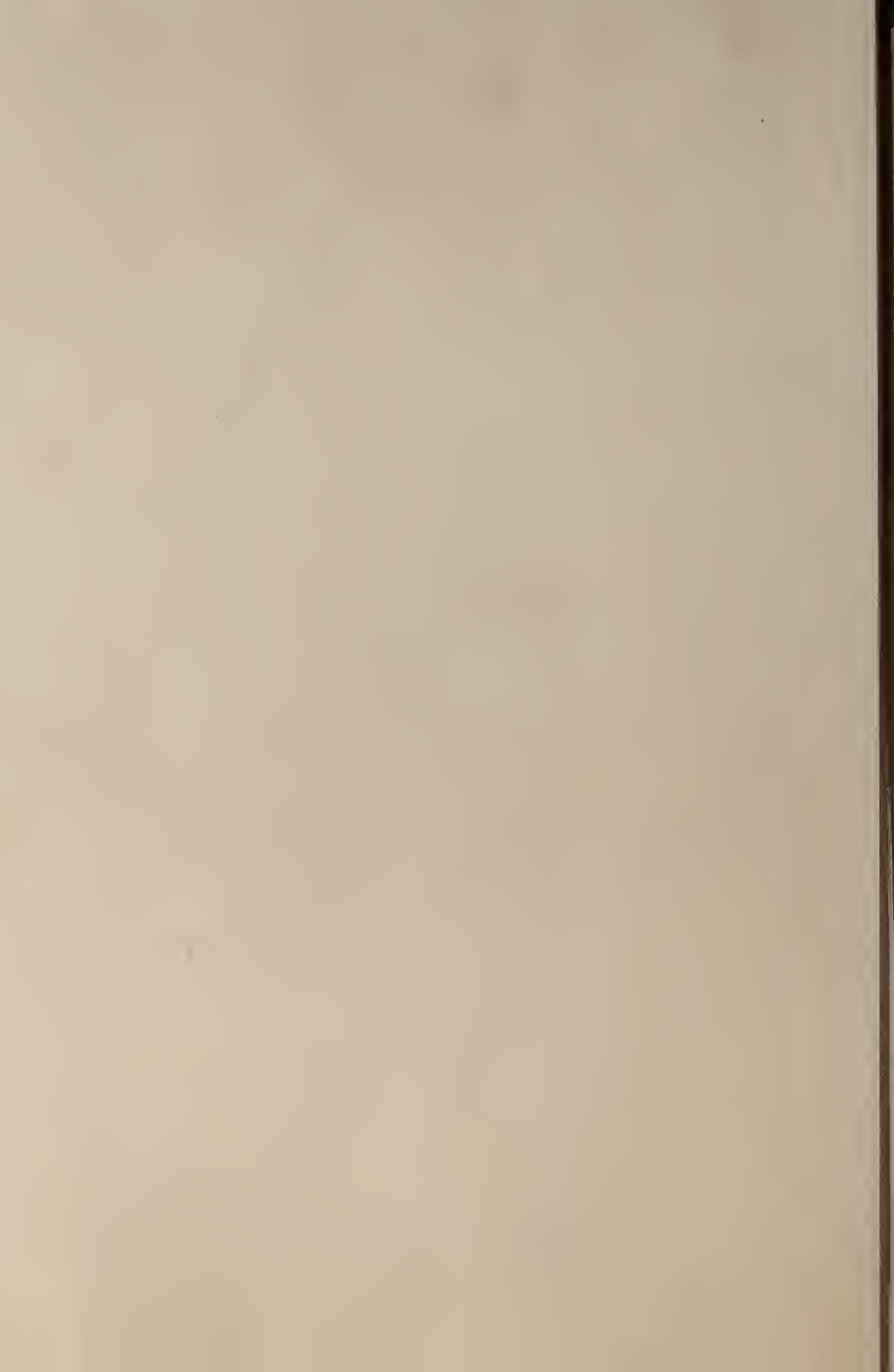


Sam Kiffitt

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JULY, 1906.

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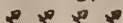
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THE KOREA REVIEW.

JULY, 1906.

The Korean Mining Laws.

Comment in the far eastern papers upon the new Korean mining laws has been various. Some find in them nothing to complain about; others consider that they are drawn up not to facilitate the development of Korean resources but to put a stop to all attempts on the part of Western capital to obtain a foothold in the peninsula.

The examination of the text of such a law is like examining a bicycle tire. It may look well on the outside but a very small leak makes it worthless. The tire can be tested in either of two ways; first by putting it to actual use and secondly by putting it in water, in which case any leak will reveal itself. So this law can be tested either by actual use or by subjecting it to very close scrutiny. Until the former method can be tried we reserve the right to try the latter and in doing so we would like to assume an entirely unbiassed attitude and treat the question purely on its merits. Whether we do so remains with the reader to determine.

Article I defines the term mining, properly so far as we can see.

Article II states that minerals not extracted, mineral refuse and slag shall be the property of the state. In the highest forms of mining large values are often hidden in these secondary products and whether this law would work a hardship for the expert miner or not would depend very largely upon circumstances. However, this may be passed by as not subject to any considerable criticism. It would necessitate the careful stipulation

on the part of the concessionaire of what products and by-products he proposed to utilize.

Article III states that permission to mine must be obtained from the Minister of Agriculture Commerce and Industry and application must be accompanied by a plan of the intended claim. Proof must also be given of the existence of the minerals to be mined.

In other words foreign capital must send and discover points where valuable minerals may be found and proceed with work until it has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Department that the value is there. This on the mere chance that the application for license will be successful. If the prospective investor could be sure of establishing a claim in the end, this might do, but we shall have to proceed furthur before discovering what that probability amounts to.

Articles IV, V and VI deal with boundaries and sizes of claims, prohibited, areas etc., and are entirely proper.

Article VII. The Minister of Agriculture etc., shall have the power to refuse permission for mining in case he considers such a step to be necessary in the public interest *or for any other reason* (italics ours). Here we begin to get at the meat of the matter. The Minister in his own person and without advice from any party can arbitrarily refuse permission to anyone. The reason may be adequate or not. He is not obliged to state his reason but simply to claim there is reason for refusal. There is no possible appeal from this arbitrary refusal and the power vested in the Minister is that of a dictator in mining matters. This again means that the Japanese reserve the right to hold off foreign investment in a perfectly arbitrary manner, for the Agricultural Department like all the rest is dominated by them. This clause alone would be enough to discourage foreign investment. But the next clause is still more conclusive.

Article VIII. If there is more than one applicant, permission shall be given according to priority of date. As regards applications made on the same date, permission shall be given to the applicant whom the Minister may consider most worthy. In other words, if a foreign

syndicate sends prospectors into Korea and locates valuable minerals, makes a plan of the claim and applies for permission on Monday morning, the Japanese with these plans in hand can make out another application for the same claim on Monday afternoon and then leave it to the Minister to decide who is most worthy! It looks as if the Japanese would like to get their prospecting done for nothing. There is no such thing as simultaneous applications, and the clause about "same date" is a perfectly transparent trick to leave a whole day or at least several hours in which to nullify any application that does not suit the dictator. We see no attempt at fairness in this clause. No foreign capitalist, knowing Japanese methods, would for one instant think of spending money to locate minerals in the peninsula, when such a clause is in operation.

There is little use in giving the other articles in detail—enough has been given to show that the whole instrument is intended to block the efforts of foreign capitalists to obtain a foothold in Korean mining operations. But we will mention some other disabilities under which mining interests will labor. Every amalgamation, division or other modification of a mining claim is subject to the consent of the virtual dictator. No right can be sold, assigned or even mortgaged without his consent. He has power to arbitrarily suspend all mining operations when "public interest" requires. But there is no attempt to define what public interest means or how the Minister would interpret the term. It is wholly indefinite and leaves openings for all sorts of arbitrary manipulation.

Having then given the Minister of Agriculture etc. arbitrary and dictatorial power over all mining industries, what checks are put upon abuse of this power? The twenty-first clause makes the curious assertion that the government shall not be responsible for any damage arising from any measure taken by the Minister! Is not this Minister an agent of the government? Why then should the government disavow any responsibility for his acts?

Article XXVII states that as these laws may affect foreigners no such measure shall be decided upon or executed without the previous consent of the Resident General. Now what have we here? The literal meaning is that the fact that foreigners may be interested in mines makes it necessary that every measure taken in connection with mining must gain the consent of the Resident General but the evident meaning is that every measure which effects the introduction of foreign industry shall be subject to the consent of the Resident General. There can be no question that this means a veto power. If the Minister should by any means consent to grant a concession to foreigners the Resident may veto it. Otherwise why should foreigners be singled out for such special attention?

We would also like to ask on what basis Japanese are not included in the list of foreigners. How long is it since Japanese became natives of Korea?

It cannot be long before the various treaty powers come to realize that Japan is rapidly barring out Western capital from the Far East. If these mining laws do not plainly indicate it we should be pleased to hear the argument on the other side and give it publicity.

A Korean Cyclopaedia.

(Continued)

We gave in the last issue the major part of the General Contents of this book. It remains to indicate the remaining topics discussed and to take up one or two in detail to show how they are handled.

OFFICIAL GRADES.

