LEADVILLE PIONEERS WILL CELEBRATE

SEVENTY-NINERS TO RENEW MEMORIES.

Days of Prodigal Wealth, Desperadoes and Vigilantes To Be Recalled at Reunion.

What the Forty-niner is to California, the Seventy-niner is to Colorado, for the chances are that the man who was in the Centennial States in 1879 took part in the grand rush to Leadville and helped to make history of a picturesque sort in that feverish mining camp at timber line, on the crest of the continent. Plans are afoot for a reunion of Seventy-niners in Leadville late this month, and the celebration of oldtimers will shed interesting sidelights on one of the most picturesque eras in frontier history. When the Leadville boom set the whole country agog, the West was at its wildest and woolliest. Most of the steel that was shipped West was in the form of revolvers. The West was full of soldiers of fortune, ready for anything the gods of chance might send—and most of them praying for a new gold camp. One day the prayer was answered, for early in 1879 the word came out of the Rockies that a mine of fabulous richness had been opened at the foot of Mount Massive, one of the highest peaks in Colorado. It was a brief but thrilling story, as the stories of new gold camps always are. It was that a storekeeper named Tabor had "grubstaked" two miners named Rische and Hook, who had sunk a shaft on one of the most unpromising hills in the district. The miners came back several times after more "grub," and Tabor's friends advised him to turn them off; but the storekeeper said he had faith in the men and sent them back with full packs.

One day Tabor's faith was rewarded, for, at a depth of twenty-eight feet, these two poverty stricken miners uncovered a lode of surpassing richness. This was the beginning of the Little Pittsburg mine, one of the greatest mines ever opened in the West—and also it was the beginning of the spectacular career of Horace A. W. Tabor, who opened mine after mine, and acquired million after million, only to have every dollar swept away from him a few years later. There was no doubting the genuineness of the discovery made by Hook and Rische. The smelter returns from the ore showed fabulous values. The news spread like wildfire, and soon Fryor Hill, the scene of the strike, was covered with claims and shafts. On this hill were developed such great mines as the Robert E. Lee, Climax, Dives, Duncan, etc. Other hills were prospected and gave rich returns.

THE RUSH TO LEADVILLE.

Early in 1879 the rush to Leadville began. There was no railroad to the camp from Denver. The reckless men and women who rushed to the new camp had to "stage it" over the roughest of mountain roads. Every pound of produce consumed in the camp had to be freighted by wagon, and men who were able to resist the lure of the mines made independent fortunes in this business, as the freight rate was 25 cents a pound. Passenger rates were in proportion, and the stage proprietors waxed wealthy in carrying the adventure-seeking thousands to the new camp. As if by magic, a city of twenty-five thousand people was born among the clouds, nearly eleven thousand feet above sea level. Leadville merits the name, "the Cloud City," which was given it in early days. At such an altitude pneumonia is almost invariably fatal, and soon the death roll of the camp reached alarming proportions. In addition to pneumonia, desperadoes began to reap a death harvest. It seemed as if all the desperate characters in the West had come to this seething camp, where dawn found the lights still lit. Saloons, hurdy-gurdys, honkatonks and gambling dens constituted a majority of the business establishments. At night it was not safe for a man to venture out of the glare of lights in the centre of town. In fact, it was none too safe in the heart of Leadville, for the desperadoes were so strong that they laughed at the suggestion of law and order. The usual morning inquiry was: "Is there a man for breakfast!" Usually it was found that some one had been murdered in the course of the night, and the killing furnished a breakfast table topic of conversation.

The desperadoes did not confine themselves to ordinary hold-ups and gaming table murders. They jumped mining claims in the hills sometimes and shot the rightful owners who made protest. Then they formed themselves into a unique association known as the "lot jumpers." City lots in Leadville had risen to enormous values. Lots that would not bring $25 in the fall of 1878 were held at $25,000 in the spring of 1879. The "lot jumpers" made a specialty of jumping the most valuable city property, just as they jumped the valuable mining claims that were comparatively unprotected. In some instances where buildings had been started the "lot jumpers" drove the workmen away and pitched the lumber into the street and then calmly announced that they would hold the property against all claimants. One man who had built a store on a valuable lot and who slept in the place was roused at midnight and chased into the street while the "lot jumpers" took possession of the property. Another man who had barricaded his door was "smoked out" by a volley of bullets fired through his frame store. He narrowly escaped death, and was satisfied to make a hasty retreat and leave his property in the hands of the desperadoes.

