

odists, and both churches are doing excellent work. In addition to these the French Catholics and the Church of England have a number of missionaries, and the Methodists have a Korean school or college, under the charge of the Rev. H. G. Appenzeller. I paid some attention to mission work during the tour which I made through Japan, China and Corea last summer. I found the missionaries hard-working, earnest men, and they are doing a vast deal of good, though the masses upon whom they have to work are so many and the missionaries so few that there is not as rapid progress as might be otherwise. There are mission stations scattered throughout the Chinese empire, and there are now 1,296 missionaries at work in that country. They claim that they have 40,000 Chinese who are regular communicants, and the increase has been rapid within late years. It is eighty-six years since Protestant missions were started in China, and the chief work has been done during the last thirty-five years, at the beginning of which there were only six communicants. One of the friends of the missions claims that if the same advance continues during the next thirty-five years there will be 26,000,000 Protestant communicants in China, and a Christian community of one hundred million people. As for me, I very much doubt this estimate. There is a great mission work going on in Japan, and Japan is the paradise of the missionary. He is allowed to do as he pleases, and the people are more easily converted. Some of the best work of the missionaries is through their hospitals, which are very much needed, and which are now thoroughly appreciated by the Asiatics. The work in this line has been improving every year, and the man who tells you that the missionaries are not doing anything in Asia has not, as a rule, been inside of a missionary's house nor looked at all into the real work which they are attempting to accomplish.

OUR DIPLOMATS IN JAPAN.

Japan is now considered quite as desirable a country by our diplomatic agents as England or the continent. The salaries of the consuls are high and our diplomats live much better in Japan than they do in Europe. Nearly every one of them has a large establishment, with plenty of servants, and they are, as a rule, of a higher grade than those appointed to the big cities of Europe. The consul general at Yokohama is one of the ablest men who has ever been sent abroad in that capacity. His name is Nicholas W. McIvor, and he is an Iowa man of about forty years of age. He is a fine lawyer, and is a graduate of Yale College. Packed with common sense and a man of business ability, he is making a very successful consul general. The vice consul general is Mr. George H. Scidmore, who has been for years connected with the service and who has considerable diplomatic ability. At Osaka and Hiogo, the great commercial centers of western Japan, the United States is represented by Enoch J. Smithers, who has been connected with our diplomatic service for a quarter of a century and who did good work at Shanghai and Tien-Tsin. At Nagasaki we have W. H. Abrombie, a rich American, who has one of the finest houses in the far east and who is a man of culture and brains.

THE LEGATION AT TOKYO.

The consuls, however, have to do only with the business interests of the country and with the furthering of American trade. All matters connected with this war are left to the legation at Tokyo, and this is in a better condition today than it has been for years. The minister is Mr. Edwin Dun, a relative of Senator Thurman and a man well fitted to deal with the Japanese, from his residence of many years in the country. He speaks the Japanese as well as he does the English, and he has an intimate personal friendship with the greatest of the Japanese statesmen. He is a big, broad-shouldered, red-headed man of about forty-five. He is a thorough American, and he has the nerve to demand and the diplomacy necessary to secure the best results for our people in the far east. In the past the Germans and the English have systematically bulldozed Japan into giving contracts and favors to them at the expense of the United States; but under the present regime we are likely to get our own share of everything, and it will take more than the average diplomat, either Japanese or European, to pull the wool over Edwin's red eyebrows. The position of minister to Japan is now worth about thirty five thousand dollars a year in silver. The minister has a fine, modern home in Tokyo, and he lives within a stone's throw of half a dozen Japanese nobles and princes. In addition to Mr. Dun, the legation consists of a secretary, a young man named Herod, who is as bright as a dollar and who did good service in Corea before he came to Japan; of Dr. Whitney, who has for years been the interpreter of the legation and who speaks Japanese like a native, and also of Lieut. Michael J. O'Brien, the military attache.

In my next letter I will treat of our diplomats in China and of our other foreigners in Asia.

Frank G. Carpenter

THE INQUEST AND VERDICT.

ALMY, Ulata, Wyo., March 8, 1895. A coroner's inquest has been held in the Temple of Honor hall over the victims of the C. P. No. 5 mine fire-damp explosion. The jury, impaneled by Mr. William Cashen, coroner, were James Bowns, foreman, James Vickers and Doctor Gamble. The authorities of the mines and a large number of miners were present.

David Thomas, government inspector, was first interrogated by Mr. Bowns, as follows: Can you give the court any information as to the cause of the explosion which occurred in the C. P. No. 5 mine on the 20th day of this month?

Mr. Thomas—You must remember that I have no jurisdiction over a mine that employs less than ten persons in it. Some time since the No. 5 mine was shut down, and when re-opened it only employed about seven or eight men until recently, when the mine was put on to full work. Before the explosion occurred the ventilation was in a good condition and the air-current averaged 1,000 cu. ft. per minute for each man employed in the mine; and I considered from the general condition of the

mine it was safe and satisfactory. Since the explosion I have been into the mine, accompanied by Mr. A. E. Bradbury, superintendent, Mr. Bowns, Mr. Graham, Mr. Bell, Mr. Bird and other practical miners, and examined the whole of the north side workings, which appeared to be in a clean and safe condition. A fall had occurred in the last room on the eighth level, but it did not affect the condition of any of the other workings. The air-current was clean and steady in its passing through the workings. From the appearance of the loose material which had been thrown about entries, I am of the opinion that the explosion occurred in the eighth entry from a blown out shot which ignited the fine dust that was raised up and set in motion by the force of the expanded charge of the powder, which would gain strength as it went with the air-current till it culminated in the mine explosion.

Mr. Bowns—Then your opinion is that it was a dust explosion caused by the fire of a blown out shot?

Mr. Thomas—Yes, sir.

Mr. Bowns—Do you think a fall of the temperature would have anything to do with the cause of the explosion?

Mr. Thomas—Well, it would cause the gas, if any, to expand, and might bring it near the floor of the mine; but from the appearance of the mine I am of the opinion that it was a dust and not a gas explosion.

A. E. Bradbury, superintendent of the mine, was next questioned by Mr. Bowns. Can you give the court any information as to the cause of the explosion at your mine?

Mr. Bradbury—From my own experience of the mine and the general reports each day from Mr. Bruce, I cannot account for the explosion on any other principle than it was caused by a blown out shot. The ventilation of the mine was on an average from 85,000 to 120,000 cubic feet of air per minute. The dust was watered in the main roads to lessen its tendency to fire. No complaints have been made to me of gas in the mine and I think if there had been any gas in the workings it would have been reported. Mr. Bruce had authority to employ extra hands in the mine when he required their aid and I think if he thought he required assistance to keep the mine safe he would have got all that he needed. I have been in the mine with the inspector and other experienced gentlemen, and from all we have seen in the workings the mine is in a good condition.

Joseph Bird, fireman: By Mr. Bowns—I have been gas inspector for about three years at the mine, and under the instructions of Mr. James Bruce, whom I considered a thoroughly competent person for the office he filled as mine foreman. The fall in the 8th level and last room, is since the explosion occurred. The hole in the exhaust from the seventh to the eighth level is four feet by ten feet and is near up to the height of the room. I don't think any gas could lodge in the exhaust room above the hole. There is no gas in the working places; where any gas is found it is written on the danger board (keep out—gas); by this the men know they are not allowed to enter such a place. The working places,