Grades at the time of the Sam-han (Silla, Paik-che and Koguryū); honors to old age; grades of royal relatives; bureau of royal relatives; bureau of Prime Ministers; bureau of Prime Ministers' secretaries; bureau of censors of Prime Minister; reception ceremony of the

three Prime Ministers (of right, left and center); proteges of Prime Ministers; bureau of Prime Ministers' general oversight of officials; bureau of eligibles for Prime Ministership; Prime Minister's secret service; king's adviser; Prime Minister's special censor; bureau of estimate of official merit; the cabinet; Prime Minister's oversight of military; bureau of borders of the realm; guardianship of public peace; privy council; bureau of official amenities; bureau of hospitality to guests, foreign or native; bureau of special honors; supreme court; home department; finance department; ceremonial department; war department; law department; industrial department; mayor's office; bureau of official announcements; the constitution; bureau of impeachment; royal Confucian literature studying place; bureau of edicts and memorial; bureau of revision of royal edicts and official pronouncement; state library; bureau of authorization of publication; rules of warfare; reading room of the literati; publication of royal or official literature; the Confucian school; bureau of royal alms and pensions; bureau of repairs; bureau of sanitation; bureau of petition and recommendations; bureau of royal cuisine; royal physicians; bureau of national curiosities; royal wardrobe; bureau of musical instruments; bureau of interpreters; bureau of reception of foreign guests; bureau of treatment of slaves; state hospitals; bureau of office supplies; bureau of government sacrifices; bureau of provincial sacrifices; bureau of official travelling escorts; royal household *menage*; bureau of royal household supplies; bureau of official introductions; bureau of treatment of exofficials; bureau of government supplies; office of government almanac; bureau of military supplies; bureau of government policy (political economy); bureau of government architecture; bureau of killing of animals and other expenses of sacrifice or entertainment; bureau of government physicians; bureau of surgery; bureau of government storehouses; bean storehouses; bureau for provision in case of famine; storehouse for government bounty rice; royal storehouse; storehouse for official contributions to charity; bureau of ice-houses; store-

house for goods as presents to good men; bureau of special gift buildings; royal tablet house; altar to heaven; memorial palace to Sa-do-se-ja (Son of King Yong-jong); bureau of market prices; bureau of public parks or royal parks; bureau of zoological garden; bureau of agricultural improvement; bureau of paper manufacture; bureau of aid to poor; bureau of manufacture of wine and condiments; bureau of government livestock; bureau of emergency hospital; bureau of employment for destitute; bureau of tile manufacture; bureau of state prisons; bureau of picture making; bureau for determination of direction of official abilities; bureau of dyeing; bureau of royal inspection of destitute; bureau of paraphernalia for public functions; bureau of navy; bureau of bridges and ferries: bureau of supplies for ceremonies in honor of kings of the previous dynasty; bureau of care of the Kyöng-bok Palace; bureau for repair of Seoul wall and prevention of fires; bureau for determination of propitious sites for graves and ceremonies, and of propitious times for public functions; bureau for the meeting special demands of royal household; bureau of special accommodations for examination candidates; bureau of the five Seoul districts; bureau of royal tomb guardianship; bureau of guardianship of tombs of heir apparents who failed to reach the throne; bureau of guardianship of famous kings of previous dynasties; bureau of janitorship of palace buildings; bureau of portraits of kings; bureau of Confucian instruction in palace; bureau of royal attendants; bureau of attendants of the Crown Prince; bureau of instruction of Crown Prince; special guards for Crown Prince; bureau of the king's eldest child (whether male or female); bureau of kings adopted son (in case he has no issue); office for choice of an adopted son, to be heir apparent; instruction of adopted heir; office for choice of wife for Crown Prince, or for king in case queen dies.

MILITARY GRADES.

Headquarters of the national guard; the five branch offices of the national guard; headquarters of "Tiger

and Dragon Regiment;" headquarters of specially selected men of great physical strength; the military drill grounds; barracks of military police; the palace guard; personal guard of king; council of war; guards of royal funeral; military food supplies; military expenses; palace cavalry stables; arsenals; military recreation grounds; bureau of military supplies; bureau of royal military commands and communications; military school; bureau of gate watchmen; bureau for apprehension of criminals; police bureau; military reserves; bureau for uniforms and regimentals; bureau for special military instruction; watchmen for the four mountains about Seoul; military detectives; bureau of eunuchs; royal attendants; emergency bureau; bureau for envoys to foreign countries; bureau for receiving foreign envoys; bureau of government detectives; bureau for special summons; bureau for special funeral, wedding or other great public functions; bureau of government examination overseers; bureau of sacrifice to former kings; bureau for providing for superannuated ex-prime ministers; explanations of all official grades past and present; miscellaneous offices; the *ajuns*; secretaries of government offices; clerks for public offices; official attendants; servants of public offices.

PROVINCIAL OFFICES.

Yusu or special generals for the four approaches to Seoul; headquarters of all ex-governors and prefects; governors of provinces; provincial judges; special prefects; advisers of special prefects; specials for sections where sedition is feared; government "shepherds" or keepers of livestock; special prefects for places where topography of land makes it important in time of war; special provincial judges; secondary prefects; third class prefects; description of all provincial positions; postal bureau; provincial instruction; medicinal products; revision of penal laws in provinces; learning foreign languages on border; office for accountants; provincial military guards; provincial military headquarters; headquarters of boundary guards; prefectural and provincial

military quarters; governors' military prerogatives; provincial military inspectors; provincial naval equipment; office for mutual and harmonious working of army and navy; special guards for important strategic points; prefectural barracks; prefectural police; bureau of gendarmes; guards of islands and water passages; bureau of live stock for military and naval uses; limitation of official prerogative; recruiting department; guards for ferries and bridges; local advice for prefects; the *ajuns*; order of official positions; office for giving land to great patriots; official salaries.

Opium in Korea.

It has been some years now since the Chinese began to introduce the habit of opium smoking into northern Korea. The use of this drug is a capital crime according to the laws of the land, but as the Korean government could not well prevent the Chinese from indulging in it the natural result followed and Koreans began smoking. The habit has become something of a fixture in the north but if it were not for the help of outsiders we believe the Koreans would find it difficult to get the drug in sufficient quantities to do much damage.

The Japanese government has long realized the serious danger to society which indulgence in this habit brings and the use of opium for mere pleasure is strictly interdicted in Japan itself. The habit of smoking opium is too costly and requires too much leisure for very many Koreans to be able to indulge, but this difficulty is being rapidly overcome by the free introduction of morphine into Pyeng-yang and the adjoining territory by the Japanese. This may be called one of the forms of service that the Japanese are rendering Korea. There is one Japanese drug store in Pyeng-yang that sells thirty yen worth of morphine every day of the year to Koreans to be injected by use of a hypodermic syringe. This is done in open day without the least attempt at concealment and, in-

deed, without any need for concealment. The Japanese authorities cannot but be aware of the facts and yet they allow the cursed stuff to be peddled out to Koreans in this wholesale fashion. One hospital in the north had thirty five cases within a period of one month who had become slaves to this habit and were breaking down. How many more were there who were killing themselves without its coming to the notice of any but their immediate families? There must be thousands.

Now we say directly and unequivocally and without fear of contradiction that for the Japanese government to allow its subjects to come here and retail morphine and hypodermic syringes to Koreans is a monstrous outrage. What is the use of talking about developing the resources of Korea when with both hands they are destroying the best resource of Korea—her men? If the sale of the drug were unrestricted in Japan it might be argued that the Japanese did not know any better, but their scrupulous care to keep Japan clean of the curse leaves them without excuse here. Does it not go far to prove that the Japanese government, whatever a few of the best Japanese may say or think, is entirely careless of the real interests of the Korean people as individuals. They talk big to the world about helping Korea but when it comes right down to the hard and stubborn fact their whole attitude and practice is epitomized in the profit which this Japanese druggist is reaping from the Koreans in Pyeng-yang. The same sort of thing was seen a few weeks ago in one of the northern cities. The Japanese soldiers, about whose courtesy and consideration so much has been said, came to the houses of the servants of Americans, turned out the owners and occupied the houses themselves. When the local Japanese resident was notified of the fact by the foreigner he smiled and assured the visitor that as the Emperor of Korea had promised to give the Japanese military anything they needed or desired, no wrong was being done in appropriating the houses. Bear in mind that this was no irresponsible underling, but the highest representative of Japan in the north.

And yet the Japanese resent the evident change that is coming over the sentiment of decent people in America and England. Is it to be supposed that the world is to remain ignorant of what is going on or is it that the Japanese imagine the valor they showed in war will be sufficient to blind the eyes of the west to these revolting inhumanities? We would not be hypercritical but we do ask that the large and generous statements made by leading Japanese statesmen, and which are supposed to underlie the policy of Japan in Korea, should bear some proportionate and corresponding fruit in actual practice here. We see little of it as yet. An incident occurred a short time ago in Fusan which is pregnant with meaning. A Japanese teacher who had been teaching a Korean school there for many years, had for his next door neighbor a Korean gentleman who is connected with one of the American residents of that port. The Korean's house was behind and above that of the Japanese. One day without warning stones began flying up from below and falling on the Korean's roof and in his yard. This was kept up at intervals for several days. The Korean hardly dared stand in his own yard without cover. He thought the Japanese was trying to persecute him into selling the place at a low figure, but the Korean held his place. Finding that the stones had no effect the Japanese came up one day and entered the yard without warning or invitation. He approached the house, broke the window, entered the room, smashed the hanging lamp, and began destroying everything he could lay his hands on. The Korean concluded that the man was insane and with the help of one or two others he seized and tied the Japanese to a chair until the authorities could be summoned. The police were called but before they arrived the Japanese was freed. The police saw the wreck which had been made of the place but when they found that the Japanese had been forcibly restrained they exclaimed, "What, shall a Japanese subject be tied by a savage of Korea?" and turned and marched back to their places leaving the culprit still on the premises. Repeated application elicited no response from the Japanese

authorities. It makes no difference how outrageous may be the conduct of a Japanese his body is sacred from the touch of a Korean.

But we have gotten some distance away from our main topic—opium. As there seems to be no one else to do it we take upon ourselves the duty of demanding in the name of common decency and humanity that Japan make stringent laws against the sale of morphine to the Koreans and that she sees to it that the law is enforced. We have the best of reasons for believing that this disgraceful state of things will be fully exposed in the leading papers of England and America and we warn the Japanese that there is nothing that will hasten the turning of public sentiment in the west against Japan like a failure on her part to bring the nefarious business to a full and sudden stop.

The American Hospital in Pyeng-yang.

(THE COROLINE A. LADD HOSPITAL).

