

JAPAN IN KOREA

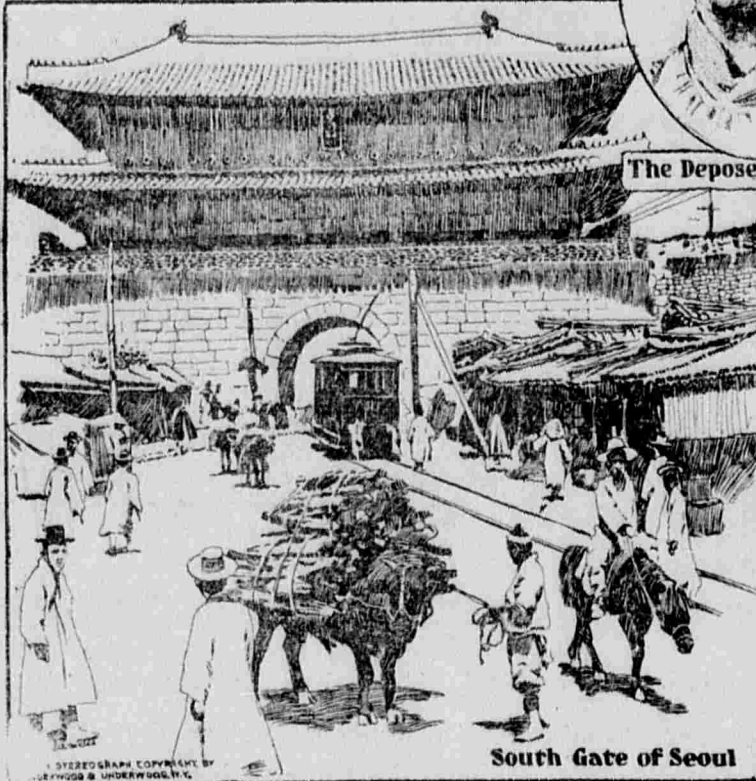
THREE AND A HALF YEARS
OF JAPANESE ADMINISTRATION
IN THE HERMIT KINGDOM
HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT SOME
RADICAL CHANGES



Royal Garden at Seoul



The Deposed Emperor



South Gate of Seoul



Korean Infantry Drilling



Aged Korean Peasants



ers undertook the task there was no foundation of ability or honesty in the country on which to build. There were no existing institutions that could be taken over and used just as they stood. There were not even any native Koreans who could be depended on to aid in the work of regeneration. Japan found that she must tear down and rebuild and that she must find her building material elsewhere. She built a railroad through the country, loaned the bankrupt treasury a large sum of money, prepared text books and teachers for schools, improved the sanitation of the large towns, reorganized the army, increased shipping facilities at the ports and made war on many degrading superstitions.

But Japan has failed nevertheless—

failed according to her own estimate. She knows now that she made a fatal mistake in guaranteeing the independence of the country she expected to govern by "advice." It is a lesson that she is forced to adopt this policy. It may not be so easy to make a good job of it.

There is Another Side.

All this is only one side of the business. There is another, and it is not a view that redounds to the glory of the Japanese protectorate. Many Americans residing in Korea, especially those engaged in religious and educational work, are anti-Japanese in sentiment, and their picture of the Japanese protectorate is gloomy in the extreme. According to it Korea is outraged over the injustices which the Japanese are heaping upon her. The Koreans are angered beyond expression, but they are crushed and cannot act.

Those who are of this way of thinking are emphatic in their denunciation of Japanese methods of reconstruction. An American prominent in educational work in Korea gives vent to his indignation as follows:

"During the occupation Japanese have not picked out the better class of Koreans for office, but have kept in office the same old venal crowd that has always cursed the country. These men are willing to act as puppets for the Japanese, and for this they are almost universally loathed by the Korean people. There is no more cleanliness in government circles than before. The venality of the Koreans has not been checked, but they firmly believe that the Japanese are as open to bribery as themselves." JOHN E. STURGIS.