One night, however, a little barber named Bockhaus changed all this. He was a rank "tenderfoot" and carried a revolver of tiny calibre. This he held in his hand when he was making his way home at midnight. He was set on by two highwaymen, and when he held up his hands his pistol was accidentally discharged. The bullet struck one of the highwaymen in the heart, and the other fellow ran away, after shooting a few times at the frightened barber. Bockhaus fired instinctively at the other highwayman and wounded him. Then he gave the alarm and collapsed through fear. The wounded highwayman was captured and proved to be a desperado named Stewart. The whole town viewed the body of the dead highwayman, and right then and there a vigilantes' committee was formed. The committee told an undesirable citizen named Frodsham to "hit the trail." Frodsham, who had been a leader of the "lot jumpers," laughed. That very day he jumped a lot and swaggered through the streets boasting of his deed. He was promptly arrested and thrown in jail with the wounded highwayman, Stewart. That night a crowd of determined men formed. The Sheriff was captured and his keys taken from him. Silently the crowd marched to the jail, unlocked the doors and took out Frodsham and Stewart. They were hanged to the joists of a new building, and a notice was pinned on the breast of each reading as follows:

VIGILANTES TAKE A HAND.

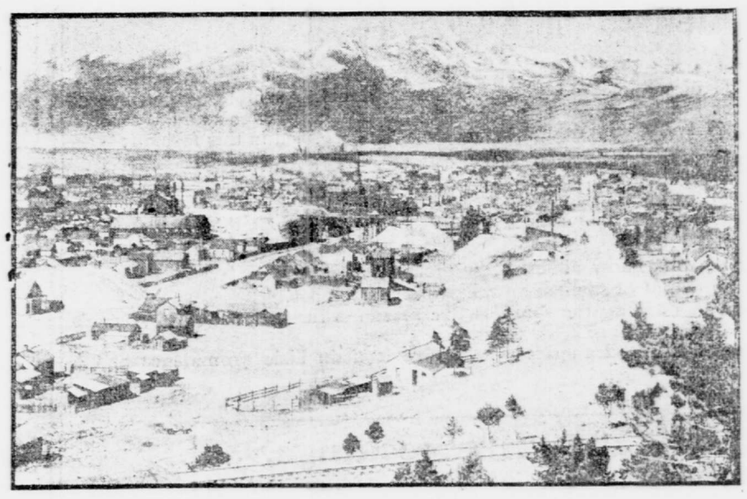
"Notice to all lot thieves, bunco steerers, footpads, thieves and chronic bondsmen for the same and sympathizers with those classes of criminals! We mean business, and let this be your last warning. (Here followed a long list of names of undesirable citizens.) Signed, Vigilance Committee. We are 700 strong."

From this time on Leadville became comparatively quiet. There was no more jumping of lots or claims, and the camp prospered amazingly. Mine after mine was opened, and millions went down the mountain trails in creaking wagons to the smelters. The gamblers' spirit seemed to possess the camp, for there was no careful, systematic mining like that followed to-day. No ore reserves were blocked out and little development work was done. Everything was turned into dividends at once.

One example will show the reckless character of the mining. The owners of the Robert E. Lee mine made a wager that they could take out $100,000 worth of ore in twenty-four hours. After twelve hours of work some machinery broke down, but it was found that $150,000 worth of ore had been sent to the smelter at a net cost of $300. This record never has been approached in the history of Western mining, and it is not strange that the whole country was bitten with the Leadville fever. Mining stocks were selling at reckless figures in New York and fortunes were being made in the sale of bits of paper representing interests in Leadville properties. In a few months, however, there came a tremendous slump. The mines could not continue to stand such a drain on their resources. Dividends shrunk, and soon the word was passed that the Leadville boom had collapsed. Little Pittsburg shares dropped from $85 to $6 in New York. Experts reported that the camp had seen the end of its glory; and on the heels of the slump came a great strike of miners. But many courageous men still retained their faith in Leadville and were confident that more careful mining would bring great results. The faith of these men was justified, for Leadville is still one of the greatest mining camps in the world.

