

Advertiser

APRIL

20, 1912.

DEFENDS ARRESTS OF KOREAN CHRISTIANS

Chief of Police Bureau in Seoul
Denies Persecution and
Use of Torture

AMERICANS BLAMED

Attempt to Defame Officials
Alleged—Baron Yun's
Arrest

The following statement, according to Press messages from Seoul, has been given out by Gen. Akashi, chief of the Police Bureau of the Government General, regarding the prosecution of Korean Christians there:—

"The affair began in September last and developed in such a manner that we were able to take into custody more than seventy accomplices in the plot, who were turned over to the Procurator's Bureau. There are also a large number of Christians who are now under examination. Because of the serious nature of the affair we have been very cautious in making arrests and have had recourse to all due legal processes. Most of the Koreans concerned are the followers of Christianity, either instructors or students attending the Missionary schools, so that one or two schools have been entirely closed.

"Our attitude has been painted in black colors by some of the missionaries, who misinterpret the whole affair as a wilful persecution of Christians. With this end in view they are doing everything in their power to defame the Japanese officials of Korea, to obstruct the course of our investigation, and to avert the prosecution of the conspirators. Information in my hands states that some American residents here delight in spreading the story that we inflict torture upon the accused. But I have no hesitation in saying that the world will see that what these Koreans have been doing is utterly un-Christian and that we shall be right in punishing them when their cases come up in the courts. I cannot help but pity the missionaries in this Peninsula by reason of the fact that some of them should be so base as to make these groundless statements.

The Alleged Ringleader

The Seoul Press thus reports the arrest of the Vice President of the Korean Young Men's Christian Association:—

"We learn with regret and surprise that Baron Yun Chiho was arrested at Kaisong a few days ago in connection with a certain affair. Baron Yun is a Christian, being the Vice President of the Korean Y.M.C.A., and the founder and director of a great Christian School in Kaisong. He is the son of the late Baron Yun Ungyul, War Minister of the for-

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"Since the arrest of Baron Yun Chiho, a star of the Christian world in Korea, in connection with a certain criminal case of a grave nature, the American missionaries in Korea, who are not favourably disposed to the administration of the Government General of the peninsula, allege that the Government General is crusading against Christianity and have made a representation accordingly to the Washington Government. The Government General has in no way made a crusade against Christianity. On the contrary, the same authorities have been granting an annual subsidy of yen 10,000 in aid of the funds of the Korean Young Men's Christian Association, of which Baron Yun Chiho is the President. Baron Yun Chiho has been engaged in political discussion under the guise of Christian propaganda, has been stirring up the ignorant Koreans, and has framed different plots. His action is intolerable, and he fully deserves punishment. Not only Baron Yun Chiho but even foreigners will be dealt with by law without giving quarter when they are found to be concerned, as the examination of the case progresses."

Advertiser

PAPER.

7 22, 1912.

AMERICAN ARRESTED IN KOREAN PLOT

Rev. George S. McCune of
Mission School at Syen
Chyun Implicated

AUTHOR OF CONSPIRACY?

Reports say He Has Long Been
Strong Opponent of
Japanese Rule

The Japan Advertiser is informed that the Rev. George S. McCune, secretary of the Presbyterian Missionary School at Syen Chyun in Northern Korea, was arrested on Sunday night as being implicated in the plot against the life of the Governor-General of Korea, Count Terauchi.

A Seoul cable to the Jiji states that Mr. McCune has been known in the past as a strong opponent of Japanese rule in the peninsula, and was the principal author of the present plot. It is expected, according to this cable, that some more foreign missionaries will be arrested in connection with the affair.

According to the Nichi Nichi's Seoul correspondent, Mr. McCune's school contained many pupil teachers and students who are inspired with anti-Japanese feeling and was regarded as the headquarters of anti-Japanese Christians in the North of Korea. The church to which this school belongs is said to have once had more than three thousand native adherents, but their number has decreased to only three hundred or so since the discovery of the plot.

After a call upon the Governor-General, says another cable to the Tokyo Asahi, Bishop Harris wired to the American Mission Board a full report this affair and stated that it would be well to leave all to the impartial judgement of the Japanese authorities.

Christians Favoured in Korea

Mr. Tokutomi, Editor of the Kokumin, who owns a paper in Seoul and whose opinion is always worthy of attention has the following to say in his "Tokyo letter" of Feb. 20th.

