

THREE MINUTE RADIO TALK FOR SAN FRANCISCO, May 18, 1932.

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Shanghai.

Three minutes is a very short time in which to give you much of an idea of China, the Chinese people and of what that vast area across the Pacific means to us and our future here in the United States.

From many talks I have had in the past three months with contacts in many cities as I have travelled around the United States it is clear to me that much confusion exists in the minds of the average American as to just what it is all about over there. We read of civil wars, international conflict, famines, floods, banditry and communism. The queer names of people and places and the variety of events (the greatest emphasis in the news unfortunately often being placed on the unfavorable spectacular situations) makes little more than a jumble in our minds, a sort of Chinese picture puzzle, none of the pieces of which are we able to fit together into an understandable whole.

I try to explain it to my friends in this way. It is just as if the inhabitants of the earth had by some means come into contact suddenly with the people on the planet Mars. It is just as if the Martians with probably a totally different type of civilization from ours had begun to absorb from all the countries of our Earth the wide array of ideas on government, economic and social organization, scientific knowledge, and philosophy and had begun to put these ideas, many of which seriously conflict, into practice in Mars. Imagine Soviet Russians, Americans, British, French, Italians, Germans and other Europeans all engaged in educational

*social system*



I just mentioned that change is going on in China and other active effort trying to implant in Mars their own particular type of governmental and economic organization and to carry on trade relations. I'm sure you will agree that it is quite likely that almost complete confusion might result.

In trying to analyse China I can't help but feel that something very similar to that has happened and is happening in China. Modern transportation is the means which has brought China, hitherto isolated, alone and aloof from the rest of the world and enjoying an unique and individual type of civilization all her own, into direct and close contact with Western civilization.

Here we have a nation with an economic organization based on handicraft industry and man power agriculture suddenly and violently being brought into contact with the modern machine age. Here we have a people living under a stereotyped set of social customs under a monarchical type of government with the family the dominant unit in society suddenly confronted with the necessity of sorting out from the array of political systems now in vogue in the outside world some ideas and principles which can be applied or adapted to advantage to the new and changing order of things in China, while retaining the usable features of the older order of things to which the Chinese have grown accustomed in their 5000 years of history as a race and nation.

Does it not seem to you unavoidable, quite natural in fact, that a great deal of experimentation should be going on, and that a great deal of confusion must result before China can work out her destiny and evolve a new well ordered political and

*social system?*



I just mentioned that change is going on in China. The word should be spelled in capital letters and repeated rapidly a number of times to arrive at a proper conception of what is transpiring there. The upheaval which is going on in that country is terrific, involving as it does a political, a social, and an economic revolution all at once. China cannot escape modernization. She must make the adjustments necessary to adapt herself to conditions in the modern world.

The significance of all this to us is that the change is affecting one quarter of the human race, for one quarter of the people in the world are Chinese. That way people cannot change their mode of life without some effect on the rest of us.

America and Americans are participating in a prominent way in that change. Thousands of Chinese students under our sponsorship of the Boxer Indemnity Fund have been educated in the United States in the past 20 years, and have absorbed much of our civilization and technical knowledge. Many of these American trained students are gradually assuming prominent positions of leadership in the new developments going on in China. Despite the spectacular disturbances which you read about in the head lines from time to time, much constructive work is going on. Several thousands of Americans are in China engaged in missionary and other educational activities. There are a goodly number of American engineers and other professional men in China. The Sinking Government in the past five years has had as advisors American experts on city planning, public health, policing, railway administration, and the various phases of government finance. Perhaps it will be a surprise to you to know that upwards of three



hundred American firms are doing business in Shanghai alone, the fifth city of the world in population, a great industrial and distributing center, one of the world's largest foreign trade ports.

The United States Department of Commerce maintains a Commercial Attache and Trade Commissioner service in China with Julian Arnold, a native Californian at its head. Those of you who know him no doubt appreciate fully the ardent efforts he has expended for more than 30 years in trying to "sell" the Chinese and keep them "sold" on American methods, American ideas and American goods, in industry, transportation, and general economic development. In an effort to keep Americans "sold" on China and informed on conditions affecting our present and future trade possibilities with China, we produce in Shanghai in addition to our multitudinous other duties, a Monthly China Trade Report, a review and interpretation of developments in that country in which American business is concerned. That report if you are interested is yours for the asking. You may get in touch with Mr. Ash, our San Francisco District Manager, or with any of our District Managers throughout the country, or by writing direct to the Department of Commerce in Washington requesting to be put on the list to receive it. That report will assist you materially to piece together your fragments of news into a picture which will no longer be quite so much a puzzle as before.

Thankyou.

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