

Thursday, July 19, 1928

BRITAIN NOT TO BLAME FOR CHINESE OPIUM WAR

(Continued from page 1)

opium smoking against the desires of the Chinese Government; and another that "China vainly struggled to free herself from the grip of opium, a trade fostered by Great Britain."

Now what are the facts? Is it true, as alleged, that the use of the poppy, except for medicinal purposes, was unknown in China until the British "forced" it upon the Chinese people?

It is not; the Chinese had old acquaintance of the poppy; their standard medical works describe the plant and the collection and preparation of its juice.

Proponents of this idea of British force to compel the importation of Indian opium are prone to refer to a group of five pioneers whose examination of the situation has been fairly comprehensive, and of whom three, Dr. Peter Parker, Dr. Bridgeman, and Dr. Wells Williams were American; the other two, Drs. W. H. Medhurst and Benjamin Hobson, being British.

These five men have long been spoken of as the principal authority for the myth of the "opium war."

What do they say themselves? Dr. Peter Parker, five times American Charge d'Affairs, said: "In the spirit of true friendship, the foundation of all difficulties between China and foreign nations is the unwillingness of China to acknowledge England, France, America and other great nations of the West as equals and true friends."

Dr. Wells Williams, six times American Charge d'Affairs for the U.S. in China, and probably the most outstanding figure of the five, says of the Chinese that "they maintained a patronising, unfair and contemptuous position, which left no alternative but withdrawal from their shores, or a humiliating submission that no one, feeling the least independence, could endure."

Not one word of opium is to be found in his utterances which can by any amount of ingenuity be construed into a foundation for the myth. At another point he refers to the Chinese as "this proud government, which deliberately rejected the offer of peace."

Dr. Hawks Pott, in his "Sketches of Chinese History," informs us that "apart from opium, a collision was inevitable," the denial of equality was the real cause of war.

Celeb Gushing, first Plenipotentiary to China from the U. S., writing in 1874, stated: "The late war with England was caused by the conduct of the Chinese authorities at Canton, in disregarding the rights of public officers who represented the English government."

In some instances, where it appears to indicate to directly charge the British government with responsibility, the myth is sustained by accusing the British East India Company. This company, however, itself did not engage in the trade, though its first trading station was established in Canton in 1684.

Prior to this, Dutch merchants had been established for almost a hundred years, the nationals of both countries holding the field until 1784, when the Astors and the Girards of New York and the Girards of Philadelphia entered into a vigorous competition with both the Dutch and the English, making inroads on the silk trade of the latter, as into the tea trade of the former.

Opium, apparently, was not handled by either of the competitors. Long before any of these interests entered the field, however, the boot-legging of opium was carried on with lucrative connivance of Chinese officialdom and continued both before and after the alleged "opium war."

To return to the incidents leading up to 1840, from the reign of K'ien-lung, the Portuguese, Dutch and British trade through Canton was subject to many exactions and restrictions, as a result of which Britain sent Lord Macartney on an embassy to Peking in 1795. Again in 1816, Lord Amherst was a special ambassador. Both these embassies proved abortive, and Lord Napier became Minister to superintend the foreign trade at Canton in 1834, co-terminus with the cessation of the British East India Company's monopoly. After Napier's death, Adolphus Sir Charles Elliott became superintendent.

In this period the Mandarins, who had accumulated vast fortunes by their traffic in opium, resented more and more its importation through the channels of the minister of superintendency of the trade, by which it contributed to the sources of taxation, and commenced their opposition to the trade so handled.

Sir Charles (then Captain Elliott) agreed in 1839 to deliver all opium in the hands of English merchants to the native authorities, and to act a pledge from them that they would no longer deal in the drug.

It soon became apparent, however, that this was but a thinly veiled item of dispute, and when Lin Tze-su, the Chinese imperial commissioner, continued to press his further insulting and extortionate demands, the war of 1840 followed.

The resentment of the Mandarins

and Tuchans against the import of opium through the trade channels of nationals other than their own was evident as early as 1781 when a cargo of a thousand chests, though sold at half price, was boycotted. In 1796 the old regulations which were in fact simply measures in restriction of trade other than that conducted by the Mandarins, were restated and efforts were made to confine that traffic to the bootleg channels of the Mandarins to the exclusion of all others.

The Chinese demand, however, was not of such a character as to permit the huge profits to which the Mandarins had become accustomed, and imports rose in less than 40 years from some 2,000 to 34,000 chests per annum.

