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Korea and Formosa.

 The readers of the Review will pardon us for referring again to the question of the origin of the Korean people. It is still an unsolved problem and, so far as absolute proof goes, it will always remain so; but it is the part of the student to gather from every source whatever indications there may be which point to a logical answer to the question. It is a case of circumstantial rather than direct evidence.

One theory is that, while northern Korea was originally peopled from the north, the southern states, which eventually secured possession of the whole peninsula and imposed their language and customs to a very great extent, were of southern origin and that they were an off-shoot of that branch of the Turanian family which was in part driven out of India by the Aryan invaders and which was dispersed throughout Burmah, the Malay peninsula, the East Indies, the Philippine Islands, Formosa, Korea and Japan. From time to time we have been able to give isolated facts bearing upon the establishment of this theory as a fact but it is still too early to present the entire argument, for there are important rungs in the ladder which have not been thoroughly tested. One of these is the establishment of the fact that there is a definite connection between the so-called aborigines of Formosa and the ancient inhabitants of southern [page 2] Korea, not that such connection has been boldly assumed for the sake of the theory. We have given in previous numbers of the Review a few arguments to show that there is such connection, but this is one of the links which requires father testing.

The best authority we have on the Formosan tribes is James W. Davidson, F. R. G. S., whose monumental work *The Island of Formosa, Past and Present* not only presents a large amount of new information but also brings together all important information that is available from other sources. It is, in fact, a cyclopaedia of Formosa. We propose, therefore, to take some of the information given by Mr. Davidson and see what light it will throw upon a possible connection between the early Koreans and the aborigines of that island. The numbers in parentheses indicate the pages in Mr. Davidson’s work from which the quotations are taken.

The first fact which demands attention is that these wild tribes are many in number and are practically independent of each other. “From historical accounts of the Dutch, we learn that there were 293 tribes in the comparatively limited sphere of the foreigners’ influence. From these and other writings we may safely infer that the tribes throughout the island were very numerous in early days” (562). Those tribes which have not been partly civilized “have retained their warlike and primitive nature” (563) and it must have been their independence of each other which fostered the warlike spirit. And yet in spite of their independence of each other the eight groups into which Mr. Davidson classifies them show such marked similarities on other than political lines that we must conclude that there is a strong racial bond between them. The comparative list of words in the first appendix of Mr. Davidson’s book is one among many indications that the tribal differences were, after all, comparatively slight.

This minute subdivision into small tribes, many of which occupy but a single village, is a marked characteristic of these Formosan savages, and it corresponds with great exactitude with what we know of the southern [page 3] Koreans two thousand years ago. They numbered perhaps a few hundred thousand in all, but were divided into seventy-six tribes, each having its central village and being, so far as we can learn, practically independent of each other. This is shown by the statement of the early writers that each of the tribes had its own little army. At times they doubtless formed temporary federations for mutual benefit even as the Formosans have done, but as for any central government of a permanent nature they found no use for it. But in addition to this we find that the Formosan tribes may be classified into eight distinct groups which can be definitely named, such as the Atayal, Vonum, Taon, Paiwan, Ami, &c. These are not political divisions but are the result of racial characteristics. In Southern Korea the same thing obtained, for the seventy-six tribes were grouped under three names, namely Ma-han, Pyon-han and Chin-han. Whether these names were used by those ancient tribes we do not know but it is clearly recorded that the groups had racial characteristics that differentiated them from each other to some extent. The study of the names of these groups shows that the classification is correct. (See the *Korean Repository* Vol. II, p. 519). Taking it all together the resemblance between the political system of the early Koreans and that of the Formosans amounts to practical identity.

This argument would lose force if a similar state of things existed in northern Korea, but, as a fact, we find nothing of the kind there. The tribes of northern Korea were large and powerful. Each one occupied more territory than any fifty of the southern tribes. They were more like the North American Indian tribes. For instance, the Ye-mak or Nang-nang or Hyun-do or Eum-nu tribes of northern Korea each occupied a territory equal to a whole province of modem Korea, while the seventy- six tribes in the south occupied only two of the present provinces.

Mr. Davidson concludes that the natives of Formosa are of Malayan or Polynesian origin, “their short stature, yellowish brown color, straight black hair and other [page 4] physical characteristics, as well as their customs and language, bear sufficiently strong resemblance to the natives of the south seas to confirm this.” (562). This is indefinite, as the Malayan and Polynesian types are distinct; but we may consider the question as to the Malay origin settled since almost all those who have had anything to do with these tribes agree on the point. The matter of physical characteristics is an important one and the few words which we here have descriptive of the Formosan could be literally applied to the Korean. The shortness of stature is not particularly noticeable in Korea today, though accurate measurements would doubtless show that the average stature of the Korean is considerably less than that of the European. To gain a true idea of the striking resemblance between the Korean and the Formosan one has only to examine the pictures of native Formosans in Mr. Davidson’s finely illustrated work. Those who are well acquainted with the Koreans and have been in touch with them long enough to be able to distinguish their faces from those of the Chinese or Manchus would be the very first to note the striking resemblance between Formosan faces and the Korean. So far as the writer is concerned, he admits that, if these Formosans dressed the hair as the Koreans do, he would be wholly unable to detect any difference. Every one of the thirty-nine faces depicted on the page opposite page 563 is typically Korean. The same is true of the faces on the pages opposite 574, 578 and 588. In fact there is no native Formosan pictured in this book who might not be duplicated with ease on the streets of Seoul. The resemblance lies not merely in the shape of the features but in the general expression, a something hard to define, but so characteristic that it enabled the writer to detect instantly the nationality of two Koreans on the streets of New York even when dressed in European style.

The next point is in regard to the structure of their houses. This is of course an important feature in the life of any people, but it cannot be relied on implicitly in comparative work, because dwellings are modified in accordance with climate and other circumstances. [page 5] Comparisons along isothermal lines are naturally the most conclusive as regards dwellings but when people migrate from north to south or vice versa it is natural to suppose the character of their dwellings will become modified to suit the changed conditions. At the same time, certain characteristics are almost sure to survive.

The Formosans of the west Atayal group “erect posts of wood and stone with walls of bamboo interlaced with a kind of rush or grass and thatched with the same material” but the west Atayals “dig a cellar-like excavation from three to six feet deep and with the earth thus obtained a wall is built around the mouth of the excavation, and the interior is paved with stone. Strong wooden pillars with cross-poles are erected and flat pieces of stone are used as roofing.” This general plan is followed by many of the other groups. We are told by the ancient recorders that the primitive southern Koreans made houses much like this and that they entered by *a door in the roof*. The survival of this same form of dwelling to the present day in what is called the *um* indicates that the Koreans made use of the same semi- subterranean house that the uncivilized Formosans have preserved until the present time. There are other Formosan tribes whose houses are raised on posts, so that the floor is four or five feet above the ground. The exact counterpart of this is seen in the little watch tower which the Koreans build in summer among their fields.

It would be of value to compare the dress of the Formosan with that of the early Koreans but as there is no information whatever on this latter point it will be useless to take up this question. But closely allied to this are the subjects of ornaments and tattooing. As for the former the natives of Formosa make little use of gold or silver for ornaments, but beads and shells are used. It is recorded of the ancient southern Koreans that they did not highly regard silver or gold but that they had beads strung about their faces. This ignorance of the value of gold is a very strong indication of a southern origin, for had these people come from the north it is impossible that they should have been ignorant, or even [page 6] careless, of the value of gold at so late a date as 193 B. C. They learned it rapidly enough when they were once taught. Almost all the Formosan tribes tattoo to a greater or less extent. All accounts agree in saying that the early Koreans also tattooed. It was given up long ago but a trace still survives in the custom of drawing a red thread through the skin of the wrist in making certain kinds of compacts. The comparative severity of the Korean climate sufficiently accounts for the desuetude of this custom.

One very common custom among the Formosan tribes is the extraction of two teeth from the upper jaw. The number is always the same and it is always from the upper jaw that they are extracted. We know of no such custom in Korea at any time, but there is a curious coincidence. It is mentioned in the annals of the Kingdom of Silla, which at first was called Su-yu-bul, that any man who had sixteen teeth in his upper jaw was considered unusually wise and powerful. At one time the selection of a man to become king depended upon this thing, and a long search was required to find a man with sixteen teeth is his upper jaw. Now, we know that men ordinarily have that number. Why then should it have been difficult to find one who possessed the full set? I am inclined to think that is was due to some such custom, though it must be confessed that it was illogical for them to draw the teeth when their possession marked a man as exceptionally wise. I merely state the tradition as a coincidence without attempting to deduce any argument from it.

