

China Gets Civilized, Western Fashion

The booming guns of the Japanese invaders in China, slaughtering innocent civilians and bringing desolation to their land, as well as the clap-trap of the politicians about the endangered safety of Japanese nationals, obscure the lure which stimulates the war machine to conquest.

North China has important iron deposits in Chahar, Shansi and southern Hopei. Shansi possesses immense quantities of high-grade coal besides, offering the possibility, by its juxtaposition with iron ore, of the development of a new steel centre. In the Yellow River valley cotton could be

grown to compete with the relatively high-priced American product. The Japanese, it has long been known, would like to build a railway from Tientsin to Shihchiachuang to ship out the coal and iron of the region. Moreover, they would like to have North China as a market more exclusively to themselves.

At home, the economic difficulties which have been multiplying in recent years made a foreign military adventure the only way out for the dominant class. Space does not permit an analysis of the economic situation in Japan which would do jus-

tice to the lesson the country has for the world; this must be reserved for a future article. These notes are intended to show only that when a nation ridden by monopoly is ready to go forth on a foreign military adventure, it seeks not a good fight but—monopoly of the land, monopoly of the market. Monopoly. That is the worthy cause for which the sons of landless Japanese peasants are murdering fellow-peasants in China, that is the high ideal for which they are sacrificing their own lives.

—W. L.