Incidentally there is being completed to-day at Leadville the fascinating story of the spectacular mining king, H. A. W. Tabor, whose "grub stake" resulted in the discovery of the camp. Tabor's millions were swept away and he died a few years ago at Denver, where influential friends had obtained for him a postmaster's appointment in recognition of the benefits he had conferred upon the state and its capital. There was only one spar left out of all the wreck of the Tabor fortunes, and that was the old Matchless mine, which Tabor had given his wife. For years Mrs. Tabor has struggled to hold the Matchless mine. She has faced grim poverty rather than sell out her interest. It was only a few months ago that the courts finally established the validity of her claim to the mine. Now she is living in Leadville firm in the faith that the Matchless mine will again be a dividend payer and that the term "Tabor luck" will be invested with its oldtime meaning.

A LEADVILLE "SEVENTY-NINER."
(From an old photograph.)



VIEW OF LEADVILLE TO-DAY.

ON THE PACIFIC SLOPE

Sentencing of Ruef Received with Much Satisfaction.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

San Francisco, Jan. 2.—The sentencing of Abraham Ruef to fourteen years in San Quentin prison was received with much satisfaction this week, as he is the first of the grafters to be brought near to the penitentiary. Ruef will appeal to the Appellate and state Supreme courts, but it is not thought that either will grant him any relief. The case against him was conclusive. He was tried on indictments for bribing Supervisor Furey to vote for the overhead trolley franchise, and the evidence was fully corroborated. All that Ruef's attorneys were able to do was to cloud the issue with technicalities and to protest that the jury was blassed because of the shooting of Prosecutor Heney.

The celebration of New Year's Eve was marked by some amusing features. A big demonstration, with great crowds, was the feature downtown in the old burned district. Market, Kearney and Geary streets and Grant avenue were brilliantly illuminated, and a great automobile parade took place through these rebuilt avenues of trade. Fillmore street had a separate celebration. Property owners in that street, who have drawn large rents since the fire, are loath to see the trade go back to its old location, and this New Year's festival was designed to show that the street still retained prestige. In the Mission district, which has been filled with refugees from south of Market street, another celebration was held. There was enough enthusiasm to spread over the three districts.

The will made by Claus Spreckels, disposing of his large fortune, has excited considerable comment because of some of its provisions, but mainly because it left nothing to charity. The omission of any bequests to John D. and Adolph Spreckels was justifiable because of the large sums given to them by their father during his life. The other two sons, Rudolph and Claus Augustus, who fought their father bitterly on several occasions, get the larger share of the estate after their mother's death, while the only daughter, who married secretly against her father's wishes, receives only the interest from one-sixth of the estate. What the estate will amount to is uncertain, but it will probably not go above $20,000,000, the aged sugar millionaire having given large sums to his oldest two sons.

The police fear a revival of the long Chinese warfare, as several murders have been committed recently by highbinders, and reprisals are sure to follow. The Six Companies and the Chinese Consul have been unable to settle the differences.

Thomas F. Boyle was removed by Mayor Taylor this week as a member of the Board of Education because he took ex-Mayor Schmitz in his auto for a ride. The Mayor declares that Boyle's open association with Schmitz is a shame to the city government and cannot be tolerated. Boyle will appeal to the courts. The Mayor will also appoint a successor to Aaron Altmann on the Board of Education. Altmann is a brother-in-law of Abraham Ruef.