In all the Formosan tribes disease is attributed to the anger or malice of evil spirits. There are women exorcists who by various kinds of incantation pretend to drive out the offending spirit. Disease is sometimes caused by the wrath of a departed soul. The sorceress goes through her incantations, food is offered to the spirits, and a part of it is thrown out upon the ground. Every word of this applies precisely to Korea, The most ancient form of belief and the only indigenous one is the belief in these evil spirits, and the female exorcists and [page 7] sorceresses correspond exactly to the Formosan. Of course the higher development of the Korean has made the forms of exorcism more elaborate, but at bottom, the two are identical.

The burial customs of the Formosans are not highly distinctive. They bury their dead, as a rule, much after the ordinary fashion. In a few cases the house of the deceased is deserted after the event. One curious custom is that of calling out over the grave “He will not return.” There is something very like this in the Korean custom of running before a funeral procession as it approaches the gate of the city, and crying *Chikeum kago onje ona* “He goes now, but when shall he ever return?”

Those who are conversant with the Korean’s religious notions will not fail to notice how closely the following Formosan beliefs and practices resemble the Korean. “After the rice or millet has been harvested the Atayals select a day, during the period of full moon, and worship their ancestors.” (567) “The spirits of departed ancestors are worshipped on a day following the harvest. In some of the Yonum tribes a bundle of green grass is placed in a house as a symbol of the sacred day and it is believed that the family’s ancestral spirits will congregate about this emblem.” (569) Among the Tsou groups “a tree near the entrance to a village, usually selected because of its large size, receives special homage. It is thought that the spirits of their ancestors take their abode in these trees.” (571) They “arrange certain articles such as dishes, food, etc., in a certain form, mumble over them certain incantations which the savages believe bring down the spirits of their ancestors who are present so long as the ceremony lasts. Should one violate the rules of this ceremony or offend by entering the charmed circle over which the priestess alone presides, the spirits will visit on the offender their ill-will “ (573).

Perhaps the most distinctive custom of the Formosan savages is that of head-hunting. After reading carefully what Mr. Davidson has to say about it, one comes to the conclusion that, with most of the Formosans, head hunting does not enter into their religion but is merely a sign [page 8] of prowess and is carried on more to gain distinction than for any other reason. The head of a foe is to the Formosan what the scalp-lock was to the North American Indian. One group connects this head hunting with their religion but this seems to have arisen out of their exceptional ferocity. They made head-hunting their religion, in a sense. If, then, this custom is rather a matter of policy than of passion we can readily see how it died out when the *kurosuwo* or “Black Stream” swept them north to the Liu Kiu Islands and to the Korean island of Quelpart.

It is much to be regretted that so little is known, or at least recorded, of the languages of these Formosans. I have heretofore made a slight comparative study of this list of fifty words of the Formosan tribes (*Korea Review* Vol. Ill p. 289) and found that in thirty per cent of the words there is striking similarity to Korean. It will be a matter of great satisfaction, when someone conversant with the Formosan dialects, one or more, shall give us a grammar of them whereby to compare the two languages more perfectly.

The Iron Mines of Kang-won Province.

 I am neither a geologist nor a mineralogist, but I do know iron when I find it lying in the road; and this is just what I do every time that I make a trip into parts of Kang-won Province. What I am about to say then is not written from the standpoint of a specialist in iron mining, but from the standpoint of one who keeps his eyes open and sees what is in the country through which he travels. This iron is not hidden deep in the bowels of the earth, so that one must dig to see it, but it is lying near the top, in fact on the top, in many places, so that the men who mine it have only to take their little hoes, such as they use on their farms, and scrape it up where they find it. I have never yet seen a shaft out of which the ore was being taken, but it is always raked up on the surface of the hillside.

[page 9] The ore is carried to the smelting plant on the backs of oxen and cows. To American miners this would doubtless be a funny sight: this train of cows loaded with iron ore moving slowly one after another along the hill-side and up the path to a place where the ore may be dumped into a stream of running water where the dirt is washed away leaving the ore in better shape for the furnace. On each cow is a pack-saddle with two poles across it, from either end of which hangs a small bag made of straw into which the ore is placed so that the bags just balance on the saddle. These bags are so constructed that they are fastened at the bottom by means of a stick which when drawn out allows the ore to fall to the ground, thus making it easy to unload.

As for the smelting plant I am sure that it would not meet the entire approval of the American Steel Trust; but it is nevertheless a smelting plant, and it turns out pig-iron.

It is indeed a crude affair, being only a wall built of stone and mud, about fifteen feet long and eight or ten feet high, with the furnace on one side and the bellows on the other. The wall is of no service except to protect the bellows and the men who operate it from the heat of the furnace. The bellows is very simple; being a trough-like pit about fifteen feet long, three feet deep and two feet wide. This pit is walled up with stone and plastered with mud so that it is very smooth on the inside and has the appearance of a great mud trough. A cover of heavy board is made to fit into this and is hung on a pivot in the middle of the cover. Thus the cover becomes a see-saw and swings up and down as desired. When the bellows is in operation five or six men stand on each end of the cover and all swinging together “up and down they go” to the time of a sing-song noise which Korean coolies know how to make to perfection. In the center of the trough is a partition with valves so constructed that when the cover comes down at one end, the wind is forced into the other end; then as it comes down again it is forced into the furnace and makes the fire bum. This is kept up till the ore is melted, when it is drawn out and [page 10] cast into pig-iron. In order to melt this ore coal is required, of which there may be plenty in these mountains for all I know, but these men care little about that so long as they can find plenty of wood which they can easily convert into charcoal, which answers all their purposes. In the location of the smelting plant a good place to get wood for charcoal is taken into consideration as well as a place where the ore may be easily obtained. The pits or kilns in which the charcoal is burned are constructed partially underground so that they can be easily covered with stone and mud; into these the wood is placed and burned into a most excellent charcoal without much loss in the wood. The pig-iron thus turned out from these furnaces is passed on to the foundry where it is cast into plows, pots and other utensils, such as are in common use in the country.

The foundry is constructed on the same general plan as the smelting plant, with no sort of house, not even a roof of any description except perchance a shed of brush or straw built over the bellows so as to protect the men who play “see-saw” from the extreme heat of the summer sun. The whole plant is exceedingly simple and would not cost twenty-five dollars to construct it from start to finish. Yet the quality of the ore is such that notwithstanding the rude methods in use, the iron produced seems to be first-class. I have noticed the plows which were made from this iron and they seem to wear well and at the same time are not easily broken as would be the case if the iron were of a poor quality. Then too the rice pots which are a necessary part of every household are all made in the same way and from the same iron.

It is an interesting sight to see one of these rude furnaces in full blast and the men turning out pots and plows by the wholesale. There is the stone and mud wall of which I spoke, with the men just behind it on each end of the bellows swinging up and down, while from the bellows comes a roaring, growling noise, which is not drowned out even by the constant sing-song of the men who are playing “up and down we go.” Here on [page 11] this side of the wall is the rude cupola filled with charcoal and pig-iron, and from the top of which tongues of flame leap high into the air at every puff of the bellows. At the very bottom of the cupola there is an opening which is closed with a lump of clay until the iron is melted and ready for the moulds into which it is poured from a pot carried by two men. When everything is ready for the melted iron to be drawn off into the pot, one man sticks a lump of clay on the end of a pole and stands ready for action, while another with a rod of iron makes a hole through the clay which closes the opening, and the molten metal flows out in a red-hot stream till the pot is full, when the opening is again closed with the lump of clay on the end of the pole.

This region seems to supply the iron for a large part of the country, and is a source of considerable income to the people who do the work. Remember that there are no roads for wagons, nor wagons for the roads, even if they were there, and you will more readily see with what difficulty all this work is carried on. As has been said above, all the ore is carried from the hills to the smelting plant on the backs of cows. And so it is with the finished product, it must find its way to market on the backs of cows and men, the distance often being fifty or a hundred miles. As I said in the beginning, I am no specialist in this field, but I would judge from what little I do know that there is iron enough in these Kang-wun mountains to make steel rails enough to girdle the globe, and steel bridges sufficient to span the Atlantic. Here in these hills and mountains lie millions of dollars waiting to yield themselves to the hand of industry that will be brave enough to put forth the effort to dig them out. It will doubtless not be many years till someone, with the will to do something, will find these rich beds of ore and then those hills will echo with the shriek of the steam whistle and the roar of the railroad train as it makes its way to the sea loaded with steel rails and other products from the great iron furnaces of Kang-wun Province.

 J. Robt. Moose.

[page 12]

A Review: The Russo-Japanese Conflict.

