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[321]

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**What to See at Pyeng-yang.**

The city of Pyeng-yang, one of the oldest authentic sites in the world that is now inhabited, is divided both historically and physically into three distinct parts. The first and most ancient part is that included within what is called the Wang-göm Wall. This is situated directly east of the present walled town so that is seems like an appendage to or extension of the modern city. In the most ancient times a being called Tangun is supposed to have held sway in all northern Korea with Pyeng-yang as his capital. His title was Wang-göm (王儉) or “Temperate King,” or perhaps better “Simple King,” using the word simple in its best sense. The fact that the wall bears his name is good evidence that at some time a man existed who bore this title, for the Koreans are not given to naming things arbitrarily. That Wang-gom lived over a thousand years, as tradition states, may be taken in the same sense as the statement that Caesar lived several centuries. It was probably a dynasty which has become personified under this name. That it came to an end nearly 1200 years before Christ is evidence enough of the great antiquity of the site, whatever may be said of the wall itself. This has doubtless undergone so many repairs that only small portions of the original structure, if any, will be now remaining. It may be that portions of the foundation are authentic but this cannot be stated with confidence. In this enclosure, which is [322] something less than a mile long by half a mile wide, are found today no remains of the ancient town, but a monastery only dominates the scene. This is the Yong-myung monastery which was built in the palmy days of the Koryŭ dynasty (718-1392 A.D).

When the great Kija came, a refugee from China, with his 5000 followers in 1122 B.C. the Tangun dynasty bowed to the inevitable and the last king betook himself to Kuwŭl Mountain in Whang-ha Province and there died. A singular tale is told by the Koreans as to Kija’s choice of a site for his new capital. His wife urged him to build a strong mountain fortress on Chung-bang Mountain

some ten miles east of Pyeng-yang, but Kija himself wanted to built it on the rich plain just to the west of the present walled town. The wife, with the natural timidity of her sex, wanted to see her husband strongly intrenched; for she did not have much faith in the semi-savage people who swarmed about the temporary encampment. But the great Colonizer believed in the people and in his influence over them and was not afraid to build down on the plain where he would be more accessible. He therefore made an agreement with his wife that she should take half the people and set to work building the mountain fortress and he would take the other half and build a dirt wall on the plain; and the capital would be fixed at the place that was finished first. This seems somewhat ungallant, to send the lady to work among the stones of the mountain where she was doomed to failure while he simply had to throw up earth embankments, but he doubtless thought it well to give her something to do and there may have been the ulterior motive that if things came to the worst the fortress would be available. All this shows the keenness of the man. The dirt wall was finished first and the disappointed queen had to make the best of it. But they had the great consolation of discovering that the two stars Keui-sung and

Mi-sung were directly over the city, which indicated that they were under the special patronage of two of the most powerful of the starry divinities. This doubtless went far to reconcile the lady to her position. [323]

Behind the monastery above mentioned there is a cave called Keuirin Kul or “The Cave of the Unicorn.” This does not really mean unicorn but is a fabulous animal of the felo-canine variety. When Chumong the founder of the Koguryu Dynasty came south from his home beside the Sungari River about 1900 years ago he is said to have occupied this cave, and there is a path leading down to a rock beside the river where he is said to have prayed.

Near here are the two hill-tops called respectively Mun-bong and Mu-bong or Civil Hill and Military Hill. In olden times, probably in the Koryu dynasty there was great rivalry between the two factions and this was represented in these two hills. Each faction claimed that its hill was higher than the other. They would go at night and tear off sods from each others’ hilltops and place them on their own to make them higher!

Kija’s Well has been too often mentioned to need description here. It is on the site of his old capital and is the only well in the place. He was the first to see that the city was shaped like a boat. His imagination was not the least developed of his faculties. Being a boat, no wells could be dug, for this would scuttle it, and there was no marine insurance in those days. Even the one well was a danger, so a huge metal bowl was made and sunk to the bottom of it. This, by another wrench of the imagination, would prevent the sinking of the craft. They say this metal bowl has now sunk as deep in the ground as the bottom of the Ta-dong River.

Koreans still point out the field which Kija made as a sample for the Korean farmers. It was a square of nine divisions, the central one of which was to be farmed for the government revenue by the men who tilled the surrounding eight sections. So we see that the Koreans gave a ninth of their produce. Near this is the Sung-in-jun or Shrine to Kija, and outside the north wall of the town is the Tomb of the great colonizer, which needs no further description. No visitor should fail to visit it or to ask the old keeper to describe the coming in 1866 of the American sailing vessel “General Sherman” [324] which was burned before the city and all the crew massacred.

The Chang-bang-ho is a place where the *sinsŭn* or spirits of the just are supposed to come and play. The name signifies a bottle and the place is so called because the entrance to it is narrow like the neck of a bottle.

Then there is the shrine and altar to the Chil-sung or the constellation of the Great Bear which is supposed to cherish life.

The modern city lies just between the site of Kija’s capital and the still more ancient wall of Tangun. It was built in the palmy days of the Koryŭ dynasty as the “Western Capital.” High up on the river wall is a summer house or pavilion called the Pu-pyung-nu or “Lofty Green Retreat” and the marble steps leading up to it are called by the poetic name “White Cloud.”

One should not fail to visit this high river wall of the town where the best view is to be obtained. It was here that in 1592 hundreds of Japanese in Hideyoshi’s army were burned out and leaped down to the river. The ice gave way and scores of men were drowned. Near here also was enacted that dramatic little scene between the dancing girl and her deliverer. A Japanese general had compelled her to lodge with him. He was a huge ugly red-faced man who always slept sitting upright at a table with a sword in each hand and with only one eye shut at a time. The girl managed to get a Korean officer over the wall to deliver her. The Korean came into the room where the Japanese general slept and with a single blow severed his head from his body; but even after the loss of this valuable member the fellow rose to his feet and threw one of his swords with such force that it struck clean through a great wooden pillar.

One should not fail to visit the city gate where still hang the anchor chains of the “General Sherman,” trophies of a cruel misfortune both for Koreans and Americans. Both were to blame and neither was to blame.

O Sung Keen. [325]

**Korean Finances.**

We have received from Mr. Megata a printed report named “State of Progress of the Reorganization of Finances of Korea.’’ This was published in July 1906. This paper contains eleven specific articles (1) Progress of the Note Associations, (2) Establishment of Warehouse Department, (3) Establishment of Seoul Public Warehouse Company, (4) Establishment of Agricultural and Industrial Banks, (5) Despatch of members of staff of Industrial Bank of Japan to Seoul, (6) Opening of Bonded Market, (7) Supervision of Local Revenue, (8j New Government Enterprises, (9) Disposal of old nickel coins, ( 10) Extension of work of Customs, (11) Building of Light-houses.

In our eagerness to find something which Japan has done to help the Korean people and offset in part the bitter oppression which is going along in other lines we have hit upon this report as being the most likely place to find it. We believe that we have succeeded in finding some tangible evidence here of a certain amount of solicitude for the welfare of the Korean people. It will be in place for us to examine with some care the nature of the help extended and the source from which it springs, together with its relations to other forms of Japanese activity in this country.

In the first place, in spite of some damaging mistakes at first we are inclined to believe that Mr. Megata has some adequate appreciation of what the Korean people need and that he honestly wishes to do something for the benefit of the Korean people. We do not believe he is in sympathy with the atrocities that are being perpetrated in the interior or the spoliation of the Korean people. We shall show from the contents of this report that he has learned from his initial mistakes that sudden changes work more harm than good and that much careful consideration must be given to every financial move. The Koreans can stand fluctuations in governmental [326] policies but when the legal tender of the people is disturbed it touches them to the quick.

If one will examine closely the above eleven headings he will see that in only one of them is the general scheme of government finance touched upon. In only the one topic of Supervision of Local Revenue is the vital subject of national finance broached. All the rest deals with private undertakings. For instance the Note Association, Warehouse Companies, Bonded Markets, etc., bear solely upon private enterprise.