"From the time of the late Prince Ito up to the present, specially lenient treatment has been accorded to both foreign missionaries and native Christians in Chosen. This attitude of the Japanese authorities was looked upon with jealousy by the Buddhists, and was even regarded as an unjust discrimination between them and the Christians. Such an opinion, based upon the hostile feelings of one religion against another, is unworthy, but this fact alone shows how the Japanese authorities have been paying special care to foreign missionaries and native Christians in the peninsula.

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"Recently a plot by native Christians against the life of Governor-General Terauchi was discovered and naturally criminal proceedings ensued, and even some noted natives seem to have been involved in the case. Nevertheless we are not the least inclined to make any comments upon the case now under consideration by the legal authorities. However we feel it our duty to do what we can to dispose of the recent allegations brought against the Japanese authorities in the peninsular in connection with this affair. The Japanese legal authorities in Chosen have won a world-wide reputation for their impartial and careful judgment upon all cases brought before them. We cannot believe, therefore, that they have taken any special steps in the present case, which might destroy their reputation.

"As to the alleged persecution of Christians in Chosen, it is a complete falsehood which no sane person can believe. No one can believe that the Japanese authorities, who have been so lenient towards the Christians in the peninsular, have abruptly changed their attitude, when there is no necessity for it. In any case so long as the missionaries confine their work to the religious sphere, they can enjoy for ever as in the past, the ample protection of the Japanese authorities in their work.

"While we have no bias against the native Christians of Chosen, we think it strange that almost all the assassins of noted men like Prince Ito, Mr. Stevenson, Count Li Han-Yuang, as well as those involved in the present plot against the Governor-General have belonged to one or other of the Christian Churches. This is indeed a strange coincidence, of which we should like to hear a satisfactory explanation from the foreign missionaries working in the peninsular. But in saying this, we do not mean to conclude that all the Korean Christians are alike because every group of men in this world contains some bad elements, and the Christian Church alone can not be regarded as an exception to the rule. After all is said, it is our sincere desire that all foreign missionaries in the peninsular should work, like Bishop Harris, with generous, pious and lofty religious motives."

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especially with silver

The Korean Plot

THE arrest of an American missionary in Korea, which was reported in yesterday's issue of the Japan Advertiser, must come as an unpleasant shock to his countrymen at home and abroad. Mr. McCune is apparently to be accused of complicity in the plot against the life of Governor-General Terauchi, for which some fifty persons, almost all of them native Christians, are already under custody. The report still lacks official confirmation, but there seems little reason to doubt its correctness. It gives to the affair an international aspect of considerable gravity. Now that extraterritorial rights have been surrendered by the Powers, Mr. McCune will, of course, be tried by the Korean Courts, but the proceedings in the case will be watched by Americans everywhere with intense interest. The judicial system established by the late Prince Ito will be on trial in the eyes of the world when Mr. McCune stands before the Korean Court. It is not for us nor for observers abroad to prejudge the case, but we fear that so long as it is pending it will be a source of bitter feeling and heated discussion. The latter, indeed, has already begun. We must therefore hope that the case will be brought to trial with the utmost dispatch compatible with the true interests of justice.

We have no brief to offer in behalf of the Japanese Government in Korea, but one or two things may be pointed out in favor of the theory that the arrests constitute no wanton attack on Christianity, as has been alleged. Missionaries have admitted that they have been treated with consideration by the authorities in Korea whose fixed policy, as is well known, has been to put no obstacle in the way of their work. If the annual subscription of 10,000 yen which the Governor-General makes to the Y.M.C.A. in Seoul is not proof enough of his good-will towards Christian workers, we have the testimony of Bishop Harris and others to the effect that the missionaries are much indebted to him for the facilities accorded to the propaganda of the Gospel. On the other hand, it is generally admitted that in some places, especially in the

In Nikko temple are only works of old Japan; at **SAMURAI SHOKAI**, both ancient and modern

North, which appears to be the seat of the present conspiracy, Christianity has more than once been used as a cloak for political movements by unscrupulous Koreans. Tolerance of such conduct, especially when one sympathizes with the nationalist aspirations which inspire it, is easy. That it may also lead into danger is, we are inclined to think, the true explanation and moral of the arrest of Mr. McCune. Be that as it may, granting that the Seoul Government has dealt honorably and liberally by Christianity, despite some provocation, does there appear any good reason for suspecting on its part a change of attitude, especially now when Korea has but recently acquired jurisdiction over foreigners and is under strong obligation to show that she is capable of exercising it in accordance with the strictest principles of equity? When a deputation of missionaries recently waited upon the Governor-General in connexion with this affair, he met their arguments boldly and frankly, as a man of his character and experience might be expected to do. He denied emphatically that there was any idea of religious persecution in the mind of the Government, and his denial seems to us worthy of all attention.

