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CONTENTS.

A Hunt for Wild hogs J. E. Adams 41

Spelling Reform Lower A. Enmun 46

The Stone-fight 49

Progress of the Seoul-Wiju Railway N. C. Whittemore 53

A Woman’s Wit G. Engel , 54

Korean Giants G. Engel 56

Odds and Ends

Korea a Vassal of Japan 58

Rest from Burglars 61

Editorial Comment 63

A Review A. Kenmure 70

News Calendar 72

A Hunt for Wild Hogs.

Jas. E. Adams.

In the district of which I have charge in Eastern Kyung-sang Province, my itineration often takes me into the magistracies of Yung-jung and Kyong-ju, some sections of which are extremely mountainous and sparsely populated. Hidden in among these mountains are several groups of Christians whom I visit from time to time. In the Fall, about the time of the maturing of the rice crop they are greatly bothered by the wild hogs which come down from the mountains and ravage their fields of standing grain. For some weeks they are compelled to watch day and night, if they would secure the crop. When I go among them in the late Fall, their grievances against these porcine enemies are fresh and acute, and they are clamorous for me to bring the wonderful, Western, “many shot” gun and help to ravage the ravagers.

It is only at the time of harvest that these animals come down from the wilds to feed upon the maturing rice. They do all their work at night and during the day they lie hidden in the edge of the woods or in the rough underbrush of the lower valleys. It would be useless to try to hunt them at any other season for they are in the almost inaccessible mountains and even if one were found it would easily escape in the leafy underbrush. The late Autumn when the leaves have fallen is the only time one can be at all sure of getting a shot at one of them.

[page 42] For a long time I gave no weight to the marvelous tales they told of the size of the mountain hogs. They were ordinarily as large as a yearling calf and sometimes they grew, if the narrator was somewhat heated, to be as large as a full-grown cow. So one day I took my rifle with me and determined to lay off a little while and have some sport. The gun I used was a Winchester, 30-30, smokeless, shooting a soft-nosed, jacketed bullet. When I arrived and announced my purpose the report went abroad like wildfire and men flocked in to help from two or three different groups.

We took some ten or twelve men as beaters and one Korean hunter, with his old matchlock, and started for a Buddhist temple forest at head of the valley, where wild hogs were said to be plentiful. The priests told us that a drove of them had been down to the fields the evening before and had been driven off. The forest covered a number of spurs running up the side of the mountain back of the temple, so we began at one side that we might beat the whole woods systematically.

The hunter and myself went up the ridge on one side of a hollow and disposed ourselves as advantageously as we could, for getting anything that should attempt to cross over. The beaters strung out along the ridge on the other side, from top to bottom, and when all was ready, they began to beat across. These beaters are not armed with gongs and other instruments nor do they shout and make a great disturbance, for this would make the pigs bolt at once; but they go quietly along and the pigs move out easily hoping to avoid the necessity of bolting altogether. This gives the hunter a much better shot. The first hollow yielded nothing, and when the beaters had come across, we, with the guns, laboriously climbed to the top of our ridge and around the head of the hollow and disposed ourselves again on the next one.

Again the beaters spread out and started across. They had not more than started when from my station, high upon the opposite ridge, I saw the drove break cover and start along the side of the mountain. There were [page 43] six, a monstrous old hog and five somewhat smaller ones. I was entirely too high up to get a shot at them, as they crossed, for the hog, unlike the leopard, does not usually run up the mountain, but keeps at about the same level. The Korean hunter, however, was somewhere below me in the bush, and I was in hopes that he would get a shot. I waited, and in a short time the sound of the old matchlock came up to me, with the muffled roar of a blast in a mine. I hurried down, to find that at about the time that the hogs should have come his way, a leopard, scared out by the beaters, and intending to take himself quietly out of the way, had passed near, and the hunter had chosen him in preference to the hog. Alas, however, the old matchlock, while great at roaring, was not much at hitting, and the only result was a bad scare for the leopard, while the hogs had disappeared entirely. Some of the beaters thought they had broken back, some were sure they had not, and a wrangle ensued. Finally we went on and in the same manner beat the remaining hollows but without result. No hogs were to be found.

It was now noon, and it had been a terribly arduous morning for my unaccustomed muscles. The mountain side was so precipitous that I could scarcely climb it. The Koreans with their straw sandals seemed to have no difficulty, but the leather soles of my shoes soon grew so slippery on the dry grass that I was continually slipping back. The mountain also was covered with thick underbrush, which made the climbing much more difficult. We had gone up one ridge and down another, and up again to the top of the mountain, some four or five times, so the last time when we came down, without result, we adjourned, discouraged, to the Buddhist temple, for a lunch.

But after lunch, being fortified in the inner man, our resolution returned, and we determined to work again the back hollows from the point where we had lost the hogs, thinking that probably they had broken back. Again we toiled up and took our stations, while the beaters climbed up the opposite ridge, lined out and started [page 44] to beat across. Again I had the upper station, and this time our perseverance was rewarded. The hogs broke cover, and crossed below, between the Korean hunter and myself. I could hear them running through the bush, and so, dropping down the mountain side a bit, got within seeing distance, as they broke across the open path which runs down the crest of the ridge. The big hog was in the lead, and at about fifty yards distance through the open brush, I gave him one. He paused for a moment and then broke on into the thick brush in the next hollow. The other five followed with a rush. All the hunting that I had done had been in my boyhood with a loose powder and ball squirrel rifle, and in the excitement of the moment I snapped again at one of them without throwing the lever and so the hammer struck only an empty shell. I had also heard the muffled roar of the old matchlock at about the same time I had fired myself. I felt sure I hit him and was greatly chagrined when he plunged on into the next thicket.

The whole crowd of the beaters rushed in and were excited as only Koreans can be. Each had his own particular version as to how it happened, although none of them had seen it. There was nothing for it but to climb the ridge again and come down on the next one, for to abandon the chase now was not to be thought of. So up I went forcing my almost helpless legs and blistered feet to push me up, and finally reached my station. The beaters started in, and when they had almost reached the bottom of the hollow, the hogs came out with a rush. This time they were nearer, so that I alone secured a shot as they passed. Again the big one was in the lead. I fired at him, and this time he dropped instantly and rolled down the side of the mountain. Again, in the excitement, I snapped on an empty shell at another and they plunged into the brush and were lost.

We rushed down the mountain side, all fatigue forgotten, to where the dead monster lay. Truly he looked a monster as he lay there. The beaters rushed out with a shout and a scramble, fairly tumbling down the mountainside in their excitement. That morning, at prayers, [page 45] the one who led had prayed earnestly that we might be given good success in our hunt, and now the head beater as he tumbled down the mountain and caught a sight of the fellow, seized me by the arm, and said “Teacher, teacher, let us get right down upon our knees here and give thanks to God.” It had been many a long day since they had had as much meat in sight. Moreover they were revenged upon their enemy.

The fatal ball had struck and mushroomed on the back bone, just above the shoulder, and when we turned the hog over, we found that the first ball had also taken effect in the side of the belly, and had literally torn the intestines to pieces. The abdomen was simply a sack full of blood, yet the brute was pounding along as vigorously, apparently, at the last shot as at the first. The matchlock did not seem to have done more than scare it, although the man behind it was reputed to be a mighty hunter.

The height of the hog was in his shoulders. His front legs were like great pillars, and on these his body was pivoted, sloping down in the rear into much smaller hams, and extending almost as far forward, in a long, hanging, ugly head. Under the coarse bristly hair was a thick mat of fur all over his body; the winter coat, I presume. He was marked with grey from the corners of the mouth back, and down the shoulders. The general color of the hair was black. In the drove I noticed one red fellow. The general build was utterly unlike the miserable degenerates we see about Korean dwellings. The animal was entirely too heavy for the crowd to carry even slung on a pole, so we rigged a drag of pine boughs and loaded it on and dragged it down the mountain side, to the houses below. We estimated its weight as nearly as possible, and it could not have been less than three hundred pounds, and was probably nearer four hundred. It was not fat but just in the prime condition of a free-running mountain hog. It stood about three feet and a half high at the shoulder. The tusks were formidable affairs but had been badly worn down by his rooting in the ground for food. But for this they would have been seven or eight inches long.