Let us first examine the seventh article of this report and see what it contains. It states that a plan has been made whereby financial agents in the provinces are to make inquiries of the people as to whether the taxes have been paid or not and to see to the remittance of the taxes. An arrangement has been m ide with the local Japanese post offices to oversee the remittance of the government revenues. This new system is to be inaugurated in the near future Moreover b\’ increased strictness in the appointment and dismissal of local officials the reduction of the expense of transport by horse-back will be earnestly aimed at. “But as sudden reforms are apt to involve unavoidable mischief the supervision of the local administration will be gradually made stricter in proportion to the adaptability of the new system of supervision.’’ The statement that sudden reforms involve unavoidable mischief is evidence that the framer of this report has learned much by experience in the field of Korean Finance. It must be noted that all this is as yet merely in the promissory state. Such and such things are to be done. This is good so far as it goes but while we recognize the helpfulness of the suggestion it will be necessary to wait and see how the plan works before we can accept it as a report of progress in finance. There is no doubt that the system of collecting taxes needs immediate attention. Progress has been made in the laying of plans but not in the actual carrying out of the reforms proposed. We learn from those who are best in touch with affairs in the interior that there never was a time when greater indirection prevailed. One governor [327] allowed the prefects and their underlings to carry out a list of seventeen illegal forms of taxation at one time. Now nothing is said of this in the report before us. The vital point is that the people should have before them a printed list of all legal taxes and that the\’ should be protected from any further imposts. Such a move would immediately result in an enormous lightening of the heavy load they now bear. We fear much that the people will care but little for reforms in the manner of remitting the taxes to Seoul so long as the prefects and their ajuns are allowed to come down upon them at will for heavy illegal taxes. In the report before us this matter of taxation is as yet mere plan and promise. Nothing has as yet been definitely accomplished nor has the promise of greater care in the appointment of prefects been as yet fulfilled. Moreover this vital matter occupies less than half a column out of a total of twenty-two columns in the report. It is apparent that as yet but secondary importance is placed upon it. One should not forget that the important matter of appointment of prefects is not within the province of the Finance Department and no promise given by the Finance Department outside its own proper field can leave more than conjectural weight.

But now as to the private enterprises outlined in the report. First comes the Note Association.

For centuries the Korean merchants have recognized and used that important business asset called credit. Korean firms of good standing throughout the country have been accustomed to give their notes payable at a specified time, and these have been considered almost as good as legal tender. These notes are always transferable and negotiable. Whoever holds the note can present it at maturity with full expectation of its being paid or of some satisfactory arrangement being arrived at. The uniformity with which these notes are met at maturity has astonished those who have looked into the matter and we have reason to believe that Mr. Megata himself gives Korean merchants credit for a high degree of commercial morality. It is seldom indeed that a regular business firm attempts to repudiate its notes. The question [328] has been raised therefore why a note association is necessary. Its avowed object is to restore the credit of bills, fix their forms and regulate their circulation. This much can be said that the member of such an association has this added incentive to straight dealing that if he fails in his financial duty he will be doubly disgraced and he will be publicly ostracized from the company of honest tradesmen. However safe the notes of these men may have been before this, membership and the guarantee of payment which accompanies it make the transaction additionally safe. This is specially true because the affairs and business standing of each member of the association

are carefully examined into by agents of the association and this further guarantees the member and makes his standing beyond reasonable question.

But the limits of this association are evident, for only the larger and more wealthy merchants are considered eligible. The ordinary retail shop keeper with a stock of two or three hundred yen would not be allowed to join. His financial ability would be considered below the mark. His membership would jeopardize the interests of the wealthier members, for the failure of a single man to meet his notes would reflect upon the credit of the entire body. The government has given a certain amount as a fund from which any such dishonored notes of members will be paid. Without pretending to any special knowledge of finance we cannot help questioning the wisdom of this. Unless the government engages to supplement this fund from time to time the public must consider that the fund is exhaustible, and the question arises by what means it can be maintained. If the merchants forming the association should guarantee to meet such losses by assessment on the membership there would be a permanent guarantee, but a mere gift from the government to start things off is more likely to call attention to the unwillingness of the membership to cover losses than to inspire confidence in the undertaking. However we do not expect the public to raise this objection and on the whole the project must be approved as a step in the right direction. We do not think the [329 ] credit of the merchants has ever been so low as to warrant the expression of a conviction that “an epoch making start in the circulation of bills will take place in the near future.’’ It will do more or less good but will cause no revolution in trade conditions,

Second, comes the warehouse business. This is no more a new departure from recognized custom than is the circulation of notes of hand, but it has been systematized and rendered more accessible to the farmers than heretofore. During the first two months of the current year such warehouses were established in seven places in Korea and money to the amount of over 700,000 yen was loaned on security of the grain warehoused. In Seoul there is a special arrangement and here the amount of Yen 276,000 has been loaned on go-down receipts. There can be no question that this is a good move and is calculated to benefit the people. It is a larger application of a principle as old as the dynasty.

Next come the industrial and agricultural banks. These are established for the purpose of providing capital for furthering the interests mentioned in the title. Money loaned for this purpose shall be used only for specific purposes, namely cultivation, drainage, irrigation, roads, forestry, seeds, manure, implements, livestock, buildings, and other improvements of a direct character.

We see no difficulty here. Such a plan is calculated to be of benefit to the people provided they are in a position to take advantage of it. The difficulty lies in another direction. Neither this nor any other improvement will be of any use so long as the people are not secure in the possession of their land. Right at this moment we are in receipt of information of the most scandalous thefts of land from Koreans by the Japanese. We would suggest that every Korean owning land hasten to mortgage it in one of these institutions for a small sum, not because they need the money but because the transaction will help to protect them from Japanese who are wresting the land from people without payment. In this way some immediate good would come from the founding of these banks. No Japanese would dare steal land that [330] had been mortgaged to one of these institutions. In this way Mr. Megata might do more good than he ever anticipated, and the Korean owner could well afford to pay the low rate of interest for the small sum borrowed. We take it that the rate of interest will be low. It is a disappointment not to see the rate mentioned in the report but we imagine that not more than a possible 10% per annum would be charged. This would be low for Korea, but being well secured would be ample. We seriously suggest that all foreigners in Korea advise their Korean friends to immediately mortgage their land to these banks at the lowest possible figure and call the annual interest simply a tax for protection against unscrupulous land-grabbers. We think it would be an excellent way to save their property from illegal seizure. It would give the banks a legal hold upon the property which would insure their intervention in case anyone else tried to play any tricks upon it. We cannot believe that these banks would deliberately cheat the people, and such being the case a mortgage would be the very best of safe-guards. We do not think the Koreans need money for improving the land. Take the question of manure, where would they purchase it? Every ounce of fertilizer is already utilized and there is none to buy unless it is imported. The same is true of cattle. As for agricultural implements, the Koreans cannot afford to import them, and we doubt whether imported tools would be any’ better adapted to Korean needs than the native tools are. The traveller through Japan sees the farmer using identically the same implements that he did twenty years ago.

The fifth section dealing with the sending of members of the staff of the Industrial Bank of Japan has no special significance. They are simply to investigate conditions.

The sixth section dealing with the Bonded Market has nothing at all to do with the Koreans but is simply for the Japanese enabling them to import various food stuffs and pay the duty after they have sold the goods. This may or may not be good finance for Korea whatever it maybe for the Japanese merchants. We have never heard of such a plan being tried elsewhere. Of course the pressure [331] will always be in the direction of lengthening the list of things that can be imported thus. Two things should be watched. (1) whether this rule is made to apply only to goods imported from Japan or to imports from any country and (2) whether the tendency will be to extend the law to textile fabrics and other things imported from Japan. But as this does not closely affect the people it may be passed by with only a mention.

Of the supervision of the local revenue we have already spoken. It is hardly more than hinted at in the report and further details must be forthcoming before anything definite can be said.

The eighth heading is New Government Enterprises.

This has to do with the expenditure of the ten million yen that Japan pushed upon this country as a loan at six per cent, price of issue 90. Korea ought to have gotten this loan at a price of one hundred cents on the dollar, instead of ninety. Korea was not treated fairly in this. The Customs are good security for such a sum as this. But let that pass. The first use to be made of the money is to provide water works for Chemulpo.

This has been commented on before. Unless the Korean government is to do this on the distinct understanding that it is to be a paying affair it is a great imposition.

No one supposes that the Koreans on the outhung hills will benefit from this water supply. It is almost solely for the Japanese residents of that town. We see no reason why the Korean government should obligate itself in this way. The municipality of Chemulpo ought to undertake it themselves. Nothing is said of what the government will get back for doing this favor to Chemulpo, and if Chemulpo why not any’ or all the other open ports in Korea? We see no justice in it from whatever point it is viewed. The second object is the building of some 325 miles of roads through the country’. Now what roads are contemplated? First a road from Gensan to Chinnampo through Pyeng-yang and second between Taiku and Yang-il Bay, third a road out of Kunsan to Chon-gy’e and fourth out of Mokpo to Kang-gyu.

