A Talk With Wu Ting Fang.

The New Chinese Minister Chats of the Changes Which Are Going on in China.

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WASHINGTON, May 13.—The effect of Li Hung Chang's trip around the world is seen every day in the new foreign policy which has been adopted by the Chinese emperor since Li's return home. A general change is taking place in the diplomatic circle, and new ministers are being sent to the leading courts of Christendom. First it was announced that Lo Feng Lun was to be minister to Great Britain. A week or so ago a commission was ordered to go to England to represent the emperor at the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria, and within the past few days a new Chinese minister has arrived in Washington. The striking peculiarity of the new appointments is that the men chosen are those who are up to date in foreign affairs. Lo Feng Luh was educated in London. I think he studied law there. He has spent some time in Germany, and he speaks the English and German languages almost as fluently as the Chinese. When I met him in Tien Tsin a year or so ago he quoted Shakespeare in his conversation with me, and gave me his opinions of Huxley and Darwin. He was then secretary of the navy of China, and was the chief assistant of Prince Li Hung Chang in foreign matters.

NEW CHINESE MINISTER.

I met the new Chinese minister to this country last night, and had an hour's chat with him about himself and other things. He also speaks English fluently. He told me that he was educated in England, and that he was a member of the English bar. He studied law at Lincoln's Inn, London, and after that returned to China and practiced at Hong Kong. It was at this time that Li Hung Chang, who keeps his eyes out for the brightest young men who know anything about foreign affairs, discovered him and later on called him to the service of the emperor, and it is largely through Li Hung Chang that he now comes to represent Chinese interests in the United States. The new minister's name is Wu Ting Fang. He is, I judge, a man of forty years of age. He has pronounced Chinese features, having high cheek bones, a light brown complexion, and eyes which are even brighter than those of Li Hung Chang. He is seldom at loss for a word, and is a man of ideas and actions. The door of his room at the Arlington hotel was opened for me by his little son, a bright, eyed Chinese boy of about nine years, who was dressed in a long red gown reaching to his feet and a little black skull cap, which fitted well down over his head, crowning features as sober as those of the Sphinx. When the minister came in he took my hand in American fashion, and then turned and drew on a plum-colored sack over his long silk gown, as he asked me to be seated.

A LA LI HUNG CHANG.

His excellency opened the conversation himself by asking a number of personal questions. He picked up my card and read the names of the several newspapers printed at the corner.

"Ah," said he, "I see that you write for many papers. Do they all pay you for your letters? You must make a great deal of money."

I modestly replied that I was able to live." Whereupon he very politely asked me a number of other questions about newspaper work in the United States, and especially as to the profits which are to be derived therefrom. After a few such questions I saw that I was the man being interviewed rather than the interviewer, and I adopted the plan that I used in my interviews with Li Hung Chang of tacking a question on the end of each of my answers, and in this way was able to turn the conversation to Chinese matters. Among other things I asked the minister if he had passed the literary examinations at Peking.

"No," replied his excellency, "I have not. I have, of course, spent years in Chinese studies, but a large part of my time has been devoted to English and to foreign branches. I was born in Canton, and I first studied English at Hong Kong. Then I went to London and spent some years there. I see you have the idea that the only way of getting into office in China is through the literary examinations. This is not altogether true. Most appointments are made in that way, but when a high official, such, for instance, as Li Hung Chang, sees a person whom he thinks will be valuable to the government he calls him into his service. He can give him a place without such examination. It is the desire of the emperor to get the ablest men he can to do his work, and it was in this way that I became an official."

THE CHINESE CIVIL SERVICE.

"How about those literary examinations, your excellency? Are they fair, or is there not a great deal of fraud connected with them?"

"I suppose there is fraud in all things," replied the minister, "but I think that our examinations for office are just about as fair as such examinations anywhere all over the world. It is almost impossible for a student to cheat his way through. You see a man has to go through a number of different tests before he can become a high official. First there are examinations in the district city near the home of the student. Here the boys from all parts of the district meet. They answer questions, write poems and essays. The test is so rigid that out of perhaps 2,000 students not more than twenty will pass. This examination is not for office. Those who pass it, however, have the right to enter the examinations for the second degree. These are held at the capital of the province or state in which the student lives. They are held once every three years, and there are thousands who compete in them. The examiners are noted scholars and those who pass have the right to go into the great examinations at Peking. If they pass there they have a good chance of receiving an official appointment. It is a great honor to pass all the examinations, as very few of the thousands who enter are able to do so."

