IF I COULD BEGIN AGAIN

By Sir E. Denison Ross, C.I.E., Ph.D., etc., Director of the School of Oriental Studies, London Institution, and Professor of Persian, London University.

One has frequently been asked the question: "If not yourself, who would you be?" I think nine people out of ten, if not the whole ten, prefer taking their chance in their own form.

The difficulty in considering what one would do if one were a young man again, and had the same chances, lies in determining how much is pre-supposed to be the same and how much capable of adjustment.

We must, therefore, approach our subject from this standpoint: Given the same degree of health and vealth, how could one have put one's opportunities to better account?

Hobbies Before Career.

The first thing I should tackle, if I were a young man again would be the folly of wasting time. In my young days I did not work hard, because I saw no object in doing so. At school I was among the backward boys, but that was no excuse for my learning nothing at all.

The preciousness of the time I was wasting was never pointed out to me. No one took the trouble to explain what benefits I should derive in later life from being accomplished and well-read.

The folly of wasting time is not, of course, realized in youth. It is difficult for the average boy to decide on what career he will follow. He is impelled by curiosity, and looks upon life as a novelty. Had I been able to decide on my carer when I was a boy, I should have concentrated all my energies on that carer and worked at it as I now know how to work.

Knowing how to work is one of the most important things in life. It needs, above all things, enthusiasm. The majority of boys have this enthusiasm, as we see in the variety and extent of their hobbies. More often than not, the average British boy becomes a highly-gifted amateur in his hobbies and a failure in his career. Amateurism is an essentially British trait, and I trace it to the strong individualism inherent in our character. We have had railway porter-poets and postmen-artists, and highly successful ones.

In my opinion this is because our educational system does not train this enthusiasm to fulfill the larger function of Life—a career. The enthusiasm to tackle new subjects as a hobby dissipates before the larger task of taking up a subject for a career. Most of us feel we are not clever enough for the bigger job. The result of such diffidence, carried to its logical conclusion, is that we do not attempt anything at all. We just drift into an occupation, and reserve our enthusiasm for hobbies.

Boyhood's Regrets.

I left school without acquiring anything that would help me in a career. I had taken the classical side, but had made no progress in Greek or Latin. I had done French, but had developed no particular facility for acquiring it. I had only a mild interest in German and Italian. I knew just enough of the classics to realize that I was a fool at languages.

The Turks have a proverb: "God builds the nests of blind birds," and I fear I always put my trust in the bounty of Providence, and though born with an appreciation of life's luxuries, have always been content with the necessities—having learned only late in life how hard even those may be to come by.

But if I never thought of saving money I think I realized the value of time, though somewhat tardily. Had I taken my chances when I first decided on my line of study—I cannot call it a career, because for so long it did not look like a career—I should have worked at nineteen in the way I hav since learned to work.

The result has been that instead of taking life more easily in my later days, I make it more and more strenuous, and ever more upon my shoulders sits the spirit of ignorance due to the time I wasted.

I cannot trace my first adventure into foreign languages. I became interested in Egyptology through Reginald Lane Poole, father of Reginald Stewart Poole, the successor to Sir George Lewis, the famous solicitor, and it is perhaps to him more than any other man that I owe my present career. Then there was Westall, the Oxford Street book-seller. I spent much of my time and nearly all my pocket-money in his shop.

At School in a Bookshop.

Westall was Gladstone's favorite bookseller, and I recollect his delight in showing me postcards from the G.O.M., inquiring for books. Westall's shop was the untidiest example of what in those days were usually the untidiest of shops, but so well did I get to know his stock that he would often appeal to me, when customers came in, regarding the location of a book, and let me run up the ladder to bring a volume down.

Westall was a great character and everything about him was as untidy as his shop, save only his brain, which was clear and full.

Books, of course, have taught me a great deal, and have had a great influence in my life. I think the first book that held me was Max Muller's "Science of Language." I had only one volume, the first. This aroused my interest in Comparative Languages, and led me to dip into many tongues.

Reading has many aspects in the development of character, and I advise all young men to submit books to the following tests:

(1) Do they instruct?

(2) Are they worth reading for their own sakes?

(3) Are they hard to put down?

(4) Why are you reading them?

What of To-morrow?

There are so many tests in reading as well as tastes. Books have learned to care for are Virgil's "Eneid," Carlyle's "Sartor Resartus," Boswell's Johnson, Montaigne in Florio's translation.

