

Dr. John Earl Baker Who Spent Many Years in China, Tells Women's Club About War Situation in That Land

When Dr. John Earl Baker came to the United States in 1942 after having lived in China since 1916, Madam Chang Kai-Chek said to him in farewell: "Tell the American people that we appreciate what they have already done for us and what they will do in the future. But tell them, too, that China is doing a great deal for America. Tell them that if they insist on making us over into the American pattern before they accept our help, it may then be too late."

Thus quoted Dr. Baker, author and lecturer, in an address before the Waukesha Women's club Thursday afternoon on the subject of "China." Dr. Baker contrasted the Japanese with their centuries of military history, to the Chinese, an agricultural people. He pointed out that when the Japanese began to take advantage of western civilization by sending students to all parts of the world, they did not do so with the intention of bettering their way of life, but rather, to increase their cleverness for a military set up.

He pointed out that China, on the other hand, had no military tradition, that it needed organization in military and industry, and that the beginning of the war, it had neither. He explained how the Chinese have been able to carry on the war for the past five years, in which guerrilla warfare was a major feature.

Dr. Baker has highest praise for the Chinese and their leader, Generalissimo Chang Kai-Chek and wonders how long they can stand the hardships that have come from this war already five years old for them. He also predicted that we, too, must prepare for a war that will last as long.

"It is a great strain on these Chinese people, and unless we can give them greater aid, I don't know how they can stand it. You cannot argue with an empty stomach. We had better convince them that we want them to stay with us—because we are going to need them!"

"The Japanese menace," the speaker said, "will continue until the Japs are defeated within Japan and China. The Chinese soldiers are great fighters as they have already proved over and over again, and if we will give them the equipment those Chinese farmer boys will blast the Japs out of the sky and the land."

Dr. Baker suggested that ten per cent of the plant production be diverted to China, pointing out that 100 transport planes, 100 bombers with able Chinese pilots, would blast the Japs right out of the air in China. In Dr. Baker's opinion, our aid to China has so far been indirect.

Dr. Baker, a brother of Mrs. Harold Pardee, Eagle, was born and spent his early years in Eagle, and was graduated from the University of Wisconsin. He lived from 1916 to 1942 in China and served that country in many capacities. He was adviser to the Chinese railroad department; was technical adviser to the Chinese delegation to the disarmament conference in Washington in 1921; was twice a director of the Chinese relief for the American Red Cross. In 1941 he was released by the Red Cross to become inspector general of the Burma Road, appointed by Generalissimo Chang Kai-Chek. In 1931 and in 1934, Dr. Baker had charge of the American wheat loans to China.

Mrs. O. B. Lindholm, president, conducted a business meeting preceding the program.

Hostesses were the Mmes. L. L. Brenner, F. H. Billings, J. C. Frick, H. L. Clark, J. K. Lowry, C. H. Harwood, Harold Pardee, H. P. Kruelen; Misses Clara Schwandt, Beatrice Howard, Margaret Braden.