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THE FAMINE IN CHINA

By John H. MacVicar.

(Special to the Whis)
Weichwei, Honan, China, Oct. 26. -It almost looks as if the Famine in China had come upon the world overnight. The news which went out' the northern provinces of Chihli, Shantung and Honan were face to

observed, either by the Chinese them-selves, or by those from other lands By the time these lines are read in who live amongst them. All summer Canada the cold weather will have the ceaseless drum-beat of rain-pro- set in. Without their winter garments cessions kept the flaming air vibrating. The Chinese, in fact, resorted to
every known expedient for inducing food, the sufferings of the masses in downpour, but without result. Dingy images, with the paint-skin Canadian help is urgently needed. It and mud-flesh peeling from their wooden anatomy, were dragged out of cob-webbed recesses in shrines and temples, and placed in the blazing

for human hunger-pangs. Dead bodies, even, were dug up and exposed to the stolid stare of superstitious throngs in order to exercise spirits that were suspected of having haunted the agricultural districts and prevented such clouds as gathered from pouring out their contents. But to the intense agony of the whole populace, throughout the entire twelvemonth there had been no "soaking rain."

When all that was going on, why should the famine have taken the world by surprise? In part, it may have been due to political distractions. A powerful organization, known as the Anfu Club, dominated Peking, and had been selling the Chinese Republic body and soul. Gradually the suspicion seized the better elements amongst the people that the republic must be standing on its moral head, or else seeing things upside down, and that the only way matters could be righted was by revolution. The overturning of the Anfu Club so absorbed attention as to obscure for a while the consciousness that any famine spectre was emerging. Some Canadians on the ground, from whose minds forebodings were not absent. steadied themselves by recalling former occasions when similar peril had threatened but had been averted. Rather than speak prematurely they remained silent.

But now, beyond all question, a famine is in progress; a situation the like of which has not been known in And the chap who'd have you think-China since 1877. In wide regions, the suffering is already acute. On a low estimate twenty million people Gather there the young and aged, are affected. Some forecast that before the winter is over between thirty | Men who long ago had married, some and forty million lives will be threat- of them the second time, of Honan which is situated north of there the tomfool and the wise, lies from which no crop whatever was | will find the "Wets" and "Drys." taken. It is mainly in the prefecture Two old muchly married veterans, of Changte, but the other two prefectures of Weihwei and Hwaiking are Had come up to spend the evening?

not unaffected. The writer has travelled day after Both were anti prohibition and they day through a considerable portion of started picking flaws, the territory—not by any means the Bout the wemen folks a-voting to worst—and found the people eating support the temperance cause. chaff and leaves. Their animalscows, oxen, donkeys, mules-in great | 5ben he got very hostile and quite droves have either been killed for food, or driven far off to be sold for a song to greedy profiteers. When, at long last, rain fell and made it practicable to sow the fall wheat, in spacious districts through which the writer passed, animals were so scarce that the plough had to be dragged by "If you chaps are goin' ter cower, let hand. In many instances only the seeder was used to scratch the surface of the soil. Famine prices early began to prevail. Caoliang, the coarsest form of food, in normal times costs one dollar a bushel. Now it costs \$6.25.

The great mass of the people have pawned their clothes and have no Here the lads commenced to jolly money with which to redeem them. Uncle Eb and Uncle Cy. Children are openly put up for sale And hector Willie Hubbard said (a Crowded "trains of mercy", on which free passage is granted by the Chinese Government, carry to and fro distracted refugees looking in vain for spots where abundance can be found. For many, millet-gruel mixed with leaves is the only mocking "nourishment" available. This spells torture and death within a few weeks or

The Famine Relief organizations in China, with their urgent appeals for funds and approved methods of selfhelp for the able-bodied are hard at work doing their best to cope with the situation; but even on the lowest estimates the problem before them is not unlike that of providing food for all the armies in the Great War; with this difference that in that situation all the world was interested and more or less ready to deny itself in order to make the food supply go round. Help from Canada which is absolutely indispensable, in order to be effective needs to be prompt.

contributing generously and taking energetic action. But that the Chinese Government can be counted on to do next to nothing is indicated by following editorial comment Here the unexpected happened, for which appeared recently in the North China Daily News, of Changhal, one And in sauntered Cy's Balinda and of the most influential British journals in the Orient: "The question Then Balinda said to Cyrus "Do. you arises whether there is any real ground for supposing that the Chin-

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surest, quickest stomach relievers in 4,000 attacked a provisioning train sides every hair shows new life.

ese dovernment is capable of dealing adequately with the problem now confronting it. Considering all the circumstances, to expectit to produce a thoroughly practical and comprehensive scheme, and more than that, to be able to provide the necessary machinery for its effective operation. would be rather like expecting it to perform an administrative miracle. The Chinese Government is obviously

and hopelessly unprepared. With a at the end of August that millions in depleted treasury and the whole administrative organization vitiated by political antagonism and duplicity, is face with starvation came with start- it to be wondered at that the Government finds itself without men and Had the menace escaped earlier no- without means to meet the crisis? It tice? By no manner of means. A is extremely probable that the bulk drought that had lasted for a full of the work will fall upon private year could scarcely have passed un- enterprise assisted by a few conscien-

the affected areas will be intense.

sun to force a touch of fellow-feeling THE RETREAT OF THE BRAVE AND TRUE

By Crawf C. Slack.

