

THE COREAN CRISIS.

BEARING OF THE ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE ON AFFAIRS IN THAT KINGDOM—RUSSIA HELD IN CHECK.

(From an Occasional Correspondent of The Tribune.) Seoul, Korea, February 25. The publication of the terms of the Anglo-Japanese defensive alliance has given Korea an opportunity to enjoy another of her periodical sensations. This guarantee to uphold the independence of the two empires of China and Korea has been received with mixed feelings by the Korean people. Some see in it the salvation of Korea, others see just the opposite, while others still are asking why England and Japan should try to bolster up the independence of a country that is already too independent for her own good. They forget that this alliance was made strictly in the interests of Japan and England. Incidentally, the welfare of China and Korea may accrue to them, but there is little altruism in the present move.

From one point of view it is an attempt to crystallize the present status. Russia has promised certain things regarding the retrocession of Manchuria to China, and has promised to leave the Korean seaboard intact. But there have been those who are so sceptical of Russia's good faith as to believe that neither of these promises will be kept. By forming a defensive alliance, pledged to the maintenance of the status quo, England and Japan have put themselves in a position where any deviation on Russia's part from her express promises will constitute an aggressive act, which will come within the terms of the alliance, and Japan and England thus guarantee that Russia will keep her promises.

Thus far the alliance is merely preventive, but so far as Korea is concerned there is another and an important side to the question. Japan has for centuries claimed paramount influence in the peninsula. Ever since the beginning of the fifteenth century Japan has had a trading post at Tsusan, on the southeastern coast of Korea, and since the opening of the country by the Japanese treaty, in 1876, Japan has looked upon the peninsula as her most important source of foreign food supply, and the autonomy of Korea as an absolute necessity for the safety of her own islands. So long as it was merely a question between China and Japan there was no real doubt as to the issue, or, at least, no doubt was necessary, as was shown by the easy victory of the Japanese in 1894-95. But the steady southward march of Russia was a different matter.

When Japan was forced by Russia, Germany and France to give back Manchuria to China the seed was sown for a future crop of trouble. The humiliation which Japan suffered, for the smallest of the evils she encountered, for the consequent seizure of Port Arthur by Russia immediately suggested the acquisition of a naval station in Southern Korea in order to secure safe communication between Port Arthur and Vladivostok. This was a direct menace to Japan, and it brought the Korean question before the Japanese as never before.

SEED OF A CROP OF TROUBLE.

Russia's commercial interest in Korea amounted to little or nothing. It was only her strategic position that was of importance, while, on the other hand, Korea was not only the key to Japan, but formed her most promising market and source of supply for raw material and food-stuffs. It is said that there are over fifty thousand Japanese in Korea to-day, all doing a thriving business. There already exists a railroad from Seoul to Chemulpo, built by Americans, but now owned and managed by Japanese, and work is being rapidly carried on along the Seoul-Pusan line, which will be some three hundred miles long. Japan also has valuable mining concessions in Korea.

There is no comparison whatever between Russia's and Japan's material interests in the peninsula, the latter exceeding the former by a thousandfold. And as for political interests Japan's very existence depends upon the maintenance of an independent, progressive government in Korea. This country lies between Japan and Russia in the same way that Afghanistan lies between Russia and India.

Now, during the last four years Japan has been gaining ground in Korea commercially, but losing ground politically. Her commerce has grown to enormous proportions, but, not having the necessary amount of influence with the government, she has not been able to prevent the carrying out of a ruinous financial policy, which has thrown the currency of the country into the utmost confusion, and has at last become a serious menace to Japanese commerce. Russia has had no reason to check this retrograde movement; in fact, this movement is a distinct advantage, for it gives Russia an opportunity through French influence to place a heavy loan here which will bind Korea hand and foot.

RUSSIA UNDERMINING JAPAN.

The officials principally to blame for the present financial and monetary condition of Korea are Russian agents, and, with all her power here, Russia has made no effort whatever to check the downward movement, which is undermining Japanese commercial prestige. It was not to be expected that this would be allowed to continue. And right here we come in touch with the aggressive aspect of the Anglo-Japanese alliance.