We are unable at present to say’ whether the Koreans [332] are in special need of road repairs in these particular places more than elsewhere. The question of good roads is an urgent one and if the whole 10,000,000 were to be honestly expended upon that one object we should be able to find little fault with the project. On the theory that a little is better than nothing we cannot but commend the project. But as yet it is all in a promissory stage and no actual progress can be said to have been made.

The ninth section deals with the disposal of the old nickel coins. There are ten sections giving in minute detail the way the old coins are to be defaced, cut up, analyzed, ticketed, labelled, stored and accounted for. That has nothing to do with progress in monetary reform. Why are we not told what portion of the old nickel coins have been called in and how many have been whistled for but won’t come? Foreigners in Seoul see a hundred of the old coins to one of the new. The electric railway has not been able to change to the new coinage much as they would doubtless like to do so. Korea is cursed with a motley combination of coinages and we see no way out of the difficulty. There is no progress apparent in the direction of cleaning up the business and giving Korea a good monetary system. We very much doubt whether the framers of these plans have any better notion of what it is all coming to than the public do. Everything seems to be drifting. So far as this ninth section is concerned it has no bearing on the real vital question of a legal tender for Korea.

The tenth and eleventh sections deal with the extension of customs grounds and with light houses. These are laudable undertakings mostly in the theoretical stage as yet but likely to become tangible facts in the near future.

We search this paper in vain for any evidence of the definite accomplishment of anything for the betterment of the condition of the Korean people. There are plans, proposals, promises, some of which are good and reflect credit upon the head that planned and the good will that promised them. But now the important question [333] comes up as to the difficulties to be met with in carrying out these plans. Take for instance the agricultural and industrial banks. Some, probably much, of the ten millions, go to finance these banks. Will this money which the Korean government has borrowed at a high rate of interest be loaned to its own people or to Japanese mostly? Here we see grave possibilities of wrong. We know that thousands of Japanese are swarming into this country seeking land, and with land they must have cattle, implements, houses, seed, etc., etc. Are we uncharitable therefore in fearing that the Korean government has been pushed to borrow money with which to set up Japanese immigrants in agricultural and industrial business in Korea? We do not say that Mr. Megata has this in mind. On the contrary we believe he has a certain degree of sympathy for the Korean people, but judging from the way Japan is encouraging the immigration of her citizens into Korea and the extremes to which her officials go in protecting their people even from the consequences of indirection and even crime we are forced to the conviction that in spite of any good intentions on the part of a few of the more intelligent and sympathetic Japanese, if there is any money to be borrowed cheaply for agricultural or industrial work the Japanese will get the lion’s share of it. In this prospectus, for that is what the report amounts to, we see no definite guarantee that the interests of the Korean people will be upheld, that they will be protected in the possession of their property, that taxation shall be made fair and equable, that money borrowed by Korea shall be used solely in the interests of Korea and the Korean people.

**Prince Eui-wha.**

•AN APPEAL.

There are probably a good number of our readers who would like to know something more about the personality of this young prince whose name is so often [334] before the public. His title has lately been changed to Eui-chin but people have known him so long by the other name that we retain it in the title of this brief review of his life.

Prince Eui-wha is the son of the Emperor of Korea by a palace woman or *nain* named Chang. He was born in 1877. When the Queen learned of it she was violently disturbed and sent for the woman and questioned her. The latter did not attempt to conceal the facts and from that hour she was a doomed woman. It is more than probable that the King would have liked to protect her but the family of the Queen was so powerful at the time that this was very difficult. She died of poison and the little child was left in the care of her brother who lived not far from the palace. A proposal to extirpate the whole family of the woman was frustrated only by the personal intervention of the Tai-won-kun and other officials. From that time on there were no more attempts to put the young prince out of the way. He played about in the streets with other children. When he was seven years old his uncle procured some fine ginseng which he administered in the usual form, a decoction, and they say that it made the boy very strong and well and that it gave him a distinguished look. We may well doubt whether the ginseng was wholly the cause of this but the fact remains that he did grow strong and well. If the Koreans think the ginseng did it, the mistake is a harmless one.

One day when he was about ten years old his uncle came in and playfully took the boy by the wrist. The latter gravely remarked “You must never touch me like that again. You know my origin and anyone who indulges in familiarities of that kind is sure to get into serious trouble.” The uncle was somewhat astonished but took care to heed the injunction. The uncle was, of course, of humble origin, for all palace women are drawn from the humbler walks of life. It was not until his thirteenth year that he was introduced into the palace. The Crown Prince was three years his senior, and when it came time to eat, the Queen suggested that the two [335] boys sit at the same table; but the little Prince Eui-wha, who had probably been carefully instructed, bowed to her and said “I cannot sit at the same table with him.” The Queen asked why and he replied that the other boy would one day be his sovereign and it would not be fitting for him to sit at meat with his future King and he suggested that another small table be provided. The Queen was highly pleased at this sagacious remark on the part of the little fellow and is said to have remarked that he had a lot of sense. It was noticed that the boy bore a resemblance to his royal father in certain features, especially the nose.

He was married in 1893 in his seventeenth year to a member of the Kim family. At that time his royal blood was more fully recognized and he was given a separate palace to live in. It was situated in Sa-dong not far from the Tai-won-kun’s former residence.

It was in 1895, some months before the assassination of the Queen by the Japanese, that the young man was sent abroad to study. He went first to Japan but before long he passed over to the United States, where he seems to have enjoyed himself to the full, picking up the language with fair facility though he did not settle down to serious work in any one institution for any considerable length of time. This of course was unfortunate but at the same time he naturally picked up a large amount of information and came in touch with the life of the West. Many stories have been told about his American experiences and it would be most interesting to hear his own account of his impressions of our more elaborate civilization. He was naturally brought into contact with many of the temptations which wait upon leisure and a competence. It is said he became acquainted, in a very innocent way to be sure, with the stock brokers add played with the “ticker,” in which game he would be the first to confess that he became wiser if not richer. Some absurd stories were circulated in the sensational papers of the American metropolis. In 1898 the writer was in New York and at each of the stations of the elevated railway were flaring posters bearing the ta-geuk or [336] circular emblem with the blue and red convolutions seen on the Korean flag and the announcement was made that in the next Sunday’s issue of a certain yellow journal of that town there would be a full account of how the Prince was trying to decide in his mind between the crown of Korea and the hand of a certain bewitching milliner who had captivated his fancy. Happening to be down town that day we interviewed the editor and told him that in the first place there was a Crown Prince whose succession to the crown was entirely unquestioned, and in the second place that the Prince was already married, and that for these reasons the story they were about to foist on a credulous public was absurd and false. The editor smiled and shrugged his shoulders. It made no difference, as the material was all prepared and ready for the press. We had not expected any other reply but simply wanted to see how an editor would look when confronted with evidence of the falsity of a yellow journal story before it appeared. We found out to our entire satisfaction.

Prince Eui-wha returned as far as Japan in 1904 and stayed two years, during which time he was continually with the Japanese and doubtless added much to his previous knowledge of the language. He has recently returned to Korea. The fears that have been expressed by the people that his coming covered some ulterior design on the part of the Japanese is probably without foundation for however much the Japanese may humiliate His Majesty he has their definite promise that the safety of the reigning house shall be preserved.

