

# Men Who Are In the Limelight

How They Have Succeeded In Making Them-  
selves "the Observed of All Observers"



THE Japanese who is most conspicuously in the public eye at the present moment is Lieutenant General Oku, who has succeeded the late Baron Kodama as chief of staff of the mikado's army. During the Russo-Japanese war Oku commanded the so called "left army" and achieved with it a series of brilliant victories. Two of the most notable of these were won at Nanshan and at Tie pass. But the greatest military exploit that General Oku ever performed was to prevent the Muscovites from relieving the beleaguered garrison at Port Arthur at a critical stage of the siege of that famous Asiatic stronghold.



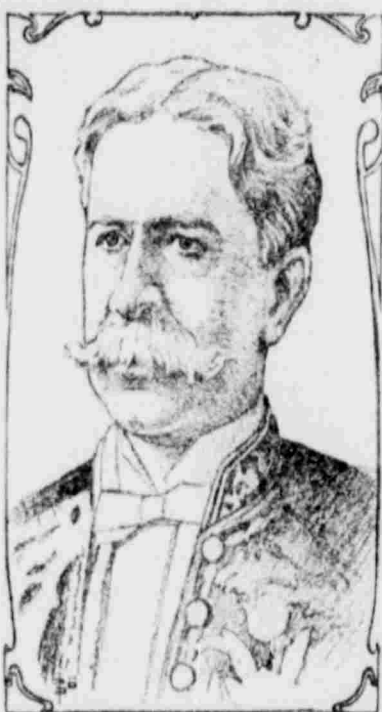
TOM JOHNSON, the millionaire Populist mayor of the Forest City of Ohio, is always an interesting figure in the great game of politics and social reform. Quite recently he has soared into fresh prominence on account of his refusal to obey a mandate of a court which sought to interfere with his street railroad projects. Mr. Johnson is a firm believer in the unerring fidelity of his own opinion, and it takes something more potent than a legal injunction to convince him that he has been mistaken. The mayor was given an opportunity to show that he was guiltless of contempt of court and he established the fact satisfactorily.



RICHARD YATES of Illinois is again in the public eye, especially in his own state. Thus far his political career is a sort of replica of that of his father, the famous "war governor." The younger Richard has also served a term as governor and has been making the effort of his life to secure the nomination for United States senator. Under ordinary circumstances this would not be an unreasonable ambition for a man of his fair political reputation and ability, but it happened that another favorite son of Illinois, Shelby M. Cullom, now a member of the national body, was not yet tired of his job and will remain.



BERNARD N. BAKER of Baltimore has become prominent since the insurance investigation by reason of his connection with the efforts made to protect the policy holders from financial loss. He has been instrumental in the formation of the Mutual Life Policy Holders' association and is now its president. In the struggle to obtain a list of the policy holders of the Mutual Mr. Baker was alone successful, completely distancing the officials of the International Policy Holders' committee, who had exhausted every known resource to compel the insurance officers to furnish the names. Mr. Baker's persistency won.



ANOTHER man who has recently obtained wide publicity by virtue of his position is Dr. Joaquin A. Nabuco, president of the pan-American congress now in session at Rio de Janeiro. He is not only a statesman and diplomat of the first rank in South American politics, but he is also a noted scholar and author. The president of a pan-American congress is chosen from the country in which it is held, and Brazil's first choice was Dr. Nabuco. He was the first ambassador from Brazil to the United States and has many warm friends in Washington. He has also been minister to the court of St. James.



A MAN who stands at the head of his specialty and who is likely to attract additional attention from his connection with a recent sensational event in New York city is Dr. Allan McLane Hamilton, the renowned alienist. He is regarded as an authority in all cases involving the question of a diseased mental apparatus, and his services as a qualified expert are in almost constant demand all over the country. He is also conceded to be one of the ablest interpreters of medical jurisprudence in the world. Dr. Hamilton has written several books and many valuable monographs on his favorite study.



THE American soldier who has come into especial notice recently is Brigadier General Thomas H. Barry, assistant chief of staff. He has signed an order which is likely to effect a considerable change in military matters. This order, which is by command of the secretary of war, creates a new artillery corps armed with automatic machine guns of the most modern pattern. This weapon is the very latest development of the machine gun, the first type being the Gatling, the second the mitrailleuse and the third the Maxim. General Barry will witness the maneuvers of the German army at field work Sept. 7 to Sept. 13.

## The Progress of Ostrich Breeding For Profit In the United States; Arizona Has Been Found to Be the Ideal Location For the Industry

RECENT official reports coming to Washington show that the industry of ostrich farming has been making great strides in development. It seems that the unfortunate experience of pioneer breeders, who were called upon to pay dearly for their lack of knowledge of the subject, has been avoided by those who have gone into the business in recent years. Those now engaged in breeding the birds have profited largely by the mistakes of their predecessors in the business, and the reports show that the industry is now in excellent shape for further exploitation.

