

## The Wanping Incident

**A**FTER the tense situation in North China, the Chinese and the Japanese forces finally clashed at Wanping, better known to foreigners as Lukouchiao. There are two stories as to the causes which led to the fighting.

The story maintained by the Japanese was that one of their units from Fengtai was, at 10 o'clock in the night of July 7, subjected to rifle and machine-gun fire from a Chinese pill box located near Liuwangmiao. If the Japanese allegation were true, Chinese troops must have been picking trouble with the Japanese. Yet the whole world knows that the Chinese authorities, both military and civil, have been most hesitant in resisting the Japanese, who have all the time been extremely aggressive in North China. Moreover what could a whole unit of the Japanese soldiers be doing miles away from their barracks, at a point where they were not allowed even by a most liberal interpretation of the treaty? Besides, they seemed determined to extend the fighting from Lungwangmiao to Wanping.

The Chinese version is that Japanese troops had been manoeuvring west of Fengtai in the night of July 7; and at about one o'clock in the night they claimed to have heard one shot, following which a Japanese soldier was found missing. The Japanese demanded of the Chinese garrisons of the Wanping that the city gates be opened so that they might "search" the city for the missing Japanese. The Chinese garrisons were frankly suspicious of the Japanese, lest the Japanese should be using the missing soldier as a ruse to get into the city and disarm them. This is natural, because there had been arrests of many agents of the Japanese espionage system in Peiping, and it was generally believed that trouble might have broken out already, if it were not for the vigilance of the Chinese. Furthermore, it was after midnight already and it would have been impossible to search the city. So the Chinese sentries refused the Japanese request, whereupon over 100 gun shots were fired on them and they in self-defence, returned fire with rifle shots.

The extension of the fighting to Wanping is highly significant, for Wanping is extremely important from the viewpoint of railway communications between Peiping and the country south of it. Fengtai is an important railway junction of the Tientsin-Peiping railway, Peiping-Suiyuang railway and a short line between Peiping and Wanping, on the Peiping-Hankow railway. This important railway junction was occupied by the Japanese following a brush with the Chinese troops on September 18, last year. Peiping, however, is still connected with Central China by the Peiping-Hankow railway. If Wanping were occupied by them, Peiping's railway communication with Central China would have been completely cut. We should not at all be surprised that if the Japanese should be able to obtain Wanping this time, they would then extend their influence from there south to Changhsintien and perhaps as far south as Paoting and Shihchiachwang. But without Wanping these strategic points much coveted by the Japanese would lie

beyond their reach. When the importance of Wanping is fully appreciated it is easy to guess who started the fighting.

The arrests of many Japanese spies had, as we noted above, something to do with the outbreak of fighting in Wanping. A few words may be said of the nature of the Japanese espionage agents' work. Shortly before the fighting in Wanping, one morning seven Japanese armored cars fully loaded with Japanese soldiers cruised the city of Peiping for about two hours and at the same time some 200 Korean ronins were "placed at various strategic points throughout the city and instructed to create disturbances, with the Japanese soldiers aiding them if necessary. The 29th route army, however, picked up numerous Koreans and alleged Chinese traitors during the truck parade and hauled many into prison after questioning."

After the fighting had started, several attempts were made to obtain a truce, but all failed and fighting broke out sporadically until the morning of the 9th, when both sides retreated simultaneously and the Chinese peace preservation corps under General Shih Yu-san occupied the evacuated posts in the afternoon. The agreement was made verbally without any conditions attached to it pending a final settlement.

During the fighting a detachment of Japanese troops also tried to enter the city of Peiping but was refused entrance as all gates had been closed for the fear that the presence of additional Japanese troops might create fresh troubles within the old capital.

The 29th army also showed a firm stand after outbreak of the fighting. Its officers at a conference decided to accept the Japanese challenge, should the latter make further attacks. Also General Sung Cheh-yuan's telegraphic order from northern Shantung accurately expressed the sentiment of his subordinates in instructing them never to submit to the Japanese and adding that Hopei could very well be the grave of the 29th army.

One fact brought out by the present fighting is that a firm stand is the best way to bargain with the Japanese. The Japanese government's order to its fleet stationed in China waters to hold itself ready for eventualities a telegraphic order to his subordinates, but after that came the Konoe cabinet's decision "not to aggravate" the situation. It was after General Sung's order too that the Japanese officers in North China abandoned their demand that the Chinese troops withdraw from Wanping and accepted the simultaneous withdrawal agreement.

The Japanese have also opened our eyes to another highly instructive fact. While their troops in North China were fighting in an attempt to dislodge Chinese garrisons from their posts, the Kwantung army had played the same trick on Russia in regard to the two small Islands on the Amur River. The fact which these two independent events revealed is that Japan is prepared to challenge Russia and China. The situation speaks for itself.

