

## The Triumph of Stupidity

Wisdom may be an enviable virtue, but Stupidity has again triumphed. Foreigners in China have always been accusing the Chinese people of "anti-foreignism." If any such thing as anti-foreignism does really exist, we can declare unhesitatingly that it is the foreigners themselves who have fostered it. In the contact of different peoples, as of individuals, it is only natural that courtesy inspires courtesy while rudeness seldom fails to meet with rudeness. Friendship is not a one-sided affair and should be placed on a basis of mutual respect. It is a most lamentable fact that in the history of Sino-foreign relations few of the foreign residents in China have been able to grasp this simple truth.

Foreigners in China represent so many nationalities and are so different in their education and training that it would be a hopeless task to draw generalizations applicable to each and every one of them. It is not impossible, of course, to find some that are truly of the gentlemanly type. These are cultured, far-sighted, and broad-minded; but, unfortunately, they constitute only a minority. The rest are narrow-minded and arrogant. Their sole purpose in coming to China is to exploit the Chinese people in the same manner as the peoples of other peace-loving but weak states have been exploited. Their goal is money-making, and money they must make by hook or by crook. International good-will and justice are terms entirely beyond their comprehension. It is this class of people, ignorant but aggressive, that dominate practically every foreign community in China. Backed by the strong gun-boat policy of their home Governments, they think they can defeat all efforts that may be made to dislodge them from their privileged position in the Far East!

The so-called foreign "die-hards" in China are decidedly behind the times. In spite of the rise of Chinese nationalism and the changing trend in international diplomacy, they still cling desperately to their ill-gotten privileges like a drowning person clinging to dear life itself. The most recent demonstration of foreign "die-hardism" is the decision of the Municipal Council to guard the main entrances into the International Settlement by means of iron gates; one of which, indeed, has already been put up at the junction of North Szechuen Road and Range Road. The massive iron bars fitly symbolize the naval and military strength of the Powers, while their rustiness ironically exemplify the muddle-headedness of those who conceived and executed the plan.

The setting up of such iron gates is open to many objections. In the first place, an iron gate on a thoroughfare like North Szechuen Road is an unsightly eyesore. Yet, in this materialistic age of ours, and especially in an over-commercialized city such as Shang-

hai, it is no wonder that artistic considerations carry no weight with those that are in power. In the second place, we are at a loss to understand what useful purpose these iron gates can serve. Their erection, apparently, is meant for the protection of the foreign residents in Shanghai. But are these foreigners facing any danger of being attacked by the Chinese? Perfect peace now reigns in this part of the country. And the Chinese Government has not the least idea of taking back the concessions by force. Frankly speaking, the reason why China does not want to do so is because she is not strong enough to do it. It is safe to say, however, that force will never be resorted to; for, when China is strong enough to take back the concessions by force, the Powers will judiciously surrender them without a struggle. Nor are the foreign residents in danger of being attacked by Chinese mobs. With the successful consummation of the Northern Expedition and the gradual stabilization of the Chinese Government, mob agitations have come to be very rare occurrences. In the event of any such disturbances breaking out in Shanghai, the Municipal police should be able to handle the situation with ease.

The best way to insure the safety of the foreign residents in Shanghai is to put Sino-foreign relations on a plane of equality and justice. So long as foreigners conduct themselves in an arrogant and imperialistic manner, the Chinese people will naturally have no love for them, and minor frictions might easily lead to serious outbreaks. Humiliation and insult, indeed, if heaped upon the Chinese population with an utter disregard for their interests and dignity, might hasten the coming of the day when armored cars, warships and iron gates would prove inadequate to guarantee the safety of foreign life and property. In the long run, the cultivation of true friendship will be found to be more useful than the display of naval and military prowess.