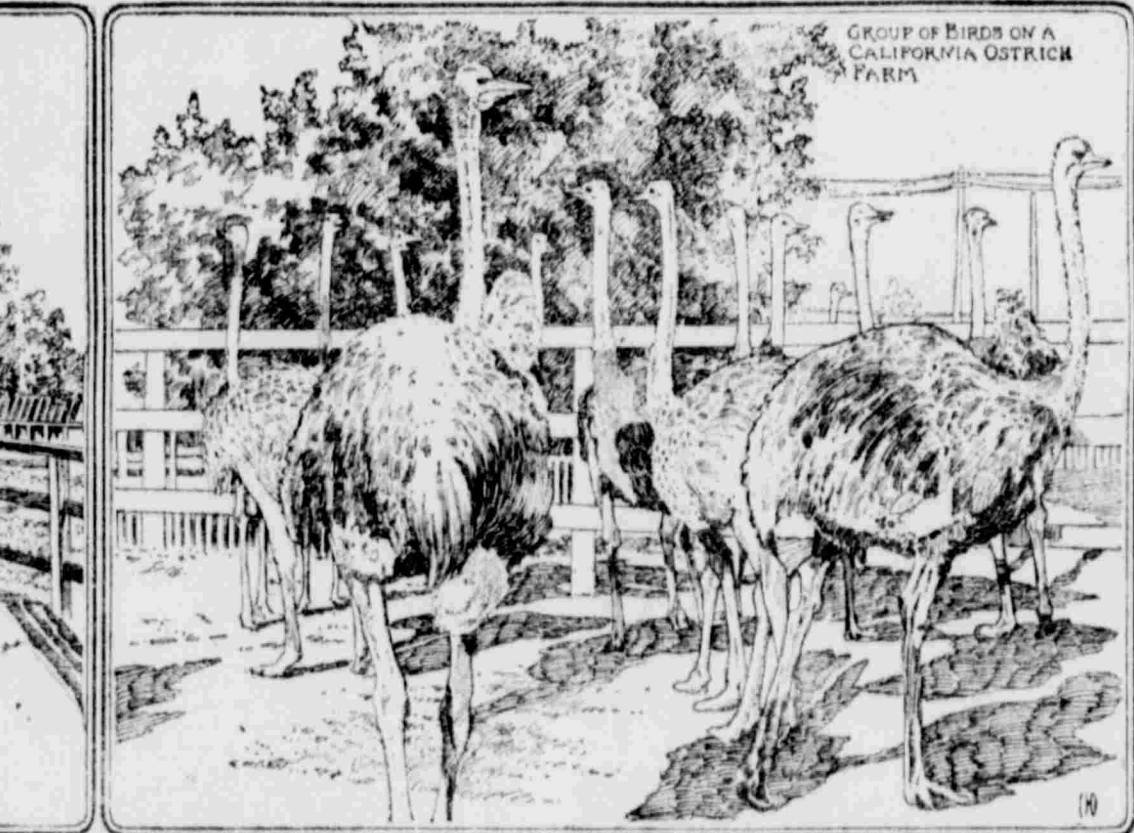
The first ostrich farm in America was started twenty-three years ago. From the first moment of its inception the enterprise was brought face to face with all sorts of discouragement. Edwin Cavston, the pioneer ostrich farmer in America, had no end of trouble in getting the first installment of birds into the country. He collected fifty-two birds in South Africa, and when he tried to ship them he was confronted with an export tax of \$500 for each bird, and that, of course, made his scheme impracticable. Finally, however, after long delay and misadventures that would have disheartened a less persistent man, he chartered a sailing ship and made the voyage from Natal in company with fifty-two seacick ostriches.

Forty-two birds survived the voyage. They were given the most careful attention, but they did not take kindly to the new home in California. Their spirits drooped, and one after another they died, and their progeny, however, formed the real beginning of ostrich farming in California. It has been found that more than half the number of ostriches in the country at the present time are the offspring of a single pair obtained to start a farm in Arizona in 1891. That territory is believed now to be the best section of the United States for ostrich farming, al-



though some quite successful ventures have been made in California, Arkansas and Florida. In the Salt river valley of Arizona conditions seem to be more favorable for the health of the ostrich than elsewhere on the continent.

There is no other variety of live stock bred in the United States which commands a better market than the ostrich. Until quite recently the bird has been considered valuable only for the feathers it produces. Lately, however, it has been shown pretty conclusively that ostrich breeding might



be made profitable without the feathers. It is believed that the bird would yield a satisfactory revenue as an egg producer. Ostrich eggs, it is claimed by those who have eaten them, are superior in delicacy of flavor to the product of the barnyard fowl. A single ostrich egg is the equivalent in substance of two and a half dozen of those of the ordinary domestic fowl. It is also interesting to learn that it is nothing especially unusual for the mammoth bird to produce more than 300 pounds of egg food in a single year.

