

Chentung Liang Cheng, the New Chinese Minister, The Brainy Successor of the Popular Wu Ting Fang



THIS city is holding its breath in preparation for the long gasp of surprise which it expects to emit when the new Chinese minister, Sir Chentung Liang Cheng, shall give his first reception in the handsome legation building at the corner of Nineteenth and U streets which his government has just completed. Money has been lavishly spent, and several surprises in architecture are expected, to say nothing of the sensation which is anticipated when the contents of more than a dozen very large, mysterious boxes which Minister Liang brought with him from China shall be unpacked and arranged upon the walls of the new official residence.

But, aside from all these collateral points of interest, the new minister is entitled to consideration by reason of his advanced views, his liberal education and his almost aggressive advocacy of everything American. Indeed, in his opinion, his country will have to look no farther than to the United States to learn all that is worth knowing in the way of government and the manufacture of prosperity. He laughingly declares that politics in China has become almost a science and that the man with the pull gets the best offices, though he does not go so far as to admit that the statement applies to himself.

Perhaps Liang's first claim to great distinction occurred when the Von Ketteler embassy mission was sent to Germany. The emperor had prescribed the form of mission which in the opinion of Liang and the other members of the commission would have involved a sacrifice of dignity on the part of Prince Chen, the Chinese emperor's cousin and representative. No one, however, was



SIR LIANG AND THE NEW CHINESE LEGATION AT WASHINGTON.

able to suggest a way out of the difficulty—for it was recognized that it would never do to further offend Germany—until Liang took the matter in hand. He appeared to admit the justice of everything demanded by the Kaiser, but pointed out the embarrassment in the peculiar circumstances of carrying it out to the letter. The result was that after certain concessions had been made and Chen's work had

been completed it was found that the German statesman had been outwitted by Secretary Liang.

It is not surprising that Sir Liang should have advanced views nor that those views should include a warm admiration for the United States. For it was here, at Phillips Academy at Andover, Mass., and while not the star of his class he attained a proficiency in his studies which soon gave him a good

rank among his fellow students. Liang then went to Amherst college, where his progress was really remarkably rapid, and it became certain that he would graduate with high honors. But this was not to be. The home authorities persuaded the emperor that his throne would be ultimately undermined by the liberal teachings which the young men were getting in the United States. So Liang, along with the rest of the un-

fortunates, was packed back to China. In Peking he soon attracted the attention of the leading spirits of the foreign office, and when an interpreter was wanted at Washington for Minister Chang Yin Hoon (afterward beheaded for opposing the big Boxer revolt) Liang was selected. When his superior returned to China, Liang went with him. He continued in favor with the powers that were and became one of the secretaries to the peace commission when negotiations looking to the termination of the war with China were in progress. He performed his duties in this connection so satisfactorily that he was sent as secretary with the envoys to the coronation of King Edward VII. of England. Next he was secretary of the Von Ketteler embassy mission and later was the principal secretary of Prince Chen, the son of Prince Ching, the head of the Chinese foreign office.

Sir Liang is a wealthy man. His fad is the collection of rich silks and other fabrics and rare jewels. Of the latter he is said to have a magnificent collection, and it need not be mentioned that a poor man would not be able to indulge this fancy if he had it. How did Liang make his money? That is a question which must never be asked concerning prominent Chinamen. All prominent Chinamen are wealthy, and it is nobody's business how they happened to get their money. It suffices that they invariably know how to get it, and it must be admitted, how to spend it after it has been got. But it is rumored that Liang is connected with some vast enterprises in China and that he has even thought of establishing a great trading company having for its object the elimination of the middleman or broker in China, to whom, says Liang, the high price of American goods and their consequent comparatively infrequent use are attributable.

No man who follows Wu Ting Fang at Washington is going to have an easy time to live up to the former's reputa-

tion. Wu was a jolly good fellow, the most popular Chinaman that ever visited this country, and despite the fact that many of his witty sayings would in an ordinary person have been regarded as rank, unadulterated impertinences, which they were, he left a host of friends behind him in this city. He was a scholarly man, too, and, unlike most Chinese, was an excellent speaker.

From the standpoint of brain and education it is not likely that Liang will suffer by comparison with his predecessor. In the matter of broadness of view he is at least his equal, and in his thorough sympathy with western methods and the ability to separate the worthy from the unworthy when the question of applying them to his own country is under discussion he is undoubtedly Wu's superior. But Wu was an excellent speaker, and Liang is said not to be. In the matter of our language Liang's knowledge of it is vastly superior to Wu's both as regards fluency and accuracy.