We have received from Dr. J. Hunter Wells a very interesting account of the work of this hospital during the past year. Pyeng-yang is the great emporium of the north and is the center of the most energetic and independent portion of the Korean people. It is a strategic center for all forms of enterprise and is an ideal seat for such an institution as that which Dr. Wells so ably handles. The work of the year was somewhat hampered by the pleasant necessity of removal into the new and commodious hospital building. But the work increased along all lines and the usefulness of native assistants has been proved by many quick recoveries from major operations which they have performed. Dr. Wells calls special attention to the advantage of being able to put patients on hot Korean floors after operation and claims that danger from surgical shock is greatly lessened by this device.

During the transition stage Dr. Wells had only three small Korean rooms in which to work but even under these circumstances operations upon ovarian tumor, hernia, necrosis of humerus, caries of shoulder, inflammation of liver, fracture of arm, scrofular glands, etc., etc., were successfully performed, showing that where there is a will, a scalpel and a steady hand surgical operations will not wait for ideal surroundings.

With from thirty to forty new patients every day the Doctor reports that the "Days are full of gladness and the nights are full of song"—or nightmare, as the case may be, especially when surgical cases hang on the brink of death for several days!

While Dr. Wells is in charge, there is a Korean Superintendent, Mr. Cho Ik-sun, an assistant, No In-muk, an orderly, a watchman, four resident student assistants, and a Bible woman.

The class of medical students had a good year. Eleven were admitted but three dropped out. Almost all these men study at their own charges. Dr. Follwell and Dr. Whiting very kindly helped in the instruction. Dr. Wells and Dr. Sharrocks together have prepared a textbook on *Materia Medica* which will be edited by Dr. Vinton and then published.

In the new hospital building there are Korean wards and foreign wards furnished in appropriate style and an isolation ward for special cases. There will be room for thirty in-patients or nearly double that number if crowding is necessary. If crowded, the patients will not each have 1,000 cubic feet of air for his own exclusive use but "there will be so much open air treatment that they will get along very well."

In spite of the transitional stage there were 9,376 attendants of which 6,454 were new cases. There were 209 in-patients but there were 215 others who as ambulants came or were carried to the hospital. Most of these would have been in-patients if there had been room for them. They boarded near by and so got the benefit of daily treatment. Dr. Wells performed 203 operations and his student assistants performed 153.

The expenses for all purposes amounted to Yen 2,287.29. This included everything except the salary of the physician in charge. The total receipts were very good, Yen 2,409.23, of which Yen 1,437.76 came entirely from Koreans, mostly as fees and price of drugs. From the Mission Board only Yen 740.00 were received, which shows how near the hospital comes to entire self-support.

The three students who were given certificates a few years ago are all doing well. They are in good standing in the churches and as "the first, and so far the only, medical students to be thus sent out by the Mission" the venture seems to be a success.

In line with what we have said elsewhere about the use of opium and morphine Dr. Wells has the following remarks to make. "The opium fiends, or morphine users, who began by smoking opium, are a most abject lot and usually from the homes of the well-to-do. They use the hypodermic syringe and inject morphine daily. I took on one case and instituted an original treatment in which adrenaline was the main medicine used and the habit cut off at once. This was so successful that it created something of a *furor* among the morphine users, so that in April I had some thirty applications for treatment. They were so numerous that I sent some of them to a hospital conducted by one of my former students and he, with the same remedies I used, is having good success."

Dr. Wells plans an entirely self-supporting tuberculosis ward in charge of one of the students who completes the course of study soon. He also hopes to persuade the Korean Christians to organize an insane asylum.

The evangelistic phase of hospital work is always kept to the fore and every patient comes into close personal contact with Christianity in a very definite way. The results have been very gratifying.

Dr. Wells says "I cannot leave the old plant, provided by the Moffett family of Madison, Indiana, (now turned into a school for girls and women), without a farewell of thanks and appreciation from myself and in behalf of the 80,000 Koreans who crossed its threshold in the eight years we held forth there."

"To Mrs. Ladd for providing the Yen 10,000 to build such a complete plant, beautiful in its architecture and tender in its ministrations, we are most grateful. Only those who have tried to do medical work in the small, low Korean rooms can know how good it is to be in this new building with its spacious dispensary, its five foreign wards, its Korean style wards and its other facilities which make it a complete institution."

Correspondence.

To The Editor KOREA REVIEW.

DEAR SIR.

I beg to address to you a few lines about your issue of two months ago in which Mr. Mikson "waked up" so nicely, and I wish to offer him my hearty thanks. He has surprised me very much, in talking about an eight story hotel, libraries, universities, etc., and I know very well he sympathises with us and sincerely wishes us to become just what he has pointed out as being possible. Therefore I wish you could see your way clear to translate his article into the vernacular to enable all Koreans to read and bear it well mind until we become like that and until we realise how shameful it is to have strangers ridiculing us. To tell the truth, it is nothing more than scornful ridicule, but I much prefer this, because if foreigners keep on saying "good, very good," we shall foolishly believe this and never think how poor we are. I have one thing to complain about in Mr Mikson's article and that is he has given too long a space of time. I wish it could be changed into 690 days at longest. But 690 days are so few in which to make improvements satisfactorily, so perhaps it was better to say some tens of years.

I promise you, my Dear Sir, we shall improve our country. At present our brethren are going abroad in great numbers to look for means for bettering the condition of Korea. Pray, do not expect us to remain in so

poor a condition as the present until the year 1975. Mr. Mikson, however, is to be praised for his proper dream, and we Koreans would like very much to have him point out in what way we may go on our course, if he is not tired of teaching or helping us.

In conclusion, I promise you once more that we will try our best to realize our hopes concerning the well being of our country.

I remain, Dear Sir,
Yours truly,
YI CHONG WON.

To The Editor KOREA REVIEW.

DEAR SIR:—

About the 19th of July the Japanese authorities restaked a railway terminus in Wonsan large enough for a terminal in the city of London. On large planed wooden slabs the size of a Korean monument they have written these characters 軍用鐵道用地 which, interpreted freely, mean "Military Railway Grant."

Is this a substitute for the useful term adopted for appropriating ground during the late war? I refer to the oft used "Military necessity."

The second time this season the Tuk-wun magistrate has been made to order the people to cut and cure hay for the Japanese garrison horses. Farming and other occupations are abandoned while this is done gratis for the Japanese government. Can you tell me whether the people in Japan are forced to provide provender for the military horses gratis? Perhaps you would also say if there is any authority in even the invalid, forced treaty of last November to warrant such action. The magistrate referred to has a good name among the people. He is said not to "squeeze" the people.

AN ENQUIRER.

Wonsan, July 24, 1906.

We more than suspect that there is at least a dash of irony in these questions. They answer themselves. In England if people believe they are wrongly taxed for

sectarian schools they sit back and refuse to pay. Some of them get into trouble but it opens the eyes of the authorities to the evil. If these Koreans would simply refuse to be made serfs to the Japanese there might be a little trouble but the Japanese would soon discover that they were going too far. We know of no way to bring these outrages clearly before the public unless the Koreans resent them in a determined manner. It is the old story of the squeezing official over again. If he does not know where to stop and cannot gauge the degree of the people's patience he oversteps the dead line and gets run out. The Japanese seem to think that the patience of the Korean people is without limit, but the time must come when serious trouble will result. A prominent American Army officer told us that the Korean people will not obtain any considerable sympathy from the West until they show a determination to help themselves. It may be smooth sailing for the Japanese now but let them become involved in war in the future and the outrages they have committed here will bear legitimate fruit, for the people taking advantage of the opportunity will gladly rise up and hound them out of the country as they did in the days of Hideyoshi. But Japan had, and still has, it in her power to adopt other tactics than those of Hideyoshi and treat the Koreans as fellow-beings. It looks much as if she were now killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

The Korean Emigrant Protection Law.

There is something pathetic in the way Japan is providing "protection" for Koreans where no protection is required. No one has heard that Koreans have suffered because they went abroad to work. They make very satisfactory workmen and in Hawaii are considered by many to be much superior to Japanese laborers. No one would deny that the government should exercise a certain oversight over emigration but these laws seem to

be simply putting obstacles in the way of emigration rather than helping the Korean to gain an honest livelihood in the labor market abroad. The Korean has as much right to go abroad and work as has the Japanese but these laws practically prohibit this. It may be that free emigration would result in individual cases of hardship but why not begin at points where the Korean really needs protection? To hold a man down by the throat while you rifle his pockets and at the same time give him a dose of quinine for fear he will catch cold during the process would be a curious case of mixed motive. Let the Japanese stop scizing Koreans' houses and lands at a quarter of their market value; let them stop drugging the Koreans with morphine; let them stop stealing every stick of timber that floats down the Yalu without having its owner's name clearly marked on it; let them stop beating political suspects in order to elicit information; let them stop pretending that a promise to give all facilities for military operations in 1904 covers the seizure of all sorts of property for railroads and other schemes in time of peace; let them stop forcing Koreans to act as hewers of wood and drawers of water without pay; let them give the Korean a little chance at justice and fair dealing and then it will be time enough to talk about "protecting" the Korean against the wiles of the foreign labor market.

The Korean says "A pin prick calls for immediate attention while worms may eat out the heart unnoticed." It seems to us that there is some such disproportion manifest in Japan's anxiety about the welfare of the Korean people. We are prepared to give chapter and verse for every one of the forms of oppression mentioned above. We have been taken to task for saying that the Japanese torture Koreans. Well, we would hardly have claimed this if we had not had data at hand to prove it. About June 20th a eunuch named Kim Kyu-sun was seized and taken to the headquarters of the Japanese gendarmes. From there he was removed to the Police headquarters. There he was taken in hand by a Japanese policeman and a Japanese police captain who beat

him and kicked him brutally in the course of his examination. He was brought out each day for about a week and beaten by the Japanese in their attempts to get information out of him in connection, we believe, with the uprising in the south. This man had not been condemned and his treatment was nothing less than savagery.

