

just as they please. On the other hand, I have never heard a single Chinese raise any comment upon what their own officials are doing. This is very easy to explain, for if they did, the officials would simply take their heads off.

As a case in point I may cite a very recent occurrence here. The local Chinese electric light company, for no seeming good reason, sent out notices last October that their rates for electric current supplied would be at the rate of \$0.30 per kilo-watt hour instead of \$0.25 per kilo-watt hour as hitherto charged. But in view of the fact that the Company undertook to supply current of 110 volts and were only giving 50 volts, owing to the mains being overloaded, they were, as it turns out, already squeezing the unfortunate consumers very badly. This matter was brought to the notice of the local officials and they in turn forwarded the communication to the electric light company for an explanation. I need hardly say that the reason given, while typically Chinese, was not one that their fellow compatriots would have accepted from the Shanghai Municipal Electricity Department without your columns being flooded with indignant protest. While I was greatly amused, there is no doubt that because the Tuli, the military, the officials and the local police do not pay for the electricity they use, it seemed too absurd that those who met their bills should be further fleeced, and yet the people are paying this increase without raising a devil of a row.

The trouble is that the great majority of the foreigners do not know what it is like outside of the Foreign Settlements and they allow themselves to be properly bluffed by the Chinese.

I am, etc.,

ANTI-BLUFF.

Inland Provincial Capital,

Jan. 2, 1925.

## TELEPHONES, SHANGHAI'S AND CHINESE

To the Editor of the

"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—In connexion with the article appearing in your issue of December 29 stating that the managers and proprietors of the Shanghai Chinese restaurants and hotels had decided not to use the telephones of the Mutual Telephone Company as a protest against the increased rates, permit me to point out that this is a step in the right direction. To begin with we who live in the interior have all to admit and recognize that the telephone service in Shanghai is as nearly perfect as anyone could expect in China, unless the huge outlay of employing non-Chinese is resorted to. It is notorious that the telephone systems in China are an exclusive monopoly of the Ministry of Communications and a more rotten system you could hardly find elsewhere. The rental for each telephone within the circuit is \$6 in silver per month plus \$0.20 for famine relief payable also in silver. For each wall instrument a deposit of \$30 is collected on which no interest is allowed and, if you calculate interest as ruling here, this means another \$0.30 a month lost, making in all \$6.50 per month for a rotten service with instruments which even a dealer in old metal would scorn to buy. You have no redress for bad service or stoppage and if your monthly subscription is not promptly paid the telephone is cut off.

I can only suggest that these disgruntled people cease living in a place set aside by the Chinese Government for the segregation of the foreign devil and remain among their own kin, where their officials can squeeze them to their hearts content. These mealy-mouthed people who, while enjoying the protection of the foreign devil, never miss a single opportunity to raise a protest if they are not permitted to do