

FACED TERROR FOR CENTURIES

Japanese Blamed for Slaughter of Koreans.

Whole Provinces Have Been Devastated—Could Have Won Sympathy—Given No Rights.

BY CHARLES EDWARD HOGUE
Shanghai, Feb. 18.—Korea, the Belgium of the far east, has been the playground of Mars, for centuries. Mongol, Manchur, Chinese, Japanese and her own rival tribes have swept ruthlessly backward and forward over her lands devastating hamlets, villages, cities and whole provinces, massacring her people and leaving terror and destruction in their wake. And in nearly every instance it has been from the Japanese that she has suffered most.

People Slaughtered.

When the Japanese led by Hideyoshi invaded Korea in the sixteenth century whole provinces were laid waste, people were slaughtered by the thousands and conditions existed that have not been forgotten by the Koreans to this day. Korea was divided into the Russian and Japanese spheres of influence and the Russo-Japanese war with Japan again the victor in 1905.

Following the Japanese protectorate which culminated in annexation of the country by Japan in 1910, Japan had the sympathy of most of the western world up to the time of the close of the Russo-Japanese war and had she shown faith in fulfillment of her treaties not only would she have avoided the present revolt of Korea against Japanese domination, but further, she could have created a contented colony. Korean rule was corrupt and parasitic and the lot of the masses was undeniably hard.

Through contrast, the Japanese could have won loyalty had she seen fit to carry out her promises of an honest administration, material benefits and freedom and fair dealing.

But, using the same tactics that she has applied in China in the last few years, Nippon showed her intention of closing her grip on the unfortunate nation. Support of corrupt interests, stuffing of official posts with dummies, instructed to foreclose the nation's independence and similar methods were employed. The Koreans must shoulder a share of the burden. They sat apathetically while the Japanese stood over empor and cabinet with drawn swords and forced a conquest as clearly as though by armed invasion.

Had she given Korea fair play it would have made China, similarly facing delay, less resolute in her opposition to Japanese encroachment; opposition that has taken the form of a boycott on Japanese goods and which has caused genuine concern in Nippon's commercial circles.

The Koreans were given almost no rights in their own country. He has no political representation and the few petty offices doled out to natives of the country are thoroughly safeguarded by Japanese advisers who hold all the authority.

There is no freedom of speech. No gathering, even of a social nature, of more than three persons is allowed. There is no freedom of press. There is no newspaper printed in the Korean language and edited by a Korean published in that land.

Business of reform have been made last March, in fact, when Baron Sato inaugurated a new administration, but thus far they have been carried out only in a minor degree. If they were carried out in full it is doubtful if the revolt of the Koreans would subside.

They have risen against assimilation, they maintain that their race must be kept. The Hermit Kingdom has become the Permit Kingdom.

Have Fly Swatter Law.

An official ordinance to one community, is in on record and this is only a substantial, provision that every man have a fly swatter, in the interests of sanitation.

The inevitable inspector found that one family of five persons had only four swatters. A 10-month-old baby was without one. The family was fined.

But not all official oppression is so trivial as this.

BATS AND CRABS RICH SOURCES OF COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS

BY S. P. VERNER.

(Written Especially for The Observer)

The heavily increased demand for nitrogenous commercial fertilizer is bringing into the market materials little thought of before. Latin American countries are finding new sources of profitable business in disposing of what was regarded as waste until recently. Two of these are of a sort that may be expected to become a permanent industry as long as the prices justify. Bat guano and dried crabs are being purchased by the fertilizer factories in the United States at prices that are causing exploration for new bat caves and the collection of the shore-crabs in many parts of central America, where the information has reached the natives that these materials are salable.

The crab as a source of fertilizer is almost something new under the sun. Hitherto it has been only as a by-product of the fisheries that the ugly crustacean has helped to raise cotton and corn, but it has been found that the species of crab that only few will call the hard-shelled resident along the shore line of central and northern South America, makes good soil food, and the crabs occur in quantities sufficient to make it worth while to collect them.

They are very much in evidence in Panama. They were long the bane of the people of Colon who wished to have flower or vegetable gardens. They live in holes in the earth above high-tide in a distance of 200 yards from the water. An acre of low coast land will show as many as 50,000 of these holes, big and small. This crab is the hard-shelled variety of a tropical species, and is vastly more abundant along the Caribbean shore than farther north. It is chiefly herbivorous—eats tender grass, roots, decaying vegetation, certain sorts of sea-weed, and plants have in fields of corn, sugar cane, etc., planted too near the water.

