

The Naval Strongholds of Russia, Korea and Japan

There is no way in the world of the Pacific on the western shores of the Pacific more distinctly shown than in the preparation of harbor, the building of port cities, the construction of docking facilities, thus allowing more and more freedom of entry to the vessels of foreign nations. This is especially true of the ports of Japan and Korea and those in China. Japan and Korea have been effected through the instrumentality of Japan, as Korea is practically under Japanese control.

The primary cause of this renewed activity is deeper than appears to be a mere superficial view. It is not less than the arousing of the spirit after a long slumber. The tide of life which swept across the American continent did not stop at its shores, but the impulse moved on across the Pacific. Coincident with this progress came another movement of the world, eastward from Europe, passing through India from Great Britain through India to the south and on the eastern coast of Asia, resulting in the new life manifest in Japan, eastern China, Korea and elsewhere. As a result of this movement, and in turn becoming a secondary cause, to accelerate it, came the struggle for supremacy between Russia and Japan. This struggle, which has been going on for years, is in the very nature of the case, a struggle for the control of the sea, and whatever the mere incidental developments attendant upon that contest.

For this reason, these ports in the far east become points of interest not only as evidences of oriental progress, but yet for their mere importance as ports to the commerce of America and Europe, but even more for their strategic value in the conflict between the mikado and the czar for supremacy in the east.

The harbor of greatest importance in such a play for position are those about the Yellow sea, Korea bay and the gulf of Pechili, to which must be added, of course, the purely Japanese and Russian ports. There is really but one exclusively Russian port to be taken into account, and that is Vladivostok. Not because of the difficulty of reaching them and the splendid navy and strong coast defenses of Japan and the eastern Japanese coast ports be considered. Yokohama, both the chief harbor and metropolis of the kingdom, which by its position protects Tokyo, the capital, is not only shielded by its location on the eastern coast, but is in a landlocked bay that could easily be rendered impossible of entrance in time of war.

Second only to Yokohama, and in some regards not second to that, is Nagasaki. Here are located the great harbors where a large portion of Japan's well equipped and modern vessels are built. The docking facilities are first class, there being two docks of granite. The harbor is said to resemble a smaller scale of that of New York, except that it is more beautiful. It is at the head of a short inlet, surrounded by richly colored hills and mountains. The architecture of the city is in harmony with the picturesque natural environment.

Nagasaki is the fastest coaling station in the world. This enhances its value as a naval base and, taken with its shipyards and its position on the eastern coast, renders it easily the most important port in the kingdom in time of war. While not in such an

impregnable position as Yokohama, Nagasaki is yet an admirable position for defense. In fact, because of the mountainous character of the country and the consequent precipitous cliffs and broken shore lines all the seaboard cities of Japan are well protected from attack either by land or sea. Among the strong natural features that lend themselves to the aid of Nagasaki are the narrow straits through which the harbor proper must be reached. At the mouth of the inlet is the famous Paganberg island, which on one side is a

On the extreme south, situated on a narrow bay, is another city of some importance that might become a point of attack. This is Kogoshima, that many years ago was bombarded and burned by a British squadron. Other cities of some size on the west coast or its bays and inlets are Kumamoto, east of Nagasaki; Fukuoka, a short distance north of Nagasaki; Akamagasaki, across a strait and on the island north; Takatsu, just west of Hiroshima; Kanazawa, considerably northeast; Toyama, near Kanazawa; Niigata, still farther

only because of its commanding position. On the two little islands of Tsushima are two ports, Hizen and Sasebo, insignificant in size, but of great value to Japan in commanding the entrance into the real theater of the conflict. Still more important, however, than any of the smaller ports of Japan in commanding this channel are the harbors of Fusan and Masampo in Korea. Fusan is the chief seaport of the southeastern portion of this kingdom. It is situated chiefly on Deer island,

the seaports Fusan and her little neighbor, Masampo, because of their position are most coveted by both parties to the conflict. Fusan only has about 5,000 native population, but there are at least twice that number of foreign residents, nearly all of whom are Japanese. Masampo is very much smaller, containing only a few hundred inhabitants, and most of these, again, are Japanese. Because the town is on the mainland, however, and at the head of an inlet that is in an ideal situation from a na-

Japs, who control most of the banks and industries of the place. Chemulpo is on the west coast of Korea and is the natural point of attack for a foe seeking to invade the country. Other Korean ports are Gwensan, on the east coast; Wonsan, south of Chemulpo, and a place of considerable size; Mokpo, still farther south; Chinnampo, a city of 15,000 north of Chemulpo, and Yongsampo, near the Yalu river, the boundary line on the northwest. It was this last named place that was once the cause of one of the many mis-

deciding point in the war between Japan and China was the taking of Port Arthur by the Japanese. When peace was negotiated Japan claimed Port Arthur. Russia had long cast longing eyes in that direction herself, however, and entered protest. The matter ended by the czar taking Port Arthur for himself, although leaving it nominally under Chinese control. Japan has never recovered from the bitterness engendered by that act, and one of her most cherished ambitions is to be able some day to wrest Port Arthur from the Russian.