WILL CHINA LAST?

As the minister thus referred to this educational system of China, which has been in use for hundreds of years, I thought of the enormous number of people which he represented, comprising about one-fourth of all in the world. I thought of the age of the Chinese and of their civilization, and said: "I have often wondered, your excellency, what one of you educated Chinese think of us and our prospects. Your nation is gray-haired beside those of the West. You were a people in the days when Egypt was the center of Western learning. Your nation was in its prime when the Greeks were the great people of the Mediterranean. You have existed while Rome rose and fell, and even today the Chinese are intellectually and physically strong. What is to be the future? Will our civilization pass away and that of the Chinese still live?"

The bright light went out of the Chinese minister's eyes, his face became sober and, after a moment's thought, he replied:

"Who can tell? The Chinese may last. They are a people of wonderful race strength, and it remains to be seen whether they will be swallowed up or changed by the new civilization. As for me. I look for great changes. We have preserved our institutions and customs throughout the past because we have been walled in, as it were, from the rest of the world. At the west we had the high plateau of Asia to keep out invaders, and on the East there was the sea. We had little communication with the outside world, and their customs and ideas did not affect us. Now the doors are thrown open, and the new elements which are coming in may make great changes. We may lose something of our individuality, but we shall probably hold our own."

NEW MOVEMENT IN CHINA.

"But, your excellency, is China now really open to the world?"

"Yes," was the reply.

"Can you notice any material changes going on?"

"I think so." replied his excellency, "but you must remember that our country is very large. We have an enormous number of people, and it takes time to move such great masses. An attempt to change matters quickly would be very likely to create a revolution. You will understand the danger when I tell you that there are tens of millions of Chinese who have never seen a foreigner, and who know practically nothing about foreign matters. The only way to make changes in China is by education. It is by this means that China may be led to adopt modern methods. Such education is not a matter of days, but of years. I believe the time will come when our people will select from your civilization the best things in it, and will add them to those which we now have. The bad elements of our civilization will be eliminated, and it may be that the new civilization, the Chinese civilization of the future, will be better than anything which exists today."

THE RAILROAD MOVEMENT.

"How about the building of railroads in China, your excellency?"

"We are pushing right ahead along such lines," was the reply. "The road from Tien Tsin to Peking will be completed in June, and you will then be able to go from the seashore to the capital by rail."

"Where will the Peking road end, your excellency?"

"It will go to the very gates of the city. The distance is from eighty to ninety miles, and fast trains will probably take you from Tien Tsin to Peking in about two hours. At present the journey requires from one to three days, according to the route, whether by river or by land."

"How about other railroads?"

"We have, you know, a very good line from Tien Tsin to the Shanhaikwan, on the edge of Manchuria. This is well built, and the trains run regularly."

"How about the line to Han Kow?"

"That line is also being pushed," said Mr. Wu Ting Fang. "It will run through one of the most populous parts of China, and will go south through some of the best of our provinces, touching large cities at every few miles. There are now great car works at Han Yang, a little bit above Han Kow, and all sorts of railroad machinery are being made there."

"How about factories? Are many new ones being built?"

"Yes; but these are constructed by the Chinese merchants and business men, and not by the government. There is a large cotton mill at Han Kow, hundreds of miles in the interior. There are other mills at Shanghai, including silk mills."

"How about the Japanese? At the close of the war they expected to do a great deal of manufacturing in China, did they not?"

"Yes, I know they did," replied his excellency, Wu Ting Fang. "They investigated the situation and made many plans, but so far they have not carried them out. I do not know what they will do in the future."

"But, your excellency, do you think the Japanese could do much in China? I have always thought the Chinese superior to the Japanese in business ability."

"There is little doubt of that," replied the Chinese minister. "The Japanese are very quick to grasp at new things. The Chinese are careful about going into anything they do not understand. Still they are very determined and sure. They are reliable and safe, and such progress as they make will be permanent."

MISSIONARIES AND CHINESE.

"What are our missionaries doing in China?"

"I think that the medical missionaries are doing great good," replied the minister. "They are earnest able men and women. They heal the sick, and they are introducing modern medical ideas among the people."

"How about the other missionaries?"