For a man who belongs to the learned classes, who has from the age of twenty-five had to do with teaching and with writing, my career has been unexpected, unlikely, and surprising. Knowledge has come but slowly—except in the picking up of modern languages—but still more slowly has come the power of speech, and slowest of all the power to express myself in writing. My small talents have blossomed not at twenty, but at fifty!

But there is always the hope of to-morrow. It never comes, and never disappoints. A man who bought himself a wag once said to a newsboy: "Is this to-morrow's newspaper, my lad?"

The boy replied: "No, sir, but it was!" Tit-Bits.

China Gropes Way To Unity Slowly

Land of Million Little Kingdoms Faces Long Fight to Become a Nation

Shame Spurs Movement

The day when an Emperor or a dictator can rule China is past. The people have not yet found a democratic means of self-expression; they still resort to riots and civil wars to gain their wishes effective, but in increasingly numerous small groups, the leaven of democracy is producing an altered view of political relationships.

The most serious problem facing China at the moment is to elevate these scattered and different forces to a more even and uniform political and economic viewpoint and to develop them into a single state, governed by a central Government. All Chinese political groups envisage this need, and all foreign Powers advocate it.

Yet, it is becoming constantly more evident that the unification of China as a political entity governed from one capital is an impossibility, a hopeless dream for decades to come, because China is historically and traditionally rather a union of states than a single homogeneous nation.

Reference to the size of China is almost a trite truism, yet without a comprehension of the size and complexity of the country, there can be no understanding of the difficulties of unification.

China, without Tibet, contains 3,815,022,922 square miles, which is a larger area than the United States, Mexico, Iceland and Cuba put together. The estimated population of China is 450,000,000.

There is not a single fact in Chinese history or ethnology to indicate that this vast mass of beings has the same racial origin. The reiteration that the small Chinese nation, which originally came down from Turkestan along the Wei River to occupy what is now Shensi, Honan and Shantung, was always fighting barbarians is an indication that that mixture of races which produced the heterogeneous peoples of Europe operated similarly in the territory known as China.

MANY ABORIGINES STILL FOUND.

There are many aboriginal races alive and active in China today—the Hoklos, Lolos, Miao, Tibetans, Turki peoples, Mongols, Manchus, Koreans and Shans. These people have produced mixed types with the Chinese through marriage or by the marching of armies through the country.

Even a casual observer can note the results of these racial mixtures.

How can it be expected that such a mixture of races, temperaments, habits and varying stages of civilization will be prepared at this moment to be governed in every detail of a modern state from one central governmental organ?

In the days of the empire the Emperor never governed; as has been explained so often. He took taxes in the form of tribute and left all government to the locality. Under the empire a genuine democracy came into existence in China in the form of veritable self-government, under the elders and his officials appointed from Peking or wherever the capital happened to be.

The republic from the start attempted to govern the whole of China from one capital and failed because of the initial error of interfering with what we in Canada would call provincial rights.

Except in foreign affairs, interprovincial communications, the post-office, defence of borders and such generalized tasks, China is not prepared for national government any more than the United States of Europe is a practical possibility at the present time.

In the past two forces bound the Chinese together—the Confucian philosophy and the family system. Although the spoken language of China is highly dialectic and among aboriginal peoples absolutely different languages are spoken, the literary language, Wen li, is universal. Like the Latin of the Holy Roman Empire, this written language and its literary products, particularly the philosophic and historical writing of the Confucians, has produced a bond of unity among the literate elements of the people.

Although a very small proportion of the Chinese people are literate, the tone of the whole people is set by the scholars, for before the founding of the republic, the only aristocracy in the land was scholarship and whatever the scholars found to be right was right.

Through the family system the scholars of China forced on the people a concept of obedience which has kept China together but backward, which has prevented the nominal break-up of the state, but has actually broken her up into as many families as there are in the country. Each family is a kingdom and each father is a king. Under the empire all these kings recognized the overlordship of their father, the emperor.

The Kuomintang attacked this system as futile and as holding China back. For sixteen years the republic has been attempting to reorganize these millions of family kingdoms into a single centralized state, and has failed.

But since 1924 the Kuomintang has sternly provoked an interest in nationalism, in internationalism equality, in a sense of undivided fealty to the state. The state before all else—even before the family!

Foreign and unusual as this concept is, it is catching hold of the imaginations of increasingly large numbers of Chinese. That does not mean that this year or next year China will solve her multifarious problem, through nationalism, but it does mean that when the Chinese state comes into existence it will be through the interplay of such forces as this nationalism is now engendering.

