

Then we believe that it is impossible to do anything to this traffic, unless something is done to ascertain and register the entry and departure of Chinese at Hong-kong. If nothing is done from this angle, the stream of contract-labourer emigration can go on forever through this channel, absolutely unchecked, and no amount of legislation on the matter would avail.

Thirdly, the question of registration of overseas Chinese is one of paramount importance. It appears that at the present moment, the Chinese Consulate-General at Manila P. I. is the only Chinese consulate that has been authorized to carry out measures necessary for the registration of our nationals abroad. We believe that the Government should immediately promulgate laws regarding the matter: and should any difficulty arise through the intervention of the governments of the domicile of the overseas Chinese, im-

mediately carry out negotiations with them to bring the question to a settlement.

Lastly, the Regulations mentioned in one of the preceding paragraphs should be examined, amended and strictly enforced. The emigration and the recruiting of contract-labourers must be supervised and restricted: the enlisted persons must be explicitly taught their rights as well as their duties, and where and what to appeal to in case of dissatisfaction or mal-treatment: contracts must be explained and copies of them given to each labourer for their protection, as it is impossible to expect uniform contracts on all occasions: and the Chinese Government must appoint Official Inspectors, jointly with the authorities concerned, to supervise and report upon the working conditions of every mine or plantation.

Journalistic Ethics

There are four kinds of journalists, honest ones, jingoists, tools, and those who consider themselves as merchandise. The last kind is common, the second and third kinds are probably just as numerous, and the first kind is a rarity though fortunately for the world it is existing. This may not be a correct categorization as a whole; but in China at present, the foreign correspondents answer exactly to this classification.

According to the **Christian Science Monitor**, one of the best known papers of the world, a foreign correspondent is "one of the factors in international affairs that may decide the issue of war and peace; a personage that has been defined as the living bridge between two civilizations." This short sentence sums up what a foreign correspondent should be; but let us follow the doings of some of the best known ones, stationed in our country.

It was in the anteroom of one of the pillars of the government, one of the ministers of State. A secretary has had an animated talk with a personage with a prominent nose and fond of wild gesticulations. The minister was busy, but the caller "had met him two years ago." So a card, bearing the name of Soloman Maccabaeus, and with the word "confidential" written on it, was taken to the minister. As a result, the two were closeted for over half an hour. After this, Soloman made it a habit to call every day; and before a week was over, he took it that it was his privilege to go into the minister's office unannounced. No! he would not butt into the latter's business; his was a small matter, he could wait. Twenty minutes passed.

"May I use your telephone?"

"Surely."

The line was connected.

"Is this the.....Legation? I want to speak to the Minister." And later, "I am Maccabaeus. I am at so and so's office.....You can't hear me? I am sorry I cannot speak any louder. I am using His Excellency's telephone, and he is very much occupied just across the desk."

And so the stage was set. Somehow the Chinese official was led to think that he might make use of the man: and the foreign minister was induced to believe that the young correspondent must be in exceedingly good terms with the highest of Chinese officialdom. Events developed fast, and a few months later, we find Soloman addressing the same secretary who took in his card to the minister's room: "Old boy, I cannot boost up the whole Chinese nation. Nobody would believe me if I do. All that I can do is to say something for your ministry.In fact, I have documents in my possession to prove this against General A and that against Mr. B. Their revelation would cause the greatest scandal ever written up in China. I am refraining from doing so because A and B are friends of your minister."

The Critic is glad to say that among the numerous foreign correspondents, with whom its board of editors may claim acquaintance, there are very few who answer to the description in the above paragraphs. Perhaps the average one is only as bad as "Tasman Ile," a "former Shanghai journalist," who wrote **Shanghai Nights**, in which he said "You'll damn well soon know who I am if you don't get out of the way.....I'll have your rotten joint closed down in a week.....I'm a newspaperman if you want to know—from the press, two more words out of you and your dump gets so much limelight you'll lose your licence!"

So this is what a foreign correspondent in Shanghai unconsciously let out on the interesting topic of what he thinks of himself. Conscious of the power of the pen, conscious that they can influence public opinion, and conscious that there is a demand for paid journalism by Chinese as well as foreign interests, the more unscrupulous of the foreign correspondents dedicate themselves to a financial cause, stretching the meaning of actual news, telling the partial truth in a colourful manner, and indulging in propaganda work instead of disseminating information.