Returning to the feather phase of the industry, it is not difficult to figure an immense profit. Each bird yields annually a pound and a half of feathers, which now command an average price of \$30 a pound. These find a ready market. Unlike any other species of poultry raised for profit, the ostrich keeps increasing in value as the years go by. It lives for one decade after another, all the time producing annual crops of feathers, eggs and progeny. There are no authentic data as to the extreme longevity of the bird, but it is

believed to live for a century under favorable conditions. Specimens that have been kept in captivity for forty years are still breeding and producing the annual feather crop. It has been found that an acre of alfalfa will furnish sufficient forage for four full grown birds. It will also provide them with the requisite living space. That means a return of \$120 per annum from a flock of four from feathers alone. There must also be taken into the calculation the constantly increasing value of the bird. An



ostrich chick six months of age has a market value of \$100. Each subsequent few years adds a further value of about \$100, so that at the age of four years, when they pair, a male and female are worth upward of \$300.

Thus far American grown ostrich feathers have not commanded the fancy prices put on those coming from South Africa. The London market still dominates the world's feather trade, and that accounts in part for the discrimination against American grown plumes. Imported ostrich feathers cost

this country about \$2,300,000 a year. At the present time the most valuable kinds, known as "white primes" and "blood" feathers, sell for \$146 a pound in the London market. By the time they reach America they have acquired a value of \$170 a pound.

Experts declare that American grown ostrich feathers are equal in appearance to those coming from Africa, and it is a fact that they are even broader and more symmetrical. Against this, however, the London authorities oppose the contention that feathers grown in captivity are not so strong as those from wild ostriches; that they do not endure the dyeing process as well as the others and that they do not withstand weather and hard treatment like the African product. In spite of this claim there are those who see in it only the manifestation of unfair commercialism and maintain that if there is any actual difference between the goods in question it is in favor of the American product. Time and the growth of the industry will bring about a change.

The value of the feathers is so great that extreme care is observed in plucking them. The tail feathers and one row of the largest quill feathers in the wings are cut with a pair of pruning shears. The remaining two or three rows in the wings are drawn by hand. The bird is ready for plucking when at the age of six months, and the operation is repeated at intervals of about eight months. The feathers are assorted carefully, those of equal length being tied together and sent to a grading table with suitable compartments to contain the many grades and lengths taken from the various birds. Those of the female are also valuable, and they are separated and assorted carefully. The female bird, however, yields few available feathers. Her most creditable performance is the annual production of about thirty-five chicks of the value, as soon as they emerge from the shell, of \$20 each.

C. B. MEADE.

## Samuel Gompers, One of America's Most Intellectual Labor Leaders

WHENEVER Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, speaks ex cathedra, as it were, most of us listen respectfully. That has come to be the attitude of the better part of the American public toward this man and the thing that he represents. An experience of a good many years' duration has taught us that Mr. Gompers is not overfond of the sound of his own voice; that the man who has been elected to his present position no less than twenty-three times speaks only when he has something to say.

He has spoken recently and to the point. He is convinced that those who object to labor going into politics as a class and seeking legislation which will do something special for wage earners are distinguished from other citizens are not sincere, and he says so. For answer to such an objection he points to the success which has attended such action in Great Britain and asks what are the lessons to be learned from that movement. And, he it noted, when Samuel Gompers asks a question it requires a liberal expenditure of intellectual force to answer it.

Those who have had occasion to meet this labor leader in an intellectual bout are the star witnesses to his mental readiness. His aliveness is almost phenomenal. In this respect he is suggestive of John Burns, the ablest among British labor leaders, and he has shown himself to be possessed of quite as much prudence, unerring judgment and the capacity to weigh issues. That he stands alone in this country as the man best qualified to direct the manifold

interests of labor has come to be the common belief of those most interested. His twenty-three terms as labor's executive are abundant proof of that.

Samuel Gompers was born in London in the winter of 1850. His parents were a recently married Hebrew couple who had crossed over from Holland to seek their fortune in the great British metropolis. When he was eleven years of age he was apprenticed to a shoemaker, but it soon became evident that he had no taste for the business and his father taught him his own trade, that of cigarmaker. The boy was bookish and managed to obtain a fair education in the night schools. When he was about thirteen he came with his parents to the United States and went to work at his trade in the city of New York.

When he had been in this country a little over a year the Cigarmakers' International union came into being, and young Gompers was ready for it. The organization, of which he is still a member, now numbers upward of 30,000, and his membership card proclaims him No. 1. His fellow unionists recognized his ability immediately and in spite of his youth he became a leader in the new organization from the first. He was always the most prominent member of his local union and began going to the international meetings when he was a mere lad.

