

Chapter Five

A new page for Guangdong Province (1911-1913)

At the time of restoration of native rule in China and on the eve of the founding of the Chinese Republic, in the days when Dr Sun Yat-sen travelled in British and Dutch Southeast Asia to raise funds for military expenses, Dr Chung was also travelling, raising funds for education throughout the Americas.

In 1911 (the third year of the Xuantonq reign, or the Xinhai year), on March 29 by the lunar calendar, Huang Xing and others of the Revolutionary Party led an uprising in Guangzhou. In their unsuccessful attack on the Governor-General's headquarters, seventy-two revolutionaries died, all of whom belonged to the young revolutionary vanguard. After this they were interred in Huanghuagang on the eastern outskirts of the city. Those who fortunately survived, fighting desperately under siege, included the Lingnan student participants Ko Kim-fu and Lei Hei-bun. Mr Lei was later Dr Chung's secretary for

many years, and when he recalled the event later still felt strong mixed emotions.

After Guangdong joined the Republic, one province after the other organized students' corps to join a northern expeditionary force. As waves of excitement swept over Guangzhou, students suspended their studies to discuss the situation. Those Lingnan students who took practical action, leaving the campus individually to go into Guangzhou to organize a student corps, were Wong Sun-yin, Kan Mun-tit, and others, while the majority of students advocated that they should leave the campus as a group to raise funds to assist the army. As a result, Yeung Sek-cheung and other students took the lead in fundraising for the northern expeditionary force. They received authorization from Hu Hanmin, chief of the revolutionary forces in the Guangdong region, to organize a "Lingnan students' logistical support corps for the military government." Subsequently the whole student body dispatched groups to visit towns and villages throughout the province, delivering propaganda speeches and dressing up to perform plays. Within a few weeks, they had gathered 55,000 *yuan* in Guangdong currency and turned it over to the military government, earning high praise for their efforts. Concluding this endeavour in September of the following year, the student body then returned to the campus to resume their studies. It was at this time that Lingnan switched to begin the academic year in the autumn.

On January 1, 1912, Dr Sun Yat-sen assumed the provisional presidency in Nanjing. On February 12, the Qing Emperor abdicated, and Dr Sun then resigned from the presidency, assuming the post of supervisor of the national railways. He intended to focus on industrial development to strengthen the nation, and travelled around China visiting every province. He returned to Guangzhou and was reunited with the elders of his native place after a long separation, and on May 3 he honoured Ling Naam Hok Tong with a visit. Dr Chung was then returned from America, and together with Acting Provost Henry Graybill and the student body, welcomed His Excellency Dr Sun at the river bank. A dense crowd lined the path between the North Gate and Martin Hall, where every seat and standing space was occupied. Amid cheers of welcome, Dr Sun ascended the podium at the crowd's request to deliver an address. Dr Sun's expression was pleasant and kind, like a father speaking to his children and younger siblings. He warmly encouraged all the students who were present to be diligent in learning, and to study so as to be of service. He himself had devoted his life to revolution, with the aim of overthrowing the corrupt Manchu government. His goal had been none other than to provide idealistic young people with better opportunities to study and build a prosperous and strong nation. Both in China and abroad, Dr Sun had been deeply aware of Ling Naam Hok Tong's dedication in its work, and of its definite achievements, which had made a strong impression. The entire audience was moved by Dr Sun's sincere and earnest speech. This was the most memorable day in

the whole history of the school.

By this time Hu Hanmin had fully assumed the position of governor of Guangdong, and was in urgent need of talented staff. On May 30, he invited Dr Chung to become Director of the provincial Education Department. Alumni Tsin Shue-fan and Chan Shiu-paak headed the departments of civil affairs and foreign affairs, Lee Yuk-tong was director of the Department of Finance, Ching Tin-tow headed the Department of Public Works, Lee Shue-fan was director of the Public Health Department, Ng Chik-pun was the chief of the Legislative Department, Wong Shiu-kwai was the chief of Justice, and Chan King-wa was the chief of Police. They were all talented and capable, bustling with activity as they strove to excel in governing.