This young Prince, now thirty years old and possessed of a wealth of experience and observation enjoyed by few in his station, is in a position to do much for the Korean people. If he should become thoroughly aware of the condition of the Koreans and the treatment they are receiving at the hands of the Japanese and should turn his attention to the important work of bettering their condition he might easily make representations to the Japanese in high authority- which would receive attention. What Korea needs today is an advocate from [337] among her own people — a man deeply sensible of the needs of the nation and intimate enough with the Japanese to be able to approach them as no outsider could do. Those of us who are pounding away at the bolted doors of American and European sympathy are called conspirators, intriguers, charlatans, obstructionists, and many people doubtless believe these words describe us, but with him it is different. He is in close touch with the Japanese, is presumably more or less in their confidence and has opportunities which no other man has to make the needed appeal to the better, the higher feelings of those Japanese who hold Korea in the hollow of their hand. We appeal to him in the name of patriotism, of honor, of common humanity to espouse the cause of his country, of his nation whose life is threatened, to throw himself body and soul into the noble task of preserving the identity of Korea as a nation; not by separating himself from his Japanese patrons and taking an antagonistic attitude, but by a serious and earnest presentation of the facts as they really exist and an appeal to the honor of the Japanese nation, an honor which is engaged by the most solemn promises to the preservation of the welfare of this people. What can he hope to win by sitting silently by and letting his own people become aliens in their own land? If they go down, he goes down with them. If their name is lost, his is lost. The title of a prince borrows its meaning from the felicity of the people who confer it. It is a reflected glory and can survive the nation’s death only by recording on the page of history a ringing protest against the setting of the sun which gave it birth. Why is it that as moss creeps up the monument which marks the grave of Poland it dare not cover and obliterate the name of Kosciusko? Why is it that as Nemesis plucks at the names of Rome’s later nobility she dare not touch one letter of the word Rienzi? It is in either case because the passion of his love for his native land saw over and beyond its weaknesses and faults, the glorious future of which its better qualities gave promise, and even life itself was too small an offering to lay upon the altar. [338]

Prince Eui-wha is not asked to take the sword like Kosciusko or mount the rostrum like Rienzi, but the united voice of his people, the better instincts of his nature, the peril which overshadows his native land, all cry out to him to make use of the opportunity which providence has put in his hands of appealing to the masters of Korea.

**Japan in North-east Korea.**

It is our duty to call the attention of the public to a serious case of interference with the rights of foreigners in the town of Ham-heung in north-east Korea. We had heard something about the case by ordinary rumor but have now been able to verify the information from original sources. Rev. D. M. McRae is a missionary connected with the Canadian Presbyterian Mission. He has lived in that section for many years and has had a successful career as a missionary. He is well known to the whole foreign population of Korea and bears an unblemished reputation for probity. Now here are the facts in brief. Mr. McRae purchased land in Ham-heung for a mission station. The transaction was entirely legal, the deeds were authentic and the property was indubitably his, or the Mission’s. The Japanese military people in that town seem to have looked with envious eyes upon this property for some time. It was evident that they hated the presence of a foreigner there. Once in conversation with the Japanese he said that he had a legal right to reside in Ham-heung but they demurred and took the ground that he had no such right. One day he discovered that part of the mission property had been enclosed by stakes driven by the Japanese military authorities. Without attempting to remove them himself he represented the case to the authorities on at least two occasions and asked that the stakes be removed. Nothing was done about it and after a while he removed them himself. This aroused the intense anger of the Japanese [339] military people and it was not long before this took definite form. So long as there were two foreigners on the compound the Japanese made no trouble but one day one of the British citizens had to leave the city for a few days and on the very next day six Japanese soldiers entered the compound and attacked Mr. McRae. He got his back to a wall and received the whole six. As fast as they threw themselves upon him he threw them off to right and left. What they wanted to do is not clearly apparent for they did not shoot at him or use their bayonets. It seems as if they wanted to give him a good drubbing with their fists. Finding at last that they could not down him their rage was so great that one of them took his gun and reversing it lunged at Mr. McRae with the butt of the weapon, dealing a heavy blow on the thigh. This did not cripple him and he still stood on guard. They finally gave up the struggle and left the place. They seem determined to persecute him until he is driven out of the town. The residence of foreigners anywhere in the interior is very distasteful to the Japanese for they know that the foreigner observes their brutal treatment of the Koreans and is more than likely to report it. The things that have occurred in the north-east are fairly heartrending. But when it comes to attacking the person of a British or an American citizen on his own property and attempting to beat him for protecting his own land from encroachment it is high time the authorities in England and America become awake to the facts and decide the question whether the flag means anything and whether the proud boast that England or America will protect their citizens in their manifest rights is a living principle or an exploded fallacy.

A short time ago Japanese soldiers were seen robbing the garden of an American at Pyeng-yang. The Japanese authorities had given notice that if any irregularities occurred the matter should be reported. Two or three Americans followed the Japanese thieves to their quarters and asked the name of the superior officer and the number of the regiment or company. This precipitated such a disturbance that the Americans feared an attack [340] and retired to their homes. That evening, as one of the Americans returned to his home he found a Japanese captain or other officer sitting in the drawing room in an easy chair with his feet in another chair smoking a cigarette. He declined to move but began talking violently in Japanese and demanding, as was learned afterward, why the Americans had made inquiries at his headquarters. Two other American gentlemen came in and the Japanese was told that this was not the time or place to discuss anything and he was asked to remove. This he refused to do and went on bawling out his complaints. The Americans simply refused to listen or have anything do with him. The gentleman who owned the house removed to another American’s residence with his wife and spent the night, leaving the Japanese officer in sole control. He stayed until one o’clock in the morning and then was seen to leave, but before he had gone more than a few rods from the house he was joined by a number of Japanese soldiers who had hidden in the vicinity. It was perfectly plain that if the Americans had attempted to put the Japanese out by force there would have been a fatal affray. Apparently this was just what the officer wanted but he was frustrated by the unwillingness of the Americans to assert their rights.

The whole matter was reported to the army head-quarters the next day and the authorities expressed regret at the occurrence and said that the officer would be subjected to nine day’s imprisonment. He was not compelled to go and apologize to the people he had grossly insulted and whose house he had illegally seized. Nor does any one know whether the punishment was really inflicted. In any civilized country such an offence would inevitably result in degradation to the ranks. This sort of thing is just what was sure to come and the ball is now open. What American or British citizen will be the next to suffer such attack ? What these foreign residents of Korea want to know is to what extent their rights are to be respected by the Japanese and to what degree they can depend upon the protection of their respective flags. The situation is a delicate one and a new one. [341] Action on the part of Great Britain in defending a citizen from outrageous treatment can only have the effect of bringing the facts before the public, and once these facts are known the reputation of Japan will suffer a severe blow. The result of such action will be of international significance but we believe the time will come and shortly too, when those who stand back of the British and Americans in the interior of Korea will be compelled to force the matter on the attention of the world and investigation will be in order. Nothing can now help the Korean people short of such investigation. The sooner it comes the better.

**Japanese Immigration.**

The question of Japanese immigration into Korea is manifestly of the very first importance to this people. This is why it has been receiving such attention in the press of late. It is not a simple problem of addition, for many factors come in which demand attention; some of them being rather unique. We would like to discuss the problem from an entirely dispassionate standpoint, recognizing the difficulties under which Japan labors as well as the dangers which threaten the Korean, people. Let us first look at it from the standpoint of the Japanese government.

The Japanese people have just come out of a desperate struggle with Russia. We say desperate because though the victory seems to have been a foregone conclusion it terminated at a point where each contestant was almost at the last gasp, Japan financially and Russia because of internal disaffection. Japan came out of the struggle with colors flying, with enormous prestige but with a debt which, considering the size of the nation and the resources of the country, is probably unprecedented. She came out of the struggle with the military and naval elements fiercely resentful of the terms of peace and the people wounded in their vanity and siding with [342] the fighting element in their unreasonable denunciation of the diplomatic solution of the war, a solution made imperative by the utter lack of means to prolong the struggle.

It has been intimated (and it comes from Japanese sources) that at the time of the signing of the treaty at Portsmouth President Roosevelt promised that if the treaty were signed the United States would put no obstacles in the way of Japanese ambition in Korea. This may not have been the wording of the promise but such seems to have been its general tenor. We have no need to comment here upon the moral quality of this act at a time when Korea and America were in full treaty relations with each other. The fact remains and it is this fact which explains the immediate removal of the American Legation from Seoul as soon as the usurpation of last November had been consummated. This seizure of Korea was practically one of the spoils of war and while it was not effected soon enough to assuage the anger of the Japanese people it was an asset with which the Japanese government was prepared to console them gradually.

That government was confronted with the necessity of pacifying the people and at the same time of inducing them to pay out an enormous sum of money to meet the payments of interest on the war debt. Here Korea lay, possessed of large wealth in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and mines. Some of these resources were already highly developed and some were hardly developed at all. For every dollar’s worth of these assets that Japan could put into the hands of Japanese the Japanese government stood to receive in the long run. If Japanese, leaving comparatively restricted sources of wealth in Japan, could come into Korea and get into their own hands the wealth producing resources of the peninsula there would be an inevitable expansion of the field from which Japan could look for revenue to meet her enormous load of debt.

