

DETERMINED TO DOWN CHRISTIANITY IN COREA

Japanese Not So Much Against Religion as Unrest Which It Causes.

HINDERS ASIATIC POLICY

Governor-General Terauchi Orders Correspondent to Leave Hermit Kingdom.

SHANHAICWAN, China, Aug. 3.—When I was in Seoul some four weeks ago I sought and obtained an interview with Count Terauchi, Commander in Chief and Governor-General of Corea.

With my Tokio passport—those, by the way, which got me into trouble at Chemulpo and other places where I exhibited them—I presented myself at the Government House, formerly the city palace of the Korean King, and asked that I might see Gen. Terauchi.

In five minutes the businesslike head of Japan's Government in the former Hermit Kingdom was at my service.

"Are you the person who tried to see Mr. Peong Doo?" asked the Governor-General without attempt either at courtesy or the hiding of his feelings of evident irritation.

Mr. Peong Doo, formerly the Baron Peong, is a close friend of the Baron Yunchiho Gaho-San, chief among the prisoners charged with conspiracy to assassinate Gen. Terauchi and a score of Japanese officials. I told him I was.

"Well, what do you want of me?" he asked.

I explained to him that as representative of leading journals in Tokio, New York and Liverpool I was desirous of receiving from him a statement as to the condition of affairs in Corea.

"But you went first to Peong Doo," he snapped.

"Yes, I had a letter to him from a mutual friend at Chemulpo," I answered.

"Let me see the letter," he asked.

When I explained to Gen. Terauchi that although I had been for some reason unable to see Mr. Peong Doo, I had left the letter at his home, the Governor-General asked to see my own passport.

These being given into his hands, he strode to the wall of the apartment and with a pen scratched something across the face of both documents. Then he handed them back and remarked:

"The Fusan weekly Government boat leaves to-morrow. You will serve many purposes better if you take it."

Then he inquired: "Is there anything more I can do for you?"

I wanted to tell him that it would please me very much if he could arrange an interview for me with Baron Yunchiho's friend, but in the light of my experience at Chemulpo, Little Hang-Yang and one or two other places I thought it best not to tempt the military authority too far.

The Christian is Suspected.

Later that same day at Chemulpo I learned that the former Baron Peong was placed under arrest within an hour after my visit to Count Terauchi. I did not learn upon what charge, nor did I deem it wise to be inquisitive for truly this Corea is a land that is lamentably in the grip of the military dictator, and no man unless he be of the conquerors dare open his mouth either to condemn or approve of the outsider, particularly the Christian outsider, is a suspect of the first order from the Government's point of view.

It is true that I neither saw Baron Peong nor secured an interview upon the grounds desired with the Japanese commander in chief, but it is also true that during the seventy-two hours of my stay at the capital of the country I was not only able to confirm many tales and impressions heard and obtained during my several weeks travel in the country of the west coast—the rice coast, they like to call it in Corea—but also to secure many new facts regarding the state of affairs at the seat of government.

At the outset let it be stated that it is simply a foregone conclusion, almost an established fact, that Baron Yunchiho will be convicted of the crime of attempting, by proxy and conspiracy, the life of Gen. Terauchi. Yunchiho is "as good as executed" this minute, even though his formal trial is distant several weeks—August 15 is the date set for the "higher proceedings for the determination." &c.

Why is this statement made? Simply because the Japanese Government by its every big official act since the appointment of Terauchi and by ten thousand big and little acts authorized, unauthorized and unclassified, through its civil and military officials, its land agents and emigrants, has determined to drive every Korean out of the country by one means or another. It is a crime of a high order to be any manner of a Korean these days in the old Hermit Kingdom and it is the highest of treasonable offences to be at once a prominent Korean and a Christian.

No person who knows Japan at all can pretend to be ignorant of the almost universal antipathy to Christianity in that country. From official ground the Christian is regarded as an enemy of the State; not, mind you, because of his religion as such, but because of the fact that Christianity has in times past focussed the attention of the world upon Turkish outrages in Armenia, Russian atrocities in Russia, Spanish butchery in Cuba and untold ravages in China.

