

News from Canton

The principal merchants in Canton are willing to sell three million catties of rice to the Hongkong government to relieve the present situation.

The Canton Y. M. C. A. will hold its tenth anniversary of organization next September and try to raise at least \$50,000 for extension work.

Canton pawnshops will not accept Japanese-made articles as pledges in money-lending henceforth, according to a recent announcement of the guild.

A notice has been issued by the Bureau of Police at Canton prohibiting cricket fighting. It was decided by the Police that this was a form of gambling.

The National Assembly in Canton will communicate with the Congress of the United States thanking the Americans for their support in the Shantung question.

The first boat race under modern rules and regulations will be held at Canton on August 15 under the auspices of the Canton Boat Club, an organization of leading citizens.

The silk industry in Sun-te has made a great success this year. The produce is plentiful. It is said that for July only the quantity of silk exported exceeded ten thousand catties.

The South China Bank, organized with Chinese-Japanese joint capital, has already procured offices near the West Bridge, The Bund, Canton, and expects to begin business within the next few weeks.

Ferry service between Canton City proper and Honan will be much improved if the application of the Li Min Company for steam launch service to take the place of the present native junk system is granted.

The National Assembly of the Republic of China now in session in Canton has refused to accept the resignation of Dr. Sun Yat-sen as one of the seven administrative directors of the military government.

Local government may soon be restored in the different districts of Kuangtung. A bill is now before the Provincial Assembly, and according to most of the members interviewed there is every possibility of its being passed.

Reports from Fukien state that General Chen Chiung-ming, Commander of the Canton Army there, has set some of his soldiers to work on the fields and is thus developing some of the formerly unused lands.

For the first time in many years Hongkong notes are being accepted at below par in Canton. The chief reason given locally is the great demand for silver in the silk markets in Shuntak, where silk is getting good prices.

The Kuangtung Educational Association has proposed to the government to reopen the Higher Technical College in Canton. The college formerly occupied the Fu-tai Yamen and has been suspended for the last ten years.

Salt merchants doing business in the North River Districts of Kuangtung are suspending their trade as a protest against the additional tax levied on them by

General Li Kan-yuen, the so-called frontier commissioner of Kuangtung and Kiangsi.

The Canton Y. M. C. A. will celebrate the tenth anniversary of its opening here next September, and an endowment fund of \$100,000 will be raised for extension purposes. Separate buildings for its commercial school and boys' department are needed.

Miss Harriet N. Noyes, for more than fifty years principal of the True Light Seminary at Canton, one of the very early institutions for girls in this part of China, is returning to America on furlough. She is a missionary of the American Presbyterian Mission.

The Kuangtung Students' Union has recently discovered five shops in Canton which have been ordering goods from Japan. They reported this to the Chamber of Commerce and Chan Min-yu, the president, settled the case by imposing a fine of \$100 on each shop.

C. K. Chen Kie-woon, associate director of the Canton-Samshui Railroad and president of the Kuangtung Provincial Educational Association, joined the Christian Church last week. It is understood that more prominent Canton citizens will join the Church later.

Returned students in Canton will delegate at least one of their members as official representative to the coming conference of Western Returned Students' Union at Shanghai, August 29-31. It is likely that H. Y. Loo, a lawyer, will be elected as the official representative.

For the first time in many months the football team of H. M. S. *Tarantula* at Canton was defeated by a Chinese team at Shameen on August 2. The British sailors have also been holding swimming races. J. Cooke, a signalman, has been able to make the half-mile in seven minutes.

According to reports from General Chen Chiung-ming, acting civil governor of that part of Fukien under Southern control, he is gradually disbanding his troops. Admiral Lin Pao-yi, military governor of part of Fukien, will leave Canton for Swatow where he will enter Fukien by land.

In the Kukkong District of Kuangtung, there are now more than twenty small coal mines in operation, each month producing about two thousand tons. The Canton local naval station is considering the taking of the whole produce for its use, as the local gunboats require more than 1,800 tons of coal a month.

Owing to the low value of gold, the gold industry of Canton grows rapidly. Moreover at present gold coins cost only 24 times silver, but when made into gold leaves cost 27 times. The goldsmiths are receiving high wages. If a smith can make four leaves a day, he will receive eight dollars that day.

Carl Crow, manager of the Chun Mei News Agency, Shanghai, was the guest of honor at a dinner given by the Chinese American Association at Canton during his recent visit to this city. Many Chinese graduates of American colleges and Americans, including Acting American Consul Carl D. Meinhardt, were present.

Not only the seamen of the river steamers but also soldiers are engaged in smuggling rice nowadays. The Chinese Maritime Customs authorities captured more than a hundred piculs of rice last week here. The temptation to smuggle is great as the price in Canton is about nine dollars a picul and may be sold for twice the sum when getting to Hongkong.

The Kuangtung Educational Association has petitioned the Provincial Assembly to appropriate at least a million dollars a year for public education in the province. The present appropriation is but \$579,859 a year and not all paid, amounting to less than two per cent of the annual revenue of the province.