It has been further charged that the prisoners now under arrest as conspirators have been subjected to torture. In the absence of all details of the charge it is idle to express any opinion upon it. That torture was a common practise in the Korea of the past we know; that the Japanese efforts to stamp out everywhere such a common practise may not yet have entirely succeeded we may or may not believe. In remote places where Korean police officials are not under the immediate supervision of their Japanese superiors it may be that authority is abused and cruelties are perpetrated. But a case of such gravity and dimensions as the present one cannot have been entrusted to irresponsible minor officials. We are told indeed, that Count Terauchi has had the proceedings all along under his close personal observation, and when he denies hotly that torture has been resorted to, he must do so with full knowledge of the facts, big and little. Therefore until it is shown that the missionaries are dissatisfied with his *de-menti* or until proof of maltreatment of the prisoners comes to light, it will not, we think, be fair to press this charge further against the Korean authorities.

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REGISTERED AT THE U. S. P. O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1912

Seoul Y. M. C. A. Secretary States Views on Korean Plot

Mr. Niwa Says Most of Prisoners Belong to Mr. McCune's School

Among the visitors to Tokyo just now is Mr. Niwa, general secretary of the Y. M. C. A. in Seoul. Mr. Niwa came over to Japan to attend the conference of Y. M. C. A. secretaries which met recently at Izu, near Kobe. He is returning to Seoul on Tuesday.

When seen yesterday by a representative of the Advertiser at the Y. M. C. A., Tokyo, on the subject of the present trouble in Korea Mr. Niwa said that so far there had been no persecution of the Christians in Korea by the Government, but the authorities were certainly carrying out a very stringent enquiry into the alleged plot to kill Governor Terauchi. So far over one hundred arrests had been made and the preliminary examination of seventy had been completed. He confirmed the arrest of Biron Yun Chih-ho, President of the Y. M. C. A. movement in Korea, and also that of Pastor Ryo, who was recently in Japan and who is a very influential man. Those under arrest, he said were mostly students and teachers from the school of the Rev. George S. McCune, at Syen Chyun.

"Of course," said Mr. Niwa, "the real complaint of the missionaries in Korea is the length of time which has been allowed to elapse before those charged and now in prison are brought to public trial. The alleged attempted assassination was made in March last year and the majority of those arrested have been in jail since September."

The history of the case as known to Mr. Niwa is that when Governor Terauchi paid a visit to Syen Chyun in March the whole of the students and teachers under Mr. McCune were assembled at the station to bid the Governor welcome. Many of these students, it is claimed, carried revolvers and it was commonly understood that they were to attempt the Governor's life. By some means, however, either from fright or failure to act on the signal, nothing was done.

Mr. Niwa said that he felt pretty sure that Mr. McCune had no knowledge whatever of the plotting which had been going on in his school or that he was openly sympathetic with the students in their desire to regain control of the country.

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Bishop Harris and the Christians in Korea

An Alleged Interview Which Contains Some Remarkable Statements

In a lengthy cable which the Seoul correspondent of the Nichi-Nichi sends to his paper under date of the 19th inst., says he has been fortunate enough to obtain an interview with Bishop Harris of the Methodist Church. He disclaimed the authorship of the sensational story which appeared in a recent issue of the New York Herald and emphatically declared that neither he nor any other American Missionary in Korea had anything to do with it.

"I hear" he said, "that the Presbyterian Missionary recently paid a call upon the Governor General and transmitted the interview by cable to their missionary board in America. But never would I believe that they would send anything like what the Herald printed in its columns, because we foreign missionaries have nothing to say against the Government-General, and, on the contrary, are much indebted to it since it has afforded us many facilities in our work of spreading the Truth among the unconverted. Furthermore, the officials are humane and are exerting themselves to better the hard lot of the Koreans.

"Of course it is much to be deplored that many Christians are involved in the plots against the life of Governor-General Terauchi. But if they are really guilty of the crime alleged they have done something unpardonable in the light of humanity and must suffer the consequences; they have sinned against God. Under the circumstances, I can only hope that the trial will be held as soon as possible to determine their guilt. The fact that many of the accomplices are backsliders leads me to believe that they have painted us missionaries in the blackest colors in confessing their wrongdoing.

"I do not credit the story that torture was employed in eliciting information from the men in custody." Bishop Harris is quoted as saying. "Even if it be true, the Japanese authorities should not be so severely attacked because the use of torture is not unknown in the civilised world to day. It was arranged between Mr. Komatsu, chief of the Diplomatic Bureau, and myself that the case should be disposed of with due justice by the Government General. Lastly, we must congratulate ourselves that those Koreans who sought the cover of Christianity in order to give vent to their dissatisfaction against the Japanese have disappeared."

