

enormously increased by the extension of the press in recent years."

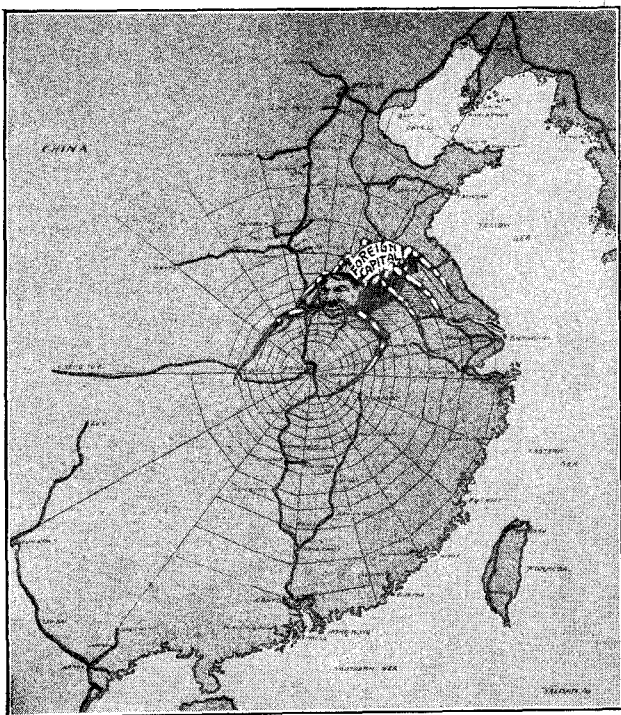
The original press of China was intelligible only to the highly educated and had no direct influence on those who knew only the spoken language. "This class of journal did not meet the needs of the general population," says Mr. Farjenel, and "the need suggested the foundation of a new journalism, the *Péhoa*, or journals printed in the spoken vernacular." This new Chinese newspaper, we are told, is very much of the same contexture as that of the journals of Europe and America. The number of such publications is constantly on the increase, their circulation being from 5,000 to 10,000 each. In writing his article the author had before him fifty of the most important journals "published at Mukden, at Peking, at Hankow, at Tientsin, at Tchekiang, and the borders of Mongolia."

The large papers like the *Chenpao* or the *Sinwennpao* (Shanghai) "contain a quantity of matter equal or superior to that of the *Paris Temps*. Large journals are sold at three or four cents a copy, the small sheets at about half that price."—*Translation made for THE LITERARY DIGEST*.

### AMERICA WINNING CHINA

EVER SINCE Secretary Hay defeated Lord Salisbury's scheme to divide up the Chinese Empire into "spheres of influence," or rather protectorates, among England and other European nations, China has shown special favor for American enterprise and trusted American statesmanship. Dr. Ernst Shultze goes so far as to declare in the *Preussische Jahrbuecher* (Berlin) that henceforth "China must necessarily prove to the United States the most important field for the exercise of the American spirit of enterprise." This well-informed writer thinks that "the Chinese Government is striving to open the way for the investment of American capital within her provinces to encourage the development of profitable enterprises." The American Tobacco Trust, it seems, has already erected a large factory in Manchuria, and in South China the Steel Trust is building furnaces for the manufacture of iron and steel.

America, therefore, declares this writer, will practically hold the balance of power between China and Japan:



THE RAILROAD SPIDER.

—*National Review* (Shanghai).

"The United States will also find it desirable to extend its political as well as its commercial influence in China. The Government at Washington may some time perhaps be called upon to interpose in preventing a clash between China and Japan, which would be disastrous to the interests of both parties concerned. In this emergency America could exhibit her diplomatic address in handling the two most powerful nations of East Asia. She would at least have the advantage of China's favor in aiming at the hegemony in the Far East. This doubtless is the reason why American diplomacy has labored to propitiate China."

