

KOREA ITALY OF THE ORIENT.

Bribery and Corruption Rule Amid the Grandeurs of Nature.

Korea, the ancient "hermit kingdom," which is soon to pass under the control of Japan, is one of the most beautiful countries of the Far East. "Sho Shen"—the land of the Freshness of the Morning—is its name among its own people, and travellers in the East have been unanimous in testifying to its charms. It is the Italy of the Orient. Even Lord Curzon, with his great experience of travel in many lands, waxed enthusiastic over its wonderful interior, and speaks of "mountain valleys and recesses whose superb forest mantle excels in autumnal tints of maple and chestnut the garbure of California canons, where rushing, city-clear torrents dance through every glen, and far skywards bare splintered crags lift their horns above the foliage."

The traveller gazes on hillside covered with the rich blossom of peach and cherry, azalea, groves of maples, chestnuts, and elders, with many colored foliage. On either hand of a valley may be seen great castellated crags and pinnacles of rock, fantastic gorges and ravines, grassy slopes carpeted with violets and marigolds, red and white dandelions, mountain peonies, iris, and lilies.

Below, where the streamlets wander through the level cornland, the land smiles with plenty under the busy hand of the husbandman. Rice and wheat and barley grow spread high up the slopes on either hand, all in neat and trim, and weeds are carefully gathered and carried away. In mountain and forest there is abundant game.

CORRUPTION RULES THE LAND.

In this fair and fruitful land the people are miserably poor. An incompetent and foolish aristocracy rules roughshod over the people. Corruption and the farming of taxes remind one of France before the Revolution. Justice is bought and sold, every magistrate and officer buys his place, the people are squeezed till all hope and incentive to industry disappears. A merchant who is seen to prosper will be called on for a loan, which will never be repaid. He must

pay or undergo untold horrors. The poverty of the people is reflected in the condition of Seoul, the capital, whose vast area of brown mud-room-shaped huts is a mean and foul beyond description. The "streets" which give access to these one-story mud and wattle habitations are mere alleys, if a loaded bull comes along everybody must squeeze out of the way. As you pass you see nothing but mud walls, with perhaps an oiled-paper window and a smoke hole through which pungent and suffocating smoke comes pouring into our face. Along the street is a green, slimy ditch, into which household refuse is thrown, and here half-naked children and many dogs play among the filth. Here and there a shop-keeper will bridge the ditch with a few boards, and set up a stall, on which he displays horrible cheap or cheap pottery, brass, corals, and cotton goods.

JAPAN COMES TO THE RESCUE.

In this grotesque travesty of government Japan is fast introducing modern order and efficiency. Last November a railway was opened from Fusan, at the southern end of the peninsula, right through the heart of the country to Seoul, in the north. From Seoul to the Yalu, the northern boundary of Korea, a railway is in progress, and for some years Seoul has had a railway to its port of Chemulpo.

The capital has even got an electric tramway, one of the cars of which was attacked by the populace because they believed it had disturbed the patron saint of the town. "Conjure up," says Mr. F. A. McKenzie, "a city where the men ride on electric tramways, and the better-class women are never allowed to walk the street or show their faces in public, where the Mayor is chosen because of his skill as a sorcerer, but uses the newest Swedish telephone to transact business with his colleagues, where the King sits under the rays of an incandescent light while deciding the number of devils that shall be displayed and magicians engaged for his mother's funeral. That is Seoul!"

TO CONSOLIDATE BRITISH EMPIRE.

Sir Chas. Tupper Returns--Says Chamberlain's Policy Will Carry.

Montreal Herald.—Sir Charles Tupper, who, with Lady Tupper, arrived yesterday by the Virginian, looks as alert, buoyant and as active as of yore. The weight of his four score years seem to press upon him but lightly, and he discusses public affairs with the keenness of a statesman in his prime. He looks a little pale, but that is not to be wondered at, seeing that he had just recovered from a rather severe illness.

He went to Naples and sunny Italy to gather renewed strength, in which quest he has been successful. In the course of a talk with a Herald representative at the Windsor Hotel, Sir Charles observed that the topic of discussion that was interesting everybody when he left Europe was the conclusion of peace in the Far East. Coming to matters more intimately affecting the British people, he discussed the probability of a general election in the near future.

"A general election cannot be far distant now," he said. "The period has been reached when the life of the British parliament is usually brought to a close. There seems to be a general concurrence in the opinion that the Liberal party will come into power; but the idea of Mr. Chamberlain and the Conservative party is that the government formed by the Liberals will not last very long, and that Mr. Chamberlain's policy will, at an early date, prevail."

"Do you think that Mr. Chamberlain's policy is making any real headway when you look at the indications of the bye-elections?" "There is a perfect revolution of opinion in its favor," was the instant exclamation of the veteran statesman. "You must not judge by the bye-elections. In this country the government in power generally gains power from bye-elections, but in England the reverse is the case. There is a government almost invariably lost from bye-elections, whatever its strength is. So I do not think very much of the bye-elections as a test of feeling upon the Imperial preference policy. My own impression is that Mr. Chamberlain's policy will be carried at no distant date."

