CHINA A NEW NATION

REFORMERS PRAISED IN REPORT TO STATE DEPARTMENT.

Remarkable Changes Taking Place in the Oriental Empire—Plans Provide for Council to Be Mouthpiece of People.

Washington.—A comprehensive review of the remarkable change that is taking place in China as a result of the recent decree reorganizing the government is given the state department by Edward T. Williams, Chinese secretary to the American legation at Peking.

After quoting the orders for the formation of two commissions to deal with reform projects Mr. Williams says that for over a month these commissions have been holding daily sessions wherein two strong parties have been struggling for leadership, one bent on obtaining a liberal government along modern lines and the other determined that there shall be no departure from the traditions of the fathers. As far as it has gone the report is a compromise, but many valuable features are retained. Especially worthy of note is the abandonment of the scheme for a cabinet and of the proposed consolidation of the council of customs affairs with the new board of finance, probably because of foreign opposition to further interference with the customs administration.

The edict itself hints at the greatest difficulty which has been encountered in the reform movement—"worship of the past"—for nowhere, says Mr. Williams, does the dead hands weigh more heavily upon the living than in China and the first essential to success in any new movement is to show either that it is not an innovation or at least that it is not hostile to the spirit of the fathers.

The principal feature of the edict is the manifest endeavor to approach the ideal of "one man, one office." Just as important is the abolition of the useless multiplication of offices, and except in the case of the board of foreign relations, whose composition cannot be changed without the permission of the powers, there will be only one head for each of the governing boards. Some of the old designations are obsolete and the titles have been modernized. The board of punishments never was fully described in the title. It will be called the board of law, corresponding with the American department of justice. The new department called the "board of posts and communications" is said to be in line with the most advanced western nations' policies.

Although the time is not ripe for the establishment of a parliament, a partial substitute is afforded by the appointment of a council "to assist in government," which is to become the mouthpiece of the people, though they are not permitted to nominate or elect its members. The censorate is retained as a terror to corrupt and incompetent officials. The press is yet in its infancy in China and is said to be characterized by such venality, according to Mr. Williams, as to make it unwise to give it a full measure of liberty.

GLASS TRADE GROWS FAST.

Industry Increases Capital 47 Per Cent Since 1900.

Washington.—A report issued by the census bureau on the manufacture of glass and clay products in the United States for 1905 shows that 21 states are represented in the production of glass and gives returns as reported from about 400 establishments, with a total capital of $89,389,151 and manufactured products to the value of $79,607,598. These concerns employed 63,969 employes, who were paid $37,288,148 in wages and consumed materials valued at $26,145,522.

Compared with the totals for this industry at the census of 1900 these figures represent an increase of 12.4 per cent in the number of establishments, 47.2 per cent in capital, 21.1 per cent in wageworkers, 56.3 in cost of materials and 40.8 per cent in value of products.

Pennsylvania took the lead in the manufacture of glass with 34.8 per cent of the total value of products, Indiana second with 18.5 per cent, Ohio third with 11.3, New Jersey fourth with 8.1 and Illinois fifth with 7.1.

Bottles and jars, manufactured to the value of $33,631,063, were the most important products of the glass industry.

Buys One Ear of Corn.

Ames, Ia.—Dan Pascal of De Witt, Ia. has paid the highest price ever paid for an ear of corn. It cost him $150. This would be $8,850 per bushel. The ear won the sweepstakes prize at the show held by the Iowa Corn Growers' association. This show was held at the Iowa State college in connection with the short course. Thirty dollars was paid for the best ten ears, shown by Edison Bennett, of Ames.

Historic Scenes in Disgrace.

Rome.—The palace at Verona, on the balcony of which Romeo made love to Juliet, was recently turned into a garage for automobiles, and now the Malatesta palace in Rimini, where the meeting between Paolo and Francesca, described by Dante in the "Divina Commedia," is supposed to have taken place, has become a macaroni factory.

BIG GAIN IN ALIEN INFLUX.

Immigration for Last Fiscal Year Eclipses All Former Records.

Washington.—The fiscal year ended June 30, 1906, produced a record eclipsing all former figures on the subject of immigration, according to the annual report of Frank Sargent, the commissioner general of immigration.

