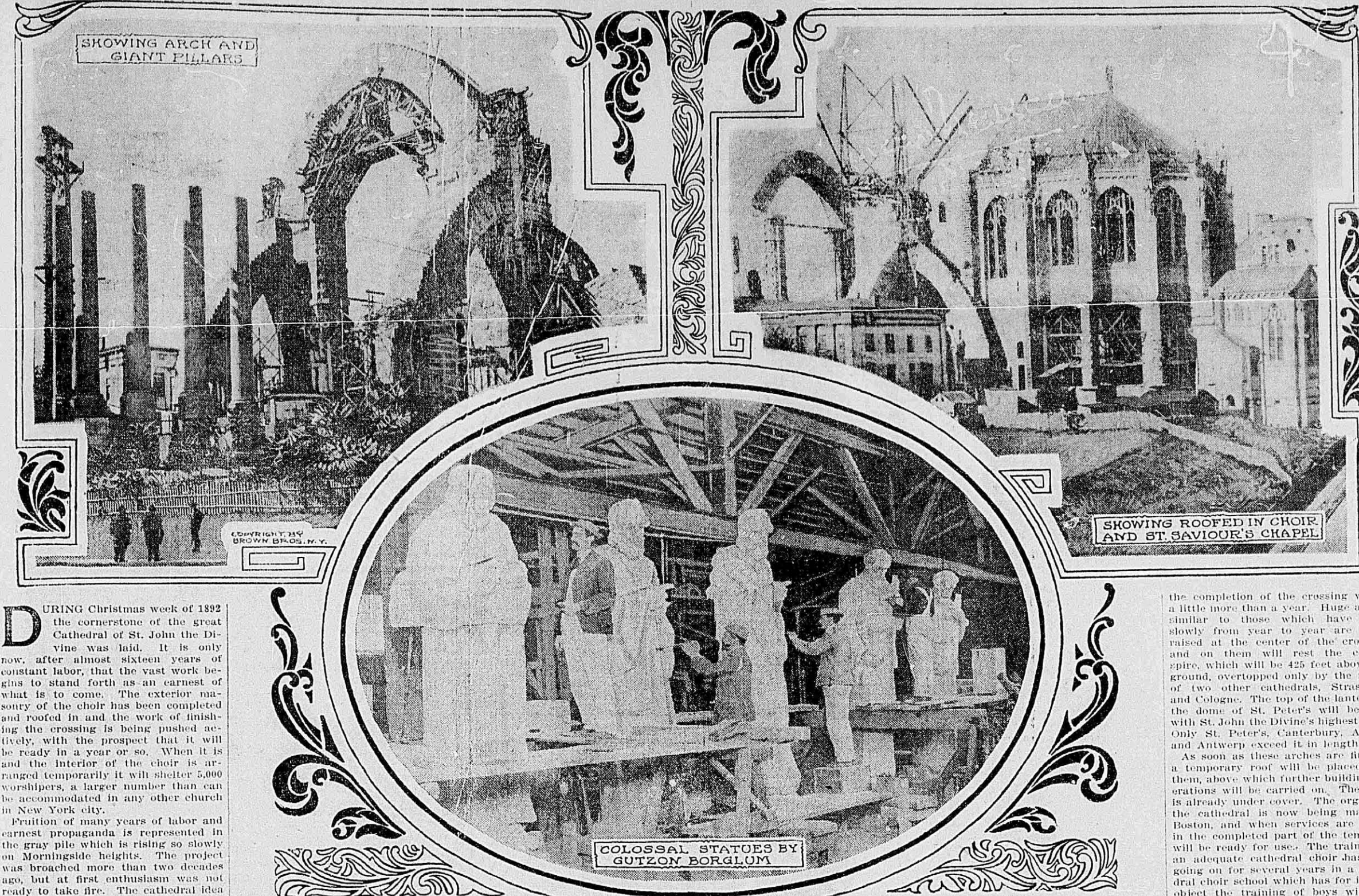


# BUILDING A GREAT AMERICAN CATHEDRAL



**D**URING Christmas week of 1892 the cornerstone of the great Cathedral of St. John the Divine was laid. It is only now, after almost sixteen years of constant labor, that the vast work begins to stand forth as a earnest of what is to come. The exterior masonry of the choir has been completed and roofed in and the work of finishing the crossing is being pushed actively, with the prospect that it will be ready in a year or so. When it is and the interior of the choir is arranged temporarily it will shelter 5,000 worshippers, a larger number than can be accommodated in any other church in New York city.