"Oh," replied his excellency, "they are like all other kinds of men. Some are good and some are bad. There are black sheep in every flock, and the missionaries are no exception. Still they do some good. They teach the practice of morality and virtue, and people who teach such things will always make some converts."

"Will they ever convert the whole Chinese nation?"

"No," replied his excellency, with a laugh. "Do you realize how many people we are, and how long our religion has lasted? Such a conversion will be impossible."

MAY AGAIN BECOME INVENTORS.

"I have often wondered, your excellency," said I, "whether this great Chinese brain which invented gunpowder, printing, the mariner's compass and other things, may not turn back to invention again. The bringing in of our ideas and civilization may stimulate it, and it may produce many new things."

"That may be so," was the reply. "Some of your scientific men who have lived in China say that our people are great imitators, that we can copy anything, but that we cannot invent or originate. Now that may be so, but I doubt it. The trouble with us today is that we have no incentive to inventions as you have in America. We have no copyright laws and no patent laws. If a man writes a book he does not want to publish it, for any printer near by can get out an edition and compete with him. If a man has an idea for a labor-saving device he keeps it to himself or perhaps makes only one or two machines. If he tried to sell the machines other men would copy them, and he would have no protection. If we had patent laws I think the Chinese would display their former inventive power. I don't see why not."

"How could such laws be secured?" I asked.

"Very easily," replied the minister. "Any of our great statesmen might suggest or memorialize the emperor. If it seemed good to him he would put out a decree establishing a patent law, and the law would be enforced."

WOODEN WAR HORSES.

"Have you seen any evidences of inventive genius existing among the Chinese?"

"No; I cannot say I have," replied the minister. "But our people are, you know, a very ingenious people, and I have no doubt that many wonderful inventions have been created in the past and lost because there was no patent law to foster or preserve them. We have instances of such things in our history. You are now talking here of your vehicles which go without horses and other such inventions. Now, it is a fact well known to every Chinese gentleman that one of our great generals of the past who lived during the latter Han dynasty, about 220 A. D., invented wooden horses and buffaloes to be used for military purposes. These horses were worked by means of machinery placed in their insides, and they moved rapidly over the earth, carrying men on their backs. They were used in battle, and it was by means of them that this general conquered the enemy. Every Chinese boy knows of that invention, but the details of it have been lost and never rediscovered. I have no doubt that we have invented many other things which have met with a like fate."

At this moment one of the Chinese secretaries called upon the minister and our interview closed. Upon leaving, the minister gave me his latest photograph, writing at my request his autograph in English and Chinese upon its face. The photograph was made by a Chinese photographer at Shanghai, and is as good as any of the photographs which are made in America. —Frank G. Carpenter.

Mrs. Shortration—Have you kept strictly to the one small glass of whisky a day?
Mr. Shortration—Most assuredly, only I am about four weeks in advance of my allowance.

INVENTIONS and INVESTORS.

Interesting Story of the Patent Office.

Special to the Globe.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—And still the crowd of officeseekers floods the city. And still the assault on the civil service wall of circumvallation continues. There is more trepidation among those who are in office, and an increase in indignation among those who are out of it. At the skirt of the array of officeseekers is the usual spring influx of inventors. Both officeseekers and inventors are at the mercy in many cases of bureau chieftains. There seems to be a tendency toward despotic rule, not only in the house, but in the departments as well. Congress may pass laws at will, and the president may sign them, but that is not the end of it. Some obscure corporal in legislation, quartered in the treasury department, or elsewhere, will take it upon himself to declare them unconstitutional, without waiting for action by the supreme court.

There has been a change in the patent office. Resolute John S. Seymour has retired, and genial Ben Butterworth has again resumed the toga. Applicants and attorneys were nearly all dissatisfied with Mr. Seymour's administration. They regarded him as arbitrary, if not unreasonable. Before his incumbency, applicants for patents were allowed two years in which to complete their applications. When completed they were examined in due course. If the application was rejected, the inventor was allowed two years in which to amend his case or seek reconsideration. All this was done under an act of congress passed in 1861.

Occasionally a shrewd inventor or attorney applied the law to his own advantage and the disadvantage of the public. Through technicalities he kept his application pending for years. But there were very few such cases—not one in a hundred. Mr. Seymour recommended to congress that it enact legislation which would stop such practices, by shortening the time allowed an inventor in which to complete and prosecute his case. Congress paid no attention to the recommendation. Thereupon Commissioner Seymour determined to apply a remedy without waiting for congress.

The applications for patents filed average about 125 a day. There are thirty-five principal examiners, with perhaps 200 assistants. Every examiner and every assistant examiner has his own specialty. Let us take the case, say, of a poor inventor living in Oregon. He makes a valuable invention and desires to obtain a patent. He sends his application with $15 to the commissioner of patents. It is referred to the examiner having charge of that peculiar class of inventions. It is his duty to reject it, if anything can be found on which to base a rejection. Nearly 600,000 patents have been granted in the United States, and probably more than a million in the rest of the world. If any of these anticipate the invention, the examiner must reject the application. It is not necessary that exactly the same thing should have existed before, for if anything substantially similar can be found the applicant must go to the wall. But more than this, if anything similar has been described in any printed publication, in any language, anywhere in the world, or if without being patented or described in print, it has been used anywhere in the United States, the examiner should reject.

The rub comes all the time upon the degree of similarity which will constitute an anticipation of the invention. A tremendous responsibility, it will be seen, is thus thrown upon the examiner. He wants to be safe. It is both his pride and his duty not to allow a patent to go out that ought to have been rejected. The consequence is that a great many examiners reject almost everything on the first examination. No matter how broadly new the invention may be, something can always be found that is akin to it. The nearest thing that can be found is used as a basis for rejection.

The Oregon man in due time receives the information that his application has been examined and rejected. He sends to Washington and gets a copy of the patent upon which the rejection is based. He has been working at the thing for years, while the examiner spent perhaps a day on it. He sees at once that an injustice has been done him. With a superficial resemblance between his invention and the patent, there is a vital difference. Often the examiner is right in rejecting the words of the claim filed, while the invention shown in the drawings and described in the specification is novel and valuable. If the inventor can raise the money to come to Washington with his model, and especially if he can employ a good lawyer when he gets to Washington, he may readily convince the examiner that he has a right to a patent and that the words of his original claim did not accurately describe his invention. The examiner, while strictly conscientious, often sympathizes with the inventor, and is willing to put himself out of the way to assist him. In some cases, seeing that the inventor is too poor to pay an attorney, he drafts his claims for him. But at the same time it must be remembered that the same examiner who originally rejected the application is the judge who rehears the case. He is usually slow to reverse his own prior decision. All the conditions are against the applicant. If, however, his claim is rejected upon the second examination, he has the privilege of appealing, first, to the board of examiners-in-chief, and, from that board, to the commissioner, and from the commissioner to the court of appeals of the District of Columbia. The last is the end of the cul-de-sac.

Under the law of 1861 the applicant had two years in which to secure a reconsideration of his case, and two years in which to appeal. This gave him time to attend to his other business and to raise money to employ a lawyer or to come to Washington himself.

Such was the procedure under Mr. Seymour's predecessors. They all construed that section of the Revised Statutes which requires an applicant to complete his case in two years, and to prosecute it in two years after any official action thereon, as giving the applicant two years in which to act. Another section of the law expressly says that if, after receiving notice of rejection, "the applicant persists in his claim for a patent, the commissioner shall order a re-examination of his case."

Commissioner Seymour used these words as a handle with which to change the whole course of procedure. He made a rule that an applicant would be considered to persist in his claim for a patent, in case he failed to act in prosecution of the same for six months after notice of rejection, "and thereupon the examiner will make a re-examination of the case." He did more than this. He cut down the time for appeals from two years to six months. This would settle the case of any poor inventor., who could not raise the money to prosecute his case within six months. When his claim has been twice rejected he has no longer a right to amend it. He must stand on the words of his claim as filed. If no appeal be taken within the six months period, he is out of court. Under the former procedure, an applicant's case was decided without a hearing on the first examination. No second examination was had until he requested it, and he had two years in which to do this. He had always a chance to be heard in support of his case. By the new rule if he fails to act within six months, the same examiner who has decided his case without argument on the first examination, passes upon it a second time without a hearing. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred the examiner affirms his former action. Practically he makes no re-examination. The applicant's right to amend is thus cut off, and the case is, in effect, finally decided against him, without his ever having been heard in his own behalf. With the right of amendment cut off, the right of appeal is in many cases of no value. But of whatever value an appeal may be, the applicant must take it within six months or forever lose his case.