During that period, the report says, the population of the United States was increased by the admission of 1,100,735 immigrant aliens, and 65,618 nonimmigrant aliens entered at its ports, making the total admissions 1,166,353. The increase over last year's record of 1,059,755 (1,026,499 aliens plus 33,256 transits) was 106,598.

During the fiscal year 1905 11,480 aliens were rejected, and during the last year 12,432 of the immigrant aliens—that is, those who intended settling in the United States. There were 764,463 males and 336,272 females.

The tendency of immigration during the last few years to gather its steady increase principally from the countries of southern Europe is referred to. Without exception, the report says, the countries from which we formerly obtained the greater part of our foreign population, and which are inhabited by races nearly akin to our own, have supplied us with smaller numbers during the last year than during 1905—Ireland, 17,950, England 15,218, Sweden, 3,281, Germany, 3,010, Denmark 1,229 and Scotland 1,111 less. On the other hand, the four most considerable gains are: Italy, 51,641; Russia, 30,768; Greece, 8,974; and Turkey (in Europe and Asia), 5,165.

The north Atlantic and north central states, together, received 90 per cent of the entire immigration of 1906, the south four per cent. As in previous years, the bulk of the immigrants were destined avowedly to a few of the large centers of population, 374,708 claiming New York state, 195,681 asserted they were going to Pennsylvania, 86,539 to Illinois, and 73,863 to Massachusetts.

CONDUCTOR GETS BRIDE AS TIP

Finds Glove of Iowa's Prize Beauty and Then Weds Her.

Sioux City, Ia.—The romance of a photograph, a pair of gloves and a telephone came to a happy culmination in Chicago when Floyd R. Wilson, of that city, married Miss Effie Henderson, of Rodney, Ia., who the judges at the St. Louis exposition said was the handsomest girl in Iowa.

Wilson saw Miss Henderson's photograph at the fair and fell in love with the original, whom he had never expected to see. But the fates played into his hands. He was formerly a brakeman on a Milwaukee & St. Paul passenger train. Later he met a Pullman car inspector and was given the position of Pullman dining-car conductor.

A year afterward he was making a run to Hot Springs, S. D., when en route the girl of his dreams came into his car for her dinner. Wilson was almost paralyzed with joy, and when the young woman left without taking her gloves Wilson pounced on them. He did not return them then, but learning from the hotel register at the Springs where the girl resided, later sent the gloves with a nice little note.

Thanks were posted back. Another letter followed and more. The girl entered the millinery department of a Sioux City store and Wilson's run was happily changed so he was given a few minutes every other day here. This time was devoted to telephoning Miss Henderson. The courtship of three years was successful, as the recent ceremony attests.

MAKE MISTAKES IN ANSWERS.

Peculiar Accidents Occur in Marriage Ceremonies in France.

Paris.—There seems to be a fatality over marriages in the town hall at Lille. Twice within the last week instead of the traditional "Yes" recalcitrant bridegrooms pronounced an emphatic "No." The first incident, which was entirely humorous, occured in the presence of the assistant mayor, M. Dambrine, when a young man was so overcome with emotion that instead of saying "Yes" he said "No." It was a mere slip of the tongue and after another effort he succeeded in uttering the decisive "Yes." The second incident, however, occured the other morning, when another young man, a railway employe, was asked if he would take the pretty young lady at his side for his wife. He answered to the general consternation, with a loud "No." To make sure that he meant what he said he repeated it and looked fiercely in the direction of his future mother-in-law. The bride implored him, but he remained inexorable. He would not marry her, he said, because his bride had declared that she would not live alone with him and insisted that he should live with her mother. The bride naturally fainted in the midst of this scene and had to be carried home. The wedding was adjourned until a better understanding is reached.

Canal Message on Sale.

Washington.—President Roosevelt's special message on the subject of the Panama canal, together with the photographs taken along the canal route at the time of the president's visit, has been issued in book form, from the government printing office and is being supplied to the public through the office of the superintendent of documents at 50 cents per copy. The book contains 26 full page illustrations of the canal.

POWERS OF THE BLIND

MANY SEEM TO BE ENDOWED WITH A SIXTH SENSE.