 *The Russo-Japanese Conflict,* by Prof. K. Asakawa, Lecturer on the Civilization and History of East Asia, at Dartmouth College; with an introduction by Frederick Wells, Williams, Assistant Professor of Modem Oriental History in Yale University. Published by Houghton Mifflin & Co., Boston. 8vo. pp. 383.

We have received from the publishers the above named volume and have read it with absorbing interest, for it bears not only upon the war in general but it contains a careful account of events in Korea which led up to, if they were not the main cause of, the conflict.

After a short but appreciative introduction by Prof. Williams the author in his preface tells us in the following words what the object of the work is: “This is an attempt to present in a verifiable form some of the issues and the historical causes of the war now waged between Russia and Japan,” and the perusal of the book compels us to admit that the author has held himself down to his text with admirable repression. He has indulged in no passionate appeals for sympathy in the name of his nation nor has be asked the readier to accept any theories or deductions of his own. He has simply set down in a dispassionate and almost neutral manner the causes and issues of the war. We thought at first that if he did no more than this it would be rather stale reading, but we found it fascinating. The lucidity of his style and his luminous collocation of evidence make the book a pleasure to read. His introductory chapter is an effort to prove the proposition which he words thus: “For Japan the issues appear to be only partly political, but mainly economical; and perhaps no better clue to the understanding not only of the present situation, but also, in general, of the activities at home and abroad of the Japanese people, could be found than in the study of these profound [page 13] material interests.” He then proceeds to set forth the present industrial and economic situation of Japan, and he does it in such few and well selected terms that we get a bird’s-eye of the whole situation, and are prepared to follow him into his second chapter where he takes up the question of the retrocession of the Liao-tung Peninsula.

He gives a brief but comprehensive account of Russia’s absorption of the Ussuri district and the founding of Vladivostock, and then coming down to 1891, the inception of the Siberian railway. Then comes a mention of the causes, the operation and the close of the China- Japan war of 1895. Speaking of the interference of Russia, Germany and France he says, “At a council, it is said, Russian naval and military authorities concluded that Russia alone could not successfully combat Japan, which, however, might be coerced if Russia co-operated with France.” He quotes voluminously from the French and German press showing conclusively the reasons why these Powers joined with Russia in ousting Japan. He shows very cleverly how English opinion which had held so strongly to China during the war was already beginning to change in favor of Japan. Many people have asked why Japan did not stipulate that if she retroceded the Liao-tung Peninsula China should guarantee never to lease it to any other Power. The author dismisses this with the remark, “Evidently time was two limited and the occasion two inopportune for Japan successfully to induce China to pledge not to alienate in the future any part of the retroceded territory to any other Power.” And summing up the incident he adds. “The historical significance of this memorable incident deserves special emphasis. It is not too much to say that with it Eastern Asiatic history radically changed its character, for it marks a new era in which the struggle is waged no longer between oriental nations themselves but between sets of interests and principles which characterize human progress at its present stage and which are represented by the greatest powers of the world.” He claims that Japan derived inestimable advantages from the experience, for it awakened her to the fact that if she desired to hold [page 14] the place she had already gained she must fit herself to compete both in peace and in war with the first nations of the world.

“It is questionable if there is in the entire range of Japanese national life another point less understood abroad but more essential for an insight into the present and future of the extreme orient than this: the increased enthusiasm of Japan in the ardent effort to strengthen her position in the world by basing her international conduct upon the fairest and best tried principles of human progress. The effort is not free from errors but the large issue grows ever clearer in Japan’s mind.”

The writer sums up in a really masterly way the arguments which go to show that Russia made a secret treaty with China in 1896. He discusses at length the Cassini Convention and then the lease of Kiao-chau by Germany and Russia’s gradual leading on to the securing of Talienwan and Port Arthur. In Chapter V he deals with Secretary Hay’s Circular Note, in Chapter VI with the occupation of Manchuria by Russia. Then follow chapters on North China and Manchuria, the Anglo-German agreement, the Alexieff-Tseng Agreement, the Lamsdorff-Yang- yu Convention, further Russian demands, the Anglo- Japanese agreement, the Russo-French Declaration, the Convention of Evacuation, The Evacuation, The Russian Seven Demands.

 Then, beginning with the sixteenth chapter, we come to that part of the book which is of special interest to Korea. The writer calls the Korean half of the problem the more important half. He takes up the events that occurred, in Seoul from the end of the China-Japan war. He says “Unfortunately Korea’s lack of material strength rendered her real independence impossible, and her strength could be secured only by a thorough-going reform of her administrative, financial and economic system which had sunk into unspeakable corruption and decay. By her victory the colossal task devolved upon Japan of reforming the national institutions of a people whose political training in the past seemed to have made them particularly impervious to such effort. Perhaps no work more delicate [page 15] and more liable to blunder and misunderstanding could befall a nation than that of setting another nation’s house in order who would not feel its necessity. In this difficult enterprise the Japanese showed themselves as inexperienced as the Koreans were reluctant and resentful.” This is the frankest and most honest admission ever made by a Japanese of the terrible mistakes of 1895. He goes on to speak of the influence of “Mr Waeber and his talented wife who recommended themselves to a large body of men and women whose feeling the Japanese had alienated, and slowly but surely to undermine the latter’s influence.”

He speaks of Miura as “a man of undoubted sincerity but utterly without diplomatic training,” and adds, “Some of the Japanese in Seoul betrayed themselves into a crime which caused bitter disappointment and lasting disgrace to the Government and the nation at home.” After describing the murder of the queen he says “the deed was no less crushing a blow to the Japanese nation than it was to the bereaved King of Korea, for the former’s ardent desire to adhere to the fairest principle of international conduct was for once frustrated by the rash act of a handful of their brethren at Seoul. The influence of the queen passed away and the power of the reform cabinet was for the moment assured, but only at the expense of a revolting crime which the Japanese will never cease to lament. It is probable that the murder of the queen was premeditated and that Minister Miura had been prevailed upon to connive at the guilt.” So far as it goes this is a very straightforward statement but if he had added that the Japanese Government acquitted Miura he would have left less to be desired by way of frankness.

Under the heading “Diplomatic Struggle in Korea,” he goes on to give a most vivid and entertaining account of what happened here during the years 1896 to 1903 in- elusive. The peculiar tactics of de Speyer come in for special mention, in which connection he says, “It was a misfortune for Russia that her able representative at Seoul, Mr. Waeber, had been transferred to Mexico and was replaced by M. Speyer. The former’s pleasing manners were [page 16] succeeded by the latter’s overbearing conduct, which appeared gradualist to alienate from Russia many of the former friends of Mr. Waeber.” It is of course impossible for us to do justice to Mr. Asakawa’s account, but it is so clear, so accurate and so thoroughly sane that it makes very interesting reading. It is truly remarkable that a man who has never been to Seoul should be able so accurately to gauge the feelings of both Japanese and Koreans. One would think the writer must have been on the spot and in the thick of the fray. Prof. Asakawa is to be congratulated on the completion and the publication of this excellent work and no one should be without it who wants upon his book shelf the best that has been written about the events leading up to the struggle now in progress.

While we agree with what Prof Asakawa has to say in a general way there are some points in which theory and practice do not go hand in hand. With these we have dealt elsewhere in this issue.

The Seoul Fusan Railway.

It was at the beginning of 1905 that the Seoul Fusan Railway was opened for general traffic and we lost no time in running down to Fusan and examining this route. It seems too good to be true that never again shall we have to feel our way around that southwestern point through the fog or drop anchor for a day at a time among those dreary islands. A few hours dash across the Straits of Korea is all the sea-travel now necessary between Seoul and Tokyo and it is more than likely that within a few years the Straits of Dover will be all the water to be crossed in going to London.

At first the Seoul Fusan trains started from Yong-tong-po where a wait of an hour was necessary, but before long this was changed and now the train starts from Seoul. Branching off from the Chemulpo line at Yong-tong-po it turns to the southward and sweeps around the base of Kwanaksan giving some magnificent views of that grand cluster of rocky peaks. Suwun with its thickly [page 17] wooded mountain is reached in about an hour from Yongtongpo. Here the road skirts an extensive irrigation reservoir on one side and a fine stone quarry on the other. Throughout this whole section, at least for a distance of fifty miles from Seoul, the country is finely wooded, extensive forests being continually in sight. After that the county becomes less heavily wooded until in the vicinity of Kongju only an occasional clump of trees is seen. In the town of Chuneui two tunnels are passed each of them being approximately one hundred yards long. Nothing too good can be said of the workmanship on this road; the roadbed is excellent and for a considerable part of the way is ballasted with stone. The rails are very heavy, contrasting in this respect very favorably with those of the Siberian Railway whose rails, in 1903 at least, were hardly heavier than those of the electric tramway in Seoul. The ties of the Japanese road are very heavy and made of a wood much resembling the ash. Here again there is a striking difference between the Japanese and Russian work for the latter road has, for thousands of miles, ties that are simply round sticks of eight inch diameter split in two, the rails resting on the rounded side. A very few weeks suffice to sink the rails deeply into the soft wood.