The order establishing this rule was received with contempt by the patent attorneys. It created genuine surprise in the patent office. It was almost universally regarded as a violation of the statute and an unwarranted stretch of power. The attorneys thought it too revolutionary to be carried out, but the commissioner saw that it was enforced. The re-examinations under the rule were most of them merely perfunctory. Some of the examiners, while outwardly respecting the rule, regarded it as a farce and a travesty on justice. Some of the younger ones passed upon a hundred cases in a single day, regularly affirming the former rejections. Hundreds of poor inventors had their cases finally rejected without ever having been heard in support of them, and without serious consideration of their merits, upon the second and final examination.

Mr. Seymour made the patent office a tribunal that went through the form of reconsidering a case of its own motion and without argument, merely to cut off the right of the suitor to be heard. Many of the inventors thus affected were too poor to employ attorneys. They lived remote from Washington, with no patent attorneys near them, and were not able to come here within six months to defend their rights or to prepare briefs in support of them.

Thousands of cases were thus adjudicated. The value of the inventive property forfeited by this rule must run up into the millions. It is an extraordinary illustration of the power of a federal bureau chief. It indicates the gravitation toward despotic rule. Lockren cut off thousands of pensioners without a hearing by his arbitrary action. Bowler's decision in the treasury department a year ago excited derision, but it kept money for a time from men who were entitled to it; Seymour's rule has forever deprived many a poor inventor of his rights.

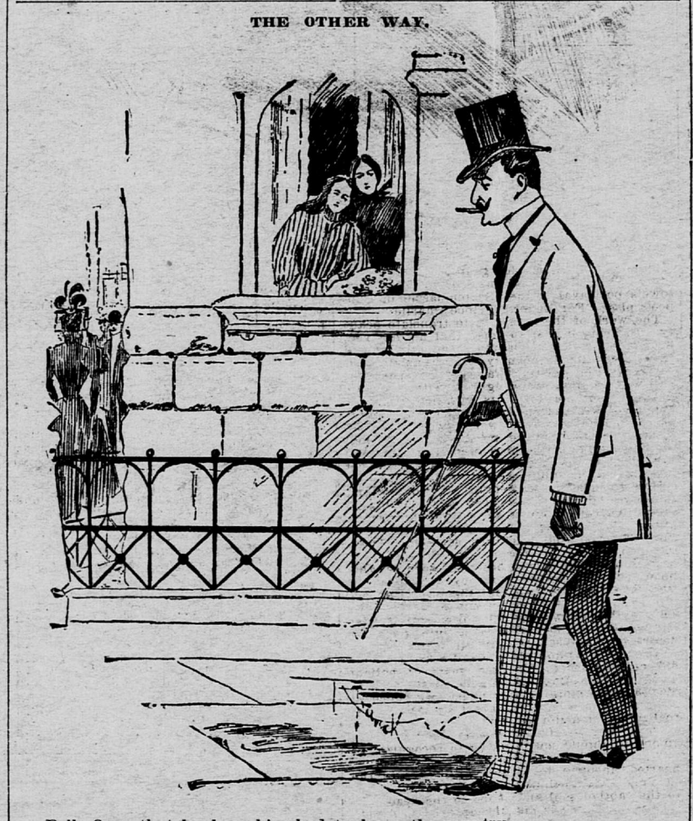
The rule of Commissioner Seymour in this case is paralleled by another of his rules. Undoubtedly sharp inventors and investors took advantage of the two years allowed by the statute of 1861 to keep their applications for patents pending in the patent office, with a view of lengthening their monopoly. But cases of this sort were few. In the second year of Mr. Seymour's administration a circuit court judge decided that a certain telephone patent was void for this reason. No patent had ever been held bad in the United States on this grond before. The circuit court of appeals overruled the decision and held the patent valid. The case is now pending before the supreme court of the United States. Commissioner Seymour, inspired by the decision of the circuit judge, made a rule that where cases had been pending in the patent office more than five years, with the record raising a presumption of intentional delays, the examiner might require the applicant to show cause why the case was not more rapidly prosecuted, and reject the case if the applicant did not make a satisfactory showing; this whether the applicant appeared or not. It is not enough that he has always acted within the time required by Mr. Seymour's own rules. The examiner may think that the case should have been more rapidly prosecuted.

This rule practically makes the examiner an arbitrary judge, with power to forfeit the applicant's inventive property, without process, without a jury, without a trial, and even without a hearing. The same examiner who institutes the forfeiture proceedings acts as a judge to decide the case. More than this, all the delays in the case may possibly have been due more to the unjust or incorrect rulings of the examiner himself than to any fault upon the part of the applicant. Often inventors treat the examiner as their enemy. This feeling on the part of the inventor sometimes excites unfriendliness on the part of the examiner.

A further illustration on the part of a bureau chief: The commissioner of patents is given power to make rules for the government of the office. Within the century, a code has grown up which at the revision in 1892 numbered 229 rules. Many of these rules are as old as the office itself. All were well known to the examiners and to all competent patent attorneys. The meaning of many a clause has been settled only by the adjudicating of a series of cases over a long period. To know them thoroughly was the labor of years. To disturb them was to disturb property rights and to let in a flood of litigation. But with one stroke of his pen Mr. Seymour substituted 88 rules of his own drafting for the 229 which had grown up during a hundred years. This was done against the protest of the most prominent patent attorneys in Washington, including several ex-commissioners of patents.

—Amos J. Cummings.

THE OTHER WAY.



Bell—Once that bank cashier had to leave the country.
Nell—Was he short in his accounts?
Bell—Oh, no, he was ahead, the bank was short.

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The St. Paul & Duluth trains will make direct connections at Taylor's Falls during the season of 1897 with the steamer "Gracie Kent" (capacity 300 passengers) for the trip through the Dalles of the St. Croix, Interstate Park, Bridal Veil Falls, Rock Island, etc. Cheap rates for picnic and excursion parties, including both rail and boat trips. Offices 396 Robert street and Union depot.

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Red Porch and Lawn Settees, 6 feet long, each $1.37
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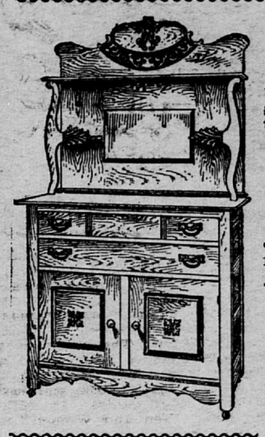

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Made $55,000,000 in Nine Months.

John D. Rockefeller Leads the World in Rapid Money Making

NEW YORK, May 14.—A two-line paragraph on the financial page of a morning newspaper makes this announcement: "Standard Oil certificates yesterday sold for 300, the highest price yet reached."

There may not seem to be anything wonderful in that, but, nevertheless, it means that in the past nine months one man's fortune has grown just $55,000,000, and in the past three months just $20,000,000. A million dollars is a stupendous sum, but when it comes to adding $20,000,000 to one's fortune in three short months it is an achievement beyond the comprehension of the ordinary mortal, who finds it a Herculean task to make a bare living.

The little paragraph had a still more potent meaning, and that is that the wealth of John D. Rockefeller has now reached the sum of $244,000,000, and, furthermore, is increasing at the rate of $1,500,000 a month, or $50,000 a day, or $2,083 an hour, or $34.50 a minute, or 57 cents every second of time, day and night, Sundays and holidays.

John D. Rockefeller sleeps eight and one-half hours every night, retiring at 10:30 and rising at 7. Every morning when he gets up he is $17,705 richer than he was when he went to bed. He sits down to breakfast at 8 o'clock and leaves the table at 8:30, and in that short half hour his wealth has grown $1,041.50. On Sunday he goes to church, and in the two hours that he is away from home his riches have grown $4,166. His nightly amusement is playing the violin. Every evening when he picks up the instrument he is $50,000 richer than he was when he laid it down the previous night. These little facts give some idea of the relentless growth of this man's fortune.

The average great millionaire is content if his wealth is so invested that it will bring in 4 per cent. Many are content with 3 per cent. But the Rockefeller riches earn more than 7 per cent. That part of it invested in the Standard Oil company earns 12 per cent, based upon a $300 value of the shares. The par value of the certificates is $100, and they are now paying dividends at the rate of 36 per cent per annum. The belief that they will soon pay 40 per cent is the cause of their recent appreciation.

