

domestic animals or food plants of either the modern or ancient Chinese were of native origin. Not only did these forms appear in the Near East long before they appeared in China but also there appear to be no wild forms native in China from which they could have come. However, the migration of these foods and plants was accomplished before the beginning of China's historical period.

At the earliest known historical time in China—about the middle of the second millennium B. C.—society was divided there into two great classes; land-holding feudal lords and a great mass of serf population. The former class can be said to have been in the Bronze Age of civilization, while the latter were still, in effect, in the New Stone Age.

Then, about the 11th century B. C. came the invasion of China by the peoples of unknown but probably related origin, the Chou. With this invasion came significant changes that occurred slowly but surely. By 200 B. C., China was finally coming into her Iron Age, said Mr. Bishop.

Autocratic government in China, centered in a single emperor, did not arrive until the third century B. C., Mr. Bishop added. With this important change Chinese civilization took on those characteristics that marked it for the next two thousand years; or until the impact of sea trade routes led to its collapse.

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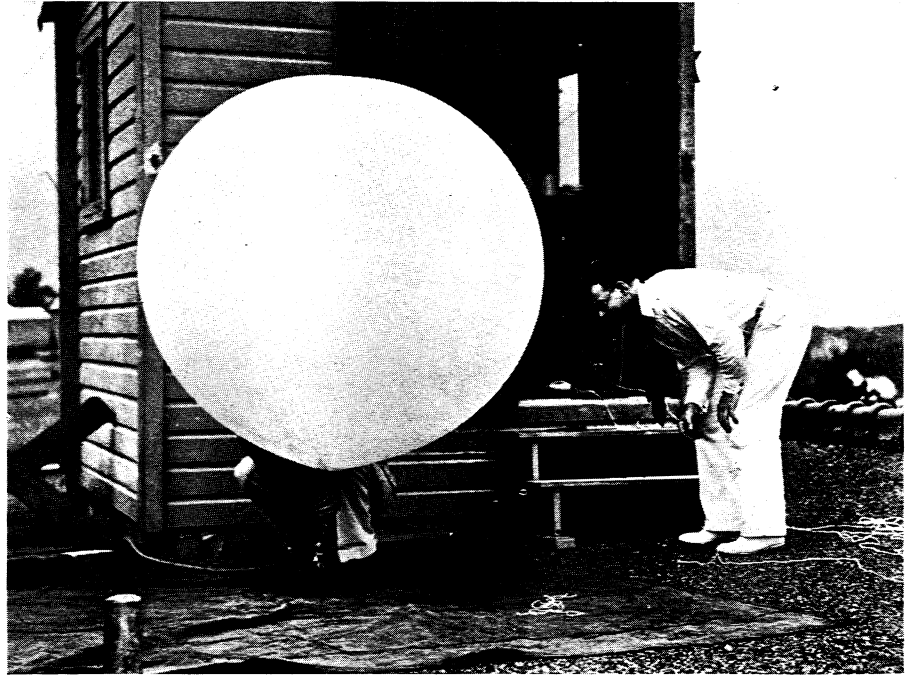
ANTHROPOLOGY

Oldest Man Once Lived Where Fighting Now Rages

WHERE modern man's most ancient ancestors known to science lived, loved, worked and fought, Japanese and Chinese soldiers are now using the most modern methods of killing each other. Reports from the Peiping area indicate that the famous archaeological sites near Chou-kou-tien are well within the battle zone. Here have been unearthed from caves the bones of *Sinanthropus*, the Peking Man, who lived perhaps half a million years ago and who is considered to be perhaps the most ancient ancestor of modern man.

Chou-kou-tein is only 45 miles from Peiping on a branch of the Peiping-Hankow Railway. Scientists here are concerned that the present fighting will endanger the collections and studies of the geologists and anthropologists engaged in studying Peking Man, as well as other scientific work in the Peiping area.

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BALLOON

Dr. L. F. Curtiss, National Bureau of Standards scientist, oversees the inflation of one of the small robot balloons which bear aloft radio transmitting equipment that helps science probe the upper air secrets of weather and cosmic rays. Recently Dr. Curtiss sent up a balloon which reached an altitude of 17 miles and then fell at a speed of 150 miles an hour. At 8,000 altitude it was seen by . . . (See next page)

PHYSICS—AERONAUTICS

Cosmic Ray Radio Balloon Followed by Plane to Ground

A STAR fell on tobacco row at a farm near the little town of Aquasco, Md., some 30 miles from Washington. Moreover an airplane chased the star to earth. Or at least that is what Franklyn Irvin Gibbons thought as he stopped hoeing his tobacco recently and watched a plane following a shining object coming down from the sky into his nearby cornfield.

The "star" was a radio balloon sent aloft by Dr. L. F. Curtiss of the National Bureau of Standards, which ascended some 17 miles and transmitted, back to earth, cosmic ray data. The zooming airplane was from the U. S. Naval Air Station, flown by W. B. Fuller, radioman first class, and O. T. Cooper, chief radioman. They noted the shining bag of the radio balloon falling at the rate of about 150 miles an hour at an altitude of 8,000 feet and dove to follow it to its landing. The coincidence is the

first ever known to occur in the new field of radio meteorology by which scientists are now probing the upper air to learn its weather and cosmic ray secrets.

Tiny radio transmitting sets carried aloft in small, unmanned balloons are reaching far beyond the limits of human flight in either airplanes or balloons. The particular "star" which farmer Gibbons recovered had gone up nearly 90,000 feet. Other and similar instruments sent up by Dr. Curtiss have reached altitudes of 25 miles or about 132,000 feet.

Tobacco-hoeing Mr. Gibbons thus described the landing for Science Service: "It sure fell fast and I ran down the valley and around the woods after it. That airplane was so close that it scared the children. It carried two men; I could see them, it was so close. The balloon stopped in the cornfield just two corn