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Masses of Unemployed
Recruits

"Constitutional" power of Chiang (p. 19)

Gen. Yang Chieh's speech in
Kunming last June (p. 20)

Conscription

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Government ordered its officials everywhere to surrender 600,000 new recruits for its armies within a certain period of time. The country was divided into 71 recruiting districts, with a certain number of recruits allotted to each. ~~district, on each city.~~ The order went down to the Hsien, or District Magistrates, ~~who in turn send out press gangs~~ ~~to capture men.~~ ~~the gentry never taken a member from their own family as a recruit and even should it be demanded they could buy them off.~~ The conscripts are ~~xxx~~ poor men, most of them seized by press gangs who round men up, rope them ~~together~~ together, and lead them off to the army.

In the conscription ~~plans~~, Peking and Tientsin, for instance, were each allotted 3,000 recruits.

~~What resulted?~~

At the end of 3 months of conscription activities in Peking and ~~Tientsin, for example~~, Tientsin alone was able to ~~produce~~ only 60 recruits, and of these 30 were declared physically unfit for military service. The other chosen men simply fled. As a result, hundreds of shops in those two cities have had to close down because their workers have disappeared.

In his paper on Peasantry and Gentry in China, Prof. Fei Hsiao-tung states that the country prisons in Kuomintang China are today filled with

prisoners whose only crime is that some member of their families are deserters from the Army. By the administrative system of Kuomintang China, a family, and sometimes a whole village, is held responsible for the conduct of one of its members. ~~This is also a part of feudalism.~~

The Chinese press today reports that since men will not willingly join the army, towns have begun to buy recruits. A man whose family desperately needs money can sell himself to the army, ~~for from \$100,000 or more, which is not much with the present inflated Chinese currency.~~ ~~He sacrifices himself.~~ The man sacrifices himself but it may also be that he may soon desert, for the Chinese people are weary ~~of~~ of war.

In December, the N. Y. Herald-Tribune reported ^{one recruit in Honan Province} ~~in a whole column~~ that the conscription system ~~has~~ aroused the ire of the entire Chinese people. In Honan Province, the report states, one recruit costs ~~forty~~ ^{code} ~~forty~~ shih of millet, or about \$300, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~and~~ In Kunming in the southwest whole families have been left without means of support because husbands and sons have been seized by press gangs for military service. Local Magistrates and military commanders faced with the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ need of filling their allotted quota of recruits, resort to desperate measures to overcome opposition and evasion. They seize and imprison the families of conscripts who have fled.

^{Rail Tax} This state of affairs has coincided with the wholesale requisition of foodstuffs by the ~~Government~~ ^{Government} to feed ~~Kuomintang~~ ^{its} armies for the civil war. All railways, trucks, ~~and~~ buses and boats are used for the

transportation of Kuomintang armies and ~~their weapons and~~ ^{munitions. Consequently} merchants and industrialists in the cities cannot get raw materials for manufacture or sale, ^{while} the peasants refuse to sell their produce to the cities for ~~the~~ worthless currency, ~~which causes them to suffer~~. One merchant in Foochow recently wrote to the Chinese press, stating that he has to pay 32 different kinds of government levies to help finance the civil war.

Each house and ~~shop~~ ^{shops} in Kuomintang cities is taxed, also, to pay for the conscripts, and each house is taxed to pay for the hotel bills, ~~the banquets,~~ and even the telephone calls of conscription officials or for other visiting Kuomintang officials.

The Chamber of Commerce of Hankow recently reported that it is taxed to the limit to pay ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ for the welcomes and farewells of ~~visiting~~ ^{visiting} officials, the cost of which runs into millions of dollars. The Chamber of Commerce in turn ~~XXX~~ allots each of its member firms its share of such expenses, so that many firms closed ~~down~~ and went into the usury business.

^{Bankruptcies due to taxes & usury usury} Since ~~XXXXX~~ civil war began last July, the wave of bankruptcies of Chinese factories, shops, and firms, has taken on the character of an epidemic. The reasons ~~XXX~~ all go back to the civil war. Inflation continues without stop, interest on loans is 15% a month, ~~or around 300%~~

Heavy cuts up all profits and businesses have to close.
~~year, and under such terms of communication are used for military purposes, factories cannot get raw material.~~

~~At the same time, The new U. S. Trade Pact with China,~~
signed last November, has further destroyed Chinese business and industry. This New Trade Pact is based on reciprocity. *This* sounds well enough on paper, but, ~~the Chinese business world bitterly opposes it, because it is a high power American business and industry has the same rights as Chinese business and industry, and can destroy it as it is doing.~~ *By the terms of this US-Chinese Trade Pact, passed by the Kuomintang Government under American pressure,* all phases of Chinese economic life is open to high-powered American competition, and Chinese industry has ~~not been given any~~ ^{no} protection whatever. A report in the N. Y. Herald-Tribune of November 8th mentions the anger of Chinese industrialists who believe that a backward nation should protect its infant industries. ~~Other ominous facts~~ ^{include} the flooding of China with cheap American goods which have destroyed hundreds of Chinese ~~businesses.~~ *businesses.*

