of Chinese abroad and has made recommendations to the Nanking Foreign Ministry regarding the choice of Ministers and Consuls. He has pointed out in no uncertain terms that hitherto Chinese Ministers and Consuls have conducted themselves in a manner and manner and taken no interest in the welfare of Chinese residents. As most Chinese abroad are either from Kuangtung or Fukien, Dr. Chung suggests that diplomats and consuls should be natives of those provinces.

vice in the upper reaches of the Yangtze.

They are already being used in China for a wide variety of services such as trench and excavation pumping, irrigation, water supply, filling tanks and boilers, handling oils and chemicals, fire fighting etc. and they are so simple that they can be safely left to coolies to look after.

The United States Navy Department in Shanghai have recently ordered sixteen of these interesting Pumping Outfits for salvage ser-



WHILE THE DINNER SPOILS

trees and the wind and the sky. I wish I could have written it down, but I never can.

When I came back to myself I remembered Sarah. She, who has usually forty-five questions in leash at the end of a story, had not spoken.

I looked down at her, and, if you please, Sarah was crying—crying big, round tears.

"Sweetheart," said I, "what is the matter?"

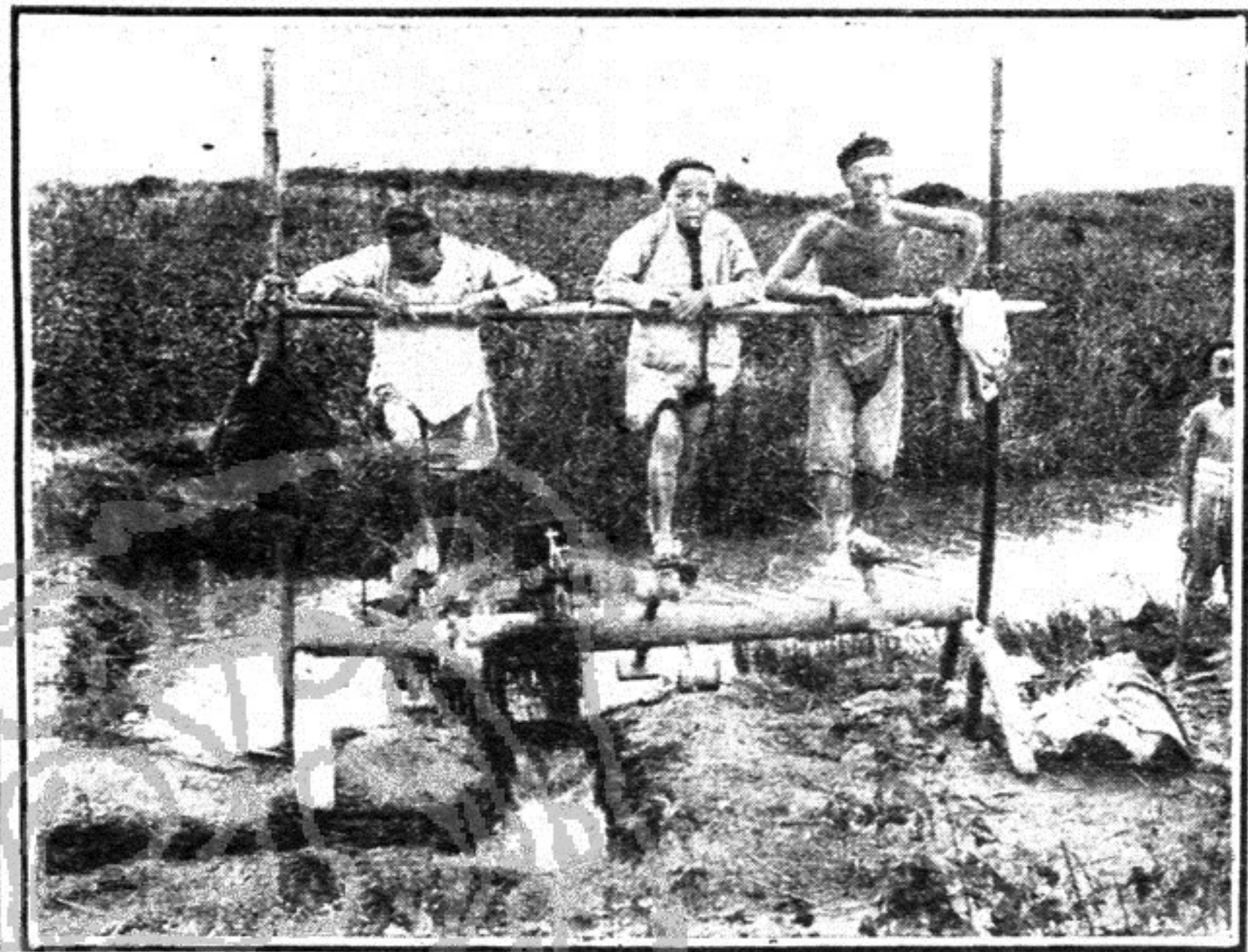
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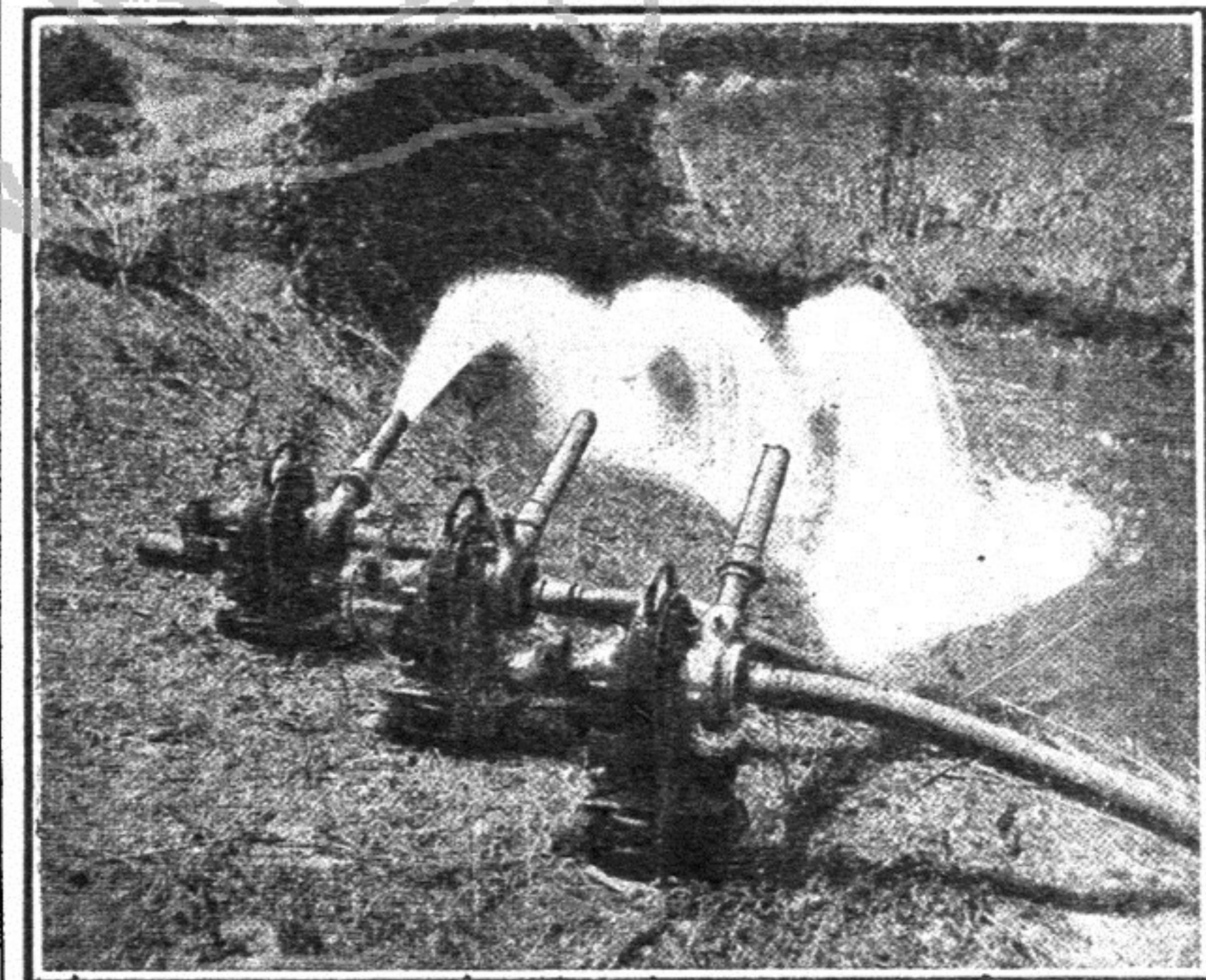
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IRRIGATION IN CHINA