SINCE 1904 the Japanese have had paramount influence in Korea and have been conducting the affairs of that strange country in the true Japanese fashion. That they have not made a special success of the experiment is quite evident. They have failed to make themselves popular in their protectorate, and they have not been fortunate in impressing other nations with an unequalled respect for their ability to accomplish what they undertook so bravely. In a word, the conspicuous aptitude and remarkable capacity for prearrangement that they showed in war have been absent in their attempt to bring order out of chaos in Korea.

Perhaps too much has been expected of them. They established such a standard by their management in Manchuria that the world has been inclined to look for the same skill and success everywhere. It has seemed all

along that their aims and intentions were good, but recent developments do not indicate that they have made much progress toward the realization of the popular hope.

The plucky little islanders went to work at their difficult job with a right good will. The reforms planned were sweeping in character, and the world hoped that they might be carried into effect. The Japanese had been extremely particular to have it well understood that the independence of the Korean empire was to be maintained sacredly as well as the "safety and repose" of the imperial Korean royal house. The convention made between the two countries in 1904 expressly stipulated this and that Japan should have paramount control in the administration of the government.

Couldn't Deliver the Goods.

This frank recognition of Korean independence seemed to be exceedingly

generous under the circumstances, and it was so regarded by the civilized world in general. At the time, however, veteran diplomats of almost every country shook their heads doubtfully. The theory was attractive, they admitted, but putting it into practice would be quite another thing. The effect of this generous scheme was to create a sort of dual government composed of Korean officials and Japanese advisers, with divided powers and responsibilities.

It didn't work. It was a miserable failure from the very first. If the two sets of rulers had been equal in mental equipment and experience and if they had been endowed with the same aims and ambitions they might possibly have worked together after a fairly satisfactory fashion, but they had nothing whatever in common except hearty dislike and distrust. Under those circumstances the whole scheme was practically unworkable from the start. The Korean officials did not want reform,

and they met the Japanese advisers with intrigue, obstruction and passive resistance in every shape. The Koreans seem to have been more than a match for the Japanese in political trickery.

For Instance.

An example of the way in which Korean state affairs are conducted is furnished by a bright American who was formerly adviser of the foreign office of that empire. He says that he was accustomed to go again and again to the office of the minister of foreign affairs to urge on him certain measures of reform which he regarded as absolutely essential. After repeated interviews and almost endless discussion the minister would apparently agree to what he proposed. The next thing the adviser heard from the office would be the news of the resignation of the minister who had been brought with such infinite labor to commit himself favorably and the appointment of a suc-

sor, with whom every step of the same process must be repeated.

The Japanese financial adviser began by urging on the Korean government the necessity of fixing the salaries of officials high enough to live on without stealing from the people. After a great deal of discussion with each minister separately he got them to promise to meet him on a certain day in order to have a final talk and settlement of the matter. At the appointed hour, dressed in his frock coat and silk hat, the Japanese betook himself to the council chamber. It was deserted. After waiting an hour and not a minister putting in an appearance he went to the Japanese legation and entered complaint. The Japanese chief of legation appealed to the Korean emperor and secured his promise that the cabinet would arrange the matter according to the adviser's plan. The emperor issued an order publicly to that effect, but at the same time he notified the ministers that if they obeyed these public orders they would certainly lose their heads.

One American Opinion.

How is it possible, asks the perplexed adviser, to do anything with a government that avoids action and allows its ministers to resign at the rate of one or two a week? Writing from Seoul, an American thus pays his respects to Yi Huiung, who has recently been compelled to abdicate in favor of the crown prince, who is reputed to be a most faithful reproduction of his father:

"The Korean emperor has a set of twenty or thirty men who may be compared with the court cards in a whist

pack. Whenever he is hard pressed by the Japanese he stops the game, shuffles the cards and deals the kings and knaves around to the various ministries so as to make a new combination. In the course of the last eighteen months Yi Chi Yong has been minister of foreign affairs, minister of agriculture, minister of justice and minister of the interior. Pak Che Sun has been minister of agriculture once, minister of foreign affairs once and minister of justice twice. Yi Yong Ik, an uneducated cooly who does not even keep his body clean, has recently been director of the mint, governor of North Kyungsang, commissioner to buy Annam rice, minister of finance and minister of war. Every time the cards are shuffled and dealt the same old knaves turn up, but in new places. Just as you have laid your plans to capture the jack of spades in the foreign office the emperor grabs and shuffles the cards, deals them afresh, and the jack of spades appears in the ministry of agriculture or smiles at you blandly from the ministry of home affairs. I have taken the trouble to make a list of recent changes in the Korean cabinet, and I find that thirty-one ministers resigned or were shifted from one department to another last year and that there have been forty-six resignations, dismissals or transfers so far this year. Persons who are in a position to know assure me that my list does not comprise half of the changes that have really been made, but seventy-seven shuffles and deals in eighteen months will answer my purpose."