David T. Hanbury, who was once a noted English explorer, is in a precarious condition here, suffering from pneumonia. Last week he executed a deed of gift to his wife for a valuable ranch on a reclaimed island near Napa, and this week his wife mortgaged the ranch for $5,000 to provide funds for living expenses. Mrs. Hanbury was a telephone girl, and recently began a divorce suit against Hanbury, alleging continual drunkenness and cruelty. She withdrew her suit before Hanbury deeded the property.

Dr. Herbert E. Bolton, of the University of Texas, has been appointed professor of history at Stanford University. Bolton's specialty is the history of the Southwest, and he will lecture on the westward movement and the history of California and the Spanish Southwest.

Robert Emmet Fisk, a veteran of the Civil War and for thirty-five years editor of "The Helena (Mont.) Herald," died suddenly this week at his home in Berkeley. He came here seven years ago, when he retired from active business. Fisk was a close friend of Garfield, Blaine and Harrison.

Dr. Edwin S. Belden, for over thirty years reporter in the Superior Court, died from heart disease this week while on a vacation in Sonoma County.

Dr. Blue, who had charge of the costly campaign against bubonic plague in San Francisco, has now furnished Mayor Taylor with a report showing that San Francisco is one of the cleanest cities in the country.

The death of Adolphe Roos this week removed one of the founders of the large Roos clothing house and one of the best known merchants in the state. Roos came to California in 1857, and in 1869, with his brother, Achille, started the firm of Roos Brothers, which has grown to be one of the largest in San Francisco. Adolphe's death occurred only three weeks after his firm had moved into fine new quarters at Market and Stockton streets.

Chief Cook, the new head of the San Francisco Police Department, took office this week. There have been many rumors of changes that will be made, but Cook declares that no man will be retired who attends to his work. Cook has been many years in the police service and has a fine record.

A strong effort will be made at the coming session of the Legislature to prevent Japanese from carrying on retail trade in California. Assemblyman Grove Johnson, of Sacramento, will introduce a bill to prohibit Japanese from being directors of corporations or from owning land. He has also a bill prohibiting Japanese from attending public schools and allowing municipalities to restrict Japanese to a certain quarter of the town. Johnson's first bill will hit the Japanese hard, as nearly all their business houses are corporations.

The Western Pacific Railroad Company let contracts this week for seven new passenger stations between Oakland and Stockton. They are all to be in the old Mission style, with red tiled roofs.

FLORIDA EAST COAST RESORTS.

This is the season when the Florida East Coast, with its balmy warmth and many diversions appeals to those who have free time and money wherewith to flee the bleak winter of the North. St. Augustine, Ormond, Palm Beach, Miami, Nassau, Long Key, Key West and Havana, Cuba, offer as well as the delights of the climate, surf bathing, automobiling, riding and driving, golf, tennis, quail and deer shooting, fishing, yachting and boating.

One finds either peace, quiet and rest or gayety and social activity, as he may desire, at any and all of these resorts. The hotels and boarding houses in their variety suit the purses of all classes. At Long Key in the heart of the Florida keys fishing grounds a camp has been pitched in a grove of cocoanut palms. Here the fisherman will find almost any comfort he asks for when he returns triumphant after a thrilling tussle with the gamest of game fish, the tarpon. Trains run from New York to Knights Key, with sleeping and drawing room cars, and a daily service over the Key West extension connects with a daily steamship service to Havana. Information and booklets may be obtained from local ticket agents, No. 243 Fifth avenue, New York; No. 130 Adams street, Chicago, or Florida East Coast general office, St. Augustine, Fla.

BEING A CAPTAIN.

How the commander of a modern big American battleship can feel is disclosed in the following, taken from a letter written by such an officer: "There are more than nine hundred men on this ship, and, on the theory that an official of the government is a servant of the people, I am the servant of these nine hundred-odd men and am bound to see that they are kept in food and clothing and baseball bats—and abundantly supplied with occupation. Perhaps I should feel more independent if I didn't have to listen respectfully to the orderly every time he comes in and makes one of his infinitely numerous reports, and put men in jail when I don't want to.

