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INTERESTING TRIP ABROAD

Anton H. Edlefsen Gives An Entertaining Account of His Travels in Various Foreign Countries.

(Continued from last week.)

The passengers were landed in small steamboats and as it is customary for the hotel porter to look after the baggage and bring it through the customs, I simply turned over my keys and stepped into a little cart drawn by a coolie, commonly called rickshaman. On my way to the hotel I enjoyed the pretty sight offered by the Bund and the water front; but at the same time I did not fail to notice the peculiar foot wear of pedestrians, which in some cases consisted of different shaped sandals and in others of a sort of moccasin. These moccasins had a special encasing for the big toe, the same as all Japanese stockings or socks, so that a sandal may be fastened properly. Shoes are worn very little, but high toned girls, called "highheelers" are sometimes wont to wear them along with a dress, which seems to be a compromise between modern and Japanese style.

For several days I stayed at Yokohama, going also to Tokio, where had just been opened an exposition gotten up by some provinces around the capitol. After spending two weeks in traveling through the country, taking in the festivals of the cherry blossom season at the old capital Kioto, I boarded a boat at Kobe, which traveled through the inland sea of Japan, with its 1000 pretty islands, heading for Shanghai, China, by way of Magi and Shimonoseki, where the bunkers were filled with cheap coal. This coaling is very rapidly done and in a fashion distinctly oriental. A sort of stairway is made in the sides of the steamer with lumber and ropes and the coal is passed from hand to hand in small baskets; many women work in the gangs, while their small babies are waiting on the deck, sometimes looked after by the grown children who assist by dragging the empty buckets into the barges, just where they are to be filled again.

In Japan I made the acquaintance of a good many European business men and from those I learned that the Japanese people are today living in about the same fashion as they did fifty years ago. As far as government and public institutions are concerned, our modern western ideas and methods have been adopted, but the mode of life, with all its peculiarities, has with few exceptions, remained the same; so that old residents are unable to see any marked change in that respect. However, this is not true with respect to the attitude of the Japanese toward the white man since the Russian war.

Where the Japanese used to be polite and respectful towards the foreign settler before, he, after the war, has become almost impolite and disrespectful; so that the white man notices with disgust his self-conscious, proud bearing. Modern manufacturing, commerce and other enterprises, built all over the country with foreign capital, constructed under foreign supervision, have been taken over by entirely Japanese management, partly as the result of legislative and other combined action, making it impossible for the foreigner to remain in the once promising looking field. The large marine insurance companies used to force the Japanese to keep European captains on the boats insured by them, but since the war all of the Japanese boats have Japanese commanders. The tonnage of the commercial fleet has increased wonderfully and the Nippon Uson Kaisha—the imperial Japanese mail line—is a very important and reliable steamship company.

The soil is intensely cultivated, every available patch being made to produce, oftentimes several crops each season and in newly established agricultural schools the needs of the soil, and especially the advantage of applying artificial fertilizers are explained to the growing generations. As a result of the character of the land few horses or cattle are kept and for this reason has Japan become a great importer of fertilizer. Many of the hillsides are graded into terraces both on the mainland and on the many small, rocky islands. A great deal of irrigation is carried on, especially for the rice fields, and improvement districts have been formed, taking in certain localities situated in perhaps several provinces; but all sharing in the costs and benefits of certain works. The country is comparatively small and everything in it seems to conform thereto. Not only are the fields small, but so are the hills with the crippled trees thereon, the rivers, the horses, the dogs, in fact everything, as the race had to adjust itself to these conditions, by building small houses along narrow streets, by constructing narrow gauge railways with small cars, like our old street cars and so on. The employes of the railways appear like mere boys, but their service is as efficient as that of the police force. No one is inclined to cause a conflict with the latter and

A RAMBLE ABOUT THE TOWN

Ye Editor Visits a Number of the Leading Business Houses of the City and Gathers Some Interesting Information.