As for the emigration laws one is almost forced to believe that successful Korean competition with Japanese labor in Hawaii has much to do with these stringent regulations. We do not affirm this but the fact of such competition combined with the further fact that all so-called reforms in Korea, so far, have looked to the sole benefit of the Japanese themselves make it look very much as if more than mere protection of the Korean were involved.

The Gentle Plagiarist.

A few days ago we happened to pick up an old copy of Cassell's Magazine, October 4, 1904, and turning over its leaves we came upon a story by Mr. George Lynch entitled "Vi-yun's Vow." The illustration that accompanied it looked so Korean that we began reading the story but before many lines had been read it was apparent that there was a curious resemblance between it and the story printed in this Magazine in April and May 1901 under the title "A Vagary of Fortune." The tale is a purely Korean one, though not, as Mr. Lynch claims, a true one. There is one curious coincidence here. Mr. Lynch might presumably have heard the story from the Koreans direct, but as chance would have it the narrator in the REVIEW made a change in the plot which does not belong in the Korean story, and curiously enough Mr. Lynch has made exactly the same change. It is quite evident that Mr. Lynch took the story from this Magazine, rehashed it, gave it a name that is quite impossible according to the Korean phonetic system and palmed it off upon a reputable magazine as his own story.

George Lynch was one of the newspaper correspondents who toured the East a few years ago. At the time we had occasion to traverse some of his statements about Korea which were wide of the mark. He evidently made good use of his time but it was hardly complimentary to Cassell's Magazine to imagine that it would not penetrate to this part of the world where the fraud would be detected. We congratulate Mr. Lynch on his powers of observation and we thank him for appreciating the story, but we suggest that in putting original fiction on the market he make sure that the theft will not be detected.

Export Duties.

The decision of the ruling power in Korea to revise the customs regulations by dropping all export duty on rice is the latest reform effected in the Peninsula, and as such should be recorded. It is proper to enquire what the cause of this move may be and whom it will benefit.

The export trade of Korea is almost entirely in the hands of the Japanese. The Koreans have so small a share in it as to be practically a negligible quantity. In the second place there is never any difficulty in disposing of all the surplus rice even when the export duty is in force. So this scheme could not have been pushed in the interests of the Korean people except on the theory that the Korean producer will receive an advanced price for his grain because of the removal of the export duty. No one who knows anything about the methods in vogue in Korea will imagine that any Korean will reap this advantage. The government loses this amount of revenue and has to make it up some where else. The brunt of it must fall upon the farmer. For every dollar that the government received from the export duty it must charge the farmer two dollars, for in the customs there is practically no "leakage" in transit while to collect the same amount from the farmer a wide margin must be left for

“collecting.” This seems to us too plain a fact to need further elucidation. But even so the Korean farmer will receive no part of the increment of value resulting from the removal of export duty. He knows nothing about the rice market in Japan nor what is a fair price for his goods. In the summer time the agent of the Japanese exporter goes into the country and buys the standing crop at the minimum price, a price still further diminished from the fact that the money is paid in advance. But does the purchaser share with the Korean the danger of a failure of the crop? Not at all. He takes the deed of the rice fields as security for his money and if the crop fails or does not come up to the estimate he seizes the land and the Korean loses everything. How the Korean can be so foolish as to run this terrible risk it is hard to explain except on the general principle that the Korean thinks he has gained something by having a few dollars in hand a few months before he has to give an equivalent. Of course this is all suicidal—for the Korean. The Japanese have a model farm in Chungchong province. It lies on both sides of one of the main native thoroughfares *but they do not allow a single Korean to travel this road where it passes through the farm.* Even an American gentleman, a few months ago, thought it better to make a wide detour with his Korean attendant rather than run the risk of being assaulted. Well, we would suggest that the Japanese authorities open up this public road again and instead of making model farms for Koreans who know as much about farming as the Japanese themselves, start a campaign of education among Korean farmers to teach them the foolishness of mortgaging their crops and running the risk of losing everything. Can the gentle reader imagine the Japanese authorities offering the Korean farmer such helpful advice as this against the selfish interests of the sharks who infest the interior intent upon reaping usurious profits with no risk to themselves?

No, there is one and only one explanation for this removal of export duty. It will benefit the Japanese exporter who will put this money in his own pocket instead of paying it over to the Korean government. If

the government for this together with other reasons, finds itself unable to make ends meet, it can borrow from Japan at six or seven per cent., receiving about 90% of the face value of the loan!

The Chief Commissioner of customs readily consented to the proposition to do away with the export duty. We wonder what J. McLeavy Brown would have said if he had been approached in regard to such a scheme. It is not hard to guess. He struggled with might and main to keep the country out of debt, and succeeded. Some day, if there is any such thing as justice, the Koreans will erect a monument to that man and as they look upon it they will wonder how they ever could have been so foolish as to hamper him in his work.

The Pyeng-yang Land Case.

The people of Pyeng-yang who have been treated so unjustly by the Japanese seem determined to leave no stone unturned in their attempt to secure justice or at least some mitigation of their unfortunate condition.

For the third time now they have sent representatives to Seoul to lay their grievances before the authorities. These men are here now and the following are some of the papers which they present in vindication of their cause. They first quote the agreement between Gen. Hasegawa and the Korean Home Minister Yi Chi-Yong on July 26, 1905, in which the Japanese promised to give back the land, used for military purposes, as soon as it was no longer needed, but Korea was made to guarantee that in case the land is given back she will not only give back the Y 200,000 paid by Japan but also reimburse her for the cost of all buildings or other expenditures on the land. If any property has to be bought from foreigners the Korean Government must cover the total expense.

On Oct. 18, 1905, another agreement of a similar nature was obtained from Korea. More land was need-

ed for military occupation and Japan turned over to the Korean Government 359,000 yen, but with the stipulation that when the Japanese no longer needed the land and should turn it over again to the Korean Government the latter must pay back all the 359,000 yen together with all the cost of buildings, carts and other expenditures by the Japanese.

These petitioners allege that in July, 1905, Japan staked out land at Yongsan, Pyeng-yang and Wiju, and announced that this would be needed, and added that it must be given by Aug. 5th or it would be taken any way. (1) Land, according to survey at Yongsan, Pyeng-yang and Wiju to be turned over to Japan. (2) ¥ 200,000 to be given by Japan not as price of land but cost of removal. (3) If there is any difficulty about carrying this through, Korea to assume the responsibility.

Such was the basis upon which Japan proceeded in settling soldiers in Korea.

PETITION OF THE PEOPLE OF PYENG-YANG
TO THE HOME DEPARTMENT
APRIL 1906.

"The People of South Pyeng An Province, City of Pyeng-yang, residents of the *Wesung* (outside of wall) represented by three gentlemen, Yang Sün-jo, Whang Sük-whan and Whang Seung-Yüm, hereby respectfully petition:—

"When, in October 1905, the Japanese Military authorities demanded the property in the vicinity of Pyeng-yang we sent a Committee to Seoul to ask whether this was a wanton seizure of our property or whether our Government was back of it all. We were informed by the Home Minister that the Japanese needed the land temporarily, that the Japanese would pay the cost of removal and of the growing crops, that when the war was over and Japan and Russia made peace the land would be given back, that we need have no fear at all. The Korean people generally said that Japan would not lie about such a thing as this and would keep her prom-

ises. So we acquiesced in the arrangement as a dire necessity. In this forced removal, this tearing up of homes, this displacement and disorganization of the industries and the means of livelihood of thousands of people there was extreme suffering. The pittance given each house owner as cost of removal was practically nothing as compared with the sacrifice the people had to make.

"Already in 1904, 234,000 *tsubo* (936,000 sq. yards) of land had been requisitioned for a railway station. One hundred and eight houses were torn down and removed at a terrible cost of hardship and suffering. But in February 1905 the railway demanded 580,000 *tsubo* (2,320,000 sq. yard) more of land and 200 more houses were razed, among them many of those that had already been removed once. The suffering at this time was greater even than before. Land was so scarce that there was only an average of 1,400 *tsubo* (5,600 sq. yards) to support six or seven people. [This is less than two thirds of an acre]. Thus suddenly to deprive the people of a large tract of farm land could not but inflict enormous suffering.

"It was in October 1905 that Japanese soldiers began coming back from the north. They borrowed or took Korean houses on every side. Forced their way into Korean houses and seized all unoccupied space, crowded the occupants of the houses into the smallest possible space and appropriated the major part of the house. They said they would go in April. For this occupancy the Koreans were paid nothing. In this instance also the Koreans put faith in the promises of the Japanese. Believing that these promises would be kept and that their lands and houses would be given back in the Spring the people made all preparation for putting in their seeds. They prepared their implements and bought seed to sow. But when Spring came not only did the Japanese not get out of the houses which they had forced the Koreans to share with them but they actually drove out the owners and stole the houses. There were eighteen houses where the owners were driven out by their 'guests,' and in scores of other cases the owners were

threatened with seizure of their houses if they objected to the continued imposition. Not only were the fields not given back, but more soldiers came and seized more land for training grounds, etc., and the people who had waited patiently to be able to plant their fields were in despair. But there was no redress except through the authorities at Seoul. So the appeal was made last April. On May 6th the Home Minister replied that as the people had been scattered and were suffering it was a very unfortunate state of things and that he would immediately consult with the Japanese and have it remedied. These were good words but the promise either was not carried out or else the Japanese were deaf to our entreaties, for nothing came of it."

On July 19th, 1906, the same three men were sent to Seoul to the Japanese authorities direct. They say that seven or eight thousand people at Pyeng-yang are now suffering intensely because of the exactions of the Japanese. They have heard that all but 60,000 *tsubo* of the land is to be given back to the Koreans and they are rejoiced. They have come with a carefully worked out map of the section of land involved and they are waiting to be of any possible service in getting the land back so these thousands of Koreans may not starve. They appeal to the Resident saying that as he has come to govern and help the Korean people he should be even more solicitous of the interests of the Korean people than of the Japanese themselves, because the difficulties that the Koreans labor under are greater than those of the Japanese. They describe graphically the sufferings of the people at Pyeng-yang and declare that earthquake pestilence or war would be easier to bear, because such things come to an end while the present evils seem to stay. The following list of lands, houses, etc., is appended. We give merely the summary.

Houses requisitioned 1052, of which 390 have been torn down while the remainder still are in the Koreans' hands but forcibly shared by Japanese soldiers.

Lands requisitioned 3,400,380 *tsubo* (73,601,420 sq. yards or over 4½ sq. miles). Of this 1,064,420 *tsubo* has

been taken by railway, 209,980 *tsubo* by soldiers, and 854,320 extra for railway. The rest is still in the hands of the people.

This is a description of only one of the three main centers where enormous tracts of land were requisitioned. To attempt to defend the seizure of nearly four square miles of land at one place for a railway station and soldiers quarters is impossible. One eighth of that would have been amply sufficient for both purposes.

Then again, the petitioners again call attention to the fact that the Korean government guaranteed to pay back all the money given by Japan for the removal of the Korean houses and also to pay for all buildings, carts, etc., etc., at their full cost. The Japanese government apparently proposes to throw on to the shoulders of Korea a vast array of tumble down barracks, worn out carts, and a thousand and one other *residua* of war at their original cost.

We shall be pleased to see the bill that they put in for these things.

LATER. The representatives went to the Resident General's office to present their petition but after some time of waiting they were told that the Resident could not be seen, that he had nothing to do with the matter, that it must be attended to at the Home Office. The representatives replied that as it was Japanese troops that were causing the suffering they did not see how the Home Office could remedy it nor how the Resident could ignore the matter and elaim freedom from responsibility; and they added that if Korean people who had been grievously injured were to be bandied back and forth between the Residency and the Home Office whom could the people believe or where were they to look for redress? They were told that the Home Office had charge of the whole matter of attending to the needs of the people and that they must address that office. The representatives of the people then asked whether in case Japanese troops act illegally and injure the people the Japanese authorities were going to pay no attention to it. To this they received the same answer, that they must do everything

through the Home Office. The representatives then said "Is it possible that Japan has taken control of everything else in Korea except the welfare of the common people?" The answer to this was that the Japanese Resident could be approached by the common people only through the Home Office. The representatives replied that this, to use a figure of speech, was as if a Korean should fall into the water and while drowning should call to the only boat in sight, a Japanese boat, and the occupants of the latter should reply that he must call to a Korean boat to help him. The Japanese replied that it made no difference what the representatives said, their case would be attended to only by the Home Office. This closed the conversation and the representatives went to the Home Office again and said that the Home Minister must take the matter up or else the Japanese government would not move in the case. The Minister made voluble promises to represent the case to the Japanese authorities. The petitioners asked to be informed when the Home Office represented the case to the Japanese, for if an answer was not speedily forthcoming they would again appeal to the Resident who could no longer make excuse that the matter had not been taken up by the Home Office.

It is plain that these men are determined to get some sort of an answer from the Japanese about this outrageous treatment of their constituency. We trust they will keep at it until they shame the authorities into taking action or else make them uncover and appear in their true character, and no longer pose as benefactors of the Korean people.

Editorial Comment.

One of our Seoul contemporaries, the *Weekly Press*, has come out with an editorial on "Korea's Friends." We are told that they may be divided into two classes each of which tells the Korean people certain things. One class of friends tells them "that they should accept the order of things which has been introduced as a logi-

cal and unavoidable consequence of the late war and make the most of the situation by a frank and straightforward cooperation with the reformatory efforts of their protectors." The other class of friends tells the Koreans, so it is said, "that in the near future there will appear mighty saviors to liberate them from the yoke of their present masters," and these friends "poison the minds of the Koreans by all sorts of insinuations, arguments, stories and what not."

Now the KOREA REVIEW claims some modest degree of friendship for the Korean people but we refuse to be put in either of these arbitrary classes. We cannot join with the first class because the so-called "reformatory efforts" of the "protectors" are not such that the Koreans can possibly have any sympathy with them. There is no justice for the Korean today. We have always said that if the Japanese would see to it that the people get even-handed justice they would gain the cooperation and friendship of the Koreans. What is the situation today? The Japanese are responsible for the administration of the government in the provinces as much as in Seoul, but we are just now in receipt of a letter from an intelligent and observant correspondent in the south who says: "The Korean prefects continue to fleece the people of thousands, on one pretext or another, and are all as contemptible a set of rascals as one could imagine. Hundreds of instances come under our observation of the collection of illegal sums of money by these fellows. They do not lift a hand to protect the people from any harpy that comes along, Korean or Japanese. So far as I can see it would be a blessing if every Korean official in the country were superseded by someone with a little back-bone and a glimmering idea of what government is. I do not envy the Japanese the job they have undertaken, and believe the more impetuous American would adopt far more drastic measures if he were in the position of the Japanese."

He hits the nail exactly on the head. The American would adopt more drastic measures but they would be along the line of cleaning up a rotten administration and

thereby gaining the thanks of the people rather than in using up his energy in making emigration laws and mining regulations. Our correspondent doubts the advisability of our attacking Japan's policy here, but from his own showing the *direction* of Japan's energies in this peninsula is all wrong. This is what we oppose and we reaffirm our position, that until Japan stops playing around the edges of the question and attacks it at the center no Korean can possibly follow the advice of our contemporary's first class of friends. What single reform as yet attempted could the Koreans heartily cooperate in? Let someone answer. Will it be the loan of 10,000,000 yen, part of which is to be used in making waterworks for Chemulpo, a town that is almost wholly Japanese? Will it be the removal of the export duty on rice which will deplete the national treasury for the benefit of Japanese exporters? Will it be the permission to Japanese adventurers to overrun the country by thousands contrary to treaty obligations and to the direct detriment of Korean private interests? Will it be the refusal to allow Koreans to go abroad to earn an honest living in the world's labor markets? Of what consequence is Korean emigration compared with the state of things described by our correspondent in the south? Instead of making periodical raids upon the palace on the chance of rounding up some personal friend of the King why not make a raid or two on the Home Office and make the Minister call a few score of the prefectural governors and prefects to account for their hideous mismanagement of affairs. But you say this takes time. Certainly, but even as we write this, news comes that the Home Minister has just appointed a new batch of country officials from among his own relatives and henchmen. Does this indicate that the Japanese are using any precautions to prevent the appointment of inexperienced or venial officials? If there is any office where an adviser is needed and where careful scrutiny of every official act is required it is in the Home Office. What sensible Korean can make friends with such criminal neglect of the first interests of the Korean people?

These are some of the reasons why we cannot be included in the first class of Korea's friends as tabulated by our contemporary.

But we are still further from the second class. We have never attempted to poison the minds of the people by arguments, insinuations, etc., we have never told the people that in the near future a mighty Savior would appear to liberate them from their present masters. We tell the Koreans to educate themselves in order to preserve their own language and national identity. We tell them to render themselves fit for responsible positions and shame the Japanese into cleaning out the Augean Stables. We have always held that Korea needs a strong hand upon her for a time but she needs that strong hand on her collar and not in her pocket. That is, for her benefit and not merely for the benefit of her master.

So it appears our esteemed contemporary will have to add one more to his list of Korea's friends, namely those who are determined to hold up to the public gaze the facts in regard to Japanese management of Korea in the hope that in time Japan will get right down to business and carry out some of the grand propositions published from Tokyo and which tend to make the world believe that Japan has some interest in the welfare of the Korean people. It will take a few Morrises, and McKenzies, and Millards to do this, but it is sure to come provided Japan has in her the ability to learn how to handle an alien people. There is no use in despairing of this, however dark the prospect is. We confess there are reasonable doubts but while there is life there is hope.

We would call the attention of the readers of this magazine to the fact that the name of Pak Yong-wha should not have been included in the list of the Emperor's personal friends who were seized and imprisoned by the Japanese. In the last issue of the REVIEW his name was given as one of the imprisoned men. We will also say that the matter of the abuse of Koreans, after arrest but before sentence has been passed, has been called in question.

In our next issue we shall be prepared to give the specific reasons upon which the charge was based. Meanwhile we will say that the charge of having ill-treated the eunuch at the police headquarters has been denied. Now we received the information in regard to this fact from sources which we believe to be wholly reliable but we shall verify it again and if we are found to be in error we shall say so. We understand very well that in the present temper of the Koreans toward the Japanese they are very likely to make extreme statements, but in this instance our information came from a man who has lived many years in America, who knows the difference between truth and rumor, and whose word we will accept with as complete confidence as that of any foreigner in our acquaintance. However, as we say, the matter will be again inquired into with care. We are the very farthest remove from any desire or necessity to exaggerate any case or instance of Japanese oppression in Korea. The world is beginning to ascertain the facts, as is shown by the statements of the *Times* which warns the Japanese that the treatment of Korea as a conquered people will alienate the sympathy of the west. We rejoice in every indication which points toward a desire and determination on the part of Japan to do the fair thing by the Korean people. At the present time these indications lie almost solely in the realm of promise rather than actual accomplishment. We believe that the best Japanese, among whom we count the present Resident General, desire to deal fairly by the Korean but we also believe that such powerful pressure is brought to bear upon the present administration by those who are interested in selfish aggrandisement that these good intentions are largely thwarted. We earnestly solicit from any source whatever information which will tend to prove that the Japanese authorities are treating the Koreans as genuine friends. And we furthermore declare that if there is the opinion among those interested in Korea that we purposely pick out assailable points in Japan's policy here to the exclusion of the good points such opinion is a grave mistake. If some one will test this by sending

to us for publication a plea in Japan's favor as touching her management of Korean affairs we shall consider it a great favor. Since the first of June we have talked with many people who are acquainted with the actual state of things in Seoul and in the interior and we have been able to elicit no justification of the main points of Japan's policy in Korea. We do not doubt that there are those who thoroughly sympathize in all Japan has done here, but we see nothing of it in the foreign press of the Far East from the pen of those who are here on the ground. What excuse, for instance, has been made for Japan's failure to exercise strict oversight of the personal qualifications of candidates for prefectural and gubernatorial positions in the interior, and to inflict swift punishment and disgrace for malfeasance in these most important positions? This is but one case. We have cited many more in previous pages of this issue. There seems to be no one who can find reasonable excuse for these things. The upholders of Japan's cause seem to be such by virtue of a general policy to uphold Japan in her work of self-development without any desire to go into particulars. Their strongest argument, if argument it may be called, is a complete contempt of the Korean either as to his desire or his ability to do anything toward self-improvement. This seems, in their eyes, to justify Japan in everything she has done here. Japan is strong, virile, aggressive; Korea is weak ignorant, conservative; therefore the present state of things is justified and any man who raises his voice to protest that even weak, ignorant and conservative people have some inalienable rights, is a fool if not worse!