This writer enumerates the various colleges founded by American money and conducted on American methods at Peking and other cities of the Flowery Kingdom. But the real influence of America in China, we are told, comes from the Chinese students who have studied in New England and other colleges, remaining from ten to twelve years in this country. Many of them on returning to their native country have taken high official positions. One of them was appointed president of the special commission dispatched from Peking to Washington in 1908. Tang-Schao-Yi is a graduate of Yale. Liang, the Governor of Middle Manchuria, is a graduate of Amherst. He was formerly a Chinese representative at Washington and is now president of the Canton-Hankau Railroad. Another highly placed official is Yen, who was educated at Lehigh, Pa. He is now chief engineer to the Kalgan Railroad which runs through the Nankau Pass, traversed by Marco Polo.

In the autumn of 1909 there were 600 Chinese students in American institutions of learning, we read, 100 of them being sent here by the Government at Peking. "Naturally in North America every means is resorted to in the treatment of these students to increase the influence of Washington in Peking."

America, declares this high German authority, is setting an example to European Powers anxious for influence in Asia. China sees her opportunity and grasps it eagerly.

It is significant, Dr. Shultze remarks, that Chinese students at Cornell, the universities of Pennsylvania, Columbia, and Harvard prefer the technical to the literary departments. Nineteen per cent. of them choose railroad engineering as their specialty, 13 per cent. machinery, 16 per cent. take a commercial training, while 9 per cent. become mining engineers, 6 lawyers, and 4 teachers. Art and esthetics are studied by very few. Thus it happens that when American capital is invested in China, American methods and American machinery actually succeed in almost Americanizing the country where "progress in the technical arts is made with much greater rapidity than even in Europe or America."—*Translation made for THE LITERARY DIGEST*.



A DISCOURAGING TASK.

—*National Review* (Shanghai).

### CHINA'S BURDENS.



## MR. EDISON'S ROSY VIEW OF THE FUTURE

THE NEXT half-century will be good to live in, if Thomas A. Edison is a true prophet. We have just begun to realize, he says, what electricity and mechanical appliances can do for us. In an article contributed to *Popular Electricity* (Chicago, June) he announces himself as one who is interested in the future of electricity rather than in its past. He writes:

"It is those that will work at the art in the next fifty years that are to be envied. We poor groppers of the last fifty are like the struggling farmers among the bare New England rocks before the wide grain-fields of the West were reached. The crops have been thin, without reapers or thrashers to harvest them. We haven't gone very far yet beyond Franklin or Faraday.

"Look at the simple chances of improvement in what devices are known to-day. They are endless. About one hundred million carbon filament lamps are made here every year, much the same in all essentials as a quarter of a century ago. We must break new ground. Lately the art has gone back to metallic filaments, bringing down to one-third the amount of current needed for the same quantity of light. That is only a step. The next stage should be to one-sixth, and, as Steinmetz says, carbon is still in the game, for many of its qualities render it superior to metal. It is the same way with electric heating and cooking appliances, very ingenious even now, and better than any other means; but ten years hence they will be superseded and in the museums with bows and arrows and the muzzle-loaders. As for the electric motor, it will not be perfectly utilized until everything we now make with our hands, and every mechanical motion, can be effected by throwing a switch. I am ashamed at the number of things around my house and shops that are done by animals—human beings, I mean—and ought to be done by a motor without any sense of fatigue or pain. Hereafter a motor must do all the chores."

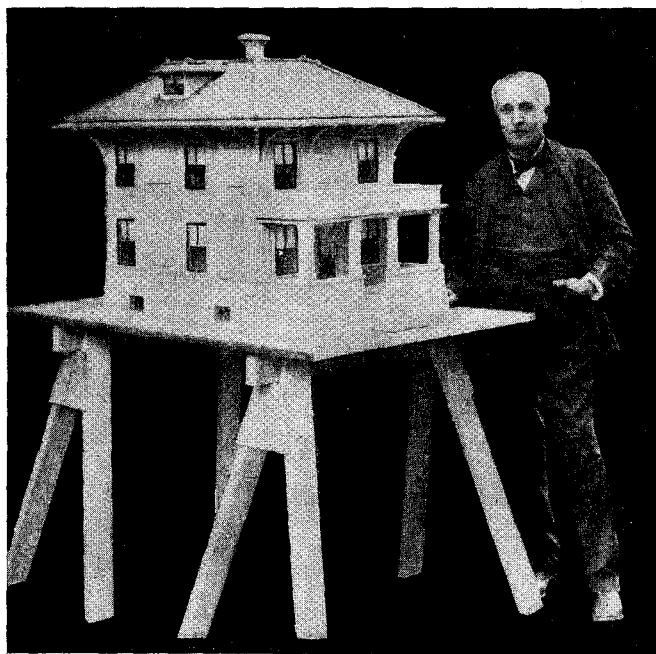
The same remarks, Mr. Edison goes on to say, apply outdoors. There is absolutely no reason, he asserts, why horses should be allowed within the city limits, for between the gasoline and the electric car, no room is left for them. They should go where the cow and the pig have already gone. A higher public ideal of health and cleanliness is working this out very swiftly; "and then we shall have decent streets instead of stables made out of strips of cobblestones." We read further:

"Electricity is the only thing I know that has become any cheaper the last ten years, and such work as I have indicated, tending to its universal use from one common source, is all aimed, consciously or insensibly, in this direction. I have been deeply impressed with the agitation and talk about the higher cost of living, and . . . I am convinced pretty firmly that a large part of our heightened expense of living comes from the cost of delivering small quantities to the 'ultimate consumer.'

"My poor neighbors in Orange pay four or five times what I do for a ton of coal because they buy in such small quantities; and thus the burden falls on the wrong shoulders. This appeals to my selfishness as well as to my philanthropy, for the workman hasn't much left to buy my phonograph or to see my

moving pictures with, if all he makes is swallowed up in rent, clothing, and food. I'll speak about rent a little later. In clothing we have got onto the universal 'ready-made' basis which has vastly cheapened dress while insuring a fastidious fit. When we come to food, let us note how far we have already gone in centralized production of the 'package.' I believe a family could live the year around without using anything but good 'package' food. What is needed is to carry that a step farther and devise automatic stores where the distributing cost is brought down to a minimum on every article handled. A

few electromagnets controlling chutes and hoppers, and the thing is done. I wonder the big five- and ten-cent stores don't try the thing out, so that even a small package of coal or potatoes would cost the poor man relatively no more than if he took a car-load. If I get the time I hope to produce a vending-machine and store that will deliver specific quantities of supplies as paid for, on the spot. "Butchers' meat is one of the elements in high cost of living that this plan may not apply to readily; but it is amazing how far, even now, automatic machinery goes in carving up a carcass. We shall simply have to push those processes a little farther. Thousands of motors are now in use running sausage-machines, for example. Besides I am not particularly anxious to help people eat more meat. I would rather help them eat less."



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### EDISON'S SOLUTION OF THE RENT PROBLEM.

Who would not forsake the crowded city for a home like this, he asks, so roomy, artistic, fire-proof, and inexpensive?

"poured" houses of concrete that he has devised, which can be built so cheaply, he assures us, as to rent for about \$10 to \$12 a month, with fair profit. He ends by asking:

"Who would not forsake the crowded apartment or tenement on such terms for roomy, substantial houses, fitted with modern conveniences, beautified with artistic decorations, with no outlay for insurance or repairs and with no dread of fire or firebugs?"

This is an optimistic view, but perhaps quite as sane as that of the pessimistic prophets who see nothing but war and degeneracy ahead.

**TO LIMIT NIAGARA POWER BY TREATY**—By a treaty recently signed by Great Britain and the United States provision is made for regulating the use of water for power purposes at Niagara Falls. The Canadian side is to be permitted the use of 36,000 cubic feet per second, while the New York side will be allowed to use 20,000 cubic feet per second. Says a writer in *The Iron Age* (New York, May 12):

"The amount allotted to the Canadian side will make possible a much larger development than is now in use, but as the developing companies are permitted by the Canadian authorities, as well as by the United States authorities, to transmit and sell in the United States at least half of the power generated in Canada, the New York side is benefited by the Canadian development.

"The 20,000 cubic feet allotted to the power companies on the New York side will make it possible for the Niagara Falls Power Company and the Niagara Falls Hydraulic Power and Manufacturing Company to perfect their development as originally planned. It will also leave a small amount of water for use in