Religion Frustrates Japan.

Without Corea Japan would not give a snap whether her people embraced the religion of the West or not, but her "protectorate" over the "Land of the Morning Calm" and her covetous advances into Manchuria have aroused an antipathy in the official heart of Tokio to all things Christian. Somehow or other it is deemed that Japan's far-reaching ambitions upon the mainland of Asia will never reach fruition if Christianity is permitted a strong foothold.

Ergo, the war of extermination now going on throughout the peninsula; ergo, the particular animosity and bitterness exhibited toward Korean Christians in all dealings, governmental or through Japanese; ergo, among the 133 "conspirators" imprisoned and soon to be tried in Seoul ninety-seven are Christians, including the arch criminal of them all, Baron Yunchiho.

Yunchiho is one of the most learned and refined men of Corea. He is also, "for examination of record," a man of wealth. Belonging to one of the oldest families of the kingdom, he has been a Cabinet Minister, a King's Privy Councillor, a Governor, a legislator and a gentleman farmer, with many grades and offices between.

Western works upon religion, moral ethics and political science, and still worse, of expressing his knowledge. When he sought the Christian missions and declared in favor of the new religion he made the greatest mistake of all—from the present Japanese point of view. And he will pay for his mistakes, his crimes, with the forfeiture of his wealth and—the belief among all classes in Corea is the same—with his life.

I do not believe Baron Yunchiho will escape with mere exile. It is true that he has powerful friends in Japan—Japanese friends; but it is more vitally true that he has powerful enemies in Corea—Japanese enemies. His friends in Japan are social and business friends. Nationally and politically they hate him. Nationally and politically they will not raise a finger to aid him. On the other hand, believing him an enemy of the State, of Japan, they have no use for him and hope to see him suffer.

The Mikado, Right or Wrong.

This very case illustrates to a nicety one dominant trait of Japanese character. The people of the Mikado's realm are for the Mikado and what he represents, right or wrong. Indeed there is never any question of right or wrong—Japan is always right, Japan cannot be wrong. Therefore there is the everlasting unit among the Japanese people.

In England a big man may oppose some policy of the Government. He may declaim the Boer war and cry "Shame!" to the powers that be. In the United States the Government's methods in the Philippines may be openly opposed, criticised and denounced, and nothing much will be thought of it. But does any one imagine for a moment that there is a Japanese statesman or leading newspaper editor who dares to cry halt to the work going on in Corea? Has any one read of a speech in the House of Representatives for an investigation of Terauchi's rule at Seoul? Does any one recall reading a Japanese editorial upon the butchery and pillage of the helpless Koreans?

The people of Seoul look upon the coming trials as merely farces enacted for the benefit of the world audience, and the question "Are the prisoners really guilty?" is answered in a majority of cases, "Why, of course, yes—are they not Koreans who have wanted the Christians to rule the country?"

I spent several hours of my first evening in the city at the home of a leading medical missionary sent out from the United States by the Methodist Church. This man has spent eight years in Corea, before which he was engaged as assistant to Bishop James W. Bashford, Bishop of north China. He is a mild, earnest worker and has made hundreds of converts in different parts of Corea.

"I am going to ask to be relieved of this post," he said in discussing present conditions. "It may appear cowardly to some, but after two years of experience with the Japanese I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that further attempts to Christianize the country would only be in vain. More than that, because of the attitude of the Government our campaign would mean additional woes to the people of Corea, for the native Christian is a marked man with the authorities."

"It is a hard thing to say, but it is true nevertheless that by every indication Japan is first of all determined to undo the good work of the foreign missionaries here, and to accomplish the reason is not at all religious, for in Japan Christian men and women in the missionary field are treated with fair consideration."

Teachers of Sedition.