We make the following definite engagement with the readers of this magazine. Every statement that we hear or see which justifies or attempts to justify any specific act of the Japanese regime in Korea will receive instant attention and will be published in full in these pages, *even though such statement be anonymous*. This is contrary to journalistic usage but so desirous are we to see both sides fairly represented that we consider such deviation from ordinary custom justified.

News Calendar.

About the first of July Mr. Megata presented Prince Eui-wha with a fine horse.

In preparation for the marriage of the Crown Prince the palace known among foreigners as the Crown Prince's Palace is being put in repair.

Early in July the Emperor presented Admiral Ito and General Nodzu with a handsome tiger skin each and a jade incense burner.

The Emperor has appointed Min Sang-ho chief of the bureau for the management of Prince Eui-wha's establishment.

Up to July second there were over two hundred applications by Japanese for mining concessions in Korea.

Son Pyung-heui who was once a Tong-hak and made his escape to Japan has now returned and is agitating the re-establishment of the "Church" which originated among the Tong-hak. It is called the Chun-do, or Heavenly Way. Permissiou has been granted and property has been secured near the "Old Palace" for the erection of a central building. The same man is trying to revive the cult throughout the country. It is said that the Il-chin Society are particularly interested in this matter.

Some Il chin people started cutting down an extensive forest near Wiju, but the Department of Agriculture, etc., sent and ordered it stopped whereupon the Society sent an agent to the Minister of Agriculture and denied the right of the Minister to stop the work as the right had been obtained from the Household Department at a cost of Yen 100,000. We wonder where the money went eventually.

Owing to the management of Korea's finances the Korean Bank at Chong-no was thrown into practical bankruptcy. But the Finance Department has done it the justice to aid it to recover its position, by a loan of Yen 200,000 without interest.

Eight men have been secured from Japan to drill Korean soldiers. All former text-books, Russian, American, etc., have been thrown out and Japanese books alone will be used.

Eighty Korean soldiers were sent from Taiku early in July to the town of An-dong in North Kyung-sang Province to put down the frequent uprisings of the Righteous Army.

Korea has now developed its first lawyer in the person of Hong Cha-ge who graduated from a law school in Tokyo two years ago. He has hung out his shingle in Seoul and invites all who may have causes to plead before the courts to avail themselves of his services.

Three Koreans were driven by a storm to a Japanese island not far from Negasaki. They were sent back by Japan, and the Korean Government is asked to pay the expenses.

On July second a determined effort was made by the Japanese to get into their own hands the entire management of all the palace affairs. Under cover of charges that the Emperor has secretly encouraged the uprising at Hong-ju a large number of Japanese police were introduced into the palace and all the gates have since been guarded by them. A large number of palace attendants, ladies-in-waiting, eunuchs etc., were removed and the personal privileges of the Emperor put under strict surveillance.

The tomb, in Chang-dan, of Yun Kenn-su who was famous at the time of the Japanese invasion in 1592, has been rifled by grave thieves. All the vessels and other valuable things have been stolen. Only two pieces were left. This attracts more attention from the Korean than the looting of a live man's house.

A curious story which has been abundantly verified by witnesses comes from the house occupied by Min Yong-whan before his suicide. Some of the garments of the dead man, together with the knife with which he killed himself were laid on a chair in the room adjoining the one in which he usually slept. The clothes were deeply stained with his blood. No one disturbed them nor entered the room for several months, until one day the nephew of the dead man, son of Min Yong-chan, happened to go there in his play. Soon he came out with a spear of grass in his hand. His attendants wondered where he got it but the matter was not investigated. A month later as the rainy season was approaching the room was opened up and to the amazement of the servants it was found that out of a crack in the floor and through a rent in the oiled paper there were growing several shoots of bamboo. It was almost directly under where the blood-stained clothes had lain. Soon the matter was noised abroad and crowds of Koreans, Japanese and even some Westerners visited the place. One gentleman at least made a careful examination of the spot and he came to the definite conclusion that it could not be a trick. The Japanese who saw it also acknowledged that the bamboo had grown there in a natural way. Of course it was a mere coincidence but it is very hard to make the Koreans believe it. They have the story of Chong Mong-ju who was assassinated at Song-do at the beginning of the dynasty and beside the spot where he fell a bamboo shoot grew up in a single night. They believe that it was a post-mortem manifestation of the spirit of the dead man. A leaf of the bamboo was taken to the Emperor who spoke sympathetically of the dead patriot.

On July 4th. twenty five nominees for the position of Crown Princess went into the palace. Of these eighteen were sent back home while the remaining seven were retained for further choice. The final choice has not yet been made.

Min Yong-chan, who was Minister to France, is now understood to be living in Shanghai. His wife desired to go to him, but the Koreans facetiously say that she found that the trip would be too hard. The implication being that the Japanese refused to allow her to go.

Thieves and robbers have been swarming in Ham-heung, Mun-chun, Chong-pyung, Yong-heung and other places in Ham-gyung Province. Over forty merchants have been seized and stripped of their wealth. Many monasteries have been deprived of their brass utensils and a mild reign of terror has resulted. The people ask for soldiers for their protection.

The Japanese authorities have been having a most interesting time hunting for the eunuch Kang Sok-ho. He has led them a pretty chase and apparently they are as far from getting his "brush" as ever. We have always sympathised with the "under dog" and this is no exception.

A Korean policeman guarding the new palace at Pyeng-yaug has been arrested on the charge of counterfeiting the new nickels in that palace. A large amount of counterfeit coin was discovered.

Owing to the insistent attitude of Koreans at Pyeng-yang who have been deprived of their property by the Japanese military and railroad people, the Home Minister represented the case to the Residency but the answer was that as the Korean Government through Mr. Yi Chi-yong had made a contract with Gen. Hasegawa for land at Seoul, Pyeng-yang and Wi-ju the Koreans could not make any complaint; but that as soon as soldiers barracks could be built the houses that the Japanese soldiers have forcibly borrowed will be returned. The Koreans are wondering when the future tense will begin to disappear from the protestations and declarations of the Japanese authorities.

All through the southern part of Chung-chong Province there is great unrest. The insurrectionists were defeated but their activities have hardly been curtailed. They swarm through a dozen prefectures and whenever they meet a Koreau who has his hair cut they take him for an Il-chiu mau and kill him.

Koreans say that a Koreau soldier in the barracks behind the British Consulate, dreaming not wisely but too well, uttered a wild shout in the midst of his slumbers. The whole regiment leaped to arms and there was what the Koreans call a *yadan*. The noise penetrated the Palace and annoyed the Emperor, with the result that several officers of the regiment have suffered a curtailment of their salary.

Twenty-one houses were burned in a great fire at Yang-san in the southern province of Kyung-sang.

Koreans have established a Chamber of Commerce in Wousan.

The first formal consideration of the coming marriage of the Crown Prince took place on July the seventh.

Yi Sul, one of the men who protested in a memorial last year against the so-called treaty of November 18th. and was imprisoned therefor, was released from confinement early in July and went immediately to his home in Chung-chung Province. Three days later he died of chagrin and sorrow after sending to Seoul the paper containing his protest.

Prince Eui-wha visited the Military School about the eighth of June and inspected it for the first time. He has been away from Korea so long that there must be many new things here for him to inspect, some of which must give him sincere pleasure.

It is pleasant to note that signs of life are to be seen in the Educational Department. It is said that the government intends to enlarge the functions of the Normal School and that the fine property where lately the Russian Language School stood is to be the site of a large and well equipped Normal College. This is the best news that we have heard for many a day and if the Japanese are encouraging this project and will carry it through energetically there will be at least one good mark to be scored for the present regime. Education and Justice, these are the two things that the Japanese must give Korea or else lose the respect of the world. We wish this project all success and though it is still simply a promise, in which the Japanese are lavish, we believe there is truth in the report.

The Educational Department has appointed a man to go into the country and examine different localities with a view to the establishment of common schools. He has gone to Kang-won Province.

The Law Department has asked the Finance Department for eighty thousand yen to rebuild the Supreme Court building as it is old and small and quite unfit for use. When they come to tear down the prison in connection with it they will find a man who has been imprisoned there for a year because he dared to sue a high Korean official for stealing all his land and that of seventy other Koreans. He lost his case, it is needless to say, but when judgment was given for the defendant the latter used his influence to have the man seized without the shadow of a crime against him and thrown into prison. We have just received a letter from relatives of the wronged man in the north which they beg us to transmit to the prisoner. This we cannot do, but it is a commentary on the present state of affairs that a man can be held like this even after the Japanese authorities have been informed of the circumstance.

The wives of some of the leading Korean officials are interesting themselves in the education of girls and it is credibly reported that they are about to start a large school in Seoul. With the financial backing that they ought to be able to get, such a plan should prove a splendid success. Women in Korea will never get education until they demand it, and it looks as if some of them were waking up to the fact that education is a universal right regardless of sex.

