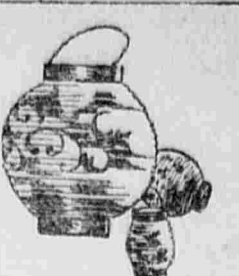


# COUNT OKUMA the Great JAPANESE AGITATOR



**D**URING his career as premier of Japan, which began as long ago as 1898 and came to an end only in February of the present year, Count Shigenobu Okuma became the most powerful subject in the mikado's kingdom. All that the great Li Hung Chang was to China, Okuma soon became to his country, and even more, for the Japanese represented his people, and that was something that the famous Chinaman could not do. Okuma's elevation to the premiership sounded the deathknell of the clans. He it was who inaugurated party rule in Japan and made it possible for his people to have some form of representation.

Okuma was really the father of the Japanese political reformation. It is impossible for a western mind to comprehend fully the condition of the Japanese body politic when Okuma took the helm of the ship of state. It is sufficient to say that it was his strong hand that abolished the complicated and venal government of the clans, a veritable hotbed of oppression and tyranny, and transformed the rule of the kingdom into its present dignified and up-to-date condition.

Since that time there have been many reputations acquired in Japan. The war and its necessities and opportunities brought many a warrior and many a statesman into the light, but nothing that has happened has lessened the pre-eminence of the two geniuses who were instrumental in building new Japan—Okuma and his peer and political rival Ito. These men and their policies have ruled the island kingdom for more than a decade and are still potent. The followers of Okuma see in him the gladiators of the orient, and the host that accepts Ito for its political guide believes that great man to be the Cavour of his country. Nominally both of these "greatest among the elder statesmen" have retired from active politics; practically there is no perceptible diminution of their influence.

## Always an Agitator.

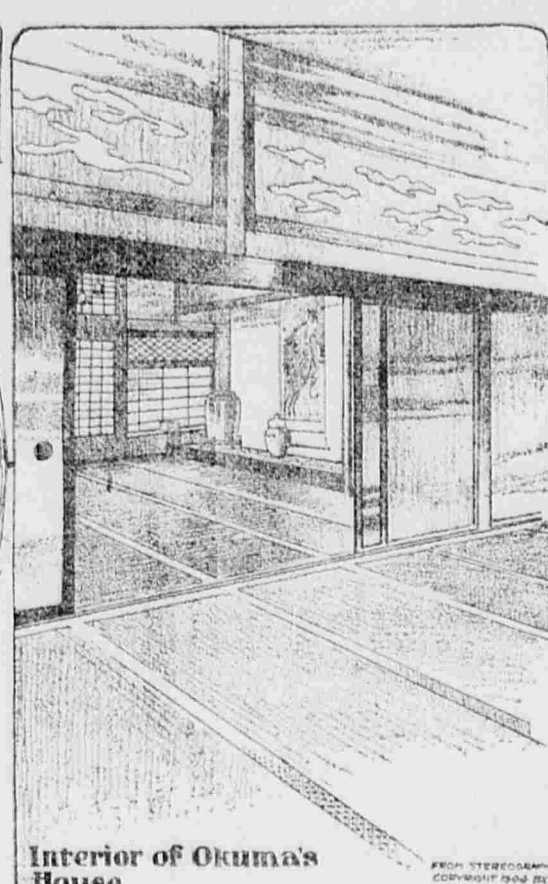
For more than a quarter of a century Okuma has been an agitator. A peace maintained at the cost of national inertia and a mere holding of



Okuma's Residence, Tokyo



Count Okuma, Japanese Agitator



Interior of Okuma's House

one's own have no charm for this expansive oriental. When the august council of the elder statesmen was debating the question of war with the encroaching Muscovite there was no voice so eager for prompt interference as was that of Okuma. At first he was regarded almost with universal disapproval. Anything so radical as an armed opposition to what was then believed to be one of the great world powers seemed almost preposterous to

the Japanese statesman who had received his political education in the safe school of politics headed by Ito. But Okuma persisted until he won. It must be confessed that his methods of making the war notion popular savored strongly of those of the demagogue and that he did not scruple to employ his power as a popular leader to its fullest extent. In order to create sentiment in favor of war with Russia he made use of a form of yellow journal-

ism that has never been outdone in America. His enemies—he has always had plenty of them—declared that he was trying to make political capital by appealing to the prejudices of the ignorant. Now, again, they are making the same accusation, although the count is no longer at the head of public affairs in his own country. Past threescore and ten, he has resigned the cares of state and has resolved to pass his re-