"Some of these nine hundred men look more dignified and independent than I feel. I wonder whether I look dignified and independent. I suppose I ought to do so, for to swing a steel mass 504 feet long successfully around like monsters, and to make fifteen thousand tons writhe around the corners of narrow channels, is something of an art, after all, and one not possessed by many of the inhabitants of the globe.

"With all that swinging of steel monsters around there go the responsibility and the knowledge that if the ship runs aground the whole civilized world will be acquainted with it inside of twenty-four hours."—Chicago News.

CUT RATE BURIALS IN BALTIMORE

UNDERTAKERS ENGAGE IN FUNERAL WAR.

Billboard, Streetcar and Newspaper Advertising Reminds Citizens That They Must Die.

Baltimore, Jan. 2.—Burial doesn't cost much in Baltimore now. As the result of an undertakers' war, burial is $80 below the scheduled rate, and if the competition lasts much longer trading stamps good for a tombstone may be thrown in. One shrewd undertaker has made such inroads on the business of the others that all have combined against the original price cutter, and it is war to the death. To use the bargain counter language adopted by the rival interests, prices are going down below cost. They have dropped from $100 or $150 to $49.

When the conservative Baltimorean arises in the morning he finds the billboards athwart the landscape ornamented with coffins and legends which, in effect, say, "Try my funerals, and you will use no others." As he rides downtown to business placards in the cars announce that one undertaker includes various unusual items in his cut rate prices. And when he unfolds his morning newspaper he finds glaring advertisements in big type, two columns wide, in which the rivals denounce one another as robbers in such vigorous and highly colored language that it seems a typographical Donnybrook fair. The rivals set forth the advantages of their funerals so attractively that one begins to think that, after all, there may be some pleasure in the final rites over the dead. And the merits of their wares are set forth in such a straightforward way, like the department store with a sale of tooth powder or kitchen soap, that one has the purely mercantile part of the ceremony impressed upon him. Just as one is getting reconciled to the spirit of the modernists in the undertaker business there comes another cut in prices and another crash of loud-tongued advertisements, and finally it gets on one's nerves.

SHOCK FOR THE CONSERVATIVES.

For a long time even the big drygoods stores of Baltimore used only demure-looking advertisements in business. It was years before a banker would do such a daring thing as appear in the public prints. As for the undertakers, they were supposed to sit far back in a dark shop with drawn blinds, step in a dim light and wait for the grim reaper to send them business. They wore black neckties always, and seldom spoke above a whisper. The only thing they dared in the way of advertisement was a nameboard that seemed to shrink back into the recesses of the store window and apologize for its presence. To make anything like a noise meant social ostracism. The bill was never questioned if all were quiet and respectable.

Then a new undertaker came on the scene. He was young and vigorous, and he said things were all wrong. He announced in stentorian tones that the widow and orphan were being robbed. He said so on billboards, in the streetcars and in the newspapers. He said that the old undertakers were charging about $50 too much for a funeral. He made such a noise about it that the town had to sit up and take notice, although it deprecated such hustling business methods where the dead were concerned. An imitator next entered the arena, and soon there was a war of words in the public print as to who was the only original price cutter.

The conservative undertaker stood aghast. He was as visibly shocked as the spinster at her first ballet. He raised his hands in horror, but did not reduce his prices. He said this shouting from the housetops was a sacrilege. He felt that a grief stricken family wanted a noiseless undertaker, regardless of the cost, and that the Goths and Vandals who had sprung up overnight were using a ruthless hand with sentiment. He had consented to install a telephone, and this was sufficient concession to the business spirit of the age. But the innovators kept denouncing the conservatives as robbers of the widow and orphan. They did not mince words.

FURNISH COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS.

They published a list of all things necessary for a complete funeral—much like the specifications for a yacht or a dance hall—and named their prices in big type. They gave the choice of four different styles of coffins. They would furnish not only any colored hearse, but as an inducement to shuffle off this mortal coil it was to have rubber tires, and the carriages for mourners were heated. Then their burial suits or slumber robes were becoming. And a half dozen pairs of gloves were furnished for the pallbearers. That the cut price also included the doorbell crape, carriage tolls, opening grave, advertising, candelabra, crucifix, rugs, chairs, with "no extras before or after," was set forth to prove that their $75 funerals were as complete as the $100, $125 and $150 funerals.