It is said that some nine hundred men are gathered at two monasteries in Kyung-sang Province. They are supposed to be righteous Army men and the authorities say that it will take a considerable force to dislodge them.

The native press states that the Residency has asked the Home Department to turn over to the Japanese 15,000 tsubo (160,000 square yards) of land at the hot springs in On-yang!

Yi Keun-t'ak who was hand and glove with Russia before the war and did everything he could to block the wheels of the Japanese in Korea, is now one of the most trusted of Japan's instruments in Seoul. It would be interesting to quote what the Japanese said of him during the last half of 1903. He has lately given office to a professional story teller who has pleased him by his facility at relating stories. All the better element among the Koreans look upon this with loathing and consider it a prostitution of the prerogatives of office.

A new Korean society has been established. It is called the Chagang Society, which means when freely rendered Society for Self-improvement. They meet once a month and discuss subjects germane to their title. They have just started a monthly magazine which they call The Magazine of Self-improvement. It is a wholly laudable undertaking. Yun Chi-ho, the former Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, is the president.

The latest scheme in finance is the bank which the Finance Department established to help people in developing the resources of the country. But it seems that the monied people in the country did not tread on each other in their eagerness to deposit money in this bank. The result was that the agents of the bank in the country seem to have been demanding that men with money support the undertaking. This called out from the Home Department a protest to the Finance Department, wherein the Home Minister showed pretty clearly that no bank could succeed if it had to force people by veiled threats to deposit money.

Prince Eui-wha has been appointed chief of the Korean Red Cross Society.

Forty horses have been bought for the Korean cavalry-men.

The Korean papers say that the Finance Department has paid out Yen 50,000 for water works at Pyeng-yang.

The Koreans have formed a company for the purpose of quarrying and putting on the market building stone. We do not understand this to be in the nature of a monopoly.

The Il-chin Society claims a million members. The gross amount of good they do, divided up pro rata, would not load each individual member with a weight of honor that would be unbearable.

A Japanese life insurance company has been doing business in Seoul for several years. The Koreans papronize it to some extent. They are all interested in the first payment, of Yen 5,000, to the son and heir of Kim Chung-whan who died holding a policy under this company.

The top-knot is getting to be anything but indispensable. Recently the Minister of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries rose up in his might and declared that no man wearing a top-knot should thereafter infest that office. A good sprinkling of the clerks and under officials were still sporting the time-honored top-knot, but without a single exception they sought the barber and sacrificed the beloved but not bread-and-butter producing appendage.

The native papers state that the Residency is about to interest itself in the percentage which Japanese pawn-brokers may ask from Koreans. The Japanese authorities are said to be of the opinion that six and seven per cent a month is too much to ask, if the security is good.

It is said that the Department of Agriculture has granted to a Korean company the right to build a railroad from Yun-geui on the Seoul-Fusan Railway, to Chun-ju the capital of North Chul-la Province. We do not know that this has been ratified by the Japanese authorities.

The number of Palace passes issued up to the present time is said to be 1505 with several more in prospect.

About the middle of July a Japanese in Masampo in a desperate quarrel with his wife drew a revolver and shot her dead. The Korean magistrate surrounded the house with policemen and sent for the Japanese gendarmes but before they arrived the Japanese shot himself.

Dr. J. B. Ross of Wonsan and Miss Mary Knowles of the same place were married at the home of Mrs. Campbell in Seoul on July 17th. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Cram of Songdo assisted by Rev. Mr. Gerdine of Wonsan. The house was tastefully decorated for the occasion and all went merry as a marriage bell. Congratulations were evenly distributed between the bride and the groom and both received many and hearty ones.

The summer has been a very exceptional one for this city. While both northern and southern Korea are said to have had sufficient rain a new comer would have said in Seoul that the much talked of "rainy season" is a myth. There have been only two rainy days since the first week of July and even these would not have aggregated more than an inch or so of rain. The fields in this whole section are in very bad shape. There has been more or less fear of epidemic because of the lack of rain to clean out the city but fortunately such fears have not, so far, been realized. Water is the only efficient scavenger in Seoul and unless rain comes soon the condition of things will be anything but pleasant.

There has been the usual exodus of foreigners from Seoul this summer, though it is a question whether, all things considered, those who left were much more comfortable than those who remained. There has been a small Korean colony in Chefoo and the reports indicate that they have had a rather warm time of it. The excellent sea bathing there, however, compensates for many other drawbacks.

The present summer has been marked by great stringency in the money market throughout Korea. It is hard to say just why this is but doubtless the after effects of the war are beginning to tell. It may be that the rush of Japanese to Manchuria may have diverted capital away from Korea, where the conditions are, naturally, more settled than in Manchuria. It is noticeable that there have been more than the usual numbers of curios brought around to the door for sale, which is a pretty sure indication of a shortness of money among Koreans.

The American-Korean Electric Company is putting in a new track between the West Gate and the river town of Map'o. Before long this will be finished and an important addition thus made to the plant of this enterprising company. The water works for Seoul are also progressing satisfactorily. We shall try to give a detailed description of this important work in the near future.

The Whang-sung Daily states that as some Japanese papers insinuated that some trickster had secretly planted the bamboo that was found growing in the house of the late Min Young-whan, some of the influential relatives of the dead man invited a commission to come and examine the place rigorously. They went and pulled up the floor and made a careful examination but could find no evidences of fraud. Whatever the explanation may be this one falls to the ground.

Later advices contain the information that the Residency has ordered the government to get back the permit which was given to So O-sun to build a branch railway from Yun-geui to Chun-ju.

Later still comes the news that the Residency after further consultation with the Minister of Agriculture, etc., said that the Korean Company would be allowed to build the road if any loan that was necessary should be made from Japan and not from any other foreign country.

On July 21, according to the native press, the wife of Ye Yong-se and sister to Lady Om, was arrested by the Japanese police. It is said that this was on account of her connection with secret intrigue in the palace, her supplications to the God of War whose picture was found in her house and to various forms of the old time necromancy. As soon as she was arrested her brother Om Chun-wun went to the police headquarters and secured her release under guarantee of producing her when required. The shock caused by this arrest brought on a miscarriage and the woman is in a somewhat precarious condition.

On July 24 was celebrated the ceremony whereby Prince Eui-wha became Eui-chin Wang, which means "The Righteous Prince."

There are seventy five Japanese employees in the Finance Department of the Korean Government. Their salaries amount to over Yen 9,000 a month. There are three or four in the Home Department where the main part of the business of governing the country is done.

The Mayor has informed the Home Office that all the roads leading from Seoul to the river are in very bad shape and must be thoroughly repaired. This work will begin very soon. There is no improvement more urgently needed than this.

The Wun-heung Monastery which was built some five years ago when there was a special effort to strengthen this sect in Korea, has been pulled down and the material has been sold off.

One of the oldest and best known ladies-in-waiting named Sin has been arrested by the Japanese gendarmes.

It is stated that the *Hon Sung* Daily paper will change its name and will become the official organ of the Residency.

The Japanese authorities have sent to the Home Office stating that since last April there have been thirty-five cases of stone throwing at railway trains. The Japanese prefer to consider this the mere playing of bad boys and belittles its significance. The Home Office replied thanking the Japanese for looking at the matter in this light and promising to send orders throughout the country to have it stopped. The native paper which gives this news takes a more serious view of the matter and considers that it is because Koreans have grievances which are not righted and they commit these acts in revenge. It is quite impossible to believe that Korean boys would commit these acts and the probable explanation is the one held by the paper in question.

The Seoul Court has informed the Law Department that four noted robbers and six men who forged the Imperial seal and sold some offices in the country have been executed.

The island of Mu-wi not far from Chemulpo has been so ravaged by pirates that the people say it is impossible to live there longer. They ask that soldiers be sent to protect them.

Since the end of July the continued drought has begun to attract attention and the government has caused sacrifices to be made at various places.

It is stated several counterfeit Dai Ichi Ginko five yen notes have been received among the revenue money sent in from the country.

The governor of Kyung-geui Province reports that the great bridge at Po-ch'un has been badly injured and requires immediate repairs.

Five other Koreans who were driven to Japan by storms have been sent back and the bill has been paid by the government.

The new society called the Cha-gang Society, of which Yun Chi-ho is president, seems to be going about things in a proper way. It sent its agent to Pak Che-sun, the Vice-Prime-Minister, and asked him why the plan to enforce a law against the marriage of minors was not carried out. The Minister said that it was a needed regulation and would be carried out very soon. The agent also asked about the revised laws and desired to know why they were not put in operation. The Minister replied that this was a matter that he could not decide by himself but he would consult with others and hasten the matter as fast as possible. It may be that in this manner, by a persistent pushing of the authorities, the people of Korea can get some of the really needed reforms carried out.

There are many Japanese in the provinces trying to awaken renewed interest in Buddhism. The Residency is said to have sent to these agents of Japanese Buddhism and instructed them to keep strictly within the bounds of their ostensible plan and not to meddle with matters outside of it.

The foreign papers in Japan state that over forty prisoners were executed at Taiku in July. It is somewhat curious that this information has not been given in the native or Japanese papers in Seoul.

The native press says that the amount of imports at the Korean ports for the first half of July was 603,843 yen and that the exports amounted to 180,891 yen. The enormous excess of imports over exports indicates that the flood of Japanese into Korea is not on the decrease.

A poor gentleman buried his father outside the East Gate and by some means was able to do this in great style. He had borrowed the temporary use of a large house and to all appearances he was a wealthy man. So when grave snatchers exhumed the body, took away the head of the dead man and demanded a large ransom for it, they were disagreeably surprised to find that they had cracked the wrong safe and promptly brought back the missing head without pay.

A new society called the Sik-san Society, has been projected by Koreans. The infant Prince Yung-chin is to be the head of it and Prince Yi Cha-wan and Om Chu-ik are heavily interested. The idea is to hunt up fallow land in the interior and make it productive by artificial irrigation, and to engage in forestry and mining. They are to publish a magazine.

