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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

### Pekin and Uncle Sam

With the fall of the Chang Tso-Lin dictatorship and the nationalists' rise to power in China, a grave responsibility devolves on the United States.

A vast new nation, bigger than the United States and with 400,000,000 people, is a-borning. About its cradle are grouped powerful influences which gladly would strangle it in its infancy. Others would stunt its growth, if they could, to keep it docile and weak.

Almost alone among the great powers, the United States sincerely desires a strong, united China. For almost alone—we hasten to add lest we be accused of assuming a holier-than-thou attitude in the matter—we have nothing to lose and much to gain by helping her to be strong.

If China is partitioned, we lose everything, for we would not accept an inch of Chinese territory. But if China grows we will profit directly as her purchasing power increases.

Put it on the lowest of bases, if you will, but China's best interests are our best interests. As soon as possible, then, we should recognize the new nationalist regime without, at the same time, leaping before we look.

In recent years Washington has not been at all squeamish in recognizing Pekin governments. Whether they fought their way to power, or bought their way, or tricked their way in, once in, Washington, in common with the other foreign nations, quickly has extended recognition.

The reason for this, as given at Washington, was that it was convenient, if not necessary, to keep communications with China open, and recognition of the various Pekin governments afforded the means. With which reason few observers will quibble.

But, at the same time, having recently swallowed many a camel, now is hardly the time to begin straining at a gnat.

The nationalists, of course, are not supermen. They are not going to usher in the millennium. All the wrongs in China will not suddenly be righted. Plenty of trouble, undoubtedly, is still ahead.

Fundamentally, however, the nationalist movement now under way is the most wholesome fact that unhappy country has seen in a thousand years or more and the United States should and must do everything it possibly can to keep the spark alive. If it does not do so, no other great power will.

Likely there will be more civil wars. Factions, doubtless, will battle faction. Regrettable acts may be committed by extremists, for it takes all kinds of people to make a nation—even a nation like ours.

But such things humanly are to be expected when 400,000,000 backward people fight their way out of darkness into light and so the foundation of our China policy should be patience.

Prompt recognition would help immensely through increasing the prestige of those who have now brought all China, nominally, at least, under their sway—the first time any government has done that since the fall of the monarchy seventeen years ago.

### It's the Man That Counts

The Democratic party platform contains as constructive a foreign policy plank as has been offered the people of this country in some time.

It omits all mention, by name, of the League of Nations and the World Court, but it puts the party on record as favoring "full, free and open co-operation with all other nations for promotion of peace and justice throughout the world."

Further, it endorses outlawry of war; reduction and limitation of armament; noninterference with the internal affairs of other nations; abolition of the practice of presidents intervening with armed forces in foreign countries without the sanction of the Senate; co-operating with Latin America in upholding the Monroe doctrine; restoration of America to its former place as leader among the nations of the world; an adequate Navy and merchant marine; a national, rather than a partisan, foreign policy; protection of American lives and interests abroad; no entangling alliances, no militarism, no imperialism and no conscientious objectors.

Opposed to this faction is Monsignor Ladeuze, rector of the university. He is all for the "American generosity" part, but why, he asks, should anybody want to perpetuate grudges between peoples in state, which is to endure through the ages?

Thus inspired, the rector had the workers install the balustrade, minus the legend and stationed policemen about it to prevent trouble. But pro-Warren students broke through the police lines and smashed the columns, and so the war goes on.

Warren is wrong for at least two reasons. First, as an American it comes in bad taste to insist upon an objectionable sentiment being carved across the facade of a gift to the Belgians from the American people. Second, world statesmen are trying to end international discord, not promote it.

Monsignor Ladeuze is right: Why build monuments to hate?

### An Interesting Experiment

Muscle Shoals City, a little municipality within a short distance of the Government's hydroelectric development, has renewed its request to the War Department that it be permitted to buy some of the electricity generated. It is indicated that the request will be granted.

The city proposes to buy the current on the same terms as the Alabama Power Company, and distribute it to citizens. The Government will be paid a reasonable price for the current, wholesale, but citizens will be required to pay only a fraction of the cost charged by private companies.

Originally, it was proposed to give any home all the electricity it could use for a flat price of a dollar a month, and it is presumed this idea will be followed.

There is ample current available for this purpose, for during 1927 the Alabama Power Company used only 58 per cent of the amount generated.

Other Alabama cities will do well to follow the example of Muscle Shoals City, for their own interest.

From a national standpoint, a valuable experiment will be offered. It will be shown how much the distribution of electricity really costs, and how much of the citizen's monthly electric bill is reasonable profit.

### The Public's Water Power

Theoretically, the public interest in water power sites is adequately protected by the Federal water power commission.

Actually, this is not so.

The law provides that the commission may issue licenses for the development of power sites under fifty-year lease. At the end of that time the Government may gain the site by reimbursing the private operators for what they have spent.

That should mean prosperity for the American farmer and it would if the speculator did not stand between him and the market.

The farmer's trouble is not due so much to the low prices he has had to accept, as to the high ones he has never been allowed to receive.

When his products are down, he is permitted to sell them at the best he can, but when they are up, he is surrounded by a hoard of brokers reaping the profit in handling his grain.

If the farmer needs one thing more than another, it is a marketing system by which he can get a bigger share of what the consumer pays.

### The Second Battle of Louvain

"Mob tears down anti-hate pillars in Louvain dispute," reads a headline. Whereupon we pause in our reading long enough to regret that some Americans who ought to have more tact, haven't.

Back in 1914, when the Kaiser's legions tramped over Belgium in their march on Paris, they laid historic Louvain waste. Among the buildings destroyed was the famous old library of the university.

Since that time money was raised in the United States to rebuild the library. Whitney Warren, brilliant American architect, designed the new structure. But the dedicatory inscription across the stone balustrade remains to be carved and over that inscription the second battle of Louvain is raging.

Whitney Warren insists it shall read: "Destroyed by German fury; rebuilt by American generosity," and backing him are many students and citizens of the town.

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