So long as there was a probability that France would help Russia in the event of hostilities, Japan could not make a determined movement to preserve her commercial interests in Korea, for such a movement required a certain degree of political interference in Korean affairs, but now it appears that Japan's attempt to make a change in the aspect of affairs in Korea will be considered not so much aggressive as merely self-preservative, and if it provokes a struggle with Russia it will be Russia who is the aggressive party, and the struggle will not be complicated by the interference of France without at the same time bringing England into the arena.

To put it baldly, the Anglo-Japanese alliance means that if in the safeguarding of her interests in Korea Japan finds it impossible to escape a conflict with Russia, she will have a clear field, without the danger of having to face France as well. That this is the interpretation put upon it by Japan appears certain from

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THE FACT THAT NO SOONER WERE THE TERMS OF THE ALLIANCE KNOWN THAN JAPAN INTIMATED TO THE COREAN GOVERNMENT IN POINTED TERMS THAT A CHANGE MUST BE MADE IN THE PERSONNEL OF THE GOVERNMENT. AND THAT COREA REALIZED THAT THIS WAS NO EMPTY ADVICE IS SHOWN BY THE FACT THAT WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS FIVE OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS IN THE GOVERNMENT WERE RETIRED AND OTHERS PUT IN THEIR PLACES.

DEVELOPMENTS EXPECTED.

This is the beginning, and it remains to be seen how far the matter will be carried. An influential Japanese has been nominated as adviser to His Majesty the Emperor of Korea, and it looks as if important developments would ensue. It will soon appear whether Russia will resist this action to the point of actual war. At present she has contented herself with demanding that if a Japanese subject be installed in the palace as the adviser a Russian shall be appointed adviser to the Treasury Department.

The indications are that to this last demand Korea will return a negative or evasive answer. Korea has assumed an entirely new tone toward Russia, and one that must be extremely distasteful to that power. The time must come soon when Russia will show her hand and gracefully retire, or else stand to arms. It is the prevalent opinion that she will pursue the former course. In any case, it is evident that Korea is passing through a most important crisis.

MANUFACTURERS' TRADE.

IMPORTING A MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF MATERIAL A DAY—SIMILAR EXPORTS.

Washington, March 20 (Special).—The manufacturers of the country are now importing more than \$1,000,000 worth of materials for their workshops every day in the year, and are exporting more than \$1,000,000 worth of their finished product each day. The imports of manufacturers' materials in the eight months ended with February, 1902, were, according to a statement just issued by the Treasury Bureau of Statistics, \$270,267,741, and the exports of finished manufactures in the same period were \$275,907,430. Thus in 24 days of the fiscal year the manufacturers have imported \$70,000,000 worth of material and exported \$75,000,000 worth of their finished product, thus averaging more than \$1,000,000 of both imports and exports for every day of the fiscal year up to the beginning of the present month. The importation of manufacturers' materials has been greater in the eight months just ended than in the corresponding period of any preceding year.

The following table shows the total imports of manufacturers' materials and exports of manufactures in the eight months ended with February in each year for the last few years. It will be seen that within less than a decade the importation of manufacturers' materials has more than doubled, and that the exportation of manufactures has also more than doubled.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Imports of materials, Exports of manufactures, and Balance. Data for 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902.

On the export side of the account manufacturers are showing an improved record. The Bureau of Statistics' reports of exports of manufactures in both January and February show a decided increase over the corresponding months of 1901, the gain in the two months in question being more than \$2,000,000 over the same months of the preceding year. The exports of manufactures in the twenty-eight days of February were valued at \$3,212,202.52 in February, 1901, in practically all the articles except iron and steel there has been a complete recovery from the temporary check in exports of manufactures noted in February, 1901, when they were valued at \$2,190,874.74 in February, 1901, though in the eight months ended with February, 1902, against \$3,150,671.74 in the corresponding months of the preceding year. Even iron and steel exports show a marked improvement, the total for the month of February being \$1,535,282, against \$759,518 in February, 1901, and \$859,157 in February, 1900. For the eight months ended with February the exports of iron and steel manufactures amount to \$12,000,000, against \$10,000,000 in the corresponding months of the preceding year. Manufacturers of cotton show an increase of \$3,000,000 over the corresponding months of last year, while manufacturers of leather, an increase of \$2,000,000, and those of a few months ago showed a decrease, now shows an increase of \$2,000,000, corresponding to the months of last year, while in nearly all the other important manufactured articles exported there are gains over last year. The total value of the manufactures of iron and steel alone are \$17,000,000 less than in the eight months of last year shows that in other articles there has been a decided gain.