Sir Liang is more than six feet tall and weighs about 200 pounds. His athletic experiences at Andover and Amherst have apparently served to keep this bulk firm and hard, for he is still a very strong man, with as great a fondness for outdoor exercises and sports, though of a different sort perhaps, as President Roosevelt and his two old horseback riding chums, German Minister Speck von Sternburg and British Ambassador Herbert. Sir Liang is said to be a widower of about two years' standing. He has seven children, but only three of them are with him in this city—two little boys and a very pretty daughter of sixteen who will go into society next winter. Finally Minister Liang denies emphatically the widely published report that he is shortly to wed the daughter of the present Chinese minister to France.

JAMES L. KERGAN, Washington.

Famous Mayors as They Face the Camera Man, And Some of Their Interesting Personal Characteristics



CARTER HENRY HARRISON, thirteenth elected mayor of Chicago and son of a former mayor, is fond of his native city, but will move to Washington in 1905 if he can get a certain house there for four years. As a young man Mayor Harrison studied four years in Germany and later graduated from the Yale Law school. Prior to the assassination of his father in 1893 he seemed to have no fixed purpose. For a time he was a lawyer, then a real estate man and still later a newspaper publisher. His father's tragic end steadied him, and, devoting himself to politics, he was first chosen mayor in 1897. He is only forty-three.



TOM L. JOHNSON, mayor of Cleveland, champion of municipal ownership of public franchises, single taxer, advocate of three cent fares, philanthropist and millionaire, has been called "the great American paradox" because he has made millions out of the special privileges he denounces and is spending part of the money to have them abolished. His favorite method of campaigning is with a red automobile, a circus tent and a brass band. Just at present he has one eye on the governorship of Ohio and the other on the White House. "Politics," he says, "is my steam yacht."



SETH LOW, mayor of Greater New York, ex-mayor of Brooklyn, ex-president of Columbia university, ex-tax collector, philanthropist and millionaire, is a native of Brooklyn and is fifty-four years old. His father left about \$15,000,000, and the mayor's path has always been smooth except through political fields. In 1881 and 1883 he was elected mayor of Brooklyn, in 1889 he became Columbia's president and gave the university over \$1,000,000, and in 1897 he ran for mayor of New York, but was beaten. Renominated in 1901, he was elected. As mayor he rules 308 square miles of city and 3,500,000 people.



SAMUEL M. JONES, mayor of Toledo, apostle of municipal ownership, philanthropist, millionaire, ex-orchestra leader and employer of men, is popularly known as the "labor mayor" because he was elected on the Union Labor ticket. He was born in San Francisco thirty-eight years ago, is six feet tall and of athletic build. During the coal strike he played a violin solo at a benefit for the miners and raised \$1,000. He has given up music as a vocation and is now a manufacturer of gas engines. When he ran for mayor in 1901, his opponents likened him to Nero fiddling while Rome burned, but Frisco is still standing.



EUGENE F. SCHMITZ, mayor of San Francisco, trades unionist, violinist, ex-orchestra leader and employer of men, is popularly known as the "labor mayor" because he was elected on the Union Labor ticket. He was born in San Francisco thirty-eight years ago, is six feet tall and of athletic build. During the coal strike he played a violin solo at a benefit for the miners and raised \$1,000. He has given up music as a vocation and is now a manufacturer of gas engines. When he ran for mayor in 1901, his opponents likened him to Nero fiddling while Rome burned, but Frisco is still standing.



PATRICK A. COLLINS, mayor of Boston, native of County Cork, Ireland, ex-coal miner, ex-philanthropist, ex-senator of Massachusetts, ex-Fenian, ex-congressman and ex-consul general to London, became a Bostonian at the age of four and began earning his living at twelve. Working with his hands by day and studying at night, he finally became a lawyer and later a very successful politician. A self-made man, he has risen steadily to prominence, has held numerous offices of importance, is an ardent lover of walking, is fond of books and dislikes being called General because he won the title on a governor's staff.