No 6,479

ARREST OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY DENIED

Report Apparently Due to
Search of His House by
Korean Police

BISHOP HARRIS'S VIEWS

Informs the Advertiser there
Has Been no Persecution
of Christians

Special to The Japan Advertiser.

In response to a request for confirmation or denial of the report of the arrest of the American Missionary, Rev. George S. McCune, at Syen Chyun, Korea, in connexion with the plot against the life of the Governor-General, and for his views on the situation in general, Bishop Harris, of the American Methodist Episcopal Church has sent to the Japan Advertiser the following telegram, dated Feb. 23, from Seoul:—

“The report of the arrest of an American missionary is a caricature.”

“There has been no persecution of Christians by the authorities, whose relations with the missionaries are very satisfactory.”

“The Methodist missionaries have not appealed to President Taft. They trust the Government to deal justly with the Christians under arrest.”

(Signed) M. C. HARRIS.”

The Bishop's denial of the arrest of Mr. McCune is also repeated in other communications which have reached Tokyo through official channels. It would appear, however, from Press reports that Mr. McCune's house was subjected to a search by the police. The Nichi Nichi's Seoul correspondent quotes a prominent missionary to this effect. Presumably the report of the arrest was an exaggeration of this domiciliary visit.

The same correspondent says that, despite their outward calmness and professed faith in the course of justice, the arrested Christians, are in reality panic-stricken. “There is every reason to believe,” he adds, “that the fabrications which were published in a recent issue of the New York Herald emanated from Syen Chyun, which is a hot-bed of anti Japanese propaganda in the peninsula.”

It is added that the British and Belgian Consuls General have requested an interview with Mr. Komatsu, the Chief of the Diplomatic Bureau of the Government-General, in connection with the affair.

Secret Documents

MARCH 1, 1912

"PEACE IN CHOSSEN"

A Semi-Official Reply to Recent Criticism

The semi-official Seoul Press of Feb. 27 contains the following leading article entitled, "Peace in Chosen":—

It is interesting to observe the hue and cry raised by a section of the foreign press in Japan Proper on the now notorious conspiracy affair in Chosen. Particularly is it amusing to observe that these foreign papers, while condemning on the one hand the untrustworthiness of Japanese correspondents in Chosen, quite on the other most sensational news sent by them concerning the affair in all good faith and without taking the least trouble to inquire about its truth, write article after article on its basis. The case of the alleged arrest of an American missionary is an example. As we have already pointed out the report in question is absolutely groundless. The report was of a quite serious nature, such as responsible and sober papers would make inquiries about its truth before attempting to comment on it. And yet we find the Japan Chronicle, a paper which continually declares its unwillingness to believe in what a Japanese journalist in Chosen says, devoting a column or two to the subject apparently placing full confidence in the "news." It was really unfortunate for the Chronicle to have contradicted itself in this way. It seems to show, if it shows anything, that our contemporary committed this ridiculous mistake in its too great zeal to discredit Japan in Chosen.

Incidentally we also find our contemporary implying that there is a restless state of things in Chosen. Judging from some articles published by it, a reader not acquainted with the existing conditions in Chosen will be led into thinking that peace is very much being disturbed in this peninsula. Nothing is more untrue. It is quite true, as our contemporary says, that all the while it was stated that peace prevailed throughout Chosen and the people were contented and happy, the investigation of a conspiracy of a grave nature now for the first time partly revealed, was in progress. It appears to us, however, that this does not nullify much the statement that Chosen is in enjoyment of peace. When with the exception of a handful of malcontents, the whole people are rejoiced at the security of life and property assured them, when brigandage has been practically suppressed, when business is in a flourishing condition and industry is on the fair way to development, when even women can travel alone in the interior in perfect safety, cannot a country be said to be well-governed and in the enjoyment of peace and prosperity? The year before last a number of anarchists were arrested in Japan Proper on the charge of having conceived a plot of the gravest nature. None, however, thought of saying on the occasion that Japan was in a disturbed condition, and if anybody had said such a thing he would have made himself a laughing-stock. Similarly we should be laughed at if we said that because some people in Ulster have been agitating against Home Rule, Great Britain was on the brink of a civil war. We think India is in the enjoyment of peace and prosperity, notwithstanding the fact that no small number of Indians are in prison on the charge of sedition. We should think that if we said that the British rule in India and Egypt is unpopular and unsuccessful seeing that there are some malcontents and seditious