Just how Mr. Rockefeller's fortune jumped $20,000,000 in three months is easily explained. He owns 500,000 shares of the Standard Oil company, or a trifle more than one-half of the total capitalization. The par value of these is $50,000,000. In February last the certificates were sold at $260. At this figure his holdings were worth $130,000,000. Today, at 300, they are worth $150,000,000. Last August Standard Oil certificates were sold at $190. At this figure his holdings were worth $95,000,000, or $55,000,000 less than they are today.

Jay Gould achieved world-wide fame as a money-maker. When he died he left $72,000,000, and the world stood aghast at the wonderful achievements of the man—$72,000,000 in forty years, almost $2,000,000 a year!

But here is a man whose wealth has grown at the rate of $6,000,000 a month, and the outside world scarcely dreams of it; a man who earned his first quarter of a dollar hoeing potatoes on a Tioga county farm, in the upper part of this state; a man who thirty-five years ago did not have $1,000 to his name.

Some people say that money is not made as easily or as rapidly nowadays as it used to be. This may be true as far as the generality of money-makers are concerned, but the chosen few, of which Rockefeller is the premier, are piling up riches today faster than ever. Where in the history of the world did any man ever make $55,000,000 in nine months? The luck of the bonanza kings of early California days dwindles to pigmy proportions compared with it. Nothing like it was ever heard of among the diamond mine princes of South Africa. Wall street or Lombard street furnish no parallel. The histories of the financiers of Europe, or of the potentates of the East, could be ransacked without unearthing its duplicate.

Rockefeller's wealth is not all locked up in the Standard Oil company. He has nearly a solid $100,000,000 invested in many enterprises of vast magnitude. In real estate he has tied up $15,000,000; in steamship lines, $2,000,00; in iron mines, $15,000,000; in railroad stocks and bonds $25,000,000; in bank stock $8,000,000; in natural gas stock, $4,000,000; in manufactured gas stock, $3,000,000; in mines in Western states, $5,000,000; in government bonds and miscellaneous securities, about $12,000,000, and in cash, about $2,000,000.

All of the figures just given are approximate, as the securities are constantly fluctuating, and the incessant flow of income necessitates new investments. A total estimate, however, of $244,000,000 can be regarded as conservative. His fortune may be greater by $10,000,000, but it is hardly less than the figure just given.

This places John D. Rockefeller at the head of the millionaires, not only of this country, but of the world. At one time it was said that Li Hung Chang was worth $500,000,000, but this was proved a great exaggeration, the noted Chinaman not owning property worth one-fifth of that sum.

None of the potentates of the world has the fortune or the income of Mr. Rockefeller. Queen Victoria receives $2,000,000 a year, about one-ninth of the income of Rockefeller, and out of this sum she must spend $1,700,000 to maintain the court. She doesn't even have the pleasure of spending it, either; the government performs that duty. The czar of Russia enjoys a trifle larger income than Victoria, but officers of the court attend to the spending of it.

But no one dictates the disposition of the Rockefeller income. He can invest it in interest-bearing securities, give it away to Baptist churches and colleges, or build floral timepieces in the gardens of his Tarrytown palace.

There is one important question connected with the fabulous growth of this man's fortune, and that is—What will it amount to in the next twenty years, should Mr. Rockefeller live that long?

Business Proposal.

"I am subject to fits," said the man with the air of sin and the breath of gin, as he stuck his head in the door of the studio.

"You can't beg a cent here," said the photographer. Get out."

"I ain't beggin'. I didn't know but you and me could come to terms on gettin' up a ... scope fillums."—Indianapolis Journal.

He Won the Bet.

"Did you hear about Grawler?" said the man with the long moustache. "He bet Smithers that he could live on bread and water for fifteen days."

"What did he do with the money?" asked the man in the corner.

"They bought his coffin with it. His wife insisted on making the bread."—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Excursion to Lindstrom, Chisago Lakes and Taylors Falls, Interstate Park, via St. Paul & Duluth Railroad.

On Sunday, May 16, the St. Paul & Duluth railroad will run their first excursion to Chisago Lakes, Taylor's Falls and Interstate Park, leaving St. Paul at 9:15 a. m., arriving Taylor's Falls 11:20 a. m. Returning leave Taylor's Falls 7:05 p. m., and arriving in St. Paul 9:05 p. m.

Half rate excursion tickets at 396 Robert street and Union Depot.