

1932, is now the object of Soviet Russian 'peaceful penetration', and will without doubt soon stand in the same relation to Moscow as Outer Mongolia. All this and many other changes in the interior of Asia prove clearly enough that here, too, a new era, a new distribution of power, has begun. I therefore think that as our enterprise falls, so to speak, between two epochs in China's history, and is the last of a long series of large-scale expeditions in Central Asia, a certain interest attaches to the preliminaries before we actually set out.

VISIT TO WONG WEN-HAO

On November 25th Professor ANDERSSON and I paid a visit to our mutual friend, the head of the Geological Survey of China, Dr WONG WEN-HAO, in his institute in the western quarter of Peking. In Dr WONG the expedition and all its members acquired a faithful, enlightened and warmly interested friend, who never tired of lending his influential support and furthered our efforts in every way.

In the very first conversation that Professor ANDERSSON and I had with Dr WONG we drew up the main lines for the work of the expedition, the collaboration with Chinese scientists and the matter of publication. He was especially desirous that Chinese experts should co-operate in the setting up and investigation of the palaeontological collections, and that all the palaeontological results should be published in the periodical »Palaeontologia Sinica«, edited in Peking. Concerning the permission of the Government to carry out the preliminary expedition to Sinkiang, he advised me to submit a written statement of our plans to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr WELLINGTON KOO. One of Dr WONG's proposals was to the effect that a couple of Chinese experts should be given an opportunity of taking part in the expedition.

POLITICAL SITUATION

I had not been in Peking for many days before the first rumours of disturbances and unrest began to fill my ears. In the beginning of December it was feared that the Reds, (the Southerners), would surround Peking and accord the Europeans something of the same treatment as was meted out during the Boxer Rising of the Summer of 1900. Both Chinese and Europeans felt that something was in the air, and one noted the first gusts from the storm of political reformation that came sweeping up from South China — heralded by Kuomintang or »the National People's Party«.

To launch a large-scale scientific expedition in a whirl of political strife and a