

not to be cut off in the event of war breaking out on the frontier between Shansi and Chihli. In Peking they rejoined KAULL, and if war broke out the three emissaries intended to make their way up to Kalgan and thence to the camp.

Things were still quiet in Peking; but there were so many foreign soldiers there that the city was out of beer, and in some streets one was stopped and questioned by the police.

On the 21st, however, they journeyed up to Kuei-hua again, leaving that town for camp on July 2nd. And now we had them safe home again.

A few days later SÖDERBOM was sent off to NORIN's column to serve as caravan leader, an office that he performed all the way to the Edsen-gol.

### MAYDAR'S FESTIVAL IN BATU-KHALAGH-SUME

On July 16th HUMMEL, HASLUND and LIEBERENZ returned from their second visit to Beli-miao. HUMMEL gave us a graphic account of their experiences in this great lamasery.

The sixteenth day of the sixth month of this year of the Hare is marked by the celebration of Maydar's (Maytreya's) festival. This lasts for three days, which fell, this year, on the 13th, 14th and 15th of July.

The abbot of Batu-khalagh-sume (Beli-miao) was called CHIRIN LAMA. There was also a *gegen* or incarnation by the name of JOLROS LAMA. This worthy received his European guests with the greatest hospitality, and they stayed at his house within the temple grounds. The young prince DUMURO NAMCHIL was also a guest with the *gegen* at the same time. The chief of the district, DARKHAN BEILE, was of course also present at the festival; and the first thing our travellers did on their arrival was to pay a visit to this worthy.

The temple had been pillaged and burned by Chinese soldiers in 1913; but in the course of a decade it had been rebuilt with funds provided for the purpose by the then president, YUAN SHIH-K'AI. The new dwellings of the gods were designed partly in Chinese style, partly in Tibetan, and the wooden material used was from the sacred forests around Urga. There were libraries with weighty, holy books on solid shelves, colonnades, courtyards and balconies.

In October 1926 the monastery was attacked by about a thousand bandits and rebellious soldiers. Just at that time, however, sixty of Marshal FENG's Red Russian Cossacks were stationed at the monastery, and they defended the pass near the lamasery with such bravery that numbers of the storming rabble were shot down and the rest took to their heels. The Russians were afterwards celebrated as heroes in the monastery — sheep were slaughtered and they were feasted royally. The lamas thus did what they could to show their gratitude, when the foreigners had saved the sanctuary by their brave defence.