"I think that the desire of the commercial classes is that Mr. Cham-

berlain's policy should be adopted. I think that there has been a universal feeling throughout the British empire since the close of the South African war in favor of consolidating the empire, and making the bonds that bind us together still stronger. My opinion is that the policy advocated by Mr. Chamberlain is not only the best policy for that purpose but the only one. I look for other proposals and attempts from whatever nature they may come to establish a system of federation as nothing. None will lead to practical results except the policy propounded by Mr. Chamberlain."

"In Canada we really have but one mind on the subject. The two parties have declared themselves in its favor. In Australia, Mr. Deakin, a strong advocate of Mr. Chamberlain's policy, has lately become prime minister, and in New Zealand, the government is strongly in favor of it. I regard its adoption both in Great Britain and the colonies at no distant day, as assured."

"I think," Sir Charles observed, "that the visit of the United Manufacturers' Association to the United Kingdom did much good in the way of promoting an understanding between the commercial and industrial leaders of the two countries. I was unable to accept the invitations to be present at the different centres, but I followed the proceedings very closely, and I know how beneficial the results were. The more that Canada knows of the mother country and the mother country of Canada by such means the better the results will be."

When asked with regard to Canadian politics, whether he favored the measure passed by parliament last session, providing for the annuities to former ministers and an increase in the sessional indemnities of the members, Sir Charles would not talk. "You must excuse me from discussing Canadian politics," said he. "You see, I am not a leader now. I am only a follower. It is for the people to say what they think on that subject. I have no comments to offer."

Sir Charles and Lady Tupper have left for Nova Scotia.

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL.

Second Consolidated School Opened in New Brunswick.

The new consolidated school at Riverside, Albert Co., has opened with 204 pupils on the roll, which number will doubtless be augmented within the next few weeks. The opening was not a formal one, as it was deemed best to postpone anything of that nature until later, and it is thought no formal opening will be held before June.

The grading, subject to revision, had previously been arranged in the different sections of the districts, so that at the opening the pupils were called together in the assembly room, the grades marked off and the pupils assigned to their respective class rooms without any serious delays.

Principal Truman, in the grammar school, has grades 9, 10 and 11. Miss Foster has 7 and 8, Miss Hoar 5 and 6, Miss Atkinson 3 and 4, and Miss West 1 and 2. The overflow seems to be in the latter department, where there is already an enrollment of 63 pupils. Miss Duffy, the manual training teacher, is assisting with the primary classes for the pre-

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sent, her own department not being ready. There are 42 pupils in the grammar school and several more are expected.

The class rooms in the building, with their handsome and modern equipments, snow white walls and ished furniture, filled with smiling faces, presented an attractive appearance and showed plainly the advantages afforded the children of the present day as compared with those of half or even a quarter of a century ago. Everything is modern and up to date, the heating and plumbing appliances being of the very best. The whole work has been done with the comfort of the pupils in view, and it is claimed that the ventilating apparatus will afford a complete change of air in the class rooms every fifteen minutes. Everything in the interior of the building is in keeping with the exterior. The floors and woodwork are of hard wood varnished, the floors being of cypress wood. The walls are finished with puttycoat down to the wainscoting, which is of concrete, tinted in terra cotta. The manual training department is equipped with 16 improved adjustable individual benches, and the tools have been ordered and will be in place in a short time. A large Monarch range has been put in the domestic science department.

There is at present seating capacity for 270 pupils. The children are delighted with their surroundings and are on hand early for the vans.

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LAURIER TURNED SOD.

Fort William En fete at Initiation of G. I. P.

Port William, Ont., Sept. 12.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier at two o'clock yesterday afternoon was introduced by Mayor Rutledge to ten thousand citizens of this and neighboring towns as the one who would turn the first sod of the Lake Superior branch of the Grand Trunk Pacific. The scene of the sod turning, which took place at the conclusion of the premier's address, is on the west side of the Kaministiquia river, in West Fort William, a hundred yards from the main line of the Canadian Pacific and scarcely half that distance from the main line of the Canadian Northern.

In his speech the premier treated of the transformation wrought in the dominion since the advent of transcontinental advantages to be derived from a second ocean to ocean line, and the resources of Canada in general. The town has been in holiday attire since last Friday night, and the ships in the harbor, both American and Canadian, are almost as gaily garbed as are the principal streets.

At nine o'clock in the morning Sir Wilfrid and Lady Laurier were taken for a sight-seeing trip on the river. The premier expressed himself as being astounded with the great prospects of the harbor.

Returning at noon Sir Wilfrid and Lady Laurier and a party of representative citizens of Fort William lunched at Kaministiquia Hotel. At 1 o'clock the procession to the scene of the sod turning was begun. Seated on the speaker's platform with the premier were Mayor Rutledge, the town council and representative members of the board of trade.

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