GARFIELD ACCEPTS OFFICE.

SON OF FORMER PRESIDENT WILL SUCCEED W. A. RODENBERG.

Washington, March 20.—James R. Garfield, a son of President Garfield, has accepted the office of Civil Service Commissioner tendered to him about ten days ago by President Roosevelt. He takes the place to be vacated on April 1 by William A. Rodenberg. Mr. Garfield is a comparatively young man, engaged in the practice of law with his brother, Harry A. Garfield, in Cleveland. He is well known in Ohio political circles, and has served as State Senator from his district. He was the author of what was known as the Garfield Election law of Ohio, which required all nominees for elective offices to file with the State a statement of the expenses incurred by them in the campaign. The law, however, was subsequently repealed. Mr. Garfield lives at Mentor, a suburb of Cleveland.

THIS WEEK IN HOUSE AND SENATE.

HOPE FOR ACTION ON OLEOMARGARINE BILL ON TUESDAY.

Washington, March 20.—The friends of the Oleomargarine bill hope to secure a vote on that measure on Tuesday of the present week, and as soon as it shall be disposed of the Chinese Exclusion bill will be called up. According to the present understanding, Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, who was largely instrumental in framing the exclusion bill, will make the first presentation of its merits to the Senate. He will be followed by other supporters of the bill, and it is the hope of Senator Pennington, who has charge of the measure, that the Senate will be able to conclude its consideration within ten days after the measure is taken up. There is no pronounced opposition to the bill as a whole, but an effort will be made to amend it in some particulars.

There are still several speeches to be made on the Oleomargarine bill, but it is the general understanding that the discussion will be completed in the first half of the week, if not by Tuesday. In time to allow a vote on that date. It is expected that the Indian Affairs bill, the River and Harbor bill will be reported this week. Both are subject to immediate consideration, even to the extent of displacing other bills. It is not believed that either of them will be used to deprive the Chinese bill of its chance for consideration. The Philippine government bill also will be reported, probably to-morrow, but its consideration by the Senate necessarily will be postponed for some weeks.

The House in the coming week will be largely occupied with the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill, which will be taken up on Tuesday. The remainder will be devoted to the consideration of the Senate bill to promote the efficiency of the revenue audit service and the Chinese Exclusion bill, both on special orders, but they do not interfere with revenue or appropriation bills. It is the intention of the leaders now to push forward the Cuban Reciprocity bill until next week.

SCIENTISTS' MEETING AT WASHINGTON.

Washington, March 20 (Special).—D. T. MacDougal, secretary of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, has issued a notice to the members of the council that a meeting will be held in the Cosmos Club, of this city, on Thursday, April 17, at 4:30 p. m. This association, which was chartered in 1874, is a continuation of the American Association of Geologists and Naturalists, organized in 1840, and has as its object the advancement of the study of the earth and its inhabitants. The present officers are: President, Charles Bedwidge Minot, of Boston; and the president, and R. S. Woodward, of New-York, the treasurer.

FRANCHISE VALUATIONS.

STATE BOARD OF TAX COMMISSIONERS MAKES SLIGHT INCREASES.

Albany, March 20.—The State Board of Tax Commissioners has fixed the valuations of special franchises operated in New-York City for the current tax year under the special Franchise Tax act. The aggregate amount of the valuations is \$20,829,155, as compared with \$19,396,311 in 1901. The valuations placed on the several franchises, as compared with the valuations of 1901, are as follows:

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN.

Table listing franchise valuations for the Borough of Manhattan, including items like R. Hoe & Co., Railroad Co., and others with 1901 and 1902 values.

BOROUGH OF THE BRONX.

Table listing franchise valuations for the Borough of the Bronx, including items like City Island Railroad Co., Harlem River and Port Chester, and others.

BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN.

Table listing franchise valuations for the Borough of Brooklyn, including items like Brooklyn Heights Railroad Co., Brooklyn City Railroad, and others.

BOROUGH OF QUEENS.

Table listing franchise valuations for the Borough of Queens, including items like Brooklyn Queens County and Suburban Railroad Co., and others.

BOROUGH OF RICHMOND.

Table listing franchise valuations for the Borough of Richmond, including items like Staten Island Railroad Co., and others.

BEET SUGAR BOUNTIES.

THIS STATE APPROPRIATED \$50,000 THIS YEAR TO ENCOURAGE THE INDUSTRIAL OTHER STATES.

Albany, March 20 (Special).—Senator Raines was able this year to persuade the legislature to appropriate only \$50,000 as a bounty on the production of the sugar beet and the manufacture of sugar from it, although a year ago \$100,000 for this purpose was appropriated. Perhaps Governor Odell and the members of the legislature wished to learn what progress an infant industry of this State was making before any further appropriations for it were made. The first appropriation for this purpose was in 1897.

The University of the State of New-York maintains in the State Library a bureau where information is collected about legislative acts. From time to time bulletins are issued containing reviews of the legislation of the year. A card catalogue is also kept showing the legislation of past years upon important subjects by all the States of the Union. From this card catalogue it appears that a considerable effort has been made to push the cultivation of the sugar beet by the creation of a bounty system. Some States, after adopting such a system, however, have abandoned it, and thus the total number of States now engaged in encouraging beet culture in this way is not large. The acts passed by the different legislatures are strikingly alike, as though drawn by one man.

From the State Library's card system telling of the laws passed giving a bounty on the raising of the sugar beet and the manufacture of sugar from it, the following information upon the subject has been gleaned: On October 2, 1890, the Supreme Court of Michigan held that an act passed in 1887, providing that certain bounties shall be paid to manufacturers in the State of sugar from beets grown in the State is unconstitutional, as authorizing taxation for a private purpose. A bounty of a cent a pound was to be paid for each pound of sugar manufactured in that State from beets. The legislature of Arizona on March 12, 1901, passed an act exempting from taxation for a period of twelve years all buildings and machinery used for the manufacture of sugar from beets, if the construction of the buildings and machinery shall have cost at least \$200,000. The act also provided that any person or corporation accepting the provisions of the act should not be entitled to an exemption from taxation "who shall enter into any trust or combination with any other association or corporation."

The legislature of Minnesota in 1895 passed an act providing for a bounty of one cent a pound upon each and every pound of sugar manufactured from beets or sorghum, provided the product contained at least 90 per cent of crystallized sugar. There is no indication in the laws passed since, according to the employees of the State Library, that this act has been repealed. Chapter 60 of the laws of Kansas for the year 1891 provided that there should be paid out of the State Treasury to any corporation, firm or person engaged in the manufacture of sugar in the State "from beets, sorghum or other sugar yielding canes or plants grown in the State of Kansas a bounty of three-fourths of one cent a pound upon each and every pound of sugar so manufactured under the conditions and restrictions of this act." There is no record that this bounty has been repealed.

The legislature of Montana in 1896 passed an act declaring "that for every pound of sugar manufactured within the State of Montana out of beets grown within the State there shall be paid by the State of Montana to the person, persons, company or corporation manufacturing the same the sum of one cent a pound as a bounty." There is no record that the law has been changed. The legislature of Nebraska in 1895 passed an act, which was to apply for three years only, for the payment of a bounty of five-eighths of a cent a pound upon each pound of sugar manufactured from beets, sorghum or other sugar yielding canes or plants grown in Nebraska. The act also provided further "that if any person, firm or corporation shall, from and after the passage of this act, establish and operate other and additional factories for the manufacture of sugar from beets, sorghum or other sugar yielding canes or plants grown in the State of Nebraska there shall be paid out of the State Treasury to any such person, firm or corporation, in addition to the five-eighths of one cent hereinbefore provided for the sum of three-eighths of one cent upon each and every pound of sugar manufactured in such manufactory built in this State under the conditions and restrictions of this act." The act stated that no money should be paid upon sugar not containing at least 90 per cent of crystallized sugar, nor upon sugar produced from beets for which as much as \$5 a ton shall not have been paid to the producer, nor upon sugar produced from beets raised by a manufacturer of sugar.