ANTI-FOREIGNISM AIDS UNITY

The anti-foreign issue is the bulwark of such a tendency. Chinese are being taught to be ashamed of their inequality. They are being trained to believe that their inequality is entirely due to their inability to appreciate the principles of nationalism.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen told them in his "Three People's Principles" that they only had ten years in which to rescue their country, and failing in this task, China would be partitioned among the foreign Powers and the people would literally become enslaved to foreigners.

What of the future? No old people like the Chinese can be remade in the course of a few years. The psychological habits, the social institutions, the underlying traditions, handed down by the grandmothers at the cradle, remain with them even when intellectually they fight them.

Men who have had no experience in government, who have grown up under a system which resembles the Tammany Hall of Boss Tweed's day, who have been encouraged to regard the public and private purse as identical, cannot, no matter how hard they try, always function in accordance with the higher Western standards of official responsibility.

But that will come in time. It will come as more and more unofficial Chinese reach official rank.

The process will be heart-breakingly slow. There will be no quick turnover from disordered feudalism to modernity as Japan witnessed.

The Chinese people are not yet ready for the change. Nationalism is preparing them, but the preparations take time and are hampered and impeded by all the cohesive forces of conservatism in a country where the recession of old customs has been a sacred virtue.

China needs time. That is all that she should ask of the world today—time!

The Late Czar of Russia

"The late Czar, Nicholas II, was a small, weak, but obstinate man, who possessed neither the knowledge, nor the intellect, nor the vision of a statesman," states S. R. Mintzloff, exiled Russian writer, describing "The Decline and Fall of the Russian Empire" in December "Current History." "His personality was that of a small tradesman—kindly, easy in domestic life and hospitable, but ignorant. He never once in all his life looked into a book of Russian law and was wholly oblivious to legal procedure . . . Alexander III, his father, before his death made Nicholas swear that he would abdicate the throne as soon as his younger brother Michael was of age, as he estimated Nicholas's character at its true value and knew that he had not the qualities of a ruler; but Nicholas broke his oath. Moreover, his mother, on the night when Alexander died, refused to take the oath of allegiance to Nicholas II, saying, 'I know him better than you; he is my son, and to me no one is he nearer than to me; but under him Russia will go to ruin.'"

Thrift Note.

Early to bed, early to rise. Keeps your room-mate from wearing your Open Road.

Nippon's Eagles

BRIGHT REPRESENTATIVES OF A BRIGHT FACE

The Japanese fliers picked to try the transpacific hop from Japan to the North American continent. Japan's four greatest aces, left to right: Fujimoto, Amelda, Goto, Shiwo. The flight will be made next spring.

Viennese Play in Artificial Snow

Ride Sleighs and Use Skis on Courses Built in Old Station

Norwegian Develops Idea

Vienna.—The Viennese, who are very fond of winter sports and who like to get plenty of exercise in this field of athletic diversion, need no longer travel beyond their own doorstep to find suitable snow for their skiing and bobsledding, thanks to an innovation, which soon will be introduced in New York.

Within a few minutes by train any one of them can reach a large snow-covered slope of 20,000 square feet, where they can indulge in winter sports to their hearts' content. An artificial skiink and bobsled course was opened quite recently in an abandoned railroad station, the well-known Nordwest-Bahnhof.

It was the idea of a Norwegian skiing champion, Ingvin Carlsen, to present the Viennese with the opportunity to exercise their popular pastime in the city. He exploited for this purpose, the invention of an English diplomat and author, Mr. Ayscough, who in his leisure hours busied himself with the science of chemistry. Mr. Ayscough discovered a process for artificial snow in huge quantities at a low price. Mr. Ayscough, I understand, made his invention in order to present his daughter with a birthday surprise. Miss Ayscough being extremely fond of winter sports. But the practical exploitation of the new process was left to Mr. Carlsen, who erected the first permanent artificial skiing course in Vienna.

SPORT A FAVORITE.

Only those who have seen the endless queues of skiers at the Vienna railroad stations on Saturdays, attempting to get to the various Alpine peaks, can understand the importance of the new "snow palace." Hitherto the only possibility to get skiing practice was to make excursions to the more or less distant Alpine places, the Semmering, the Rax-Alp and the Schneeberg, varying between 3,000 and 6,000 feet altitudes, being the most popular nearby resorts.

