

with them, and write essays in poetry. They have to wear a certain kind of a cap known as a scholar's cap, at this time, and each essay covers a sheet of this paper. It must have just so many verses and just so many lines to each verse, and the students don't know what they are going to write about until they get inside the grounds. The subject is hoisted up on a pole just outside of a pen in which the king and the judges sit. After the writing is through each student folds up his essay in a peculiar way and throws it over the fence of the pen. It is carried up to the king and is spread out on top of a pile of papers which grows to large proportions before the examination is through. Only a few pass at these examinations, and the rejected papers are all sold by the king or by his officials, and there are hundreds of houses in Seoul which are carpeted with these old examination papers. I wore a rain-coat made of oiled paper which had been originally used by a Corean student for one of these essays, and I trotted about through the streets with a lot of Confucian doggerel on my back. The paper stores are found in different parts of the capital, and they do a big business. This paper takes the place of glass, and it forms the window coverings of Corea.

#### THE SHOE STORES.

One of the largest of the guild halls about the great bell is devoted to the selling of shoes. These are of many varieties and some are quite expensive. Those for the ladies are made of pink, blue and red leather, while the men usually wear black slippers with soles of white wood about an inch thick. The common people wear straw shoes, and these are made by the bushel, and are carried by porters all over the country. I took a picture of one with about 500 pairs on a pack on his back and I saw peddlers squatting down on the road here and there with these shoes before them. They cost about one cent per pair, and are the cheapest article of clothing in Corea. Most things are extravagantly dear. General Pak showed me hats which cost fifteen dollars apiece, and he bought a new gown in order that he might go about with me in style which cost him ten dollars.

#### FREE LUNCH COUNTERS.

Think of free lunch counters in Corea! Well, they have them in all parts of the country, and there is many a dirty little den in Seoul outside of which a clay oven is continually cooking free soup, and where you can get a bit of dried fish or a raw turnip without charge between drinks. The Coreans are less temperate than the Chinese, and I think, also than the Japanese. They like intoxicating liquors, and I met many reeling through the streets, and now and then saw one asleep by the roadside, dressed in his long white gown and looking for all the world like a corpse in a shroud. I saw a number of fights and General Greathouse—rather too delightedly, I thought—once said to me:

"Why, these people are just like our people at home. They drink and they fight and they go upon sprees. They have many other things in common with us, and they are decidedly human."

There are many saloons, and the sign of these is a basket which is hung on a pole above the door and which is of the kind through which the beer and other

liquors are strained when they are made. This basket is usually about eighteen inches long and eight inches in diameter, and you see them all over Corea.

#### THE DRUG STORES.

The drug stores do not sell liquors, and they have very fine fluids of any kind. Their medicines consist of powders and herbs, and patent medicines are as yet unknown in Corea. I believe a great business could be done in both Corea and China by taking patent medicines out there and advertising them as wonderful cure-alls, using the "before and after taking" signs especially. The field is a virgin one, and it ought to be worked. I went into one drug store in Seoul, which was walled with cabinets containing drawers about six inches square filled with all kinds of nauseous herbs. There were bags of medicine hanging from the roof, and the druggist was squatting on the floor with his hat on, making more medicine. Both the Chinese and the Coreans believe in big doses. They don't think a powder is worth anything unless it is big enough for a horse, and their great cure-all is ginseng. This we consider a weed in America, but it is one of the most valuable products of Corea, and the king has the monopoly of it. He has great farms which are watched at nights by men who sit on platforms which have been built up in them to keep the people from stealing the crop. The roots are shipped off to China, where the king has his own officials to watch the sale and see that he gets his share of the profit. It is, in short, worth almost its weight in gold. Some of this herb is shipped from America to China, but is not considered as good as the Corean ginseng. The weed is used as a tonic, and it is believed to have wonderfully strengthening powers.

#### THE CABINET SHOPS.

The Coreans do some very good cabinet work, and about the only things you can buy in the country which are worth carrying away are brass cooking utensils and bureaus. The brass is wonderfully fine. It shines like gold, and is made in little foundries, which look more like blacksmith shops than brass works. Everything is done by hand. The bureaus are all trimmed with brass, and the funniest article of household furniture is the Corean cash box. Every man has his own bank of this kind. It is often bound with brass, and it is made of oak wood about two inches thick, and the lock to it weighs several pounds. The money is kept in this box, and is carried about on the backs of coolies or by servants, when a man goes shopping, and in the winter it is taken and put into the Corean safe deposits.

#### THE COREAN SAFE DEPOSIT.

The Coreans have perhaps the best safe deposit system in the world, but it is one that works in the winter. All their money is in the shape of Corean cash, which is made in coins of copper and brass about as big as an old-fashioned red cent, with a square hole in the center. It takes 600 coins, or 3,000 cash, to make an American dollar, and about \$20 is a good load for a man, and \$40 would break down a bullock. During the summer the Corean capitalists lends out his money for five per cent and upward a month, very judiciously placing it. In the winter, however, there is liable to be cold and famine, and it might be stolen, or his debtor

might not be able to pay, so, as cold weather approaches, he draws in his cash and puts his into safe deposit vault until spring. Every Corean has his own vault. It is usually his front yard, which is walled off from the street. He has his servant dig up this to a depth of about eight feet and then the first cold, frosty night he spreads out a layer of this cash in the hole and covers it with a coating of earth. He has water thrown upon this, so that the cash is embedded in mud, and it is watched until Jack Frost freezes it tight. The next night there is another layer of cash and a second coating of mud. This is frozen, and it goes on until there is a solid frozen mass of cash and mud, lying two or three feet below the surface of the ground. On top of this the ground is also frozen, and the winter is such that the merchant can sleep without fear until spring.

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#### RAISING THE SUGAR BEETS.

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 21, 1895.

In your issue of January 18, 1895, I notice an article from a Farmington correspondent on sugar-beet raising. I am afraid many of your subscribers may think, according to your correspondent's calculations, that there is nothing so profitable as raising sugar beets. But for the benefit of your correspondent and subscribers generally I will endeavor to give you a correct statement of things, from my own personal experience.

In the first place, the farmer has to sign a contract with the Sugar company, and this is the nature of the contract:

The Sugar company hereby agrees to purchase from ..... of ..... of ..... where any and all the beets he may produce, from seed furnished by us, that do not weigh over (three and one-half pounds) and that contain not less than (eleven per cent sugar, with a purity coefficient of eighty per cent), paying him therefor at the rate of ..... per ton. All beets are to be delivered at the factory in a marketable condition, with the tops closely and squarely cut off, and are to be piled up or unloaded in a proper manner under our direction. All diseased, frozen or damaged beets will be refused; and all beets not properly topped or with dirt clinging to them will be subject to discount.

The land has also to undergo special preparation before planting the seed or it will not germinate. Then the farmer has to take his chances as to whether he gets his seed planted in good time, as the sugar company employs certain men to do all the planting; and I can assure you that unless you are one of the favored, well you are liable to have to wait until late in the season before getting your seed planted.

Well, we will suppose the farmer gets his seed planted at a reasonable time, which should be about the end of April. It takes the seed about ten to fourteen days to germinate in fair weather, and as soon as the plants are about two inches high they should be thinned right away. They have to be thinned to about eight or ten inches apart. The thinning takes consider-