When have passed the smiling summer, and the harvest days have

When the corn is in the silo and the cows are in the shed, When October grey and golden, it has passed with all its charm,

And the chill nights of November settle down upon the farm, When the storm-clouds form and gather in the azure overhead, And the fields are bleak and barren and the woodland brown and dead, Then the lads around Plum Hollow as in Winters gone before, Gather 'round to spend the evening up at Wally Newsome's store.

Now the characters assembled are the same as you will find. Should you go out to Plum Hollow they're the individual kind, At the store they talk on matters just to pass the time away,

And the most of them are posted on the questions of the day, As to age they somewhat vary, there you'll find the old and young. There are those with silence golden others who are glib of tongue, There you'll find the bragging boaster, there the hector and the wit, ing that he certainly was it.

bachelors just in their prime,

ened. In that portion of the Province There you'll find the usual many, the Yellow River, an extensive region There as in all other districts, you Cyrus Grey and Eben Parr,

Had the most to say by far,

bolsterous said he, "Here tonight I'll tell you fellers that no woman will run me?

"I have alus had my licker, an' I'll have you all to know." "That I'll have it in the futer, just as long as waters flow."

the wemen rule the land?" 'Here is one what's got the gumption left within him an' the sand, Cyrus bold spoke out then saying, "I prefer a corpse to lay" "E'ar I'd have the name of letting any woman rule a Grey."

twinkle in his eye),

have often heard it hinted or rather heard folks say" That your women do th, planing and are bosses down your way?" That they're chief boss of the shanty boss of hair and hide and hoof" Folks say they are judge and jury from the cellar to the roof?"

Hi Smith said "At next election, will gamble some with you" That Uncle Cy and Eb will vote just Geddes Explains That Union Jack

Now this started something going and the ire of Grey and Parr. Was such, that they declared at once another cruel war.

Eb replenished his terpacker and spit upon the stove. And he said "sich broad assertions will make you fellers prove" Said he "I'll die for freedom, an' le me say fer you"

"Thet Cyrus will be numbered among dows. the Brave and True." Many of the leading Chinese are Here Cyrus stood and shouted. "We have lived here all our lives" "An' we never have been guilty cowering to our wives."

> the door it swung ajar, her sister, Mrs. Parr. mind me telling "you"

"Tonight there was a meeting of the That you had to mind the children, stay at home and pile up wood" 'Now you get a-goin' useless while the goin' it is good'

"I shall be out late this evening but remember what I say" When it comes your usual bed-time make a bee-line for the hay."

Then the Spracklin of the district and the champion of the "Drys" Opened fire on Uncle Eben, powder on her face and eyes; Striding up to Uncle Eben she with pointed finger said.

'It is time old fools and children they were in their trundle bed" You be off this very minute, for this is no place for you." Then the shrine of freedom tottered -for exit the Brave and True. Eben meek and Cyrus silent; both re-treated through the door,

Despatch to the Paris Temps from ter a few applications you can not Pape's Diapepsin tablets are the Beiru:, Cyria, says a Turkish force of find a fallen hair or any dandruff, be-



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UN PEU D'AMOUR—(A little love, a little
isine), (Siliten), Sung by Angelo Roselli, Tenor,
NEARER MY GOD TO THEE—Composed by
Mason, Sung by Hart and Show, Tenor-Baritone Dust, Orol. Acc.
WHERE IS MY WANDERING BOY TONIGHT—Composed by Lowry, Sung by
Chas. Hart, Tenor Solo, Orol. Acc. AVALON (Fox Trot)—Composed by Al. Joison, Played by Hasty Raderman's Orches WHISPERING (Fee Tree)—Composed by Shonberger, Played by Harry Raderman's Or-chestra. CHRISTMAS TIME IN MERRY ENGLAND
(Pt. 1)—Composed by T. Bennett, Played
by Honourable Artiflery Band.
CHRISTMAS TIME IN MERRY ENGLAND
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land Geddes, British Ambassador to the United States, declared yesterday that the Embassy here would not protest to the United States State Department on the Union Club incident in New York last Thursday when a mob of 5,000 "Irish sympathizers" attacked and partially wrecked the club building because a British flag was displayed from one of its win-

Sir Auckland pointed out that the flag had not been injured, and said he regarded the incident as purely a matter between two factions of United States citizens.

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