most sensational news sent by them concerning the affair in all good faith and, without taking the least trouble to inquire about its truth, write article after article on its basis. The case of the alleged arrest of an American missionary is an example. As we have already pointed out the report in question is absolutely groundless. The report was of a quite serious nature, such as responsible and sober papers would make inquiries about its truth before attempting to comment on it. And yet we find the Japan Chronicle, a paper which continually declares its unwillingness to believe in what a Japanese journalist in Chosen says, devoting a column or two to the subject apparently placing full confidence in the "news." It was really unfortunate for the Chronicle to have contradicted itself in this way. It seems to show, if it shows anything, that our contemporary committed this ridiculous mistake in its too great zeal to discredit Japan in Chosen.

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Despite the existence of a handful of malcontents in a certain small town and the grave conspiracy they conceived, it is a fact that Chosen as a whole was quite peaceful during all the time they were engaged in pursuing their plot. The Japan Chronicle would seem to like to stigmatise the tranquillity in Chosen as that of "gagged silence under drastic repression." We assure our contemporary that it is not. The tranquillity, which has been and is prevailing in Chosen, is a tranquillity brought about by a just and benevolent government in succession to corrupt administration and gratefully enjoyed by the Korean masses.

Price Ten Sen.

THE TREATMENT OF CHRISTIANS IN KOREA

American Presbyterian Mission-
ary's Tribute to Liberality of
the Government

WHERE THE TROUBLE LIES

With the Young Man who Would
be a George Washington and
Do or Die

[The Advertiser has received the following letter dated Seoul, February 27th, from the Rev James S. Gale, who first went to Korea as the representative of the Toronto University Y.M.C.A. in 1888, later, in 1891, joined the American Presbyterian mission, and ranks second in seniority among the missionaries in Seoul.]

Last autumn certain Koreans were arrested on suspicion of being implicated in a plot of a very terrible nature. Incongruous and unfortunate as it may seem, the arrests included many professing Christian people. Numbers of students were among them from the Presbyterian Mission School, Sun-chun, North Korea; leaders in the churches in and about that locality; the pastor of the Sun-chun church, Yang Chun paik himself; and several elders and teachers, including Kil Chin-hung, son of the well-known pastor in Pyung yang.

As arrests continued during the months that followed, this one and that one was taken. Some were set free, others detained, till finally, Baron Yun Chi ho, who has been in charge of a school in Song-do, in connection with the Southern Methodist Church, was arrested likewise, and much anxiety has been felt on the part of friends and acquaintances, and many sincere wishes entertained that the trial would prove the old and tried friends like Yang, Yun and Kil, innocent of every shadow of suspicion.

The trial is now going on and justice, we believe most sincerely, will be accorded them.

Recently a telegram appeared in the New York Herald charging the Government here with persecuting the church. Like so many groundless, but mischievous messages, that find their way between the East and West, it worked its damage, and now perhaps it matters little whether it be refuted or not, seeing it has had its say.

Ito's Attitude

The missionary community and the Christian Church in Korea has been specially fortunate in the kindly attitude of the Government toward them since the very first days of the Protectorate. Prince Ito was ready, all through his administration, to respond to any call where he could encourage, help, speak a kind word for, or show approval of any firm of Christian work that could help the Korean to a happier life or more useful place in the world. He would invite conferences with the missionaries, would have them to dinner, would show no end of interest, frequently saying, "We are both after the same object, the welfare of the Korean; you desire his moral uplift and I am aiming to improve him materially, nationally. Let us work in confidence, each in his sphere."

He finished his work and left the country. At one of the last public functions held he expressed himself thus, "What can I do to help this unhappy people? I will do anything in my power to help them." He thought, no doubt, and reasonably so, that very soon the Korean

entertained that the trial would prove the old and tried friends like Yang, Yun and Kil, innocent of every shadow of suspicion.

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He finished his work and left the country. At one of the last public functions held he expressed himself thus, "What can I do to help this unhappy people? I will do anything in my power to help them." He thought, no doubt, and reasonably so, that very soon the Korean would realize his help and thank him for the life he had given them to a better and more hopeful outlook.

His reward was assassination. He was shot by a Korean, a so-called patriot, a so-called Christian. Some felt at the time that such a little doom of anything like a kindly attitude on the part of the Government toward Christianity for the future. Later Mr. Stevens was murdered by another so-called Christian; and a former Prime Minister had a knife driven into him by another so-called Christian, who murdered the rikisha coolie who tried to defend him.

