

city and were greatly interested in what they saw. They made a pleasant call at the NEWS editorial room this morning. Sabei Ohashi the senior member of the party is reported as being the greatest book and magazine publisher in Japan. So extensive and numerous are his printing establishments that he employs constantly about 8000 men, issues two books a day and publishes twenty-eight weekly and monthly papers and magazines. Accompanying this distinguished publisher is M. Ohama, a Japanese merchant, who is on his way to visit the World's Fair but who came to the United States principally for the purpose of securing closer trade relations between this country and his own. T. Hiraiwa, a Japanese student from Oakland, California, acts as interpreter for the party and speaks English as well as the average American high school graduate.

The trio will resume their journey eastward over the "Scenic Line" on the 9:25 train tonight.

This veteran publisher is about sixty years of age and has an intellectual look and keen business insight. His forehead is high, prominent and broad. His head is covered with iron gray hair and a well trained mustache, almost white, adorns his upper lip and altogether he presents a very distinguished appearance.

To a NEWS reporter the interpreter stated that Sabei Ohashi's visit to America was largely for the purpose of publishing the works of leading American authors and dramatists into the Japanese language and vice versa. The trip will be continued to Europe for a similar purpose. Mr. Ohashi is issuing over 10,000,000 copies of books and magazines yearly and his establishment in Tokio utilizes fifty percent of the total product of white paper in Japan. A great many of the books issued by him are bound in the same manner as the American and English products. He has made an immense fortune out of the publishing business. He is a living witness of the fact that a man can begin at the bottom of the ladder in Japan as well as America and unaided by anyone but himself, ascend to the topmost rung gaining distinction at the passage of every round.

He was a son of a Tokio merchant who had but little of this world's goods and was thrown onto his own resources early in youth. He seems to be possessed of an almost intuitive perception of literature. Though his interpreter spoke freely of the works of leading American and English authors and said he was willing to admit that Japan could boast of no such learned and delightful writers as America and England, yet wonderful strides were being rapidly made in the literary profession in his native country and he believed ere long that some of his younger countrymen would have their works in all of the chief libraries of the world.

"Heretofore," said the publisher, "the good works that have been written in Japan have never been circulated outside of that country but my aim is to see that my own country shall step to the front and demand the attention and respect of other nations by reason of her educational and artistic ability. At home we have many meritorious

works to read and our people do read them to, and are well informed. I want to show the American public what we have got. I intend to commence the publication of Japanese works into the English language at an early date. Some of our literary men think the time has not yet come when that can be done advantageously, but I disagree with them and will proceed with the work as soon as I have carefully looked over the field.

I shall devote a good deal of time at the World's Fair enquiring into matters pertaining to the publishing business and shall make it my business to personally consult with the leading publishers of the United States.

"I am very devotedly attached to my business and next to my country love it most. In Japan printing and publishing concerns have made phenomenal progress in recent years. In fact their wonderful strides make them there as here, the most remarkable of all modern institutions and industries.

"In former days all of our publications were engraved on wood but when twenty-six years ago American and European modern inventions were introduced, as a result of opening up the country, type printing superseded the old and more awkward method 'Hakubunkwan' is the name of the establishment of which I am proprietor. Translated it means a house of widely diffused literature.

During the time I have been in the publishing business I have issued almost numberless complete sets of books and not a few have run through many editions. The house has issued the Imperial Library, embracing an extensive range of subjects; a complete course of lectures on law, politics and economy by specialists of national renown; a complete library of Japanese literature which embraces all the old literature of that country; a library of Japanese odes; also of general literature, a mammoth collection of books for children, a full library of Chinese literature and encyclopedias; works on oriental accomplishments and hundreds of other libraries and miscellaneous works on agriculture, horticulture etc."

The juvenile periodicals we publish would surprise you greatly. Our children are hungry for suitable literature and we are giving them all they want.

Mr. Ohashi is greatly respected by his countrymen and prior to leaving Japan he was royally entertained by men of eminence on all hands. He carries with him credentials and recommendations from Viscount Shina-gawa, a former minister of home affairs, to Japanese ministers in America and Europe, and Privy Counselor Count Awakutsu, who took part in the Japanese revolution in 1869.

CONTRACTS WITH EMPLOYEES.

A decision has just been rendered by Judge Speer, of the United States circuit court at Macon, Georgia, which is of interest as bearing upon the relations between railway companies and their employees, especially in regard to strikes. The case in which the decision was rendered arose upon an application by certain

engineers in the employ of the Central Railroad and Banking company of Georgia for an order requiring the receiver of the road to sign a contract for the ensuing year with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

It appeared upon the hearing of the application that out of 250 locomotive engineers in the employment of the receiver, upon the various divisions of the Central Railroad and Banking company of Georgia, 211 were members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; that they had been for several years working under a contract made between a general committee of the brotherhood and the officers of the railroad; that since the first day of December, 1891, they have been working under a contract which expired on the first day of December, 1892; that a few days prior to that time they gave notice to the general superintendent of the company that they desired certain changes in the contract, and that they had remained in the service of the company though the superintendent and receiver had refused to enter into any new contract or consider the old contract longer in force, unless ordered to do so by the court. Meanwhile, pending the adjustment of the controversy, which was postponed for ninety days by virtue of a clause of the contract which entitled the receiver to notice for that period, and of which he claimed the benefit, the court continued the contract in force.

In opposition to this application the receiver objected that the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was not incorporated, that many of its rules and regulations which have a bearing upon any contract its members might make are withheld from the public, thus placing the receiver at a disadvantage and rendering uncertain the attitude of the brotherhood in any difficulty which might arise in connection with the contract; that a number of the locomotive engineers employed by him were not members of the brotherhood, and that it was not proper for him to contract in this way with certain employees, while others were employed without such a contract; that such a contract rendered it impossible for the officers charged with the operation of the property to have such freedom in its administration as was necessary to its prompt and efficient management; that, as a common carrier, the railroad under his control was liable for damages which might result from the disorganization of its services, and that the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was bound by secret obligations to withdraw from the service of railroad companies in a body, causing great damage; that the receiver should be at full liberty to select the best men and means of managing the business without regard to organizations of any kind; that if he should contract with the brotherhood it would be holding out a premium for his employees to become members of that order, which was not to the interest of his trust; and, finally, that the brotherhood rendered it impossible for the officers of the railroad to come into direct contact with the employees and prevented such free intercourse as was necessary to good and efficient service.

Judge Speer decided against the contention of the receiver and in favor of the application of the engineers. After some reference to the import-