

JAPAN'S YOUNG HEROINE

Daring Exploit of Miss Yoshi,
Who Stole Russian War Maps.

From a native source have been received the details of the daring exploit of a young Japanese girl who succeeded in stealing Russian war maps at Port Arthur and delivering them to the Japanese authorities at Tokyo, says a New York special to the Cleveland Plain Dealer. The story follows:

"All Japan is ringing with the daring exploit of Miss Ando Yoshi, which the authorities have just permitted to be known. Her name is on everybody's lips. She is being cheered by the students and merchants in torchlight processions and by the boys waging the war game in the temple grounds. Moreover, she has been highly commended by the mikado and in all probability will receive a decoration from him.

"Miss Ando Yoshi stole important war maps and papers from the Russians at Port Arthur and carried them to Peking, where she delivered them to the minister. They show the location of forts throughout Manchuria and the disposition of the Russian forces up to the day the maps were stolen. Then there are full details of defenses to be erected in case of a Japanese invasion and instructions concerning the mobilizing of troops in such an event.

"Miss Ando primarily owes her fame to the circumstances that her family was too poor to support her. She objected to becoming a geisha girl, and, hearing that many of her compatriots were making a good living in Manchuria, she decided to go there. She landed at Port Arthur about four years ago. There she began selling rice cakes for a living, first to the Japanese and to the Chinese population and later to the Russians.

"Miss Ando, according to Japanese standards, is a prepossessing young woman, and it was not long before she attracted the attention of some of the Russian officers. According to the native account, it was her lacquer black hair and bright eyes which worked havoc with the Russians. Whatever the cause, Miss Ando found favor in the eyes of the officers and was permitted to sell rice cakes in the officers' quarters.

"When the news reached the Japanese at Port Arthur that relations were strained, Miss Ando had long enjoyed the freedom of the barracks and officers' quarters. Indeed, she was not infrequently present at many of the entertainments given by the officers. Miss Ando, upon learning of the impending war, determined to put her privileges to some account for her country. Her chance came some days before Port Arthur was bombarded. In getting about the quarters at night she came upon a group of officers engaged in conference over a lot of maps and papers.

"Although she could not understand the Russian language well enough to ascertain what the officers were talking about, she intuitively realized the importance of the papers and determined to secure them at all hazards and take them to Japan. She noticed the officers drinking heavily, and, to encourage them in their cups, as soon as the supply of vodka gave out she replenished it, as had been her custom on various occasions. The Russians did not object to her presence, possibly because she was in the habit of dropping in to sell her wares at all times.

"At any rate, she was allowed to remain through the conference. When it broke up all the officers were more or less under the influence of vodka, and not one of them had enough sense to secure the maps and papers. Miss Ando was not slow to improve her opportunity. With the disappearance of the last Russian she hastily seized the papers, slipped them under her kimono, fastened them around her body and made her way out of the quarters.

"Her thoughts were now of immediate escape. She knew that she was well known as a pet of the officers and that her presence at the railway station might be commented on and lead to her detection.

"When she had made her way to her room in the foreign quarter she disguised herself in the dress of a cooly and started for the railway station. Being unfamiliar with the way, she became confused and spent precious minutes trying to locate herself. At last, in her desperation, she hailed a cab that happened by and was taken to the station. There she found a crowd of Japanese and Chinese refugees waiting to take the train for Peking and joined them. She succeeded in escaping detection and getting on the train.

"During the trip to Peking she kept the papers tightly bound around her body. Once in the capital, she made straight for the residence of Minister Uchida. When she was taken before him she explained that she had brought papers of some sort from Port Arthur. A few minutes later when they were handed to him the minister saw at a glance the importance of the girl's prize. In the words of Miss Ando, 'the honorable minister was much pleased with me and said to me to go to Japan before the Russians got after me, and he looked after me and put me on a ship. I am glad that I have been of some value to the nation.'

Panama Troops Disbanded.
Panama, March 26.—By recent decrees the Second battalion of Panama troops on the Isthmus is disbanded, leaving only one battalion under the colors, and the vessels forming the Panaman navy are offered for sale.

RUSSIA'S GRIP ON MANCHURIA.

How the Czar Has Gained Control of the Chinese Province.

