

LETTER FROM SIAM.

Judge Colborn, secretary of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, is in receipt of the following communication from the United States minister at Siam:

The Secretary Chamber of Commerce,
Salt Lake City, Utah, U. S. A.,

Sir—I have the honor to call your esteemed and particular attention to certain suggestions and observations herein briefly set forth in regard to the development of closer trade relations between the Pacific coast of the United States and foreign lands bordering on the Pacific ocean, especially the countries of the Far East or Asian Pacific.

In other words I desire to emphasize the extent and value of the opportunity in these sections named for the advancement of American interests and the necessity of improving it without further delay or before it is too late.

On other occasions in special reports and letters, in official reports and articles written by request in various publications, I have striven to impress upon the people not only of the Pacific coast but of the United States as a whole the critical situation of the American trade in Pacific countries; and the status of affairs at the opening of 1897 bears out all I said and prophesied in 1895 and 1896. I would not appear as claiming any special merit for my own personal service; I have done only what is the duty of every American, whether he be a government officer or not, who sees constantly before his eyes splendid opportunities for the promotion of American commerce and prestige fast slipping away because they were not seized in time.

These prefatory remarks permit me to make a general statement: The prosperity of the Pacific coast can be immeasurably enhanced by a vigorous development of commercial exchange with Pacific countries; that development will be forever checked, hampered and handicapped by the tremendous influence and hold of European countries unless a general and persistent effort is made to get a fair share of the growing trade, and place the Pacific coast in a position to largely control the market of the Pacific ocean; that in the comparatively near future the Pacific will be the scene of events and the shores bathed by its waters will witness material and moral progress that will astonish the world and divide the honors with the Atlantic and its lands.

Everywhere one travels in the far East the spirit of activity prevails. The atmosphere is charged with commercial and political explosives. Were the movement a heading one it might be termed a "boom," but there is so much downright earnestness and clear-headed, dogged persistence in the movement that one continually is reminded that the far East is on the eve of a development that will surprise and may excite the awe and admiration of the world. China may be slow to move, but when she does move, then look out the rumbling can already be heard preannouncing a new life; when the roar of actual revolution reaches our ears, it

will be deafening. Japan is showing that she has only begun her achievements as a first class power. Already the number of steamers in the Pacific flying the rising sun flag exceed those flying the Stars and Stripes. This may be a humiliating fact but it is true. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Japan's lusty giant of navigation, is one of the largest steamship companies in the world and has more capital invested in bottoms than any two companies of the same kind in the United States. The president of this company, who is conceded by European experts to be one of the leading authorities of the day on the influence of merchant marine, calmly informed me that it was one of the intentions of his company to gain and hold the first place of all companies whose steamers ply on the Pacific. If any person, skeptical in regard to my assertions, would travel through Japan, visiting Yokohama, Tokio, Niigata, Kiot, Osaka and Kobe; run up to Vladivostok and see the prospects of eastern Siberia, possibly taking a trip up the river Amoor; go to Chemulpo and Seon in Korea; thence through Newchwang, coming down to Tien Tair, Peking and Cheloo; then proceed south to Shanghai, the mighty emporium of China, with a side trip up to Haikow, the mistress of the Yangtze Kiang; come down through Foochow and Amoy to populous Canton, and Hongkong, England's Gibraltar in the Pacific; then finally round up with Manila, Saigon, Bangkok, Singapore and Batavia,—if, I say, this skeptical party would make this journey, he would, I am absolutely positive, agree with me that no other portion of the world, and that no other line of cities are showing greater commercial activity, business prosperity and potential resources, all indicating that the Asian-Pacific is fast becoming a vital influence in the world's material and moral development.

When, moreover, it is understood that these cities are the entrepôts of five hundred millions of human beings and of a commerce amounting to one billion of dollars per annum, remaining doubts about the importance of the far East may be dispelled. Still I will call attention to the fact that more steamships entered the port of Bangkok in 1896 than the port of Portland; that there are more steam launches and small river craft on the river Menam in Siam, than on all Puget Sound; that more steamships entered the port of Shanghai in 1896 than in all the Pacific coast ports together; that more vessels entered and cleared at Hongkong in one month than at San Francisco in four months; that more steamers were anchored in either the harbor of Kobe or Yokohama in six months than in that of San Francisco in one year!

With these observations on the general situation, I shall leave more specific statements as to the ways of promoting the commercial relations of the Pacific states with the far East to another letter.

In this communication I am striving to awaken interest and trust what may be humbly and respectfully submitted hereafter whether in direct correspondence or official reports may receive the valued attention of the

Chamber of Commerce and people of your city.

Please let all manufacturers and exporters know, as well as others interested, that any inquiries from them on this subject will be answered in full detail.

May the arguments advanced in this letter be deemed of sufficient weight to secure a thorough consideration from those having the best interests of your city and the Pacific slope of the United States at heart.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN BARRETT,

U. S. Minister.

BANGKOK, Siam, May 12th, 1897.

MONUMENT CORNER STONE LAID.

The corner stone of the Pioneer monument was laid July 2nd, the ceremonies which were of an impressive and imposing character, beginning at 5:45 o'clock. Long before that time crowds of people filled the intersection of the street and when the multitude was called to order by Hon. James Sharp, a member and active worker of the Pioneer Memorial association, it was estimated that not less than 6,000 persons were on the ground.

Public officials, representing the State, county and municipality, were conspicuously numerous, the Mayor and other city officials coming to the scene of the monument in carriage. In addition to the representation from officialdom, there were many persons present who are prominent in the various professions and business enterprises of the City and State.

The exercises commenced by a specially selected chorus from the Tabernacle choir singing an ode to Brigham Young, by Prof. Evan Stephens. The Pythian band, under Prof. Anton Pedersen, effectively joined in the accompaniment. The first stanza and refrain of the ode are as follows:

Shout forth his name till the hills and the mountains

Catch and re-echo its joyful and loud,
Passing it on by the pine-circled fountains,
O'er snow-capped summits above the clouds,
Breathe it with love to the vales in their splendor,

Say how from deserts he made them appear,
Brigham, the founder, the leader, the Prophet,
Praise to his memory, we ever hold dear.

REFRAIN:

Brigham the founder, the leader, the Prophet
Praise to his memory we ever hold dear.

President Lorenzo Snow offered a prayer appropriate to the occasion. The chorus then rendered America and was again accompanied by the Pythian band. This selection, rendered as it was under the flag decorated with red, was particularly pleasing and its patriotic strains had a very visible effect upon the big assemblage.

Hon. Franklin D. Richards then delivered the oration. It is as follows:

Fellow citizens of the State of Utah:

The nineteenth century, prolific in scientific marvels and famous for gigantic achievements, has brought forth a grand array of mighty men suitable to the age and fitted for the work necessary to be accomplished in the development and progress of the