

Taft Surprised the Japs Before Breakfast Time

S. S. Minnesota Slipped Into Yokohama Early, But Failed to Mar Reception to Traveling American Statesman.

YOKOHAMA, Nov. 25.—America caught Japan napping today, says Taft slipped within the territory of Dan Nippon before the alert negotiation of titled and distinguished men of the nation, who had been commanded by the emperor to receive him, were aware that the one representative of a foreign power who is probably nearer than all others to the heart of the Japanese was within miles of Yokohama.

He landed in impenetrable walls of fog, the steamship Minnesota had kept fairly outside the mouth of Yokohama harbor before the watchmen on shore knew it. But the awakening was instantaneous and spectacular. Sily as had Minnesota passed her way into the play compass of the breakwaters, 15 miles from Seattle, her little joke upon



TWO PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANTS.

Gov. John A. Johnson of Minnesota, and Lieutenant-Governor Lewis Stuyvesant of New York are the two latest presidential aspirants. Gov. Johnson has rapidly advanced himself to the front rank of national politics by his force of character and his rather original ideas, and young Mr. Chandler is one of those virulent forces whose power is bound to be felt.

Although neither of these gentlemen may be considered seriously by the old wheel horses in the national political game, it remains that this is an age of young men and youth may yet make the old fellows sit up and look to their laurels.

The welcoming party carried its point no further. By the time she had swung to her moorings, a half mile from the custom house pier, a gay battery of launch and small boats had run high astern, tooting car-splitting salutes. The secretary as he leaned over the rail of the promenade deck, while robust American cheers from American throats mingled with the shrill bark of the Japanese in an International "Hooray" to Mr. Taft.

Later on we learned fuller details of the consequences of the meeting with the Minnesotans, who had stayed upon the welcoming party. They had been doubtless to the hour of the steamship's approach to Yokohama. Wise men, versed in the ways of the sea and the speed of ships, confidently had prophesied that she would be in Friday night. Far into the watches of the night the party held vigil on the terrace fronting the Grand hotel. They strained their eyes with the streaks of dawn to sift the rocks upon the day when that had been ported as an advance guard miles beyond the breakwater.

Midnight, 1 o'clock came, and then the clock went 2. But 2 o'clock was filled on the moon-faced horologe in the hotel office before hope was abandoned and bed was sought. Besides the pocket launch, men with night glasses had been stationed on platform above, commanding the pathway to the harbor, while telephones with special wires and instruments at their elbows, were to flash "Minnesota sighted" directly into the apartments of Mr. Watanabe, imperial household master of ceremonies, who headed the representatives of the emperor.

FORSOOTH BREAKFAST TO GREET TAFT.

Hanging upon speculations that the Minnesotans could not anchor before 3 or 4 o'clock this morning, no one was prepared for the tumultuous burst upon bedroom doors by a swarming multitude, anxious to have a look at the first full of the steamship coming suddenly out of the fog close to the lights.

All sorts of breakfast was thrown to the winds as the bursting noted began to disclose scenes of Japanese, Americans and Englishmen. It was a wild, uncontrolled appearing crowd, in sailor hats and dark coats, with hats pulled down and a few unshaven faces, while the more dignified visitors looked in some cases

with awe and respect at the scene of the morning's surprise.

"No other American would have or could have such a welcome as this in Japan, excepting, possibly, Mr. Roosevelt," said Mr. Watanabe.

In the first group that climbed the companionway was Mr. Watanabe, Mr. Yoshida, consul general to the minister of foreign affairs, and the official escort of the foreign office, the three officials named by the emperor to take charge of Mr. Taft's entertainment.

After them slumbered a host of civilians and naval and military officials, American and English. I was told that, come from the Japanese delegation, which was as distinguished and representative as any in the world, but their strongest name was not, no American or Englishman of consequence in Yokohama, Tokyo or this part of the empire was absent.

With extreme formality, dear to Japanese hearts and according to precedent, the meeting between Mr. Taft and the emperor's representatives was accomplished. With Mr. Watanabe and

the other members of the Japanese cabinet, the two men exchanged a few words, and then the Japanese delegation left the ship.

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