The chief object of the czar's government in seeking this harbor that has been called "the key to the orient" was that it might have a vantage ground for the inevitable struggle for eastern control. Vladivostok is not entirely satisfactory, as during part of the year it is locked in ice. Besides, its position is not so strong from a strategic standpoint as that of Port Arthur. This city has had many other appellations, among which is "the Gibraltar of Asia." Of course it is a habit of some writers to term almost any sort of a fort a Gibraltar until in the war literature of the day there are Gibralters strung all around the world. Port Arthur, however, is really entitled to the name, for it is apparently impregnable. Looked at from the sea, it also bears a certain physical resemblance to the famous fortress at the entrance of the Mediterranean. The natural features surrounding it therefore render it well nigh invincible, and in addition to these Russia has spent millions of dollars in improving and fortifying it.

Intimately connected with Port Arthur, in fact, forming part of the scheme of its defense—is the port of Dalny. This is nominally a free port, open alike to all the nations of the world, but in reality it is Russian. It is on the coast of Manchuria, only thirty-five miles from Port Arthur, and was especially built at the command of the Russian government. The order for construction was given in 1893, and the port was opened for entry in December, 1901.

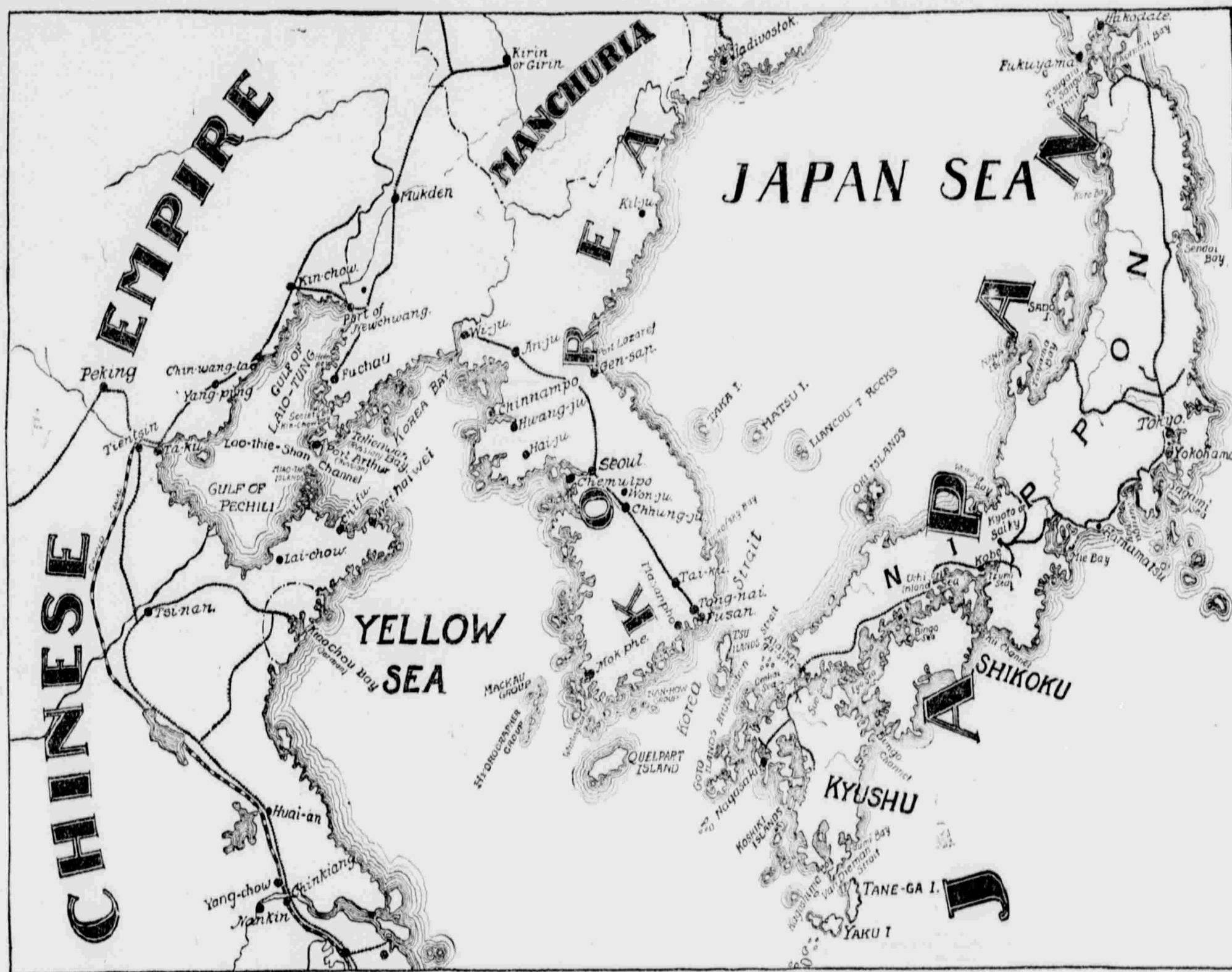
Dalny is the southern terminal of the great Transiberian railway that formerly ended at Vladivostok. It is thus connected by rail with Port Arthur. It is one of the finest deep water harbors on the Pacific.

