

and delightful compounds in the Chinese style that may be rented in Peking for a relatively small amount. I was to procure some wealthy patron, for example in U. S. A., for the acquisition and maintenance of such a Swedish House.

The Chinese showed great sympathy and real enthusiasm for this plan, and promised to lend it their support in every way possible. As things turned out, however, the further development of the expedition's activities prevented us from realizing this project as it had been planned.

Another scheme, that could not be carried out until several years later, and then in quite a different way from what we had expected, was that I should undertake a journey by car via Suchow to the south-eastern parts of Sinkiang. I had long hoped to be able to realize this plan, and SÖDERBOM was to await my arrival in Suchow. However, as the acquisition of the temples seemed to be going to take an unconscionable time this journey had now to be shelved.

The winter in Peking was without snow and the sun shone nearly every day. It was not very cold; but the dry, dusty air, especially during storms of early spring, caused HUMMEL and MONTELL frequent trouble with their respiratory organs.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION

The latent political unrest that since the Chinese revolution had vented itself so often and so bloodily began to make itself felt in Peking during this spring. In the beginning of March a definitive alliance was struck between YEN HSI-SHAN and FENG YÜ-HSIANG, and the latter took over command of Kuominchun. Any prospect that there might have been of a peaceful settlement between YEN HSI-SHAN and CHIANG KAI-SHEK now appeared hopeless. When the trouble over the Chinese Eastern Railway through Manchuria had been adjusted CHANG HSÜEH-LIANG, who succeeded his father CHANG TSO-LIN as dictator over the Three Eastern Provinces, was able to release troops to exert pressure upon YEN HSI-SHAN from the north. It was said, moreover, that CHIANG KAI-SHEK had asked for such help.

While spring bloomed in Peking there were quite a number of changes among those holding leading posts in the administration, and on March 18th the members of the Nanking Government had to yield their places to YEN HSI-SHAN's men. It was said, too, that the banks had refused to grant CHIANG KAI-SHEK new loans — an ominous sign. The troops in the north were to move southwards.

For us these rumours of unrest meant that our negotiations for the acquisition of the temples could not be brought to a definite conclusion. Everybody wanted to 'wait and see'. Permission from YEN HSI-SHAN to export two temples would of course be valueless if CHIANG KAI-SHEK emerged victorious from the impending struggle, and vice-versa.