Count Terauchi

In the face of such a record as this, did it seem unreasonable to suppose that there would be a marked change on the part of the Government toward the church in the country? When the announcement was made that a stern soldier-like Count Terauchi was appointed Governor, we were humbly prepared to accept a very greatly limited confidence under which to work in future. To our surprise and delight we found no limitations put whatever. He was as kindly

(Continued on Page 10.)

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SAMURAI SHOKAI

Y, MARCH 3, 1912.

The Treatment of Christians in Korea

(Continued from page 1.)

in manner, and as ready to deal gently with all concerned as his predecessor. He showed his interest in the work of the missionary, asking merely that it be confined to its proper limits and kept clear of politics. This has been his attitude till to-day, and any telegram that says that he or his Government is attempting to persecute the Christian Church is a gross libel that covers with shame those of us who are connected with Christian work, and have seen the kindly attitude of the Governor, and his gentleness toward the foreign missionary and the church in general.

True, after a period of perfect freedom and non-suspicion, to-day many Christians are in prison, and the police are evidently on the sharp lookout with an intensity not seen before.

The fact that so-called Christianity has figured in assassination and treachery, would be sufficient explanation, especially if it were conceived that new plots were forming under its cover for the future. So the attitude to-day would not in any way be denominated persecution, but simply legitimate precaution.

Again, if it were gathered on the part of the authorities that anti-government feeling was entertained by any, even a small part of the missionary body, that anti-government sentiments were expressed, that anti-government attitudes on the part of the Christians went unrebuked, it could easily explain the added intensity on the part of the police. If it were seen too that Christian converts, in even an exceptional case, were ready to defy the Government and take by force what they could not get by law, it would explain it also.

It is up to the missionary to see that neither of these evils exist. A clear record in these regards might possibly be followed by a naked letting up of vigilance on the part of General Akashi and his men.

Where the Blame Lies

As to the church as a whole being involved in the circle of suspicion, we are confident that it is not so. The church people in general recognize the quiet, the safety, even in remote districts of the country, the opportunity to carry on honest labour, and general era of hope that has been opened to them by the present Government and which, say what you like, they never had before. Hence they are coming more and more to appreciate the justice and kindness of Count Terauchi's rule. But the occasional young man of the East, be he Christian or non-Christian, he is the question in these matters as in other disturbances elsewhere. It is not enough for him to know that the best patriots like Marquis Pak Yong hyo accept the new regime in all good faith and confidence; he will be George Washington or some other hero, though neither he nor his ancestors for ten generations, ever had a hand in office. He will not be bit ed or br d ed, he will have his way. He is wise beyond a hundred men and knows more than father, teacher or anyone. He will have his own way or die. This is evident in India, in China, in Russia, and some of my well-informed Japanese friends say, was true of Japan in transition days.

It is not a question of the church today in Korea so much as a question of the misdirected young man who may have got into the church. As the trial goes on we trust that it will be evident to the authorities that the church at large are determined to be loyal subjects of the Emperor and a law abiding people.

Leaders Mised?

How then explain the presence in prison of men like Yang, Yun, Kil and other leaders of the church? Seeing that their case is und-r way it would be an impertinence on our part to venture an opinion, but still our belief is that they will be proven innocent. As to why they have become involved, we can explain it sufficiently to our own satisfaction. As we said, the occasional young man of the present age will have his way, and these older ones, Korean like, cannot withstand his pressure and say No when a demand is thrust upon them, and so may have allowed themselves to be hounded and mishandled, used and misused to their own damage. That they should prove to be criminally involved in any way would be an irreparable blow to our opinion of Korean character.

We are thankful then thus far for a good government, a fair government, a government that has treated the missionary and the church with marked courtesy, a government that is wise and far-seeing, a government that not only protects from the epidemic of typhus and plague infection, but a government that is determined to rid the land of the spirit of lawlessness, which if it be in the church cannot but work its ruin.

THE KOREAN CONSPIRACIES

Semi-Official Outline of the Case for the Prosecution

The semi-official Seoul Press of April 19 contains the following:—

As already reported the Prosecuting Department of the Seoul Local Court has recently brought a suit against numerous Koreans, party to the grave conspiracy case, which has so far drawn considerable attention of the public. People so prosecuted exceed eighty, of whom over sixty, in so far as we learn, are Christian converts belonging to the Presbyterian Church. Major (retired) Lyu Tongsol and Yang Keui-taik, formerly editor of the Tai Han Mai Il Shimpo, are among the prosecuted, and it is with very great regret that we note the name of the esteemed mission school at Syonchon inseparably associated with so infamous a conspiracy. Being at length in a position to report on the case, we shall give below an outline of its history.

