

## KOREA A GREAT NATION LONG AGO

Built Steel Clad Battleships In Sixteenth Century.

### EXPLORER MAKES REPORT.

Explains Why Advancement of Nation Has Been Retarded and Why Japan Has Forged to the Front—Expresses Great Hope For Future Under Guidance of Japan.

Washington. — George Kennan, explorer and lecturer, recently communicated to the National Geographic society at Washington the information that Korea built steel clad battleships 200 years before the Monitor and Merrimac were created. The Hermit Kingdom was using movable type and astronomical instruments from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries and employing explosive bombs long before they were known in Europe. He points out that the famous Japanese Satsuma pottery was made originally by Korean workmen, who were imported into the mikado's kingdom.

These facts are cited by Mr. Kennan to show the terrific downfall experienced by Korea. He traces her course from her pinnacle of civilization



GEORGE KENNAN.

to the depths of degeneracy and expresses great hopes for her future under the guidance of Japan.

"While Korea was sinking Japan was rising until the island kingdom, all by her own efforts, became such a world power as to defeat a great European nation," he says. "The Koreans were a mainland people. They had taught the medieval Japs all the civilization they had. But by reason of their geographical location they were invaded by vastly inferior peoples, the Mongols and the Manchus.

"Korea was influenced to establish demology as her religion, her blood was weakened by being crossed with that of people vastly beneath her, and her spirit was broken by the indignities heaped upon her by the more powerful invaders. She was under the influence of China, which adopted the semisacred books of Confucius as its national system of education 2,000 years ago. The knowledge of his works and the ability to recite long chapters of his writings were made the chief requirement of the aspirant for honors. As a result, the study of the sciences, mathematics and the phenomena of nature was dropped; the memory was overcultivated and the reasoning power stultified. The habits of the Koreans became uncleanly; they grew indifferent to dirt and smells.

"Japan, on the other hand, was never invaded in her history. Her blood was never intermingled, and her stock was allowed to remain pure. Her national character was developed without outside influence. The Shinto religion of the empire has as its cardinal principles purity of body, spirit and environment. Japan was not exposed to the scourges and plagues that Korea's dirt and filth brought upon her. The feudal system sprung up in Japan, causing authority to be respected and discipline to be developed.

"In 1910 Japan annexed Korea. Prior to that time as many deaths as 900 a day occurred in the city of Seoul alone. Shortly afterward not as many people died from the plague in the whole kingdom in one year. Japan forcibly vaccinated 5,400,000 people in one year. One hundred and sixty-eight courts were established, giving authority to 13,000 gendarmes. Hundreds of miles of roads are being built. Afforestation on an extensive scale is being carried on.

"To encourage the silkworm industry 13,000,000 mulberry tree seedlings were set out in one year. State and private banks were established. The postal savings system was installed, and one in every six families has a savings account. The people, at first suspicious, have learned that they will get their money back whenever they ask for it. In the first year after the Japanese occupancy the rice crop was doubled, and the wheat and barley crops grew from 14,000,000 to 30,000,000 bushels. The Japanese have built a model village in every province and are encouraging the people to build similar villages throughout the kingdom."

### HAD MADISON'S RAZOR.

Prisoner Said He Was Fourth President's Great-grand-grandson.

Savannah, Ga.—F. A. Madison, who says he is a direct descendant of President Madison, was locked up here after a street fight and after he had surrendered a razor which he said originally was the property of James Madison. The prisoner was held as a witness and then released.

Madison, who was a stranger in Savannah, was set upon and beaten by two men whom he said he did not know. His cries for assistance brought a policeman, who arrested one of the men, but was unable to catch the other. Madison also was taken to the station, and as he was being searched the policeman found the razor in the prisoner's pocket.

"Officer, please let me keep that," pleaded Madison.

"It's against the rules," replied the policeman.

"Can't you let me have it? I wouldn't take anything for it," begged the prisoner. "James Madison was my great-grand-grandfather and that razor and the family Bible are all of his possessions that we have left in the family now. I have been hungry and broke and without a place to sleep, but I have never parted with that razor."

He took the razor with him when he was released.

### WOULD DECIMALIZE TIME.

Frenchman Proposes Twenty Hores and a Thousand Chrones For a Day.

Paris.—A suggestion is made in the current Revue Bleue for the purpose of bringing the chronological system into line with the decimalization of money, weights and distance.

The new proposal involves the division of the day into twenty periods, called hores, instead of twenty-four hours, each hore being similarly divided into fifty periods, called chrones, each chrone—about one and a half minutes—being the thousandth part of a day—as the gram and the meter are the thousandth part, respectively, of the kilogram and kilometer. The chronos are further subdivided into cent-chrones, the equivalent of a second.

The deviser of the plan asserts that the new system would facilitate marine observation, besides simplifying calculations of time generally. The French government, however, shows no inclination to adopt the idea.

### HISTORY OF MARTHA WASHINGTON WILL

#### Morgan Tells How Document Came Into His Possession.

Washington.—The first authoritative explanation of the manner in which J. Pierpont Morgan came into possession of the Martha Washington will, to remain in the custody of which the governor and citizens of Virginia have threatened legal measures, was given out by Mr. Morgan.