It was therefore, not because the British sought to enforce the narcotic trade of China by force of arms, but because the Tuchans and Mandarins found that the trade carried by the mercantile vessels of the nationals using the Chinese ports interfered too largely with the source of the almost fabulous riches which they had accumulated in the smuggling of the same Indian opium and in its sale at an exorbitant profit to their clamorous compatriots, that friction finally culminated in warfare.

Perhaps the most convincing comment on the opium traffic in China is to be found in the pertinent remarks of the American, Gilbert King, in an article entitled "The Poppy Blooms Again," which appeared in "Asia" during last year. This article reveals the hollow-ness and weakness of Chinese protestations during the sessions of the league of Nations advisory committee on opium held in January last year.

At these sessions, experts produced charts showing that China herself produced 15,000 tons of opium annually and Chu Chao Hsin, the Chinese delegate on the League of Nations Council, protested bitterly, claiming that this was a gross libel on his country.

Gilbert King supports his views by offering first-hand facts, and supplements these facts by photographs of vast acreages of poppies in bloom and maps showing in plain language, that large proportions of the arable lands of Kweichow and Szechuen are given up entirely to poppy culture.

Admitting that the edict of 1906 led to a big drop in production, as much as 75 to 80 per cent, prior to the Revolution of 1911, Mr. King shows that the Tuchans, Mandarins and Provincial Governors have reverted to the older conditions and have encouraged the wholesale production of opium for purposes of revenue.

Perhaps no other article pays such large sums in taxes and bribes to officials, he they high or low, and it may be conceded that the fullest use is made of the fact, the full use is made of the fact, Mr. King speaks of Szechuen for along the Yangtze in Szechuen for a day and a half between poppy fields, where a four-fifths of the acreage was planted in opium; Chinese vessels under Swedish, French and Italian flags, making huge profits from their unceasing running between the points of growth and manufacture.

Chinese officials, we are told, the military and civil governors, inspectors-general, negotiate huge loans for the purchase of the necessary shipping, admitting that they hold a monopoly for carrying them from Chungking to Ichang and that they collected \$500,000 per ton or about \$56,000.00 per trip. And this rate, on a commodity that is taxed at the rate of \$800.00 per ton on reaching Wanhsein, will provide some food for conjecture as to its profitable character.

An average of 500 tons monthly goes down the river—which from this point alone shows that the League of Nations' experts are no means oversteating in their estimate of 15,000 tons annually for all China.

In Chungking alone it is estimated that three tons of the drug are smoked daily. This provides its approximately 700,000 inhabitants the generous allowance of about 2,000,000 pipes of opium some daily at a cost of over \$40,000.00 per diem or \$15,000,000.00 annually. Curiously enough this is almost exactly the amount spent in this city for the important staple, rice.

Chinese estimates themselves place from 25 to 30 per cent of the population as opium smokers, in the ratio of 70 per cent men and 30 per cent women.

The native banks provide opium lamps for their clients, the merchants offer it to their prospective customers just as cigarettes and cigars are offered elsewhere.

The traffic furnishes by far the most important export item of Szechuen and is rapidly attaining similar dimensions in Yunnan, and so long as a small shipment of 30 tons nets the huge sum of \$2,000,000.00, the empty protests which emanate from would-be Chinese diplomats would appear to be of little value.

Hence the statement that Britain forced the opium traffic on China by weight of arms requires some explanation. It will be necessary to show that arms had any connection whatever with opium and also to make clear the amount of force required to persuade the Chinese to use Indian opium when it was made available at something less than the fabulous price obtained by the Tuchans.

In conclusion, it must not be understood that this article presumes to do anything more than to originally assayed, namely to discover whether the British were responsible for forcing opium at the point of the sword on the Chinese. It makes no apology for the traffic nor does it seek to condone in any manner those engaged therein.



Frederick Charles Hedges says he is the happiest man in Canada. He has two good reasons. He is the stroke of the Argonaut senior eight crew which defeated the Winnipeg boat for the right to represent Canada at the Olympic games. It was a thrilling victory. Then, to cap it all, this husky young athlete got married, the night before the Canadian team left to sail for Amsterdam. His bride, Miss Isabelle Martin, is accompanying him. No happier honeymoon could be imagined. The happy couple are shown.

