

BANDS OF BRIGANDS TERRORIZE CHINA

IN SIZE OF SMALL ARMIES THEY HULL THE INLAND TERRITORY.

GOVERNMENT IS POWERLESS

Robber Band Leaders Getting Rich From the Tribute They Levy on the Poor People.

PEKING, China, Nov. 15.—Brigands in China have spread until some police bands have assumed the dignity of small armies. They muster both foot and cavalry and are as large as some American regiments. No province is free from bandits. From Manchuria, where the Manchus have their trade, to Kwangtung, infested by pirates and from Kiangsu to Turkestan, come reports of brigandage who defy the authorities.

There is no local police to cope with the outlaws and the army is not of a dependable branch of the administration. China is never free from brigandage, but it is only in periods of anarchy, when the authority of the government is shaken by political changes like the recent rebellion, that the bands attain such large proportions.

The American missionaries who find from their homes in the interior of Peking province are still at Peking, unable to return because no protection can be secured from the government. The American consulate at Peking and the Legation in Peking have been trying in vain for several months to get the Chinese government to take vigorous action against Hsuan-Liang, the outlaw who

proclaimed himself sixteenth Emperor of the Ming dynasty.

A consular report from Rhensi says that brigands are practically admitted by outlaws, who work solely in their own interest. The governor adheres to the central government only because there is no interference from Peking and because it is good policy for him to describe himself as loyal. The governor, or taitai, as he is called, was a poor and unscrupulous official but now he has amassed a large fortune and a numerous harem.

The consul gives an account of how the commanding general Hsuan-Liang obtained wealth and authority. He appointed commissioners for the suppression of opium in the province, says the report, he started on a tour with a body of troops. He took the occasion always to accept a word about announcing his approach, a policy which, as is customary, brought forth manifold presents from the people. If the presents were ample no opium was discovered. He confiscated only the prepared drug, that being most easily portable and of the highest value, and brought it back to the important centers and sold it.

A number of the American consular services who came recently to Peking from Canton says that piracy along the rivers and canals is more extensive than ever before. The authorities are endeavoring to terminate it by giving the chiefs government of this and incorporating the ordinary jobs and brigands in the army and navy. It is evident that this time honored practice has not proved away with the Manchus dynasty.

The French Legation has received news of the burning of a Roman Catholic mission church during the plundering and burning of a town in southern Honan, not far from Tsungyung, where the American and Norwegian missionaries were made prisoners in September. The government has sent troops in large numbers to fight against "White Wolf," the brigand chief who is terrorizing that section of the country, but according to the report of another American consul the soldiers, though sufficiently numerous, are not making serious efforts. They have been trying, ostensibly, for several months to round up the brigands, but walled towns are still being besieged, captured and looted by them.

A missionary in a Hunan city describes how a band two thousand strong, impressed villagers to carry fuel up to the gate of a town barred against them, in order to burn down the gate so that they might enter and loot the place. The villagers were finally driven two miles, for when they approached the gate they were shot at from the walls by the soldiers surrounding the town, and if they refused to advance the brigands laid them low.

Within hours of the walls of Peking village, bandit leaders can be heard singing. By firing at intervals their rifles they, not only no longer that few of more men are required to carry them, the villagers try to scare off the robbers. This summer a village within a few miles south of a group of temples occupied by some American and British families in the Western Hills outside Peking, was plundered by a band of robbers, and one of two villagers were shot. Much more valuable loot and even ransom money might have been obtained by an attack on the temples, but though the same were heard slightly by the foreign women and children, they spent their summer in the hills with little fear of attack. Their confidence was due to the fact that the people, including brigands, of this province have a great respect for the ability of the foreigner to shoot.

The temples which the foreigners occupy in the summer were headquarters of the Boxers in 1900, and several encounters with the Boxers, signally disastrous for the latter, took place in the neighborhood. Furthermore, a detachment of troops from one or more of the Legation guards generally goes into camp in one of the groups of temples. Generally each of the American companies takes a month out there at different times during the summer.

Dr. Larkins, Osteopath, opp. Kress' adv

Grand Opera in English.

CHICAGO, Nov. 15.—The most important development in the artistic life of the American people at present is that which is about to force all grand opera to be given in English in the country. This was the assertion of Reginald De Koven, principal speaker today at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Grand opera will be popular with all classes of people, Mr. De Koven declared, when it is sung in the language everybody understands. Besides of the innovation itself he said, that the great foreign singers will not pronounce English so that the opera can be understood any better than they are now. To this Mr. De Koven responded that they can learn to enunciate English and that they expect to sing it in this country.