With the establishment of the new "show palace," the winter-sport lovers can reach a suitable skiing slope in very little time and for 1 cents, the Vienna tramway fare.

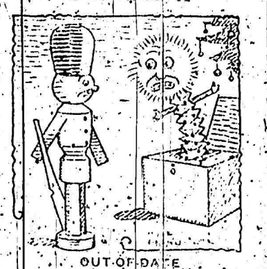
It was a considerable achievement to convert the old railroad station into a modern skiing course. As we enter the hall, everything looks so frightfully simple—a huge slope covered with four inches of fine, powdery snow. Only after we had a chance to visit the reverse of the hill do we realize that the creation of the apparently simple snow-field demanded high engineering skill. Thousands upon thousands of tons of iron and wood beams were required to support this artificial hillside, which at the end reaches a height of sixty feet.

SPORT FOR EVERY ONE.

The large snow field is divided into sectors. The first part serves for the purposes of those who want to practice their bobsled or toboggan knowledge. The run is done on a slope which is 269 feet long and where the start is placed at an altitude of sixty feet. The next section is preserved for skis, but this part is divided into sections. The upper part, with a surface of about 5,000 square feet and a slope of incline of 22 degrees, is used for the practice of beginners, while the lower part of the slope, with an incline of 29 degrees and a surface of 7,000 square feet, is reserved for the trained skiers.

The snow is not directly placed on the wooden planks of the construction, but first huge coconut mats are fixed on the wood, and upon this mat, which supplies a more flexible ground, rest the masses of the white snow.

Since the opening of this "snow palace," the Vienna sport lovers are waiting in long queues for their turn to the skiing and bobsled grounds.



OUT-OF-DATE

Wooden Soldier (to Jack-in-the-Box): We're back numbers old fellow. Kids want toy airplanes and things like that now!

THE WORLD'S BEST

Switzerland has nothing finer in winter sports than Canada can show at home when the great Rocky Mountain National Park carnival is in progress. Championship figure skaters are already at Banff preparing for the big event.

Canada Goose as Canada's Emblem

A Touching Message to the People of the Dominion of Canada by Jack Miner

About one year ago I was interviewed by many reporters from our Canadian papers wanting a statement regarding our proposed National Bird. After such requests had been made to me repeatedly I wrote to the Canadian papers requesting that our already established Canada goose be chosen as our National Bird. I said, in brief, he is one of the most self-sacrificing, Godly-principled leaders the human eye ever beheld, and, to know him is to love and admire him, and there is not a human being on earth so good but that personal acquaintance with our noble Canada goose will give him a desire to live better, and now I come to you again and ask one and all to think for yourselves, and if Canada is to have a National Bird let us revive the discussion. This noble bird is already established throughout this continent as the Canada goose, and why hesitate to choose the noblest bird in the world as the emblem of the best and most promising country in the world? I want all fair-minded Canadians to read and re-read the following letter I received last week, but before doing so I want all to know that previous to receiving this letter I did not know this loan was on earth, and according to his own hand-writing he doesn't know whether I am a man, woman or child. I might also say that this bird was tagged last April along with four hundred and fifty others that I caught, tagged and liberated here at my home to study their route of migration. The letter "8" denotes spring, and the "27th" the year, all my full tags being stamped with a letter "F," my name not being on tag, only my Post Office address, which was "Write Box 18, Kingsville, Ontario."

The letter is as follows:

Englehard, N.C., U.S.A.
Nov. 3, 1927.

Dear Sir or Madam,

at Kingsville, Ont., Canada:

I had the good fortune of meeting one of your neighbors yesterday on the first day of the hunting season, and think he was the most remarkable geese I have ever seen. A flock of 25 or more geese lit to my decoys just out of gunshot, of which he was the leader, and as the flock started in he seemed to realize there was danger near my decoy geese, and tried hard to keep them back. He swam to and fro between the flock and the decoys, fighting at the flock, trying to drive them away, and when they persisted in coming in he would fly off and circle around, hollering as hard as he could, and when he saw the flock was coming in anyway, in spite of warning he came and lit between them and the decoys, as much as to say, if it must be done take me and let these children go.