In forming a just estimate of Japan's effort to reform Korea all of these things must be taken into consideration. When the mikado and his advisers

James Wilson of Iowa, Secretary of Agriculture; The Man Who Made a Government Department

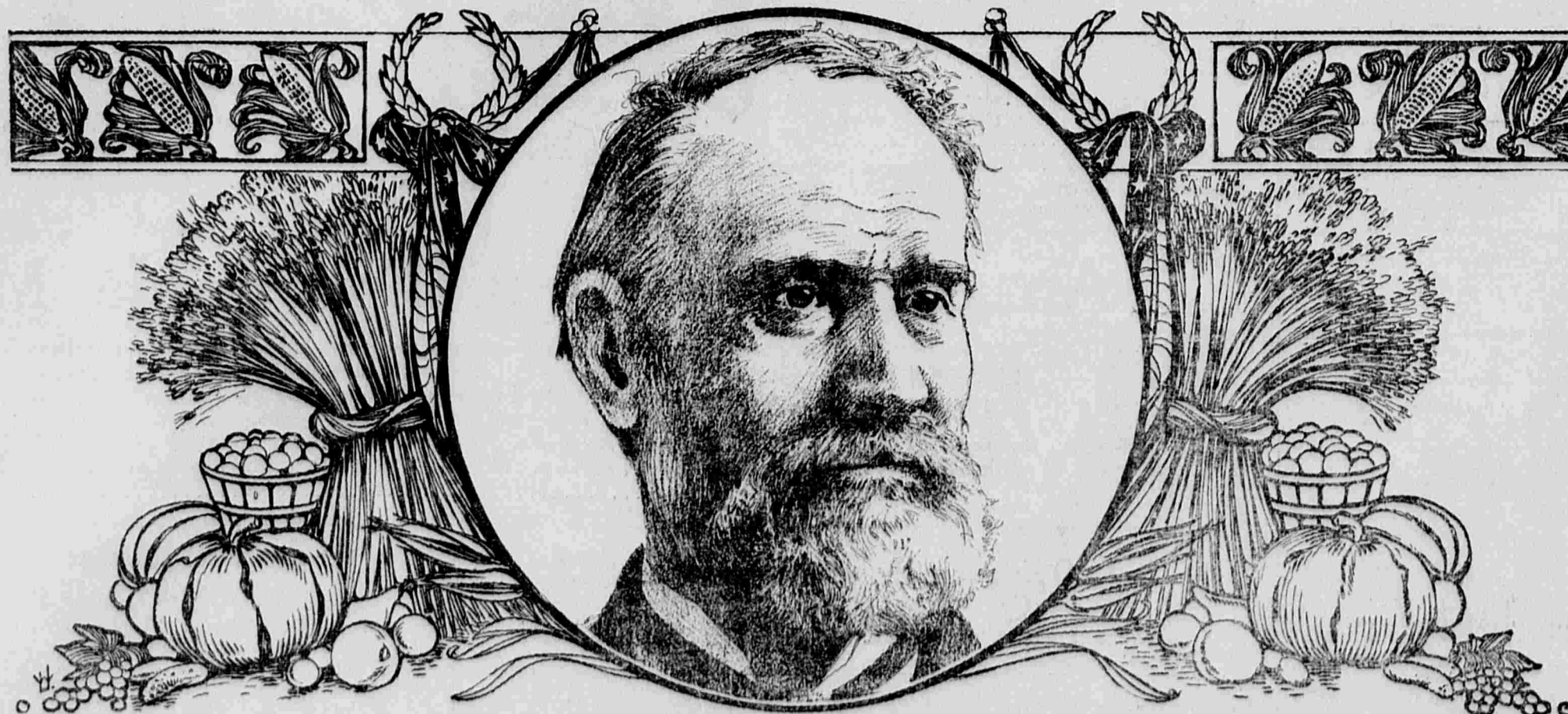
PRIOR to the incumbency of the present secretary, James Wilson, the department of agriculture was regarded as something of a joke in all parts of the country. "When I came here," Mr. Wilson has often observed, with a humorous gleam in his keen Scotch eyes, "I found that the department consisted of a few scientists and a roll top desk."

