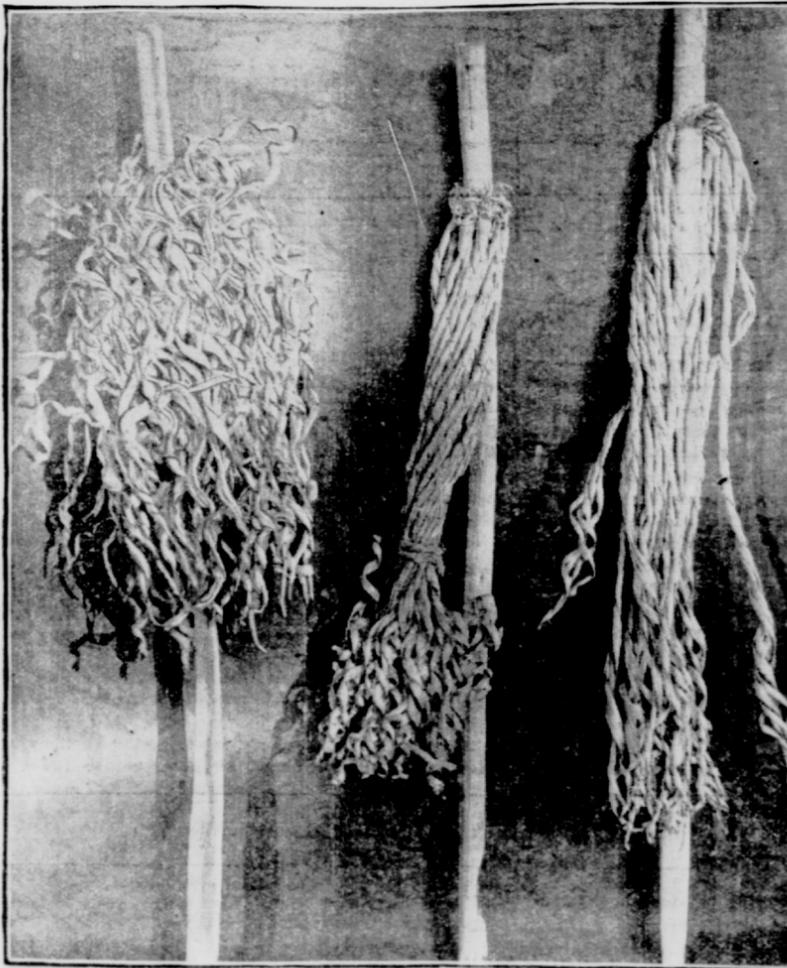


even in France, until now the enthusiastic ally of the Muscovite Empire, is in favor of the Shintoist and polygamous Mikado rather than in behalf of the Christian and monogamous Czar, whom all are disposed to admit is a well meaning, humane and progressive man, hampered and obstructed in the execution of his best intentions by a bureaucracy over which, by reason of its vastness and complexity, he has neither adequate supervision nor control. In one word, Japan at the present moment stands for the "open door" in China. The latter, with its teeming population of over four hundred million people, is the most valuable market on the face of the globe to every nation possessed of manufacturing and commercial interests. Countries whose prosperity is derived to such an extent from their trade as the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Italy and France cannot afford to submit with equanimity to the prospect of the principal markets of China being barred to their industries. None of them, however, are anxious to take up arms against Russia or to go to the length of declaring war upon her in order to keep these markets open. But they are all of them glad to find Japan disposed to undertake the work in their stead, and that is why they are giving to her their sympathy and their moral support.

To every one who has lived in the Orient and who has acquired experience of the Asiatic character the question must occur as to what degree of dependence can be placed upon the undertaking that Corea, Manchuria and the rest of China will remain open to the trade of the United States and of Europe, in the event of Japan obtaining control of the situation by means of actual war, or perhaps, even, by mere diplomatic pressure. True, Russia has a singularly unfortunate record in the matter of the non-fulfilment of official pledges and treaty obligations. There are few countries, however, whose skirts are absolutely unsoiled in this connection, and there is no guarantee whatsoever that Japan will not eventually follow in this particular, too, the example set by so many Western powers, and decline to live up to her promises. The morality of the Japanese merchant in the matter of his obligations has long been a byword throughout the Orient, and has frequently been denounced in consular reports and in books of travel. It remains to be seen whether the Japanese government will manifest a loftier regard for its promises, when the interests of her merchants, of her manufacturers, and, indeed, of the prosperity of the entire land of the Rising Sun, are at stake.

Should, then, Japan attempt to reserve the Chinese markets for her exclusive use, excluding therefrom all those Western powers which are now giving her that moral backing which is encouraging her to resist the advances of the Russians, the situation will have become fraught with much greater difficulties than it is to-day. Already the disposition of the Chinese government and people to confide in the Japanese—that is to say, in fellow Orientals and in fellow heathens rather than in the Christian foreigners—is very marked. In the event of Japan obtaining the upper hand in her present conflict with Russia, her prestige and her influence would inevitably become to such an extent paramount in China that the latter would submit entirely to her guidance. A victorious Japan would undoubtedly lead to the organization and mobilization of the Chinese millions into a vast and successful army. With their similarity of race, religion, history, ideals and customs, the Japanese and the Chinese might quickly develop into a military entity the power of which, once aroused and mobilized, would dwarf into insignificance any horde of conquerors the world has ever seen. To-day the Japanese are willing to be guided in a measure by the counsels of the United States government, of Great Britain and of other Western powers. It is doubtful whether she would continue to do so if she had all China behind her. She would in that case be more inclined to dictate than to defer, and the Occident would then be confronted by that problem to which Emperor William some ten years ago drew attention in a widely copied picture entitled "The Yellow Peril," and which has furnished the themes of earnest warnings by General Sir Andrew Clarke, Field Marshal Lord Wolseley, General Gordon of Khartoum, and, indeed, of nearly every soldier, statesman, official and merchant whose knowledge of the Orient is derived from actual and personal experience. Under the circumstances it cannot be too strongly urged that the United States, Great Britain and other Western powers should insist upon the most extensive guarantees being furnished them by the Japanese that, if victorious in their conflict with Russia, they will not merely maintain the integrity of the Empire of China, but will keep the latter's markets open to the trade of the entire world. For once the Japanese obtain the upper hand, the foreign nations will no longer be in a position to enforce their demands in the matter, and will be in a worse position than they are to-day. Russia would be content, at any rate for a considerable time to come, with monopolizing the trade of Manchuria, whereas the "Asia for the Asiatic" programme, which will be that of Japan if flushed with success, means not only the closing of the whole of China to foreign trade, but also the exclusion of the Germans from the province of Shantung, of the French from those Southern districts in which they have obtained a foothold, of England from Tibet, from Hong Kong and from the Malay Peninsula, and of the United