"The will of Martha Washington was taken from the Fairfax courthouse in 1802," Mr. Morgan said, "by a colonel of the Union army, who rescued it from destruction by his men. This officer retained it in his possession for thirty years and shortly before his death in 1832 gave it to his daughter who, thirteen years later, in 1905, sold it to the late J. Pierpont Morgan.

"This account she related at the time of the transfer. She stated that her father's regiment garrisoned Fairfax Court House in 1802 and that he had headquarters in the courthouse. Another command had previously occupied the place, and the men had broken open the safes. The doors were littered with papers which the colonel's men used in making fires. Entering headquarters one day he found his men shoveling papers into a stove. He stopped them, and in examining the papers found the Martha Washington will.

"He carefully preserved the document throughout his life, and on the eve of his death gave it to his daughter."

"The correspondence shows that Mr. Morgan suggested to the governor of Virginia two plans for the preservation and exhibition of the Martha Washington will. One is that Mr. Morgan would present the will for public exhibition at Mount Vernon, the other is that the will be preserved by the congressional library at Washington. With both of these suggestions Mr. Morgan couples another, that George Washington's will, now Virginia's property, be exhibited with it.

### MARRY AT LONG RANGE.

Woman in Holland and Man in Wisconsin Are Curiously Wed.

Superior, Wis.—Johannes Jacobus Kuyk, after a wedding ceremony preliminaries for which lasted several months, is a married man. His bride was Miss Maria Louise Grotendorst of Holland. They were married by mail.

The bride is expected to arrive from Holland June 13. Final papers uniting the couple have arrived from Holland. A number of officials took part in the ceremony.

When Mrs. Kuyk arrives she will be accompanied by Miss Nellie Rees of Holland, who is to become the bride of G. Kuyk of Grand Rapids, Minn., a brother of the Superior man.

### NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST IN IDAHO

#### Important Occurrences Of The Past Week From Cities In Our State

##### Work for County Division.

Plummer.—A delegation appointed by the president of the Plummer commercial club visited Harrison to discuss dividing the county of Kootenai into three parts.

William D. Keeton of St. Maries believes both factions should get together and agree on the dividing line between the proposed county of Benewah, favored by St. Maries, and the proposed county demanded by Plummer and the southwest part of Kootenai county.

##### Sipeia Pleads Not Guilty.

Wallace.—John Sipeia, a North Fork rancher, recently held to the district court on a charge of first degree murder, was arraigned in the district court on the charge and entered a plea of not guilty. Sipeia is charged with striking John Karhu, a neighbor, in the head with a double-bitted ax and so severely crushing and gashing his skull that he died a short time afterward.

##### Weiser Farmer Accused.

Weiser.—Charles Henderson, a prominent farmer of this valley, is held under \$1000 bonds to appear in the United States district court in Boise in September to answer a charge of mauling the mails. Henderson was arrested at his home near here and had his preliminary hearing before United States Commissioner Trenam, of this city.

##### Armenian Shot by Holdup Succumbs.

Bonnara Ferry.—Sitroc Charmesia, the Armenian laborer, who was shot by a holdup man, died in the local hospital. He was about 28 years old and had a wife and two children in Europe. Two suspects were arrested at the Canadian line and have been brought here.

##### New G. O. P. Officers Wanted.

Bo.—A petition has been circulated among the county central committee-men asking the secretary to call a meeting of the republican central committee for the purpose of electing a new chairman and other officers who have moved away.

### WET AND DRY FIGHT LOOMS

Committees Meet June 9 to Name Delegates to Platform Convention.

Boise.—Will Governor Haines have opposition at the republican primaries? That is the question now paramount in the minds of republicans both for and against him. It begins to look as though he would not and if so it will produce a situation in this state unparalleled since the direct primary law went into effect.

The old county central committees meet at the county seats of the 33 counties June 9 to elect delegates to the state platform convention to be held June 30.

The primary election this year is held September 1 instead of the early part of August, as was the case two years ago.

The prospective possibilities as gubernatorial timber now prominently mentioned are Frank Lewis, a Moscow banker; C. L. Heitman, of Rathdrum, former state chairman, and D. W. Davis, of American Falls. It is practically assured that Senator Davis will not make the race, although urged to.

The prohibitionists are particularly active in behalf of Mr. Heitman, who has been prominent in the fight in his home county to bring about a "dry" condition there. He not only personally conducted war on the saloons in his home town, but he aided in the prosecution of the bootleggers. When the commissioners of Kootenai county denied the applications and petitions of the "drys" for a local option election in that county he took charge of the campaign and circulated petitions which the commissioners approved, calling an election. The result was that Kootenai county went from "wet" to "dry."

##### Improvement on Short Line.

Kooskia.—A Northern Pacific Clear-water short line work-train has been on this branch most of the spring, distributing ties and bridge timber, and with the aid of a steam shovel clearing away many places where slides have occurred during the spring rains.

##### Milk Cows for St. Maries.

St. Maries.—L. T. Castor has just received a carload of milk cows, Jerseys, Holsteins and Durhams. They will supply butter fat and milk for the St. Maries creamery.

##### French May Quit Race.

Coeur d'Alene.—Rumors are current here to the effect that Congressman Burton L. French is considering the advisability of retiring from the race for United States senatorship.

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