maining years in the calm enjoyment of the domestic circle. It is not possible for him to refrain from manifesting an interest in the political life of Japan. That, indeed, would be demanding too much of this rare statesman, still strong in body and unimpaired in mind. Recently he has emerged from the retirement into which he entered last winter and has been advocating a firm hand in dealing with the Japanese troubles on the Pa-

cific coast. He thinks his countrymen are inclined to be a trifle thick skinned in the matter of personal treatment, and he sees no reason for discrimination against them. From his viewpoint his position in the matter is perfectly logical. The suspicion that he is still in search of political capital is untenable. From an accidental viewpoint he may seem to be utterly wrong, but it is exceedingly difficult to find him wilfully so.

Generous, disinterested, altogether noble, the count has worked with brave heart and clear brain for the betterment of his country. His whole life work has been for his nation's progress, expansion and dignity among the powers. At all times and with perfect readiness his resources of mind and body have been at the service of Japan. His record is an open book and it is one which would do no discredit to an American patriot of the highest class. Just and true in his dealing, he seems ever to have worked for righteousness as he understands it and has never tolerated iniquity in high or low.

Count Okuma is a very rich man, one of the richest in the kingdom. He inherited no fortune from his father, who was of high rank, but very poor, but his own business capacity has made him a multimillionaire. No man in the kingdom has been more liberal in his benefactions. He has the record of having contributed more than any other man to those who were left unprotected for by the fortunes of war. He has endowed several educational institutions, one of them a seat of higher learning for women. His original gift to this institution was \$100,000, and he has added largely to it since it was opened.

## At the Okumas.

Okuma's home in a suburb of Tokyo is a charming combination of the ancient and the modern Japanese. Some of the rooms are decorated and furnished in the Caucasian fashion and others are provided with the little native patches, sliding screens and papered windows. His grounds and gardens are the most pretentious of those belonging to any private citizen of Tokyo.

The Countess Okuma is a charming old lady and many American visitors to Tokyo have partaken of her delightful hospitality. She is especially interested in all of her husband's educational enterprises and always appears regularly at commencements and other public exercises held in these schools. The Okumas' only son, Hiromaru, is an alumnus of Princeton, graduated in 1878. He spent seven years in America, and on his return home became president of the college established by his father.

ELIJS E. TAYLOR

## HEAT SOIL FROM BENEATH.

German Has a Plan to Increase Crops in Early Spring Vegetables.

Dr. Mehner, a German, is responsible for the latest agricultural idea, which is now the subject of experiment in Germany and France—that of artificially heating the soil for the purpose of pushing the growth of vegetables. It is said to promise remarkable results, especially in the quickening of spring vegetables and their development in size and luxuriance.

The method consists in burying at a depth of 20 to 40 inches under the field to be treated conduits of earthenware, through which steam pipes about an inch in diameter are laid. Steam at a temperature of about 300 degrees is forced through the pipes; it warms through the clay conduit, warms the earth.

Leakage of heat is very slow. Experiment is said to show that when the surface of the ground is about freezing points

the soil at a depth of 12 to 20 inches has a temperature of 42 degrees.

Assuming that the artificial heating were begun early in March, when this condition existed, a very small expenditure of heat would be needed to cause the desired stimulation, and the radiation into the air would be exceedingly gradual. In warmer weather the surface heating from the sun would actually counteract the radiation of the artificial heat.

Of course the plan does not contemplate heating the soil in the dead of winter when atmospheric cold would kill any plants that might be artificially caused to germinate. The idea is simply to aid nature when the spring sets in.

Asparagus, lettuce, young onions, cucumbers, radishes and other spring plants are the ones on which it is expected to use the system with most effect. Later in combination with forcing frames it may be used on strawberries, and experiments may be tried on various fruit trees. The method is likely to be applied to horticulture and the growth of plants for seed purposes also.

It is calculated that the expense of installation for each space of 2,500 square

yards in Germany or France is about \$200 plus the steam generating apparatus, which may be large or small according to the tract to be heated and which may be used for other purposes. The cost of the heating is figured at \$15 a month.

The annual increase in profit for the same patch of ground sown with early vegetables is figured at \$50 on a three months' heating of the soil.—N. Y. Sun.

## Where Irving Worked.

But it was in the circumstances library that one's chief interest centered. In this Palladian sanctum sanctimonies of the author's European travels adorn the walls and mantels, with Darley's engravings of knickerbocker characters holding places of honor. The apartment has a note of quiet dignity—an aristocratic exclusiveness—as another pilgrim has described it. It could easily be imagined as such another Temple of Peace as Gladstone loved at Hawarden.