Three-man power—an unknown quantity



Three Homelite Pumps, showing the complete pumps, engines, and fuel tanks, lifting 24,000 gallons per hour

FUEL-DRIVEN PUMPS FOR IRRIGATION

Chinese Man-Power Yields to New Machines of "Fool-Proof" Construction

Water is an ever present problem in China and amazing ingenuity has been exercised in the invention of contrivances for irrigating the land and dealing with flood waters.

The modern water-turbine may be said to be a development of the Chinese water-wheel which is such a common feature of the countryside but there is no western equivalent of the coolie or buffalo driven "catapult" water lifter. While these are readily adjustable for differences in level they are cumbersome and very inefficient as about ninety per cent. of the power applied by the coolies' weight or the buffalo's energy is wasted in friction and water slip.

Increasing Mechanical Means

An increasing number of centrifugal pumps, generally belt-driven by small oil engines, are now in use and this type of pump has the advantage of having no valves to give trouble but it must be driven at a high speed or its size and weight render it unsuitable.

Messrs. Inness & Riddle (China)

Ltd. have recently placed on this market an extremely compact and rugged portable outfit, the Homelite Portable Pump, which weighs only 95 lb. and will pump no less than 7,500 gallons per hour at fuel cost of ten cents (Mex.) per hour. This quantity of water represents a solid stream two inches in diameter. The pump is suitable for lifting up to 50 feet.

The equipment consists of an air-cooled valveless kerosene engine fitted with water-proof Bosch magneto and direct-coupled in the same casing to a high efficiency centrifugal pump having a bronze impeller with ample clearances to allow of it being used for the mud-diast water. The kerosene (fuel) tank is bolted below the casing and rests on four coil springs so that no foundation of any kind is required. It is but 20 inches long by 13 inches wide.

Ingenuous Construction

The engine has only six moving parts and is exactly the same as in the Homelite Portable Electric Lighting Plant nearly three hundred of which are now in operation in China. These include more than a hundred supplied to the National Government Radio Services for battery charging.

The United States Navy Department in Shanghai have recently ordered sixteen of these interesting Pumping Outfits for salvage ser-

MERCHANTS' TURN TO LAUGH

Boycotters Squelched at Canton: Disgraceful Administration of a Railway

PRACTICAL METHODS OF DISBANDMENT

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Canton, July 30.

The police officers have been instructed by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Public Safety to put a stop for once and all to the seizing of goods and the levying of fines against those goods on the pretext that they are of Japanese origin. Calling newspaper reporters to his office this morning, Chief-of-Police Tang Sai-chang told them the welcome news. It means Government intervention; it means a cessation of the highhandedness of the Municipal Kuomintang Boycott Committee, it means a victory scored for Marshal Li Chi-sen and a crushing defeat for his enemies.

Only yesterday, it looked pretty dark for the business community, and the merchants were much depressed. Two meetings held the previous day had taken turns that spelled disaster for them, and while they had raised despairing eyes in the direction of the Government Building, aid was so slow in coming, that it seemed as if it was not to be tendered. With the Marshal away, had no official the grit to carry out his policies? Thus far the Boycott Committee had violated the rules laid down by Li Chi-sen with impunity. Was such a state of affairs to endure for ever? Small wonder that the merchants were downcast.