There is no card in the State Library catalogue showing that the act was renewed after the three years expired. In 1897 the legislature of New-York passed an act appropriating \$25,000 to pay a bounty upon sugar made from beets. The bounty was set at a cent a pound, and it was not to be paid "unless the grower resolved therefor a net sum of not less than \$5 a ton, and provided such beets are not grown by the manufacturer of such sugar. No money shall be distributed to such manufacturers unless the sugar manufactured by them shall contain at least 90 per cent of crystallized sugar." The quantity and quality of the sugar upon which the money was to be paid was to be determined by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

The legislature of North Dakota in 1890 passed an act providing that for five years a bounty of two cents a pound should be paid for each pound of merchantable sugar manufactured from beets or sorghum or other sugar yielding plants grown in the State. The cards of the State Library do not state that this law was renewed at the end of the five year period. The legislature of South Dakota in 1890 passed an act to give a cent a pound bounty for each pound of raw, granulated or refined sugar manufactured from sugar beets in the State. There is nothing to show that this act has been renewed.

The legislature of Utah in 1890 passed an act to pay a bounty of one cent a pound upon each pound of sugar manufactured from sorghum, beets or other sugar yielding plants grown in Utah, but limited the appropriation to \$200,000, and also provided that no bounty should be paid unless a manufacturing plant for the manufacture of sugar from beets or sorghum should be erected, having a capacity of fifteen tons of sugar a day.

The legislature of the State of Washington in 1891 passed an act which might apply to sugar beets, declaring "that any person or corporation shall receive from the State Treasury the sum of one-half cent for each and every pound of sugar manufactured within the State of Washington from sugar producing plants grown within the State, and also that 'any person, firm or corporation shall receive from the State Treasury the sum of one-half cent for each and every pound of sugar manufactured within the State of Washington from sugar yielding plants grown within said State by such person, firm or corporation.' The act provides "that no greater

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ODELL FOR ANOTHER TERM. SCHENECTADY COUNTY WANTS HIM—TALK ABOUT PERSONNEL OF NEXT LEGISLATURE. Albany, March 20 (Special).—Republican politicians in Albany are beginning to watch closely the rural newspapers to discover if there is any Republican sentiment in relation to nominations for State, national and local offices this year. Today, therefore, they were interested when they discovered by the Schenectady newspapers that the Republicans of Schenectady County had elected delegates to the Republican State Convention instructed "to vote for and use their best efforts to secure the nomination of the Hon. Benjamin R. Odell, Jr., for Governor of the State."

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A NEW TRIAL FOR ALBANY RAILWAY. JUDGE VANN SEES ASIDE A VERDICT OF APPELLATE DIVISION BECAUSE COMPANY ACTED PROMPTLY IN ORDERING FENDERS. On May 23, 1897, Harry Platt, a boy between eleven and twelve years of age, was run over and killed by an electric car as he was crossing the tracks of the Albany Railway in Broadway at its intersection with north Lansing-st., in Albany. The administrator of his estate brought action to recover damages upon the ground that the defendant was negligent in many ways, and among others, in operating the car in question without a fender. The defendant, in its answer, denied negligence on its part, and charged that the death of the decedent was caused by his own negligence, and alleged that it used due diligence to equip its cars with fenders as soon as permitted by the

A COLLECTION OF TAVERN SIGNS. From The London Chronicle. The April exhibition at the Guildhall is to be of French and English painters of the eighteenth century, and one feature of it should be particularly interesting to our readers who contributed so many instances of curious tavern signs. For a collection of signboards of this kind, and ready-made French collectors are being asked for specimens of them. Among the most notable are those of the famous artists who paid their tavern scores with their brush. This method of payment has been common since the days of the signboards. The late T. Sidney Cooper painted the signboards of the Royal Oak at Brompton, and there are few of the old-fashioned inns on the Thames which do not have pictures which were paid for in kind.