

Uncle Sam's Victory In China



P. C. KNOX.

Secretary of State Knox. On the face of the affair the first impression is that it is a brilliant diplomatic move, and the impression grows as the whole question develops. In a word, this move will prevent Europe from seizing the empire.

The initial act, or the entering wedge, as it is called, of American predominance takes the form of an allotment to bankers in New York city of one-quarter participation in a loan negotiated by the Chinese government for the construction of the Hankow-Szechuen railroad. The total amount of the loan is \$30,000,000, of which \$7,500,000 is to be taken by an American syndicate composed of the National City bank, the First National bank, J. P. Morgan & Co. and Kuhn, Loeb & Co. The sum, so small for Wall street, is truly a mere wedge, but the principle involved is considered of worldwide importance and opens the door for things far greater.

Americans are to have equal opportunity to supply material for both the Szechuen and the Canton lines and the branches. They will appoint subordinate engineers, and they will have also one-half of all future loans of the Szechuen railroad and its branches, with the corresponding advantages. Willard D. Straight, our consul general at Mukden, will represent the American financiers interested in the affair and arrange all the details in Pekin.



WILLARD D. STRAIGHT.

The novel and unusual feature of the transaction is that the United States government for the first time in its history officially backed a syndicate of private bankers and helped them in a profitable transaction. Some weeks ago the American ambassadors at London, Paris and Berlin were instructed by the state department to convey to the governments of England, France and Germany the intention of the American bankers to participate in the Chinese railway loan, then pending exclusively in Europe, basing the claim on an understanding arranged in Pekin several years ago by diplomats regarding the parceling out of future loans.

The state department has fought successfully the European group which sought to exclude American participation. The victory, the state department officials say, augurs well for the future.

State department officials do not hesitate to declare it was not the mere amount of money involved in the proposed loan that was at stake. It was a matter of principle. The question is a broad one, and the settlement arrived at in Pekin Aug. 17 indicates that the products of American industries will be used in the construction of the road, and American engineers will assist in its supervision.

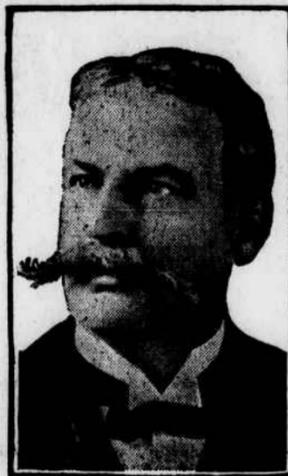
This relatively insignificant railway loan proved to be the critical incident to bring to a focus the international diplomatic game that powerful nations have been playing, with the vast, unknown Flowery Kingdom as the most magnificent spoils at stake since the days that Rome was annexing practically all the world to pay it tribute.

WALTER WELLMAN'S TRIP.

American Explorer Has Long Tried to Discover the Pole.

Walter Wellman, whose dash to the north pole by balloon has created worldwide comment, has conducted two polar expeditions and came back badly crippled from that of 1898. With Norwegian companions he discovered unknown lands in the higher latitudes in the expedition of 1894. Before the rise of the winter sun to its height in February, 1898, Wellman made a dash for the pole. Through a fall in a crevasse he broke his leg. He was dragged back on a sled over the rough ice for 200 miles by the faithful Norwegians.

For four years Mr. Wellman has been making preparations for the undertaking to reach the north pole in an airship. He was at Spitzbergen with a balloon in 1906, but postponed his departure on account of the lateness of the season. In 1907 he made an unsuccessful attempt, when he was driven back to his starting point by a severe storm which he encountered. He left New York on May 12 last for



WALTER WELLMAN.

Spitzbergen to complete his preparations for the start. Before leaving he said that the capital for his undertaking had been supplied entirely by Americans interested in the project on scientific and patriotic grounds.

Mr. Wellman was born at Mentor, O., in 1858. He was a newspaper man at the age of sixteen and has been identified with many newspaper enterprises.

