

250 miles per hour costs about US\$25,000 and a fast bomber costs somewhere in the neighborhood of US\$40,000. For an adequate national defense, we need to have at least one to two thousands of these. That means a vast outlay of money. Furthermore, the life of a war plane is very short; it would probably become obsolete in two or three years' time. That means that once we commit ourselves to the program of expansion of the air force, we will have to maintain its efficiency by continuously replacing the worn-out and obsolete machines. That too will be no small item in our national budget. To man these machines, we should have at least three or four thousand aviators and mechanics. To train these will take both time and a large outlay of money. Frank C. Hanigen writing in a recent issue of *The Nation*, New York, quoted a remark by a French Air Minister who said: "One never makes war with the planes one has, one makes war with the planes one manufactures." Which means that if we have any war with a foreign nation, the planes we have at the commencement of the war will be used to fight the enemy planes. Even if we succeed in destroying them or beating them off, we will probably lose a great many of ours. Fur-

ther engagements as the war continues will depend on our capacity to purchase or to build. Neither of these prospects seems to be too bright at the present moment; as at the beginning of a war our coast will probably be blockaded so that no new purchases can reach us, and our present capacity to manufacture planes is too insignificant for any large scale warfare. Furthermore, our present chemical, metallurgical, and other manufacturing industries are in such an infant stage that no large-scale aeroplane manufacturing is possible unless special provisions are made for it. There has recently been so much loose talk about aeroplanes that we feel it is the time that our people should know a few things about them, so that they will not be disillusioned by a sense of false security. The donations we made for the celebration of Generalissimo Chiang's birthday are magnificent gestures of patriotism. But let no one for a minute think that is all we need to do. We need an adequate air force for national defense. We should continue to make sacrifices and outlays for it: the ten million dollars that we have donated constitute only a beginning toward a program for which the actual need will run into figures too staggering to anticipate in advance.

## China's National Hero

**T**HIS special number of *The Critic* is dedicated to General Chiang Kai-shek on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday. We are happy to join the whole nation in paying our tribute to a man, whom we regard as probably the greatest political and military leader that this country has ever produced.

There is a very pointed saying by the late American philosopher, William James, in his essay entitled "Great Men and Their Environment", to quote: "The mutations of society, then, from generation to generation, are in the main due directly or indirectly to the acts or the example of individuals whose genius was so adapted to the receptivities of the moment, or whose accidental position of authority was so critical that they become ferments, initiators of movements, or setters of precedents or fashion." In making this statement, James was thinking primarily of the influence of great men upon Western history men, in other words, such as Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon and Peter the Great of Russia. However, it is not difficult to see that what he said could just as well be applied to the conditions of this country—one could say, for instance, that the social and political changes which have taken place here during the past ten years are all due to the influence of "the acts or the example" of one man, namely, General Chiang Kai-shek.

Someday, a full-length and definitive biography of General Chiang Kai-shek will undoubtedly be written. But from the statement issued by the general on his birthday last Saturday which is a sort of auto-biography (See "Official Documents" elsewhere in this issue) and from other sources, the following facts about his life may be gathered. General Chiang was born in Fenghua, a little village in Ningpo, in 1886. He family was fairly well-to-do, but after the death of his father, which occurred when the future president of the Executive Yuan was only a boy, his family had "to undergo all sorts of difficulties and

tribulations." Fortunately, General Chiang's mother was a very strong-charactered woman, and it was entirely through her efforts that the family was saved from ruin. She took proper care of her child; she loved him, yet her love was not the love of an average mother, for she never failed to be severe with him when he was unusually mischievous.

The first turning point in the life of General Chiang occurred in the year 1905, when he was only nineteen years old. In that year, he was sent up North by the Chekiang provincial authorities to be trained as a military officer in the Paoting Military Academy. Upon graduation, he decided to go abroad to complete his military education; and though at first, many of his kinsmen and neighbors strongly advised his mother not to let him go, yet in the end, they were all convinced by her that the young man should be allowed to have his ambition fulfilled. Accordingly, General Chiang went to Japan and enrolled at the Tokio Military Academy, where he remained for four years and completed his course with distinction.

In 1911, when the revolution broke out, General Chiang hurried back to China and joined the revolutionary army. He served as commander of a brigade, and participated in the capture of Shanghai from the Manchu forces. In 1913, when the Second Revolution broke out, he again became active, and joined Dr. Sun Yat-sen. The revolution, however, failed, so from that time on until 1923, he lived in retirement from military life.