General Wang Yih-tang, Northern chief delegate and other delegates, are expected to leave Peking for Shanghai to resume the internal peace conference at the beginning of the next month. Before departure for Shanghai, the delegation will visit Peitaiho and hold a conference with Chu Chi-chien, former Northern chief delegate.

More than a hundred persons died of poisoning at Chanchuen, near Canton, last week, as a result of having taken dog meat from a lunch stand at the market of that town. The lunch stand killed two dogs that day, and hundreds of persons had patronized the stand before the danger was discovered, as the victims usually got home before they felt ill.

The reign of terror goes on in Canton as usual. During the last ten days, two coolies were shot by order of the military governor for trying to rush the line in order to exchange some Bank of China notes for cash from the bank clerk before their turn came, and a labor agent was put to death for trying to enlist coolies for service in the South Seas.

Students in Canton have resolved to return to their classes on August 16, when the public schools will reopen; but the middle school students may still continue to prevent the new principals from assuming office, they having declared that all principals dismissed in connection with the recent strike of students should be reinstated, as they had nothing to do with the strike.

The Bureau of Municipal Works has decided to start the setting up of the First Public Park. The site will be the open ground formerly occupied by the Fu-tai Yamen. The plan is rectangular in shape with a road running length-wise. Trees grow only along the sides of the rectangular and a music pavilion standing in the center. Both sides of the road are decorated with growing plants.

The National Assembly has lately received from some of the members staying in the North a telegram saying that the officials in Peking had made with the old banking consortium another agreement for a loan of \$25,000,000. The representatives have wired to London for approval. The chief lender is Japan. Jang Yuen of the National Assembly has made a proposal to oppose the loan.

A bill has been introduced in the Provincial Assembly asking for an appropriation of \$1,000,000 a year for public education in Kuangtung. In the last twelve months, not more than \$250,000 were actually given to support public educational institutions, and the faculty of the Government Normal and other schools have not been paid their salaries and other allowances for some months.

The tramway franchise in Canton was formally granted to the Canton Tramway Syndicate on August 6 by the municipality with the approval of the military governor. Judge Peter Hing, Sam Kee, and T. R. E. MacInnes, of Vancouver, B.C., represented the Syndicate. The Provincial Assembly of Kuangtung, however, has issued a statement that the grant is illegal, as the terms of the franchise have never been sanctioned by it.

In spite of great demands of native rice for home consumption, there is extensive smuggling going on in and around Canton for exporting purposes. The profit is so great that the government gunboats and native troop transports have also been engaging in this illegal traffic. For some time, fearing shortage of rice in the inner districts, local village and town authorities have been compelled to refuse permission for transit even to distant places within the same district.

The Sacred Heart College, a Catholic institution here, will be reopened August 18 as usual, as some 276 of the former students have signified their willingness to re-enter the school. The school broke up last May when the teachers there refused to permit the boys to participate in the general student movement, while other institutions succeeded in avoiding the problem by declaring an early vacation or allowing the students to do as they pleased after school hours.

The young rice in Kuangtung is being partly destroyed for lack of rain; and, according to the farmers, unless the weather helps, the next crops will be bad. The province is now suffering from the high cost of living because of the dearth of rice, and riots like those which occurred in Hongkong are feared if the next crops fail. At present the coolies in Canton are complaining of the price of rice. Smuggling of rice from Canton to Hongkong and other ports is increasing the hardship of the local poor.

In the boycott movement the Kuangtung Girls Normal School in Canton played a very important part. The two hundred girl students divided themselves into groups of six persons, each going to different districts in the province to give speeches to the country men in the open air, and to distribute hand bills with the twenty articles of the secret agreements printed thereon. Now and then they sent back to the school interesting accounts relating to their work. All districts gave them a hearty welcome.

As a rival to the well-known missionary institution founded by the British and American residents here, the Canton Hospital, Pok Tsai or "universal relief" in Chinese, the Japanese have recently opened here a hospital, under the name of Pok Oi or "universal love." During the present boycott movement, even the hospital is not well patronized, although every other one, native or foreign, is now full. The present hot weather and cholera epidemic are giving the physicians all they can handle.

Canton City may have no moving picture shows, for a while at least, as the local show people refuse to pay a hundred dollars more each for their license fees. It is true that the moving picture shows are getting larger business nowadays, but the managers claim that they are not receiving much from the receipts when considering the investments they have made and the expenses of their upkeeping the shows. Formerly the fees ran from a hundred to two hundred dollars according to the class and location of the shows.

The Provincial Assembly of Kuangtung holds that the grant of public franchise shall be first approved of by that body; that since the concession of the Canton City Tramway has been granted to the Canton Tramway Syndicate without its approval, it has announced its disapproval of the grant. Now another syndicate offering a gratuity of \$1,300,000 is willing to obtain the concession from the Assembly. In the

meantime, however, the Canton Tramway Syndicate has gone ahead in the building of the street railway.

H. W.

Canton, August 16, 1919.
