
THE WESTERN RETURNED STUDENTS' UNION.

AN EXPLANATION

From a Correspondent.

For many years there have been in existence the English Returned Students' Club and the American Returned Students' Club in Shanghai, but the Western Returned Students' Union is a new organization recently created. Thus a few words of explanation are necessary. First of all for the benefit of the general public, this is not a students' organization as the word "student" is generally understood. This organization has its members, men and women, in every walk of life from a commercial agent to a high official, from 25 to 60 years of age. The Chinese name, however, is more descriptive, namely *Ou-Mei-Tung-Sha-Hwei*.

The Union has a very serious purpose: thus it differs from other returned students' organizations. The purpose in view is to promote the interest of its members and to render effective service to China. Undoubtedly its aim is very ambitious and its task is by no means easy, but certainly it is a great torchlight for all men and women to follow and to serve. In order to realize this aim, first of all the returned students scattered all over the country must be united. In order to take united action they must have an organization. In order to have an organization which would work efficiently, they must employ men and other necessary equipments. Thus the returned men and women in Shanghai have undertaken the heavy task of employing a man: they have an office in the "Shun Pao" Building. The general secretary will first organize the Shanghai members upon a better working basis and then proceed to various parts of China to link up other bodies into a national organization for united action. When this is accomplished the returned students will exert their influence as a body and not as individuals as at present.

The returned students have learned sad lessons from the recent national crisis precipitated by the

decision of the Paris Peace Conference. The recent movement was developed so fast that they were caught unprepared, unorganized and incapable of such effective leadership as should have been the case. It is true that there are organizations existing, but they are more or less in the nature of "chow" clubs. It is true also that many of them were working very hard day and night with the students and the merchants, but they were there as individuals. The reason that they did not work as a body was because they had no organization.

Until all the men and women who have had the blessing of higher Western learning are organized into one national organization, they can never assume the leadership in this country as they should, and they can never exert such influence as their education entitles them to. However, when they are organized, they certainly can be heard on national and international questions. Then and only then will their voice carry weight, and they can say that "we have not been false to the ideals of the Alma Maters." Then and only then will they fulfil the expectation and hope of their less educated sisters and brothers. Will they as returned students play the game?

The Western Returned Students' Union inform us as follows:— On Sunday in the great mass meeting held in the native city, some radical elements proposed that they should excommunicate the present Peking Government. The Western Returned Students' Union have not approved such proposal and have never given it any consideration. Thus the Union wishes to avoid any misunderstanding and to have the public understand its position clearly.