 The trains on the Seoul Fusan road are not as yet finally arranged and there is no express service. A third class car and a second class car were attached to a freight train and at each station there was more or less shifting of cars and consequent delays. And yet in spite of this the average time between Seoul and Fusan was twenty miles an hour which exceeds the time of the express on the Siberian line. Over parts of the Korean line we made a speed of thirty-five miles an hour. This is quite unheard of on any portion of the Siberian line. It was not until we boarded the train from Moscow to Warsaw that we equalled that pace. If a mixed train can make this over the Seoul Fusan road an express can easily do forty or forty-five miles. The important point is that the road bed is so solid and the masonry work so unexceptionable that the possible speed will depend entirely upon [page 18] the engines and weight of train. It was the bad condition of the roadbed that retarded speed in Siberia.

This road passes Kongju at a distance of some twenty miles and then branches away to the east to climb the two ranges of mountains that lie between the valleys of the Keum and Naktong Rivers. The work of mounting the first great pass is an arduous one, for the tunnel at this point is not completed and the road literally climbs the hill. The grade at one point is the steepest we have ever seen except on a funicular railway. This will all disappear as soon as the tunnel is completed. Steep as it is this pass does not have to be surmounted by a switchback or any other such mechanical trick, but we had to have an engine at each end of the train. Through this rough region the masonry work is exceedingly fine and money must have been poured out like water. The road passes through the hills at a high elevation and the valleys deep beneath with their clustering villages and checker-board rice fields pass before the eye like moving pictures.

Passing down the eastern side of this range we cross a tributary of the Keum River on a temporary bridge. The approach to this bridge down the side of the mountain is one of the most beautiful on the whole road. Late in the afternoon the second range is passed. Here also we find an unfinished tunnel, apparently one of the most considerable on the line. Comparatively little of it is done as yet for at the western end the hill had not been entered more than thirty or forty feet. The road passes over the summit and on the eastern side requires a single switch-back in order to come down to the level of the valley. It is dark by the time we cross the broad Naktong and eight o’clock sees us draw up at the station of Taiku. The train stops here and the traveller must seek lodgement in the town until seven o’clock the next morning. There are many Japanese hostelries and one need not be uncomfortable. One should not fail to stop over a day at this town and visit certain places of great interest in its vicinity. Some of them are relics of the ancient Silla dynasty which fell almost exactly one [page 19] thousand years ago. There is a curious underground vault whose use no one at the present time can guess. It is made of massive stone arches and the whole is covered with a mound of earth, on top of which grows an oak tree two feet in diameter. One should see the curious graves called Koryu-chang which are remains of the last dynasty and from which large quantities of curious pottery and other utensils are taken. None of these graves are without this pottery. These sepulchers are so old that hardly a vestige of the skeleton of the dead is found. One should not fail to visit the remains of the stronghold of the old time Sŭ family, a sort of feudal fortress some twenty acres in extent.

Taiku is the center of much missionary work both Roman Catholic and Protestant. The R. C. cathedral is the most conspicuous building in or near the town and under the earnest and devoted efforts of Father Robert a large work is being done. The Presbyterian Mission has a flourishing station here with half a dozen missionaries and their families. They do a large work in the town itself but they go far and wide throughout the province and have out-stations and churches and groups of adherents in scores of country villages. In the prosecution of their duties these missionaries run up against all sorts of adventures. In the Autumn the people in the mountain villages frequently beg them to lead in a pig hunt, for the wild pigs come done and devastate the rice fields and every field has to be watched continually until the crop is in. On one of these occasions a missionary complied with their request and we shall give in a subsequent issue an account of that interesting pig hunt.

We left Taiku for Fusan at four in the afternoon and an hour later we were climbing the ascent to the mouth of the great tunnel. This is the most arduous feat the engineers had to perform. The tunnel is upwards of 4,000 feet long. The approach from neither end is particularly picturesque but it is a good illustration of the determination which has marked the progress of Japanese enterprise in Korea. Darkness came on soon after and in the moonlight we slipped down the long reaches of the Nak-tong [page 20] River until at eight we caught sight of the sparkling lights on the shipping in Fusan harbor and drew up at the terminal station which stands half way between old Fusan, at the head of the bay, and Fusan proper at the foot. Two years have worked wonders in this port. The Reclamation Company has literally pulled the hills down into the water And to-day we have a broad band stretching down the shore of the bay for a mile or more. In places the sea wall is built up from a point thirty-five feet below the surface of the water. The new Commercial Museum is one of the finest foreign buildings in Korea and the new three-story Japanese hotels, built most substantially of brick and, at least on the exterior, in foreign style attest the restless energy and enterprise of the Japanese. Koreans swarm in every direction. Hundreds of them have been and are employed on constructive works and inquiries all along the line, from all sorts of people, elicited the same statement, namely that the road is a great institution that will do incalculable good. Of course there are those who grumble at it. For instance an enormous freight traffic was formerly carried on by flat-boat on the Naktong River. These boats were towed by men and it took a month to reach Taiku. The railroad has practically killed this traffic and a large number of people have had to find employment elsewhere but to thousands and tens of thousands of people in the interior the cheapening of transit rates and the avoidance of the likin dues on this river have proved an unmixed blessing. The impetus given to trade of all kinds is rapidly giving occupation to all the people displaced and to hundreds besides. There are many complaints of injustice and oppression on the part of the Japanese and it is plain that the Japanese Government has not yet gotten into running order the necessary legal machinery for guaranteeing ordinary justice to the Korean populace. It is abundantly evident that Prof. Asakawa’s words in the book that we are reviewing in this number of the Review are eminently true, namely, “No greater burden and no more delicate work for a nation can be imagined than that of regenerating another whose nobility [page 21] has grown powerful under corruption and whose lower classes do not desire a higher existence. On the other hand the inertia and resistance of Korea would be tremendous in which her ‘full confidence’ would give place to hatred and rancor. The proverbial machinations of the peninsular politician would be set in motion in all their speed and confusion. It would not be surprising if, under the circumstances, even a military control of Korea for a temporary and mild nature should become necessary in order to cure her malady and set her house in order. On the other hand when the necessary reform should be so deep and wide as is required in the present instance the temptation of the reformer would be great and the suspicion of the reformed even greater, *where political reformatory measures border upon the economic*. Here and everywhere Japan would save herself from the gravest errors, in spite of her best intentions in the large issue, *only by the severest self-control and consummate tact*. Great is the penalty of Japan that arises from her peculiar position. *She has never encountered in her long history a greater trial of her moral force as a nation than in the new situation opened by the protocol.* As to the world at large, it will look forward to an intensely interesting experiment in human history.” The italics are ours. We wish Prof. Asakawa might visit Korea and examine the actual conditions that prevail.

Odds and Ends.

Room at the top.

 A number of Koreans were gathered about the missionary’s table eating dried persimmons, walnuts, chestnuts, oranges and American sponge-cape. Kim-pilsu was late and so found himself crowed out. Standing on the outer rim of the company he looks wistfully over their heads at the good things and finally remarks “This reminds me of a wedding I once attended. It was a very swell affair and the crowd was so great that one of the would-be sight-seers could not get a single glimpse of the bride. So he raised [page 22] his voice and said in an excited tone ‘I have just seen a most remarkable thing; a man was pulling candy and he would take a lump as big as my head and straighten his arms and jerk it about in a semi-circle as easily as you would a piece the size of your hand (here the speaker suited the action to the word and elbowed his way toward the table) and in a moment more the candy was as white as the bride’s face is, which you friends have so kindly stepped aside for me to see.” Kim was by this time in the front rank at the table and innocently remarked as he lifted a large section of the cake. “This cake too is very white, thanks to your kindness.”

Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals

Messrs. Chun and Sin had met by accident just behind Mr, Kim’s straw fence, from which place they had a good view of the circular pen of wooden stakes which confined their friend’s pig. The latter was tied about the belly with a straw rope which was drawn so tight that it appeared as if it had not been loosened since the animal’s “toyaji” days. Chun remarked that the rope looked rather tight for a self-respecting hog to wear. Sin replied that it was a very cruel and unjust world that rewarded such a “sangnom” as Kim with a fat hog like that when two deserving people had to go porkless, and it was especially aggravating to see the animal in the possession of a monster who had not the humanity to loosen the stomach- rope as the beast took on flesh. So these two humanitarians agreed to relieve the situation.