Koreans have at last entered the large field of ladies' journals, and a Korean Bok has appeared in the person of Yu Il-sun. The magazine is called the Ka-jung Magazine, or "Ladies' Home Journal."

The Residency reports to the government that sales of land in the foreign settlement of Sung-jin have amounted to Yen 1,377.28.

Late in July five men escaped from the Central Prison in Seoul but all but two of them were recaptured.

It is encouraging to note that the Minister of Education has been making an extended tour of school inspection. He went as far as Eui-ju in the north.

A singular and happy case is that of Kim Chung-whan who is head of the Po-sung School, in Seoul, who has refused the Governorship of Whang-ha Province because he believed his presence here was necessary to the success of the school.

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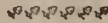
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GARDEN AND ORCHARD LAND.

In the Port of Wonsan on the east coast enroute to Vladivostok. Splendid steamer service. Twenty-five hours from Fusan and twenty-four hours from Vladivostok. Railway building from Seoul to Wonsan, and surveyed from Wonsan to Pyeng Yang. Fruit does not deteriorate in quality in this climate. Good local market.

FORE SHORE LOTS.

From one hundred to six hundred feet frontage to suit purchaser. Property adjoins Settlement. A few minutes walk from Customs and adjoining contemplated reclamation and stream. This is the last foreshore property to be had. A glance at the map will show Wonsan's geographical position insures for her a great commercial future, feeding all the East Coast of Korea and being the short route from Japan to Pyeng Yang and the West Coast.

HILL LAND AND FIELDS—SECLUDED.

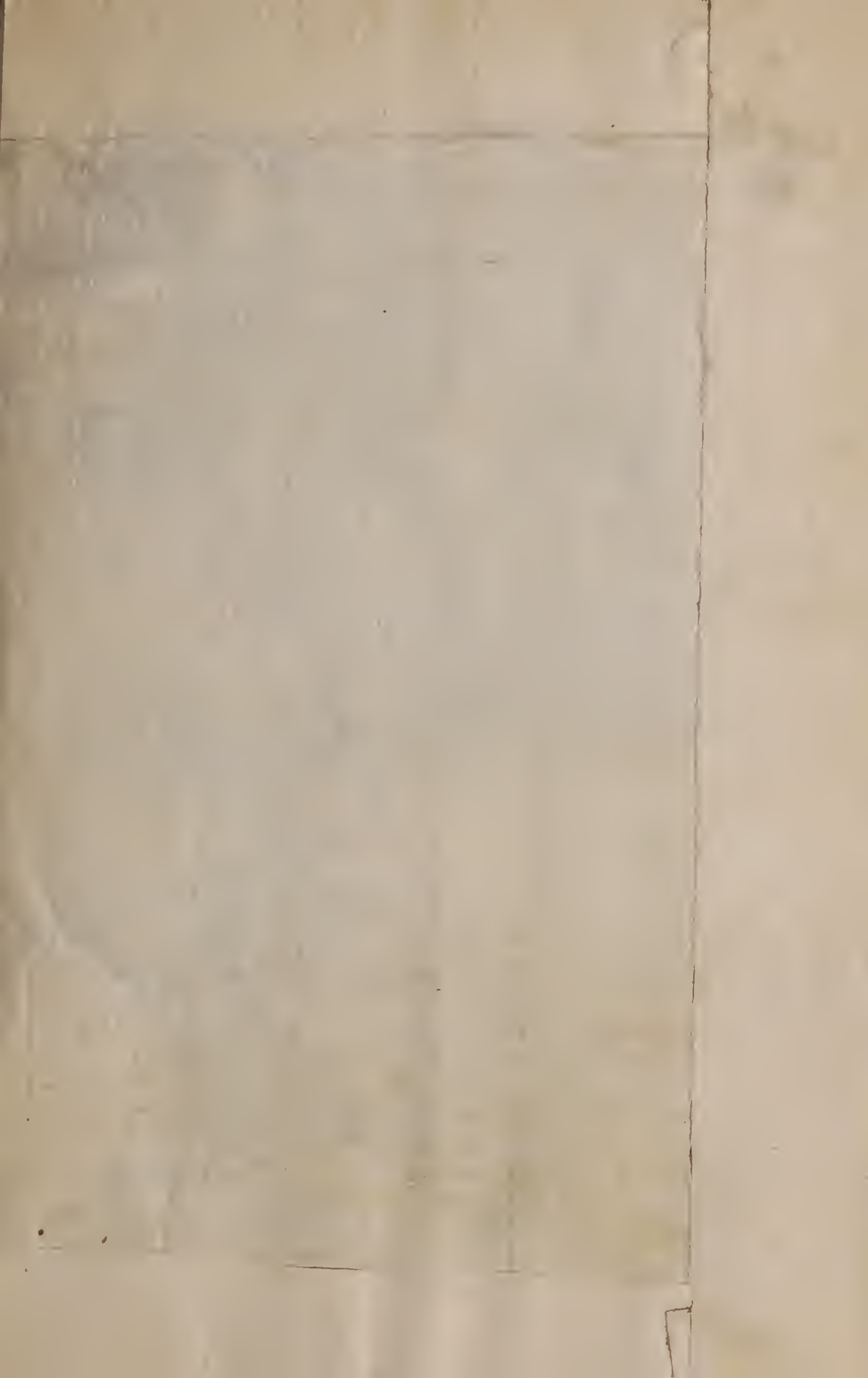
A large estate facing the sea in Wonsan harbour. Suited admirably for game preserve, being in horseshoe shape, with the opening towards the sea, 200 yards from the beach. For business, residence, private estate or Consulate it is admirably situated. The foreshore can be purchased at reasonable price. Five minutes from Customs House.

BEAUTIFUL GROVE ON SEA BEACH.

With waste land adjoining, comprising about 20 acres in all. Being situated near the jetty, secluded and with a charming outlook, this makes a good position for Summer Hotel or athletic grounds.

Residence and business sites for sale in the heart of the coming port in Korea. Invest now, before the railways come in. Properties from 200.00 yen to fifty thousand.

C. W. LEE & Co.,
Real Estate, etc.,
Wonsan,
Corea.





THE
KOREA REVIEW

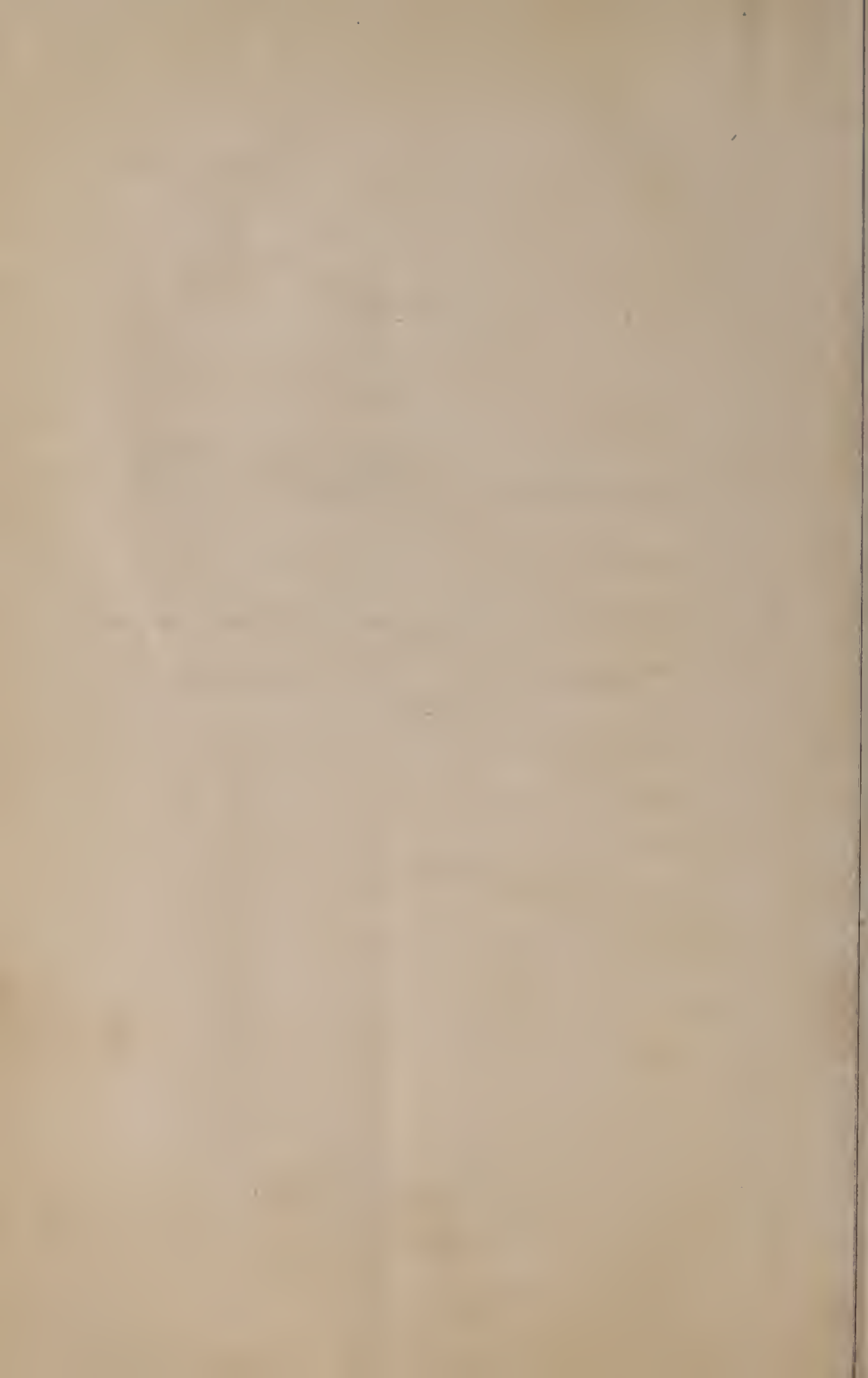
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