But this was a field from which the harvest could not be immediately reaped. It must be sown before it could [343] be harvested. Japanese must come into Korea and seize all points of vantage commercially and industrially and prepare the way for their own future taxation. Railroads must be built, harbors must be improved, and many other things must be done to open the way to the heart of Korea’s wealth.

But there is one important step that still remains to be taken. These Japanese cannot be taxed for Japan’s benefit until Korea becomes a province of Japan or in other words until another definite promise of Japan has been broken. In the capacity of a mere protector Japan cannot hope to see the Japanese in Korea paying taxes to the Japanese exchequer. It has been all outlay so far. The seed has been sown. The time will come soon when the harvest will begin. At present the Korean government claims all taxes paid by Japanese whether in the indirect form of customs duties or in the direct form of land tax.

As soon as victory began to perch on Japan’s banners the Japanese people began swarming into Korea until today there are a little less than 100,000 of them here. Many if not most of these people were small shop keepers in Japan and at any rate each one of them paid taxes in some form to the Japanese government. By coming to Korea they accomplished two things. They escaped taxation and they found a larger field of activity. On what possible theory would the Japanese government allow such an enormous exodus of taxable citizens if there was to be no eventual return. The advance in industrial enterprise ought easily to absorb all unemployed labor in Japan. An industrial country cannot afford to lose its laborers in this way unless there is something better coming. The plaint of the Japanese authorities, therefore, that they could not prevent the flood of immigration into Korea seems to be a mere ruse to cover the fact that such immigration was just what was desired in order to accomplish a definite result in the future; for no-one for a moment believes that Japan could not have curtailed the immigration with ease if it had been so disposed.

But let us look at the matter from a different standpoint. [344] No one now denies that Korea is heavily populated. Even the a Japanese paper concedes this.

There are certain parts of Japan that are almost as thinly populated as the most mountainous and inaccessible parts of Korea. People cannot live where there is nothing to live on. Population will always mass itself near the sources of supply. No argument is needed to prove that the most productive portions of Korea today support the densest population. If we look at the established facts concerning what we may call agricultural immigration in other countries we see that the immigrants take up soil that is for the most part as yet lying fallow. This is true in America, Canada and Argentina and it constitutes a definite advance in the development of industry ; but is this natural law being carried out in Korea? The facts do not indicate so. The Japanese are demanding and are getting the very best land here and their methods are such that no unprejudiced mind can condone them. The same is true of the forests, of the fisheries, of the salt works. The methods by which the natives of Quelpart have been deprived of one of their main sources of livelihood are enough to make just men blush for the people who adopt them. Where are the people of Quelpart to go to obtain the means of sustenance ? Who has compensated them or proposes to compensate them for the seizure of their seaweed business ? It has been made a monopoly of the Japanese and henceforth though some Koreans may be used as common laborers the profits of the business will go into Japanese pockets. We have elsewhere shown from eyewitnesses that the Japanese are clearing the north of timber in the Yalu region, even private grave sites being plundered of trees to feed the insatiable rapacity of the Japanese. We have been lately importuned for help by Koreans whose broad rice lands have been seized by Japanese. These Koreans hold the deeds to the property. The prefect of the district, the governor of the province and the Home Department in Seoul have all recognized officially the legal ownership and yet the owner cannot secure possession. The charge is a multiple one. [345]

(1) The Japanese take spurious, forged deeds of land and seize it, leaving the Korean to litigate for his rights. The Japanese does not prove his claim and have the occupant dispossessed by process of law but be seizes the land by force and throws the burden of proof on the Korean owner.

(2) The Korean is not given the proper facilities for making good his claim and getting back his property. The Japanese local authorities are almost inaccessible to the Korean plaintiff. The Korean officials know they hold their positions by the favor of the Japanese and they are therefore slow to help the Korean plaintiff bring to the notice of Japanese authorities facts that must be distasteful.

(3) No adequate measures have been taken to control the Japanese resident in the interior. The Koreans arc still being browbeaten and treated in the most contemptuous manner by Japanese without hope of redress.

(4) The appropriation of land for “Imperial pastures’’ has never been explained. Rich farm land twenty miles long by ten wide are being taken from the people to make pastures or to cover some scheme whereby the value of the land can be diverted from the actual owners into the pockets of others.

We think every one of these charges can be proved beyond reasonable doubt and we submit that this form of immigration is not such as the civilized world recognizes as legal.

A perusal of some of the arguments advanced by Japanese periodicals in favor of Japanese immigration is likely to open the eyes of the reader. One paper says that seven million Japanese could be easily accommodated in Korea without displacing the Koreans, and it demands that the Korean peninsula, smaller than the state of Kansas but with a population of at least 10,000,000, should receive annually nearly half as many immigrants as pour into the United States.

Another paper says that in the 10,000,000 Korean population there is not an aggregate of 500,000 able-bodied workmen. It estimates four Koreans to be [346] equivalent to one Japanese workman. There is nothing to say to this except that it is ridiculously false. Those who know the Korean farmer and how he works would not for a moment endorse this estimate. The Korean farmer is as hard working a man as the Japanese farmer, and those who know will say that with all his better protection against fleecing officials the Japanese could not get a tithe more out of a piece of land than the Korean can.

The plea for heavy Japanese immigration carries with it the demand for the annexation of Korea to Japan. No one supposes that two or three million Japanese in Korea would live under a Korean administration or pay taxes to the Korean Government. Such immigration presupposes the entire seizure of Korea by Japan, the end of the dynasty, the breaking of all pledges which Japan has given. Is the civilized world prepared for such an ending to the drama? Will China look upon it as a recommendation of Japan in the work of opening the Middle Kingdom or will it bring the conviction which is now embryo that Japan aims at the seizure of the Dragon Throne as well ?

**Editorial Comment.**

The Japan Mail, utterly unable to meet our statement of fact and equally unable to understand how a man can have honest convictions and stand up for them even against his own personal interests, lets itself go in a tirade of abuse which ends with the courteous suggestion that the editor of the Review has hung himself with his own halter. We enjoy such ebullitions of wit. Their sparkle and effervescence fill the empty void where argument is lacking. The question remains whether our main proposition was true or not. This the Mail nor anyone else has been able to gainsay. The fact that one witness or set of witnesses saw one kind of torture and [347] another set saw another kind would hardly seem to the legal mind a proper proof that neither existed. But so it seem?? to the daily. What astonishes us most of all is the unwillingness of certain people to know the truth about the situation. A short time ago we met a person living in the East and in the course of conversation we had occasion to criticize the official acts of a certain eminent man in America. Our only criticism was an implied one for we gave only a straightforward narrative of events; but that person raised hands of horror and said

they would hear nothing against that official; even if it was true they would not hear it. That individual had idealized the official in his mind— had formed a sort of idol of him and facts could have nothing to do with the matter. If the image had feet of clay, that individual did not want to know it.

Ignorance, honest ignorance is a thing to be pitied and, so far as possible, remedied, but willful ignorance, the kind that hates to be enlightened is to be condemned. There are no people in the world who enjoy being fooled less than the Englishman or American. He hates it so desperately that it sometimes takes a long time to make him see that he has been used as a cat’s-paw. He fights against such a revelation, for his self-esteem and his self-respect both suffer if he has to acknowledge his blunder. And yet beneath it all there is an abiding love of the truth. The Anglo-Saxon finds himself sooner or later; and when the fact begins to dawn upon him that he has been hoodwinked, that things are not as they have been represented, that the goods are not up to sample, his indignation is in direct ratio to his former stubborn adherence to the fallacy.

It is this faith in the ultimate fair-mindedness of the Anglo-Saxon that makes us smile at the rancorous at-tacks of men who have no desire to learn the facts but whose position can be maintained only by keeping the bandage on their own eyes and on the eyes of the world.

