

Yuan-shih-kai it was banned; and these two rulers of China deserve credit for the work they did in suppressing it. But under the corrupt officials of the Republic it has not only been allowed but sometimes its growth has been forced upon the people, so that the officials might make money by putting a tax upon it. When an investigating foreign Consul comes to make inquiries the officials, having pocketed their "squeeze" tax, order the poppies to be pulled up and then declare that poppy-growing is still forbidden. In only a few provinces of China is it now forbidden.

One very sad sight Pereira saw at Lan-chow. This was General Annenkoff's Russian refugees. Two years before, he had retreated from Siberia to Urumchi with six hundred men and a flock of refugees fleeing from the Bolshevists. The Chinese Governor had induced him to disarm and hand over his money—about three million roubles in gold. Whilst he himself was temporarily detained as a hostage his troops and refugees gradually filtered through to Peking. They arrived at Lan-chow practically destitute and herded together in two or three wretched inns. A miserable dole (in paper money), just enough to enable them to sustain life, is grudgingly dealt out to them. But their hardships in this part of their journey were much lightened by the kindness and generosity of Mons. Geerts. They could not afford to eat meat and lived on dry bread and tea. Officers sold their horses and women their rings and jewels. Pereira visited these Russians in their wretched inns and was astonished to find what fatalists they were under such