It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that the Municipal authorities really have the safety of the foreign residents at heart in setting up the iron gates. Their purpose, instead, is to give the foreign residents, but particularly their home Governments, the false impression that foreigners in China are constantly in danger of losing their life and property, that foreign troops and warships must not be withdrawn, and that extraterritoriality, together with other cognate privileges, must not be given up. Such efforts, ingenious as they are, will prove futile in the end. History has yet to record the tale of any form of foreign domination or aggression that has long succeeded in defying the rising tide of nationalism. The unequal treaties must be abrogated and the unfair privileges enjoyed by foreigners in China must be surrendered. The Powers had better do it now while they can still do it with good grace.

The setting up of iron gates at a time when there is absolutely no cause for alarm is a deliberate attempt to trample upon the pride and feelings of the Chinese people as well as to prolong and strengthen the un-

relenting grip of foreign imperialism on China. It is not only inpolitic. It is useless. It is the triumph of Stupidity!

## Forest Policy and Administrative Machinery

By S. C. Teng (鄧叔羣)

A statement of policy should necessarily be brief so that a person who reads it will grasp instantly the main objectives it embodies. It should be complete so as to cover the most important issues, but need not consider minor points which may be left to the executive in charge of forestry work.

A forest policy must be sanctioned by proper authority and given legal status so that "continuity" is assured. Practically all forestry work is time-taking and can never be successful under frequent changes of policy.

After having decided on a policy, the first thing to do is clearly to enunciate it. This cannot be too strongly emphasized, especially in a country where democracy is the principle of government.

The purpose of a definite enunciation of a forest policy is three-fold:

1. To make known to the public what their country stands for in forestry. A well-informed public tends to support the steps taken for their benefit toward the objective set up by the policy and to prevent any departure from the policy on the part of the executive officers.

2. To make definite to the executive forest officers the ideals toward which they are working. Such a statement tends to set before these men a distinct goal, and to secure continuity of effort in a definite direction, through successive administrative hands, in projects of long duration.

3. To concentrate the attention of all those interested in forestry on the main objective sought under a forest policy so that through coordinated effort definite results may the sooner be attained. Private forestry organizations will be willing to cooperate with the government agencies if they know exactly what the government's policy is and understand the sound principles underlying it.

The Forest Policy of the Republic of China should be to devote all the non-agricultural land in the country, on which trees can be grown with profit either for timber supply or for forest influences, to the continuous production of forests, under modern forest management, for the permanent good of the people in the country as a whole.

To accomplish this end, it is required:

1. That a Forest Service, consisting entirely of technical forestry men, be created to take charge of all forestry work in the country under the guiding principle of this policy, and to promulgate various regulations compatible with the ideals of this policy.

2. That all existing forests in the country be not destroyed, unless the land is immediately devoted to other more profitable purposes for the permanent good of the country as a whole.

3. That all existing forests not legally owned by individuals, groups of individuals, or organizations, be considered national forests under the direct control of the Central Forest Service, and be placed under systematic forest management as soon as possible.

4. That areas, where there is need of establishing protection forests which may influence the welfare of the country as a whole, be reforested by the Central Forest Service within the shortest possible time and be administered by the same services.

5. That all the "hsien" governments inaugurate an energetic and systematic program to reforest all the idle land in their respective "hsiens" under the supervision of their respective Provincial Forest Services.

6. That all the forest agencies in the country cooperate in protecting the forests against injuries of various kinds, in diffusing the understanding of forestry among the people in the whole country and in forest research for the advancement of the science of forestry and the improvement of the practice of forestry.

There are certain fundamental principles which may be applied in common to all the machinery. These are essential in securing permanent success and adequate functioning.

1. The organization must rest on the basis of efficiency and service to the public. High ideals and standards must be held in the Service and kept up. There must also be the readiness to cooperate with other branches of the government, as well as with private organizations for the benefit of the public.

2. Freedom of the Service from interruption and disorganization arising from political changes is essential. No continuous forest policy can be efficiently carried out in a country where political interference is tolerated.

3. Further to safeguard the continuity of the forest policy, the employment of technical men, who have been graduated from the Forest Academy, should be required as soon as such men are available. At the very beginning the personnel of the Forest Service may have to be selected in some other way. But strict provision should be made that these persons should possess suitable technical qualifications. The first chance for employment should be given to the best men from the Forest Academy, based on the following: