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WEDDING "BY NUMBERS" IN CHINA.

Austerity spreads to China where, in the interests of War Economy, weddings take place "en bloc". The brides wear simple pink gowns of inexpensive material and the bridegrooms black utility suits. Black is always worn for weddings in China.

Members of the British Parliamentary Mission are present at this Chungking ceremony held at the New Life Movement centre.

Everyone, including the pages, takes the affair very seriously.

We begin to look like that much later.

The path to the platform is paved with paper rose leaves. The brides pick their way along one column, while their future husbands plant their feet on another rose walk running alongside, still looking down in the mouth.

A large ~~map~~ portrait of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, father of the Chinese Republic hangs behind the platform. It is here that the couples receive their marriage certificates. In pre-war days, the husband and the in-laws were in debt for years paying for the costly ceremony. War has altered all that, and despite the fact that 3,000 people are invited, Chinese newly-weds (and their parents) find marriage a lot easier. 42 couples at this mass wedding are now all set for a life of roses and rollingpins.