[page 46] The meat was delicious, very unlike our pen-fattened pork in flavor. That night the Koreans all made themselves sick, feasting. The head I preserved and mounted, and now with a look of lowering, sullen rage, and teeth bared, as though to rend, it looks down upon me from the wall, to remind me of the day in the woods, on the mountain.

In some countries it is said that the wild boar is a dangerous customer and will generally charge at sight; but that is not the case with Korean boars. They get away as fast as their legs will carry them, which is very near the gait of a deer. They probably would make trouble if cornered or if come upon so suddenly that there was no time to turn. I have just received news that a man in this same district where I hunted was recently rushed by a boar and badly torn up. But a man properly armed needs have little fear of trouble along this line.

The use of dogs in hunting boar would be very small unless there was a whole pack that were trained to surround the animal and hold him at bay till the hunter could come up. A single dog would be of no use at all. I consider the Korean method much the best every way.

Spelling Reform.

Petition of Lower A. Enmun

To the Honourable the Foreign Community, especially the reverend gentlemen of the Missionary Societies, in Korea.

The Petition of Lower A. Enmun, humbly showeth :

First that he is the younger brother of Upper A. Enmun (commonly written 아) and brother-in-law to Two- stroke Upper A. Enmun (야 ), the wife of the former.

Second that he stands for the shorter sounds which require only a small opening of the mouth in a speaker, whereas his elder brother represents the full mouth and throat sounds.

[page 47] Third that he has for several hundred years done faithful service to a multitude of Korean men, women and children who chose to employ him and that they have never had cause to complain of his willingness to serve them.

Fourth that there are some Koreans who never exactly know when to employ him and often by mistake make use of him when they ought to call his big brother into service and vice versa, but that neither he nor his brother is responsible for stupid mistakes made by ignorant and uneducated people.

Fifth that a few years ago certain learned and reverend gentlemen took, to your humble petitioner’s great distress, an unaccountable dislike to him and proposed to discontinue your humble petitioner’s services, and have actually for the last two years done without them, and while they reinstated others of our family that they had dropped, they have left your humble petitioner unmercifully out in the cold.

Sixth that these same gentlemen have, in cases where your petitioner’s elder brother would not serve them, wrongfully substituted our cousins Eu (으) or I (이) Enmun in your petitioner’s rightful place, thereby greatly corrupting and impoverishing the language of a people among which he lives as an honoured guest; they write now in the Christian News [refer to scanned image version for Hangeul] which shows to what extremes men may be driven when once they forsake the path of right and follow their own inventions.

Seventh that the Koreans, or those of them whose opinion counts for something, declare these spellings incorrect and some say that these gentlemen are now making worse mistakes than any the Koreans ever made, even if they did occasionally confuse your humble petitioner and his big brother; that many Koreans are losing respect for the wisdom and learning of those that attempt to deprive the Korean alphabet of a useful character such as your humble petitioner, who has been in great [page 48] use for SO many centuries and whom the Koreans themselves never thought of dismissing and never will think of discarding.

Eighth that the Koreans do not like to write \* for \*, that they, in short, as a rule prefer your humble petitioner’s services in these and similar cases, while in the case 찰하리 some of the learned foreigners do not know the exact spelling, either, as the divergence between the spelling in our standard dictionary and that in the New Testament (where we see \* ) goes to show; so that none of those reformers could use this word as a test of correct or incorrect spelling (see “Argos” in Korea Review p. 54-0, 190.4) and prove to a Korean that he has been found tripping.

Ninth that your humble petitioner is preferred by Koreans in combinations like the following : etc.

Tenth that your humble petitioner and his big brother are fully aware of a few disputable cases : e. g. \* which would, perhaps, be more correctly spelt \* in all which disputable cases your humble petitioner is willing to give place to his elder brother.

Eleventh that, while there may be no objection to the following spellings :

\* Koreans and foreigners should be free to avail themselves of your humble petitioner’s service wherever they think fit in such cases without incurring the odium orthographicum.

Twelfth that in some cases there is necessity for distinction between \* (word) and \* (horse), as between \* (a wordy person) and \* (a groom), \* (refrain from!) and \* (being dry), \* (other) and \* (moon), \* (single) and \* (sweet) as between \* (a single time, just once) and \* (a sweet gourd), \* (went) and \* (is like) etc.

Therefore, your petitioner humbly beseeches the Honourable the Foreign Community and especially the Reverend Gentlemen of the Missionary Societies, in Korea, taking these premises into consideration, to grant your humble petitioner as full and free practice as he formerly [page 49] enjoyed, in the Christian News the publications of the Religious Tract Society and any other publications of Protestant Missions and as he still enjoys in publications and writings of Koreans, Japanese and Roman Catholic missionaries and a large majority of Protestant missionaries.

And your humble petitioner as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Kukmunan, 1st day of moon, Eulsa.

Lower A. Enmun.

To the Editor Korea Review, Dear Sir : Thinking that I have more influence with you than himself, Lower A. Enmun has asked me to forward this for publicaton in the Korea Review. Having full sympathy for the poor, dear little fellow, I do forward it most heartily.

Yours etc.,

Sensus Communis.

The Stone-fight,

The unusual interest and enthusiasm which the Koreans show in the national game of “side-fight” this year has raised anew the question of how this curious custom originated and how they come to show such unusual energy over a thing which brings in such small returns except broken heads and torn clothes. Being of purely native origin and having its counterpart in no other land, it is worth considering as one of the survivals of pure Korean life unmixed with foreign elements.

From the days of Ancient Koguryu the people of Pyeng-an Province have been notorious for their stone- throwing proclivities. It is said that a form of stone fight existed even then in the early days of our era but this is hard to substantiate from actual history. We may take the tradition for what it is worth.

Coming down to the days of the Koryu dynasty we read that one of the kings instituted the game as an amusement in the palace enclosure and that he would have [page 50] men tied up as a target to practice upon, himself. The kings of Koryu seem to have spent much of their energy in the invention of new amusements and it is easily with- in the limits of belief that the stone-fight as a national institution began in those days.

The game is played only at the beginning of the year when people have nothing else to do and the fields lie bare and inviting. With the end of each year Koreans are supposed to pay up their debts. Whether they all do or not is a question hard to answer but everybody seems unusually cheerful. It may be because they have successfully avoided that ordeal. Either event would make him jolly. This excess of high spirits, the leisure of the holidays and the love of excitement find an outlet in the stone-fight. It takes the place of our play-acting and opera and is concentrated into the first few weeks of the year. The audience is always large and enthusiastic and the successful actors are sure of applause.

In former times there was less danger attached to the game than there is to-day. The public taste seems to crave something more exciting each year. It used to be the custom that no one must be struck who had fallen to the ground but now they show no quarter and a man who falls and is surrounded by the enemy is severely handled.

There are three places in Korea where this sport is carried on most enthusiastically. These are Pyengyang, Songdo and Seoul. In Pyengyang the people are such accurate stone throwers that it is impossible to come to hand to hand conflicts as they do in Seoul. They merely stand a long ways off and throw stones. In Songdo they use clubs as they do in Seoul but these are long and unwieldy and far less effective than the short clubs used here. The story is told of a famous Seoul fighter who went to Songdo with his short club and fought now on one side and now on the other and whichever side he aided invariably won the day. At last he was “spotted” and the gentle suggestion was made that as an interloper he be killed. He got word of this and fled the field not waiting even for supper. He got something to eat at the [page 51] Im-jin River and came into Seoul within twenty-four hours. It is in Seoul that the game must be seen in its most dramatic form. The river towns have a standing grudge against the Seoulites and generally come off best in the fights, but the river towns also fight against each other. The villages may join forces and send a challenge to two other villages to meet them in the open the following day. Clubs and straw helmets and shoulder-pads are prepared overnight. The morning will see the small boys of the two factions playing a mimic game while the elders are gathering for the fray. By afternoon the hillsides are crowded with thousands of spectators and the time approaches for the onslaught. The boys retire from the field and the champions of either side run forward from their lines and brandish their clubs by way of challenge and perform a small war dance of defiance. The crowds on the hills shout encouragement. The two opposing sides without any show of order or discipline move slowly toward each other, stones flying through the air but falling far short of the mark. When they stop and the champions rush forward and skirmish with each other. Stones fly more thickly and the contestants begin to work themselves up to the fighting point. A murmur passes through the ranks on the left which rises to a wild yell and the whole company rushes directly across the open toward the foe. The latter give way and scurry from the field but only long enough to let the rush of their opponents throw them into disorder. Then they turn and sweep back carrying everything before them. The crowds on the hills roar with delight and urge on the conflict with all sorts of incoherent advice. In the lull which follows a duel takes place between the be-helmetted champions in which some sound blows are struck and now and then a bleeding victim is dragged out and retired. As the afternoon waves the fighters become bolder and the determination to hold the field when night comes makes them throw caution to the winds. The charges back and forth become more reckless; the champions get mixed with the ordinary rank and file and strike viciously to right and left till a well-aimed brick-bat [page 52] strikes a vulnerable spot and the man retires for repairs. Often the fleeing side rushes among the spectators and then a stampede takes place in which hats are crushed, immaculate shoes are trampled with mud and silken garments are torn. On one side a knot of ten or twenty fighters may be seen stamping on and belaboring the person of a foe who lies on the ground helpless. A savage yell goes up from the endangered man’s side and half a dozen desperate fellows dash headlong into the struggling mass and in spite of blows which fall like rain they get the body of their comrade and bring it off victoriously. As darkness falls the fight is called off and the happy crowd swarms back to the city with their bruised but smiling champions who are boasting of what they will “do to those fellows” on the morrow.