Last week we were "rung off" as we poked our nose into the tepee of the hiu tyhees of the tribe of the apostles. Here Hizoner, Mayor Couch sedately sits, sedulously seeking with seductive smiles to segregate senile and subvertive sentiment from the strivings of citizens strenuously seeking sanitary situations for the city and secundum artem, to establish sound, safe, sedative legislation through the solons sitting in sumptuous state before him. These sages of St. Johns seriously strive to serve their constituents so as to secure superabundantly superior sanitary, scientific, social and financial success, at least part of them. But seriously, in a financial way our city council has done wonders. They took charge of the city hall when the affairs were in a most deplorable state, not through any wrong doing of the previous council, so far as we have been able to learn, but through the dishonesty of the contractors doing the work, and they have succeeded in finishing a structure of which a city many times larger than St. Johns might well be proud. It is true that the financial end of the string has not yet been broken off, but we are informed that there are sufficient resources in the hands of the building committee to do this, and that the work of winding up these city hall matters are progressing as rapidly as the legal phase of the matter will permit, and along perfectly safe lines. This is something the council may well feel comfortable over. It is something our people should give them great credit for, for it has been a most strenuous proposition and one which our citizens can have no conception of who have not been in attendance at the meetings of the council. Our city laws were in a more or less chaotic state, too, when they received the heritage from their predecessors. This code has been revised and greatly improved, and while it does not in some instances yet suit our, perhaps, too fastidious taste, we believe with some additions, such as are being made from time to time as the occasion demands, will give our city a most salutary city government. It is the inalienable right of man to be "fermest" that which he deems is wrong and we claim this right. There are some things the council has done which we think are wrong. We have never found a body of men, not even one man, since we reached the age of observation, who has not done so. We wish to extend the same charity toward them that we would have shown us if we were in their position. We believe that to be the only truly humane and decent way to consider the public and private life of others. By that, we do not mean to condone specific lawless acts, if there be any, for we would not ask that from others for ourself, but we do not believe in denouncing them for their honest decisions in matters where their views differed from ours.

Directly across the street from the old city hall building, is located the livery and feed stable of the Cochran Bros. These gentlemen are ready and serve the public in a most acceptable manner and are deserving of their patronage. Then on the corner of Ivanhoe and Burlington is the New St. Johns hotel, the only brick hotel in the city and where we are told the public is given service equal to that found anywhere in the hoteleries of the city. Nice clean rooms, well ventilated and cared for, the best the earth affords for the table with courteous treatment from all those connected with the hotel. A pleasant parlor for guests and in the front, a fine line of cigars and tobaccos and an up-to-date barber shop over which rules as presiding genius the affable and nimble fingered tonsorial artist, J. B. Hall, and his assistant, during his absence. All things considered, this makes the New St. Johns a most desirable place to stop either for a Sunday dinner or for a week's visit if you are a stranger in the land.

Coming across the street to the other corner of Ivanhoe and Burlington we find located the clothing emporium operated by Mrs. Zadora Hamer, who is a most genial and accommodating saleswoman and carries a good stock of all kinds of clothing and furnishings, and you will make a mistake to pass her up when you are looking for something to wear. When we went down the line on the other side of the street, her son had a clothes cleaning and pressing department in the rear of his mother's store, but between two or three days Mr. Hamer has moved his establishment across the street directly opposite the clothing house and next door east of the Home Bakery, where he will serve his old patrons even better than before. Mr. Hamer will place an ad in the paper again this week or next, as soon as he is fully settled in his new quarters and you will do well to watch for it.

Then up the line towards Jersey we went into Hendricks Hardware company's fine store. Here again we find an up-to-date hardware establishment where one may find a full line of everything they can wish for in the matter of house-hold utensils, mechanical tools. They also carry a line of wall paper, lining paper, mouldings, glass, sash, oils, paints, stoves, ranges, doors, screens, shelf hardware of all kinds and descriptions. You will be met, too, by one of the most genial, pleasant gentlemen in the person of Mr. Hendricks we have in the city. It is worth the trip to the store if you don't care to buy just simply to pass a pleasant moment in conversation with Mr. Hendricks. The others employed in the establishment, we have not met so often, but have at all times met a cordial reception there and will vouch for the same treatment to any other citizen. The next hole the carpenters left in the wall leads into the office of the St. Johns Land company, which is most ably represented by Charles Bailey, with the assistance of Miss Ogen, and it is a busy place almost any time you may happen in. This company has all kinds of lands and houses for sale and rent and you will be hard to please if you cannot be suited here. J. E. Williams looks after the interests of the East St. Johns end of the business.