Viceroy Alexieff's proclamation to the Chinese ordering assistance to be afforded to the czar's troops, which is now being distributed throughout Manchuria, may appear an absurd document to the average newspaper reader who has never traveled in that country, but there is little doubt that it will be well received by the people to whom it is addressed, says Howard C. Kelly in the New York Post.

To the outsider it must seem ridiculous for the Russians to expect help from the people whose land they have appropriated. The occasion might be expected to produce a formidable rising in Manchuria. In all probability there will be nothing of the kind. The Russian has gained the hearty good will of the Chinaman in Manchuria. So far as the latter's wishes are concerned, he might go on ruling him forever. The genius of the Russian for assimilating his Asiatic conquests has never been more strikingly displayed than in his newest province.

The first contact of the Chinese in Manchuria with the Russians was certainly enough to disgust them with Russian methods forever, according to our way of thinking. After the outbreak of the Boxers the czar's generals decided to strike terror into the hearts of the people. Massacre followed massacre in rapid succession. Between 8,000 and 5,000 Chinamen—nobody knows how many—perished in the holocaust of Blagovestchensk, and the soldiers of General Rennenkampf, who has returned to the far east to hold an important command against the Japanese, burned the town of Aigun and drove men, women and children alike into the flames at the point of the bayonet.

Yet the Chinese were not discouraged by these grim measures. They fled from the Cossack's saber, but sneaked home again as soon as the Cossack's back was turned, and settled down quietly to make money and raise their families under Russian rule.

The Russian administrators have done all in their power to make the Chinese feel that Russian rule is better for them than Chinese, and no man can travel through Manchuria without marveling at the remarkable success which has attended that endeavor. In every town and village the Chinese swarm, living on the most friendly terms with their conquerors, and in many cases holding lucrative and responsible positions under the Russian government. In many towns the Manchoo administrative officials have been continued in office and permitted to retain all their special privileges and emoluments.

The collection of maritime revenues is carried on by Chinese officials—men trained by Sir Robert Hart in the Chinese Imperial customs, but now drawing Russian pay and wearing Russian uniforms. The collectors of inland revenue, too, are mostly Chinese, and there are many native officials in every department of the government and in all ranks of service, excepting only the highest. In pursuing his policy of conciliation, Admiral Alexieff has, in many cases, actually placed Chinese in authority over Russians. But all the native officials who have been retained have been carefully selected and thoroughly well drilled.

Russian brains planned the rapid development of Manchuria, which amazed the world, but Chinese hands carried out the work. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese coolies cheerfully assisted in the Russification of their own country. They built up Harbin, Dally, Port Arthur, Blagovestchensk and the other towns; they laid the Manchurian sections of the Siberian railway, and they have taken the largest share in the cultivation of crops, for the Chinaman can raise more on a rood of ground than the imported Russian peasant can on an acre.

This latter fact is so well appreciated by the Russian authorities that they encouraged and assisted large numbers of Chinese peasants to settle on farms in the fertile zones around Harbin and Tatsikar, in order that there might be no trouble over the food supply of the important town of Harbin. These farmers have prospered exceedingly, helped by Russian capital whenever they needed it. Their produce is brought to Harbin by the Sungari and Nonni rivers on a large fleet of boats operated especially for that purpose by Russians.

Before the war one of the most powerful men at Port Arthur was a Chinaman known as Typhoon Tai. He was one of the viceroy's most trusted henchmen, having control, as a contractor, over many thousands of coolies. He started as a cooly himself and never made much headway in the world under his own native government, but when the Russians acquired Port Arthur his chance came. Labor was in great demand for the construction of forts, docks and buildings, and he undertook to supply some of it. The Russians paid him well, and when he "made good" they gave him other contracts of greater importance. So in a few short years he has become a multimillionaire and a man of great importance.

Hundreds of other Chinamen have risen in the world, like him, owing to the Russian advent, and many thousands have grown richer in their degree. The cooly's wages, for example, have gone up with a bound, and the prices of market produce have

greatly increased. No wonder most of the Chinamen in Manchuria are loyal subjects of the czar.