The different villages are as proud of their good fighters as American cities are of their good base-ball players and there is the same rivalry in securing the services of such men. A wealthy resident of one town will secretly approach the big fighter of the neighboring village and offer him a house and a living if he will only move across and help them. This is discovered and the people where the coveted man lives club together and make him a still better offer if he will stay where he is. Such a man can live at ease eleven months in the year if he will risk his head for the other month. His prowess has an actual cash value.

Before the late Regent rebuilt the Kyong-bok Palace in the sixties the examination grounds directly behind it used to be the favorite place for stone fighting and great were the battles fought there. A story is told of how king Hyo-jong, who used to take pleasure in going about in disguise like Haroun al Raschid, went out to see one of these fights. He stood in the crowd watching the conflict, when suddenly there was a rush in his direction and the people were jammed in a solid mass against a wall. The hats in those days were three feet across the brim and the crowd was covered, as it were, with twisted and broken hat rims and crowns. The King was rudely jostled but kept his temper at the most critical [page 53] moment he saw a young roan of twenty rise upon the shoulders of his companions and run over the heads of the crowd brandishing his club. In a few moments he had driven back the enemy and order was restored. The young man had seen through the disguise of the king. This had far reaching consequences, for the king hunted the young man up and from him received some very useful advice. For some reason or other the king cherished the fond idea of invading China and had begun preparations for it, but this young man was more successful than the grand dignitaries of the court in proving the foolishness of the scheme and dissuading him from it.

Progress of the Seoul-Wiju Railway.

N. C. Whittemore.

Work on the railroad has been pushed very fast, and the construction trains are now running in from the river ( Yaloo) to Morai Kohai a distance of 25 li. South of there the road bed is nearly all done down to the Chung river, in Syen Chyun, and there is promise of the construction trains running as far as that by March. The construction trains are also running 40 li north of Pyeng Yang and 50 South from Anchu and pushing on very fast as most of the road bed is already finished. The bridges in most places have been put in very substantially, but the cuts will have to be lowered considerably, before the road can be operated economically. Stations are being built every few miles and the Koreans will undoubtedly patronize the road very freely, In fact it has been very arousing watching the change in the attitude of the Koreans toward the railroad, when once they have seen the “fire cart” in operation. A branch line runs from Tyul San Kwan, about 10 miles down to Piaik Kot, a deep water port on the coast where many of the troops were landed during the spring. The line from Pyeng Yang to Eui Ju follows the line of the high road in the [page 54] main, but swings away from it in various places. At An Chu, it crosses the Chung Chun river, and also the Pak Chyun river some 20 to 30 li below the main road, and does not come back to the immediate vicinity of the main road until Tyung Chud is reached. Then swings off again around the mountains in Kwah San, and again parallels the cart road from a point 20 li east of Syen Chyun Kol as far as Tyul San Kwan, In Eui Ju the line runs through the Southern part of the country, the county seat being 40 li the nearest point of the rail road. The weather here in the north is the warmest ever known, and the Koreans are all saying that the elements are helping the Japanese. The groy nd has only been white once, and more there is nothing to be seen anywhere. The ground on the south side of the hills is hardly frozen at all. Nyong Am Po is in much the same condition as when the Russians evacuated it, except for the saw mills which have been erected by the Japanese, and which have sawed up enormous quantities of the Yaloo timber. The Chinese are still present in large numbers, and seem undisturbed by the change.

A Woman’s Wit.

or ( An Arithmetic Problem.

(Folk-Tale Translated by Rev. G. Engel, Fusan).

War had broken out in the country, which compelled a man and his very beautiful wife to seek refuge elsewhere. While travelling they were one afternoon stopped by a band of robbers, who demanded neither money nor goods but the beautiful woman. For this prize they were willing to let the husband go free.

The latter saw no means of escape out of this dilemma. For if he refused to deliver his wife into the hands of the robbers, they could either take his wife by force from him or even kill him. So he decided to accept this [page 55] inevitable misfortune with resignation. Not so his wife. For she was unwilling to be separated from her husband whom she loved dearly. She was, however, not only a very beautiful, but also a very clever, woman. She had quickly counted the robbers and found they were exactly thirty.

So she faced them and began to parley with them. “There being thirty of you,” the woman said, “it will never do for me to become the wife of you all. Such a life is impossible. But I am willing to go with one of you.” To this the robbers assented.

Then she went on: “Since none of you seems either beautiful, handsome or even mightily good-looking,” at this point, the robbers looked all very stupid “or in any other way preferable to the others, it would be very difficult indeed to make my own choice. Moreover I do not want to appear arbitrary in this matter. If it suits you, I shall employ the following method, in which, I hope, Heaven will guide me to select the right man from among you. You all form a circle, and I shall go round and round in it counting you off by tens. Every tenth man that I count shall go out till only one is left, and he shall become my husband.”

The robbers said that they thought this a very good way of deciding the matter and readily agreed to her , proposal. For every one of them hoped that he would be the lucky one.

They were beginning to form the circle, when the woman asked to stop a moment. “I have one more request to make,” she continued. “I have been thinking of my present husband. It would seem unfair to let him merely look on without giving him a chance with you. I think he is entitled to this much consideration. So let him stand in the circle with you though I am afraid his chance is but a small one.” Being fair minded and none too clever, the robbers granted this small request without any misgivings.

When the circle had been formed, the woman began to count from her husband: “One, two, three, four, five, six, seven” and then suddenly stopped with a puzzled [page 56] look on her face declaring she had made a mistake. “I must go in the opposite direction,” she said. She, therefore, turned and began where she had left off, counting from the seventh man. “One, two, three” and so on. Round and round she went, and every tenth man went out. In Twenty-nine rounds twenty-nine men went out, and now only her husband and one other man were left. Between them lay the final choice. It so happened that the odd numbers fell to the former, the even ones to the latter. Thus, when ten was called, the last robber went out and the husband of the woman was left. The robbers stood all in amazement, declared: “This is God’s choice, this is God’s choice, we cannot help accepting it,” and then went their way, leaving the man and his beautiful wife to go theirs.

Korean Giants.

(Folk-Tale Translated by Rev. G. Engel, Fusan.)

There once lived a man who was sound and strong in body and a veritable giant. Not being able to contain his strength, he wandered about in search of a man of like strength.

On a hot summer’s day he reached the top of a mountain pass. Here his eye was attracted by a huge pavillion-tree several hundred years old. Its circumference measured some twenty armfuls, its branches were innumerable, and its weight amounted to several thousand pounds. Under this tree he found a man asleep. Now, when the sleeper exhaled, the tree was pulled up and rose high into mid-air, and when he inhaled, it was again driven into the ground. Thus with every breath of the sleeper the tree rose and fell. Calculating the probable measure of this man’s strength, our friend came to the conclusion that it must be simply unfathomable. In his surprise he woke the man and after exchanging the usual salutation, [page 57] our friend began by saying: “I too am a strong man. Having come this way and seen your strength, I must say, you are a giant.” Then they swore eternal brotherhood and said to each other: “Wherever we might go we would not find a match for ourselves.” Thus travelling together they entered one day an unknown mountain valley. There was only one house there. But the owner received them with joy, asked them to enter and saluted them. Having gone into the house and sat down, the land-lord asked them what business had brought them to this out-of-the-way place (lit. “place among deep mountains.”) The two men answered : “We were unable to contain our strength and wishing to see some beautiful scenery, we came here in the course of our travels.” The landlord replied : “My two brothers and I are also strong men. Let us, then, make trial of our strength to-morrow.”