Boycotters' Arrogance

At the Boycott Committee's meeting of the 29th, the merchants had been asked to send representatives. These were not invited to take part in the discussion, but to listen to the voice of authority. The parent had decided what was good for the child, and it was to hear what it should do, and to learn what dire punishment would be sure to result from disobedience.

To ease the burden a little, one concession had been made to the shop owners; they still had to pay their fine, equivalent to 30 per cent. of the value of all Japanese goods already in stock, or which might subsequently be purchased; but it had been decided to allow payments to be made on the instalment plan, so much down, and so much a month.

Every mother's son kept clear of the Committee's meeting, and the merchants held their own little conference on Sunday, to which seventeen of the long hands of considerable quantities of Japanese products sent full delegations. But the boycotters saw to it that even here the merchants did not have everything their own way. The principal speaker was a youngster, hardly out of knickers, but with well-developed lungs, who raved and ranted all for the cause of the Boycott Committee.

Heart Bursting with Patriotism

This youthful orator claimed to be the author of the 30 per cent fine scheme, so objectionable to those who perform must listen while he told the shop owners what he thought of them, on which score, he had plenty to say. The Boycott Committee was working heart and soul to make successful a boycott aimed at cruel Japan, and simultaneously merchants were boycotting the Committee. By their actions, they were preventing the attainment of a national cause; for pressure which the Committee were prepared to exert would drive Japan and keep her on the run until she would have to amend her old treaty with China. Whereby China's prestige in the eyes of the world powers would be greatly enhanced. They were skunks, these merchants, they had no love of country, they thought only of their own pocket-books. In to their faces the child orator flung these insults.

Little Surprise for "Searchers"

The worm has turned. If the avowed purpose of the Chief of Police is any sign of what may be expected from official Canton, the work of the Boycott Committee is

finished. A victory for the Right may then be chalked up, for this struggle to force a boycott on Canton has been a convulsion started by the Leftists. Nearly all of the Municipal Kuomintang members are of that wing of the Party, while the Provincial Kuomintang with which the government officials, for the most part, are affiliated, is predominately of the Right.

Just before the Chief of Police spoke his mind, the Boycott Committee had despatched a band of its workers, who went about visiting shops suspected of carrying Japanese wares. Seeking admission, the searching party was surprised and indignant to learn that permission not to be obtained, and that only by using physical force could they carry out their "duties." Right here, evidently, the Chief of Police thought it high time to make it plain that not only could the aid of his officers in securing entry to the Canton shops not be counted upon, but quite to the contrary, the patrolmen were to resist all efforts to force an entry.

With that, the Boycott Committee has adopted different tactics. To-day it commenced to publish in the vernacular journals the names of the shops whose owners were so unpatriotic as to deny the search and look over the stocks of goods on hand. Which causes the merchants to laugh up their sleeves. It is now their turn to laugh.

Railway Scandal

A pretty mess was stirred up when, a few weeks ago, Detective Chan, who had just uncovered a cache of contraband goods in which employees of the Canton-Shiukwan railroad were dealing illicitly, was pronounced upon by these self-same employees and beaten nearly to death. Following that criminal assault, the board of managers of the road failed to perform their duty of rendering a report, apprising the Government of what had taken place. It has taken these several weeks for the full particulars to reach the ears of the government, but once it had the details, it lost no time in acting.

From top to bottom the Canton-Shiukwan Railroad administration is being cleared out. Nearly the entire board of managers has been changed, and quite a few of the workmen and foremen have been dismissed. For years the whole system has been rotten to the core, and the evidence points to the fact that at least part of the railroad workers were plotting against the incumbent government.

In the machine shops, they had been wont to turn out rifle barrels, and a whole arsenal of small arms is known to have been manufactured by these labourers. When they set upon the Police Detective Chan, rifles, revolvers and automatics were displayed by many in the attacking party.