Next to the real estate office is the popular meat market of T. P. Ward. There are few people who have passed through experiences as varied and strenuous as has Mr. Ward. Times when he had hundreds of thousands of dollars to handle, other times when the dollars were like angel's visits; other times when on the plains it took all his sand and a couple of good guns to make things go and at other times the days would go by as smilingly as a dimpled baby in her go-cart. With this kind of schooling Mr. Ward has learned to "Let the world jog along as it will, he'll be gay and happy still." And when it comes to serving the public with nice, juicy steaks, delicious prepared meats of all kinds. Brother Ward does not take a back seat for anybody this side of New Jerusalem. He is a jolly, good natured, entertaining gentleman with a smile and a pleasant salutation for everyone he meets, and it is always a pleasure to enter his neatly kept, well arranged shop.

the scope of its power may be understood, when it is known that at certain intervals all houses have to be emptied, so that the police may disinfect them and in that way labor to preserve the general well being.

The Japanese, above all else, are a military people and while their religion and tradition makes them fanatical and fearless, they feel absolutely confident in their organized strength. Competition is very keen, making wages low, and although long working hours are in vogue, no day of rest or Sunday is known. At times of legal holidays, however, most all work stops and when spring time festivals come, the people go out into the parks and forests and have a good time. I had the pleasure of seeing the cherry blossom dance at Kioto and I must say the geishas were moving about very gracefully. However, I could not get at the deeper meaning of the music that accompanied their movements. It seems that the Caucasian has no sense of appreciation for music of the oriental genre. On such occasions, as also at the theater, the Japanese view the performance while sitting on the floor in a sort of box occupied by a party. In the middle stands a bronze heater in which a little charcoal is gleaming, providing heat as well as means for lighting the small silver pipes. Both men and women indulge in smoking these small pipes, which contain tobacco sufficient for a few puffs and which are carried in cases, along with the fan, in the belt with which the kimonos are tied. It is claimed that the Japanese language is too poor for the demands of the educated mind and when one is witnessing a performance at the theater this condition seems to be demonstrated. Nevertheless, the people get very enthusiastic over their favorites and when

these are going to and from the stage on walks placed over the heads of the audience many things are handed to them, like fans, pipes, etc., which are to be redeemed later on at the theater office by gifts that one may intend to present to the actor or actress.

By some Japanese merchants, who had been in Europe I was told that it is very hard to keep up expenses at this time where western ideas are introduced, while the Japanese customs must also still be recognized. Some of the people with European or American educations are wont to dress in modern clothing, but if these persons go calling on certain of their Japanese friends, they must appear in Japanese dress, and in these homes they require modern rooms with furniture along with Japanese rooms, with nothing but a fan and floors with heavy carpets to sit on. In some cases the husband is living a la-European and the wife a la-Japanese. Under the old method the son usually takes his young wife to the home of his parents and there she must obey the orders of her mother-in-law, which both in Japan and China sometimes leads to a terrible misuse of power and in some cases causes the powerless victim to commit suicide. Because of a lower moral standard the woman is not treated with as much respect as is the case with the white races.

On account of this custom of living the orient does not appear to have more houses to a given area than European countries, although it is the most densely populated region of the globe. Before entering a Japanese home or hotel one must remove the shoes, at the latter meals are served in the rooms, to be eaten with sticks instead of knife and fork. The bill at the hotel is small but the tea money one is expected to present as a sort

of a tip is expected to be about twice and three times as much as the amount of the bill.

Japan with its quaint customs, picturesque towns, and in patches like a garden, cultivated agricultural districts, is most interesting to visit; but I do not care for the people and would not like to live there; for I agree with the settler, that they are insincere and treacherous. The country is poor but the people understand how to get along with little, and in their sober, self-denying and enterprising way, they are manufacturing almost everything of modern industry; but many of the products although of good appearance turn out to be of faulty make when put to use.