In journalism, there is a code of ethics just as in the case of the medical profession. But while medical practitioners find it to their own interests to adhere to the moral maxims attached to their profession, newspaper men have found out that "they can make more out of it," if they scatter to the winds whatever little scruples they have in them at the time when they begin their career. It is true that in Great Britain there is the *Manchester Guardian*, in the United States there is the *Christian Science Monitor*, which perhaps represent the acme of modern journalism. We do not care to pass judgment on the other papers of those countries. But when it comes to the majority of the foreign correspondents in China, some of them are just as yel-

low as the ex-Manchu throne.

We do not mean to indict the whole journalistic profession in China. The integrity of some of the men cannot be doubted. They are unpurchaseable. They possess a fair and open mind. They avoid the danger of going too far in their writings. They hold the confidences which they possess solely to themselves. They do not meddle with the politics of our country. They are not interested in anything, not even the commercial, financial or political activities of their own countries, excepting their own work.

But alas! how few are such men; and their voices never reach as far as those who are not as reliable, but who make it a point to blow their own trumpets.

Article XIX of the Covenant of the League of Nations and China's Unequal Treaties

By Tan Shao-hwa (譚紹華)

In order to preserve continuity for the sake of our readers, this article is published in one issue in deviation from our regular policy—Ed.

Shortly before the end of the World War and immediately after it, pending the adoption of the final draft of the Covenant of the League of Nations, the world, especially the weaker nations, had two occasions for rejoicing. One was the message to Congress by President Woodrow Wilson on January 8, 1918, which has subsequently taken the name of the illustrious "Fourteen Points," and in which the American chief executive advocated as one of the bases for peace that, "A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike; the other was the adoption by the Peace Conference at its plenary session on February 14, 1919, of the substance of Article XIX of the Covenant as an independent article (XXIV) instead of being a mere reservation qualifying the provision of mutual guarantee of territorial integrity and political independence as appeared in the three Wilson Drafts, the Cecil Draft and in the Hurst-Miller Draft, of the Covenant. It is self-evident that the draft of February 14, 1919, was not final and what purported to be Article XXIV at that session had since become Article XIX. Article XIX, as it now stands, reads as follows:

"The Assembly may from time to time advise the reconsideration by Members of the League of treaties which have become inapplicable and the consideration of international conditions whose continuance might endanger the peace of the world."

Indeed, it was an epoch-making contrivance. Irrespective of its practical limitations, its face-value alone does not fail to reveal the noble intention of at least certain of its authors. In Article XIX we find (or rather we ought to find) a safeguard against injustice in connexion with disputes arising out of the non-

application or change of existing international engagements. Thus, Professor P. J. Baker said: "This is a definite, though no doubt an embryonic, political process of legislation for changing existing legal rights by collective action. It is founded on the new and important principle that the alteration of contractual or other legal rights may be effected by general discussion of members of the community of states on the basis of the general interests of society. It was designed to meet and remove injustices which might result from the application of existing legal rights, whether those rights derived from territorial arrangements or from other rules of international law."¹

At the introduction of such a political process of quasi-legislation into the Covenant of the League, the small nations of the world have rejoiced, because many of them have unilateral treaties with the bigger Powers, which have since their conclusion become oppressive by the lapse of time and by subsequent changes of circumstances. China was one of those countries which have attached great significance to Article XIX of the Covenant. As we shall see presently China has invoked the assistance of the stipulation, although the result of such invocation is by far falling short of China's expectations. The reason for China to appeal to such a provision of the Covenant is not far to seek. As we all are well aware, China's existing treaties are not spontaneous engagements willingly and freely entered into by China with due considerations. On the contrary, they are unilateral instruments essentially oppressive to China and discriminatingly in favor of the foreigners. Some of them have existed for some 86 years. And they all have operated powerfully to increase the difficulty of China in its efforts to place its new republican form of

1.—P. J. Baker, "The Obligatory Jurisdiction of the Permanent Court of International Justice," *British Yr. Bk. of Int. Law*, (1925) p. 101.