"Disbandment" With a Vengeance
Up on the North River not far from the Wunan border a battle is going on, the first shots having been exchanged on the evening of the 29th. On one side are the Wunan troops of Fan Shek-shan, Hui Hak-cheung and Wu Fung-cneung, their enemy being another Government force, Kwangsi troops, assisted by Kwangtung companies that have recently returned from Swatow to take part in this engagement. The allied Kwangtung-Kwangsi forces are seeking to disarm their opponents, 1 for Military Headquarters wants to put the Wunan divisions out of existence.

It is simply a part of the program which calls for the cutting down of the standing army. In carrying out that program, it is only natural that alien troops should be done away with first. The pay of the Wunan soldiers was cut off sometime ago, but their commanders would not obey orders and muster out their units or withdraw them to another province. Force, then, is being used to attain the object.

At a reception to members of the press during the week-end, Mr. Yin Tsai-wei, manager of the Daily News Agency (Jih Jih Sin Wai She), said that the mission of his agency was to supply reliable news to the local papers. Particular emphasis would be laid on the sufferings of the common people and it was the aim of the promoters to establish a world's news department in the near future.

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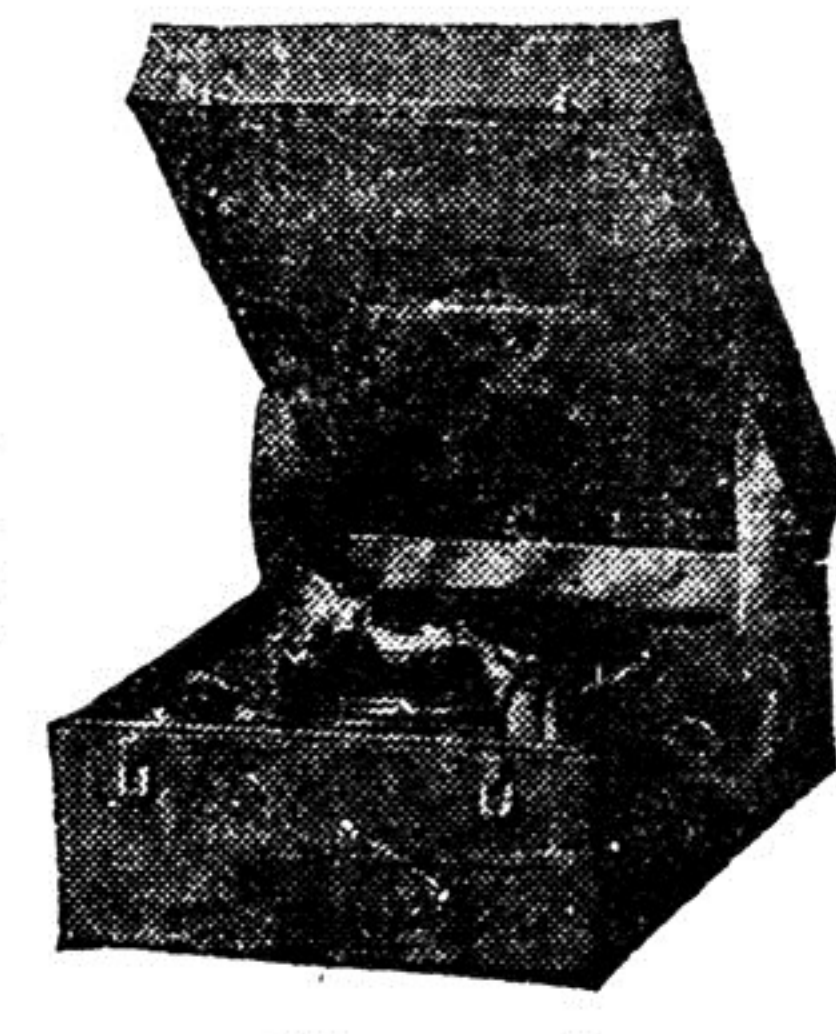
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