ROLLA WELLS, mayor of St. Louis, is a steel magnate and employer of 2,000 men, is forty-eight years of age and a native of St. Louis. He inherited a large fortune from his father, Erasmus Wells, and as a young man drove a car for a time on the first street railroad in St. Louis. The road was owned by his father. Young Wells succeeded his sire as a street railroad magnate and later embarked in the steel and real estate business. About twelve years ago Wells began to dabble in politics, but he had never held office until he was elected world's fair mayor of St. Louis in 1901. His fad is horse racing.

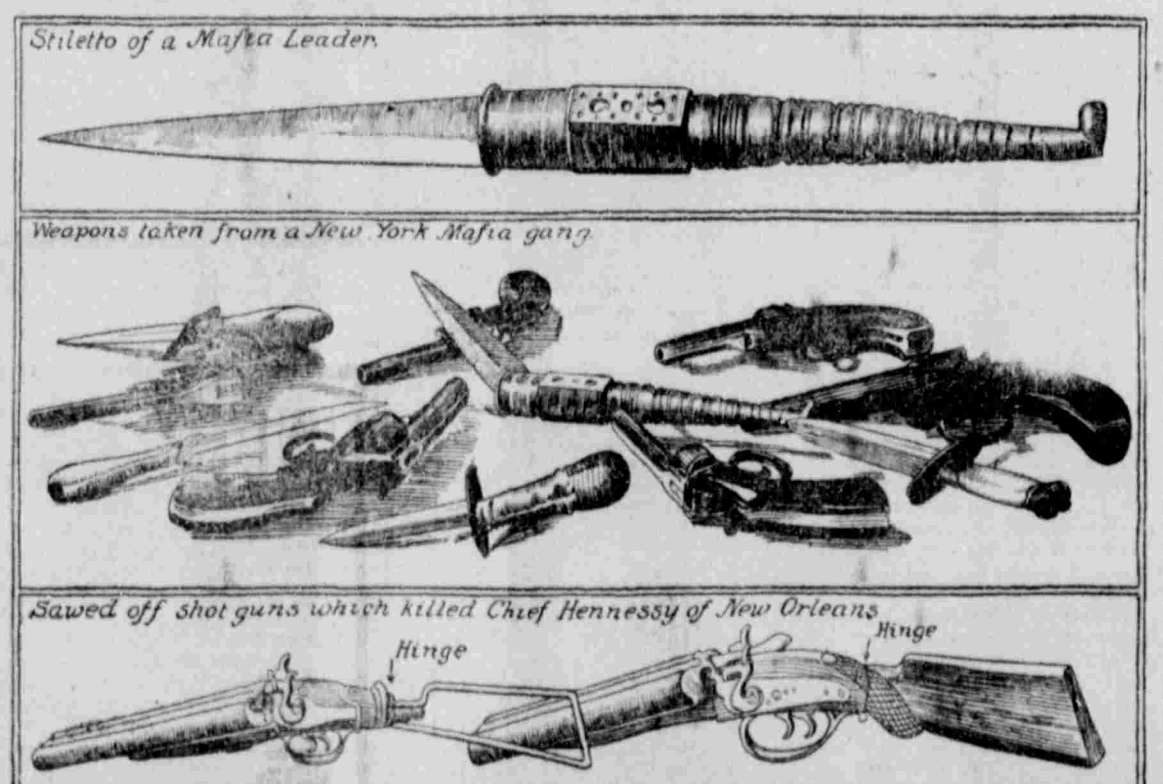
The Mafia, a Dangerous Importation From Sicily, And Its Dastardly Methods In the United States

NOW that it is an accepted fact that the murdered man whose body was recently found in a barrel in New York city was a victim of the Mafia attention is once more directed to that society, which has for its object the assassination of men inimical to its interests or to the interests of its leading members. Practically every large city in the United States contains branches of the Mafia, and many cities of very moderate size have been terrorized by the workings of these detestable bodies. In most cases it is true that the victims are usually their fellow countrymen, and it is matter of record that the records of the courts show that the number of convictions obtained is absurdly out of proportion to the number of murders committed. This is due to the fact that friends of the murdered men usually refuse to tell what they know of the suspected perpetrators, preferring to take the law into their own hands, with the result that there are two or more murders instead of one. But difficult of detection as are these crimes, they are ridiculously simple of solution in comparison with those committed by the Mafia against outsiders. Then the Sicilians are closely bound together by the oath of their society, the violation of which would inevitably mean death.

