

No wonder both the British Government and leading commercial bodies, especially those of Lancashire, have become alarmed and have decided to investigate conditions on the spot. There is nothing wrong with British goods. The quality, whether of cotton, of wool, of machinery or of ships, is still good, perhaps too good (and therefore expensive) for the pocket of the average Chinese, who usually prefers a lower and cheaper grade. But it is the personnel that in our opinion is wrong. The consul is too much of an official, too little of a business representative; the average British merchant is too much of a *taipan*, giving himself over to too many airs and knowing too little of the people he chooses to trade with. And what a press! Read the constant harpings of *The Central China Post*, of *The Peking and Tientsin Times*, of *The China Digest*, of the Britishers whose letters are published in *The North China Daily News*. If only the traders learn to mix with the Chinese from whom they desire business and not attempt to rule or teach them, British prospects will be immeasurably brighter.

The Troubles Of Japan

AFTER months of political wranglings, first among the admirals, then in both Houses of Parliament, and lastly in the Privy Council, the London Naval Treaty for the limitation of armaments on sea was duly ratified by the Emperor of Japan on October 2. Thus the three principal signatories, namely, Great Britain, the United States of America and Japan have ratified the Pact of London, which now comes into force. By this act, each of these three Powers is able to save an immense sum of money, which could be deviated to more productive purposes, such as, finding work for the unemployed, who number 2,100,000 in Great Britain, over 3,000,000 in America and 600,000 in Japan. In the last country, the savings effected will reach Yen 520,000,000 per year. But now comes the hitch. The Navy men (who with the military leaders have direct approach to the Emperor and are therefore practically independent of any Japanese Cabinet) propose to spend these savings from the scrappings of large cruisers upon other forms of naval expansion, which if attained will mean the same national expenditure and no alleviation of the people's burdens in the form of less taxation and more encouragement to industries. No wonder the thinking and commercial classes as represented by the three powerful daily newspapers, *The Osaka Mainichi*,

Tokio Nichi Nichi and *Asahi Shimbun* are up in arms against the navalists for their pigheadedness. These troubles are enhanced by the sudden resignation of the Minister of Navy (Admiral Takarabe) who attended the London Conference and appended his signature to the Treaty and had since been the target of his colleagues in the Navy. No doubt he has good reasons for this action, but it is ominously indicative of the state of unrest in the Japanese Empire. The constant exposures of corruption among the highest officials of the country, including the late Governor-General of Chosen (Yamanashi), former Education Minister Kobashi, the police chiefs of Tokio and other cities, where wholesale grafting appears to have taken place, must weaken the faith of the nation in the authorities. We shall be surprised if in the near future the Socialists of Japan do not win a prominent place in the elections as they have done recently in England, Germany, Belgium and elsewhere in Europe.

The "Fashion Show"

IT has often been said that the hardest group of people to be convinced to use Chinese native products in dress and wear, is constituted by many of the returned students, society folk and particularly the younger smart set. But it triumphed at last at the "Fashion Show," recently held in the Majestic Hotel under the auspices of the Municipality of Greater Shanghai! Decidedly it was a new idea and therefore a welcome event. Many socially prominent ladies participated; because if they did not show any interest in promoting Chinese industries, the plebians never would. They lent color and did honor to the occasion by consenting to act as mannequins and parade before a patriotic and enthused audience. To us the event was a great success on two accounts. In the first place, the group that erstwhile offered strongest resistance has been won over. Today the fashionable ladies and their followers seem to have assembled in great solemnity and pledged themselves that henceforth they would use no other dress material but Chinese. This is indeed a gigantic accomplishment. In the second place, due to very reasonable admission, the occasion was well attended and enjoyed. The throng that gathered there paid two dollars for admission to see a performance that was hitherto thought an impossibility, but now demonstrated in real flesh and blood. They got their money's worth, considering the tasty refreshments, enjoyable dancing, and above all, a free show-off for everybody. The event is over. It remains for our struggling industries to look and pray for direct beneficial effects.

General Chiang on Post-War Problems

The war in the North has happily concluded with the anniversary celebration of the Republic on October 10th. Hostilities have since ceased, troops are being released for service in bandit-menaced regions and communications restored in the erstwhile fighting areas. As an indirect acknowledgment of their military failure, Generals Yen

Hsi-shan and Feng Yu-hsiang and Mr. Wang Ching-wei on October 12th issued a joint telegram from Shihchiachuang expressing their willingness to retire from politics if a people's convention were called to decide upon national policies. It will be recalled that in a telegram to the State Council in Nanking General Chiang Kai-shek had proposed the

calling of a people's convention; in a separate telegram he also pleaded for the granting of amnesties to all political offenders in the eyes of Nanking, with the exception of Generals Yen Hsi-shan and Chen Chun-ming.