Revolts

This situation, ~~in turn,~~ ^{has} thrown ~~thousands of~~ ^{masses of} Chinese workers into the ranks of the unemployed. They, together with the conscripts who fled, have given birth to a wave of revolts in eleven different Kuomintang Provinces. New people's armies, called variously "Common Man Army", "People's Army", or "People's Democratic Army, have been thrown up throughout south China. The great Ta Kung Pao of Shanghai reports that such an army of 7,000 men, armed with American

Lend Lease, now operates along the Shanghai-Nanking railway. ~~headquarters of a people's revolutionary Army of three provinces has recently been established in the mountains on the border of three southwestern Provinces.~~

The ~~Kuomintang~~ Government has sent regular troops, or armed forces of the Peace Preservation Corps, to destroy these new armies, but the men sent to suppress them have often joined them, with all their ~~own~~ ^{own} weapons.

Ever since the reactionaries within the Kuomintang began to destroy the agreement for a coalition democratic Government one year ago, Chinese individuals and organizations of every description began appealing to our government and people to stop arming and training Kuomintang troops with American Lend Lease, and to give no loans or other aid to China until there is a coalition government as agreed to. We ignored all such appeals. Last July, Madame Sun Yat-sen appealed to us, warning that civil war, ~~then planned by the Kuomintang,~~ would result in chaos and anarchy. The Kuomintang armies, armed with American Lend Lease, she warned, could indeed take certain big cities in the Communist Liberated Areas, but the villages would follow the Communists, peasants would refuse to sell food to the cities, and there would be nothing but chaos and suffering.

We ignored Madame Sun also, yet all she ~~predicted~~ ^{predicted} has now come to pass.

The Solution?

"Liberals" in Govt.

~~The Kuomintang armies have occupied big cities in the Liberated Areas, but new people's armies have been thrown up in the rear of the very heart of the provinces ruled by the Kuomintang Government. ~~price~~ ~~victory~~.~~

~~General Marshall blames the Communists for disrupting communication lines. This sounds to me unrealistic. In a civil war men fight. A Communist commander recently stated that if their armies should lay down their guns before the agreed-to coalition democratic government was formed, they would all lose their heads. Some Americans may think that they should lose their heads. They seem to think otherwise.~~

General Marshall's statement urged that liberals within the present Government, and in the minority parties, form a new government under the leadership of Generalissimo Chiang. ^{consider the facts, that} Communists and Democratic League members alike declare that Generalissimo Chiang himself is the leader of the reactionaries, and that civil war began under his specific orders. General Marshall ^{also} stated ~~that~~ that Chinese liberals are without power and influence. That is true, in a country ruled by a dictatorship, no individual, party or group has any power or influence, or any protection, unless he has an army behind him. That is not desirable, but it is a fact. It was true in Fascist countries of Europe and it is true in China.

suggests elites agreed to me,

New Constitution

Why do the Communists, Democrats, and Chinese public groups

reject the new Constitution which was passed by the National Assembly recently, and which General Marshall regards with hope?

and the new constitution was a Kuomintang document.

~~They reject it because that National Assembly was called, not by ~~xxxx~~ called by the Kuomintang Party alone. I have seen a letter from three Peking Professors who received a telegraphic order to go as delegates to that Assembly. They refused.~~

~~These people repudiate the so-called Constitution ~~because~~ because of the following facts:~~

1. ~~This Constitution~~ ^{It} leaves absolute power in the hands of the President, who is Chiang Kai-shek.
2. The President is given the following powers:
 - a. To declare war; sign treaties; sign peace pacts; issue emergency decrees; declare martial law; ~~xxx~~ (Only one month after such actions, the President shall submit such measures to the Legislative Council for approval).
 - b. The President appoints the Premier, with the approval of the Legislative Council, but he appoints without approval of the Legislative Council all other Cabinet

Chiang's Power

Ministers, civil and military officials, without reference to the Legislative Council.

4. The people also reject the Constitution because Art 24 of that Constitution states:

"The above freedoms and rights (of the people) cannot be restricted by law except when it is necessary to prevent infringement of the freedom of other persons, avert an urgent crisis, maintain social order, or promote public interests."

This article automatically destroys civil liberties.

ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA

General Marshall mentions the ^{extrinsic} anti-American propaganda of the Communists, but not of the anti-American campaign of other groups in China. Anti-American feeling is universal, and the recent student demonstrations are only a small part of it.

Allow me to mention a speech made by General Yang Chieh, a Kuomintang

General, at the graduation exercises of the National Yunnan University in Kunming last June 22nd. General Yang, incidentally, is President of the Government Military University.

General Yang ^{openly} called America a "new imperialist power" that is trying to put China in its pocket. He said that the present Chinese Government is not an independent government, but that everything it does is on orders from America. He said that Chinese delegates to the U. N. voted as Americans told them to vote. He said in effect that Tsingtao has become a permanent naval base and that the time would come when Chinese would have to have a visa to visit that city. In conclusion he warned the thousands of students and Professors listening to him NOT to ~~xxxxx~~ become officials, but to realize their responsibility and struggle to "rescue our broken country now threatened with death."

Who & What are
Chinese Communists?