Fortunately it does not go far from the water. The possibility of soil salinity these crabs is an important fact for the residents along the coasts, usually fishermen and small farmers of limited means. They constitute a distinct element in central American population, choosing to live in their huts along shore mainly because of their love of independence, and generations of them have grown up in thinly spread out settlements between the

cities and towns. The crabs never have been esteemed for food, and were always regarded as more of a nuisance than anything else. They are easy to catch, but it has not been regarded as worth while to catch them for the sake of any plantations, as it was easier to plant beyond their range. But it ought to be profitable to catch and send them to local buyers for shipment to fertilizer factories at present prices. Dried crab contains phosphate, nitrogen and lime.

The vampire and other bats manufacture nitrogen on a large scale where they congregate in numbers in limestone caves, and the bat fauna is very abundant in Central America. The nocturnal habits of the creatures involved in work as regular industry. A colony of ten thousand bats would give a man an income of a hundred dollars a month, without feeding them—they destroy all sorts of noxious insects, moths, caterpillars, mosquitoes, (they might solve the boll-weevil problem if bred in sufficient numbers), and they can be induced to roost in artificially furnished quarters.

The bat has been foolishly exterminated in many regions. He helps to maintain the equilibrium of nature as much as any creature known. He is usually harmless—the vampire is now known not to be nearly as dangerous as once thought, and the vampire is only one species in a big genus. There was no good reason for his destruction, except ugliness, and the small boy with his gun did the country real damage when he made the poor creature's hideousness the excuse for his death.

Friends and a wise policy will conserve them.
Brevard, N. C.

white house. At one time during repairs on the executive mansion, the present club was the temporary home of former President Roosevelt and his family.

Immediately upon the opening of the club house in November pressure was brought to bear upon the board of directors for permission, not only for the masculine guests of the club to smoke, but for the members themselves to enjoy this privilege. It was suggested that a smoking room be furnished where members of the club and their feminine friends could indulge themselves with a puff at their favorite rag.

In response to the demand the board gave directions for the furnishing of suitable quarters for the smokers, designating a large front room on the third floor as the prospective smoking room. The furnishings were purchased and a notice posted on the club bulletin board to the effect that in accordance with the wishes of the members the smoking room would be opened within a short time. The notice was observed by members who gasped and exclaimed—and then the battle was on.

"Outrageous," declared Mrs. Emma S. Shelton, president of the District of Columbia Women's Christian Temperance union. "I am simply amazed that they even contemplate such a thing. I shall certainly oppose the move."

"It's unwomanly," declared Mrs. Court F. Wood, former president of the District of Columbia Federation of Women's clubs. "Smoking is to be recommended neither for its cleanliness, nor its thriftiness. I am sure the majority of the members will oppose it."

"I believe in letting women do as they please," was the retort of the opposition, voiced by Mrs. Mimi C. Van Winkle, head of the woman's bureau of the District of Columbia police department, and prominent in social work among women. "If they want to smoke, let 'em. I do not, but it is because I don't like to do it."

"If this club is going to be either a kindergarten or a Sunday school, I shall send in my resignation," declared other members, who were devotees of the weed.

For two months the argument between the opposing factions waxed hot and furious, until the harried board of directors decided to put the matter to a vote, setting an early date in January for the decision. This meeting was well attended. Friends and enemies of My Lady Nicotine turned out in full force. There were so many arguments pro and con that a final decision was postponed until another meeting in February.

At the February meeting the smokers won, and the board of directors was instructed to complete the preparation for the smoking room. But despite the settlement of the dispute in favor of the smokers, the other side declared the war was not over. Mrs. Theodore Moore, vice president of the W. C. T. U., hinted that the matter might culminate in a nationwide campaign on the part of her organization to abolish the cigarette.

"The time is not ripe as yet," she said ominously, "but..."

Possibly this incident will precipitate the long-threatened fight-to-the-finish between the anti-tobacco forces of the country and the tobacco interests. Alarmed by the reports of the growth of the habit among young girls, the Methodist Episcopal board of temperance has already fired the opening shot, particularly stressing the injurious effects of the habit on the health of women. They deplore the habit as a "phase of the present day feminism that claims for women every privilege enjoyed by men. Concerning the justice of this demand there can be no question. Concerning its expediency, much can be said. Women as a rule, they claim, ow-

ing to their more sedentary life, yield to the habit with far greater abandon than men, and the woman who enjoys her cigarette can hardly endure being separated from it for any length of time.

The question of smoking in the Women's City club is brought into the argument. These women, they point out, were accustomed to smoking in their own homes, and could not spend even a few hours away from that home without their tobacco, while a man, even a regular smoker, can, and frequently does, go for hours without even touching tobacco of any kind.

