



Walter McPeck, Scout Executive of the Northshore Area Council with Headquarters in Highland Park, who begins his third year of service to Northshore towns this fall.

GUNPOWDER AVERTED CHINESE CONQUEST

BY SPANISH WAR LORDS

Planned to Invade That Country From Philippines But When They Learned China Had Firearms, Desisted

When the American Indians had the misfortune of being discovered by the Spaniards, the three principal means employed by the invaders to subdue them were the horse, fire-arms and treachery.

When, however, the Spaniards and Portuguese set out to conquer parts of Asia, the story was entirely different, declares Dr. Berthold Laufer, curator of anthropology at Field Museum of Natural History and noted writer on the Orient, in discussion the history of firearms as illustrated in the museum's collections. In 1571 the Spaniards entered the Bay of Manila and, to their surprise, were greeted by cannon fire from the citadels of two fortified towns. Antonio de Morga, a Spanish writer, relates that long before the arrival of the Spaniards, the Philippine Islanders had bronze culverins and cast iron pieces for defense. When the Portuguese took Malacca in 1510 they captured 3000 artillery pieces, 2,000 of which were of bronze, and the rest iron.

Spies to China
After the Spaniards settled in the Philippines, according to the researches of Dr. Laufer, they sent spies to China to find out whether she could be conquered as easily as Mexico and Peru. These emissaries were Augustinian friars, whose reports are still extant. They returned and reported that it could not be done, because China was very populous, and had standing armies equipped with horses, gunpowder and firearms. This deterred the Spanish governors from any attempt to invade China, and it may be said that it was the invention of gunpowder that saved China from the fate of Mexico and Peru, says Dr. Laufer.

Firearms were employed in China, India, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Siam, Cambodia and Korea long before the arrival of any European nations in Asia. Gunpowder was invented in China about the middle of the sixth century, and was first employed in the manufacture of firecrackers and fireworks. Large guns were made there beginning about the twelfth century.

ROMANCE IN RAILWAY PRESIDENT'S CAREER

Magazine Writer Believes So and Tells How in Story of J. J. Bernet

That romance remains a part of the present day history of American railroad development is proven by the life story of John J. Bernet, president of the Erie railroad, recounted in The American Magazine.

Under the title "Who Said the Day of Railroad Giants Is Over" the magazine tells the story of this blacksmith's management of first the Nickel Plate line, then a run down road, and his management in turn of the Chesapeake and Ohio, the Pere Marquette and finally the Erie. Bernet's story is linked with that of O. P. and M. J. Sweringen, two former real

estate men of Cleveland, who bought the Nickel Plate and took him from the New York Central to run it. Always Bernet reached out for his employers, calling upon them to buy more roads and railway properties. Today, as a result, they own and control a network of railroads that aggregate more than 9,000 miles of track, employing more than 135,000 persons and have assets of a billion and a half dollars.

"No longer tyros, but masters of railroading," says the magazine of the Van Sweringens, "the brothers' dream has become one of empire, and this in a scant half dozen years."

Bernet was born in Brandt, New York, 60 years ago. He is mentioned as the probable choice for the presidency of the combined Van Sweringen roads if this combine becomes possible.

It wouldn't be so hard to outlaw war. The trouble would be in keeping it outlawed.

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AUTO EXCISE TAX NETS GOVERNMENT BIG SUM

The automobile excise tax, inaugurated on October 4, 1917 and completely repealed on May 29, 1928, netted the Government a total of \$1,099,083,079, according to figures compiled by the American Motorists' association, in co-operation with The Automobile club of Illinois. Repeal of the tax, assessed only on new cars purchased, means a saving of approximately \$70,000,000 annually, the figures show.

Thanks Unwanted
"Gimme thankless jobs hereafter," said Tom Tuttle of Squash Bend as Mr. Lavelle, his new French neighbor, kissed him for fixing his fence.—Farm and Fireside.

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4-Passenger Coupe	3450	2950	500
5-Passenger Sedan	3350	2750	600
2-Passenger Coupe	3350	2750	600
4-Passenger Touring	3100	2700	400
Runabout	2900	2600	300
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