The next morning after breakfast their host led them to a place at some distance from his house. He stopped before a rock that was as large as a house and proposed that they should all try their strength with this very rock. The visitors willing agreed to this.

First, the eldest of the three brothers lifted the rock and threw it into the air. The stone went up and up and finally disappeared from view. “Let us go back home,” said the host now. The guests were astonished at this and asked : “Are we not going to wait here till the stone comes back?” The host’s reply was: “It is impossible for the stone to come down today. Perhaps to-morrow about this time it will fall down.” As there seemed no other choice, they returned with the others to the house.

When on the following day they arrived on the spot at the same hour as the day before, down came the rock. Then the second brother said : “Now it is my turn,” took the rock, threw it up into mid-air and made it disappear likewise. He then turned to the others and asked them to return home with him. This time the travellers did not ask for an explanation of these strange proceedings, but knew what would happen.

[page 58] So the next day they again returned to the spot at the usual hour, when the rock actually came down again at the exact moment. Whereupon the third one exclaimed: “To-day it is my turn to show my strength,” After he too, had made the rock disappear, he turned and said : “Hither the stone always came down after a night when my brothers had thrown it. However as it will not came down for three days, let us go home and return then.” To which they all agreed.

After having waited three days they again returned to the old spot. But this time they waited and waited in vain. When the rock had, after a considerable time still not come down, the one that had thrown it turned, homewards and said : “That will do! Let us go home; for if the stone were ever coming back, it would come now. As it has not come, however, it must have been driven right into the sky and got stuck there. Further waiting is useless.”

At this, strange event the visitors were so astonished that they left without saying good-bye to their host. On the way, sigh upon sigh rose from their strong breasts. “The things of this world are truly wonderful and unfathomable,” was their united verdict. Thus they parted and returned sadder and wiser men, to their own homes.

Odds and Ends.

Korea a Vassal of Japan.

Baron Suyematsu published in a recent number of the *Asiatic Quarterly Review* a long article on Russia and Japan, rehearsing the events which led up to the present war. In it he makes the following statement. “Korea which had for centuries virtually acknowledged the suzerainty of Japan as well as of China by periodically despatching a tribute bearing mission to the Japanese capital in the same way that she had sent envoys from Seoul to Peking, began to omit this courtesy and [page 59] mistrusting the effects of the radical changes introduced into Japan under the new regime chose to exhibit in other ways an indifference to the preservation of good relations with the Japanese Empire.”

We doubt if there is any evidence to prove the first part of this extraordinary claim. We would like to know at what date this suzerainty on the part of Japan commenced. Nothing is surer than that for the last century of the Koryu dynasty in Korea (1300-1392) the coasts of Korea were being continually harried by Japanese pirates who were successfully beaten off each time but whom neither the Korean government nor the Japanese government was able to put down. It would be wild to claim that there were any diplomatic relations between the two countries during that period, nor were they resumed at the beginning of the present dynasty. There is absolutely nothing in the Korean annals, complete as they are in every other respect, to show that Korea sent a single ounce of tribute to Japan or treated her other than an equal. Hideyoshi, when he planned the invasion of China by way of Korea did not take the attitude of a suzerain but merely asked Korea to let him pass unmolested through the peninsula to the frontiers of China. His tone was the farthest from being dictatorial until he found that Korea would have nothing to do with him and even then he said nothing about Korea’s duties as a vassal but simply decided to crush Korea by an invasion. As the Japanese were driven ignominiously from the peninsula in 1598 is there any one so hardy as to say that they left behind them a vassal state? We doubt it. On the other hand we find them a few years later humbly begging that the little trading station at Fusan be established. After many importunities this was done. The whole method of it and minute particulars are given in detail in a Korean work on this special subject and so far from finding in it any indication of Japanese suzerainty the indications are that Japan was the humble suitor for the trade and that Korea granted it without any attempt at political supremacy. It is perfectly plain that [page 60] the terms used by both parties were such as indicated complete equality between them. There were occasional exchanges of envoys back and forth and these envoys both Korean and Japanese took with them certain gifts as between sovereign and sovereign but this gave Japan no more right to call Korea a vassal than it gave Korea to call Japan a vassal.

This condition of things went on without change until after the beginning of the present reign. The Regent in his extreme opposition to all things foreign put out an edict cutting off the supplies for the support of the trading station at Fusan, and this, of course, raised a commotion in Japan, a warship of that country named the *Unyo-kan* sailed into the estuary of the Han river ostensibly for the purpose of making soundings but apparently with the idea of giving the Koreans an opportunity to commit themselves. This they did by firing on the boat, which they had just as much right to do as Japan had to fire on the foreign vessels at Shimonoseki in 1861. The parallel is complete. Japan was forced to pay an indemnity of a million dollars to each of the powers whose vessels were fired upon but later the United States Government refunded this money and so acknowledged that Japan had acted within her rights. If so, then Korea acted within her rights in firing on the *Unyo-kan*, But however this may be Korea was induced to send commissioners to Kangwha to treat with the Japanese. Now mark the sequel. The Japanese referred to their own country as an Empire thus putting her on an equality with China and a step above Korea. The Korean Commissioners demurred and asked by what right Japan, who had always addressed Korea as an equal, assumed a title that put her above Korea. The Japanese commissioner hastened to reply that this had formerly been so but that in 1868 Japan became an Empire, and he disavowed any intention of implying suzerainty over Korea. It is hard to believe that this envoy did not understand the relations that had existed between the two countries.

According to oriental custom Japan never could have [page 61] claimed suzerainty over Korea without assuming the position of an Empire and this we know she did not do until 1868. The Japanese doubtless imagine that by claiming a suzerainty based on the mythical doings of Empress Jingo they can add luster to their rule but the conservative onlooker must examine the hard facts of the case, and these indicate beyond cavil that Korea was never a vassal of Japan.

Rest from Beggars.

The wayfarer between Seoul and Songdo does not fail to stop and gaze at the two great stone images that overlook the road some twenty miles from Seoul. They stand up under a cliff and were originally a part of the rock which crops out at this point. Whether they represent Buddhas is not known, but from their shape and position we should judge not. How they came to stand there over-topping the trees with their great stone hats was for a long time a forgotten secret but time revealed it as she does so many secrets.

A wealthy man lived near the place and he was of such a generous disposition that he found it impossible to say no to anyone who begged from him. His reputation for philanthropy spread far and wide. Every tramp in the country made it a point to pass that way once a twelve-month and as for Buddhist monks with their begging bowls and wooden gongs, they simply haunted the place. The kind old gentleman had to keep seven secretaries whose only business it was to hand out alms.

It finally became a serious question, for as his clientele grew his benefactions ate into his capital and threatened him with ruin. He was sure there must be some way to obviate the difficulty without shocking his good friends who were eating up his substance. One day an old man came along and stopped at his door to rest. Our friend invited him in and finding his conversation stuffed with wisdom broached the question near his heart. How could he cause a stoppage of the heavy drain upon his finances, this was his conundrum.

“That is easily answered,” replied the old man. “You [page 62] see those two boulders that stand out from the cliff yonder. If you will carve them into the shape of a man and a woman respectively I will engage that no more beggars molest you.” This said he picked up his staff and moved slowly along his way toward Seoul. The philanthropist seized upon the solution with joy and gave orders for the work at once. It took a good bite out of his property but it would be worth the cost. At the same time the beggars came in ever increasing shoals. The old man sighed and hurried on the work for only thus could he secure surcease of ruinous giving. The rock proved harder than he had supposed and by the time the work was done he was a penniless man. As he sat bemoaning the sad fact the old man who had given the advice came along. Our friend ran out and grasped him by the top-knot.

“It was you, villain, that told me to make those wretched images on the hill. You have ruined me, beggared me.”

“Just a moment, friend; why were you to make them?”

“In order to get rid of beggars.”

“Well, have you seen a single beggar since they were done?”

“No, but I am a beggar myself,”

“Ah, well, did you suppose there was any earthly way to getting rid of beggars so long as you had anything to give. I saw to the bottom of your nature and knew there was but one remedy. You had your choice to follow it or not. I made my promise good, so you should not repine.”