Fruition of many years of labor and earnest propaganda is represented in the gray pile which is rising so slowly on Morningside heights. The project was broached more than two decades ago, but at first enthusiasm was not ready to take fire. The cathedral idea had not yet taken root in Protestant America. Our fathers, the earliest and most aggressive of them at least, reached these shores in a mood of deep revolt from externalism in religion, and they were determined that they would have none of it. They were Puritans, Huguenots, Quakers, and whatever they were, they were on but terms with a religion which maintained a splendid ceremonial and an ecclesiastical establishment that seemed to smack of glorified worldliness. Among all of them there was a profound distaste for the decorative in church architecture and for whatever was stately and especially costly in the building and adornment of places of worship.

Of course this animosity against good architecture was not lasting.

Time came when the growing American people began to think seriously of form and structural beauty. Those who came to Maryland with the Calverts were free from this prejudice against mixing religion and beauty, and the immediate successors of the architecturally austere Puritans perpetuated the tradition more as a matter of loyalty than anything else.

## The Irreverent American.

Abroad Americans are reputed to be the most irreverent persons in the world. When we are accused of it we do not, as a rule, deny the charge. We are so indifferent to the accusation that we are more amused than indig-

nant when it is made. It doesn't even occur to us to ask how it comes that we care so little about some things which seem to be of such vital import to others. It is certainly absurd to keep on talking about the influence of Puritan traditions to descendants who are so remote from those traditions as to be unable to distinguish between the austerity that hated ceremonial and the debonaire indifference that dismisses all idea of religious orderliness.

According to the late Bishop Potter, who now lies at rest in the crypt of the great cathedral which he was so instrumental in rearing, the American public is not altogether to blame for

its irreverence. We have had a very unsatisfactory environment in which to learn to be reverent. The vast majority of places of worship in this country are lamentably barren in themselves of any idea of worship. There is absolutely nothing about them to suggest hushed speech, uncovered head or bended knee. They were not designed with that intention. The spiritual appeal was not to be made through the senses.

So it seemed to Bishop Potter that there was an actual necessity for another cathedral in New York. He believed that the noblest ideas should have the noblest expression, and he regarded the popular Protestant no-

tion of a church with horror—"a huge auditorium with a platform and a commodious parlor for church and social gatherings, with the necessary kitchen near at hand." He admitted freely that the purpose of all this utilitarianism in religion—to get a firm hold on the masses—was admirable, but he contended that it practically left religion to take care of itself.

## What Has Been Done.

It is now possible to form a definite idea of the great structure's outlines and to appreciate in a degree the immensity of the plan which is being developed day by day. Recent gifts from prominent laymen have made possible

the completion of the crossing within a little more than a year. Huge arches similar to those which have risen slowly from year to year are being raised at the center of the crossing, and on them will rest the central spire, which will be 425 feet above the ground, overtopped only by the spires of two other cathedrals, Strasbourg and Cologne. The top of the lantern on the dome of St. Peter's will be even with St. John the Divine's highest point. Only St. Peter's, Canterbury, Amiens and Antwerp exceed it in length.

As soon as these arches are finished a temporary roof will be placed over them, above which further building operations will be carried on. The choir is already under cover. The organ for the cathedral is now being made in Boston, and when services are begun in the completed part of the temple it will be ready for use. The training of an adequate cathedral choir has been going on for several years in a cathedral choir school which has for its sole object the training of boys with especially good voices.

