

Inside Information on Japan

Irving Ryttenberg Gives the Facts From His Own Observation.

Kobe, Japan, Dec 27, 1899—A telegram received via London, dated Dec 21, gives the following information:

"A bill has been introduced into the United States congress to authorize the appointment of a commission to report on the industrial condition of China and Japan."

As this is in pursuance of President McKinley's message I have no doubt that ere this reaches you it will have been passed and the commissioners about to be appointed.

Is this commission going to become another of the farces or will really competent men be appointed thereon? Will they come out here and be wine and dined by officials, given Geisha and dances, have a lot of statistics rammed down their throats and then go home saying what a fine country it is and what a splendid race of people the Japs are? An investigation of this sort which is to be a reference for commerce and will no doubt have some effect thereupon, should be made rigorous and impartial to all concerned; the bad as well as the good side of the country being shown up to the light.

I do not wish to take away from the Japs any credit that is due them, but so much has been said and written "pro," don't you think it time that some one put a few "cons" in the case? Comparisons being at all times odious, I shall avoid them altogether, besides I am not acquainted with the Chinese except by hearsay, though their aptness for business, and commercial proclivities are superior to any Oriental nation.

The Japanese, as all foreigners doing business here know, are, with a very few exceptions, "strictly unreliable," a fact of which the government officials and even some of the best merchants are fully aware and will when pressed admit as truth. Occasionally articles appear in Japanese newspapers which when translated prove to be no more nor less than appeals for reform in this direction.

"Strict honesty" in business is almost unknown. What importer in the country when the question is put straight to him can deny that if the market price fell how much trouble he would have in making his customer take delivery of goods, if he succeeded at all? What exporter is there who has not found out after making a contract for merchandise that his neighbor, who all unconsciously of the fact, has been willing to pay a trifling advance in price, is receiving his goods, whereas he is met with a "smiling bow" and "no goods" (The Jap says he is very chumpai (full of anxiety) about it, but "shikata ga nai" (it can't be helped). When this latter phrase is obliterated from the language and no substitute allowed then will the Jap become a reliable merchant.

It is so much easier for him to shrug his shoulders and say "shikata ga nai" than to give the real and truthful reply.

"Make contracts," the uninitiated says. Very good, but a contract is only good when you are holding cash money as a security, and this can seldom be furnished, as the Japanese do a larger business on a smaller capital than any one can readily imagine. Also interest rates are very high, owing to the lack of proper security.

Will a contract hold good in a Japanese court? Well, figuratively it is supposed to do so, but it will be many days before a foreigner can get justice in a Japanese court unless some of the powers who were so ready to ratify the "treaty" will step in and take a hand.

I beg to call attention to a case which is exciting the indignation of every foreigner in the Orient and I feel sure that the British consul is only waiting for the proper time to have his say in the matter.

The case in question is that of M. Kent, second officer of the "Tamba Mara," a Japanese steamer, with foreigners for chief officers.

Mr Kent reprimanded and reported the Japanese quartermaster for smoking on duty which was against the rules.

Next day the quartermaster came in the cabin of Mr Kent and in an insulting tone said it was a diamond in his ring that was taken for a cigarette, put his fist in the officer's face, whereupon the officer pushed his hand away receiving in return a blow in the face from the Japanese. In the fight that naturally followed the Jap was knocked down and received a black eye, the officer was severely bitten in the thigh in six different places.

Now here is Japanese justice. Mr Kent (British subject) after a long trial (bail being at first refused and afterwards allowed) is sentenced to six months hard labor. The counter charges against the Jap, the aggressor, resulted in a sentence of five days detention.

If that is the sort of verdicts that are given at the beginning of the new regime, what can foreigners expect under Japanese law in future?

Japan has at present for a visitor

Mr Dicoy, the gentleman who first wrote a book on the country, "The New far East," is now visiting it for the first time to see if he struck it right. He is, of course, being entertained nicely by the Japanese authorities, and in the laughing stock of the foreigner papers and residents. If our commissioners want to have a nice time let them follow his example—write a book, send a few copies out for free distribution. I will promise them a warm reception. But if they want to make a study of the circumstances, let them come incognito as tourists or better still as business men, in stead of bringing letters to the embassy or consulate, to business firms who do not have to be political for political reasons. You will then be able to get a proper report.