After Dr Chung took up his office, he invited Mr Tang Suen to serve as Director of Education in the Schools, and Tang served as his right-hand man. Mr Tang graduated from the Beiyang University, and had met Dr Chung before the latter's imprisonment in Tianjin. Later he had studied in the United States, and took up a post at Peking University after his return. When he returned to Guangdong on a visit during that time, he instantly accepted Dr Chung's invitation to serve in the government. Fifty-five years later, Mr Tang is now eighty-six years of age, and still loves to talk about past events. In his view, the reason is that Dr Chung was a visionary spirit, consistently adhering to principles, never avoiding hard

work and caring nothing about personal fame. He was a just and selfless gentleman. Thus in Guangdong's educational affairs at that time, all matters that required either promotion or reform were taken care of. Set forth below is a record of what Dr Chung achieved in the position.

1. In 1912 he carried out a reorganization of the office of the Department of Education into three divisions, namely general affairs, school education, and social education, making school education the central focus of the department's work.
2. Renovation of the department's exterior appearance. He demolished the old buildings of the former academy which represented Qing autocratic rule, including the arched examination hall and stone statuary. The space was then rebuilt for use as a stadium for the athletic activities of schools.
3. Pending clear directives from the central government regarding national standards, the current educational system was provisionally continued.
4. Advanced-level academies which had been established during the Qing period included the Higher Normal School of Guangdong and Guangxi, the Guangdong-Guangxi Vernacular Academy, the Guangdong Academy of Law and Politics, the Guangya Higher Academy, and the Industrial Academy. Because facilities at the Vernacular Academy and the Industrial Academy were inadequate, operations at the two schools were suspended pending further consideration.

5. Although the Ministry of Education had already circulated a directive that the whole nation should stop reading the classics and honouring Confucius, Guangdong had been excepted from the directive. There was an urgent need for textbooks compiled for the primary and middle school levels. It was decided that an education committee should be set up to take charge of this business for the schools, and an editing committee was also set up to handle these matters.

6. Dr Chung made the decision to open a museum in the new Education Department office building, where exhibits of teaching aids and other items relating to education would be displayed. In addition to items gathered in China, there were some purchased abroad. They were exhibited to serve as a model for schools to observe and were intended to enhance public understanding of education.

7. He convened a provincial conference on education lasting ten days, which was attended by representatives selected by ninety-four districts in Guangdong. They discussed all manner of improvements and reforms in the educational field, paying special attention to reforming the administrative structure of education.
 - a. An inspectorate bureau would be established in every district, under a director and vice director, who would be nominated by the district magistrate and appointed by the provincial education department.

 - b. Because an education tax was already collected in each district, all

expenditures should be included within the original educational budget. In the case of a shortfall, an application for review should be made before the provincial treasury would approve an allocation of support. The Guangzhou municipal educational inspectorate bureau would be subordinate to the provincial department of education. He Jianwu, Principal of the Nanwu School, became the Inspector of municipal education.

- c. A model primary school would be established in each district, together with a staff person responsible for publicity about education.
8. Fair and open selection of qualified candidates for study abroad. The provincial assembly was asked to allocate two hundred thousand *yuan*, and chose one hundred students to travel to Germany and Japan for further studies, and another thirty to study in the United States. Most of the students had graduated from Beiyang, Tangshan, Lukuang, and Ling Naam, including Ho Ka-cheuk and Seto Iu, along with two female students, who were Law Yau-tsit and Liu Fung-yan.
9. Dozens of young people who had contributed to the Republican revolution were selected and dispatched to the United States for further studies. They included Lin Yun-kai, later the Governor of Guangdong.

These two groups of students selected through an examination to be sent overseas for further studies, were part of a modern system of accessible examinations. The atmosphere of the examination hall was now pleasant

and comfortable, supporting the examinees' sense of self-esteem. The examination questions were known only to the supervisor, who also supervised the exam hall. The contrast between these conditions and the horrors of the harsh and frightening regulations of the Qing exams, which caused candidates to panic and lose their concentration, was like the difference between heaven and hell.