Can Read Instinctively Character of All Whom They Meet—Dinner to the Sightless Given at Seattle, Wash.

Seattle, Wash.—On either side of the long table in the German bachelors' room of the Germania restaurant were several men who have not seen the light of the sun for a quarter of a century. One or two, indeed, have never seen the sun, the stars, their mother's face, or their own, having been born blind and having lived thus for fifty-odd years.

It was P. Singerman who four years ago conceived the kindly thought of giving a dinner to the blind of the city. Mr. Singerman's mother, who unfortunately suffered for many years with her eyesight, at times being almost stone blind, is now dead, but in honor of her memory Mr. Singerman decided to give the best possible dinner to all the blind men who cared to come. He sent invitations far and wide on this the occasion of his fourth dinner of the kind, and the result was a table well filled, and as merry and jovial a crowd as could be gathered together in all the city.

Mr. Singerman thoughtfully provided dinner not only for the blind men present, but also for the boys and girls who towed them along the streets to port. One by one the guests arrived, and it was remarkable to notice how they would call one another by name and greet a newcomer long before those who had their sight could see who was coming. The blind men explained that they could distinguish a step in the same way as a man with sight could distinguish a face.

"Why," said one of the men born blind, "I walk along the streets and I recognize steps of people whom I never have met, much in the same way that a young man will recognize the face of a pretty girl that he has noticed once or twice on the street. And often walking down street I have called out to some friend who was passing me, and who had not noticed me. Some people say there is not much difference between footsteps, but to me there is as much difference as between 'Yankee Doodle' and 'John Brown's Body.'"

Another man who has been blind for many years, and who is well read, said: "The psychical research people talk about a sixth sense, and I verily believe there is such a thing. In talking to people, or indeed, when I stand beside or near a person whom I have never heard before, I seem to know instinctively about him or her. Something seems to tell me many things about that person, whether he is honest or not, whether he is to be trusted, what his ability is, and, in fact, the things a man would read from sight of another man's face. It is, I suppose, especially developed in the blind, but whatever the power is I for one know it exists. I even seem to be able to tell when some one is going to speak. It is all very strange and mysterious."

EAT PEA SOUP AND LIVE LONG.

Henry Tabor, Ninety-Two Years Old, Dines on It Exclusively.

Sprucewood, Ont.—If you want to live to be a hundred years old and never feel old, live exclusively on pea soup, is what Henry Tabor is telling all his neighbors. Mr. Tabor isn't a centenarian, but as he is 92 and feels as chipper as a boy of a dozen years, he expects to round out more than 100.

Mr. Tabor was born in Montreal in 1814, and since the spring of 1879 he has lived almost entirely upon pea soup. When he took to this diet he was suffering from what doctors said was cancer of the stomach. They told him that he had only a short time to live, and his general appearance bore out this statement. He was pale, wan and weak, for he could retain little nourishment and had little hope of ever recovering his health.

One day a vender of herbs told him that he could prolong his life by eating pea soup, and Mr. Tabor promptly tried it. The food "set" well, and at the end of a week he had gained a pound, as well as some strength. He felt encouraged, and kept on with the soup, little by little discarding all other articles of diet. Ultimately he regained his full health and became as hardy as a knot.

On several occasions the man attempted to eat cereals and meats, but each time he was made ill, so he stuck to soup, and now and then meals of peas baked after the manner of beans. Once a week Mr. Tabor eats a little fruit, but outside of this his diet is made up of peas.

"Trial Divorce" Has Come.

Louisville, Ky.—Even more advanced than the trial marriages suggested by Mrs. Herbert Parsons in her widely discussed book is the "trial divorce" which a local couple have tried. Separated three years ago by the hand of the law, after they had tried four years of married life and decided it a failure, Elizabeth Wittenhauer and Henry Brangers took steps in the circuit court to have the judgment of divorce annulled. The petition states that the plaintiff, Miss Wittenhauer, and defendant are now reconciled and anxious again to enter the state of matrimony. The plaintiff asks the restoration of her married name of Brangers.

BUSINESS FAILURES IN ENGLAND

Substantial Decrease Shown for the Past Year.

London.—A substantial decrease is shown in the total of commercial tragedies of the year that has just closed. The total number of failures during the year according to a carefully compiled list which appeared in Kemp's Mercantile Gazette, reached 8,333 in England and Wales, a decrease of 624 on the previous year.

When it is remembered that during the previous four years there was a steady growth in the number of those whose failure to make both ends meet landed them in the bankruptcy court the figures for last year have a specially interesting significance. The failures in 1902 amounted to 7,782, in 1903 to 8,137, in 1904 to 8,875, in 1905 to 8,957, in 1906 to 8,323.

The substantial decrease in the number of farmers' bankruptcies has particular interest. In 1905 the total numbered 303. This was gradually reduced until in 1899 only 135 were recorded. Since then there has been a steady rise until in 1905 the total reached 214. The figures for last year, 142 show that the rise at least has been checked.

It is satisfactory to notice that this improvement is reflected most largely in those trades which in previous years had been hardest hit by the depression then prevailing. The grocery and provision trades, for example, which in 1905 showed 169 more bills of sale than in the previous year, had in 1906 the substantial decrease of 134.

TALL TELEPHONE POLE.

One in Washington 126 Feet High Is a Single Stick of Fir.

Seattle, Wash.—One of the tallest telephone poles in the world is where the wires of the Pacific States Telephone company cross the Chehalis river near Aberdeen, Wash.

For some years past a pole 90 feet high was sufficient to keep the wires clear of river craft. But the increasing passage of ocean steamers made a higher pole necessary and a new one 126 feet high was set up. This pole is one single stick of Washington fir, 18 inches at the butt and eight inches at the top. The pole weighs 6,000 pounds.

The stick was cut at a point 12 miles distant and towed down the river, where it was erected by six men using a 12 horse-power hoisting engine. For making attachment to the pole and moving it a five-eighths inch steel cable was employed, run through ten-inch steel blocks.

The pole was set 12 feet in the ground and guyed with four steel stranded wires at the top, and also guyed about 40 feet from the top with four five-sixteenths inch stranded wires. The guys are fastened to dead men set in the ground to a depth of eight feet. These dead men are of cedar 8 x 8 inches in section and seven feet long.

SEES KNIFE; FEELS IT NOT.

Newly Discovered Anesthetic Works Marvels on Patients.

St. Louis, Mo.—Dr. Hal W. Foster of Kansas City, Mo., using an anesthetic of his own discovery, assisted by Dr. John Young Brown of this city, has performed four operations at the city hospital which bid fair to work a revolution in surgical science.

In all of the operations the patients were perfectly conscious during the ordeal, talked to the operator and watched his movements closely. One of the operations was for strangulated hernia, a most delicate and dangerous undertaking. Despite the gravity of the operation it was performed quickly, successfully and without pain to the patient.

Dr. Foster has not yet announced the ingredients in the manufacture of his new "pain killer." It is not dangerous and the evil results to be feared from administering ether and chloroform need not be feared.

Persons with a weak heart and other constitutional weaknesses can go under the knife without fear.

Those who saw the operations are convinced that Dr. Foster has made a discovery which will prove of incalculable value to mankind.

To Tax All Titles in France.

Paris.—The chamber of deputies has been busy discussing and voting new taxes in connection with the budget. After voting a tax of eight shillings per annum on upright pianos and 16 shillings per annum on grand pianos, as well as a tax of $20 per annum on all kinds of hand organs, the chamber discussed a proposal to tax the transmission of titles of nobility when inherited as well as a tax on all persons now using titles in France. The president of the chamber, speaking for the government, said that the tax would be levied on all the titles of the old monarchial nobility that were still in use and also on the titles conferred by Napoleon I. and Napoleon III. Present users of titles would be required to prove their right to make use of such titles.

Finds Art in Asia's Wilds.

Berlin.—Dr. Von Lecoq of the Berlin Ethnological museum, who made discoveries of Buddhist antiquities in northeast Turkestan, has arrived in Berlin. His most precious discovery, he says, consists of fifteen chests filled with manuscripts in ten languages. These with other articles dug out of the sand are relics of a highly cultured and artistic people that once inhabited those regions.