Continued on fourteenth page.



AINU MUSTACHE STICKS.

With these the men's long facial hair is raised and kept out of the vessel while drinking.

HAIRY AINU TO BE BROUGHT TO AMERICA.

Will Be Seen for the First Time Away from His Native Japanese Islands—Strange Characteristics of the Race.

One of the most interesting features of the Midway, or Street of Nations, at the forthcoming St. Louis Exposition will be a typical AINU village, together with several families containing groups of these mysterious hairy men, who for the first time will be seen in this country amid their native and picturesque surroundings. An expedition headed by Professor Starr, of the University of Chicago, will shortly start for the Orient to make arrangements to secure this exhibit. Besides being the hairiest and most primitive people in existence, they are likewise one of the greatest puzzles to anthropologists, as their origin is absolutely shrouded in obscurity. They have no written records of any kind, nor have the Japanese anything to throw any light on their past ancestry. Consequently there is a large diversity of opinion among the leading scholars as to their exact history. A few foreign investigators, owing to their somewhat white color of skin, class them as descendants of a white European race. Professor Franz Boas, of Columbia University and the American Museum of Natural History, the most eminent American authority on the various races of mankind, differs from this opinion, and states that they more likely belong to the East Siberian and Asiatic tribes. They were found living in the present Empire of Japan when that race first arrived there. The Japanese conquered and gradually drove them northward to colder and less hospitable regions. They now occupy the island of Yezo, just north of Japan, and the Kuriles, while a portion have emigrated across to the Russian penal settlement on Saghalien. The men are noted for their strange physical appearance, short and rugged stature, and their faces, which are nearly white, are covered with a long growth of hair, while they have extraordinarily long beards. The hair upon the bodies of the men often resembles a thick coat, black and curly, extending to the extremities of the upper and lower limbs. Both sexes wear odd garments woven out of the bark of a tree. Each family has its own sort of church and place of worship just outside of the house, having a series of willow wood prayer sticks, with the shavings cut to hang in a particular way, which are thought to be most potent as a petition and offering to some god for good luck to ward off evils and to bring numerous blessings to the household. The bear is held sacred by them, and the great sacrificial feast of this animal, held annually, is the most important ceremonial of the year. It is said the bear festival and funerals are the only occasions during the season that the Ainus wash their faces and hands. At all other times they are averse to indulging freely in soap and water.

An extensive and picturesque collection of AINU effects has recently been received and installed at the American Museum of Natural History, obtained by Dr. Berthold Laufer, an Asiatic explorer, and partly by gift of Arthur Curtis James. The Ainus' dress, religion and present customs are about the same that existed hundreds of years ago. They are subjects of Japan, but have no voice in the government, being simply left to shift for themselves. They

have no ambition and have not introduced any of the arts and progressive ideas of their Japanese neighbors into their life. They number about sixteen thousand, which is only the remnant of a once numerous and powerful race. They subsist chiefly by hunting and fishing; bear and other game being still shot by means of the primitive bow and poisoned arrow, though a Japanese decree is about being enforced prohibiting this method.

The houses, a typical one of which will be built at St. Louis, consist of frameworks of poles, the roofs and sides being thatched with reeds. The completion of one of their huts is considered a gala occasion, and a housewarming feast is given, when all the relatives and others who helped build the same are invited. Rice and millet cakes are served from long, carved



PREPARING FOR THE

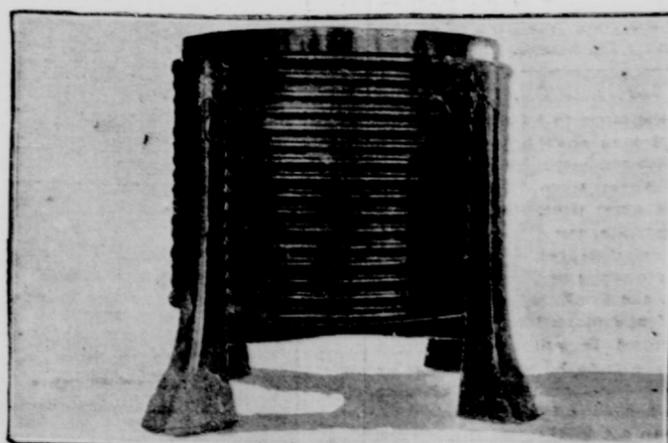


AINU BEI

They tattoo their upper lips in imitation of mustache



A TYPICAL AINU HOUSE.



AINU CEREMONIAL BOWL.

Sake is the great drink of the hairy ainu.



AINU I

A roll of bark cloth