

SEE CHINA'S ROLLER

WIVES OF DIPLOMATS CALL ON THE EMPRESS DOWAGER.

THEY ARE RECEIVED IN STATE

SUMPTUOUS CHINESE LUNCHEON SERVED AFTERWARD.

Ring of Pearl and Gold Presented to Each of the Ladies

at the Palace Theater Another Luncheon Was Served.

PEKING, Dec. 1.—The numerous difficulties having been finally overcome, the empress dowager yesterday granted an audience to the wives of the foreign ambassadors and ministers.

The ladies assembled at the British legation and proceeded to the palace. At the entrance to its precincts a group of gorgeously arrayed mandarins met them and conducted them to the great hall, from which several Chinese ladies conducted them to the audience chamber.

The empress dowager was seated upon a dais behind tables decorated with chrysanthemums and apples, with the empress at her left hand.

Lady Claude MacDonald, wife of the British minister, as doyenne of the diplomatic corps, read a speech in English expressing her pleasure, and that of the other ladies, at having an opportunity to tender their respects to the empress dowager on her birthday, and also expressing the hope that their step might be followed by the ladies of China.

The empress dowager having returned thanks, the ladies then bowed and bowed before her and the empress. Her majesty then presented each with a ring of pearl and gold, which she herself placed upon the recipients' fingers, after which the foreign ladies retired to an adjoining hall, where a sumptuous Chinese luncheon was served, Princess Chang presiding.

After the luncheon, a crowd of princesses and palace attendants entered the hall, followed by the empress dowager, who was accompanied by the empress. The former is described as of sallow complexion and determined expression, but wearing a charming smile to Chinese custom, her face was not painted. The empress is described as "red, meek and very pretty." The empress dowager conversed with the foreign ladies, telling them she hoped they would enjoy their visit. When tea was served, she drank from each lady's cup and shortly afterward, in a burst of womanly emotion, embraced her visitors.

The party then adjourned to the Palace theater, where a grand performance was given. The theater is a huge hall, with a platform in the center and boxes constructed of plate glass circling around it. At the commencement of the proceedings, the stage was occupied by a crowd of high mandarins, who, on the appearance of the empress dowager and the empress, solemnly bowed and returned to their places.

The play, which was long, was acted by palace eunuchs. An acrobatic performance followed. The Chinese returned to the dining hall, where was served a wonderful assortment of Chinese sweets, tea and wine. Here the empress dowager again made her appearance. In bidding her good-bye, she presented each of the ladies with a ring of pearl and gold, which she herself placed upon the recipients' fingers, after which the foreign ladies retired to an adjoining hall, where a sumptuous Chinese luncheon was served, Princess Chang presiding.

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GOULD BIDS FOR THE C. & A.

Will Compete With the Vanderbilts for Control of the Property.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The Press says: Gould has made a bid to buy the Chicago & Alton railroad, a line from Chicago to St. Louis and Kansas City. The bid is made in competition with the Vanderbilts, who had offered to buy the property, which has been in the market for sixty days.

The rivalry between the bidders excited much interest in Wall street yesterday when it became known that Mr. Gould was considering the purchase of the Chicago & Alton stock. At his invitation, J. J. Mitchell, the president of the Illinois Trust and Savings bank, of Chicago, called at Mr. Gould's office yesterday. Mr. Mitchell, it was admitted that he had been in Chicago & Alton stock. For this reason Wall street concluded that an agreement to sell the railroad had been made. This was denied at Mr. Gould's office, but it was admitted that propositions to buy the railroad had been considered.

The Alton would give to the Goulds a Northern outlet for their whole Southwestern system, which includes the Missouri Pacific, the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Great Northern and the International & Great Northern.

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A HISTORIC CAT.

Ensign Gerald Holsinger Tells of the Finding of the Mascot of the Spanish Armada.

Ensign Gerald Holsinger, of Rosedale, now on the Vulcan, in his last letter home, tells of the finding of the historic cat which was transferred to the Cristobal Colon to the Terena. It is now in the museum of Central park, New York, where it is viewed daily by interested thousands.

The cat was found by the ensign at the time the pride of the Spanish navy succumbed to Schley's squadron. For twenty-one days after the light it roamed the decks of the wrecked vessel, without food, until rescued by the American sailors, who restored it to health and strength on the North. When the Terena was sent away on Cat Island, today was a cabin boy, and the cat was taken with him.

When Ensign Holsinger was ordered to Cat Island on inquiry duty, he saw the cat on the island, and he was told that he had at once purchased it. Today he is a well-to-do citizen of New York, and the cat is still in the possession of his family.

According to the ensign's last letter to his people, Cat Island is not an important place to live on. The people he found there were a few fishermen, a few farmers, and a few laborers. The island is not a very fertile one, and the soil is not very good. The people there are not very happy, and they are not very well-to-do.

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ONE SUGGESTION TO STOP LABORERS FROM SELLING TIME.

Superintendent Sloan Proposes a Fund to Pay the Needy as Soon as They Have Earned Their Money.

Superintendent Sloan proposes a plan which, if adopted, will put a stop to the injurious money lending system, so far as the street laborers and minor employees are concerned. He suggests an emergency fund or a weekly pay day.

The very general practice among the city employees of selling their "time" to money lenders for a commission has been generally condemned and steps have been taken to put a stop to the practice. But attention has been called only to clerks, etc., while the cases of the street laborers and minor employees have not been noticed. Yet it is a fact that hundreds of these men are obliged to seek aid from the brokers simply because the city pay days are so far apart.

The large majority of these men, and especially those who are employed upon the streets, are those who cannot wait for two weeks to receive their money, as they are not men of means and have in most cases neither provisions for their families nor credit. It has been a general practice among this class to go to the brokers and obtain an advance upon what the city owes them to tide them over until they are paid.

W. M. Sloan, superintendent of streets, says that the people do not realize the condition in which a large number of his men are placed.

He says that the department is not allowed to give its time certificates to the brokers; they can readily obtain any information they desire in regard to what is due a certain man by looking over any city books, which are accessible to any citizen who cares to look at them.

The police have under arrest two men who are suspected of being the footpads who held up and robbed A. C. Austin and Joseph Peetereer.

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