With its tall columns and vaulted roof the choir is already an impressive sight. The vault is to be lined with an immense mosaic in colors and gold, which is to extend far above the high altar. Viewed from the outside the crossing and choir now so near completion present a most striking appearance. The colossal figures of the twelve apostles recently completed in the studio of Gutzon Borglum give the finishing touch to the ecclesiastical exterior.

These statues are nine and a half feet in height and are placed in concave openings seventy-five feet from the ground. In their treatment they differ materially from the conventional forms. The apostles bear the symbols

by which they are known, but in feature and pose they are unlike the conceptions of the early painters and sculptors. They take the place of those of religious figures, and are an expression of force and ruggedness in the features that is essentially modern.

## Eight Giant Monoliths.

Thus far no part of the work of construction has attracted more attention from visitors than the cutting, transporting and setting into position of the eight pillars which separate the ambulatory from the choir. These giant monoliths were cut in the granite quarries of Vinthaven, Me., and they are reputed to be the largest ever wrought. It cost \$200,000 to get them to Morningside heights and in position. As a basaltic representation of the entire country it is fitting that the material of which it is constructed should be furnished by various parts of the United States. The cream-colored granite of the exterior is taken from the quarries at Peekskill, N. Y. The light buff limestone porphyry of the interior is a stone which lends itself admirably to delicate carving, comes from Minnesota. The stone used chiefly for plain decorative work, not carved, is Jasper.

The cathedral combines some of the best features of the architectural styles which we continue to call Gothic for the want of a better name. The great central spire which will dominate it is a justified and magnified reproduction of the beautiful spire of the university church at Oxford. The imposing western front, surrounded by two noble towers, will recall York and Lincoln. The chevet of chapels, seven in number, which will surround the choir is a characteristic of the splendid cathedrals of northern France and of those of Westminster, Milan, and Toledo. One of these beautiful chapels, St. Saviour's, built by August Belmont in memory of his wife, is about ready for occupancy. In these chapels the various national liturgies are recognized, and they will be dedicated accordingly. The chapel of the Italian rite will be dedicated to St. Ambrose, that of the oriental rite to the Holy Name, that of the Gallican rite to St. Martin, that of the Spanish rite to St. James, that of the Scandinavian rite to St. Andrew, that of the German rite to St. Boniface, that of the British rite to St. Columba.

## Down In The Crypt.

One part of the cathedral is practically finished and has been in use for several years. This is the crypt, and the principal feature of this underground place of worship is the exquisite altar designed by Louis Tiffany and presented to Bishop Potter by Mrs. Wallace of Chicago. This is the most ambitious work in mosaic ever done in this country and cost \$50,000. The body of the late bishop rests in a tomb cut in the solid rock just within the chancel rail.

As the great structure assumes shape the public interest in its completion increases perceptibly. The time has come when many of those who were not in sympathy with Bishop Potter when he laid the cornerstone are enthusiastic converts to the cathedral idea. These far contributions to the building fund have been sufficient to permit the work to go on uninterruptedly, which is an unusual record in cathedral building. The Cologne minister was 400 years in building, but Americans are not endowed with a like patience. It is not at all unlikely that many of those who saw Bishop Potter lay the cornerstone on that chill December day will live to see the completed St. John the Divine.

GEORGE H. PICARD.

# Yuan Shi Kai, Reformer and Builder of New China; The Man Called "Organizer of Future Victories."

**Y**UAN SHI KAI is the master builder of the new world of China. He is the viceroy of the metropolitan province of Chih, which guards the gateways to the capital. Hundreds of thousands of the best classes in the empire have taken up the great viceroy's slogan, "What Japan has done we can do," and it may become a war cry. Through it and by it, so acute an observer as Count Okuma predicts, China at last will come into her own, and by her armies and schools furnish the best guaranty of the permanent peace of the far east.