At dead of night Chun scratched on the paper of Sin’s door and the two, armed with rice-hulling bludgeons stealthily approached the home of the suffering “tot.” Chun stood with uplifted club while Sin crawled in to cut the stomach-rope and give the signal for the death-blow. But the astonished hog, freed from its bonds, began a frantic race around its pen, incidentally trampling upon the prostrate Sin. The latter yelled “Na- on-da” (coming out) forgetting in his excitement to indicate *who* was coming out and so Chun’s vicious blow found him right behind the ear. As Chun bore the [page 23] inanimate form of his friend home on his back, instead of the hog, he murmured under his breath, “Well, in the first place there is no use in showing a kindness to a hog. He lacks appreciation. And in the second place this language of ours, it is at times confusing enough to ‘dam one’s very ears.’”

A Lively Corpse.

 Ten years ago there died in Seoul a celebrated policeman who was popularly called “The Hawk” because his marvelous power of sight equalled that of the bird. Many are the stories that are told of his constabulary skill, but perhaps the most startling is the following : One night as he was on his rounds in a part of the city in which many rich gentlemen lived, he heard a curious commotion in one of the houses. It was not the lamentation for the dead which breaks upon the stillness of the night when a husband or child passes way, nor was it the screaming of the mudang as she tries by her incantations to frighten away the spirit of disease. It was a quite unfamiliar sort of disturbance and “The Hawk” paused at the gate to learn what it might mean. Presently there was a murmur of excited voices and a great shuffling of feet inside the gate. It was opened and out came a crowd of men and women servants pale and distraught, each seeming to be seeking safety in flight. The policeman drew one of them aside.

“What is the trouble here?” The man tried to wrench himself away, looking over his shoulder as if fearing that a ghost were after him; but “The Hawk” held him fast. “Trouble! Why, trouble enough! The master died yesterday and we had him all clothed in burial garb ready for the funeral, but tonight he suddenly rose from his coffin and now he stands there in the middle of the room staring straight ahead and not saying a word. We have done nothing wrong, that he should come back to life; no one has let a cat into the room that he should stir from the sleep of death, and yet there the gruesome thing stands, and whether it be man or spirit I, for one, dare not guess. For heaven’s sake, let me get away from the place!”

[page 24] “Very curious,” mused the officer, and drawing his club he entered the court-yard. The house was completely deserted. “The Hawk” glanced sharply around and then entered the room where the dead should be. The *thing* was still standing there in the middle of the room gazing upward into space, wrapped in its cerements. It took all the nerve the policeman could muster to approach it, but he did so and now the two stand facing each other, the living and the dead. “The Hawk” aimed a blow with his stick and struck the corpse in the face. It never moved. A thrill of genuine fear went through the limbs of the officer, for it is no safe thing to be playing tricks with a real corpse, as he well knew. But he struck again, and this time the secret was out, for the supposedly dead man, instead of falling over like a log, crumpled down at the knees and lay all huddled up on the floor. The officer whipped out his cord and tied him neck and heels, and then demanded in a stern voice :

“What have you done with the corpse, and where are your accomplices?”

“Under the floor,” whimpered the thief, “and the other fellows are hidden in the *tarak*.” The policeman turned back the mat and saw a loose stone slab beneath which lay the genuine corpse. The gang had entered and played a trick upon the people to frighten them all away, after which they intended to loot the place.

Satsuma Ware.

 We have been asked by a subscriber to give something by way of establishing the fact that the Japanese learned the art of making Satsuma ware from the Koreans. We hope in the course of the year to give a thorough article on Korean ceramics and must reserve the answer to this question till that time, but in the interval we may say that the historical fact seems to have been conclusively proved. The argument is a double one, in fact a triple one for (1) the descendants of the transported colony of Satsuma potters are living today in Japan (2) the old pottery in Korea today presents characteristics strikingly similar to those of old Satsuma and (3) both Korean and Japanese tradition, if not history itself, makes the [page 25] plain statement of such transportation. It must be remembered that this occurred only 300 years ago, which is but as yesterday in the Far East.

The Top-knot.

 We have also been asked for a history of this capital (caput) institution. It would take a good many pages to give it in full but we shall try to give in a subsequent issue at least a partially adequate biography of Mr. Sangtu. He has had a truly checquered career, or perhaps we might better say a very twisted career but he has always been at the head in every popular movement in Korea and has played a leading part in every fight, as those who have seen Korean fights know very well. Just at present, with some Koreans, Shakespeare’s aphorism is distinctly to the fore, “To be or knot to be.”

An English Society.

 The Young Men’s Christian Association of Seoul is the nucleus for various kinds of work for young men in this city. Among these the English Society is worth special mention. A company of some thirty Koreans who can speak English more or less meet in one of the rooms of the temporary Y. M. C. A. quarters and have various literary exercises in English. They have grasped the first important rule that in order to learn anything new one must not be afraid of making blunders. Their knowledge of this rule is made abundantly evident at each meeting but in spite of all mistakes they are pushing ahead. A few evenings ago there was an amusing debate on the question, “Resolved that it would be well for Koreans to adopt European dress.” Some of the arguments adduced both pro and con were truly startling, and the judges unanimously agreed that the negative side had won. There are also recitations, readings, dialogues and other instructive forms of work.

Another class of young men are learning to sing after the western fashion. It is really remarkable how well most Koreans follow a tune after they have once made the attempt. They certainly have a fine “ear for music.” A part of the new physical apparatus ordered from America has arrived, but only a small part of it can be [page 26] accommodated in the present buildings. It will be a great thing when the new building is completed and there will be room for all who want to come. The lecture course has been very successful and the rooms are always crowded to suffocation . The Koreans know a good thing when they see it or hear it. These are free lectures and it is too early to say how much real value the Koreans attach to them. If a small fee were charged for attendance it might be possible to gauge the genuineness of their interest. These people are as willing to get something for nothing as western people are but no more so.

Editorial Comment

 In our review of Prof. Asakawa’s interesting book we expressed surprise that a man could write so accurately in regard to events in Korea, having never visited the country. So far as historical statements go he is remarkably accurate, except in a few cases, as for instance where he says “The cultivation of rice is said to have been first taught the Koreans by the Japanese invaders toward the end of the sixteenth century.” Rice has been cultivated here since the beginning of the Christian era, and so far from having been taught by the Japanese there is every reason to believe that Japan learned the use of rice from Korea in the days of ancient Silla. We are very much surprised that Prof. Asakawa should have been led into such an elementary blunder as this. He also says “It is estimated that the extent of her (Korea’s) land under cultivation is hardly more than 3,185,000 acres and that there exist at least 3,500,000 more acres of arable land. Unfortunately however the Koreans lack energy to cultivate those waste lands; for it is well known that the irregular but exhaustive exactions of the Korean officials have bred a conviction in the mind of the peasant that it is unwise to bestir himself and earn surplus wealth only to be fleeced by the officials. His idleness has now for centuries been forced until it has [page 27] become an agreeable habit.” We would like to ask Prof. Asakawa how it comes about then that within three of these centuries Koreans have been able to make rice fields enough to feed their own 12,000,000 people and, as he says, to export annually 4,000,000 yen worth of this staple? He goes on to say:

“It is in this state of things that it has often been suggested that the cultivation of the waste lands may most naturally be begun by the superior energy of the Japanese settlers.”

This sounds well, but we would like to ask Prof. Asakawa whether he really believes that the Japanese settler would think of going on to the uncultivated hill-sides and give the Koreans an object lesson in agriculture. Very far from it. The Japanese are buying up the best rice-fields, and the Korean who is foolish enough to sell will waste his money and become a coolie or he will be driven back to these less desirable lands.

Not does Prof. Asakawa touch upon the vital question of jurisdiction. To him the Japanese industrial invasion of Korea looks like a great campaign of education. He says: “The progress of agriculture would also gradually lead the Korean into the beginning of an industrial life while the expanding systems of railways and banking would be at once cause and effect of the industrial growth of the nation.”

This is all very fine from the theoretic standpoint, but Prof. Asakawa has not seen how it works in actual life. The ideal standpoint is one thing and the actual and practical a very different thing. The ordinary Japanese immigrant and settler has no rosy visions of a regenerated Korea, he has in mind no scheme for making the Koreans wake up to their agricultural possibilities. He wants the land irrespective of all other considerations, just as Americans or Frenchmen or Englishmen would do under like circumstances. The question is whether these high ideals which Prof. Asakawa claims that the Japanese authorities hold will be brought into the field of practical affairs and prevent the arable land of Korea being bought up for business purposes by Japanese; whether, in other words, [page 28] the Japanese government really has any genuine intention of recognizing the Korean laborer or artisan as having any rights that Japanese subjects are bound to respect, and bound to be punished for if they do not respect.