A Chinaman known as "Ivan"—the Russian's "John"—is head of the Harbin Telegraph company, a quasi government institution. He holds authority over many Russian clerks and operators, as well as over a large number of Chinese. Ivan speaks excellent English and is a well educated, widely traveled, able man, thoroughly well fitted for his important position, which gives him control over the telegraph lines all the way to Port Arthur, Dally and Vladivostok.

It seems to be commonly supposed that the Chinese dislike the Russians, with whom they have no racial affinity, and like the Japanese, but travel in Manchuria convinces one to the contrary. The Japanese is just as much a foreigner to the Chinaman as the Russian is, and the Japanese is too prone, in the Chinaman's eyes, to assume an intolerable air of superiority. The Russian, on the other hand, is quite willing to take the Chinaman as he finds him and to make friends with him as speedily as he can. There is no other white race in the world with so light a baggage of race prejudices. The Russian soldier, and especially the Cossack, makes himself at home wherever the czar sends him. As soon as he has finished killing the natives he grins good naturedly at those who are left and settles down quietly to learn their ways and marry their daughters.

The thousands of settlers transplanted from European Russia, the Caucasus and Transcaucasia to Manchuria have done little to develop that country or improve their own condition. Many of them have hired Chinese coolies to do the work on their allotments, although by so doing they eat into their profits and destroy all chance of making a success in their new life. In a short while the cooly becomes more prosperous than his master.

The policy adopted by the Russian government is that only the Russian and the Chinaman shall be allowed to make money in Manchuria. There is no chance for the American trader there under Russian rule, or for the Englishman, or for the German, or for the Japanese. Not only is foreign commerce barred out by a cast iron tariff, but in many of the towns no foreigners are allowed to own stores or run businesses, those privileges being strictly reserved for Russian subjects and Chinese. In Harbin, for example, all the stores are owned by Russians and Chinese, and the latter have considerably the larger share of the trade.

The government of the great mass of these peaceful, busy, money making Celestials gives little trouble to the Russian authority, but the Manchoo nobles, who still remain in the country, and their large bands of disorderly retainers are a constant source of anxiety and annoyance. The bandits referred to by Viceroy Alexieff in his proclamation come from this class. The large towns of Manchuria are somewhat scattered, and practically all the intervening country is more or less infested with these bandits. They have always been an evil feature of life in Manchuria, but their numbers were greatly increased by the Boxer outbreak, for the majority of the Boxers became outlaws after the crushing of the rebellion. Very few of them were able to return to their old places in the peaceful communities they had left or, indeed, cared to do so.

While the Chinese are favored and protected, the authorities look with no friendly eye upon the Manchoo nobles, even though they may be living peaceful and law abiding lives. The attitude of the Russian toward the Manchoo is well illustrated by a story which the Russian newspapers delight in telling over and over again.

A drunken Manchoo nobleman was traveling on the East Chinese railway started the passengers by his quarrelsome talk and murderous threats. He got out at one of the stations to take a stroll on the platform, first announcing that he would cut off the head of anybody who dared to take his seat while he was away.

A smart young Russian woman entered the carriage and promptly set down in the nobleman's place, despite the warnings of the other passengers. When the Manchoo returned, drunker than ever, he was furious. He drew his sword and might have carried out his threat, but the young woman covered him with a pretty little pocket revolver.

"Do you take us for a pack of cowardly mandarins?" she asked. "What do we care for your bluster? There is your place, my hero." And she pointed to the floor at her feet.

Quite sober now, the Manchoo hesitated a moment, looked into her eyes and saw that she meant business and then humbly sat down on the floor.

In less than four years the Russians have managed to teach every Chinaman in Manchuria that he is a Russian subject to all intents and purposes, and the natives are quite willing to accept the position. An amusing pretense of Chinese sovereignty is still kept up throughout the province, but it deceives nobody. Chinese cavalry soldiers, employed and paid by the Peking government, patrol the country with the permission of the Russians. On the stock of each soldier's rifle there is pasted a permit to carry arms, signed by the local Russian commandant.

EXCURSION TO WASHINGTON, D. C.

On April 10, 11, and 12, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad will sell excursion tickets from Chicago to Washington, D. C., at a rate of \$18.50 for the round trip, account Knights of Columbus meeting, good to return leaving Washington not later than April 18. For further information address Ticket office 244 Clark Street, Chicago.

