

CHINA INSTITUTE FOUNDED WITH SECOND BOXER FUND

Operates in New York to Promote American Understanding of Chinese Affairs

OUT of China's anti-foreign Boxer violences came a conciliatory influence—arising from America's return of the first Boxer indemnity. Its effect has been broadened since the Far East Republic has been deranged and excited by internal war and distrust toward foreigners; for the second Boxer indemnity, also returned, became a fund dedicated to promoting a closer cultural and educational relationship between China and America. With this money was founded the China Institute in New York.

As the first indemnity went toward acquainting the Chinese with America, the second indemnity went toward acquainting Americans with China. Thus, when news of development in China seems difficult to understand, this organization collates and simplifies the information in the cables, and so places the events of the passing day in their proper place in the history of a civilization that is fifty centuries old.

The China Institute is non-political and non-partisan.

Broadens Efforts at Understanding.

The China Institute is being conducted under the auspices of the China Foundation for the Promotion of Education and Culture, and that foundation was created with funds from the second Boxer Indemnity, which the United States decided to return to China for educational use. This was a continuation of the previous policy of the United States, the first indemnity having been used to found a Chinese university, Tsing Hua, whose graduates were sent to America for post-graduate study.

So the Institute is simply broadening the scope of the original intention to use money owed as a war indemnity to promote mutual understanding as a foundation for future peace. Thousands of Chinese students have come to America, studied in American colleges, surveyed the American industrial system and taken back to China the lessons they learned in Occidental scholarship, commercial methods and improved ways of living. This, in addition to the penetration effected by American business, by medical, educational and other philanthropies like the Rockefeller Hospital and School, and by Yale in China, has given China a pretty thorough idea of the way things are done in America. Besides, the Ford and the movies are as familiar to Chinese cities as they are here.

But the dissemination of Chinese ideas and knowledge and culture in America has made little gain—although knowledge and appreciation of her arts has spread broadly. This state of affairs the Institute hopes to correct. The director, Dr. P. W. Kuo, who is carrying on the program, knows both America and China intimately. He won his degrees at Columbia and in Shanghai. He has lectured extensively in this country, is Vice President of the World Federation of Educational Associations, a Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland, and has been President of the National Southeastern University in China and a lecturer at the University of Chicago.

Gives Information on China.

During the few months since the foundation of the Institute, in answer to many calls to lecture on China, he has traveled about 10,000 miles in the United States, appearing before private and official audiences, including the Williamstown Institute of Politics. In response to inquiries the Institute has given a good deal of information to Americans desiring general information about conditions in China, and in the cases of people studying specific Chinese problems it has referred them to the best original sources of information. Chinese professors will be invited to lecture in America. At present comparatively few American universities offer courses covering Chinese culture broadly, and these neglect modern Chinese cultural developments.

For instance, there is a renaissance movement in China today which is leading to the modern application of the cultural heritage of the past in a way that may be compared to the effect of the fourteenth century in Italy.

One of the most successful projects of the China Institute was the Chinese Educational Exhibit at the Sesquicentennial in Philadelphia. It was awarded one of the leading prizes. There the fruits of an educational system 5,000 years old were shown, as well as the influence of Confucius, China's greatest teacher, and the progress made in specific universities, provinces and cities. Chinese art and industry were displayed, and the century and a half of friendship between China and the United States entailing mutual benefits, was emphasized.

Other Activities Proposed.

Among the other activities the Institute proposes to undertake are the building up of an American library of reference on China, the conducting of research on problems affecting Chinese-American relationships and the publication of reports and bulletins about cultural developments in China and America.