"This I know not so much from my own experience, for I was but three months in Japan, as from fellow workers. In Corea, however, it is very different. We are regarded as more than interlopers. Indeed, according to the very scant courtesy extended—courtesy is a strange word to use—we are virtually regarded as teachers of sedition."

"I regret very much to say that a great many of my own converts have been among the first to forsake the will of the Government. Further, some of the very brightest and more promising young men, who were preparing for the ministry, are among those against whom this outrageous charge of 'conspiracy to assassinate' has been brought. Three of my first class men, all prominent in their studies, are awaiting trial as ringleaders with Baron Yunchiho."

Questioned as to the probable beginning of this animosity toward Christian work on the part of the Japanese, this medical missionary replied that it has long been the impression among Government officials in the Far East that Christianity was simply the advance agent of Western political aggression. This view, particularly true as regards Chinese thought and the Japanese in that country naturally imbued.

"But of course," he continued, "such an idea never gained a foothold in Japan, for Japan has always been thoroughly self-satisfied in respect to the ability to hold her own against all comers. In Corea, however, the situation was different. Hundreds and thousands of leading Koreans were Christians."

"From that day to this the persecution and persecution of churchgoing natives has been growing in vigor and latitude. The Governor-General is himself a warm hater not only of our religion but of everything else Western that may not be made to serve the interests of Japan."

Dislikes Things Anglo-Saxon.

"He dislikes above all things the Anglo-Saxon races, and is prominent among those of his countrymen who believe Japan's decency and dignity was lowered by the English-Japanese treaty of alliance. Strange as it may seem and incongruous as it really is, there is a very large and influential element in the Mikado's empire to-day that is more friendly toward their late enemies the Russians than they are toward their nominal allies of to-day."

"I questioned a leading educator of Nagasaki upon this point recently and was confirmed in former impressions gained from my own thought. This Japanese doctor said that Japan could easily keep watch of Russia's movements, for the Czar always sent his army ahead and did not care much whether the Church followed, while most of the other nations, particularly the United States, Great Britain and Germany, sent Presbyterians, Methodists and Jesuits as advance guards to fleets and armies. Here then in a nutshell is the solution of the paradoxical condition of Japanese encouragement to Christian workers within the empire proper, while in Corea the foreign and native teachers are hounded and harassed."

"This speaks one of the best known and most conservative men in Corea

missionary work. He has asked, or at least desired, relief from worthy laborers there; but he himself intimates that it is not likely that his request, whenever it is made, will be granted, for he expressed the opinion that the mission boards of England and the United States would not sanction a retreat from the field of duty. He intimated that long and careful reports had been made to the mission boards of New York, Boston and London of the treatment accorded Christian workers in the new territory of the Mikado. I learned while in Seoul that among the many prisoners charged with conspiracy to wholesale assassination were seven women, three of them native Christians and one Japanese-Corean woman, the latter a teacher in the schools at He-pi.

Women Carefully Guarded.

These women prisoners, as well as four mere boys, who are alleged to have been associated in the widespread conspiracy, are not confined in the old Kullun prison with Baron Yunchiho, Baron Peong Doo and others, but are carefully guarded in a small two story house near the north gate by being

It is reported that a number of these prisoners, the women, have already confessed to complicity in the rebellious conspiracy, implicating at the same time nearly every man confined in the black cells of the central bastille. When it is known that the latter are citizens high and low from points as distant from the capital as Fusan on the south and Kiling-hai-wei on the north, is it not remarkable, say the least, that these women should know them by name and be fully acquainted with their revolutionary tendencies? Yet Miss So Duck, the teacher, and the others have confessed and will testify against their once widely separated countrymen?

I understand that a boy of fourteen years to be the chief witness against Lu Muk, who is credited with being the organizer of the Northern Society of Happy Sons, the association which is alleged to have first voted money to put Gen. Count Terauchi and the members of his civil and military staff out of the way. This boy, Pan-nung by name, is also an inmate of the women's prison house, but his mother and a sister, both material witnesses, according to the prosecution.

