

## TRANSPORT IN CHINA

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### Mr. P. P. Whitham on the Influence of Railways

At yesterday's luncheon of the Rotary Club, Mr. Paul Page Whitham, who has been in charge of the Yellow River Conservancy project, gave an address on "Transportation and Civilization" with particular reference to China. In his opening phrases, the speaker showed how in the days of the Han Dynasty, the facilities for transport in China were much better than in Europe, but with the advent of the industrial revolution, and its consequent material advance along all lines on the Continent and America, China had stood still, comparatively speaking.

The natural resources of the country were tremendous and could be made to form a wealthy nation with the introduction of modern methods of transportation. Commerce could easily be quadrupled. He cited the instance of the Peking-Mukden Railway Line, through which the population of Manchuria had increased by 10,000,000, mostly immigrants from Shensi, Chihli and Shantung.

Although the people of the distant provinces were not affected by the Central Government, they were nevertheless thinking in modern terms, even along governmental lines. Material advances were being made without the railroads, and mills of different kinds depending upon the produce of the locality were being built. Were the ratio of steam roads, aided by feeder electric lines, brought to anywhere

near the same as in America—they stand at 7,000 to 260,000 now—the progress of the nation would be without parallel in history.

In closing Mr. Whitham showed how the United States had built its railways. The people were not afraid to go to Europe and borrow money there, but had the confidence in their nation that would be able to redeem the same in a short time.