THE GRIDLEY TABLET.

Heroic Fight of Mother of Olympia's Commander For a Memorial.

Although from time to time there have been printed brief dispatches of the efforts of Mrs. Anne Gridley to have a fitting memorial placed in Arlington cemetery to her son, few people are aware of the heroic struggle she has been making to secure it.

It was upon Dewey's memorable command, "You may fire when ready, Gridley," that the famous naval battle of Manila bay opened. Four weeks later Captain Gridley, who had arisen from a sickbed to take command of the Olympia at the time, died, and almost ever since his mother's one dream has been a memorial to her boy at Arlington. Theodore Roosevelt, Dewey and many other prominent men have been thoroughly in sympathy with her desire, and in more than one congress a bill has been introduced for an appropriation for this memorial, but without result.

Mrs. Gridley, however, has kept up the fight all these years, at the same time working at her desk in the land office at Washington, a position she was compelled to resign recently because of ill health. She left the government service at the age of eighty-four years and was believed to be the oldest woman in the employ of Uncle Sam. All the energies of her declining years have been devoted to this dream



MRS. ANNE GRIDLEY.

of a monument to Charley. At last, convinced that she could not realize this hope, the undaunted old lady began collecting a fund for a bronze tablet and only recently secured the necessary sum. Some time during the coming fall this tablet will be unveiled in Bancroft hall at the Naval academy, Annapolis, in memory of Captain Gridley.

The tablet will be of golden bronze, 42 by 30 inches (3 3/4 by 2 1/2 feet), on the left a panel containing a medallion portrait of Captain Gridley in relief, and on the right, separated from this by a conventional arrangement of oak leaves, is the inscription.

Controversy Of Pinchot And Ballinger



GIFFORD PINCHOT.

has not gone on its annual vacation with a midsummer topic of conversation. As is the way with such gossip, rumors have been rife, and these have varied all the way from the dismissal of Pinchot to that of Ballinger and have even included a conflict between the Taft methods and the Roosevelt policies. Yet Mr. Pinchot has explicitly denied any conflict between himself and the president and gained prolonged applause in this very Spokane speech by declaring that Mr. Taft was pledged to carry out the policies of his predecessor. Nevertheless it is generally believed in Washington that the president will support his secretary of the interior. This will not necessarily involve the dismissal of Pinchot, however, who as head of the forest service is not directly under Ballinger, but under the secretary of agriculture. Rather Mr. Taft's well known abilities as a peacemaker will doubtless come into play.

The point at issue between the secretary of the interior and the chief of the forestry bureau arose over the conservation of the water power tracts in the northwest. Practically the last act of President Roosevelt before leaving office was the withdrawal of nearly a million acres of government land from homestead entry. This land is unfit for



IRRIGATION SCENE IN NORTHWEST.

agricultural purposes, and the object of its withdrawal was to keep it out of the hands of private combinations and speculators. While it was placed in the forest reserve, all of it being timber land, the real purpose was to hold the water power rights for the people and preserve them from private exploitation.

Scarcely had Secretary Ballinger been inducted into office than he reversed this policy and threw open the land for entry. Mr. Pinchot thereupon appealed to President Taft and succeeded in having 25,000 acres, covering some of the most valuable water power sites, again withdrawn. There the matter stood so far as the public knew until the delivery of Mr. Pinchot's Spokane address.

The regard with which the chief forester is held by the irrigationists was shown by the five minutes' cheering with which the convention greeted his appearance. No other speaker aroused anything like the same enthusiasm. This remarkable tribute was given him not only as the head and practical creator of the United States forest service, but as the chairman of the national conservation commission, the body formed by the meeting of the governors of the various states in the last year of the Roosevelt administration. According to Mr. Roosevelt's own statement, Pinchot is also the virtual creator of this conservation movement. It was in his capacity as the head of this commission that he acted in the present controversy with the secretary of the interior.