We would also like to ask the Professor another question. If, as he says, official corruption has bred in the Korean mind the conviction that energy and thrift are of no avails would not Japan’s heavy obligation to Korea, which he acknowledges, be better paid by putting an end to that corruption and giving the people an opportunity to learn that thrift is worth something than by allowing Japanese subjects to treat the people as they do and keeping in office, as was done in Pyeng Yang, officials whom even the Koreans themselves consider too mean to tolerate? It would be a pity if after decrying so loudly Russia’s use of corrupt officials here Japan should not make a strong attempt to stem the tide of official corruption.

We believe with Prof. Asakawa that Japan has a large and important piece of work to do in Korea and that her accomplishment of this task will be a far better measure of her genuine moral force than the winning of victory in the war with Russia. Korea has how been in Japan’s hands for a year, but we see no administrative reforms introduced, no cleaning out of the Augean Stables, no educational program promulgated, no financial scheme developed in any practical way, very little indeed that the Korean is bound to profit by. Perhaps the time has not come to begin but by this time some little progress ought to have been made. In the north the people are complaining bitterly that when the railway builders took their rice fields and other land they were told that they must look to the Korean government for their pay. It seems to us, and we should like Prof. Asakawa’s views on this too, that if the Japanese received the land on the understanding that the Korean government would pay for it, they should have seen to it without fail that the government did pay. In the face of the fact that payment, in hundreds of cases has never been made we would like to ask Prof. Asakawa what practical value there is in the statement that upon Japan’s shoulders rests the [page 29] “regeneration” of Korea. We take him at his own word and agree with him fully when he says that “Japan has never encountered a greater trial of her moral force as a nation than in the new situation opened by the protocol.” We are now waiting to see what Japan is going to do to establish the independence and autonomy of Korea in any such sense as America established that of Cuba. There are many points of similarity between these two cases.

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We are glad to see that the visit of the Minister of Education to Japan has resulted in a forward movement, the appointment of Prof. Sidehara to the position of Assistant to the Educational Department. Prof. Sidehara has been in Korea some years and is therefore well acquainted with prevailing conditions. We trust that a new impetus will be given to education, which has been in a languishing condition for many years. But even under the best f of management we fear that education cannot be made genuinely popular here until the Government is brought to see that graduates of Government schools are likely to make better material for the officiary of the country than men appointed merely through favoritism. If Japanese influence should bring about the rise of such a sentiment one thing at least would have been done to verify the statement that Japan is interested in the betterment of the Korean people. When the great awakening came in Japan in the sixties they realized that education was all-important. There could be, therefore, no greater proof of their sincerity in Korea than the energetic pushing of a scheme for general and thorough education.

The extremely open winter has caused much uneasiness among the Koreans. The barley crop will be almost a complete failure in many parts of the country and the opening of spring will be the signal for the development of typhus germs on a grand scale. We trust these native prognostications will fail of realization, but we have come to have great respect for what Koreans say [page 30] along these lines. They have so often been the sufferers from such things that they know what they are talking about.

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We have begun in this issue a series of articles upon the industries of Korea. It forms a fitting sequel to a former series which we gave on the Products of Korea, and will prove more valuable since manufacturing industries tell us more of the people themselves while agricultural products tell us, rather, what nature does. The article that we print this month on the iron industry in Kang-wun province is certainly news to most of us. We had supposed that Korea was sadly lacking in this most important of all minerals. If the forecast of the writer of this article materializes, the building of the Seoul-Wonsan Railroad will do much to bring the little- known province of Kang-wun into prominence. We can answer Mr. Moose’s query as to the existence of coal in that province, for once during a hunting trip in Kang- wun we stumbled upon one of the finest veins of coal that we have ever seen. Of course, as to its quality we cannot say, but there can be no question that the minerals of Korea form her most important asset; for while a large part of the grain raised in the peninsula is needed for the local population any large deposits of iron or other useful minerals would be available for export.

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We consider the statement that the present management of the Korean Imperial Customs is to be changed, to be rather the surmise of those who would like to discredit the Japanese than a fact that is at all liable to come within the radius of probability. We have pointed out before that this is the very last step the Japanese would be likely to take, considering the excellent record the Customs has made and the fact that the policy of the Customs authorities is in such perfect accord with the avowed purposes of Japan in regard to Korea, If the Japanese do not mean what they say in affirming that they want to see a firm, successful and independent government in Korea, then of course anything might be possible; but we think it hardly time yet to assert that [page 31] the ultimate purpose of the Japanese authorities is radically different from their profession. There may have been some things that look that way but there is nothing conclusive as yet. The public will have to accord to Japan the benefit of the doubt until something more definite happens. If Japan is lending money to Korea at six per cent it certainly looks very neighborly, and Japan has a good right to ask for proper security. If anyone has interpreted the proposition that the Customs be security for the loan to be a demand that the management of the Customs be put in Japanese hands we think he has gone much too far. We are free to confess that we have seen little effort on the part of Japan to introduce genuine reforms into Korea, nothing that strikes at the root of the trouble and is calculated to do thorough work. If Korea is ever to be independent she must raise up officials capable of carrying on an independent government. A radical work and not a merely superficial one is necessary. We believe this can be accomplished only through a genuine and thorough education, but while a Japanese assistant has been appointed to the Educational Department there is no money to do anything with, and the cause of education is at the lowest ebb that it has ever been within our knowledge. We are waiting hopefully for evidences of Japan’s intention to fulfill her promises and obligations. It would be a lamentable commentary of Japan’s criticism of Russia’s broken promises in Manchuria if she herself should prove untrue to her own promises in Korea. We cannot believe that she will.

News Calendar.

 Pak Che-pin, special inspector in North Chulla province, reports to the Home Department that he has arrested Cha Nai-chin, on complaint that he had privately sold land to a foreigner.

 By proclamation of General Hasegawa, the Japanese gendarmes will hereafter have charge of policing the city of Seoul.

[page 32] Reports continually come to the Home Department that the Japanese military authorities in various parts of Korea are compelling the Korean magistrates to furnish the Japanese with information as to the number of fields, cattle, houses and population in their districts.

 The Japanese Minister has informed the Home Department that in those districts where the office of magistrate is vacant Japanese acting-magistrates will be sent by the Japanese authorities, and their salaries must be paid by the Korean government.

 Kwak Chong-suh, Councillor of State, has presented a memorial asking that the term of mourning for the late Crown Princess be shortened.

 On the 7th of January a largely attended out-door meeting of the II Chin-hoi was held at Chemulpo. There were a number of speeches, among them one by the Japanese Consul at Chemulpo.

 Dr. H. N. Allen has laid before the Korean government the fact that the foreign cemetery site at Yang Wha-chin is entirely too small; and the government has been asked to provide additional ground. All European nationalities are interested in the cemetery. In response the government has granted the request for the additional ground.

 Mr. Cho Pyung-sik, Minister of the Home Department, has been appointed President of State, and Mr. Soh Chung-soon as governor of Whanghai Province.

 The magistrate of Yang-chun reports to the Home Department that members of the II Chin-hoi are creating disturbances among the people by telling them that any grievances they may have will receive attention if addressed to the II Chin-hoi.

 The “Hwang-sung Sin-mun” says that the indemnity asked for the Japanese who in various ways have been killed in Korea since 1894 amounts to 184,400 yen, and this sum has been sent by His Majesty to the Japanese Minister, who has written to the Foreign Office expressing gratitude to His Majesty.

 The terms of banishment of various prisoners have been shortened by the Law Department.

 A slight skirmish occurred between the Russians and Japanese at Hongwon on the 24th, the Russians retiring northward.

 Native papers are reporting that the Japanese government as security for the proposed loan to Korea demands all the Korean revenue, but the Korean government at present only agrees to turn over the revenue from the customs.

 The magistrate of Pak-chyong district sends word to the Home Department that members of the II Chin-hoi have had a struggle with other citizens, and the members of this society destroyed the premises of the magistrate.

 A number of young Korean officials have formed debating societies for the discussion of political questions.

[page 33] Complicated affairs are of frequent occurrence, but occasionally one gets straightened out. The magistrate of Whai-chou was arrested by the Japanese on complaint that he had written to the Home Department stating that the Japanese had connived at the organization of the II Chin-hoi that they might interfere with Korean police affairs. It now appears the letter was a forgery written by one of the Il Chin-hui and the magistrate has been released.