By 1882, the year in which the Federation of Labor was started, Mr. Gompers had become one of the most prominent labor leaders in America. He was sent regularly as delegate to the international body of his trade union and was once vice president of the or-



SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

ganization. He had been president of the New York Workingmen's assembly twice and had served two terms as president of the old Federation of Trades and Labor unions. He was the absolute representative of his trade in labor councils and from an inconspicuous and unimportant branch the cigarmakers became leaders in all labor agitation. It was the personality of Samuel Gompers' unimpaired and making potent one of the most singularly unintellectual trade unions in existence.

Mr. Gompers was a man to be consulted. Politicians of all parties began to find him exceedingly interesting. Party leaders and those who had hopes of becoming such made haste to cultivate him. His ability was so generally admitted that it might have turned the head of a man of smaller caliber. But Mr. Gompers accepted it all as a matter of course and let it go at that. The governor offered to make him a member of the state board of arbitration of New York with a salary of \$3,000 per annum. At the time the labor leader was making only about \$1,000 a year at his trade, but he declined the flattering proposition. He knew that it would destroy his influence in labor circles.

But for a man of Samuel Gompers' caliber it was not enough to be at the head of a single trade organization. At the age of thirty-two he had so mastered the problem of organized labor that he felt impelled to take a great step forward. After a careful survey of the field and numerous consultations with those committed to the same cause he evolved the scheme of the Federation of Labor, becoming its first president.

With the exception of a single year he has remained at the head of the great organization until the present time. No man prominent among the organizers of labor has led its exacting and tumultuous following for so long a period, through such a series of vicissitudes and with such infrequent disasters. The present generation has seen the rise and fall of many a man who aspired to be a leader of labor. Poorly, once supreme in the councils of his organization, went down with the ruins of his society. Arthur did not succeed in maintaining a firm hold of his cohorts. Debs came in time to have a divided following. Sovereign was unequal to the emergency. Gompers alone has endured and has accumulated strength as the years have sped.

Gompers has a profound admiration for the system of law by which the American nation is governed. He has had to deal with men whose of whom have no conception whatever of American institutions, but he has never for a moment been led into any conflict with the hosts of law and order. He believes that the constitution as it stands is sufficient; that it may be so modified by statute and that without the agency of strike, boycott or even tacit resistance to the purposes of employers, that all industrial wrongs may be righted.

It is through legislation that Samuel Gompers expects to see the chief causes of industrial unrest removed. He believes that it is possible for legislation to make unhealthy combinations of capital impossible.

JAMES R. BENTLEY.

### THE WIDE WORLD.

A man named Giuseppe Rouchi, seventy years of age, who has been admitted into the hospital of Novaro, Italy, possesses a beard which measures nearly a yard and a half and reaches to his feet.

A curious fact is brought out in the official correspondence regarding the recent disturbances in British Guiana.

It appears that some of the women arrested in the course of the riots were sentenced to have their hair cut. This is a legal punishment in the colony, but the earl of Elgin has intimated that women are not again to be punished in this manner.

The people of the United States are the greatest readers of fiction.

public libraries contain 15,000,000 volumes, and 90 per cent of all the volumes lent out are fiction.

The married and unmarried women of the United States of Colombia, South America, are designated by the manner in which they wear flowers in their hair, the former wearing them on the right side and the latter on the left.

Two English churches possess trees growing within their walls. One is at Ross, the other at Kempsey, in Worcester. The latter tree is well developed and grows from the tomb of Sir Edmund Wilde, which stands on the left side of the chancel.

Bakers in France are subjected to several unusual rules and regulations. In large fortified towns, for instance, they must always have a certain stock on hand in case of war. Not only this, but everywhere they have to deposit

a sum of money in the hands of the municipal authorities as a surety of good conduct, and the law, not content with merely looking after their weights and measures, actually decides the price at which bread is sold.

Germany is the largest producer of potatoes in the world, growing as high as 48,000,000 tons in one year.

While demolishing the steeple of a church at Wilkesbarre, Pa., workmen

found their entrance barred by birds' nests weighing 150 tons. The mass of nesting material was so great that the trap-door into the steeple could not be opened. Carpenters had to cut a way in from the outside.

Among the 42,390 students at Germany's universities at present there are 2,555 foreigners.

The first international athletic contest under recognized rules governing

amateur athletics was in New York in 1880. There were eleven events, and the Americans won them all.

A ray of light, it is said, could move eight times around the globe between the ticks of a watch.

To protect an invention all over the world it is necessary to take out sixty-four patents in as many different countries, the estimated cost of which is \$2,500.