Mr. Pinchot is about forty-five years of age and was educated at Yale and in Europe. He is wealthy and serves the salary nor because he loves politics, but through love of his work. He is a close friend of Theodore Roosevelt and was one of the most familiar figures in the famous "tennis cabinet." He now charges that a power trust is being formed and he is determined to prevent the people's water sites from being grabbed by this combination.

Secretary Ballinger was formerly commissioner of the general land office and mayor of Seattle. He is a lawyer by profession and says his present course is made necessary by a strict construction of the law.

J. A. EDGERTON.

IMITATION PLANTS.

Scientist Produces Vegetable Life by Means of Chemicals.

Chemical imitation plants are amusing Professor Leduc of Nantes, France. Professor Leduc introduced a drop of sugar solution with traces of potassium ferrocyanid into a dilute copper sulphate solution. The drop covered itself with a copper ferrocyanid membrane, impervious to sugar, but pervious to water. The water percolated through the membrane which the sugar was unable to traverse. The cell thus grew on.

In a few minutes a bud sprang up from some point in the surface. This was surrounded immediately by a copper ferrocyanid membrane. On the top of this bud would be produced another bud, on this a third one, and so on, each bud constituting a cell, all of which would arrange themselves slowly in a continuous row, forming a hollow rod, the length of which would exceed by more than ten times the diameter of the original cell, of which the others were offsprings. The artificial cells absorbed from the surrounding medium the substance required for their growth and thus produced the bulky growths exhibited.

A droplet sometimes was projected in the course of the experiment, being entirely detached from the original drop, in order afterward to grow on and give off buds and growing rods, which finally produced a form similar to the original one.

At the recent exhibition of the French Physical society Professor Leduc showed a number of examples of the way in which the diffusion of solutions could be made to assume not only plant forms, but decorative patterns. The study of these phenomena and the unravelling of their intricate connections are of fundamental importance. More and more the reactions of inorganic substances, whether liquid or solid, are referred to their properties in a state of solution, while every process of life to be examined by the biologist seems capable of interpretation only through attention to the conditions thereby involved.—Chicago Tribune.

UNCLE SAM'S NEW LIFEBOAT.

Craft Rights Itself When Capsized and Throws Off the Water.

The latest addition to the United States life saving service is rightly called the Storm King, but she could be more properly called the Storm Fox, says Popular Mechanics. She can sail, swim, turn over in the water, right herself, throwing off the water like a fish, and go ahead at a ten mile clip. The new boat has a length of 38 feet 8 inches. The 1,500 pound bronze hull aids it in self righting. In a recent test this boat, after being capsized with all machinery aboard, righted itself, threw off the water and



SELF RIGHTING LIFEBOAT.

had the gasoline engine running in less than three minutes. Besides her equipment of a power plant, two masts and sails and a set of oars, the boat can carry seventy-five passengers.

The latest device for lifeboats is on this boat. Her two screws can be folded up under the stern of the vessel, as shown in the lower illustration, to be out of the way when the boat is beached.

Observatory on Mount Whitney.
The Smithsonian institution of Washington will erect on the very summit of Mount Whitney, California, 14,500 feet high, an observatory which will enable investigators to study atmospheric conditions at great elevations in dry air and in clear skies. The observatory will be erected from the Hodgkins fund and will comprise a three room structure of stone substantial enough to stand for centuries.

Delicate Drilling.
An expert workman in one of the great needle factories in a test of skill performed one of the most delicate feats imaginable. He took a common sewing needle of medium size, an inch and five-eighths in length, and drilled a hole through its entire length from eye to point, the opening being just large enough to permit of the passage of a very fine hair.

THAT SKINNER BOY.

Sent to Cobbler's by His Mother and Told to Hurry.

A WOMAN STOPS THE LAD.

Offers Him Money to Take a Parrot and Gocart to Her New Home—Gets into Trouble and Ends With a Licking.