 We regret to announce the death of the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Gillett, aged six days.

 The Home Department has been informed by the Japanese Minister that Mr. Chung Hang-cho, superintendent of trade at Kunsan, should be retained in his position because he is an honest official and the people have asked that he be retained. He also states that Kim Yong-ak, the magistrate of An-ak, persistently squeezed the people, and seven separate complaints had been lodged against him.

 It is reported that an attempt has been made by Japanese merchants to build a small store in the street immediately in front of the building used by the Korean Cotton Exchange. The matter has been laid before the Police Department.

 Because of alleged improper expressions concerning His Majesty the Minister for Foreign Affairs has asked the Japanese Minister to prohibit the publication of a certain Japanese daily in the city.

 Complaint is made by the Foreign Office that Japanese military authorities at Ham Heung are meddling with land taxation even outside the sphere of military operations, and that the Japanese consul at Chin- nampo is interfering m civil cases, and the Japanese Minister is asked to prohibit such unlawful actions.

 On the 26th inst. the Japanese Minister demanded of the Household Department an immediate reply to his communication relative to the abolition of the Che Yong-sa (a bureau controlling the hide monopoly.)

 Three Korean gentlemen of good position, Yuh Chimg-yong, Kang Won-hyong and Woo Yong-taik, have written to the Japanese Minister complaining that while at the beginning of the war Japan had declared her intention of protecting the interests of Korea, instead of keeping her promise had now requested all the waste lands, was building railways without concessions, had killed many Koreans, and was interfering with both police and local affairs.

[page 34] The aged nobles have united in presenting a memorial to His Majesty asking for reforms in the government.

 At a cabinet meeting on the 17th inst. Mr. Megata, Japanese adviser to the Finance Department, laid three propositions before His Majesty and the various Ministers, 1, To borrow Y 10,000,000 from Japan with which to establish a national bank in Seoul, with a branch in each of the thirteen provinces. 2, To prohibit the use of counterfeit nickles. 3, To pay the salaries of all officials in paper yen.

 General Hasegawa, commander-in-chief of the Japanese forces in Korea, was received in audience by His Majesty on the 18th inst.

 The contract of Mr. Delcoigne, Belgian Adviser to the Household Department, has not been renewed, and it is now stated that the Japanese Minister will advise with the government when difficult questions arise.

 Since taking charge of policing the city the Japanese gendarmes have ordered a census taken of the inhabitants of Seoul, and also a report of the number of houses.

 On the 18th an edict was issued dismissing all magistrates guilty of squeezing and mis-governing the people.

 M. Cremazy, Adviser to the Law Department, is making preparations for a journey to France.

 The decoration First Order of the Plum Blossom has been conferred by His Majesty on General Hasegawa, and several minor decorations on the members of his staff.

 Mr. Cho Pyung-ho, former governor of Whanghai province, has succeeded Min Yong-ki as Minister of Finance.

 In the budget for 1905 it is estimated that there will be an income of 14,950,574 nickel dollars, while the expenditures are estimated at 19,113,600 nickel dollars.

 A branch office of the Japanese Immigration society has been established in Seoul, for the purpose of sending Korean immigrants to Mexico, and they are informed that work is awaiting them and opportunities for education.

 The Korean Post and Telegraph office at Chemulpo burned on the 27th. Incendiarism is suspected.

 The Police Department has been requested by a committee from the II Chin-hoi to pay to that society yen 700 in Japanese money and $150 in Korean nickels, said to have been lost when the Korean police closed the Seoul headquarters of the society. They also asked that $100 be paid to the wounded members to reimburse them for medical attendance.

 Ha Sang-ki, formerly superintendent of trade at Chemulpo, has been appointed Secretary of the Korean Legation at Tokio, and Mr. Yu Chan takes his place at Chemulpo.

[page 35] The branch railway between Masampo and Sam Nang-chin has been completed.

 All regular steamer traffic to Wonsan was discontinued after the declaration of war, but on January 13th the Shoshen Kaisha renewed its service by sending a steamer on its first regular trip to that port.

 On the 13th inst. all the Foreign Representatives and the Korean Minister for Foreign Affairs were entertained at dinner at the American Legation.

 Mr. Yi Yong-kwon, the governor of North Pyeng An province, who was brought to trial on the request of the Il-chin-hoi, wired to the Home Department that he had been intercepted on his way to Seoul by the Japanese military authorities.

 Chin Hee-sung, the acting-magistrate of Whang-ju district, reports to the Home Department that the Japanese Agriculture society at Kium Yi-po, a port in his district, requests him to force the Koreans to sell their fields in the west and south parts of the district, about one half the area of the district.

 The chief of police has issued orders to tax the householders of Seoul for the purpose of repairing the wells of the city. The minimum tax will be 20 cents, and the maximum $2.40.

 After having received a report from the governor of Ham Heung to the effect that the Japanese were interfering with local affairs in his district, the Home Department has communicated with the Foreign Department, asking that the Japanese Minister be requested to see that such interference be stopped.

 A number of Korean immigrants in Hawaii have sent a memorial to His Majesty, with the request that a Korean Consul be sent to Hawaii to care for the interests of Korean subjects. They represent that all the other nations have Consuls, and if it is a question of money, the petitioners with other Koreans in Hawaii will provide the funds for maintaining the consulate.

 Mr. Cho Pyung-ho becomes the Vice President of State.

 It is reported that Prince Euiwha, now in the United States, has wired to the Household Department his determination to return to Korea.

 The Foreign Office has been notified by the Japanese Minister that beginning in April the Japanese will make a thorough survey of the Korean Sea north of Fusan and South of Wonsan, and all magistrates of the coast districts are asked to render courteous assistance.

 A request comes to the government from the Japanese Army Head- quarters at Wonsan through the Japanese Minister that Pak Ki-ho, Korean police magistrate at Wonsan, be appointed magistrate of Ko-won.

 The term of mourning for the late Crown Princess has been officially shortened.

[page 36] The new chief of police has ordered that all able-bodied beggars be set to work by the police.

 All work at the Korean mint has been suspended for several weeks. Whether the works are permanently closed is not known.

 An aged councillor of state sat outside the gates of the palace wall for five or six days, and announced that he would remain until his demands for reform were heeded.

 On the evening of the 11th Yi Yong-ik gave a banquet at the Haijo hotel to some three hundred invited Korean and Japanese guests.

 According to the *kamni* of Kyeng Heung a Russian colonel with l00 men have taken quarters in the Korean government buildings.

 One of the demands of the Kong Ching-hoi was that the Minister of the Home Department retire to private life for thirty years to study books dealing with up-to-date affairs. He is 73 years of age.

 Bill-boards lighted with incandescent lights are a new feature in Gin-go-kai, Seoul.

 The Household Department replies to a complaint of a Japanese pawn-broker that an official named Yun Woo-byung had pawned his official seal and departed without redeeming it, by saying that no man by that name has ever been in the employ of the Department, and the incident is ended.

 It is officially reported that Yi Yun-chai, the governor of North Ham-kyung province, was dismissed, and Shim Heun-tak, magistrate of Kyung Sung district, succeeded him and received the governor’s seal. Then the Russian general in that vicinity compelled Mr. Shim to return the seal to Mr. Yi.

 On the 9th inst. 4,000 members of the II Chin-hoi met in the vicinity of Independence Hall, outside of West Gate. During the meeting a communication was read to them from the Japanese Army Headquarters to the effect that since the Japanese gendarmes would in future have charge of the police affairs of Seoul, it would be unnecessary for the country members of the society to remain longer in Seoul.

 By Imperial order four Koreans who have studied military tactics in Japan have been appointed to command the Imperial Guard, to prevent the frequently recurring quarrels between the Japanese soldiers and the Korean sentries.

 The native papers report that an American who has been Consul in China for many years, in company with an American capitalist has formed a company with a capital of $24,000,000, for the purpose of boring for petroleum in Korea, cutting timber on the west bank of the Yalu, and mining coal in Manchuria.

 On the 11th inst. the Home Department instructed the governors of Kyung Ki, North Chulla and North Pyeng Yang provinces to protect the members of the Il Chin-hoi, as certain magistrates were treating them very cruelly.

[page 37] A Japanese society has been formed in Seoul to consider questions of Korean mines, fisheries, commerce and agriculture.

 A Korean Statesmen’s club has been organized in Seoul, with the famous Cho Pyung Soh as president.

 Mr. Min Young Ki has been reappointed Minister of Finance.

 It is reported that Mr. Megata will shortly return to Japan to perfect arrangements with reference to the proposed loan of ten million yen to Korea by Japan.