It takes a long time for the fame of an oriental statesman to reach America. It is possible for a man whose name is on every lip in his own country to be practically unknown in this country outside of official circles. Until the great Li Hung Chang came to the western world we knew him but slightly, and even the charming Mr. Wu was an unknown quantity until he came to represent his government at Washington. Although Yuan Shi Kai is conceded first place among Chinese official reformers by the representatives of foreign powers in the empire, he is little known outside of Asia. While he has actually been in official life for less than thirty years it is only within the last decade that he has become a national figure, and his international reputation is a growth of the last three or four years.

## Not a Court Favorite.

In spite of the popularity which Yuan Shi Kai has won throughout the empire he is not an especial favorite at court. That is because he is such a plain spoken person and not a professed admirer of the empress dowager's policies or even of her poetry. The old empress and Prince Ching are reputed to be exceedingly literary in their tastes, and they are surrounded by a coterie of writers, poets being given the preference. Yuan professes to know nothing at all about letters; his enemies declare that he affects an ignorance which is not precisely genuine. He has offended the dowager by his proposition to reform the Chinese language. As it is constituted at present it is necessary to carry in one's memory some 6,000 ideographs or

picture letters in order to become a scholar. The viceroy would simplify matters by the introduction of a new alphabet of fifty letters by means of which reading may become general in all parts of the empire instead of being monopolized by the privileged few. Yuan Shi Kai's greatest achievement, however, has been the revival of the military spirit in a nation that for the soldier as a social outcast. Formerly the Chinese soldier was saddled with servitude of the most abasing description. The viceroy's first order was, "There must be no more kneeling." The humiliation of soldier as a social outcast was abolished by that one command, and today regiments march through their native provinces with heads erect and chests well forward, proud of the fact that they are the defenders of the nation. From the lowest the profession of soldier has become the most honored in the land. All classes in the empire show the most unbounded enthusiasm over military matters and "Long live our national army!" is heard on all sides.

## Not a Soldier.

Perhaps Yuan Shi Kai is more responsible for this wonderful change of popular sentiment than any other man in the empire. He is not a soldier and never has been one. Until the breaking out of the Boxer trouble he had never seen a repeating rifle. At the time he was viceroy of the province of Shantung, but he was ignorant of any military tactics more effective than those practiced by his own troops, such as "the infuriated tiger charge" and "the stubborn wounded elephant retreat." In those days the viceroy's secretary took command of the troops when his clerical duties were not too pressing. In spite of this inefficient method of warfare Yuan kept the Boxers out of his province. He was also the one man in China who, during the trying months of the foreign occupation, demonstrated his ability to please both the "foreign devils" and his own people.

Moreover, he seems to have been the one man in the empire who kept his eyes open and profited by what he saw at that critical time. From the day on which the armies of the allied pow-



YUAN SHI KAI.

ers paraded the streets of Peking to the present his studies have been on military and kindred subjects. He began by experimenting with army reforms in his own province. He accomplished so much in this direction that in 1905, after the Russo-Japanese war and its instructive lesson of the value of military preparedness, he was appointed chief commissioner of army reorganization and went to work immediately to make military reform general all over the empire. Two years later he turned over to the recently created war department at Peking a foreign drilled army of 100,000 men, not including the reserve battalions.

## Not Wedded to Tradition.

Yuan Shi Kai does not seem to have been born with the deep and unchang-

ing reverence for Chinese traditions which characterizes most of his fellow countrymen. He was a protégé in his early years of the astute Li Hung Chang and owes much of his broadness of view to that great Chinaman. It seems hardly possible to speak of Li Hung Chang as a reformer. He possessed all the vices of the average oriental statesman, but he had a keener political instinct than any of them. He foresaw that his country must throw off its traditional handicaps if it ever rose to a place among the nations, and he was not in the least dominated by superstition. He laughed privately at most of the absurdities interwoven so inextricably in the popular belief.