By M. QUAD.

(Copyright, 1909, by Associated Literary Press.)

"HUMPTY," said Mrs. Skinner the other Saturday morning to her firstborn, "I want you to take my shoes to the cobbler and have all the missing buttons put on. Tell him I want a good job of it. Here's 15 cents to pay with. Do you think you can possibly find your way there and back without getting lost?"

"Why don't you leave it till next week?" asked the boy.

"Because I want the shoes this very afternoon. You take 'em and go right along."

"They have got a new giraffe up at the zoo."

"Well, he won't bite you if you keep away from him."

"And some of the boys are going to run a Marathon."

"But you can run a cobbler at the same time. Here are the shoes and"



"YOU'LL HAVE A BIRD WORTH EVERY CENT OF \$25."

money, and you get right along. Tell the cobbler you must have them within an hour."

Humpy started out with a scuff to his feet and a weary look on his face, and he had walked a block in ten minutes when a bustling woman approached him and asked:

"Have you seen a red headed boy go along here?"

"No'm."

"That's just like you boys. He promised to be here on time, but he won't show up at all, and I do need some one so bad."

"What is it, ma'am?" asked Humpy.

"I'm moving today. I've got a gocart and a parrot that I don't want 'em to load on the van. I want a careful, trusty boy to take them to 16 Green street, and I'll give him 10 cents."

"I'm careful and trusty, ma'am, and I'll take 'em. You can't find a more trusty boy. Let me take these shoes to the cobbler, and—"

"You come on and bring the shoes with you. You can go to the cobbler afterward."

"My mother said—"

"Yes, but your mother don't know that I am moving and have got a thousand things to see to. If she did she'd tell you it was all right to come with me. I wish I had that red headed boy by the topknot!"

Humpy made no further objections, but trotted along with the woman for three blocks. The gocart and parrot were ready for him. A cloth was tied around the bird's cage, and as the woman placed it in the cart and tied it fast she said:

"Remember, 16 Green street. Wait for me there. It's just seven blocks from here."

"Yes'm."

"You'll meet lots of people on the way, and some of 'em will want to uncover Polly and look at her. Don't you permit it. Tell them you are in a hurry. Tell 'em she don't talk. Tell 'em it's a case of life and death. If any one should hurt Polly's feelings they should be hurting mine. If any one should separate us we'd both die within a month."

Humpy promised to watch out for that parrot as he would for a bag of gold, and all went well for the first block. Then a carpenter who was coming out of his shop halted the outfit to say:

"Look here, boy. I had a lot of tools stolen the other day."

"But I didn't steal 'em," was the reply.

An Honest Boy.

"I don't say you did, but I want to look at that package. If you're an honest boy you won't object."

"It's a parrot that I am taking to Green street for a woman. If she would get out of the cage—"

"Oh, I've seen parrots before. Yes, this is one. Hello, Polly."

"Don't excite her, please," cautioned Humpy.

"Don't talk to me as if I were a child," replied the carpenter. "You seem to be confused and in a hurry to get on. I don't find any of my missing tools here, but you are a suspicious acting boy. I shall keep an eye on you."

The bird had been disturbed, and she

was mad about it. As the cart was pushed along she began chattering and jabbering, and the attention of every pedestrian was attracted. Humpy was giving them short answers and hustling along when a woman with a basket on her arm reached out and grabbed him and demanded:

"Young man, have you got my stolen dog in there?"

"It's no dog, but a parrot," was replied.

"I'll see about that for myself. You look like the boy who stole Flossie from the gate yesterday. Yes, it is a parrot, and a good thing for you that it is, though I have no doubt you stole her somewhere."

"Stole what?" asked a policeman who had lounged around the corner. "If there's been any stealing going on I'd like to know about it."

