

with some amendments in favour of additional powers for the People's Congress, could be put into force as soon as China is cleared of the Japanese. It is very doubtful to-day whether Nationalists and Communists can be brought to collaborate more enthusiastically in the political field, but it is not entirely beyond the bounds of possibility to think of China governed by a coalition of groups, some of the elements in which changed from time to time. But no Government which is not prepared to initiate a programme of far-reaching agrarian reforms can hope to command public confidence very long in China when the war is brought to a successful finish.

Meanwhile, even independently of the political and military changes which have followed the termination of General Stilwell's command, Chinese opinion has expressed itself consistently upon the need for considerable political and military progress. Even under the present political system there exists a People's Political Council which, though possessing only limited functions, nevertheless expresses the main currents of Chinese opinion,

This Council has consistently declared the necessity of finding means of achieving closer collaboration with the Chinese Communists. Moreover, the Political Council which is now on the eve of meeting will comprise 290 members, an increase of 50 as compared with previous Councils, and, of the new members, 35 will be elected by the Provisional People's Assemblies of twenty-nine provinces and municipalities. Further, the new Council will exercise the power of scrutiny over the Budget.

These are cautious but encouraging steps forward, and they are evidence of the ultimate intentions of the Kuomintang. Additional measures in the direction of devolution of responsibility could well be taken as the Japanese are driven back. But an analysis of China's present position reveals very clearly that China needs, even more than political democracy, far-reaching measures of economic recovery and development before her major discontents can be removed; and it is here that both Great Britain and the United States can render an enduring service not only to China, but to a lasting peace in the Pacific.

First Patrol, by S/Sgt. L. J. Ferguson, N.Z.T.S. This drawing won second prize in the recent Korero competition.