The Mafia, as it is known in this country, does not live up to its original purpose. It is quite an old organization formed in Sicily for the purpose of fighting the Italian government in a political way. The subordinate branches are to all intents and purposes independent, though all of them acknowledge the authority of the head circle in Palermo, and the sign is accepted all over the world. From a comparatively innocent beginning, the Mafia speedily degenerated into a body which used its power to attain its ends, making threats when fair means failed and eventually resorting to violent measures. But for a long time actual murder was not countenanced. When, however, the Italian government traced most of the abuses for which Sicily had long been justly infamous to the workings of the Mafia through its controlling force in Palermo and inaugurated a vigorous campaign for its extermination, murder was resorted to, the most prominent official in Sicily being thrown from a rapidly moving train.

It was not until this time that the Italian government suspected how widespread was the influence of the Mafia, but it was then found that little branches existed in nearly every community of the peninsula. Strength was lent to these bodies by an alliance with the brigands, who protected the Mafia when necessary by force of arms, and who in turn were protected by members of the Mafia serving on juries when the brigands were brought up for trial.

The Mafia in this country got its start from persons driven out of Sicily for crimes committed in such a manner that there was no hope of escaping conviction. Naturally these outlaws, having interests in common and finding that many of their compatriots had preceded them to this country, organized themselves into branches of the Mafia, and equally naturally the scope of the home body, despicable and villainous as it was, was broadened to meet the new conditions.



While, as has been said, scarcely any large city of the United States has been uniformly free from the Mafia blight, the worst sufferer from this foreign implantation has been New Orleans. For more than a generation preceding the year 1890 there had been an average of

nearly two murders a year attributable to the Mafia, and because of the oath bound nature of the organization scarcely a conviction was obtained. In 1890 two factions which had been at loggerheads for some time finally resorted to murder, and under the clever

manipulation of Superintendent of Police David Hennessy a number of arrests were made and ample evidence was secured to obtain conviction, though without the infliction of the capital penalty. In gathering this evidence Hennessy had obtained information

which made it certain that the Mafia would experience great difficulty in committing crimes without the practical certainty of detection. Naturally therefore Hennessy was violently hated by those of the Mafia who had not been concerned in giving away the secrets of the workings of their organization, and it was decided that he was too dangerous to them to be permitted to live. A house was hired opposite to that of the superintendent of police, and from that vantage point his movements were closely watched. Finally in October, 1890, Hennessy was murdered almost at the door of his residence, his approach having been heralded by a boy who ran ahead and gave the peculiar signal whistle of the Mafia. This boy was the son of one of the prime conspirators.

This daring crime of the Mafia set the city of New Orleans ablaze, and it was recognized that only heroic measures could avert a temporary reign of terror. Mayor Shakespeare appointed a committee of safety, and it was largely through the influence of this committee that a desperate campaign of annihilation against the Sicilians was prevented.

There were many arrests, and finally nineteen men were held for complicity or actual participation in the murder of Hennessy. On April 13, 1891, the jury acquitted six of the nine men then on trial and disagreed with reference to the other three. Then all respect for the law vanished, for it was alleged that the jury had been tampered with through the influence of a private detective named Dominick O'Malley. A call was issued for a mass meeting the next morning. A large mob assembled in front of the Clay statue, whence, led

by some of the most prominent men of the city, men who had been members of the committee of safety and who had tried to counsel moderation, the crowd proceeded to the parish prison and lynched eleven of the men whose connection with the murder of Hennessy seemed indisputable. It is possible that one or two of the victims had nothing to do with that particular murder, but the mob was determined to do a terrible day's work, and it did it. Since that day New Orleans has been singularly free from crimes which appear like the work of the Mafia.

In most of the murders of the Mafia what is known as the Mafia gun is used. This deadly weapon is made by sawing off the barrel of an ordinary shotgun and reducing the length of the stock, which is also hinged so that the whole thing may be folded up and carried under the coat. It is also a remarkable fact that the Mafia also dispose of their weapons as soon as they have committed a murder. This is doubtless because the possession of such an unusual gun would furnish rather strong presumptive evidence against its possessor. But, aside from these guns, the Mafia use a large variety of knives, many of them hand made.

The recent Mafia murder in New York city and the fact that on the person of each of the men detained merely on suspicion there was found a knife of this description, as well as a revolver, has aroused the police of the large cities of this country, and in most places a vigorous campaign is to be waged against every one who violates the law by carrying concealed weapons.

KERMIT W. JAMES