"The nervous constitution of a woman," they argue, "can be compared to that of an adolescent boy, and the effects of tobacco upon her is similar in its effects on immature youth."

"The most serious factor, however, is the innate physical difference between men and women, involving a difference in responsibility, a difference in duties and privileges. It is

admitted that the tobacco habit when contracted must be satisfied at all times. The woman must bear her children for nine months, during which time the undeveloped child is drugged by tobacco in the blood of the smoking mother. She nurses her child for many months, and if the mother uses tobacco, it is present in distinct quantities in the milk.

"No nation can maintain the vigor which has characterized the American people if its women smoke. An earnest appeal should be made to the women to refrain from the use of tobacco in the name of their country's welfare, no matter what strict justice may declare their right and privilege to be."

One of the most costly books in the world is a Bible in Hebrew. An offer of its weight in gold was once made, and it was ascertained that this offer amounted to \$102,000, which was refused, and the volume is still in the library of the Vatican.



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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

Any reader can get the answer to any question by writing The Charlotte Observer Information Bureau, P. O. Box 100, Medical, Director, Washington, D. C. The bureau cannot give advice on legal, medical, and financial matters. Full name and address and enclose two-cent stamp for return postage. All replies are sent direct to the inquirer.

Q. Is it possible for a citizen of the United States to be also a citizen of another country?

W. D. C.
A. Some foreign countries do not expatriate their own nationals who come to the United States and are naturalized. The native land of some of these naturalized Americans still regards them as citizens. Under the laws and regulations of the two countries this man is a citizen of both.

Q. Is there such a product grown as colored cotton?

R. R.
A. A Georgia planter is just reported to have produced cotton, the staple of which is a pronounced green. Agriculturists and scientists have long been endeavoring to produce a cotton plant bearing a colored fiber.

Q. Is the same 12-hour clock system used in Brazil as in the United States?

G. Y. F.
A. In Brazilian time the 24-hour system is quite generally followed. This dinner might be served at 19 o'clock. The hours are counted from midnight, and run from one to 24.

Q. What country or countries have taken over the German colonies in Africa?

B. E.
A. The United States public health service says that typhoid inoculation should be repeated every three years. While inoculation against typhoid fever has proved highly successful, the public health service says that there should be no relaxation of efforts along sanitary lines.

Q. Can you tell me what the stamp language is?

W. M. S.
A. It is as follows: Stamp placed upside down on left corner—I love you; left corner crosswise—my heart is another's; straight up and down—aching, sweet heart; upside down on the right corner—write no more; in the middle at the top—yes; in the right hand corner at a right angle—do you love me?; in the middle at the bottom—no; in the left hand corner at right angle—I but you; top corner at right—I wish your friendship; on line with sprig—accept my love; same upside down—I am engaged; same at right angles—I long to see you.

Q. Does a United States copyright for a musical composition insure international protection?

G. W. D.
A. The Copyright office says that a copyright obtained in the United States does not insure protection in foreign countries. If protection is desired in any foreign country, application must be made to the copyright office of that country.

Q. Who is the author of the quotation "All things come to him who will but wait?"

M. W. O.
A. This quotation is from Longfellow's student's tale in his work entitled "Tales of a Wayside Inn." The same thought, worded somewhat differently, has been used frequently by other authors. Disraeli, in his "Curiosities," says that "Everything comes if a man will only wait."

Q. What is the significance of the abbreviation "Esq." as used after a surname?

I. L. S.
A. "Esq." is the abbreviation for the word "Esquire," which is the title of courtesy used chiefly in Great Britain. It originally applied to the landed gentry, and, therefore, still carries with it the implication of gentility and position. When it is written after the surname the prefix "Mr." is omitted. It is now used quite generally in England.

Q. What is a star route?

F. G. H.
A. The postoffice department says that a star route is a mail route that is let by contract—usually from a railroad town to some inland postoffice through sparsely settled territory. It got its name from the use of a star in the postoffice department records to distinguish it from other mail routes. As population grows in the territory of the route, rural delivery is substituted.

THE HASKIN LETTER.

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN

SHALL WOMEN SMOKE?

Washington, D. C., Feb. 18.—What may prove to be the first battle in the war against the use of tobacco in the United States—particularly as applied to women—has just been waged here in the newly organized Women's City club.

More than 2,000 representative women of the national capital belong to this club, the membership list including wives of cabinet members, women of congressional circles, prominent professional and social workers. The club is housed in a beautiful residence overlooking Lafayette square, just across from the

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