10. Dr Chung actively promoted education in society, emphasizing the popularization of education. First using dramatic propaganda and the vernacular language, he erected a temporary theatre behind the Department of Education. Every now and then he invited actors, including Sun Wa, the young Actor Chung, and Chiu Lai-sheung (who played female roles in the all-male troupes of the day), to come to the department to study how to improve their scripts and to enact experimental performances. An example was Sun Wa's most famous song, "Herding Sheep," adapted by Dr Chung. As for other types of performance, he invited the Nine Charitable Houses of Guangzhou to send speakers to the Department, supplying them with materials pertaining to social education, such as popular stories and novels. In addition, he organized a travelling dramatic troupe, dispatching it to the various districts to take their performances down to the village level. All expenses for these activities were contributed by the Chinese living overseas in various places; these donors sought to raise levels of knowledge in their motherland.

The various new policies described above were enforced rigorously, eradicating long-entrenched bureaucratism. Chung's purpose was to

exchange a new culture for the old, while conservative scholars who remained unconvinced, holding to the old ways rather than studying in depth, always had criticisms in response to these revolutionary measures. They placed their emphasis on the importance of honouring Confucius and were opposed to Christianity. Director Chung remained silent in response, leaving each to his own without rebuking them. His intention was that the new people of Guangdong would use revolutionary measures to promote universal education. It was inevitable that he would face the opposition of the conservatives. Thus he could only move forward steadfastly on the basis of the Christian spirit, cultivating talent in the service of the people, without concern for the difficult efforts and criticisms lying ahead. His attitude was that it was his duty to continue no matter what the quibbles, only hoping that as time passed the situation would eventually become clear.

In September 1912, following the order of the Ministry of Education, Ling Naam Hok Tong changed its name to Ling Naam Hok Hau. It formally implemented the five-year middle-school system, and also offered instruction at the first-year university level. Enrolment in the freshman class increased to twenty-four students. As new buildings were erected one after the other at the school, the number of completed permanent structures reached six. The same year, John K. Kennedy, a devoted American educationalist, donated US \$30,000 toward the construction of Grant Hall, named in memory of William Henry Grant,

who had served as secretary to the Lingnan Board of Trustees since 1895. The building was designed in the palatial style, with red brick and green roof-tiles. It housed the essential units of the college, including the President's office, the library, the Bursar's office, and the college's bookstore, bank, supply room, and printing press. In addition, Dr Chung's residence, Blackstone Lodge (named after the donor), and several residences for western faculty members were also completed, and the area of the campus was further extended.

At this time, President Yuan Shikai in Beijing was rooting out his political enemies and carrying out regressive policies. After co-opting political leaders, he borrowed money from foreign powers to build up the power of his factional armies. Because Guangdong was a seedbed of revolution, it was necessary to take strong measures to suppress the province. In consequence, in 1913, Yuan deployed General Long Jiguang to lead the Yunnan Army to enter Guangdong and become governor of the province. A scheme to assassinate Chan King-wah, provincial Chief of Police, was carried out on the eve of the Mid-Autumn festival. A blacklist of Revolutionary Party members was then drawn up, with the intention of arresting them all. Dr Chung's name came fifth on the list. At this point, Lingnan students were incensed against the government, and sought to unite with the people of Guangzhou in protest. Dr Chung dissuaded them, saying, "Don't show disrespect for the authorities, and don't rebel against them. As students, you should

bury your heads in your studies. When you have finished your studies you will be able to educate others. If you wait until a righteous time arrives, then government will turn from evil and return to the correct path. It is not necessary to be so eager for immediate action.” Before he had finished speaking, General Long had already dispatched soldiers to enter the campus to search for Dr Chung and arrest him. Fortunately, because Provost Edmunds had already received a secret report, he hid Dr Chung in the cellar of his home. Edmunds then stood fast in refusing the soldiers entry to his residence. That night Dr Chung took the US Consulate’s motor launch to the foreign concession of Shameen, where he transferred to a United States naval vessel for the voyage to Hong Kong. There he boarded a steamship bound for America.

During his voyage across the Pacific, Dr Chung reflected sorrowfully about current events. He felt regret that the great revolutionary plan for national revival had been seized by Yuan Shikai and corrupted in his hands. Therefore he composed *Guangdong for the People of Guangdong*, a book elucidating the important policies of the early Republic and the new spirit of the Revolutionary Party. Chung revealed to the public the party’s youthful energy, incorruptibility, and its courage to do and to be, while exposing the criminal acts of the northern warlord Yuan Shikai.