FOR CONTROL OF N. P.

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION EXISTS

BETWEEN HILL AND HARRIMAN INTERESTS.

New York, March 25.—"You may deny most emphatically that a new Northern Securities company is being planned," said Colonel Clough, vice president and general counsel of the company. "We are doing our best to carry out the principles of the court's decree."

This statement was brought forth by the circulation in Wall street of a rumor that a plan had been formulated by which Northern Pacific stock would be held in block and not distributed.

In spite of official denials the statement is persistently reiterated that a difference of opinion has arisen between the Great Northern interests and the Union Pacific group of capitalists. The point of dispute was said to be the future control of Northern Pacific. James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern, said:

"Everything is peaceful." Officials of the Union Pacific deprecated the talk of rivalry in Northern Pacific. E. H. Harriman, president of the Union Pacific, said he did not care to discuss the reports.

STOCK PRICES DECLINE.

Northern Pacific Opens at 127 but Sells Down to 115.

New York, March 25.—Northern Pacific opened on the curb at 127 and sold down to 115. Some 3,000 shares changed hands in the first hour. The principal buying was by a firm closely connected with the company. Traders generally sold. Great Northern preferred was quite active at the opening, selling from 168 to 170. Northern Securities was reactionary. At the opening some 2,500 shares sold from 99 down to 97, and then back to 98. Over 11,000 shares changed hands by 11 o'clock.

At noon Northern Pacific was selling at 126 and sales up to that time aggregated 3,200 shares. Northern Securities was 98, with sales of 13,500 shares. Great Northern preferred was 169 1/2 bid and the sales of that stock up to noon were 3,200 shares.

DEMOCRATIC PLAN FAILS

MOTION FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATION OF POSTAL AFFAIRS

RULED OUT.

Washington, March 25.—During the discussion of the postoffice appropriation bill in the house Mr. Williams (Miss.), the Democratic leader, offered an amendment to the postoffice appropriation bill providing for a select committee to investigate the postoffice department.

Mr. Overstreet made a point of order against it, which, after a warm debate, was sustained.

Mr. Williams appealed from the decision and the chair was sustained by a vote of 133 to 99.

Consideration of the postoffice bill was resumed when the house met. Mr. Robinson (Ind.) attacked the appropriation of \$45,000 for carrying the mails from San Francisco to the island of Tahiti and offered an amendment to strike it from the bill. He referred to previous appropriations and said the item had been inserted by "a fine Italian hand undisclosed." No one knew of its birth, he said, which led him to believe "this appropriation has been sneaked through congress in a cowardly manner."

Mr. Overstreet, chairman of the postoffice committee, defended the appropriation.

Messrs. Cromer (Ind.) and Shirley (Ky.) supported the amendment. Mr. Livernash (Cal.) strongly opposed it, saying that the Oceanic Steamship company, a company most liberal in the employment of white laborers as against Chinese, should not be embarrassed in an attempt to enlarge its usefulness. The amendment, he said, was a blow at the white sailors of the Pacific.

The amendment was agreed to and the provision was stricken from the bill.

FAVORED BY HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Bill Extending Coastwise Laws to the Philippines.

Washington, March 25.—The house committee on merchant marine and fisheries has authorized a favorable report on the Frye bill extending the coastwise laws of the United States to the Philippine islands, July 1, 1905, without amendment.

The report was authorized by a vote of 7 to 5, two Republicans and three Democratic members making up the minority vote. A motion to postpone the operation of the laws to 1909, made by Mr. Lucking, was lost on a strictly party vote. Another motion making the time 1906 resulted in a tie. The bill was then voted on as it passed the senate.

Mr. Lucking endeavored to amend it by a requirement that all vessels in the trade should be manned by American or Filipino sailors, but this was lost by a party vote.

LIFE LOST IN PRAIRIE FIRE.

Farmer Burned to Death and Two Persons Missing.

Holdrege, Neb., March 25.—A terrific prairie fire driven by a gale of wind has been raging along the line of the Burlington railroad between here and Atlanta.

A farmer named August Olson was burned to death and two other persons who are missing are believed to have lost their lives in the flames.

The property loss is heavy.

ADVERTISE IN THE ALERT.

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