Then the conservatives found the business slipping from them. Anonymous advertisements appeared in the newspapers attacking the methods of the young progressives as reprehensible. Still the business kept going to the men who were shouting from the housetops. The advertisements grew larger. Then a new company appeared on the scene. It was supposed to represent a group of the leading conservatives. They announced "complete and refined" funerals at $50. The leader of the innovators came back with funerals at $48. He says he will go a dollar less than any price set by the combination.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE OPIUM PROBLEM

England Reluctant to Suppress the Traffic for Financial Reasons.

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In the course of this month there will assemble at Shanghai an international conference, called to deal with the opium problem. When one speaks of opium the very mention of the drug suggests abuse thereof, just in the same way as when one talks of drink. But while here in America and in Europe we are disposed to manifest some indulgence with regard to liquor, to view its use in moderation with toleration and to punish intoxication with comparative leniency, the notion that any one is addicted to opium is sufficient here, as well as in Europe, to place him under the ban of public opinion and even beyond the pale of the law.

Were this view universal the labors of the international congress on opium would be considerably facilitated, for the congress would have nothing to do but merely to devise some international legislation prohibiting the production of opium and sale of the drug, except for strictly medicinal purposes. This, however, is out of the question. Just in the same way that alcohol has its advocates who condemn on the score of health the strict enforcement of total abstinence and advocate the consumption of wine, beer and even of spirits in moderation, so, too, has opium its defenders, who insist that what drink is to the American and European the poppy product in its various forms is to the races of the Orient, and it is argued that it would be just as unreasonable to attempt to stop by legislation the use of opium in the Orient as it would be to seek to arrest the drinking of stimulants here in the New World and in Europe by means of statutes.

Of course, we have in this country, as in Great Britain and in various parts of the Continent, prohibitory legislation which penalizes the sale of liquor; but no state, province or town has ever attempted to make the actual drinking of alcohol a misdemeanor, so long as it is not productive of intoxication. Yet there is no doubt that public sentiment on both sides of the Atlantic is in favor of forbidding not merely the sale but even the consumption of opium. The members of the congress are therefore confronted by the necessity of being obliged to defer on the one hand to popular feeling in their respective countries on the subject of opium, and on the other hand to accord consideration to the arguments of those who, acquainted with the Orient, insist that the drug, taken in moderation, is as conducive to the health and welfare of the Asiatic as alcohol in moderation is to the American or European.

Another difficulty of a very serious character in connection with the question is the fact that the government of British India derives a considerable portion of its revenue—that is to say, some $25,000,000 or $30,000,000—from the production and sale of opium as a state monopoly. Having thus formed for nearly seventy years a most important feature of the revenues of the Crown, the British government naturally feels a certain hesitation about complying with the demand that it should put a stop to the cultivation of the poppy, as well as to the manufacture of the drug and to its sale for consumption, either in India or in China or any other part of the world.

Public agitation in the United Kingdom has compelled the government to go so far as to promise that if it receives satisfactory assurances to the effect that the Chinese authorities will honestly restrict the cultivation of the poppy and the manufacture of the drug in their own dominions, the Indian government will follow suit and will reduce the manufacture and sale of opium in King Edward's great Oriental Empire; but it has not as yet been able to secure these assurances, and declares that it does not see the advantage of reducing the output if such action is merely destined to increase the Chinese product. Moreover, some years will be required before it will be possible to devise fresh sources of revenue sufficient to yield the $25,000,000 or $30,000,000 now obtained by means of the aforesaid government monopoly.