Why has this not been brought forward before now?

Government officials could not well do so, tourists do not see enough of it (though they realize the truth of it). Residents either have become too indifferent as they become accustomed to Oriental life or for business reasons they do not wish to have their name brought forward in connection with same because they have to remain here. But as none of the above conditions apply to me I unhesitatingly state the facts and sign myself, Sincerely yours, Irving A. Ryttenberg.

MINISTERS DRAWN ON JURY.

Greenville, Jan 16.—In the list of jurors drawn for the second week of the approaching term of court, the names of three well known ministers of the gospel appear, namely, Drs S. R. Preston, W. J. Langston and D. W. Key, of this city. The drawing of the reverend gentlemen to serve on the jury of the circuit court has occasioned considerable surprise and much comment, and many questions have been asked not only as to the legality of the innovation, as ministers are exempt by law from serving on juries. The jury commissioners say they desire to get the best men in the county and as the preachers and the editors now and then make unfavorable comment when juries fail to convict, they wish to give them a chance to put their theories into practice. A lot of preachers, editors and others who are exempt have been placed on the jury list for the present year, and the commissioners hope they will not claim exemption, as the supreme court has decided that being exempt from service does not disqualify, for it is a matter of personal privilege.

Reports From Gen. Otis.

Washington, Jan 17.—The following cablegrams were received today by the war department from Gen Otis:

Manila, Jan 17. Schwan's troops in possession of Batangas province about to move eastwards into provinces of Tayabas and Laguna; Wheaton moving on Lembeh and Taal and has navy cooperation; casualties slight, insurgent loss considerable in men and property as keep up constant opposition; expedition under Kobbe leaves for hemp ports tonight.

Otis.

Manila, Jan 17. Gen Hughes absent on western coast Panay, polling that section. Band of 26 Tagalos which landed Negros in December struck by Byrns in Negros mountains who killed 19, captured 28 rifles and ammunition. No casualties. Troops in northern Luzon busy pursuing robber bands with good results.

Otis.

The increased profit of the producers of illuminating oil from the increase in price of 3 cents per gallon on the billion gallons sold annually in the United States will be about \$30,000,000 every twelve months. It is noted incidentally "that the oft-quoted remark about the cheapness of petroleum as a consequence of the Standard Oil Company's policy in business does not have any more application today than it did a few years ago. The price is now fully as high as it was in 1880."

Gen. Wheeler's Resignation.

Washington, Jan 17.—It is understood here that Gen Wheeler's return from the Philippines is on account of ill health. While it is not admitted that he has resigned his commission, it is stated that if he has the president will suspend action until he can confer with him with a view of dissuading him from such a course. He is nearly 64 years of age, the statutory limit of active service in the army, and but for that fact would have been appointed a brigadier general in the regular army. The president is said to favor a plan which will authorize the appointment of Gen Wheeler, Gen Lee and perhaps one or two other brigadier generals on the retired list in acknowledgment of their faithful services to the country during and since the Spanish war. It is said that is one of the reasons why Gen Wheeler is summoned home at this time.

That Throbbing Headache.

Would quickly leave you, if you used Dr King's New Life Pills. Thousands of sufferers have proved their matchless worth for Sick and Nervous Headaches. They make pure blood and strong nerves and build up your health. Easy to take. Try them. Only 25 cents. Money back if not cured. Sold by J. F. W. DeLorme, Druggist.

1-5

THE PHILIPPINE WAR.

Number of Encounters in Which Insurgents Lose Men.

Washington, Jan 19.—The war department today received the following cablegrams from Gen Otis:

Manila, Jan 19.

Hughes report from Gen Jose de Buena Rieta, western coast Panay, that crossed mountains northwesterly directions from San Joaquin, Panay, 17th; struck enemy crossing Antique river, capturing rifled cannon and Nordenfeldt; pursued insurgents through Antique, Engana and Silliam, their capital, and marched to San Jose. Our casualties, one wounded; enemy's loss considerable. Entire population fled to mountains. Heat oppressive.

Otis.

Manila, Jan 19.

MacArthur reports, 17th inst, that 35 rifles surrendered at Floda Blanca; that at Manibaug, McRae, Third infantry, captured three insurgent officers, wife of Gen Mescardo, considerable insurgent property and liberated three Spanish prisoners; that at Calang, captured 10 insurgents, burned seven tons of rice and insurgent barracks; that Sullivan, Thirty fourth infantry, near San Jose, surprised insurgent force, captured six rifles and considerable livestock; that Lieut Houle, Third infantry, captured, near Malolos, one officer, 25 men and six rifles; that Van Horn, Seventeenth infantry, struck Ladrones at San Tacroz, killed 17, wounded 5, captured 13 and 9 rifles; MacArthur reports, 18th inst, strong mounted position west Malabacat, occupied by Gen Hizon and 50 men, captured yesterday by McRae, Third infantry; enemy left lieutenant and four dead men in trenches; McRae captured captain one man, 130 rifles, several thousand rounds of ammunition, destroyed arsenal, quantities of rice; casualties one man wounded; Bates reports that Schwan's column cavalry refitting at Batangas to move eastward on 19th; infantry now moving that direction; enemy retiring, suffering loss in men and property; our casualties few, mostly slight wounds; that portion Wheaton's troops will enter Lemery and Taal tomorrow now meeting opposition in mountains which impedes march. Six officers, 54 enlisted men, four civil employes, 11 friars, all Spanish prisoners released by Schwan, arrived from Batangas last evening; nearly 200 arrived Manila day before, via Calamba Young, at Vigan, reports number successful skirmishes in mountains with remnants insurgent organization and robber bands, with slight casualties among his troops. Kobbe expedition Randolph Light battery, Forty third and Forty seventh infantry, conveyed by navy vessels Helena and Nashville, sailed for Albany province and Satar and Leyte islands yesterday.

Otis.

A Russia naval officer says war between Russia and Japan is inevitable and that England will have to fight to retain her territory in the east.



Out in Kansas

lives a happy wife. She writes: "I have used Mother's Friend before two confinements. The last time I had twins, and was in labor only a few minutes. Suffered very little." The reason why

Mother's Friend

does expectant mothers so much good is because it is an external liniment, to be applied upon the outside, where much of the strain comes. It helps because the pores of the skin readily absorb it, and it comes into direct contact with and is absorbed by the parts involved. Morning sickness is quickly banished, and nervousness is kept completely away. The sense of dread and foreboding is not experienced, even during labor itself. Confinement is short and almost without pain. Recovery is quick and sure. Best of all, Mother's Friend benefits the unborn just as much as the expectant mother, and when the little one comes it will be strong, lusty and healthy.

Druggists sell Mother's Friend for \$1 a bottle. Send for our free book on the subject, nicely illustrated.

THE BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO. ATLANTA, GA.

Estates of Mrs. Frances C. Brunson, Deceased, and of Miss Mary M. Brunson, Deceased

AS Administratrix of Estate of W. Haynes Gordon, Deceased, I hereby give notice that on February 17th, 1900, I will apply to the Judge of Probate of Sumter County for a Final Settlement and Discharge in the aforesaid Estates.

ALICE O. GORDON, Adm'r. Administratrix Est. W. Haynes Gordon, Dec 21 1899.

MOVED UP

L. B. DURANT

Has moved his stock of

Hardware, Stoves, Cutlery, Crockery, &c.,

Into the large store next to First National Bank, lately occupied by the Ducker & Bultman Company.

And is now better prepared with a larger stock than ever, to supply the public with everything in his line. Especial attention is directed to the very large line of

Stoves and Stove Fixtures, Both cooking and heating, and also to our large line of CROCKERY, GLASSWARE, WINDOW GLASS, PAINTS, OILS.

Our regular lines of Hardware, Tools, Cutlery, Guns, Ammunition, Harness, Saddlery, Housefurnishing Goods, &c., will be found larger and more complete. We also carry Engine and Mill Supplies. Remember, all our stoves are warranted. Call and see us. Very respectfully,

L. B. DURANT.

Sep 6-x

HOT SPRINGS TREATMENT

COMPANY AND COUNCIL OF PHYSICIANS.

Will Cure at Home Blood Poison in all Stages, Scrofula, Cancer and Rheumatism. Cures Guaranteed.

If suffering from any form of contagious or inherited Blood Poison, Cancer, Rheumatism, Paralysis, Private Diseases, Gonorrhoea, Gleet, Weakness of Organs, you can be cured at home with perfect safety at small cost. You can secure the combined skill of a staff of eminent physicians and specialists with a large experience and observation in treating such diseases at Hot Springs. Any case they accept for treatment who faithfully complies with directions without a cure will be entitled to free board, room and treatment at their institution until cured. No nostrums or cure-alls used, but special remedies for each particular case, and to suit the particular stage of the disease. Honest, expert treatment is what you need. A book of full particulars with question blanks sent secure from observation on receipt of 2 cent stamp for postage. Address

HOT SPRINGS TREATMENT CO., or P O Box 110. HOT SPRINGS, ARK.

June 14-o

A NEW DEPARTURE

A Radical Change in Marketing Methods as Applied to Sewing Machines.

An original plan under which you can obtain easier terms and better value in the purchase of the world famous "White" Sewing Machine than ever before offered.

Write for our elegant H-T catalogue and detailed particulars. How we can save you money in the purchase of a high-grade sewing machine and the easy terms of payment we can offer, either direct from factory or through our regular authorized agents. This is an opportunity you cannot afford to pass. You know the "White," you know its manufacturers. Therefore, a detailed description of the machine and its construction is unnecessary. If you have an old machine to exchange we can offer most liberal terms. Write to-day. Address in full.

WHITE SEWING MACHINE COMPANY, (Dep't A.) Cleveland, Ohio.

Columbia Business College,

COLUMBIA, S. C.

The leading business training school of South Carolina which turns out graduates for holding the best positions of honor and trust in the business and shorthand profession. The aim of the institution is to be honest in every statement it makes, and to give even more value than it promises. It claims to keep improvement as its watchword, and excellence and thoroughness as its standard. It aims to merit patronage by thorough, conscientious work. 50 per cent of the courses taught in other commercial schools of this section are not more than a preparatory to ours. Graduates assisted to positions. For information and catalogue, address,

W. H. Newberry, President.

TESTIMONIALS.

From one of our first graduates. He has a good position, and recommends our school as the best, as does all of our students.

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 8, 1897. Prof. W. H. Newberry, President C. B. C., My Dear Sir: During the month of January, 1885, was the time I began a business course in the Columbia Business College. Although a stranger in the city, I was welcomed by professors and students, which made me feel at home. Having completed my course, I accepted a position as bookkeeper for one of the largest dry goods firms in the city, which position I held for one year, and then changed to the grocery firm of James M. Green, one of the leading fancy grocers in the city which position I still hold. Owing to the thorough training received at the Columbia Business College, have been able to master every business transaction that has come in my work. In future years will always look back to the time spent in the Columbia Business College with pleasure. I recommend this school to all who desire a business education.

From your friend and student W. W. GREGG.

COMPLETED SHORTHAND IN THREE MONTHS.

Blackville, Barnwell Co., Feb. 30, 1899. Mr. W. H. Newberry, President Columbia Business College, Columbia, S. C. My Dear Sir: It affords me pleasure to testify to the merits of the Columbia Business College. I do not hesitate to say that I have received substantial and beneficial results. I cheerfully recommend it to any person desiring of securing a business education. During my course of study at the college there was uniform kind and courteous treatment and attention. Close attention was given the students by the instructors to insure accuracy and thoroughness in their studies, and my progress was rapid, and I presume, efficient, as I obtained a situation as soon as I reached home, and so far as I know, am giving satisfaction. I completed my shorthand course in three months. I do not think the Columbia Business College can be excelled by any other in the State. Ever wishing your college grand success, I am

Your friend and old student, (Miss) DAISY STOKES.

THE BANK OF SUMTER, SUMTER, S. C.

City and County Depository

Capital stock paid in, \$75,000 00
Undivided surplus, 16,000 00
Individual liability of stockholders in excess of their stock, 75,000 00

Transacts a general banking business; also has a Savings Bank Department. Deposits of \$1 and upward received. Interest allowed at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually.

W. F. B. HAYNSWORTH, President.
MARION MOHR, Vice-President.
W. F. RHAME, Cashier.
Jan 31.

CHARLES C. LESLIE,

Wholesale and Retail Commission Dealer in

FISH

Oysters, Game and Poultry.

Stalls No. 1 and 2 Fish Market. Office, Nos. 18 and 20 Market Street.

CHARLESTON, S. C.

Consignments of Country Produce, Poultry, Eggs, &c., are respectfully solicited. Prompt returns made. Fish packet in barrels and boxes for the country trade a specialty.

Dec 6 x

A FINE PIANO.

At a High Price Is Easily Found, But Fine Pianos Like the

STIEFF PIANOS

At our prices, are only found in our warehouses. They present a happy combination of excellence, impossible to surpass elsewhere. Catalogue and Book of Suggestions for the asking. TERMS ACCOMMODATING.

SECOND-HAND PIANOS. TUNING, REPAIRING.

CHAS. M. STIEFF,

Warehouses, 9 North Liberty Street. Factory—Block of E. Lafayette Ave., Aiken and Lanvale streets.

TAX RETURNS FOR 1900.

OFFICE OF

COUNTY AUDITOR SUMTER COUNTY, SUMTER, S. C., Nov. 30, 1899.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will attend in person or by deputy, at the following places on the days indicated respectively for the purpose of receiving returns of Personal Property, and Poll Taxes for the fiscal year commencing January 1st, 1900:

At office Sumter, S. C., at all other times up to Feb. 20, 1900, inclusive:

Tindalls, Tuesday, January 2.

Privateer, (Jenkins' Store) Wednesday, January 3.

Manchester, (Nettles' residence) Thursday, January 4.

Wedgefield, Friday, January 5.

Stateburg, Saturday, January 6.

Hagood, Monday, January 8.

Rembert's Store, Tuesday, January 9.

Gaillard's X Roads, Wednesday January 10.

Bossards, Thursday, January 11.

Gordon's Mill, Saturday, January 13.

Mayesville, Monday, January 15.

Scottsville, (McElveen's Store) Tuesday, January 16.

Shiloh, Wednesday, January 17.

Norwood's X Roads, Thursday, January 18.

Lynchburg, Friday, January 19.

Magnolia, Saturday, January 20.

Reid's Mill, Monday, January 22.

Bishopville, Tuesday and Wednesday, January 23 and 24.

Mannville, Thursday, January 25.

Smithville, Friday, January 26.

The law requires that all persons owning property or in anywise having charge of such property, either as agent, husband, guardian, trustee, executor, administrator, etc., return the same under oath to the auditor, who requests all persons to be prompt in making their returns and save the 50 per cent. penalty which will be added to the property valuation of all persons who fail to make returns within the time prescribed by law.

Taxpayers return what they own on the first day of January, 1900.

Assessors and taxpayers will enter the first given name of the taxpayer in full, also make a separate return for each township where the property is located and also in each and every case the No. of the School District must be given.

Every male citizen between the age of twenty-one and sixty years on the first day of January, 1900, except those incapable of earning a support from being married or from other causes, are deemed taxable polls, and except Confederate soldiers 50 years of age, on January 1st, 1900.

All returns must be made on or before the 20th day of February next. I cannot take returns after that date and all returns made after the 20th day of February are subject to a penalty of 50 per cent.

J. DIGGS WILDER, Auditor Sumter County. Sumter, S. C., Dec. 6, 1899.

Life and Fire Insurance.

Call on me, at my residence, Liberty Street, for both Life and Fire Insurance. Only reliable Companies represented. Phone No. 130.

Andrena Moses. Oct 25-o.

A. WHITE & SON, Fire Insurance Agency. ESTABLISHED 1866.

Represent, among other Companies: LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE, NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE, HOME, of New York. UNDERWRITERS' AGENCY, N. Y. LANCASTER INSURANCE CO. Capital represented \$75,000,000. Feb 28

DR. W. B. ALFORD, DENTAL SURGEON, SUMTER, S. C.

Office Hours—8 a. m. to 2:30 p. m.; 3:15 to 6:30 p. m. Office over the Sumter Dry Goods Co. May 2-6m

Vinegar.

I have on hand a lot of Home-made Vinegar of very fine quality. The flavor is delicate, while the strength is equal to any to be had.

Will be sold at my residence for 40 cents per gallon.

N. G. OSTEN.