

The Chinese Revolution Advances.

THE Chinese people's revolutionary movement continues to sweep thru the land with an almost incredible virility. The prospects of only weeks before become the realities of today. The fall of the city of Hangchow makes it clear that in the words of the editor of the Peking Leader, Grover Clark, the Cantonese are "rapidly pushing to what will be an easy victory at Shanghai."

The capture of Shanghai, which is now but a matter of days, a few weeks at the most, means the actual control of the entire Yangtze valley by the national revolutionary movement, and the beginning of the drive toward Tientsin and Peking, that is, toward the establishment of the All-China revolutionary republic. This development is conditioned on a series of events which are quite likely of materialization in the very near future.

The Cantonese are moving northward from the capitol at Hankow to meet the Kuominchun troops, some 30,000 strong and well-equipped, under Feng Yu-Hsiang, in Honan province; the Shantung troops from the east are proceeding towards Honan with the hope of common action with the thousands of Manchurian troops mobilized by the Peking Alliance of war lords (Ankuochun). In Honan, probably at Changchow, decisive issue may be taken in the near future between the revolutionaries and the pro-imperialist armies with every indication of victory for the former. This victory appears all the more likely when it is considered that the armies of Chang Kai-Shek and Feng Yu-Hsiang are not only fresh and with good morale from their virtually uninterrupted victories, but also that the population welcomes them wherever they put in appearance. The Shantungese and Manchurians are composed, respectively, of defeated and disgruntled troops, and of some of the most backward elements in China. Moreover, while General Chang Tsung-Chang moves his Shantungese very cautiously along the Lunghai railroad, Feng is advancing boldly towards the terminus of the same line, Shenchow, which is practically on the eastern border line of the Honan province. In addition, the Manchurian troops mobilized from Peking along the Peking-Hankow railroad line, are fac-



Chamberlain and Briand.

ing the indisposition of Wu Pei-fu to permit their entry into Honan, despite the virtual threats to the latter of Chang Tso-lin. While confusion reigns in the enemy camp, and new disaffections of their troops are daily announced, the revolutionaries from the south and the west are driving swiftly towards a juncture.

Should the Manchurians and Shantungese fail to stop the armies of Feng, or those of Chang Kai-Shek, it is not impossible that the juncture of the latter two armies will be made at Nanking, instead of Hankow which is the present objective. With the northern armies deprived of Honan—from which, by the way, come many of the best fighters in both of the revolutionary armies; Shanghai taken by Chang (and this is an immediate objective); and the unity of all the rebel armed forces at Nanking, or even Hankow, the basis for the drive northward to Shantung will have been very strongly laid. The prospects for a campaign to Peking are quite good. The Shansi province, which borders on the Chih-li province in which Peking and Tientsin are found, is defended by Yen Hsi-shan, who has stuck to his last and refused to send his troops, sorely needed at home, to the aid of Wu Pei-fu or Chang Tso-lin.

While the southerners move onward to victories, and the prospects for greater successes become more obvious, the imperialists are in the very deuce of a pickle. Unable, because of their own bitter quarrels and national interests, to find a common basis for action, and realizing, perhaps, the inadvisability of armed intervention in the face of the virtually unanimous opposition with which the 440,000,000 Chinese people would meet them, the situation may develop into one in which the various powers may vie with each other in their efforts to grant recognition to the Canton, or rather, Hankow, government in the realization of what they consider its relative permanence and in the hope of getting in on the ground floor. This is more than an abstract thought, and the visit of Miles Lampson, the



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British emissary, to the leaders of the southern government is a confirmation of this likely development.

This does not exclude the fact that the imperialist enemies of a people's China will continue to keep a weather eye open for every possibility offered to them to keep on subsidizing counter-revolutionary movements. The steady leftward trend of the revolutionary movement assures us of this, and the history of the counter-revolutionary and interventionist movements against the Soviet Union is a precedent which will hold good for China.

Mexico Stands Firm.

CHARGES and counter-charges between the Mexican government on the one hand and the United States government and the Standard Oil company on the other continue to form the bulk of the news on the Mexican situation. The reported agreement of the Standard Oil company, and one of its principal subsidiaries, the Transcontinental Oil company, to accept the Mexican petroleum law provided Calles would grant a six months' extension of time for filing proofs of titles, has been denied by American officials of these two chief American oil enterprises in Mexico. Mexican officials, on the other hand, point out that the legal representative in Mexico of the Transcontinental and of Huasteca Petroleum, Manuel Calero, had issued a statement in San Antonio last week saying that the oil laws would be accepted. In addition, they point out that the Transcontinental, as far back as July 30, had applied for

concessions to confirm its pre-1917 title, thereby bowing to the petroleum law.

The Association of American Producers of Petroleum in Mexico, in a telegram to Morones, of the Mexican department of industry, which includes the department of petroleum, have indicated what the strategy of the American oil interests will be in fighting the Mexican government. Their statement amounts to a specious plea for more time "to consider the final form and the definitive terms of any proposed confirmatory concessions which the government expects them to accept as constituting a valid recognition and affirmation of their existing definite and legal leasehold rights."

It is hoped in this manner to stall off action until the end of the period for application for confirmatory concessions on pre-constitutional titles will expire, December 31, 1926. It is a challenge to the government of Mexico to act decisively when that date is passed and enforce the penalty of forfeiture provided by the new law. Should the penalty be enforced, the first of the new year will be a test of the character of the Calles government and an impasse in the development of the U. S.—Mexican conflict.

Both sides appear to be inflexible, Mexico defending its sovereignty with practically the whole people behind the government, and the United States government acting as the agent of Standard Oil. One of the following results is to be expected:

1. The American oil companies may yield at the last moment, or even after December 31, 1926, secure a period of grace, and bow to the Mexican laws.
2. The Calles government may yield, and through compromise allow the American oil interests certain concessions.
3. The U. S. government will break off diplomatic relations with Mexico, leaving the field open to filibustering expeditions, openly sub-



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sidized counter-revolutionary attempts, or lead towards direct American military intervention.

Of the three possibilities, the second is the most remote. The third is the most likely.

In the meantime, Great Britain seems to be making hay in Mexico while the Americans fall into worse odor every day. With a trick as old as im-

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BEFORE

and

NOW



The sign reads: "No Dogs or Chinese Admitted." It is one of the the foreign concessions. The rest is plain

—From Pravda.