The ancient custom of foot binding was one of the time honored Chinese abnormalities which Li Hung Chang



THE VICEROY AND THE DANISH CONSUL.

especially detested. He never had the courage to oppose it openly, but he found abundant opportunities to attack it indirectly. One of them was to prompt Yuan Shi Kai in his military reform movement to announce that

women with crippled feet were not fit to become the mothers of soldiers. In the early days, before the profession of a soldier had been transformed from servitude into one of notable distinction, this statement would have

actors are tired he dismisses them and goes to work on pruning and fixing up bits of his play, upon which he may be still engaged long after midnight.

From time out of mind certain devotees of Japan have visited a celebrated temple at Narita twice a year to perform the pious act of fasting within its sacred precincts.

Paper manufactured from the fiber of trees began to be a commercial

failed of its purpose. Coming when it did, it proved to be a great blow to the ancient practice. As a result multitudes of Chinese women have been persuaded to break away from a low, shrouded habit in order that some day their sons may be fit to go into the army. Thus cleverly a fatal blow has been struck against a practice which long years of missionary work were powerless to overthrow.

## Of Ordinary Appearance.

Yuan Shi Kai, the organizer of future victories, as he is termed in China, is not at all distinguished in personal appearance, as was his great teacher, Li Hung Chang. With neither the stature nor the wit of that oriental genius, he has succeeded in accomplishing what Li never had the courage to attempt. To those who see him for the first time the viceroy appears to be only a plodding official, with less propensity to ask questions than is the case with most Chinese statesmen. It is not easy to realize that he is the man who has stirred up his countrymen to prepare against the many dangers that threaten their national existence.

Another thing which this practical man is doing is to make it difficult for foreign capital to find an opportunity for profitable exploitation in the empire. He has already canceled every foreign concession of importance in the country and has given notice that native enterprises will be favored under all circumstances. He is developing the coal and iron deposits in China and in every way he can encouraging home industries. It was Yuan Shi Kai who induced the Peking government to buy out the American syndicate which owned the Hankow-Canton railroad at a cost of 200 per cent on the capital invested. Today this railroad system is exclusively Chinese. More than that, the Han Yan company has been selling six tons to the United States Steel corporation and is now turning out excellent steel cars and first class locomotives.

It took Japan thirty years under foreign tutelage to accomplish what China has done in ten. Small wonder that Okuma, Japan's greatest man of affairs, prophesies that China will presently come into her own!

MORTIMER PATTERSON.

## INTEREST NOTES.

Most ancient languages were innocent of any system of punctuation. In many early manuscripts the letters are placed at equal distances apart, with no connecting link between, even in the matter of spacing, an arrangement which must have rendered reading at sight somewhat difficult. The present system of punctuation was introduced

in the latter part of the fifteenth century by Aldus Manutius, a Venetian printer, who was responsible for our full stop, colon, semicolon, comma, marks of interrogation and exclamation, parenthesis and dash, hyphen, apostrophe and quotation marks.

Peanuts only thrive in a warm climate. The plant requires a limey,

sandy loam and yields from two bushels of pods planted an acre to as much as forty or fifty bushels of pods and two tons of straw. The seed is planted about one inch deep in rows from twenty-eight to thirty-six inches apart and from twelve to sixteen inches in the row.

The council of the Royal College of Surgeons has given permission to Dr. Elliot Smith and Dr. Wood Jones of

the Cairo Medical school to carry out in the museum of the college an examination of a collection of material found during excavations in the Nile valley.

In a reply to charges made by the Social Democratic members of the diet of the German empire that accidents are caused by too long hours of service, Dr. Schulz, president of the railway bureau, said that the accident

statistics showed that much the larger number of accidents occurred not in the later hours of the workmen's day's service, as would be the case if due to overfatigue, but in the earlier hours, when the men were fresh.

David Belasco is the hardest worker of all the American playwrights. It is not an unusual occurrence for him to rehearse a company for ten or twelve hours at a stretch, and then when the

product in 1867, but did not assume great importance until 1890. During the seventeenth year, which have elapsed from that date this branch of paper making has grown to such proportions that it overshadows all others.

Red glass, hasting vegetation, while blue glass suppresses it. Sensitive plants, like the mimosa, grow fifteen times higher under red glass than under blue.