

compained him were entirely at the mercy of the brigands. They were out of sight of their escort, and round about them were Luuky's men, about 400 in number, kneeling, with their rifles at their feet, ready to fire at the least signal. The brigand chief, who is said to be a young man not over 20 years old, and his lieutenant, who appeared somewhat older, maintained throughout a haughty and insolent manner, dictating terms as a conqueror to the conquered.

Messrs. Roque and party arrived at Haiphong in the small steamer *L'Agnes* about 9 o'clock the same evening. They did not appear to be much the worse for the long weeks of painful anxiety and rough treatment, although their hands still retained the marks of the manacles. During their captivity they were prevented for a whole month from using their arms, being fed like children by their "boy." The fate of the Chinese compradore, Wing Fat Cheong, remains in doubt.

Government buildings seem to be particularly aimed at by Singapore burglars. Some time ago the Chinese Protectorate offices were broken into, then recently we had a burglary in the jail attended with the loss of money and other valuables to the amount of \$300, and now "we hear," says the *Straits Times* of the 8th inst., "that last night thieves got into the police offices, burst open an almeirah and carried off a cash box containing about \$52 in cash and some valuable papers. The box belonged to the Coroner's clerk, and it is thought from the general circumstances surrounding the case that the robbery had been committed by some person or persons well acquainted with the routine of the office."

The number of large fires in Japan during the last few months have been remarkable. The *Japan Gazette* in referring to the matter says: On March 25th we reported the burning of nearly 300 houses at Aomori, and now we have to chronicle the destruction of over 500 dwelling-houses, a tax collector's office and a hospital at Noshiro-machi, Yama-moto-gun. Akita-ken, and of over 330 dwelling-houses, one police detachment office, a town hall and postoffice at Mimuro, Arava-mura, Nakataki-mura, and Higashi-Araya-mura, Kami-Nikawa-gun, in Toyama-ken. In the latter case the conflagration lasted for six hours.

The American ship *Glendon* went ashore on March 24th near Cape Sagami and was a total loss, although part of her cargo of oil from New York was saved. The *Omaha* went to her assistance, but returned on finding that nothing could be done to get the vessel off. The *Glendon* was last reported with her back broken and mainmast gone through her bottom.

From a native paper we learn that it has at last been definitely decided to establish the proposed telephone exchange for Tokio and Yokohama, and that it is to be opened not later than May 1st. Afterward it is contemplated extending the service to Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe.

### THE CARPENTERS' STRIKE.

April 30th the Carpenters' Union had a meeting, which lasted till somewhere near midnight. Just before adjournment the following resolutions, which had been under discussion, were adopted:

1—That the terms of our circular of Jan. 15 to contractors and builders be adhered to in full.

2—That none but competent men be employed, with the exception of apprentices; the number of apprentices to be employed by each one to be agreed upon mutually.

3—That to have all agreements carried out in good faith the bosses shall declare their jobs and shops to be union or, in other words, that the employers shall recognize the union by hiring none but union men, as in no other way can disputes be fully guarded against.

Thursday, May 1st was the time decided upon for the carpenters and joiners to quit work provided their terms were not complied with.

In many cases today the employers acceded to the demand, for the time being, at least, and the men continued at work. At other places however, the case was different, and quite a number of workmen were out of employment today.

At the Sierra Nevada Lumber Yard the blow of the strikers was most severe. There they demanded \$3.50 for nine hours' work, but Mr. Lynn refused to pay more than 85 cents per hour. Fourteen of his employes went out, eight being union men and six non-union. Only four employes were left in the mill and very little work was done. It was understood that there would be no difficulty in competent men getting the wages, but the company would not pay good and poor workmen alike. There is considerable difference of opinion between Mr. Lynn and the men, and the outcome cannot yet be determined.

At the Salt Lake Building and Manufacturing Company's establishment, six men went out. The reason for going was that the company employed non-union men. The wages question was settled there, and the strike was solely on the other issue.

Mr. Woolley, one of the managers of the company's affairs was in his office today, when one of his former employes came in. Mr. Woolley inquired, "Why did you not give us notice of your proposed action?"

Mr. Bishop (the striker)—We did; we sent you a circular a while ago.

Mr. Woolley—Yes, you sent a circular, and its requirements were that we pay \$3.50 for a day of nine hours, and give union men the preference in employment. We submitted to that demand, and now, without any notice or intimation that anything was wrong, you call an arbitrary strike. Do you think there is anything fair or honorable in deciding, at 12 o'clock at night, that you will refuse to go to work at 7 o'clock next morning, without a word of complaint or notice to your employers? You never made any complaint to us, and we never had any intima-

tion of your intention till informed by the men this morning when they quit work. Why were we not notified, to say the least, that we might meet you and discuss the matter?

Mr. Bishop—There is an arbitration committee in the Scott building, where such questions can be considered.

Mr. Woolley—Do you suppose that it is our business to hunt up that committee at any and all times, and inquire of them if there is anything going to be sprung on us by the union, and ask for arbitration. We are hardly in that line of business and don't propose to be.

Mr. Bishop—You knew there was a discussion going on about wages.

Mr. Woolley—Yes, sir, and received a circular about it, and we gave what you asked. We object to having our business run by others in this style.

Mr. Woolley made further explanations of his position, which is in substance the same as that of a number of other employers. He said "We have no objection to paying the wages asked for the time stated. But we do object to paying full wages to an incompetent hand. There are not enough good union carpenters here to supply the demand, and we consider it a gross injustice to inflict injury on us because there are good workmen who will not unite with the unions. We need men who can do a certain class of work, and we can afford to pay them full wages for the amount they do. But there are not enough union men of that class, and we are subjected to a strike if we employ additional men, merely because those men are not members of the union. I understand that most of the resident members were opposed to this course, but that transients and newcomers have control of the union, and have proceeded in this way."

So Mr. Bishop, Mr. Woolley said, "You know there are certain members here who are greatly inferior to non-union men, as workmen, and who are not worth the full wages they demand. There are Blank and Blank and Blank (naming several of the men) and they cannot earn us more than \$2.75 or \$3.00 per day. They admit that they are not first-class workmen, and say they are willing to work for what they are worth, but the union won't let them, and we cannot afford to hire them."

Mr. Bishop—The union will not keep incompetent men as members.

Mr. Woolley—But they do it. And shall we pursue a man to have him expelled, and so place him where he can get no employment at all? He may be never so good a man, but it is his misfortune to be slower than a first-class hand; therefore you shut him out of getting what he can earn, or compel us to pay more than he is worth. You may call that fair, but I do not. If you had grades, according to ability, we might get around that point, but there is no road now except to fight the unions. We are glad some of your men have struck—Blank, for instance (naming him);