

king or Tientsin, for we had only one left since a violent gust of wind had upset and damaged the one we had in reserve. TSERAT was given twenty days to be back.

On the evening of July 9th LARSON, generally so cool and collected, rushed up to me waving his arms. He shrieked: »They're coming! The whole caravan is coming!» And sure enough, all three of our truants made their appearance. Up-roar in the camp, and the three travellers became the heroes of the day.

They reported that they had carried out all their commissions without being exposed to any dangerous adventures, though their journey had not been without excitement.

They had reached Kuei-hua, a distance of two hundred and thirty kilometers, after five days' travelling. When late on the evening of June 11th they had entered the City they had noticed people sitting in the lighted-up shops, all busily employed in sewing flags — the white sun with twelve tongues on a blue ground: the flag of Kuomintang. Early on the morning of June 12th these flags had been hoisted on all the houses. The same ceremony was taking place, so they were told, in Sarachi and Pao-t'ou. On the morning of that day Sui-yüan's *tu-t'ung*, SHANG CHEN, held a great reception, including a procession past SUN YAT-SEN's portrait.

The Chinese took possession of the premises of the International Export Co., stole everything but the fixtures, hoisted the southern flag and set up their headquarters there. The same treatment was accorded the premises of the Salvation Army and the chapel of the Swedish Mission. These buildings were to be used as propaganda centres for SUN YAT-SEN's »Three Principles». Sixty or seventy agitators had arrived from Canton and more were expected.

There was talk of troop movements in the neighbourhood. Kuei-hua's *tu-t'ung* was said to have sent a force to the region north of Kalgan and to have concentrated other troops between Ta-t'ung and Kalgan. The Mukden soldiers who had been quartered in P'ing-ti-ch'üan had withdrawn, on the approach of the Shansi troops, to Chakhar and Kalgan. A large army of Shansi soldiers had now been concentrated at a little station on the border between Shansi and Chihli. Mukden troops were assembled a couple of stations to the east of this place and in the surrounding country. Two Kirin divisions were on the way to Kalgan to fight the troops of YEN HSI-SHAN, the governor of Shansi. The latter had now gone over to Kuomintang and allied himself with CHIANG KAI-SHEK and FENG YÜ-HSIANG.

On the 13th KAULL left Kuei-hua for Peking and Tientsin. He found the latter town transformed into a military camp. There were swarms of American, English, French and Italian troops. The Japanese had occupied the railway between Shanghai-kuan and Chang-chun, and it was thought that the English were going to occupy the Tientsin-Peking railway. Things looked black for the whites. The position was so dangerous that SÖDERBOM and HASLUND decided, when they had finished their business in Kuei-hua and Pao-t'ou, to journey down to Peking in order