 The Chinese Minister informs the Foreign Office that a telegram from His Majesty the Emperor of China expresses sympathy to His Majesty the Emperor of Korea on the death of the late Crown Princess.

 The Japanese Mining company is said to have discovered valuable coal mines at Wool-san Kyung Sang province, Tong chin in Kyung- kni province, Sam-chuh and Chung-son in Kang-won province, Pyeng- yang in Pyeng-an province, and Yong-heung, Kilju, Myung’Chyung and Syung-sung in Ham-kyung province.

 When Yi Yong-Ik returned from Japan he is said to have brought with him school text books to the value of $3,000, and is now trying to establish seven schools in Seoul.

 Min Yong Chul, Korean Minister to China, arrived in Seoul on the 24th.

 It appears that the small street lamps at present in use, lighted with kerosene, are more expensive than electric lights would be. There is therefore a probability that after the Korean New Year the main thoroughfares from East to West Gates and from Chongno to South Gate will be lighted with incandescent lights, each ten houses bearing the expense of one light.

 Building operations have continued in Seoul this winter to February 1st almost without interruption from cold weather.

 Japanese gendarmes have posted the following proclamation on the gates of the city: 1. When it is desired to organize a society for political purposes in Seoul or its vicinity the Japanese Headquarters must be notified at least three days before the proposed meeting. 2. Such societies will not be permitted to hold meetings unless the leader reports the time, place and purpose of the meeting one day in advance. 3. Any necessary public meeting may be held by securing permission in conformity to Section 2. 4. Any assembly relating to marriage death and sacrifice is excepted from the above provision. 5. All kinds of political meetings must be guarded by Japanese gendarmes. 6. All kinds of letters, circulars, etc., issued by political organizations must be submitted to this office. 7. Should any organization violate the above six articles the leaders will be punished by martial law.

 It is definitely stated that Mr. and Mrs. Donham will return to Korea in March or April.

[page 38] On January 3rd 34,654 passengers were carried by the American- Korean Electric Company, breaking the best previous record of 28,740 passengers on the occasion of the Empress Dowager’s funeral last winter.

 Mr. H. Maki, of Tokyo, consulting engineer for the American- Korean Electric Company, is in the city on business connected with the enlargement of the electric light plant and the extension of the car lines to be undertaken as early in the spring as weather will permit.

 On Christmas day Rev. and Mrs. M. A. Robb, of Wonsan, welcomed the arrival of a daughter.

 Born : On January 10, to Rev. and Mrs. Foote, of Wonsan, a daughter.

 Early in January the Vice President of State presented a memorial requesting His Majesty to punish Kwon Chung-suh, director of Police Headquarters, Pak Yong-wha, Vice Minister of the Household Department, and Yi Keun-sang, Vice Minister of Agriculture, for gambling in the palace.

 Three hundred members of the Il Chin-hoi with their hair cut and caps decorated with a gilt letter K followed the hearse at the funeral of the late Crown Princess.

 The Hamburg-America company has purchased the steamer Medan especially for plying between Chemulpo and Shanghai. The steamer is furnished with electric lights throughout, has first-class passenger accommodations, and will make regular trips between the two ports every two weeks.

 The Seoul-Chemulpo railroad is kept so busy hauling railroad equipment and army supplies for the Japanese government that it cannot properly care for the interests of local shippers, at least one firm being notified that the road would be so busy no freight could be hauled for said company for at least two months. Other shippers complain that even small packages will not be received or must sometimes wait for days before they are sent to Seoul, a distance of twenty-six miles.

 Up tn January 26th Korea had experienced the most open winter known for a number of years. The larger rivers contained no ice, and much anxiety was expressed lest it would be impossible to secure ice for use during the coming summer.

 Trains for Fusan now start from Seoul each morning, obviating the necessity for changing cars at Yong Dong-po.

 All mail from Japan and foreign countries is brought from Fusan on the Seoul-Fusan railway. When the new steamers ply between Shimonoseki and Fusan, making direct connection with all trains, it is expected more than two days will be saved in the delivery of the mails.

 It is said the Foreign Office has been reprimanded for engaging a Chinese teacher for the Chinese language school without first consulting those higher in authority.

[page 39] The Japanese Army Headquarters are said to have issued instructions to the Japanese officers in Ham Kyung province to prohibit Koreans from buying and selling property or pawning goods within the sphere of military operations.

 Mr. Kwon Chung-hyun has been transferred from the office of Minister of Law to that of Minister of War, and Pak Che-soon takes the position of Minister of Law.

 Russians in North Korea have made another raid and destroyed the telegraph line as far as Ma Wooliung.

 The resignation of Cho Pyung-sik, minister of the Home Department, has been accepted.

 Several thousand dollars have been given by His Majesty for the benefit of the poor. The Police Department is prepared to grant 40 sen to each necessitous family, on conclusive evidence of need.

 It is said the government, on recommendation of General Hasegawa, commander-in-chief of the Japanese army in Korea, has decided to reduce the Korean army to ten battalions, to consist of 6,000 infantry and one regiment each of artillery, cavalry, engineers and gendarmes. The Palace Guard will consist of three battalions and the remaining seven battalions will be used as country guards throughout the thirteen provinces.

 Chung Hwan-pyuk was dismissed from the position of official clerk at the Korean telegraph office on what he considered insufficient excuse, so both he and his wife committed suicide.

 Prof. Frampton, Head Master of the government English school, has renewed his contract with the government for three years.

 Yi Wyung-hyun, said to have an excellent knowledge of the Chinese classics, has been called to the palace to advise with His Majesty, and has now been appointed a member of the Privy Council

 Yi Keun-tak has been appointed President of the Police Bureau, and Min Pyung-sik as President oi the Bureau of Decorations.

 Seventy- two prisoners have for various crimes recently received the death sentence from the Supreme Court, and His Majesty has confirmed this judgment.

 The work of connecting Roze Island to the main-land at Chemulpo is progressing slowly during the cold weather.

 After the fall of Port Arthur the report was current that 18,000 additional Japanese troops would be brought to this part of Korea during January. By the end of the month only a small portion of this number had arrived.

 Work is being pushed forward rapidly on both the Seoul-Wiju and Seoul-Wonsan railroads.

 House taxes for the latter half of 1904 will be remitted by the governor of Kyeng ki, by gracious command of His Majesty, in recognition of the services rendered in preparation for the funeral of the late Crown Princess.

[page 40] The newly-appointed Police Commissioner has issued an order against the wearing of silk clothes, and prohibiting women from appearing on the streets after 9 P. M.

 The magistrate of Chang- tan reports that on the 27th inst. a number of robbers rushed into the town and carried away the Imperial tablet.

 On recommendation of Cho Pyung-ho twenty-three new magistrates have been appointed.

 The inhabitants of Im-pi have requested the magistrate to accept nickel coins in payment of taxes. The magistrate had previously refused to accept anything but copper money, but compromised by accepting half copper and half nickel. There have been one or two riots, and an appeal was made to the Japanese consul at Kunsan . Now the magistrate asks that the Japanese Minister restrain the consul from interfering in affairs outside of his jurisdiction.

 A telegram from Tokio announces that a Japanese police inspector will be stationed at the Japanese Legation in Seoul.

 Three of the leaders of the Kong-chin-hoi having been banished, the society recommended Chung Won-pok and Kim Nyung-han to the Japanese Army Headquarters. The reply was that these men were unworthy of leadership, and as a consequence the office of that society was closed.

 The Wiju prefect reports that since the fall of Port Arthur members of the Il Chin-hoi nave succeeded in inducing the people in his district to supply food for the horses of the Japanese army.

 From Kok-san the magistrate reports that he has been requested by the Japanese Consul at Chinnampo to notify the people that the II Chin-hui and Chin Po-Hoi should be prohibited by Japanese policemen, as they incite the people to rise and disturb the peace of the nation.

 The following is reported to us to be the recent negotiations between the Minister of Finance and the Dai Ichi Ginko, a Japanese bank: 1. The Dai Ichi Ginko will become the medium for the adjustment of Korean currency. 2. The said bank will undertake the business connected with the Korean exchequer. 3. The bank will establish a main office in Seoul, with a branch office in each of the thirteen provinces. 4. The head office of the bank will control the business of exchanging money and the collecting of taxes. 5. The Minister of Finance consents to the use of Dai Ichi Ginko notes for the payment of taxes and in commercial transactions. 6. At present the Dai Ichi Ginko will loan yen 3,000,000 to the Korean Finance Department for the adjustment of the Korean currency. 7. If it be necessary the Korean government may secure a further loan, with the maritime customs as security.