

## FAREWELL DINNER

On April 29th at Pei-hai or the »Northern Sea» at the old Winter Palace a dinner was given at which also Dr WONG WEN-HAO was present. The hosts on this occasion were the members of the permanent committee that in our absence was to look after our interests in Peking. Among the guests were the Chinese members of the expedition that I had not yet met, the students LI, LIU, MA and Ts'UI, the photographer KUNG, the young geologist TING and the topographer CHAN. The archaeologist HUANG WEN-PI I had met before; and Professor SIU PING-CH'ANG and Dr P. L. YUAN were already my good friends. At this dinner at Pei-hai Dr HUMMEL and I now made the first overtures of friendship with our ten Chinese comrades, who were to meet such different destinies in the course of the expedition.

The dinner was in every respect a success. From the first moment I felt drawn to the two English-speaking students LI and LIU, who beamed with happiness at the prospect of setting out on a long journey, during which they would have an opportunity of learning the fundamentals of the science of meteorology. I myself was informed at this dinner that I had been appointed »Honorary Adviser to the Federations of Scientific Institutions of China», an empty title of no real significance. It was nevertheless proof that we had played our cards not without a certain diplomatic skill since I could be considered worthy of being made a sort of honorary member of an institution that for nearly two months had endeavoured to smash up the expedition or at least to limit its freedom of movement in every possible way.

## ARRANGEMENT OF MONEY TRANSFER

The last days were taken up with a lot of practical matters. With the postal commissioner M. PICARD-DESTELAN and his subordinates we worked out a method for the paying out of certain sums in Pao-t'ou, Hami, Urumchi and Suchow against the paying in of corresponding amounts to the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank in Peking. A similar agreement was made also with the firm of FAUST & Co. in Tientsin. In this way we were freed from the trouble of carrying large amounts of silver with us in the desert. The load we took with us, to wit, 24,000 dollars in silver, was enough as it was. It was to be packed in strong wooden boxes with 3,000 dollars in each, two of which could be carried by one camel. This paying-out system functioned splendidly throughout the whole expedition.

The Peking committee, commonly called »The Board of Directors», exercised its influence at the last moment in some less important questions. It had decided that a special periodical devoted to the expedition and its results should be pub-