Men who are not yet very advanced in years remember when the commissioner of agriculture was spoken of rather contemptuously as "the man with a desk and a satchel full of seeds." Not until the opening of the present century did the government and the people begin to realize that the scientific movement to improve agriculture must be reckoned with as one of great power and usefulness. The individual who is more than all others responsible for this emergence from the condition known as "book farming" is James Wilson, the man who has been at the head of the department for more than a decade.

The department was created to satisfy the farmers of the country. No one else believed there was any need for it, and the farmers themselves did not seem to be quite sure that they wanted it. They wanted something, however, and they were in a position to demand it. There were plenty of keen leaders in the Farmers' Alliance who foresaw that a purely agricultural representative in the cabinet would mean a proper recognition of husbandry and would work to the advantage of the agricultural community at large.

The Growth of Years.

This benefit was not apparent at once. It did not make its appearance during the incumbency of Norman J. Colburn, the first secretary of agriculture, or in that of Jerry Rusk, the second. Colburn's opportunities were limited, and the absence of precedent was a handicap. Rusk was a jolly savage who understood that he was expected to keep the farming community reasonably satisfied, and he conducted the department in a manner that did no violence to his reputation for rough and ready good nature, but failed to put the expert on a sound footing. J. Sterling Morton, the third secretary, a man of brains and culture, had an unbelief in the necessity of the office, which he did not hesitate to ventilate on almost



JAMES WILSON, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

any occasion. There is a tradition in Washington that his first annual report never saw the light. It was about three pages in length and strongly advocated the abolition of the department on the ground that it was of no practical benefit to anybody. President Cleveland returned the report with the request that one more in accord with the usual official treatment be substituted for it. This was done eventually, although Morton never succeeded in convincing himself that he was earning his salary.

Under such conditions it could not

have been expected that the department would amount to much, and it didn't. It was not until James Wilson of Iowa came to the office that things began to take a turn. He came to the department with determination stamped on every feature of his homely Scotch face and proceeded at once to revolutionize it. There was nothing idealistic about him. He started in on the theory that his duty was not merely to administer, but wholly to keep the farmers satisfied, but to develop the great industry which he represented. That industry, he maintained,

was the biggest thing in the country and should be treated as such. An enthusiastic admirer of the bluff old Scotchman writes as follows of his energy in turning the department into one of the most useful of governmental agencies.

"Wilson has been 'profiting' around the whole globe in search of things. He has developed such an ear that he can hear an apple grow in Tibet, and as soon as he does he dispatches an expedition after it. In Finland they grow alcohol potatoes, immense things, as big as your head, and no earthly good for eating. Wilson sent after them and had them brought here and naturalized—not to eat, but to get alcohol out of. A year or so back he sent some scientists into the interior of China to get a rare peach never heard of out of that section, and never heard of in most of China—said by legendary sharps to be the original peach that Eve bunked Adam with, but Wilson did not go after it on account of its historical value, but because it was good to eat.

"He imported macaroni wheat from Italy and set the unimaginative farm-

ers of America to raising that high class product. He fostered the Sumatra leaf tobacco growing industry. It is due to him that the mohair industry has grown to its present proportions. He found that we spent \$24,000,000 a year for mohair and he couldn't see why mohair could not be raised here. He brought it over, and now we are raising it on a tremendous scale in Arizona and Texas, and men are getting rich on it.

"Then he started in on milk goats. His idea was that any poor man who had room enough to keep a couple of

goats could raise his own milk supply and that as this seems to be worth counting to a man who has to figure up pennies instead of dollars when he looks over his household accounts.