HOW KU KLUX KLAN CAME INTO EXISTENCE

William Joseph Simmons, founder of the Ku Klux Klan, has confessed to William G. Shepherd of Collier's Weekly how he came to organize it and how eventually he established it as the dominating political and social machine in several states. His revelations belong to the now-it-can-be-told school for the Klan is practically defunct. If it were not at least, obsolescent the enthusiastic nomination of Governor Smith at Houston would have been impossible, for it was the Klan that blocked his nomination in 1924 and split the Democratic party. Simmons, it appears, is of old American stock, and about half educated, a strong man physically and today almost in the prime of life. As a child he used to hear the negroes talk of the original Klan in which his father was an officer, and later he used to read all the stories he could lay his hands on concerning the period of reconstruction and the part the Klan played in it. When the time came for him to launch his big idea he was steeped in Klan lore.

A Methodist Preacher

In early life, we gather, Simmons was a religious man for his ambition was to become a clergyman, after he learned that the state of the family bank roll would not permit of his becoming a doctor. At fourteen he was a regular leader of the weekly prayer meeting in the Methodist church in a little Georgia town. The Spanish-American war intervened and as a youth he served in it. From this connection he acquired considerable experience, and derived the title of "Colonel" which he admits conferring on himself, and which, used for years without any derisive quotation marks, proved extremely useful. On his return he entered a university for a short time, and at the age of nineteen received a license to preach. Simmons was an exponent of muscular Christianity, and like the heroes of many a novel he converted the seafarers with his fists. After he had battered the sinners of his community they used to attend his church in threat of receiving further licks.

Climbing the Ladder

But the colonel would probably have made more money in the prize ring, for his salary the first three years of his preaching career averaged about \$200. He found it necessary to earn money in other ways and he used to go round the country holding revivals and giving lectures. He had three lectures like pretty well they were "Women, Weddings and Wives," "Red Heads, Dead Heads and No Heads" and the third, which he modestly described as his knockout, was

THE SPICE OF LIFE

Tennis or Haircut  
Irma Stickler had a tonsorial operation Tuesday by Dr. Walker of North Platte, is a recent announcement of the North Platte (Neb.) newspaper.

Must Be Contagious  
Absent-minded Professor—Elizabeth, I believe I have lost the road.  
Absent-minded Professor's Wife—Are you sure you had it when you left the house?

Cheap at the Price

The Salt Lake (Utah) Telegram has this report: Deputy Sheriff John Hancock and Smith Sutton face Federal charges of trying to defeat the dry law, while Burt L. Smith is alleged to have withheld information against a liquor-law violator in return for a \$100 bribe.

Fellow Victims

Burglar (waking householder during spring-cleaning epidemic)—"Excuse me, Mister, but I've 'appen ter know where the missus 'as put the silver among all this 'ere muddle?"

Passing It On

The Sandwich, Mass., Free Masses here have given an old Methodist church bell to a Fall River Catholic church. It was acquired when the Masons bought the church for a temple. This was reported in a recent issue of the Charleston, S.C., Press.

Sound the Alarm

Lois.—Dear, you have been so good to me that I am going to do you a favor. You can take me to dinner tonight.  
Dear.—That's great, Lois, does your mother know we're coming?

Heap Big Chief

Stranger—So you are the post-master storekeeper, justice of the peace and constable of this town?  
Native—Yassir! You might say I'm the Mussolini of Buckeye Corner.

A Nifty Comeback

A headline in a San Diego (Calif.) paper says: Ted Doner Said to Have Chanced for Life after Fatal Auto Accident.

Kinship of Kourtship and Kissing

So he struggled on for some years getting deeper and deeper in debt, and unceasing but unavailing in his efforts to have his bishop appoint him to a richer pasture. The conference of 1911 again consigned him to a backwoods district and he resigned from the church. The church records say that he was dropped and that he had a loftier notion of his own capacities than his spiritual superiors. The leaving was satisfactory to both parties, for within two years Simmons had a little home worth \$3,000 all paid for, his back debts liquidated and was earning a salary of \$15,000 a year as district manager for a large fraternal order. So, as Mr. Shepherd moralizes, there would have been no Klan at all if Simmons had been given a richer congregation. Nor would it have come into existence if a motor car accident had not confined Simmons to his bed for three months, for it was while lying on his back that the original idea came to him.

The Big Idea

At that time he was a prosperous, busy man, making many acquaintances and friends in the course of his work. He was also an industrious joiner, which turned his thoughts to the formation of another order of which he would have the chief control. While he was in bed he not only got the basic idea firmly fixed in his mind, but he drew sketches of the robes and other paraphernalia, invented most of the ritual and established the motto of the order—"Non Silba set Anthar"—a mixture of Latin and Saxon that means "Not for set but for others." Before he got really to work he took the precaution of copyrighting these motives and emblems which later he was to sell to the Klan for \$90,000. The first man he mentioned the idea to

DRUG SPECIALS

WE CARRY a full line of High-Class Drugs and Sundries. Newspapers, Magazines, Pipes, Cigars and Tobaccos and many vocation needs.