He is an illiterate country lad from the district of Pyeng Yang, whose father—formerly arrested as a rebel—is now one of the boat superintendents on the To-long River. This boy, unable to read or write, speaks a wholly ignorant of the language of the better class of Koreans, such as Lu Mook belongs to, is to tell of a long conversation between Mook and another high official of murdering the Japanese Governor-General, of course, there are other witnesses, but the fourteen-year-old boy is the principal one.

The list of witnesses against the accused persons is most formidable and is being added to day by day. I am informed that more than seven hundred men, women and children will be placed on the stand to testify in the trial of the "rebel" conspirators against his Excellency the Governor-General, and of this number over 450 are Japanese civilians—laborers, farmers and others.

It is well known that these "civilian" gathered from all parts of the peninsula, are every man of them Japanese soldiers or ex-soldiers. But for the purposes of the Government they are "volunteers, farmers, laborers and mechanics."

Thus it is all through Corea. The land is everywhere being taken up by military men. They are the majority of them, acting under orders of their superiors. In reality, while pretending to secure lands and farms for their individual purposes, they are taking actual possession of the soil for the Imperial Government at Tokio. In the meantime the poor Korean is being ousted from his holdings, his villages and his cities. It is but a question of time when he will be almost unknown in his own country.

NEW HYDROAERO A SUCCESS.

Curious Gives Hard Tests to Improved Model in Rough Water.

CHARLOTTE, N. Y., Oct. 13.—Glenn H. Curtiss, with Lincoln Beachey, Hugh Robinson and Beckwith Havens, all famous men of the air, came to Charlotte this morning with a corps of the Curtiss mechanicians from Hammondsport and completed the weather tests of Curtiss' new hydroaeroplane, which has been demonstrated before Government experts during the past few days.

Lieut. Ellison of the navy went back to Washington on Wednesday night thoroughly satisfied with the craft and saying that his report to the Government would be favorable.

Curtiss, however, was not satisfied until he had given his new machine a rigid test in rough water, a test that is impossible at Lake Keuka, where some of the experiments have been made.

At noon to-day, with a high sea running in Lake Ontario, the hydroaeroplane, under its own power, cruised from a little cove in the mouth of the Genesee River, passed out between the piers, rounded the Hutchinsons and took to the open lake. The test continued for an hour and a half and was in every way successful. Forty minutes of the time the machine was in the air.

The particular test desired was to show the ability of the machine to take to the air from the water in rough water. At no time during the tests was any difficulty experienced in performing that feat. The craft made a speed of fifty-five miles an hour on the water and seventy miles an hour in the air with a high wind blowing.

Curtiss went home thoroughly satisfied and the machine will be shipped back to the Hammondsport hangars to-morrow. Mrs. Curtiss, who accompanied him, was an interested observer at the tests.

The apparent difference between the new Curtiss machine and other hydroaeroplanes lies in the pontoon, which looks like a speedy power boat hull and has seats for two, with two wheels connected with the steering gear.

It was learned to-day that during his recent trip abroad Curtiss sold one of his airship models to the German Government.

HELEN GOULD GIVES \$15,000.

Completes the Fund for a \$100,000 Y. M. C. A. Building in Portsmouth.

NORFOLK, Va., Oct. 13.—To assure the erection of a \$100,000 Y. M. C. A. building in Portsmouth Miss Helen M. Gould yesterday contributed \$15,000. It was Miss Gould's second contribution, she having given \$10,000 some time ago.

The soliciting committee was \$1,000 short of the required \$100,000 last night, and unless the whole amount was subscribed before midnight, when the bond quotations to the close of the market, the closing quotations, including the bid and asked prices, with additional news matter, are published in the night and dual editions of THE EVENING SUN—4 P. M.



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The Wall Street edition of THE EVENING SUN contains all the financial news and the stock and bond quotations to the close of the market. The closing quotations, including the bid and asked prices, with additional news matter, are published in the night and dual editions of THE EVENING SUN—4 P. M.

AMUSEMENTS.

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