The philanthropist turned away sadly shaking his head. Better to have spent his money on the poor than upon those senseless blocks of stone; but, alas, wisdom always comes too late.

[page 63]

Editorial Comment.

The question of the Korean loan from Japan may be looked at from various-stand points. There are those who applaud and those who condemn. It is worthwhile considering carefully before indulging in either extreme of opinion. The questions to be asked seem to be something like the following. (1 ) Does Korea need a loan and if so for what purpose? (2) If Korea secures the loan is there reasonable probability that any fair per cent of the money will be used for the ostensible purpose for which it was obtained? (3) If the money is needed, from whom should it be borrowed?

As to the first question the general answer might be made that any government would do well to borrow money at a fair rate of interest if that money could be so expended as to bring to the people more money’s worth than the interest on the loan. Korea sadly needs a good currency which shall be current not only in Seoul but throughout the country. She needs a homogeneous currency. At present the nickels pass current in only a fraction of the realm. Most of the provinces still cling to the good old cash, cumbersome and wasteful though it is. But money is something like language. It is hard to regulate by arbitrary law. If the people like the old cash and cling to it tenaciously the only way to make the currency homogeneous is either to make the old cash the national medium of exchange or else to gain the confidence of the people by putting out a currency that will commend itself to all reasonable men, as of course the nickels do not. We believe that it will be a very difficult thing to do. There have been so many new departures in currency since 1860 that the country people are for the most part thoroughly suspicious of any new scheme in this direction. All the five cash pieces that have been minted during the past twenty-five or thirty years have dropped to the status of the old one-cash piece and the only money [page 64] that is looked upon with entire confidence by three Koreans out of four is the cash which has been in use for centuries.

But slow and difficult as the process may be, the Korean people must come to a better mind in this matter. They will never do it until a thoroughly good coin is issued. If the Government should issue a nickel coin as honest in quality as that of the Japanese and as difficult to counterfeit successfully it would gradually take the place of the cash. This could be accelerated by requiring taxes to be paid in cash, where this is in use. If the Government should receive this cash and melt it down and sell it for its intrinsic value as bullion the time would come when so much of it would be withdrawn from circulation that the people would be forced to use the better coinage in all large transactions. There must be some subsidiary coin. The nickel is far too great in value to carry on ordinary retail business with. It corresponds somewhat to the shilling or the “quarter” and there must be something to correspond to the penny and the cent.

Assuming then that a rehabilitation of the currency is necessary we are face to face with the question as to the ability of the Government to call in the nickel coinage already current. Suppose that the Government borrows several million yen and uses them in the preparation of a good nickel coinage. One of the new nickels will be worth too of the old and he knows very little of the Korean who would suppose that a single nickel of whatever intrinsic value would be willingly accepted in lieu of two of the present kind. Note the upheaval that would be caused if all Korean merchants were suddenly called upon to cut all prices in two. Among an enlightened and intelligent people it would be hard enough but among the Koreans it would be next to impossible. Only in rare instances could they be made to see the logic of it or to consider it other than a means for official spoliation.

We are strongly of the opinion, judging from what we have seen of monetary changes during the past two [page 65] decades, that it would be far better to coin a thoroughly good one cent piece for all ordinary retail traffic and a dollar silver piece for large transactions. The nickel is worth just enough to be worth counterfeiting and is just cheap enough to be within the means of the small counterfeiter. It is the ideal coin to counterfeit. A silver piece can be easily tested but a nickel one cannot. The one cent copper piece is so much like the cash that it would circulate with comparative rapidity. There would be danger for a time that the silver would be hoarded but that would wear away as fast as men came to have confidence in each other.

At this very point we run up against another stubborn fact. You cannot keep a silver currency in Korea unless the administration of justice is put on a radically different footing from that on which it stands at present. Men must be taught to feel that they are secure in the possession of their wealth or else they will surely withdraw a silver currency and hoard it. Here is where the old cash possessed one decided advantage. It could not be easily concealed. For this reason it seems reasonable to suppose that the monetary reform should follow a reform in the administration of ordinary justice. But here we meet a third conundrum, how are the Korean officials to be made to realize what justice is or be made willing to adjudicate every case with impartiality? It can’t be done except by an educative process. The tone of public and administrative morals must be raised before any genuine and lasting reform is possible. Splendid fighters as the Japanese are and great though their national advance has been, they have undertaken a new kind of problem in the handling of Korea. It is well enough to talk about reform but will any reasonable man believe that one of these old time Korean officials, whose outlook upon political life has never been other than the personal and selfish one, can be suddenly metamorphosed into a just and unselfish administrator of the laws of the land? Every foreigner can name a few men who would rule well and justly but this very ability is the most lamentable feature of the whole situation for the simple reason [page 66] that such men can be counted upon the fingers of the hand and are the marked exception. The work to be done is not of the next five years but of the next fifty. Yi Yong-ik grasped the idea when he came back firom Japan a short time ago and declared that what this people wants is education, and it is a pity that he allowed himself to be shelved in the governorship of a distant province. But to return to our theme, we have assumed the importance of a monetary change. This will require money. The Japanese propose to loan the money for this main purpose. Many Koreans look askance at this and some have gone so far as to declare that they will loan the necessary money to the government in order to prevent the Japanese loan. What are we to say to this curious development? Some foreigners think the Koreans have not enough money to make good the offer but this is a great mistake. A domestic loan of these few millions would be the easiest matter imaginable if the Koreans were determined to do it. Now, as an ordinary thing it would generally be the best thing for a government to borrow from her own people; but in this case we may well hesitate and ask whether a loan from Japan would not be better. In the first place the money would be borrowed for a specific purpose and the Japanese authorities, in the interests of their own commerce and indirectly in the interests of the Koreans, would see to it that the money went to carry out the purpose for which it was loaned. Imagine a domestic loan over the disbursement of which the Japanese would naturally have far less control than over a loan by themselves. From what we know of things in general, what proportion of that money would go to carry out the ostensible intent of the loan? A rather small fraction, we imagine. Some people object that if Korea borrows money she ought to have entire control of the spending of it. This would be well enough if there could be some guarantee that the government would use the money in the definite manner specified, for the Japanese are lending the money in the joint interests of their own nationals and of the Koreans; [page 67] but failing such guarantee we think it would be bad policy for a lot of wealthy Koreans to put three or four million yen of their money into the hands of the government. The only way, so far as we can see, to secure such guarantee is for the loan to be held by the Japanese bank and expended through the Finance Department under the supervision of the Adviser, in such manner that every dollar shall work toward the direct attainment of the purpose of the loan.

In spite of all adverse criticism and gloomy forecast we think that there are signs that the Japanese are reaching toward the accomplishment of what they professed at the beginning. The handling of such a people as the Koreans is a labor in which even the best of administrators might acknowledge mistakes without a blush. We think there are signs that the Japanese authorities are beginning to realize that the reform of Korea is a larger and a longer one than was at first anticipated and that it will have to begin by a gradual education of the people rather than by the exacting of a reluctant obedience to salutary but distasteful commands. It is the new, the rising generation that will have to accomplish this work, and in order that they may do it there must be more attention paid to the matter of education. We may be charged with insisting upon this point ad nauseam, but we must remember that Korea is not in any such position as Japan was when she determined to make the great change. Japan was eager, restless, passionate for the change. At least the upper classes were. But in Korea this is by no means the case. The Japanese needed but a single glance at the power and enlightenment of the West to make her determine to make the volte face, but the Koreans, like the Chinese, have as yet failed to grasp this fact. Is there anyone who will dare to say that they can be made to grasp it except through an educative process? Japan was a cocoon just ready to burst and let out the butterfly. Korea is an egg that must be incubated beneath some mother-wing. The incubative warmth must come from outside. If a hen keeps rolling her eggs [page 68] over with her bill wondering why they do not hatch she will see no result of her solicitude. She must sit quietly and patiently until the process is complete. Much the same thing is true in Korea, and the incubative warmth that is necessary is education.