Tooth brushes for every member of the family. Take a good brush on your vacation.  
No woman should be without a pair of rubber gloves. They protect the hands from stain.  
One of our bottle brushes will make it easy to clean all kinds of bottles and sealers.

MacBeth's Drug Store

was a lawyer friend named Clarkson. He had no sooner made his explanation that the lawyer shoved him out of the office, telling him not to lose a minute but to get busy at once. The war was on at the time and the southern negroes were getting, as he says, pretty "uppity" for there was a demand for them in Northern industries. The original central idea of the Klan as Simmons launched it was to keep the negroes in their place.

The Birth of a Nation

A week before the film "The Birth of a Nation" came to Atlanta, Simmons had the first swearing in of members of his order. He got newspaper publicity by burning a huge cross on the top of a conspicuous mountain, and for a long time it was supposed that the Klan and the film were under the same auspices. Undoubtedly the film gave the new order tremendous advertising, without which it never would have swept so swiftly the Southern States. But it was not all easy going, and Simmons wore holes in his shoes tramping the streets before the membership was large enough to justify his early hopes. When that time came, of course, he had no further financial worries, for the Klan was like his personal property, every new member contributing a few dollars to his private fund. Later jealous-ouries were to drive him from the Klan, but not till he had been made a rich man. Later on, too, the Klan was to extend its hatred to Jews and Roman Catholics, but originally it was the device of an ex-clergyman to provide himself with a handsome living and keep the negroes of the South in their ancient attitude of submission.—J. V. McAree in Toronto Mail and Empire.

FOR SALE  
WATERLOO SEPARATOR WITH clover-huller attachment, good as new.—George Caswell, Berkeley, Ontario. 7 19 2

Trinity Church Annual Garden Party

Mrs. E. K. Jackson's Lawn  
Thurs., Aug. 2, '28

Old-Time Fiddlers' Contest

for which good prizes will be given

Prospective contestants will confer favor by handing in their names or mailing them to The Chronicle Office or to Rev. E. Hayes at the Rectory.

Good Programme Harvey McGee famous Entertainer and Comedian

will be among those taking part.

Watch for further announcement next week.



SPECIALS For This Week

- Men's Ties, reg. up to 75c.; sale price, 3 for \$1.00
- Men's Short Combination Underwear, at .69
- Men's Black Silk Sox, 3 pairs for 1.00
- Men's Black Overall, good weight 1.69
- Men's Work Sox, 2 pairs for .35
- Men's Work Shirts .75
- Men's Fine Shirts, broken lots .99

We guarantee these articles to be all First Class Quality. No Seconds.

SATURDAY NIGHT ONLY

We will sell any of our No. 1 quality Overalls and Smocks, which include Brotherhood, Carhartt, and Lighthouse, @ per garment \$2.10

D. M. Saunders

MEN'S AND BOYS' READY-TO-WEAR "MORE FOR LESS" One Door South of D. C. Town, Jeweller, Durham



Mercury Full-Fashioned Silk Hosiery

These charming hose are made from the finest of heavy, service-weight pure thread silk. Full-fashioned, of course, silk to the welt, patented garter block, extra-wear patch on top and side of toe—reinforced slipper foot, fine even-stitch fabric, and the very best of fast even dyes.

At once serviceable and elegant—this smartly stylish hose will wear—and wear.

In popular shades at 90c., \$1.00, \$1.50, and \$2.00

J. & J. Hunter

General Merchants Durham, Ont.

19, 1928

of the bride music. ceremony the immediate and groom, sat wedding re-MeLeod left a honeymoon New Liskeard he travelled in ensemble with

Garage

re y, nt, ate

what its we can rear to perfect ion with the and expense of thoroughly erts stand and correct om a dented erankshaft. vice!

Garage

Durham

on in

ape?

he kind

uth ope

Pulleys to \$2.00

ks \$6.00

Kinds

Limited

y ngs

ns .28

ches. .28

ss .25

55

spray. .35

Pink .22

d Sal- .35

Soap .35

pure .64

ts. .25

pkgs. .25

bars. .29

ans. .35

white .25

per .50

40

an. .15

orten. .20

logg's .25

od, 2

am, Ont.