ODD GIFT TO BRIDE

FATHER GIVES WEIGHT IN SOAP AS DOWRY.

Chocolate, Coal and Silver Also Figure In Wedding Presents Made by the Parents Interested.

London.—A valuable wife in the present state of the soap trade must be the woman M. Le Blanc, a Parisian has just married. The bride, who was the daughter of a hairdresser in a large way of business, not only received from her father a handsome dot in money, but her own weight in the best toilet soap. As she weighed close to 140 pounds, the couple will possess sufficient soap to last them for some years to come.

When asked by his prospective father-in-law, a flourishing West end tobacconist, to name the gift he would like to receive on his wedding day, the young man suggested a few boxes of cigars as being of more use than the usual presents presented on such occasions. "Very well; you shall have my daughter's weight in cigars," said the other. He was as good as his words. The bride weighed 128 pounds.

Mlle. Marie Brie, the niece of a Marseilles confectioner, received from her uncle on her marriage three years ago an eccentric gift in the form of her own weight in chocolate. Perhaps the worthy patissier had in mind when making the present the custom which prevails in Peru. There, on the marriage morn, the bride is actually weighed, and after the ceremony the bridegroom is presented by his wife's relatives with her weight in sugar.

A Yorkshire coal merchant's present to his daughter on her marriage was to be regulated by her weight, for every pound of which she is to be the recipient of a ton of the best coal. His intention, which he communicated to her on the day she became engaged, stirred her as she was a young woman of frugal mind, to emulate the fat women of the fairs, so that during the six months her engagement lasted her value went up ten tons. Doubtless she would have made further inroads into her father's store had not that worthy merchant hurriedly married her off at a loss of only 172 tons.

The father of a girl living in the town of Koniggratz offered to present anyone who should become her husband with her weight in silver currency. As she was well favored and of a build which, although not exceptionally stout, promised an amount ample to make a good start in business, more than one claimant appeared. The most eligible was at length selected and the wedding duly solemnized. Then came the most important function, the weighing of the bride, who, to her husband's delight, was found to weigh 155 pounds, or 13,500 kronen, an equivalent to $2,812.

BOY SEEMS UNDER BAN.

Blind, Deaf and Dumb, No Institution Opens Its Doors to Him.

Bellefontaine, O.—The disposition that is to be made with Wilbur Reynolds, age seven years, who cannot see, hear, or speak, now rests with Gov. Harris.

Neither the Logan county infirmary nor the children's home has accommodations for the almost helpless child. He was sent to the blind asylum by Probate Judge Plum of Logan county some time ago, but the superintendent there said he could not keep the child because he was also deaf and dumb. Then he was transferred to the deaf and dumb asylum, but now the superintendent there says he has notified the Logan county officers that the child cannot remain there because they have failed to make any progress with him, and he thinks the boy is not mentally competent.

When application was made for the admission of the unfortunate boy to the imbecile asylum the superintendent of that institution said he would not take him because his institution was crowded. He refused to accept the charge from the Logan county officials.

Now the matter has been laid before the governor to see in what institution he thinks the boy belongs. In the meantime the child is at the deaf and dumb asylum, but the superintendent insists that he will have to be removed from there.

PAGE "AD" FOR BIBLE CLASS.

Resort to Publicity Brings 150 New Members at a Time.

Knoxville, Tenn.—The Cumberland men's Bible class, which inserted a page advertisement in a local newspaper last spring, and was discussed throughout the country, had another page advertisement to-day.

The class is part of the Sunday school of the First Cumberland Presbyterian church. Its teacher is O. P. Sterling, a business man. "Advertising pays in business. Why won't it pay in a Sunday school?" asked Sterling of the Rev. W. T. Rogers, the pastor, and the plan was adopted. One hundred and fifty new members were the result. Now 150 more are wanted. A paragraph in the advertisement reads:

"Men—Give us your attention a moment. The world to-day is crying more than ever for men of Christian character. Great corporations, financiers, business men are joining in this great appeal for men of merit and Christian integrity."

INFANT DEATH RATE REDUCED.

Novel Scheme of an Englishman Lessens Mortality.