From the position of this port, rather than Port Arthur, would probably be the objective of an attack, for Port Arthur in the event of the fall of Dalny could be approached from the land side with much more hope of success than could be afforded by an approach from the sea.

The city about the harbor, which can be said to have literally "sprung up in a night," now consists of over 50,000 population, for the most part Chinese, Japanese, Koreans and Russians. Over 20,000 men are employed in constructing the docks and piers and similar government works, so that Dalny is one of the busiest places in the orient.

The only other considerable Russian port in this part of the world is Vladivostok, which is far to the north of Port Arthur and Dalny and is only reached by water by passing around Korea and through channels in dangerous proximity to Japan. The meaning of the Russian name is "dominion of the east." The harbor lies at the head of an inlet and is strongly fortified. Originally Vladivostok was practically closed during nearly four months of the year by ice, but recently the Russian government is introducing great "ice breakers" that will go far in the direction of eliminating this difficulty.

There are many important Chinese ports about the Yellow sea that are of undoubted importance as strategic points. Chief of these, perhaps, is Weihaiwei, which is under British influence. ARTHUR Q. FETZEL.



sheer face of rock 500 feet in height. It was down this cliff that 2,000 Christians were once thrown. But this was in the old days before Japan had been "Americanized." The Japs are not exactly Christians yet, but they have at least abandoned the diversion of tossing those who are Christians down a 500 foot rock into the sea.

There are several other Japanese ports of considerable importance, but they are nearly all on the eastern coast or on the straits leading thereto. Among these the most important are Hakodate, Tokushima, Kobe, Kochi and Hiroshima.

to the northeast and almost due west of Yokohama; Akita, a small town near the north end of the same island, and Otaru, on the northern island. None of these, excepting Fukuoka and Akamagasaki, are important strategic points, however, and their destruction would involve little outside of themselves.

Fukuoka is situated on the Kuroshio channel, which, with the Broughton channel, forms the only passage-way from the north into the Yellow sea. Akamagasaki likewise lies on this channel, as does Tsushima, an island situated in the Korea strait. None of these points is important in itself, but

with a number of other islands round about, on one of which is a Japanese settlement of some proportions. All Korea, in fact, and especially this portion, is under Japanese influence, isolated with Japanese ideas and sympathies and actually settled in greater or less degree by Japanese people. For this reason in any trouble that Japan might have with any foreign power Korea would be a bone of contention and would probably become one of the theaters of war. This is all the more true with Russia the opposing nation, as she has for years cast longing eyes in the direction of the small and almost defenseless nation of Korea. And of all

val viewpoint and for the further reason that it commands Fusan it is the most important strategic position. With a Japanese army and naval squadron occupying the town and harbor of Masampo and with other Japanese forces at Tsushima and Akamagasaki, which are on Japanese territory, the soldiers and sailors of the mikado would control the entrance into the Yellow sea and the disputed territory.

Chemulpo is the chief port of Korea and the terminus of the Japanese railroad from Seoul, the capital city. From a few fishermen's huts twenty years ago it has grown into a city of over 20,000. Nearly 5,000 of these are

understandings between Russia and Japan. The government of the czar claimed larger concessions at the port than the Koreans said they had agreed to or were willing to give. Japan stepped in, and diplomatic wranglings ensued that served to add to the ill feeling between the two countries.