The year 1923 was the second turning point in his life. He went to Canton, and presently was appointed president of Whampoa Academy by Dr. Sun Yat-sen. When Chen Chiung-ming rebelled against Dr. Sun, General Chiang was put in charge of the punitive expedition, and by quick and bold actions, the rebel forces were soon reduced into submission, and Dr. Sun was thus shown to be correct in his judgment.

Then came 1926, the year which marked the third turning point in General Chiang's life. In July of that year he was appointed Commander of the National Revolutionary Force to launch the Northern Expedition. In rapid succession, he took Hunan, Hupeh, Kiangsi, Chekiang and Fukien, and by the end of 1928, the whole country was united under the Kuomintang rule.

Such then is the story of General Chiang's phenomenal rise to fame and power. Now, let us pass in review some of his prominent achievements, since the establishment of the National Government at Nanking. To begin with, we must credit General Chiang with having sponsored the New Life Movement, which has in a few years won wide popularity. To quote the general's words: "The aim of the New Life Movement is the social regeneration of China. It is to this end that the people's thoughts are now being directed to the ancient virtues of the nation for guidance, namely etiquette, justice, integrity and conscientiousness."

In the second place, we must also praise General Chiang for having initiated the People's Economic Recon-

struction Movement. General Chiang realized that unless the fundamental problem of the people's livelihood is satisfactorily solved, it would be impossible for this country to stand on her feet and to resist foreign aggression. This movement was launched only a short while ago, yet we are gratified to note that it is already bearing fruit. The communication facilities in this country have been greatly improved, the financial situation has become stabilized, while the people are already enjoying a good measure of economic well-being and security. And it is indeed no exaggeration to say that for all these General Chiang is to be thanked.

Thirdly, we must thank General Chiang also for his successful campaign against the communists. The statesman-like manner in which he brought about the solution of the Liang-Kwang problem, again, is worthy of our praise and admiration. And on the occasion of his birthday, let us wish him the greatest happiness and also hope that he may continue to give his service to the country for many years to come.

## Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek: An Appreciation

By EDWARD Y. K. KWONG (鄭耀坤)

IT is very difficult to view a contemporary personage with correct perspective. The whirlpool of self-interest, party difference, or political dissension often-times carries one involuntarily to the pedestal or to take an opposite stand of the personage in question and makes it impossible for one to view his achievements or failures with the detachment and fairness to which he is entitled. This being the case, the value of one's observation on contemporaries is often discounted as due to one motive or another. However, this should not be interpreted to mean that it is impossible to make correct observations; nor should it discourage anyone from saying something worthwhile about one's contemporary for the benefit of people in distant countries or for posterity. It is in this spirit that the following columns are written. As I claim no special acquaintance with the generalissimo, it is hoped that my observations can have the detachment and fairness desired. This lack of intimate personal acquaintance should not be looked upon as a disadvantage; but, for a subject of the present nature, it is quite a desirability, for then one would be more likely to be free of partiality in one way or another that might prejudice the value of any observation. Besides, the life history of the generalissimo in the last fourteen years or so is the history of the country. His actions are no private property but an open book. The present attempt is to give these public actions a correct appraisal, and it is hoped that this dealing with facts of public knowledge will further increase the value of these observations, for then the readers may rest assured that this is no story of a hothead who likes to look at his subjects through one kind of colored glass or another.

To form a correct appraisal of the value of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's service to the country, one has

to understand the period that he inherits and to imagine what it would be like without him. When he joined Dr. Sun Yat-sen in 1923 at Canton to be the principal of the Whampoa Cadet School, very few indeed could have visualized that in less than five years China was to be united under one government. Those were the last days of military feudalism; and, as is true with many other forms of evils, the last days of feudalism in China were especially pernicious and unbearable. The whole country was divided among half a dozen or so military chieftains who incorporated into their own hands the territory and revenue of several provinces through war or intrigue. In their best mood, lip-service or nominal allegiance was rendered to the defunct Peking government; otherwise even such a pretense was ignored. These warlords and their lieutenants then exploited the territory under their control for what it was worth; and one of the gentry forced the people in his province to pay taxes 40 years in advance! This in addition to the incessant warfare and continual harrassment by the troops! There was no hope that this condition would end itself by the absorption of some of the militarists into one powerful camp, because it was like a sort of gangliac growth that festers on the very poison it itself generates. It may multiply in number and virulence and finally pull the victim down together with it, but it would never heal by itself. Such was actually the situation, when under the few super-warlords, there thrived dozens of other army chiefs whose allegiance to them ranged from complete obedience to nominal liege. These lesser satellites made their own wars or involved their overlords in one. Hence the bewildering frequency of civil warfare and the rapid change of tenure of office. At such a juncture, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek emerged: at first obscurely