We do not want the public to accept these statements of fact on our own authority; we want them to come and see for themselves. We rejoice at the sight of every [348] foreign traveller who comes to Korea. The chances are ninety-nine to one that he is an honest man and that for him facts are facts irrespective of theories and preconceptions. During the last four months we have seen something less than a score of foreign travellers in Korea and what they have seen and heard and learned here has impressed them mightily. Does the editor of the Japan Mail want foreigners to come here and examine critically the brand of protection which Japan is giving Korea or does the Japanese administration want it? We trow not. Every foreigner in the interior of Korea is a thorn in Japan’s side to-day. No one knows it better than these foreigners themselves. They have had ocular and physical demonstration of the fact. Time was when any foreign gentlewoman could travel in an open chair alone from one end of Korea to the other without fear of insult. Is it true today? Ask foreign ladies who have travelled here, even with escort, and see what they say. The man who would allow his wife or sister to travel twenty miles from Seoul in any direction without escort ought to be ostracized from decent society. The railway trains must be excepted from this, as they are public conveyances and are under strict surveillance.

We repeat that our one and sole desire for the Korean people today is that the world might know all the facts of the case. On that platform we will stand to the end. If any one challenges our statement of the facts we only answer “come and see for yourself’’ Dr. Howard Agnew Johnston, an American of national reputation, has just been in Korea. Ask him what he found. Bishop Candler has been here. He is an observant man, but is not at all interested in politics. Ask him what he. saw, from the merely humanitarian .standpoint.

The Japan Herald strikes the proper note when it says “Evidently these long established rights of the Koreans cannot be put aside as easily as in the case of a savage race.’’ But this is precisely the attitude of the Japanese people in Korea. In spite of rights that are centuries old Koreans are being treated precisely as the Ainus or Formosans would be treated if they were here. [349]

The Times of London says Korea must not be treated as conquered territory. The intelligent press of the world agrees in this but when facts are presented to show that this is precisely the condition of things in Korea today. The people who present those facts and who earnestly ask that they be verified and corroborated by those who shall come here and investigate are called rascals and conspirators. The Times warns Japan that the treatment of Korea as conquered territory will alienate the good will of the world but at the same time depends for its information about the peninsula upon its Peking and its Tokyo correspondents, one of whom has never been in Korea and knows nothing about conditions here except by hearsay. In a recent letter to the Times the Tokyo correspondent says that the “Il-chin society takes liberal progress for its motto.” He says there was no coercion practiced in the signature of the so-called treaty of last November. He says the Emperor of Korea was an assenting party. None of these statements will bear scrutiny and yet one of the leading journals of the world prints them as solemn fact.

The willful blindness of this correspondent is nowhere better shown than in his calling us “western theorists,” for we suppose we have the honor of being included in what he calls “a small body of occidentals — especially American citizens — who preach to Korea the creed of national independence.” We would refer him to our columns to see whether we have theorized or whether we

have brought together such an array of facts that he cannot meet them but can only hide behind a barricade of vituperation. As for preaching independence, our columns show that we have always held that Korea should have a strong hand upon her for a time. We believed for a long time that that hand should be Japan’s but we have been compelled reluctantly to change our mind. In this we are in the same boat with almost every American citizen in Korea as well as with many British citizens. We fully believe that the most promising days that modern Korea has seen were in 1897 when Sir J. McLeavy Brown was in partial control of the finances [350] of the country. She will never see the same hopeful conditions under Japanese rule.

There are some fine qualities in the Japanese. They have a restless energy, a scorn of obstacles, a boldness of initiative which all must admire, and none more than ourselves. That Japanese merchants are establishing themselves in European Russia at this moment is well nigh astounding. Their abounding faith in their own capacity for achievement and their contempt of traditional limitations are simply superb. That their methods savor of Machiavelli and Tallyrand is no impeachment of their sagacity whatever it may argue as to their morality. That as a nation they are almost wholly lacking in sympathy and in a just appreciation of the rights and interests of other people only brings out in sharper relief the brilliancy of their acquisitive faculty. They are a people that have acquired the implements of modern civilization without being hampered with any of those altruistic notions that the public conscience so often interposes between the Anglo-Saxon and a ruthless pursuit

of selfish gain.

Perhaps there is no better illustration of the saying that history repeats itself than the striking similarity between Japan’s present actions and the spirit which dominated France just one hundred years ago when she was under the spell of the first Napoleon. He did great things for education, for law, for civic efficiency — things which by themselves were calculated to seat him in the hall of fame beside Lycurgus, Justinian and Alfred the Great but his vaulting ambition so far overleaped the bounds of his legitimate sphere that he became a universal menace and it took the combined power of three kingdoms to re-establish the equilibrium of Europe. In some such way Japan has shown herself capable of great things in the path of self-improvement, has made herself something of an object lesson to all Asiatic peoples; but there are distinct signs today that she has also imbibed rather too freely of the Napoleonic nectar and we doubt not that if she goes on unchecked she will some day meet her Wellington and her Waterloo. [351]

A recent visit to the city of Pyeng-yang has resulted in a number of curious discoveries in regard to the situation in the north. The first is the dual government of the Japanese. There is a local Japanese Resident in that city but when cases of injustice and oppression on the part of the Japanese military people are brought to his attention he disclaims any power to interfere. He has nothing to do with the military and the two arms of the Japanese occupancy work not only independently of each

other but in many instances at cross purposes.

There is one fact so abhorrent to the mind, so damaging to the good name of Japan that it is with great reluctance that we mention it, and yet it is so fully proved both by foreign and native witnesses that it is beyond dispute. In a certain town in Korea the military quartered soldiers in some Korean houses and in others Japanese prostitutes. In a number of instances Korean Christians were compelled to give up part of their houses to these prostitutes who carried on their nefarious business on the premises. We made careful inquiries about this unspeakable outrage on decency and the fact was verified in the most positive manner. Every Christian man whose house was thus invaded was told by the church authorities that if he could not get rid of the horror he must leave his house, desert it and seek a lodging somewhere else. It was impossible that a Christian family should continue to live in such surroundings. We would like to ask what the civilized world would say if it were fully aware of this proven fact. What would the churches of America and England say? What, indeed, would any one say, whether he be a churchman or not?

It gives us no pleasure to place before the public eye such a revolting picture. It is a grim necessity, a duty which if unperformed would make us accessory to the crime. The only way to stop such practices is to let the light of general knowledge in upon them, place them before the world and ask it to pass judgment upon a civilization which leaves it possible for men in authority to perpetrate such an outrage as this. All through the north both on the east side and on the west these abandoned [352] women are debauching the Korean youth. They sell themselves at a price within the reach even of the poor and create a condition of society unknown in all the history of the land. Korea is low enough, God knows, but this sort of thing oversteps all former bounds and leaves the observer simply stupefied. We hardly think we will here be charged, as we sometimes have been, with a shallow sentimentalism. Put yourself in the place of the Korean who sees his house turned into a brothel and imagine how you would feel. We would like to see how the Japan Mail or any other supporter of the Japanese policy in Korea would comment on this condition of things. They doubtless will maintain discreet silence as they did about the opium atrocities which we opened up in a recent number. Since then we have learned that one Japanese vendor of morphine was caught in the act of selling to a Korean; the local authorities were notified but instead of treating the culprit as he would be treated in Japan they inflicted no punishment whatever, on the ground that the man “promises not to do it again.”

We lay these facts before the public in the full belief that thinking men, far sighted men, will be roused to the significance of passing events which from their very proximity fail to engage the attention, as more remote occurrences do.

**News Calendar.**

The month of .September saw Seoul filled with foreigners, mostly missionaries, who had come from various parts of the country to attend the annual sessions of their various missions. First came the week of Bible Conference which was frequently addressed by Rev. Howard Agnew Johnston, D. D., of New York. His description of recent religious movements in Wales, India and China were deeply interesting. This was followed by the General Council of all protestant missions in Korea. The various forms of union work were discussed and progress was made along the line of saving of time and labor. The union movement is settling down into what may be called its permanent form and there can be no question of its great value. This was followed by [353] the Council of Presbyterian Missions which was fully attended and which settled some important questions and advanced others toward settlement. Then came the Annual Meeting of the Presbyterian Mission North where it was demonstrated that unprecedented advance was made during the year, many of the stations doubling the number of adherents. Incidentally we note the unanimous action taken by the mission, wiping from the minutes all mention of the action taken in 1903 in regard to Dr. Irvin of Fusan and thus doing justice to a man whom all his acquaintances honor.

The Korean government has adopted the policy of putting a Japanese at the head of every common school or other school in Korea. A beginning is made by employing twenty Japanese. These men cannot speak Korean and Japanese text-books will be used. It is not difficult to imagine the degree of enthusiasm with which Korean boys will attend such schools. There are plenty of Koreans capable of teaching these schools and willing to do so at a fraction of what Japanese would require.