Humpy entered into explanations again, and the cloth was removed from the cage. As Polly began scolding away the officer stepped back and cocked his eye at her and mused:

"Is she a stolen bird or not? If she is, then my jooty is plain; if she isn't, then the boy may have stolen the gocart; if he hasn't stolen the gocart, then how do we know that he didn't commit a burglary last week? You see, ma'am, we have got to look at many things in being an officer of the law?"

"You has that, and if there is any crime I has no doubt that you will find it," replied the woman as she deftly lifted up Mrs. Skinner's shoes and placed them in her basket and walked off.

Officer Detains Him.

The officer detained Humpy ten minutes longer to inquire the age of the gocart, who made the cage and whether the bird belonged to a fat or a lean woman. Then he told him he could go on, but warned him that he was surely walking in the path that led to the gallows. Humpy was within a block of 16 Green street and the bird had ceased her chattering when a house painter came along, with his brushes and paints, and halted to say:

"Well, well, but what have we here in the cage?"

"It's a parrot, sir," replied Humpy, "and I'm in a great hurry to get along."

"A parrot, eh, and in a great hurry, are you? Boy, this is a matter to be investigated. You may have a parrot here or it may be an eagle. I am not a man who takes the word of a boy unquestioned. Let us see. Ah, it really is a parrot, though I really expected to find an eagle. What is your price for the bird?"

"She isn't mine, sir. I'm only taking her to No. 16."

"I might give you a dollar for her."

"No, sir."

"Then you are a very avaricious boy. If you wanted to do me a good turn you could as well as not. I won't be as mean as you are, though. I'll make an eagle of her. Bring her out of the cage, and I'll do a bit of artistic work on her."

"But you mustn't—you mustn't!" shouted Humpy as he danced around.

"Easy, boy, easy. First a little blue on her for the groundwork, then a little yellow for the gold. Now we tip the wings with this bright red, and you have a bird worth every cent of \$25."

The painter hadn't used his brushes without vigorous protests from both Polly and Humpy, and he was only finished when a whirlwind came along and knocked him over, and the gocart and cage followed suit. The whirlwind was the woman who owned the parrot. Humpy made sure of this and fled for home. That evening as he stood at the gate a boy friend of his came along and queried:

"Did yer mother lick ye fur it?"

"Yes, sunthin' awful."

"Did ye holler much?"

"As loud as I could."

"But she kept a-lickin'?"

"Yes."

"Glad of it. Good night."

From Different Points of View.

Bess—Oh, dear, I suppose I'm in for another month of bad luck!

Nell—Why, Bess, what makes you think so?

Bess—I saw the new moon over my left shoulder last night.

Nell—That's too bad. Now, I had the good luck to see it over Jack's right shoulder. And, say, isn't my engagement ring a beauty?

Down the Old Road.

Jack—Some of the greatest men claim that there are microbes in kisses.

Jeannette—Gracious! And do you think they should be investigated?

Jack—Yes; closely investigated.—Chicago News.

Only Metaphorically.

"The climax to his wooing was very romantic. He proposed to her on the verge of a mountain gorge."

"What did she do?"

"She threw him over."—Baltimore American.

Why Hen Was Silent.

Hen Billings set in Stokes' store. He'd dozin' in his chair.

He'd set there fur an hour or more. A picture uv despair.

Hen hedn't said a single word. Sence he hed set him down—

In fact, he hedn't skurely stirred. 'Cept to increase his frown.

Jed Martin uv an' spoke to Hen. Hen on'y shook his head.

Stokes uv an' asked him somethin' then. But not a word he said.

Hen Billings would'n make a sound. He kept his mouth shet tight.

Till by an' by it noised around. His "upper floor" warn't right.

That seemed to make of Henry mad. He gived ol' Stokes a frown.

Then grabbed a pencil an' a pad. An' scrawled this message down:

"Ding hang yew fur a poppinjay! Don't think I've gone unstrung! I wasp few in my mouth today. An' I tunc me on the tongue!"

—Joe Cone in Boston Herald.