The two ports in all this territory that have chief interest to the outside world are Port Arthur and Dalny. Port Arthur is really a Chinese city, but in the Russian sphere of influence. Connected with this fact is another of the reasons for the enmity between the governments of the mikado and the czar. It will be remembered that the

William Howard Taft, the New Secretary of War

THE statement once made of a certain class of federal officials that "few did and none resign" does not apply to William H. Taft, the successor of Elihu Root as secretary of war. He already has in his credit nine resignations besides two or three declinations. Notwithstanding this fact, he has been almost constantly in public office since he graduated from law school at the age of twenty-three.

Judge Taft comes of a distinguished family, his father, Alonzo P. Taft, having been attorney general and afterward secretary of war in the cabinet of President Grant, so that the son comes to the same portfolio once held by the father.

It is said that the young man got his start in life by licking an editor who had vilified the elder Taft. Whether or not this was the beginning of the rise in the Taft fortunes, it is a fact that the editor was so thoroughly whipped that he went to a hospital and suspended the publication of his paper. It is also a fact that the incident made the future Philippine governor the hero of the hour in Cincinnati, his home city. The article had been particularly scurrilous, involving the mother as well as the father, so that the pugilistic proclivities of the then new Yale graduate should not be counted against him.

Two other distinguished members of the Taft family are the brothers of the secretary. Henry W. Taft, a distinguished lawyer of New York city, and Charles P. Taft, former congressman and present editor of the Cincinnati Times-Star.

It should be set down to the credit of young Taft that he did not attempt to "rise" in the role of "son of his father," but strove out for himself and soon emerged from the shadow of inherited greatness—emerged so far, in fact, that he cast the paternal fame into eclipse by a greater fame of his own; so that, like his early athletic exhibition, his distinguished ancestry should not be held to his discredit.

There has seemed to attend this man from the very beginning of his career the singular good fortune that some-

times marks "men of destiny." Is it that he, too, is marked out in some peculiar manner for greater things? He received the second honor of his class at college. The first year after he was out of law school he was made assistant prosecutor of Hamilton, then the largest county of Ohio. This he resigned the following year to take a federal appointment as internal revenue collector, from which he resigned in another year to enter the practice of law. After four years, during the latter part of which time he was assistant county solicitor, Governor Foraker appointed the young attorney to the bench of the superior court, thus necessitating another resignation. While still holding this office the following year, he in turn resigned from this position to become solicitor general of the United States under President Harrison. A few years later came another resignation, this time to accept an appointment as judge of the newly created United States circuit court of appeals. While still holding this office in 1894 Judge Taft was made dean and lecturer in the Cincinnati Law school, from which he had graduated sixteen years before. In 1900 both the professorship and judgeship were relinquished for the presidency of the newly formed Philippine commission, and a year later this office was also resigned to allow its occupant to accept the first civil governorship of the Philippine Islands. Then one more chapter was added to the book of resignations in order that Governor Taft might go to the portfolio of war. But even this does not end the list. When Justice Shiras retired from the supreme court of the United States the vacant place was later to be filled by Judge Taft, although it had been his life ambition to occupy a place in the first court of his land, declined it because he did not consider his work in the Philippines completed. Nor is this all. It was reported throughout the newspapers of the country and never denied that Senator Hanna, then the supreme power in Ohio, had vainly urged Judge Taft to come home and accept the governorship of that state. The record is not yet completed, although the next item cannot be classed as a declination, at least so far as the public knows. When some years ago there was a vacancy in the presidency of Yale, Judge Taft's



WILLIAM H. TAFT.

alma mater. It was published broadcast throughout the land that the distinguished jurist would probably be selected to fill it. This rumor was suddenly hushed, however, and Arthur Twining Hadley, the present head of that great university, was chosen.

In all of the positions that he has occupied, so widely divergent in their character and requirements, William Howard Taft has acquitted himself with signal success. As a judge his ability was everywhere recognized. As an executive he has won praise even from his political enemies.

It was a sacrifice to him to go to the Philippines—a sacrifice in his inclinations, which were all for the bench; a sacrifice to his health, for he was warned by physicians against the climate, a warning that his continued ill health has shown to be well founded; a sacrifice financially; and even a sacrifice to his private opinions for it has never been denied that he was at first opposed to the United States occupancy of the Philippine Islands. But, having been convinced that it was really a duty to accept the unwelcome task, Judge Taft obeyed orders like a soldier.