It has been succinctly stated that wars are but a form of political election in China. If we correctly interpret the spirit of General Chiang's above two telegrams there seems to be eager desire on his part to demonstrate the utility or rather futility of civil fighting in this respect. We certainly hope with him that the measures he proposed will be faithfully executed to explore a common-meeting ground for able spokesmen of all political viewpoints. It is only through a conscientious process aimed at the adjustment and harmonization of all viewpoints, and not by the trial of military strength, that a political system may be evolved in China for the sake of lasting peace in the country. To our mind this must be the first urgent post-war task confronting the government. The two telegrams of General Chiang mentioned above would seem to indicate that a lesson has been learned from the war just concluded.

Of course there is a number of other post-war problems. In a manifesto to the people on the eve of the National Anniversary General Chiang discusses them under headings with much directness and simplicity. He enumerates five tasks as of immediate urgency; namely, the complete eradication of communism and banditry, the rehabilitation of the national finances, evolution of an efficient and irreproachable administration, development of productive enterprises, and enforcement of local autonomy throughout the country. We agree with the General that of these five bandit suppression "must naturally receive first attention" from the Government. "As soon as the war is over," he states, "the Government must assume full responsibility for the planning as well as rigorous prosecution of the bandit-suppression campaign. . . . Within three months, or at most six months, from the conclusion of the military expedition, complete eradication of banditry should be effected."

As regards national finances, General Chiang emphasizes once more what has been the hope of the entire country. The reforms he stresses are the introduction of budgetary, accounting and auditing systems, the unification of currency and the abolition of *likin* and other

transit duties. "With peace and national unification restored," General Chiang pledges, "not only will these vitally important requirements be rigidly enforced, but strict publicity of all national and local government accounts will also be introduced." It is to be hoped that the execution of this pledge will open a new page in the history of government finances in China.

On the subject of government administration General Chiang makes some pointed remarks that remind us of his strong rebuke of Chinese officialdom in his last New Year manifesto to the people (*China Critic* Vol. III No. 2). To quote General Chiang: "The main defects of the officialdom today are (1) lethargy and inefficiency; and (2) corruption. The former is due to ambiguous demarcation of the powers and responsibilities of the various officials; and the latter is attributable to the fact that evil practices long chronic in the body politic can not be wiped out at once. This has been a disappointment to the people and a blot on the National Revolution. The administrative system must therefore be revised and improved; and political responsibility clearly defined so that the line of demarcation between the jurisdictions of various Government organs will be clear and indisputable. The system of supervision and impeachment of Government officials guilty of corruption will be vigorously enforced in order to eradicate corruption in officialdom."

To facilitate economic development of China, General Chiang is in favor of the employment of foreign capital. But he adds that foreign capital must be invited on honorable terms and it must be strictly used for the development of means of communications, water conservancy, development of agriculture and mining, and protection of other basic industries of the country.

As regards enforcement of local autonomy, the General deplors that the results which have so far been achieved are far from satisfactory. "With the liquidation of the rebellion," he promises, "efforts must be concentrated on the enforcement of this all-important system so that the Period of Tutelage may be completed and the way to constitutional government opened."

The above tasks, General Chiang concludes, are the minimum requirement of the government. "Only when it succeeds in their realization, will it have carried out its primary duties to the people." We certainly concur in this.

The Chinese Republic Enters her Twentieth Year

The autumn sun shone pleasant and warm on Friday, October 10. It saw hundreds of people, and thousands more throughout the country, join in nationwide celebrations of the nineteenth anniversary of the inauguration of the Chinese Republic. It smiled at the flag-bedecked city and seemed to say, "A fine day befitting a great occasion!" It was indeed a fine day worthy of its event. Nature had purposely made it so—as if it, too, was happy over the fact that the Chinese Republic is entering her twentieth year.

The history of the past nineteen years, however, has not been altogether a smooth one. The eighteen October 10's have witnessed the country in a worse plight than the nineteenth. On October 10, 1911, the first call of the Revolutionists was sounded at Wuchang, and was heard and answered throughout the country. The Manchus were overthrown, and the people, long under monarchy's yoke, rose up and hailed the revolutionary sign as godsend. But no sooner had the monarchy's yoke been discarded, than the mantle of militarism