A Praiseworthy Effort.

"He has started the task of restoring the extinct Morgan horse. The Morgan horse was the highest bred we ever had in this country. Its center of origin and development was New England, particularly Vermont. The civil war took all the Morgan horses into the cavalry, and the western emigration which followed the war faded the breed. They got mixed up with others until a pure blood Morgan horse became unknown, and the breed entirely disappeared. Wilson took up this task about two years ago. He got a man in Vermont to give 200 acres for a Morgan horse farm, and Wilson is running it.

"He has also gone in for developing a distinct breed of American coach horse. He has got a place out in Colorado where the work is being managed by one of his scientists and expects to produce an extraordinarily handsome breed of horses. George Rommel is the man in general direction of this scheme.

"Wilson has given a great deal of attention to the problem of corn breeding, of solving the problem how to get as much corn as possible on one hill. If a man gets only two or three ears to a hill Wilson regards it as a waste of productive force, because the total number of bushels produced is less than it ought to be. He sent out to Illinois and got a farmer, the most distinguished corn breeder the world, to come here and take charge of this scheme."

Mr. Wilson is now seventy-two years of age, born in Ayrshire, Scotland, in 1835. He has lived in Tama county, Ia., for half a century. He is a level-headed, democratic, rough and ready chap who makes his singular and pipe rules in a most nonacademic way in a professor in the Iowa Agricultural college and a member of the state assembly. It will not be an easy matter to find a fit successor to him. He has made his department, and he is keeping on making it. It is not at all likely that he will be supplanted during his period of activity.

ELLIS ROBERTSON.

are regularly sprinkled with a chemical preparation, the odor of which is sniffed with gusto by passengers as soon as they enter the tube.

Ormulu was originally a powder of fine brass with which the surface of objects was covered. It contains equal

parts of copper and zinc.

The tongue perceives pungent and acid tastes by the tip. The middle portion tastes sweets and bitters while the back or lower portion concerns itself with fatty substances.

NEAR AND FAR.

Remarkable treatment of a dog occurred in connection with an Italian case of burglary and sacrifice in Italy. Fiesole, immortalized by the genius and the virtues of Fra Angelico, was the scene of the crime. The old church of San Domenico was pillaged during the night, the entire treasury of vestments, rare old silver church plate and relics being carried off. The church, it seems, is entrusted by night

to a watchdog, and even this faithful beast had been bound and gagged. This is probably the first instance of such tactics being employed with a dog.

According to Dr. Tomarkin, the public has formed an exaggerated idea of the risk of catching contagious diseases from germs deposited on telephones. The inhalation of dust which has accumulated in funnel shaped transmitters

or the application of a receiver to the ear might possibly cause a contagious disease to be contracted, but this kind of contamination must be very rare, and there are telephones which make it impossible.

There is a plant found in the Mexican desert of Sonora which is stated to surpass the camel in its ability to husband its supply of moisture. This is known as the quarequi, a relative of the pumpkin, and it inhabits a locality in which practically all the rain falls within a

period of six weeks. The base of the stem of the plant is formed by a hard woody structure, which is really nothing more than a vegetable reservoir designed to hoard up the scanty moisture received with the greed of a miser, existing all a miser's thrift. In doing out the precious fluid to its own advantage in time of need.

An extraordinary tale of a railway having been stolen by the public was recently told before the vice royal commission on Irish railways. The line in

question runs between Birr and Portlanna, England, and as the Great Southern and Western Railway company had been yearly losing \$1,000,000 over it they declined to renew the lease. The line soon became derelict, and the local people suffered rails, sleepers and wire until nothing remained but the bed of the railway.

According to an official of the geological survey at Washington the heaviest metal is osmium, which has bulk for bulk very nearly twice the

weight of gold. The specific gravity of gold is about 19.4, while that of osmium is almost 22.5. Osmium is also the most insoluble of metals, remaining unaffected by a degree of heat capable of causing platinum to run like water.

The only perfumed railway line in the world is the Metropolitan tube of Paris. As a measure of sanitation, it was decided to pour water containing essence of lavender on the platforms of all stations. The perfume was pleasant, but too costly. Now the tunnels