London. — Alderman Benjamin Broadbent, M. D., the retiring mayor of Huddersfield, England, has just announced the result of the two years' test of his novel scheme for the prevention of infant mortality in his native part of the borough—Longwood.

On taking office as chief magistrate two years ago, Alderman Broadbent offered five dollars to the parents of each child born during the period of his mayoralty that reached the age of 12 months.

Instructions to mothers—some of which were suggested by the princess of Wales—were sent out, and the mothers were visited by voluntary women visitors, who reported progress.

The Huddersfield rate of infantile mortality had averaged 139 for ten years, and in Longwood itself the average for ten years was 122.

In Mayor Broadbent's two years 112 babies received the promissory note card for five dollars. Of that number 107 had actually received the gift he had offered. Out of the five left four had died and one had been removed from the district and he did not know whether the child still lived or not.

If he counted only the four deaths the figures were 35 per 1,000, and if he counted the missing baby as dead the figures were 44. These figures compared very strikingly with the previous figures of 122 per 1,000 for Longwood and the average of 139 in the whole town of Huddersfield.

The experiment has reduced the death rate to much less than half. His own estimate of the result was that it was astounding. For exactly 12 months—from October 9, 1905, to October 9, 1906—not one of the babies on his list died under the age of one year. The babies belonged to all classes and there was no selection, some living in places hardly better than slums.

Very great general interest has been taken in Alderman Broadbent's experiment and inquiries, including one from President Roosevelt, have been received from municipalities all over the world.

PRODUCTS OF THE MINES.

Country's Output for the Year 1905 Worth $1,623,877,127.

Washington.—A most interesting chapter in the volume entitled "Mineral Resources of the United States, 1905," published by the United States geological survey, is that which contains a summary of the mineral production of the United States during that year.

In 1905, for the seventh time, the total value of the country's mineral production exceeded the enormous sum of $1,000,000,000. The exact figures for 1905 are $1,623,877,127, as compared with $1,360,883,554 in 1904.

As heretofore, iron and coal are the most important mineral products. The value of the iron in 1905 was $282,450,000; the value of the coal, $476,759,961. The fuels increased from $584,043,226 in 1904 to $602,477,217 in 1905, a gain of $18,433,981, or 3.16 per cent. Anthracite coal showed an increase in value of $2,904,890 from $138,974,020 in 1904 to $141,879,000 in 1905. The increase in value of the bituminous coal output over 1904 was $29,480,962, a combined increase in value of coal of $32,385,942 in 1905, or 7.3 per cent.

The gain of $262,993,573 in the total value of the mineral production is due to gains in both metallic and nonmetallic products, the metallic products showing an increase from $501,099,950 in 1904, to $702,453,108 in 1905, a gain of $201,353,158, and the nonmetallic products showing an increase from $859,382,604 in 1904 to $921,024,019 in 1905, a gain of $61,640,415. To these products should be added unspecified products, including molybdenum, bismuth, tungsten and other mineral products, valued at $400,000, making the total mineral production for 1905 of $1,623,877,127.

Besides the usual table and summary of quantities and values of the country's mineral output by products, the volume contains this year, for the first time, a summary, in tabulated form, of the value of the mineral products by states.

FARMERS STOP WORKMEN.

With Pitchforks and Guns They Hold Up Work on Transmission Line.

Lockport, N. Y.—A gang of farmers, armed with pitchforks and guns, held up work on the transmission line of the Niagara, Lockport & Ontario Power company, near here, while workmen were engaged in building fences to separate the transmission line property from the farm lands. The farmers declare that they gave the company deeds to a strip of land 200 feet wide, but the company is endeavoring to steal more land by placing the fences on the farm lands regardless of the dividing lands.

The farmers held that they could not get satisfaction by peaceful methods, and accordingly organized at a farm house and drove to the scene of operations in a hay wagon. Lining themselves up across the transmission line, they ordered the workmen to quit, at the same time leveling their guns and holding the forks in a threatening attitude. The workmen sneered at the farmers and continued operations. Then a battle started. Guns were fired, and the workingmen, becoming frightened, ran away. No one was hurt. The differences will be settled by a consultation between the company and the farmers.

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