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CONDEMN EXCLUSIVE CONTROL BY STATE

MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD CONTROL THEIR OWN PUBLIC UTILITIES EXPERT SAYS.

MIGHT CORRUPT COMMISSION

Public Utilities However Exist to Serve the People, Rather Than to Control Them.

TORONTO, Nov. 15.—Regulation of street railways, telephones, electric and gas plants exclusively by the state was condemned in a report submitted to the Nineteenth Annual meeting of the National Municipal League today by the committee on franchisees. The report, submitted by the chairman, Dr. DeLoe P. Wilcox of New York City, dealt with the regulation of municipal utilities.

The committee pointed out that public utilities are primarily urban in character and that, on general principles, the control of public functions should be localized as much as possible, in order to secure the interest and effective cooperation of citizens. Moreover, as a practical matter, the more powerful the corporations become and the more widespread their services, the more important it is that they should be directly answerable to the local communities which they serve.

"It may easily be possible," said the report, "that an appointive state commission will fall more or less completely under the domination of the powerful interests which control the public utilities of the state, and thus the very machinery provided for the regulation of utilities be captured by the interests presumed to be regulated by it. It may be necessary to array against the powerful financial interests of the companies the direct mass interest of the local consumers in order to preserve the vitality of the regulatory function. Public utility corporations exist to serve the people, not to control them."

However, in most cases, regulation cannot be either logical or effective without the active co-operation of both state and local authorities. The introduction of state public service commissions should be general over all public utilities, so that there will be no twilight zone within which the utilities can escape regulation altogether, but every city of enough importance to enjoy home rule in franchise matters should have the right to establish a separate board, the creation of all utilities operating within the city limits. The city's jurisdiction should extend to matters affecting the regulation of the streets, the quality of service rendered and the character of the franchise contract entered into for the purpose of facilitating ultimate municipal ownership. The state's jurisdiction should extend to matters relating to competition, stock and bond issues, accounts and publicity. Rates and extensions should be under municipal control, subject to review by the state commission. The city should also have the right to appear by its local experts before the state commission in regard to all matters affecting local interests.

Coming to certain important questions in connection with franchise contracts between cities and public utility companies, the committee took the ground that a public utility within a given urban community is a natural monopoly and that one of the first and essential obligations of such a monopoly is to extend its services to meet all the legitimate needs of the community. Accordingly, the municipal authorities ought to have the right to initiate extensions, and the reasonableness of any particular extension should not be determined solely by the prospective profit from its operation as a separate unit, but by its effect upon the profits of the entire system.

The committee recommended the indeterminate franchise with a maximum time limit, on the principle of the recent traction settlement franchisees granted in Chicago, Cleveland and New York City. Opposition to the Wisconsin type of indeterminate permit was based on the fear that it tends to become perpetual, as it can be terminated only by purchase—and purchase means payment of the full value in cash in a lump sum at the time of purchase. This, it was said, tends to make municipalization more difficult as time goes on.

The committee favored the idea of making utilities commence to pay for themselves, even under private operation by means of an amortization fund maintained out of earnings. This fund should be large enough at least to wipe out all franchise and other intangible elements of capital value, so that the price at which the city can buy will be kept well within the actual value of the physical property. The committee urged the importance of a systematic campaign for the recovery of control over the perpetual and long-term franchisees now outstanding. So long as the utilities in the heart of the city continue to be owned and operated under unsatisfactory, out-of-date franchisees, the city it asserted, can have no adequate control of the development of its street railways or other utilities.

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"General Armstrong possessed to a remarkable degree the gift of educational prophecy," asserts Prof. Peabody in the introduction to the pamphlet. "He foresaw and forestalled with extraordinary precision the tendencies and transitions which within the last 25 years have practically revolutionized the principles of education. The training of the hand and eye as well as of the mind, the moral effect of technical skill, the conception of labor as a moral force, the test of education in efficiency, and the vanity of education without discipline in thrift, self-help, love of work, and willingness to sacrifice—all these familiar maxims of modern vocational training were set forth by him with

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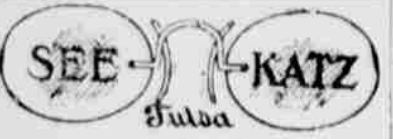
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