The Koreans in the south part of Seoul have organized a society called the Tai-tong-hoi the avowed object of which is to secure the restitution of Korean autonomy. The Residency General is said to be encouraging it.

Seoul has lately been the scene of a most disgraceful quarrel. Yun Wun-gu a henchman of Yi Chi-Yong was appointed prefect of Tong-nai but before he went to his post he accused Song Hon-myung, a captain attached to Yi Keun-tak, of having formed a plot to murder Yi Keun-tak. The charge was made before the police superintendent and he said that if it could not be proved that Song had plotted to kill Yi Keun-tak, he himself, Yun Wun-gu, would be willing to suffer the penalty of murder. The police arrested Song and put him to the torture but no evidence was forthcoming nor could anyone else bring proof to bear. Song was therefore released and he went to the house of Yun Wun-gu his accuser and demanded reparation for the suffering and the disgrace that had been inflicted and demanded that Yun keep his promise and suffer the penalty of murder. Yun was not eager to accept this charming proposition nor would he do anything to straighten out the matter. Thereupon Captain Song pitched into him in the genuine Greek and Roman method but totally oblivious of the Marquis of Queensbury rules, and in the scuffle that followed the accuser’s leg was broken. Captain Song came away with some degree of satisfaction. He knew that he could not have secured the arrest of his slanderer because of the influence of Yi Chi-j’ong but he could give him a private lesson. As Song was in the right about the main matter the pounding he gave the general Yun is looked upon in official circles as a mere case of poetic justice and nothing will be done about it. This is said to be the first case in the memory of living men that two Korean officials have gotten right down to business and attempted to polish each other off by hand. [354]

Japanese vie with Koreans in the robbery of ginseng farms at Songdo. It takes seven years to mature the ginseng root and it is so valuable and so difficult, in the nature of the case, to protect, that it appeals to the cupidity of Japanese and Koreans alike. Fifty Korean soldiers have been sent to that town to guard the interests of the ginseng growers.

The month of September saw a slight resuscitation of the Il-chin Society. The trouble which arose over its leader Song Pyung-jun bade fair to end the organization once for all and it was sincerely hoped by all friends of Korea that such would be the case ; but either the Japanese had not gotten all they wanted out of the society or feared that too sudden a drop would prove a boomerang and the society has again pulled itself together and claims to be alive. Though shorn of some of its former self-confidence it is still to be found at the old stand and is doubtless willing to continue to play Japan’s game so long as there is anything “in it.’’

At the present writing the promises wrung from the Japanese authorities, in regard to the payment for stolen land in Pyeng Yang and elsewhere, by the protests of the injured people have not been fulfilled. It is said that something is done but that seems to be as far as it gets. Recently a gentleman walking near that city saw a woman sitting in the middle of a field weeping. He asked what the matter was and she replied that the field was hers and that there was a good crop on it but the Japanese soldiers came along and cut it or trampled it all down saying that they wanted to drill there. She was wholly deprived of her livelihood and starvation seemed the only alternative.

About the middle of September Admiral Moore of the Asiatic Squadron of the British navy made a visit to Seoul with his staff and was warmly welcomed by the Japanese who showed him every attention. If we remember rightly the last time a large British fleet rendezvoused at Chemulpo it was for the purpose of upholding the claims of J. McLeavy Brown C.M.G. and to check the lawless aggression of Russia. But now the times have changed.

One of the most salient features of the month of September were the terrible floods in the south especially in Chung-chung Province. One prefect reported that in his district fourteen inches of rain fell in that one storm. Thousands of houses were swept away and the loss of life ran up into the hundreds. The Seoul Fusan Railway was damaged so badly that the repairs will cost nearly a million yen. Hundreds of acres of rich rice land were buried a foot deep in sand and gravel, and numerous land-slides destroyed roads, buried Korean hamlets and worked general ruin. No estimate can probably be made of the total financial loss but reading the accounts one can well believe that 5,000,000 yen would not cover it.

The Agricultural department is to put up a Y12000 building for a mining bureau. [355]

It is stated on good authority that the Finance Department wants to play another interesting game with the finances of Korea. They want to force the collection of taxes in the new currency and to receive the same number of new nickels as they received of the old. In other words, to double the taxes. And this, too, before the prefects have been compelled to stop their squeezing. It is plain that such a move will result in serious trouble. The people will not stand such treatment. The actions of the military are calculated, whether deliberately and consciously we do not know, to rouse the people to insurrection. If now the financial department joins the movement by doubling the taxes the people will be in a pitiable condition indeed.

The Korean students in Tokyo have established a school there called the Kwang-mu School but they are lacking funds, so the head of the school came to Seoul and asked the Educational Department to help them. But the request was refused. It is plain that Koreans will get no encouragement to go abroad and study. That would open their eyes and make them capable of seeing things as they are.

The military authorities insist that all men connected with military affairs must cut their hair The members of the military court have hitherto been recalcitrant but now it is demanded that they too follow the new custom.

About the first of September robbers broke into the arsenal at Tongnai and stole all the weapons.

The Law Department has given instructions that capital punishment be carried out in a less disgusting way than heretofore, that the corpse be decently disposed of rather than to lie about for the curious to gaze at — in fine that the whole affair be conducted in a more civilized manner.

When the people whose land at Yong-san had been seized for military purposes made a new demand for settlement the Mayor of Seoul told them that they would be given seven sen a tsubo! This sum would be small for monthly rent of the land to say nothing of purchase and the people were not disposed to accept the pittance. The Mayor thereupon promised to refer the matter again to the Resident General. To our mind they had better take their seven sen while they can get them. They may not get so good an offer again.

We note with pleasure the wedding which “happened” in Seoul at the beginning of the Presbyterian Annual Mission Meeting, between Rev. Charles Bernheisel and Miss Kirkwood, both of Pyeng-yang. It took place in the auditorium of the new Presbyterian school at Yun-mot-kol. Dr. J. Nolan was ‘‘best man.” The occasion passed off with great eclat.

There are said to be upwards of 500 Korean students in Tokyo at the present time. Some of them have been sent there by the government and others have gone there on their own account and at their own charges. Many of them have run out of money and are destitute and the Educational Department is asked to give them help. [356]

The Annual Meeting of the Methodist Mission (South) was held about the middle of September and was presided over by Bishop Candler. He made several addresses before the foreign community which were highly appreciated. Several new members of this mission have been welcomed in Seoul.

The foreign population of Korea has also been augmented by other arrivals in the person of infant daughters born to Dr. and Mrs. Wells, Rev. and Mrs. McCune and Rev. and Mrs. Koons all of Pyeng-yang and a son born to Rev. and Mrs. Critchett.

Mr. Kim Chong-han has announced to the government that he intends establishing a large tobacco firm for the cultivation and manufacture of smoking tobacco.

It is evident that the Japanese are not neglecting the aesthetic side of education for a Japanese has been employed to teach only drawing in the Normal and High Schools. It is not encouraging to see these unessentials cared for when the weightier matters are so universally neglected.

It is difficult to see just the reason for taking from the Korean Government the right of giving passports to its people who wish to go abroad and centering it in the Residency General. This is only one more encroachment upon the rights of Korea. If Japan is sincere in her professed desire to see Korea advance the more Koreans go abroad the better, but this change is manifestly for the purpose of restricting emigration rather than for encouraging it.

Mr. Kim Sang-hyun, the associate editor of the Whang-Sung daily paper in Seoul has published a Universal History in the mixed script and it is said to be a very acceptable book. Every attempt to put such literature into the hands of Koreans should be encouraged and applauded. We congratulate the author and hope he will do much more in the same line.

A man named Kang Han-tak was a student in Russia at the time the war broke out. He returned to Korea after the end of hostilities and went to live in his place in the country. Later he came up to Seoul to live and was called upon by the police who demanded to see all his papers These were carefully examined but nothing was found to incriminate him so the matter was dropped.

In Su-an there stands a Confucian shrine of some kind and as the mining operations are extending under the building the people there are in great distress of mind and the prefect has sent to Seoul asking that the mines be prohibited from extension in that direction.