He being the largest goose in the flock I took him first, the others got away, and after the excitement was over I brought him in the blind and saw his tag, and realized how nobly he laid down his life for his friends, my conscience hurt me. My companion and myself talked about the splendid traits of character the goose had shown, and we imagined him some pet that a little boy or girl had found and raised until he was grown and carried and put with other geese to choose a mate and fly away to the sunny south to spend the winter. Many will go back, but this brave gander was the first to fall, but in falling displayed such nobility as to convince me of the sin of killing game just for the sport of it, and if ever I go again it will be because I want a goose to eat, and not to shoot them down just to see them die. On the tag besides the address was Ps. 37:3, "Trust in the Lord," which is the first line of the third verse of the 37th Psalm. "37" I suppose was the year. There was an "8" left to itself, and I imagine the gander was named Son or Sallie. My wife is putting dinner on the table now, and I can smell the baked pork, and the sweet potatoes, cabbage, cranberry sauce with oyster dressing, so I am just consoling myself with that passage of Scripture when the Lord said, "Arise, Peter, slay and eat." I really wish dear old Sam could be here, I feel so sorry for him when the others come south again. I wish you would write me, tell me your name, and how you and old Sam became friends.

(Sgd.) Yours Very Truly,
"Billy Harris."

Yum Yum

First Eskimo (new at the game of Christmas Tree): "What is that?"

Second Eskimo: "It was found in those where the first [illegible] and [illegible] date."

A Boost For Crete

Apartments [illegible] and [illegible] Kitchen Maid, One [illegible] America [illegible] Union

[illegible]nes and the [illegible]rking-Girl.

[illegible] working girl when, in the [illegible]tario Dressler's immortal [illegible] will protect, is still in [illegible]nomy and a slave. If a [illegible]ne to fashion. She must [illegible] place to sleep, and wear [illegible] apparel that will attract [illegible] help her to hold her job [illegible] a good one. Yet more [illegible]rd of the self-supporting [illegible] in residence clubs in New [illegible] earn annually less than [illegible]rding to a statistical study [illegible]son Lillian H. Locke, in [illegible] household arts at Teachers [illegible]lumbia, says "it is practi[illegible]sible for a girl to meet her [illegible]ts to clothing and keep her [illegible] per on less than $20 a [illegible] statistical study was [illegible]rs. Freda L. Gerwin Wha[illegible] of the Department of Wo[illegible] Clothing of New York Uni[illegible] the report was presented [illegible] Relation to Promote Proper [illegible]r Girls, which met recently [illegible] York, by Miss Locke.

[illegible] costs, according to the re[illegible] quoted in the New York [illegible]ry with the earnings, the [illegible] increasing with the salary [illegible] earning $780 a year spend [illegible]8 per cent. for clothing [illegible] $1,118 spend 215, or 19 [illegible] and those earning $1,625 [illegible] or 26 per cent. Forty [illegible] occupations were represented, [illegible] groups being stenographers, [illegible] teachers and dressmakers [illegible] ranged from fifteen to fifty [illegible]ry is worn by almost all, [illegible] one-half of 1 per cent. ad[illegible] that they use cotton, and [illegible]metics, bobs, and perfumes [illegible]nsiderable item in the bud[illegible] 150 average working girls [illegible] studied. About one-fourth [illegible] spend more than $10 a [illegible]eauty, and one in every five [illegible] coat. "Girls between the [illegible]ghteen and twenty-five have [illegible] to look forward to matri[illegible]ss Locke said. "Clothes wo[illegible] say to help her; and I'm [illegible] the books too dowdy in this [illegible] will never get it here. Girls [illegible] smart. Their employers [illegible] to and should pay them [illegible] be smart." Mrs. Henry [illegible] vice-president of the as[illegible] said that the working girl's [illegible] attitude toward life are [illegible] by her environment. She [illegible] sacrifice clothes. Her job [illegible] life, perhaps her whole [illegible] depend upon her ability to pre[illegible] attractive appearance, and [illegible] it. Many girls cut on food, [illegible] to endure any hardship [illegible] appearance; others, with [illegible] sacrifice housing, living un[illegible] most deplorable conditions, [illegible] realize the importance [illegible] keeping fit.

[illegible] on the annual meet[illegible] the Newark Evening [illegible] is "perfectly all right."

[illegible] up a braver fight against [illegible] of poverty than the girls [illegible] thousands going to work [illegible] and stores, and I not [illegible] daily declaiming in their [illegible] their cheap furs, [illegible] ability to make a [illegible] look something from [illegible] hope. Feminists may [illegible] girls have not changed [illegible] last few centuries, the [illegible] is the happiest [illegible]

[illegible] can this be done [illegible] early decrease." [illegible] employers [illegible] [illegible] employers have [illegible] [illegible] with more [illegible] garments [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]