The National Government, too, took a very serious view of the matter. Immediately after the outbreak, the Waichiaopu lodged a verbal protest with the Japanese embassy, reserving the right to make any legitimate demands afterwards. The Japanese reservation of the right, on the following day, to make demands later, however, was rejected by a Chinese foreign office official, for the responsibility of the fighting clearly rests with the Japanese. Dr. Wang Chung-hui, Chinese minister of foreign affairs, after conferring with General Chiang Kai-shek, president of the Executive Yuan, flew to Nanking to take up the matter personally.

But the Japanese proved absolutely faithless to their agreement, and again attacked Wanping city in the evening of the 10th, and later Nanyuan as well. The Japanese army was concentrated at Fengtai, and the Kwantung army also dispatched 10 trainloads of troops to Shanhaikwan and other points at the Great Wall with their advance guards reaching Tangshan already. Altogether 20,000 Japanese troops were mobilized, according to a *Ta-Kung-Pao* report.

After four hours of heavy fighting in the night of the 11th there was a lull in the fighting with the Chinese military claiming to have beaten off the Japanese with heavy losses, and the Japanese claiming that the Chinese had accepted their demands. This latter, however, the Chinese authorities in Peiping emphatically denied. It is extremely unlikely that the Chinese officials in Peiping should accept any demands of the Japanese as they had been specifically forbidden by the National Government to do so. The Central Government's order was to the effect (1) not to accept any demand, (2) not to yield an inch of territory, and (3) in case of necessity to make the supreme sacrifice, *i.e.*, a large scale warfare. While the Chinese troops are prepared to resist every attack of the Japanese, it remains to be seen whether the Japanese cabinet's decision will be respected by its army officers in North China and Manchuria. Will there be peace or will there be war? The answer depends on the Japanese "junior officers."

## Ten Years of Greater Shanghai

SHANGHAI is in the midst of the celebration of the founding of Greater Shanghai a decade ago. The program, which will last for almost a fortnight, has been carefully worked out. It consists of various items of entertainments, exhibitions and sports so as to provide some entertainment for every one who participates in the celebration of this memorial occasion as well as to enable the residents of the municipality to review the achievements of the city government and to arouse their civic pride and consciousness.

The special municipality with the rank of provincial government was created for Shanghai shortly after the victory of the Kuomintang forces in the Yangtse valley, in fulfilment of one of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's dreams. Unfortunately by that time the nationalists' positions were none too well consolidated, and so certain elements of foreign population in the city were ill-disposed to the nationalist cause and did not hesitate to express openly their misgivings about the new-born Chinese municipality with such a pompous name as Greater Shanghai.

The first mayor was General Huang Fu who shared with Dr. Sun the vision of a Greater Shanghai. He laid, as it were, the cornerstone, upon which the later administrations built their present achievements. For he it was who consolidated the administrations of Chapei and Nantao—a policy which was carried into still greater success by the succeeding administration under Mayor Chang Ting-fan. The third mayor of Greater Shanghai was General Chang Chun, who was until recently the Chinese foreign minister and at present secretary-general of the Central Political Council as well as the chairman of its committee on foreign affairs. During the mayoralty of General Chang Chun further improvements on the administration were made and the plan for the Civic Center began to assume definite shape, though it remained for General Wu Te-chen, the next mayor, to carry out the project.

Mayor Wu's administration was distinguished in more than one way. His tenure of office was the longest occupying nearly five of the ten years with the three other preceding mayors together holding the office a little longer than his own. His were most troublous times and yet of greatest achievements as well. He had scarcely assumed his office when the undeclared war was upon him. The destruction of Chapei by Japanese gunfire and incendiary bombs left him undaunted, and he formulated a five-year plan which is being completed by his capable successor, Mr. O. K. Yui, the acting mayor, under whose guidance the present celebration is conducted.

The first of the five years, 1932, was devoted to the rehabilitation of Chapei, with the none-too-easy task of restoring confidence of the public and ameliorating the sufferings of the war victims.

The following year saw the rising, on the farm lands of Kiangwan, of the group of buildings which have since been designated as the Civic Center, which is well known even abroad. Among the administrative buildings especially deserving of mention is the Mayor's Office, known for its magnificence and economy of construction.

The third year of the plan was devoted to the promotion of cultural facilities for the masses, and included under this item was the construction of a municipal library, the stadium and swimming pool, and the municipal museum, some of which were inaugurated later than this year. Especially worthy of note was the mass education movement, which has continued ever since and commented on in these columns on different occasions.

The fourth year saw the improvement of the living conditions of the workers as it was devoted to the cause of social welfare. The construction of the model villages for the working class by the city government is a unique experiment, as the two other municipalities in Shanghai have not yet taken sufficient interests in the Chinese laborers to