In the above connection a little Korean story is not inapplicable. An old man and a young man were travelling in the country along a dangerously rough road. As ill-luck would have it they both fell into a deep pit from which there was no method of exit. The old man wept and declared that there was no hope. The young man said that he had still many years to live and was determined to find a way out. He searched in vain. At last he said to the old man “Give me that coat of yours. You are about to die anyway, so the garment is of no use to you.” The old man demurred but was compelled to obey. The young man struck a match and set fire to the coat. A great column of smoke arose from the pit and someone saw it from afar and came to learn what was the cause. The two entrapped men were discovered and released. The Koreans tell this story as typical of the present time. The older generation and the young are perishing together. The young demand that the old make a sacrifice of their prejudices in order to ensure a longer lease of life to the coming generation. This may be uncomfortable for the old-timers but it may mean the salvation of both. It would be easy to enlarge upon the application of the story but the reader will be able to do this for himself.

We were rather amused at a recent vagary of the Review of Reviews in publishing a picture of the editor of the Korea Review in connection with an article translated from a Japanese periodical and loading him with the title of adviser to the King of Korea. We regret having been served up like this, a la Emily Brown, and shall try to discover the source from which the eminent American periodical obtained its information.

We are very glad to learn that the Korea Branch of [page 69] the Royal Asiatic Society is about to enter upon a new campaign. There is no reason why this society should not be the medium of supplying a large amount of useful information about this country. There seems to be an impression that no papers will be acceptable except such as are exhaustive of the subject which is adopted. In the present stage of our knowledge of Korea this would debar all papers. What we want is cumulative information. We are not prepared for deep deductions and broad generalizations as yet. We have only just begun to get together a few of the bare facts which the future student will be able to use to further effect. We need a mass of facts, digested so far as possible, but at any rate *facts*. Isolated facts are better than hasty deductions. What one Korean topic is there of which we have sufficient detailed knowledge to begin to generalize? We venture to say there is not one. How are these details to be gathered? No one person can do it. It must be the work of the whole membership of the society. Each will see things from a different stand-point and in time it will be possible to take the facts thus gradually gathered and weld them into something like definite form. But if the members wait until they are able to produce a finished and complete dissertation on any topic the society might as well go out of commission.

We must say a word by way of commendation of the new departure contemplated by the officers of this institution. Formal papers have not been forthcoming, in spite of strenuous efforts to secure the same. It has been determined, therefore, to hold general meetings in the form of symposiums. Topics will be decided upon and a number of members will be asked to contribute remarks upon them, and the general discussion will probably draw out considerable information. The plan ought to result in a number of popular and successful meetings. The results of these discussions will be preserved in some permanent form and thus we shall gradually accumulate a fund of information that will fully justify the existence of the society and make it what it ought to be, the center of intelligence about things Korean.

[page 70] To those who have subscribed for the *History of Korea* in separate form we are obliged to make another report of progress only. It is plain that editors may propose but it is the compositors that dispose. The completing of the indexes of this work is a difficult matter but is being pushed as fast as the facilities at hand will allow. We must ask the subscribers to exercise their patience a little longer. The result of the delay will be to make the work much more complete and of much more genuine value. For this reason we believe that those who have subscribed will not grow impatient over the postponement.

A Review,

Mr. W. F. Sands, formerly Adviser to the Household Department, has an article in the February *Century* that will be found worth reading by all who are interested in this country. It is entitled “Korea and the Korean Emperor,” and is a pleasant medley of history, archeology, political economy, with an occasional touch of fiction as flavoring. Sympathetic in tone it touches lightly upon the undoubted good qualities of the Korean people and manifests considerable acquaintance with the commercial, agricultural and mineral resources of the country. Probably he is right in his estimate of the people as potentially capable. “But take the average Korean out of these surroundings and he is a very different man. Educate him and leave him his earnings; give him one generation of clean, strong government and Korea will cease to be the ‘bone of contention,’ the ‘plague spot of the East;’ . . . but will become the very garden-spot of the East.’ Japan’s great indebtedness to Korea, in art, literature and religion, is properly emphasized and her ingratitude is fully exposed. Mr. Sands does not in the least shrink from the painful duties of stern Mentor to Japanese and English, French, Russian and German, nor even— but more in sorrow than in anger—to the recalcitrant American.

[page 71] Perhaps the chief interest of the article lies in his exquisite picture of the Emperor. It is the fruit of close personal intimacy and presents a view of the man that few have been privileged to behold. “I have known him, I may say, intimately, through six most trying years. . . . .[he is] a kindly, courteous gentleman, deeply, almost morbidly religious, and sentimentally devoted to the memory of his murdered wife and her son, . . . . an intelligent but untravelled man, bound hand and foot by tradition and intrigue, on the defensive against everyone, but seeking information of every kind, even the seemingly trivial, in order to enlarge his horizon and adapt the knowledge gained to his own needs.” “He is painfully aware of his ignorance of the manners and customs of the Occident and his desire to be in no way behind his royal and imperial cousins of Europe exposes him to constant mortification and expense.”

Mr. Sands has a good deal to say about America in Korean polities, but he is surprisingly despondent. The Emperor has always been particularly friendly to Americans of all sorts, and numbered many of them among his particular friends. His “one consistent policy has been to profit by the American spirit of commercialism and to make it a buffer against a too great Japanese influence on one side and Russian aggression on the other.” But “Lack of unity on the Americans’ part brought about a total loss of American prestige during the period of acute tension which preceded the present war,” with the melancholy result that the Emperor threw in his lot with the less immediately dangerous of his aggressive neighbours. “He came to an understanding with the Russian authorities and asked for troops; and it was doubtless the knowledge of his intentions which urged the Japanese government to prompt action. This step was doubtless a mistake, but had his wishes met with the response in America which they deserved, it would not have been necessary and Russia and Japan would not have had the Korean pretext for war.”

A. Kenmure.

News Calendar

[page 72] It is with keen regret that we have to record the death on Feb. 10th of Mrs. T. H. Yun the wife of the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mrs. Yon had made many warm friends in this community since she came about ten years ago. The funeral took place at the Severance Memorial Hospital on Monday morning the 13th inst. and was attended by a large circle of acquaintances and friends. The body was interred in the Foreign cemetery. Mrs. Yun left four small children, two boys and two girls. The entire community extends to the bereaved family their heartiest sympathy.

The stone fights this year are unusually exciting and popular. The casual onlooker wonders where the participants get their enthusiasm and considers them three parts crazy, it seems so foreign to the Korean temperament as ordinarily exhibited. But there is really nothing to wonder at. It is the new year season of leisure. They feel the spring coming and they want to get out and “kick up” a little. The game is spectacular, the participants get talked about and win a little cheap fame, and once warmed up to the work they forget the danger. There have been several deaths this year from wounds received in these fights and some efforts were made by the police to stop them; but it is the great national game, time-honored and unique. We westerners can consistently say very little against it because of its danger. Out of thousands who engage in it only two or three are killed during the season, which is a very low average. Death’s automobile crop in America or Europe shows ten times as great an average as this. We are proverbial in our pursuit of dangerous pleasures, and if the Koreans could see us climbing the Alps, playing football, polo or lacrosse, fox hunting or any other of a score of our amusements they would be shocked at the mortality exhibited. Why, enough hunters shoot each other in the woods by mistake each season in America to cover the Korean stone fight bill for ten years. A painful accident occurred one day at the East Gate. The people were swarming out to watch the game and a boy on one of the electric cars, thinking to get ahead of the rest, leaped from the car before it stopped. He struck one of the poles that support the wires and bounded back under the car where the wheels passed over one of his legs crushing it beyond repair. He was taken to the Severance Hospital. There was more or less danger of a riot, for the people were excited over the stone-fights and in just the mood to be set on fire by such a match as this. The soldiers of the American Legation guard were called out and soon arrived on the scene. The wrath of the mob passed and all became quiet again. No possible blame could be attached to the guard or the motor-man. If a person leaps from a moving car without giving notice he does so at his own risk.

[page 73] The report comes that the official position of about one half the eunuchs will be reduced.

The magistrate of Sak Nyung informs the Home Office that members of the Il Chin-hoi have assembled at that place, insulted women, interfered with the local administration and compelled the magistrate to do their bidding.

The Korean Minister to Japan has sent to the Foreign Office the documents conferring eleven decorations by the Japanese government on Mr. Yi Chai-kook and his staff.

A Korean policeman arrested by a Japanese railway inspector and imprisoned at Masanpo has enlisted the Foreign Office in his behalf and as a consequence a telegram has been sent to the *kamni* at Masampo to apply to the Japanese consul for the release of the prisoner,.