What with the new railroads that are being built in every direction, criss-crossing all India like a huge piece of network, and the great irrigation works, destined to develop the agricultural resources of the country and to avert those terrible famines by which India has been visited from time immemorial—that is to say, work entailing colossal expenditure—the natives are taxed quite as heavily as they can bear, and the idea of adding to the weight of the burden by new imposts designed to supply the revenue now furnished by the opium monopoly is one not calculated to arouse any degree of enthusiasm in the breasts of the fiscal authorities of British India. At the best, this radical change in the economic regulations of India would have to be put into execution with extreme deliberation, and would take years to complete. Moreover, as I have pointed out above, the British would have to satisfy themselves that in doing away with the opium monopoly they were not merely fostering Chinese manufacture of the article, and they would also require it to be definitely proved that the drug is really a curse to the people of Asia and not a quasi-necessity to their wellbeing. England, therefore, comes to the conference in so far handicapped that the arguments of any of its experts in favor of the drug will be looked upon as influenced by economic conditions.

While it is doubtful whether the impending congress at Shanghai will fulfil the expectations of the leaders of the anti-opium crusade in this country and in Europe in the way of the adoption of common legislative action by the various countries represented against the production, the traffic in and the consumption of the drug, and though the British government will in all probability refuse to inaugurate any rash and radical changes in its Indian budget by the sudden abandonment of a profitable monopoly, yet the palaver will at any rate have this advantage, that it will furnish a good deal of useful information with regard to the use and abuse of the narcotic.

CHINAMEN ENJOYING AN OPIUM SMOKE AT HOME.
Not all the smoking of opium is done in the opium "joints." The habit invades the home, and when once acquired is more difficult to control than the liquor habit.
(From "China, Ancient and Modern." Copyright, 1900, by J. Martin Miller.)

Until now its foes have monopolized popular attention and have retained their hold upon the public ear. Newspapers and magazines which are compelled to consider the tastes of their readers and the prejudices of their advertisers have been reluctant to endanger their success by offering the hospitality of their columns to anything that could be construed in the light of a defence of the opium trade any more than they would consent to champion in their pages what is known as the social evil. The people, therefore, who had some testimony to offer in behalf of the drug have never until now really had an opportunity of making themselves heard, and it may safely be assumed that if the congress were to have been held either in the United States or in Great Britain every sort of influence would have been brought to bear to check their utterances, to close their mouths and to disparage their arguments.

By settling upon Shanghai—that is to say, the most foreign city of China—as the place of the conference, its organizers have, at any rate, secured for the delegates a freedom of speech which they could not have enjoyed nearer home. Shanghai is, of all the cities which it has ever been my lot to visit, the one most wholly free from prejudice of any sort whatsoever. Moreover, by assembling the congress on Chinese territory—that is to say, in the country of all others which is alleged to suffer most cruelly from the blight of the poppy—all sorts of specious appeals to public sentiment will be negatived which might prove effective here or in Europe, since addressed to people ignorant of the conditions of Oriental life. Such will carry no weight whatsover, and will not even find hearers in an Asiatic city where almost every one, be he foreigner or native, is enabled to speak with experience upon the subject engaging the attention of the congress.

Let any one who has ever attended a meeting in London in the now defunct Exeter Hall, whence so many crusades of one kind and another have originated, imagine the sort of reception which a man would have received there who had attempted to say a good word in behalf of opium. It is probable that he would have been hooted off the platform. At Shanghai, at any rate, he will be able to secure a hearing, and then the world at large will be treated for the first time to both sides of a much misunderstood question.

That there are two sides to the question, and that whereas opium is poisonous to some races it is not only innocuous in the case of others, but may be even conducive to health, is shown by the opium legislation which it was sought to introduce into the Philippines during the early days of the American occupation. Under Spanish rule, Filipinos were forbidden by law to smoke or to use opium, the dealers being allowed to sell the drug only to Chinamen. The projected American legislation followed the same lines, absolutely forbidding the sale of the drug to any Moro or American, but allowing it to be purchased by Chinamen over twenty-one years old. The authors of the bill, after diligent inquiry into the subject, aided by several official and non-official investigators, came to the conclusion that the drug in moderation was indispensable to the Chinese in the Philippines, and their opinion did not undergo any modification when it was discovered that a petition against the legislation, alleged to have been signed by seven thousand Chinese, included the names of a dead emperor, a stuffed monkey, and of many persons at the time reposing in their graves.