Two Plots

It may be still fresh in the memory of most of our readers that in December last a brilliant ceremony was held at New Wiju in order to celebrate the opening of the Yalu Bridge. Count Terauchi honoured it with his presence. Prior to it, his Excellency journeyed north on an inspection of the route along the Seoul-New Railway, that taking place towards the end of December, 1910. Both journeys were accomplished by the Count without a hitch, and few of the general public—possibly none—then suspected that the Governor-General had been in any danger of death or injury at the hands of an assassin on each occasion. As a matter of fact, he was constantly shadowed by a host of assassins on both journeys. A plot had been formed for his assassination, and conspirators armed with revolvers were stationed each time at various points. On his second journey Count Terauchi saw at Syonchon station a number of Korean students led by the Rev. Mr. McCune, Director of the Mission School there. His Excellency especially received Mr. McCune, and expressed his desire that the latter would continue to put forth his earnest endeavours for the education and right guidance of young Koreans. His Excellency also delivered a few words of advice to his students. But alas, these pupils were not present to welcome the Governor-General. They secretly carried revolvers about their persons, and were waiting there for an opportunity to fire a volley at the Count. Some of the prosecuted, we are told, recently confessed that their dastardly scheme resulted in failure, partly owing to the strict vigilance maintained by the police, and partly to the difficulty of clearly distinguishing the Governor General who was dressed in khaki as were his attendant officers.

When the Count paid a visit to Chemulpo and received leading businessmen there some months ago, many conspirators were on the alert for an opportunity to execute their wicked design, but to no purpose. So too at the inauguration ceremony at Euichongpu of the first completed section of the Seoul-Wonsan Railway, which took place in the presence of the Count.

It is calculated that about five hundred people must be connected with the conspiracy, but the Police, evidently being anxious to restrict the list of criminals as far as possible, have so far arrested some 150 only. These conspirators carried on communication with others by means of a cipher or messenger, and took great care not to leave any traces which might serve as evidence against themselves. They also frequently held secret meetings in the mission school at Syonchon. The assassination of the late Mr. Stevens at San Francisco, the assassination of Prince Ito at Harbin, and the attack on Count Yi Wanyong are all deemed related, either practically or morally, to the latest conspiracy. Under the pretext of recovery of sovereignty, these conspirators were raising money through brigandage. Major Lyun Tongsol, one of the prosecuted, is a graduate from our Military College, and held an important post while General Hasegawa was in this peninsula as Commander-in-Chief of the Army in Occupation. About the time of annexation he crossed over to Shanghai, but returning later on the Governor-General granted him a sum of money for the purpose of persuading Koreans to follow the right course of conduct. Another of the prosecuted, the Rev. Yang Chonpaik was a most conspicuous member of the Korean Christian tourist party which was organised under the auspices of the Japanese Y. M. C. A. here, and visited the principal Japanese cities during last year. Some of the arrested, we further learn, profess that Koreans privy to the conspiracy number considerably over one hundred thousand including those abroad.

Hundreds Implicated

As for Baron Yun Chiho, Vice-President of the Korean Y.M.C.A., the evidence against him ranks him as one of the foremost ringleaders of the conspiracy. It is understood that the Authorities are now going through the necessary formalities to secure the Imperial sanction required in order to proceed against a man of his rank.

AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING SOCIETY

In response to invitations sent out by the Japan Branch of the International Peace Forum, twelve delegates representing the leading Universities, Colleges and High Schools of Tokyo met at the Nippon Club on Saturday afternoon in a preliminary conference looking to the organization of an Associated English-Speaking Society of Japan. The plan was most enthusiastically endorsed by the delegates, and they agreed to hold the first general meeting on May 18, Saturday, from 2 p.m. at a place to be chosen by the promoters. At this meeting speeches, recitations, etc. will be delivered by students from different educational institutions of Tokyo. The secretary of the International Peace Forum was particularly requested by the student delegates to secure for them a number of foreign speakers.

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PROCURATOR'S CHARGE IN THE KOREAN PLOT

Alleges Attempt Was Planned
on Governor-General's Life
on Two Occasions

UNABLE TO IDENTIFY HIM

Absence of Distinctive Uniform
Baffled Conspirators — Their
Ultimate Aim Independence

The Tokyo Asahi publishes a long telegram from its special correspondent in Seoul in connection with the case of conspiracy which is now under the consideration of the authorities of the Seoul District Court. The public procurator started proceedings on April 1st, against Major Ryu Tong-yol and 80 others, who were found guilty at the preliminary police examination.