It was said by no less a man than President Roosevelt that Governor Taft was doing a more important work in the Philippines than that of either Cive or Hastings in India. It is a sincere tribute to the manner in which that work has been carried forward that through all the storms that have raged over our policy in holding those islands there has never been a syllable derogatory to their governor or a word that expressed other than commendation of the kindly and tactful manner in which he met the hard and often distasteful duties of a trying position. To bring about peace was the keynote of his policy as governor, and to do this he even went so far as to clash with the military authorities in the effort to withdraw the troops wherever it could safely be done. He strove to understand the Filipino character, to allay irritation and to give to the natives as large a measure of self government as he thought them capable of administering. Whatever the result of the relations between the United States and her dependencies, it is certain that at least one effect has grown out of his efforts, and this is that Governor Taft

is loved quite as heartily and universally on that side of the water as he is admired and respected on this. And, after all, the man that can inspire the love of those over whom he is placed is the great ruler.

What may be the future of this truly able and conscientious man? Who can tell? Already he is being spoken of as a presidential candidate in 1908. Whether or not this is for him will depend in a large degree, of course, upon the manner in which he measures up to the duties of secretary of war. There is no more difficult position under the president or one in which its occupant can more easily arouse criticism. One of the chief duties of the post is to supervise the government of the Philippines and Porto Rico, and for this work Mr. Taft comes especially prepared.

Under the new law relating to the general staff Secretary Taft will virtually be the commander of the army, the first time in the history of the government that this responsibility has so directly rested on the man who has held the portfolio of war. One thing is assured—that no one ever came to the position that had a better opportunity or that possessed in a more eminent degree the well wishes of all parties and all Americans for his success.

Judge Taft is only forty-six years of age. He is a man of large physique, weighs over 250 pounds. He has a big brain, quick sympathies, a kindly manner and possesses to an unusual degree those many qualities that make men popular. He is literary and artistic in his tastes, a scholar as well as a man of affairs. Perhaps the most distinguishing characteristic about him is that he is so well rounded. Yes, there is no other quality even more marked—he is always and everywhere a gentleman.

WALLACE O. WILCOXSON.

INDIA'S POVERTY.

The average annual income of the people of India, it is stated, is \$10 only, while the taxation is nearly 12 cents on the dollar. Official statistics also show that the income of the agricultural laborer in average Indian districts is from a dollar to \$2 a month, and with that income the poor man has to support himself as well as his wife and children.

schools, especially those containing cheap candies.

The caper of commerce is the pickled flower bud of a shrub that grows in waste places of southern Europe. Marcellus alone exports about \$5,000 worth per year to the United States.

After the completion of the Simplon tunnel trains will run from Paris to Milan in fifteen hours. It is expected that the tunnel will be finished by December, 1905, four months earlier than the time limit.

JOTTINGS FROM HERE AND THERE.

The output of coal in India has increased sixfold since 1880. It now exceeds 6,000,000 tons a year, and the supply is considered practically inexhaustible.

Due to the clearness of the air conversation in the arctic regions can be carried on quite easily by persons two miles apart.

The diversity of tongues to be found in one country is often a matter of sur-

prise. Last year the Bible society's agents sold the Scriptures in fifty-three languages in the Russian empire, in twenty-eight languages in Burma, in thirty in South Malaysia and fifty-three in the Egyptian empire.

The largest casting ever made, it is claimed, is an engine bed for the Lackawanna Steel company of a buffalo recently produced at Youngstown, O. It is 33 feet 5 inches long, 12 feet 1 1/2 in-

ches wide and weighs seventy-five tons. The companion casting of the pair weighs sixty-two tons. The bottom of the mold was loam, sides and cope dry sand.

The railway companies of England and Wales employ between them 312,000 men. The Scotch and Irish companies employ 40,000 men. The railways of the world give employment to something like 6,000,000 persons.

The largest ash holder in the world is said to be that at Greenwich, England,

and it is one of the landmarks observed by every one while sailing up the Thames. It is built in six sections and can hold 12,000,000 cubic feet of gas.

The king of Kano in central Africa must be an uncomfortable monarch to know. Any one who pays a call on him is obliged to take off not only shoes, but socks or stockings, and to approach his majesty with head bowed to the ground.

M. Richard, a town counselor of Le Mans, France, recently proposed that

as many trees should be planted along an avenue of the town as there were councilors "to prove that they had at least done something."

Rome is 2,681 years old, Marcellus claims to be 2,599 years old, and Cassel, in Prussia, 1,999.

The Eskimos never wash. Each layer of dirt and seal oil is an extra protection against the cold.

It is estimated that, while there are 50,000,000 Mohammedans in India and about 7,000,000 Buddhists, also a small

number of Parsees, there are three-fourths of the total population which adhere to the Hindu faith.

The Victorian churches of Christ, Christian Endeavor union, Australia, have now sixteen metropolitan and three county societies. The aim of the union is to have a society in every church in Victoria.

The Prussian minister of public instruction has issued a notice to teachers urging them to oppose the placing of nickel in the slot machines near