The spacious elbow chair stands empty at the empty desk; the chair in which Irving spent so many quiet hours as his

life neared its end and the fountain of his inspiration no longer flowed.

The shelves of books are no more used by their master; the lounge, hidden in a curtained alcove, is empty as the chair. The black marble chimney piece holds an old-fashioned candelabrum, and many another bit of curious bits-above.

In this room the life of Washington was written; in this old mansion by the Hudson Washington Irving lived his happiest days, and here he died after his life tenure of three-score years and more.—Frank Yench, in Book News Monthly.

## Old-Fashioned Oratory.

"We don't have no such forensic oratory as we used to have," said the old settler. "Lawyers nowadays don't orate; they only talk."

"Take old Bill K. Simmons of Eau Claire. If Bill was defending a lowly chicken thief he'd speak with the tongue of angels. I'll never forget the peroration of his impassioned philippic the Clay Bill case about the poisoned cat. It ran like this here."

The little, thin old man rose, reared back in defiant attitude, and shouted in the cracked treble of age.

"Restin' upon the couch of Republican liberty as I do, covered with the blanket of constitutional panoply as I am, and protected by the aquila of American equality as I feel myself to be, I despise the buzzin' of the professional insect who has just set down, and dervy his attempt to penetrate with puny sting the interstices of me imperious covering."

## Not All Mr. Huntington's.

At an entertainment given for a charming bride-to-be the subject of monopoly came up. One of the guests told the following story:

A certain lady started from Los Angeles for the beach with her small son. As they reached Sixth and Main streets the little fellow glanced up and asked: "Who owns this building, mamma?" "Mr. Huntington, dear," answered the lady.

Shortly afterward, as they started for their destination, the little fellow look-

ed up from the window and asked: "Who owns these cars, mamma?"

"Mr. Huntington, dear." As they finally reached the beach, he again questioned: "What place is this, mamma?" "Huntington Beach, dear."

"Who owns the ocean, mamma?" "God, dear."

The little boy looked at her with awe, and then asked: "How did He get it away from Mr. Huntington?"

## Withering.

A certain gentleman farmer is notorious for his meanness. To his house a railway porter from the rural station at which he was employed carried a large trunk. It was a long distance, and the porter was tired. But instead of the expected tip the farmer offered him a glass of beer. The man drank the very weak stuff without noticeable appreciation.

"Well," said the farmer, "how do you like my cider?"

"I think it's a pity, sir, you hadn't another apple," answered the other.

"Another apple? Why?"

"Oh, you could have made another barrel of it," was the withering reply.—TULIPS.

## Animal Curios.

Storks devour kittens. The horses have no eyebrows. Pigs never chew their food. Turtles and tortoises have no teeth. The sheep's upper jaw is toothless. Hares and snakes sleep with their eyes open.

The frog can only breathe with its mouth closed.

## NOTICE.

John N. Taggart, the expert piano tuner formerly with Chamberlain Music Co., has joined the Utah Idaho Music Co., 270 S. State St., where he will receive all orders.

# Continuation of The Great Alteration Sale

## COLOSSAL SALE OF MILLINERY, SUITS, SKIRTS AND WAISTS

UNQUESTIONABLY the Most Momentous Event of the Kind Ever Advertised. We are Compelled to Give Up More Space to Carry on Our Extensive Alterations. The Six Days Magnificent business Transacted last week Emboldened us to the Point of Making Greater Efforts for the Coming Week—Commanding Monday and Week Thousands of Dollars Worth of Seasonable Merchandise Must be Disposed of. The Necessity of Getting Rid of the Goods is Forced Upon Us. Take advantage of it and be well Dressed at Our Expense. On Account of the Great Crowds in the Afternoon We Suggest Your Early Morning Attendance.

## ALTERATION WAIST

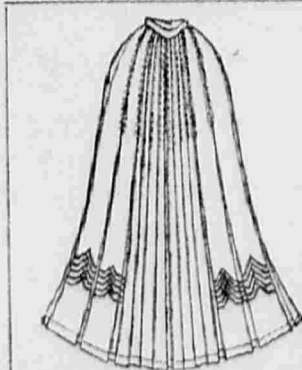
### SPECIAL!



