

Western Returned Students Union Has Successful Annual Banquet

ADDRESSES BY DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENTS HELP TO MAKE EVENT MEMORABLE

One of the year-end social events among the educated and progressive elements in Canton was successfully staged in the Western Hotel on Tuesday evening, December 30 when the first annual banquet of the Western Returned Students Union was held with an attendance of seventy members and guests.

At seven o'clock according to schedule members of the party began to arrive; and at eight-thirty a long string of fireworks was set off to signalize the commencement of the programme, the most serious part of which was the consuming of the menu items by the diners most of whom were evidently ready for the affray after having patiently waited for an hour and a half before getting into contact with the things that were substantial and appetising.

Among the distinguished guests of the evening were Messrs. Lin Sun, Wu Ching-lien and Chu Fu-chen, Speakers of the National Assembly, Mr. C. C. Wu, vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Wu Shan, vice-Minister of Justice, Gen. Niu Jung-chien and Mr. Chan Lim-pak. Dr. Z. Y. Kwauk, vice-President of the Union, presided at the head of the table, and introduced the several guests who gave short addresses to the gathering.

Mr. Lin Sun, the first speaker of the evening, commended the amiable spirit of the members in holding an affair of this nature, which he said impresses him not only with the fact that the returned students in Canton are true to the ideas and ideals they have been imbued with during their years of modern education abroad, but also that they are faithfully endeavoring to modernize China through the introduction of progressive thought and scientific method, and the in-

novation of bringing the sexes together socially on a basis of equality and comradeship. With the passing of the old year, he heartily expresses the wish that all old, decrepit and useless social and political institutions and customs of the country would be cast away and forgotten, and a new and bright era of progress and prosperity will be brought about; the achievement of which should be the conscious duty of every enlightened person and especially of the returned students.

Following Mr. Lin, Mr. C. C. Wu was called upon by the chairman to give some words of advice to the members, and Mr. Wu responded by voicing his earnest desire to see a closer unity and cooperation among the various group of Western returned students, which he said should be easily brought about by a union of the two existing returned student organizations. The suggestion was well received and it is hoped that it will be seriously considered by the members of the returned student community.

The giving up of the misguided but popular notion about wishing for "official promotion and getting rich quick," which constitutes one of the customary greetings one hears on New Year Day among all classes of people generally, by the modern educated was advocated by Mr. Wu Ching-lien. It is the mission of returned students to devote their attention to the development of industries and the promotion of social welfare than working for mere self-advancement and the accumulation of wealth, said the Speaker of the House.

The equality of the sexes and the importance of developing native industries were the topics briefly dwell-

ed upon by the succeeding speakers, Mr. Chu Fu-chen, vice-Speaker of the House and Mr. Chan Lim-pak. At the end of the addresses by the guests, Mr. Fo Sun was called upon to make a reply on behalf of the members present. After thanking the guests for the honor of their presence and for their kind words of encouragement and advice, he spoke on the object of the Union as that of national service and urged upon the members to work unceasingly with that object in view.

Between speeches, musical and other entertainments were rendered by the participants. Mr. Chow Men-kong and Dr. Ma Chun-wu gave mandolin and violin selections respectively, while Mr. Chan Wing-loy played the Yangchin and Messrs. Cho Jen-chi and Chan Yung-ting sang several well known Northern opera songs amidst general and enthusiastic applauses. Mr. Harry Au amused the audience with some of his smart colloquial jokes. American songs were sung by Mrs. Wu Ying and her little daughter, Miss Wu Mei-cheng. But by far the biggest hit was made by the little five-year-old son of Dr. Wu Gayson, Master Moses Wu, who stood up on a small table facing the audience unblushingly and recited a timely literary address with remarkable enunciation and accompanied by natural and appropriate gestures without the slightest hitch, and deservedly received the general acclaim and admiration of his elders.

An amusing contest called the "turtle race" was conducted by Mr. Tam Shek-hung of Canton Christian College. The race consisted of a contest of little painted cardboard "turtles" which were made to move through the floor by the jerking and pulling of strings. A young lady

succeeded in winning the first prize and was awarded a nice new year cake for her accomplishment.

During the banquet an election of officers was held and the first number of the Western Returned Student Union Quarterly Journal published in Chinese was distributed.

The new officers elected for the coming year are: Dr. Ma Chun-wu, President; Dr. En-sai Tai and Mr. Fo Sun, vice-presidents; Mr. Wu Ping-yet was re-elected Chinese secretary, Mr. Wai Yuk, foreign secretary and Dr. Wu Gayson, treasurer.

Gen. Li Lieh-chun, who was unable to attend the banquet, sent a letter designating Mr. Wai Yuk to represent him and enclosing a donation of \$100.00 to the Union. His letter announcing the generous contribution was read amidst hearty applause by the members.