

MILLIONS DIE IN YEAR IN PROVINCE

**Terrible Conditions In Shensi
Are Described by John Earl
Baker, American Railway
Engineer.**

**POPULATION IS REDUCED
BY 3,000,000 PERSONS**

**Capital City Presents Pitiful
Sight, With Thousands
Slowly Dying of Disease
and Starvation.**

(By United Press.)

PEIPING, July 17.—The population of Shensi province has been reduced by 3,000,000 persons during the past year, by death from starvation and disease, by sale and immigration, declares John Earl Baker, American railway engineer who is acting as director of famine relief in the province.

Baker says that was the most hopeful factor in the province, as the people who are left have a better chance at survival because there are fewer of them. He has returned from a thorough inspection trip in the province.

"During the past year, the motor busses on the 'big' road in Shansi province have done a thriving business," said Mr. Baker. "A large part of it consisted of women and girls sold from Shensi. A high death rate in Shensi during childbirth makes a constant demand for women in that province. The good crop in central Shensi makes it possible for Shensi men to afford wives this year. This is real famine relief, of sorts, and the girls who do not find homes in Shensi may find employment in the 'sing-song' houses of Tientsin and Hankow.

Presents Pitiful Sight.

"The capital of Shensi province, Sianfu, presents a pitiful sight this summer," says Mr. Baker. "On the streets, thousands of poor wretches are to be seen, dragging their painful way from one garbage dump to another, huddled in a warm corner to rest, or stretched out in the prelude to the final sleep. Most of these will die. They are living on the same kind of food as do the street dogs of Peiping; they are frightfully emaciated, their clothes are in shreds and many are in advanced stages of diseases.

"They have no land to plant, no tools with which to work, no job, no home. During the summer, the larger portion will contrive to exist on weeds, gleanings and garbage, but when cold weather comes they will stiffen during the night and in the morning the burial squads will drag them out by scores, drop them in the trench outside the city wall and cover them with a few shovelfuls of earth."

SUFFERS FOOT WOUND.

Ethel Clapper, aged 6, of 2110 Tenth avenue, was treated in the Mercy hospital dispensary this morning for a laceration of the right foot suffered when she stepped on a piece of glass near her home. The child was taken to the Mercy hospital for treatment by Mrs. Annie Lallo of 1404 Eighth avenue, who was passing in her automobile and saw the child limping along with the wound bleeding profusely. Three skin clips were required to close the wound.