That the measure in question did not become law was due to popular sentiment here in the United States (that same popular sentiment which forced Congress to repeal the statute establishing canteens in army barracks), and it ultimately proved strong enough to secure the exclusion of the drug from the archipelago, and the prohibition of its sale or use except for purely medicinal purposes. Moreover, it is this selfsame public sentiment in America which has led the United States government to inaugurate the movement which has resulted in the calling of the congress which meets this month at Shanghai. The negotiations have been in progress for more than eighteen months past, and the programme of the congress intimates that its object is an international discussion of the question of the limitation or total prohibition of the production and importation of opium, except for medicinal purposes.

Now, with regard to the arguments in favor of the use in moderation of opium by the Chinese, which will be presented to the congress, they go to show that the extraordinary immunity of the Chinaman to ague and low types of fever, no matter how swamplike and undrained the locality of his residence, is attributable to the effect of opium, and it is recalled that the inhabitants of the lowlands of Lincolnshire and of the fenlands of other English counties use laudanum with the same object in view. Physiologists teach us that the length of the intestines in an animal is correlated with its diet, vegetable feeders having long and animal feeders having short intestines. The length of the intestines in man shows that a due admixture of animal and vegetable food is the diet best suited to him.

In China the masses of the population live almost entirely on vegetables. Opium smoking slows the process of digestion and is consequently beneficial. Every resident in China is struck with the comparative immunity of the population from diseases of the bronchial tubes and lungs. That this immunity is not due to climatic influences is clearly proved by the fact that Europeans and Americans are not more free from the scourge in China than in their own countries. Moreover, the enormous percentage of deaths from consumption among native Christians is ascribed by many to the fact that the missionaries prohibit opium smoking among their converts and bar the users of the drug from membership of the Church. One of England's ablest consuls in China, Gardner by name, in fact insists that in the case of the Chinese, at any rate, opium smoking in moderation is not only a preventive of but a cure for consumption.

Surgeon General William Moore, who spent the greater part of his long military service in India, declares that all his own experience, and that of others which has come within his reach, has been to show that opium in moderation is a remedy and preventive of those malarial fevers which are an even more fatal and more cruel scourge than cholera, and recalls the fact that since the days of the ancients opium has always been esteemed as a prophylactic in malarious countries. Surgeon General Moore adds that all countries are addicted to some sort of stimulant or narcotic, and insists that if the people of India and of China are deprived of opium, they will take to other stimulating agents which could be named, and which would prove infinitely more deleterious. Nearly all who have lived for any length of time in the Orient are agreed that the use of opium in China, and also in India, must be regarded from the same standpoint as a national habit, as the use of alcohol among Western nations. That is to say, its use may be tolerated and its abuse discouraged and forbidden. To attempt to do anything more would be to deprive millions of a prophylactic which enables them to resist disease and fatigue and to sustain privation. Were its use forbidden, suffering, sickness and mortality would be vastly increased, while there would probably follow a corresponding growth in the consumption of alcohol, which, as a source of social disorder, organic disease, insanity and suicide, is immeasurably more deleterious than opium in every respect.

In conclusion, it may be pointed out that despite all that is being said about the curse of opium to China and India, notwithstanding the strenuous endeavors on the part of the government of this country to restrict its importation, it may be questioned whether there is not a considerably greater abuse of the drug in proportion to the population here in America, in the form of morphine, than there is in China in the form of opium smoking and opium eating. In this connection it is of interest to note that, according to the reports of Mackenzie King, who is the representative of the Canadian government at the Shanghai congress, there are at the present moment in the Pacific Coast cities of Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster at least a dozen factories actively engaged in the preparation of opium, the raw material being smuggled into the country in cocoanut shells. I am informed that the same means of conveyance is often used to deceive the United States revenue officers, who do not always realize that the drug is an exceedingly remunerative substitute for the milk which is supposed to be obtained in every well ordered cocoanut.

EX-ATTACHE.