Beautiful Silk Waist ..... \$2.45  
Elaborate Silk Waist ..... \$2.45  
Elegant Silk Waist ..... \$2.45

Open back or front, lace trimmed and tucked, full length and 3-4 sleeve, color, black or white.

# "The Paris."



## WHITE DRESS SKIRTS.

The Carpenters Must Have Room.

These pretty white skirts come pleated and tucked, and made of extra good quality material, all sizes:

White Skirts worth \$2.50, Alteration Sale ..... \$1.75  
White Skirts worth \$3.50, Alteration Sale ..... \$2.50  
White Skirts worth \$3.75, Alteration Sale ..... \$3.00

## MUSLIN UNDERWEAR

Ladies' fine white muslin skirts, very neatly trimmed, with 3 rows of lace insertion, and clusters of tucks, finished with ruffle of ..... \$1.75

Ladies' white muslin skirts, neatly trimmed with 3 rows of lace insertion and fine lace ruffle. special ..... \$2.00

Ladies' white muslin skirt, neatly trimmed with fine tucks and wide, heavy lace insertion, finished with deep lace flounce. ..... \$2.50

Ladies' corset cover, neatly trimmed with 2 rows of embroidery and lace ..... 60c

Ladies' corset cover neatly trimmed with embroidery and lace ..... 50c

Ladies' corset cover, neatly trimmed with ribbon and lace ..... 50c



Beautiful \$1.35 Waists  
Exquisite \$1.50 Waists  
Dainty \$1.75 Waists

95c

The greatest lingerie lawn waist sale of the season. All new goods; no soiled or mused goods among them. All made up in the season's latest fashions, embroidery and lace trimmed, tucked and pleated, long or short sleeves, size 32 to 42.

## Three Wonders in Suits at Alteration Sale Prices.

Women's \$11.00 R.e.p. Suits white or cham page style ..... 7.95  
Women's \$13.00 suits loose box back, flowing sleeves, beautifully embroidered ..... 8.95

A pretty wash suit Bolero Jacket effect, button trimmed, skirt plaited and extra full. Alteration Sale price, Monday ..... \$4.95

## Jumper Silk Suit

Twenty suits in all—to be closed out at once—a regular \$10.50 Suit—Monday special at ..... \$6.95

## Taffeta Jumper Waist

Colors, Brown, Blue, Black, Tan; regular \$3.50 Waist Monday and week ..... \$2.69

## Bolero Jackets

\$5.00 Black Jet Bolero ..... \$3.00  
Jackets ..... \$2.25  
\$3.50 Black Jet Bolero ..... \$2.25  
Jackets ..... \$2.25  
\$7.00 Black or White Silk braid Jackets—alteration sale ..... \$4.50  
price ..... \$3.50  
White Battenberg Bolero Jacket; regular \$13.00, at this alteration ..... \$1.95

## Misses' Skirts.

A pretty all wool skirt, light weight for summer, just the proper thing for outdoor wear, regular \$3.50 Skirt for ..... \$1.95

## Handkerchiefs Special

A large assortment Children Handkerchiefs, at each ..... 1c  
Ladies' White Handkerchiefs, worth 60c the dozen, Monday special at ..... 40c  
Ladies' White Embroidered Handkerchiefs, regular 20c value, special ..... 2 for 5c

## Collars and Turnovers.

15c and 20c ones, special ..... 10c  
at ..... 98c  
\$1.25 Silk Scarfs, Monday ..... 98c

## Misses' and Children's Headwear.

Regular 25 cent child's straw sailor ..... 19c  
Regular 40 cent child's embroidered Muslin Bonnets ..... 19c  
Regular 50 and 60 cent child's Embroidered Muslin Hats ..... 39c  
Regular \$1.25 and \$1.50 child's Embroidered Muslin Bonnets ..... 95c

## Ribbon Specials.

Silk and Satin Taffeta Ribbon, regular 20c value, special, the yard ..... 25c  
Fancy Ribbon in plaids—flowered stripes and checks, regular 50c value, special the yard ..... 39c  
15c Wash Belts, a large assortment to select from, special ..... 15c

## PARASOLS SPECIALS.

Ladies' White Linen Parasols, hemstitched border, natural wood handle, a regular \$1.50 value, alteration sale ..... 95c

Ladies' Parasols of White Linen, embroidered edge and ruffle, enamel handle—a regular \$2.00, alteration sale ..... \$1.35

A Parasol that is a beauty, made of fine White Linen, two rows of dainty embroidery, regular \$3.00 value, special ..... \$1.89

Children's Parasols, all colors ..... 25c