According to the Asahi's correspondent, the accused attempted to deprive Governor-General Terauchi of his life on two occasions, first when the Governor-General was inspecting the Seoul-Wi-ju railway line in December, 1910 and again when he was to attend the opening ceremony of the Yalu river bridge last November. In the latter case they tried to shoot the Governor-General with revolvers at several stations, but could not attain their object as each station was too strictly guarded, and as they also were unable to distinguish the Governor-General, who was wearing a khaki uniform similar to those worn by other officers in his party.

Their fellow conspirators are believed to number about 500, but the authorities of the Government-General confined the arrests to Baron Yin and some 160 others. Most of these conspirators are members of the Presbyterian Church, and they made preparations for the conspiracy in the church or school buildings of the mission. They took special care in the matter of communicating with each other, using a cipher code in almost all instances.

The present conspiracy originated at the time of the annexation, the idea being to give proof of the spirit of the Koreans by assassinating the Governor-General and other high Japanese officials which deed the conspirators hoped would so impress the Powers that they would be induced to make Korea again an independent country in case Japan should become involved in another war with any foreign Powers.

Yan-Kui-taik, one of the conspirators, was formerly editor of the Tai-Han Daily News owned by Mr. Bethel (?). Major Ryu-Tong-Yol is a graduate of the Japanese Military Academy and was a favorite of General Hasegawa, but being dissatisfied with the annexation, he fled to Shanghai. Governor-General Terauchi recalled him and gave him 20,000 yen to spend in reformatory work among Korean vagrants, which work was placed under his care. He was nevertheless found to be one of the principals in the present conspiracy.

It is stated that when Governor-General Terauchi granted an interview to a large number of the Koreans at Chemulpo station last year, about 30 of the present conspirators were among those present, but they could not accomplish their object.

Among the conspirators there are many Christians, including Ryu-chyon-paik who was one of those Christian pastors who visited Japan proper last year. Their weapons were imported from Russia and China through the hands of

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The further examination of the case by the judicial authorities is expected to take about two months after which the trial of the accused will begin. The Emperor's sanction was asked for opening the proceedings against Baron Yin, according to the regulation concerning accused nobles.

Corporal Punishment
Regulations in Korea
The Japan Advertiser
Minute Instructions Published by
the Official Gazette
April 26/912.

A very elaborate set of regulations has been drawn up by the Governor-General of Korea for carrying out the punishment of flogging in Korea. The regulations, which are translated by the Japan Chronicle, consist of 13 articles, and are contained in the Official Gazette of the 19th inst.

It seems that the official appointed to execute the punishment will make the prisoner lie prostrate face downwards on a flat wooden frame (shaped like a cross), on which a straw mat is to be spread. The arms and legs are to be securely fastened, to this frame, and the prisoner's clothes will be stripped off, fully exposing the hips. The executioner, holding a cane in his right hand at arm's length and in a vertical position will approach the prisoner on the left side, and take up his position at a distance from which, when held at arm's length, the end of the cane will reach about four inches across the hips.

Having taken this position, the executioner will draw back his left foot for about one step, placing his left hand on his hip with the palm upward (in the event of the executioner wearing a sword, it is necessary for him to grasp the hilt), throwing the weight of the body on to the right knee, and slightly leaning forward. Having taken this position, the executioner may commence the flogging. It is further provided that in flogging a prisoner the executioner must raise the cane after each blow to the height of his head, and direct the blow to the right hip, calling out the number of every stroke in a loud voice. When the left hip is to be struck, the executioner will take his position on the right-hand side of the criminal in the same way as already mentioned. In the case of the criminal being sentenced to more than one flogging, the right and left hips will be struck alternately. Criminals subjected to only one flogging will be struck on both hips equally by dividing the total number of strokes ordered into two. When the number of blows ordered cannot be equally divided, the odd number will be added to the first part. In special circumstances preventing the proper execution of the penalty, one side only may be struck.

Flogging must not be administered less than one hour after a meal and the blows must be delivered evenly without variation in force, care being taken not to injure the skin of the criminal. When the punishment is carried out in instalments, the body of the criminal may be cooled, if necessary, and a drink of water may be provided as required. When it is feared that the prisoner will scream during the punishment, he may be gagged with a moistened piece of cotton cloth.

GERMAN SQUADRON TO NEW YORK

D. J. P. Service

Berlin, April 24.—The German Squadron will start on its visit to New York on May 9th.

Every traveller is invited to inspect,
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