D. H. B. Yer and Yang Hong-muk have each been raised to the rank of third secretary to foreign legations.

Yi Chi-yong takes the place of Yi To-chai as Minister of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry.

Pak yong-wha has been appointed acting Minister of the Household Department.

Some preliminary arrangements have been made looking toward holding an exposition at the Kyung Pok palace in April.

Born: To Rev. and Mrs. H, M. Bruen, of Taiku, on Feb. 1, a daughter.

A son was welcomed to the home of Dr and Mrs. Null, at Taiku on the 12th inst.

A third line of telephones is soon to be established between Seoul and Chemulpo.

Chung Kin-wun proposes to issue circulars to high officials and men of wealth, asking them to contribute to a national loan.

A Japanese official is shortly to visit all the schools in the country districts, but the schools are not so numerous as to make his duties extremely arduous.

Representatives of the II Chin-hoi have been despatched to every province for the purpose of organizing branches of the society.

The president of the Imperial Exchequer explains that the Pyeng Yang coal company has no further use for foreign employees and will cease to do business because the expense of mining is greater than the proceeds will warrant.

Some unscrupulous Koreans have engaged Japanese lawyers to assist in civil suits, many of which are mere pretexts for unlawfully obtaining money, and as a consequence orders have gone forth from police headquarters for the arrest of such men.

The report comes that thousands of people of North Kyung Sang province gathered at Taiku to protest against the coming of Yi Yong-ik as their governor, on account of their fear of his methods.

[page 74] Early in the month it was reported that the Japanese Government would station sanitary advisers at Seoul, Chemulpo, Fusan and Pyeng Yang. Whether their advice will be backed with authority to execute is not stated.

Mr. Dakahashi, a Japanese gentleman, has been employed by the Korean Government as teacher in the Middle School for a period of three years.

Another small steamer line between Chemulpo and Haiju is being established by the Chinese merchants of Chemulpo.

Mr. C. T. Woo, now Chinese Consul at Fusan, spent a number of days in Seoul assisting the Hon. Cheng Kwang Chun, the newly-appointed Chinese Minister to Korea.

A law school has been established at Suba Dong, Seoul, and 111 applications have been made for admission as students.

The Home Department recently dismissed nineteen country magistrates and appointed thirteen others at a single sitting.

The Japanese Minister has suggested that Korean graduates from Japanese language schools be appointed as magistrates to lessen the inconvenience experienced in transacting business between citizens of the two nations.

The Japanese authorities have applied to the Foreign Office for permission to import explosives for use in constructing the military railway, but they intimate that since much unnecessary delay is caused by such a round-about proceeding in future such negotiations should be carried on direct between Japanese consuls and the Korean Customs. The magistrate of Takan is exercised over the actions of a Japanese named Ishibashi, whom he reports as having constructed a light-house and given currency to statements that he would lay submarine cables between Japan and Chemulpo.

According to Japanese papers in Seoul the Protocol between Korea and Japan will probably be revised in the near future, because of dissatisfaction on the part of the Japanese Government.

The former governor of Pyeng Yang, now in Seoul, has recently been waited on by a deputation from Pyeng Yang, asking him to restore the money squeezed while he was governor.

A large number of soldiers and others connected with the government are continually receiving attention at the Severance Hospital, and it is not unlikely that the government could be shown the reasonableness of providing tor the needs of Government patients.

The Foreign Office has been requested to hasten the payment of a claim for $633.80 due the Postal Telegraph company in Washington from the Korean Legation in that city.

The Finance Department is contemplating means for collecting taxes other than the cumbrous methods now in use.

During the month the police have been busy collecting a special assessment from each house in Seoul for the purpose of cleaning and repairing the wells of the city.

[page 75] On the 2nd instant the Belgian Consul and the Italian Minister, respectively, were received in audience by His Majesty.

The Italian Minister has asked the Foreign Office to complete the contract for the previously granted gold mine concession, indicating the royalty, term, boundaries, etc., adding that the terms should be the same as those granted the English mine at Eun-san.

It is said the Korean Government has been advised by the Japanese Minister to abolish the two Departments of Education and Agriculture, for the sake of economy.

On the 8th inst Mr. Cho Pyung Sik, Minister of the Home Department, presented his resignation.

The magistrate appointed by the government for Ko-won reports to the Home Department that the Japanese military authorities at Wonsan have appointed Mr. Pak Ki-ho as acting magistrate of Ko-won, without permission of the Korean government, and that he himself is prevented by these same authorities from going to his post.

Early in the month it was reported that the Russians in North Korea had burned all their military stores and destroyed the telegraph line between Pukchung and Kilju.

A contract has been signed by Prof. Frampton of the Government English School for a period of four years at Y300 per month, with Y600 per year for house rent.

The autograph letter of the Emperor of China was presented to the Emperor of Korea on the 7th inst by the newly appointed Chinese Minister to Korea.

Contracts were signed on the 3rd inst. in the Home Department for the employment of Mr. Maruyama as adviser to the Korean Police Department.

The intended departure of Ha Sang-ki for Japan has been interfered with by the Japanese authorities in Korea. The magistrate of Tan-chon, who had been prevented by the Russians from proceeding to his post of duty, has now arrived at Tan- chon, the Russians having withdrawn northward.

Telegraph communication between Seoul and Wiju, interrupted for several months, has again been resumed.

Word having reached the II Chin-hoi in Seoul that the magistrate of Chinju was attempting to incite the country peddlars to crush the branch societies of the II Chin-hoi, a telegram was sent to the branch societies calling on the members to gather from all quarters and protect themselves against the peddlars.

On the 9th inst the Minister of Education presented his resignation.

On the 8th inst a number of wealthy men who live at Soh-kang informed the Korean government that if there was need of funds a loan could easily be secured from the Korean people, and therefore the proposition to negotiate a loan from Japan should be withdrawn at once.

[page 76] Protest has been lodged with the Home Minister by Sang Pyung-Chan, leader of the II Chin-hoi, against the methods by which twenty- three new magistrates have been recently appointed.

The magistrate of Woong-Chyou reports that about ten Japanese have carried away all the ammunition stored in Raduk belonging to the Korean government.

The imperial Exchequer Bureau has informed the Foreign Office that the Pyeng Yang Coal mining company will be dissolved, and therefore the foreigners employed as engineers will not be needed, even though their contracts have not expired.

Native papers report that secret negotiations have been made between the Korean and Japanese governments over the tobacco and salt monopolies in Korea, all demands of the Japanese having been conceded.

Mr Kato, adviser to the Imperial Household had an audience with His Majesty on the 10th inst relative to reforms in the Household.

The Educational Department has handed to the Foreign Office a draft of the contract with a Chinese teacher for the approval of the Japanese Minister. The teacher is to receive 110 yen per month for three years, with an additional twenty yen per month for house rent.

According to contract with Mr. Maruyama, adviser to the Police Department, the following are to receive his attention : 1. Matters concerning the higher police offices; 2. Matters relating to foreigners; 3. Trial and condemnation of political offenders; 4. Trial and condemnation of murderers and robbers; 5. Appointment and dismissal of police officials.

Mr. Yi Yong-ik has been waited on by a deputation from the Il- Chin-hoi and questioned concerning his present relations with the Palace and also the Japanese army headquarters. It is said that incidentally he was asked to give more attention to the schools he has established, and to restore the furniture he had confiscated from Independence Hall.

A Japanese lady doctor has been secured for the Imperial Household.

The Police Department has asked the Home Department to lay before the Japanese Minister the fact that while Korean police were collecting government taxes in the vicinity of Moon-chyon, Kowon and Yang Heung, they were arrested by order of the Japanese military authorities at Wonsan, and the money collected, about $280, had been confiscated and the men sent away under military guard.

By request of the Japanese Minister the Korean government will employ Mr. Huragawa at a salary of yen 150 per month, as interpreter for Mr. Masuyama, Japanese adviser to the Police Department.

Chinese bandits are raiding Korean villages and plundering property to such an extent that the magistrate of Sam-su asks the government, to select one hundred mountaineer hunters and arm them with rifles for the protection of the people.

[page 77] Facilities provided for passenger and freight traffic on the Seoul-Fusan railway are at present entirely inadequate. It is hoped that soon much better accommodations will be supplied.

On the 21st inst one of the palace buildings immediately at the rear of the present residence of His Majesty was discovered to be on fire, but the blaze was soon extinguished.