Mr. Yun Chi-ho the head of the Cha-gang Society has returned from his trip to the north and he is enthusiastic about the progress of education there. He says there are twenty-six schools in Eui-ju alone and that the desire for education is extremely strong all through that region. It is his opinion that the people of the north are more energetic and progressive than in other parts of the peninsula. [357]

The Il-Chin people have sent a petition to the government asking for the return to Korea of Pak Yong-hyo and other political refugees. We fancy Pak Yong-hyo would not appreciate the advocacy of a society so utterly opposed to his ideas about Korea

The coast of South Chulla Province swarms with Japanese fishing craft. Their number is said to he 460 and the men engaged in fishing is 1429. Their catch is valued at Yen 135,000 per trip. This would mean some Yen 600,000 a year.

The month of September saw active operations going on in regard to the establishment of Japanese naval stations at Chin-hai Bay and at Yong-heung. The former is near Masanpo and the latter is near Won-san. The amount of land demanded is so large that it encroaches upon whole Korean market towns and the people have complained loudly about it. A Korean official was sent to look into the matter but this will make little difference.

The Il-chin people have established a company for the exploitation of the sea weed industry. The capital is Yen 50,000 and the headquarters are at Wonsan with branches in various places along the coast.

The Japanese have established a lottery at Yong-am-po for the purpose of fleecing the Koreans in that vicinity. The prefect knows what it means and has protested against it but the Japanese do not care. The prefect reported the matter to Seoul and the Home Department told him to put a stop to it but he said that something more than this was necessary. It is to be hoped that the Japanese authorities will have the grace to be at least as decent as the Koreans and listen to their request that such a device as this be nipped in the bud.

The Korean police arrested a man in the north near Eui-ju who was trying to get up a Righteous Army movement. When interrogated in Seoul as to his accomplices he named a large number of wealthy men in Eui-ju and vicinity. The authorities knew that these men would not engage in such an enterprise and did not move against them, at the same time the people implicated are in great distress fearing that it will mean serious trouble for them.

The thirteenth of September was the Emperor’s birthday and on that day all the foreign Consul Generals were in audience. It was a very trying ordeal to His Majesty to have the representatives of the various powers presented occupying a secondary place to Japan. It was the first time since the outrage of last November and he cannot but still feel it keenly.

The government Middle School has been changed to a High School. The nominal grade is lower than before but the curriculum is about the same.

The strenuous contention between the advocates of making Lady Om the Empress and the advocates of the selection of a new candidate is at present turning in the direction of the former and it is possible that Lady Om may become Empress. [358]

The Korean Chamber of Commerce sent representatives to Japan to examine the methods of Japanese organizations of a similar nature. They went to Osaka, Kobe, Kyoto, Yokohama and Tokyo. They were very well received by the Japanese and the Japanese wanted to place samples of their manufacturies here in Seoul. A museum for the exhibition of Japanese products is now being built in Seoul.

About the middle of September Marshall Hasegawa made a trip to the north eastern part of Korea to inspect the military arrangements in that section. We trust he took into account the lawless actions of the troops in Ham-heung and cautioned them against interfering with the rights of British citizens.

Commander Koyama of the Japanese gendarmes left Seoul for Japan about the middle of September. He has resigned his position.

Rev. Howard Agnew Johnston, D. D., who has been visiting Korea, made a speech at the Seoul Y. M. C. A. on Sept. 21st.

One of the least hopeful signs of the times is the determination on the part of the dominant power to substitute Japanese interpreters in every Korean office in place of the Korean interpreters The number of Koreans who know Japanese is probably far greater than the number of Japanese who know Korean and the change would not conduce to the better and more intelligent communication between the two peoples but would hinder it and would put so much more money into the pockets of the Japanese from the Korean treasury instead of keeping it in the hands of Koreans where it belongs.

The new regulations about taxation and the whole machinery for carrying it out is a very interesting and important development and promises well, but we cannot go into the matter in detail this month. We shall try to give a careful account of it in our next number .

In the two Pyeng-an provinces the old nickels are at a premium compared with Seoul for there one of the new nickels will not buy two of the old. For this reason the Minister of Finance has sent word that it is not right and the people must preserve the same ratio between the two kinds of money that prevails in Seoul. This shows how little the Minister appreciates the quality of money. No law can regulate exchange. Money is like any other commodity and any attempt to say what exchange shall be is like trying to regulate the price of cotton by law.

The Finance Department has settled the question of raise in salaries of prefectural and provincial officials on the following basis. There are three grades of provincial governors and they receive Yen 2,200, 2,000 and 1,800 respectively. The prefects are of five grades and the salaries are graded accordingly.

Out of the Y. 5,000,000 that have already been borrowed from Japan, the Finance Department has paid out as follows : Chemulpo water-works Y 5,000, Korean Hospital Y 10,000, for the founding of the Agricultural and Industrial Bank in three places in Korea Y 300,000. [359]

The month of September saw a clash between the Il-chin people and the Chun-do “Religion.” Some leading men of the Il-chin society joined the Chun do and it looked as if an effort was being made to unite the two under one banner. This was resented by the Chun-do people and they proceeded to drive out the principal men who had come in from the Il-chin side. They found it necessary to make a declaration that a religion is very different from a society and that the Chun-do Church had no political aspirations. The Il-chin people had to make the best of a bad business but they put forth the excuse that they felt that the Chun-do Church could be of more influence if it had behind it the political influence of the Il-chin society and that the two together could do much for the cause of progress in Korea. It seems however that the Chun-do people do not care for that particular brand of political influence represented by the Il-chin party.

On the Emperor’s birthday he sent to the Seoul prisons and made a present of one yen to each of the prisoners and also remembered the people in charge of the jails.

The distressing news has come from the town of Chung-ju in South Chung-chung Province that in the recent floods 600 people were killed. Of this number fifty were soldiers. They were not seen to drown but they were missing immediately after the flood and have not been seen since.

It is said that the salaries of provincial governors have been raised to the following figures. First class Y2200. Second class Y2000. Third class Y1800. Besides this they will receive from Y 1000 to Y700 a year each for an entertainment fund.

The sum of Y51,128 has been appropriated for the extension of police stations throughout the country. The prevalence of brigandage is reason enough for this but it would be well if this curse could be attacked at the root and the cause eradicated.

It is reported that the Korean carpenters of Seoul are forming a guild and that this guild will act as a firm to take contracts for building. This will insure prompt and effective work, the whole guild being responsible for the work.

It has been decided that every man who wants to get position under the Korean government must pass an examination by a board of examiners. Nothing but commendation can be given to such a movement and we shall take pains to give in our next number a detailed account of this salutary movement. There is some reason to believe that this change has come about or at least hastened by the agitation which has been made in the press about the matter and the exposure of the scandalous way in which officials have heretofore been appointed.

The wedding of the Crown Prince has been again postponed until November but it is believed that, since the Japanese authorities have sanctioned the payment of Yen 500,000 toward the expenses of the ceremony, it will not be put off again. The final selection of the bride has not yet been made. It rests between three candidates. [360]

It is a fact that the old “moss-backs” are gradually passing away and most Koreans, at least in the capital, realise the necessity of following the movement for a new sort of national life. But there are some of the old style men left. One of them, the other day, drove from his house a friend of his son who proposed that the son go to one of the new schools, saying “You are trying to steal my sou.” The truth is that he was trying to do the precise opposite, namely get him out of slavery to ignorance.

The commission that was appointed to appraise the value of land taken in the north for railway purposes has reported concerning half a dozen of the districts and it appears that several million yen worth of property in each of these districts has been taken without compensation. What the total will be when the commission is done cannot be told as yet but there is every reason to believe that if the Japanese were to do the minimum of justice and see to it that the Koreans got a fair price for their land, it would take some tens of millions to liquidate the bill.

Before we go to press we would like to say that the question has been raised whether the quartering of Japanese prostitutes upon Koreans in the north, to which we refer elsewhere in this issue, is an official act of the Japanese army officials. Of this we are not sure but we know that when the soldiers came there the women were forced upon the Korean and the Koreans were obliged to give them room in their houses. The fact that these Koreans had to be warned to give up their houses rather than live in such surroundings shows that compulsion was used to keep the women in the houses. No Korean would submit to it if he could possibly help it. But whether this was officially sanctioned or not makes little difference. The officials must have known all about it and a failure on their part to make instant reparation is enough to prove our contention.

On September 25th. Prince Eui-wha started for a trip to Japan. Seoul people who claim to know say that he will remain there during the winter months.