The Vice Governor of Seoul and the Japanese Consul have selected a site outside of South Gate for the Japanese bulletin board first located at Chongno. ,

The magistrate of Pukchung reports that the Russians had retreated to Yiwon after destroying all the telegraph lines and instruments in his district.

Mr. Shim Ki-son has been appointed governor of South Ham Kyung Province.

Two inspectors have been appointed by the Post Office Department to investigate the causes for delay in the delivery of mails.

Notwithstanding the vigilance of the Japanese gendarmes it appears that fortune-tellers and geomancers still have access to the palace.

Much complaint has been heard recently over the non-delivery of mails, especially in the interior.

Yi Pang-nni, Vice Minister of the Home Department, has been waited on by four representatives of the Il Chin -hoi, who requested the dismissal of the magistrates at ChunJu, Chinju, Soon-chun, Kim-wha and Kosan.

A report from the magistrate of Chulsan states that a Korean accused of stealing railway materials in his district has been shot by the Japanese military authorities.

The resignation of the Minister of Education has been presented but not approved.

Min Pyung-han has organized a company at Pyeng Yang for the purpose of mining coal in the districts of Kang-dong and Sam-tung, and iron in Kang-sek. An American engineer will be employed.

The sentences of banishment against three leaders of the Peddlars Guild have been withdrawn by Imperial order .

Yi Yong Ik has been appointed governor of North Kyung Sang.

Ye Kem-sang has been transferred from the position of Vice Minister of Agriculture to that of Vice Minister of Law.

As soon as the frost is out of the ground Chief Commissioner McLeavy Brown will commence repairs on the road to Yang Wha-chin under instructions from the Home Department.

The ceremony of formally opening the Seoul- Fusan railway is now scheduled to take place in May. The native papers report that a Japanese prince and at least a thousand prominent citizens from the Island Empire will be in attendance.

[page 78] A Japanese adviser for Local Affairs is said to be on his way to Korea.

The *kamni* of Wonsan says he had received application from a Japanese agent of the Whale Fishing company for the concession for whale fishing previously granted to Russian interests.

Mr. Ye Hyun-pyun, governor of South Ham Kyung, reports that the Japanese military authorities at Ham Heung have deprived him of his official seal and have urged him to leave his post.

General Hasegawa and staff were received in audience by His Majesty on the 16th inst.

Pak Eui-pyung has been appointed governor of Seoul *vice* Min Kyung-sik, who has been appointed Chief Judge of the Supreme Court.

The Japanese Minister requests the Home Department to appoint two more Japanese to assist Mr. Maruyama, Japanese adviser to the Police Department.

The chiefs of the different police stations in Seoul have received instructions to post two sentries at street corners and street railway crossings to protect foot-passengers, and they are also to see that refuse is not thrown into the streets and that beggars shall be compelled to retire from the streets.

Over two hundred students have enrolled at the recently established law school in Seoul.

Reports are received that owing to the large influx of Japanese into Pyeng Yang and their determination to secure the best locations, the price of land is ten times higher than it was there one year ago.

All foreign representatives and Korean ministers were entertained at dinner by Mr. D. W. Stevens.

The troubles between the Korean and Japanese coolies at Chemulpo have been settled, all parties to have equal rights to employment.

A grave robber accompanied by soldiers has lately been apprehended by the police.

Five warships were sighted off Fusan harbor about 1 P. M. on the 6th inst. creating a temporary flutter of excitement. They were undoubtedly Japanese and proceeded north along the east coast of Korea.

In adopting the new criminal code that section authorizing beheading of criminals in Korea has been abolished.

Mr. Maruyama delivered a lecture to the chiefs of the police bureaus in Seoul on the 25th inst on sanitary and police affairs.

The Police Department has instructed the police to collect 8 cents monthly from each house with which to pay for the removal of all refuse.

Concerning the complaint that a certain Japanese named Kumagawa had carried away the Korean ammunition and destroyed the store-house on Katuk island, the Foreign Office informs the Home Department that the *kamni* of the nearest port is to lay the matter before the Japanese consul for settlement.

[page 79] A great disturbance between Japanese and Koreans occurred at Ryuk Po, a railway station near Pyeng Yang. Japanese gendarmes were called in, and a number of Koreans were severely wounded before the disturbance ceased.

The request has been made that all Japanese military supplies be freely admitted and forwarded to all parts of the interior of Korea, and that notification to that effect be sent to each of the magistrates in the thirteen provinces.

Before his departure for the country the II Chin-hoi appointed ten men to wait before the gates of the residence of Yi Yong-ik to prevent him going to the Palace and any Foreign Legations, and they also advised him to return to the place of his birth.

The *Kamni* of Wonsan sent a postal order for one hundred and fifty yen to his brother-in-law in Seoul, but another party secured the money from the post office. The matter is being investigated, and a number of postal clerks will be tried by the city court.

Several hundred Korean men and women sailed for Mexico on the 26th inst. Glowing accounts have been given them, and they are expecting large wages and an easy time in working the hemp fields of that land.

Several secret dispatches from Foreign Ministers to the Foreign Office having been published in the newspapers, protests have been made and the Foreign Office advised to be more careful in looking after the correspondence of the Department.

The Foreign Office has been asked to definitely state the respective sums which will be demanded for adults and children which have been or may be accidentally killed by the electric cars.

Korean coolies to the number of 250 absolutely refused to work for the Japanese at Chemulpo and as a result there was delay in the discharge of several ship’s cargoes.

At the French cathedral in Seoul at ten o’clock in the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 7 occurred the Marriage of Mademoiselle Amelie Eckert to Mons. Emile Martel. The bride is second daughter of Franz Eckert and Mr. Martel is the well-known head of the Korean Government French language school in Seoul. A large company of invited guests witnessed the impressive ceremony at the cathedral, signed the marriage register, and repaired to the residence of Miss Sontag to extend their congratulations and partake of refreshments. The Imperial Band screened in a balcony presented in a highly creditable manner a number of difficult selections during the ceremony. With an extended list of friends the Review wishes abundant happiness to the newly- wedded pair.

Reports are current that at least three Korean representatives to foreign governments will be recalled, the rumour stating that these gentlemen are not at present looked upon with favor by the Japanese powers that be.

[page 80] The Finance Department has recently sent 4,000 yen to Prince Echin to assist in paying his school expenses abroad.

For the purpose of extorting money from Pak Yer-to, reputed to be rich, thieves recently stole the skull from his father’s grave. The men have been apprehended.

Many of the higher officials, and those whe have retired to private life, have been sending numerous memorials asking for radical reforms in the government.

All preliminary work on the Seoul- Wonsan railway is said to have been pushed rapidly during the winter, even many of the bridges being placed, and with the opening of spring grading and track laying will be pushed forward

An earthquake shock was experienced over most of Korea at about 10 P.M. on the 11th inst. No damage reported.

James McKee Moffett arrived at the home of Rev. and Mrs. S. A. Moffett, Pyeng Yang, on the 25th inst.

Eight Japanese houses were burned at Fusan early in the month. Thousands of bags of beans were also consumed.

A daughter came to gladden the home of Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Bull at Kunsan.

In the southern part of Korea the Korean five-cent pieces do not circulate. Strings of copper cash are greatly in evidence, while along the railway only Japanese money is current.

About midnight of Thursday, Feb. 2, the Palace Hotel was discovered to be on fire. There are practically no facilities in Seoul for fighting fire, and almost nothing was saved fron the building, some of the guests escaping scantily dressed. All the furnishings were burned, and only the blackened brick walls of the building were left standing. This was the largest hotel within the walls of the city, L. Martin being the proprietor. On Cheong & Co. were owners of the building.

The Department of Finance has sent out notices to the effect that as branch banks will soon be established in all districts throughout the country all taxgatherers must immediately deposit their collections in these banks.

The magistrate of Kimhoi reports that in a quarrel between six Japanese and some Koreans two of the latter received mortal stabs and four others were slightly wounded. The Japanese escaped.

Orders were issued for the arrest of three astrologers who frequent the palace. Two of the men are in hiding, while the third has received assurances that he will not be molested.

A reception will be tendered many prominent Korean officials by the Y. M. C. A. of Seoul on the evening of March 8th. Doctor H. N. Allen, United States Minister, will preside, a number of addresses are to be made, and refreshments will be served by the ladies.