It is harder to travel in China, because the Chinese coolies often do not understand a bit of English, and because of that it is difficult to get around. More poverty and uncleanness is noticed in China but the Chinese of education and the merchants of standing are, as a rule, people of fine appearance and good manners. Here, as in Japan, all foreign business is done through a so-called comprador or banco, who guarantees the bills. The foreign merchant finds the Chinese to be very conservative and much more reliable than the Japanese. It is most interesting to watch the traffic about the harbor. The big cargoes of flour and lumber from Portland are carried away by an army of coolies, who especially at night, seem like busy ants, surging about under the powerful arc lamps, always singing a sort of litany, in order to keep step and give warning to people in their road. Heavy pieces of machinery are tied to long timbers and in that way carried through the narrow streets in which no telephone or light poles are noticed like everywhere in Japan.

(Continued next week.)

AN AFTERNOON WALK

Leads a Quartet of Congenial Spirits to the Site of the Swift Packing Company's Plant

The afternoon Sunday was so delightfully bright and fine that it was impossible for us to stay indoors, and when one of the boys suggested a walk over to the packing plant we just fell over ourselves getting into line. A quartet, Harry Mansfield, A. Unger, A. W. Markle and the writer started for the Swift packing plant on the Oregon slough. We enjoyed the walk exceedingly. It was like a day in May. The birds were flitting from tree to tree with twittering and billing until one would almost imagine they were preparing to make for themselves homes again, but remembering the time of the year, we imagined they were organizing for a line of march to the sunny south. This, we feel sure, was the case with the crows. We saw great flocks of these sable scavengers congregating in the woods along the sloughs. Of course they will put off the evil day as long as they can, for they like to stay in Oregon as well as the rest of the inhabitants; but when the first snow covers the ground and feed begins to get scarce they will flit. That, at least was our observation up the river, but here, where there is no snow we do not know, perhaps they will hold camp meeting all winter.

We got along nicely until we reached the bridge across the slough at the east end of the big canal of the North Bank road across the peninsula. Here Brother Unger balked. In fact he laid down. Nothing would induce him to proceed. No amount of flagellation or coaxing. We could not take him along with salt, oats, hay nor anything we have used in days gone by to move a balky horse. We do not believe even the old darkey's remedy would have moved Brother Unger across that bridge. The bridge was 50 feet high and the ties were far enough apart for him to pass through between them. Therefore, feeling the responsibility of the occasion the Review wished to see our friends safely home. We, therefore divided our forces and Mr. Markle returned with Brother Unger while our Happy Harry, the celebrated whisker sharp conducted the writer through the mazes of the different sloughs which traverse the territory between the bridge in question and the packing plant proper. The nice thing about our guide was that like all newspaper men we were "busted" and the guide had his "pockets stuffed" with the coin of the realm. This is a tip to our impetuous friends, if you ever go out from home, try and go with Happy Harry.

We arrived at the packinghouse site in good shape and found the big dredger digging up the bottom of the Oregon slough to beat the banu, even if it was Sunday, for there are no holidays for the Swifts. The bottom of the slough is being pumped out on the west bank and the surface there is being built up to the level suitable for their buildings. There is also being shipped in and piled up in regular lumberyard style big piles of lumber for building purposes. They have cleared about 75 or 80 acres of land from trees and brush where the main buildings are to be erected and the trees have been made into wood. This wood has been hauled to the bank of the slough and corded up ready for use on the boats on the slough or to be hauled where it will be sold for fuel as the company may elect.

We do not think that the Swifts could have selected a more suitable place for their plant if they had hunted a century. They are far enough away from the densely populated portion of the surrounding cities to avoid any offensive legislation by reason of their occupation and yet are near enough that their employes who may live in these cities may reach the works in a few moments by trolley lines. They are far enough from the Columbia to be out of the disturbing element of its currents and the passing traffic, yet near enough to be easily accessible from the river through the slough, which is as large as the Willamette river at St. Johns and the water is a dead calm. This will make, therefore, the finest kind of a harbor for the vessels which will serve the big plant when in operation. There is an immense amount of labor yet to be performed to change the uneven surface of the ground for yards and pens into a condition fit for use. Our only disappointment we met when trying to hire a man to ferry us across the Oregon slough. Failing in this, we took the car for home, where we arrived happy, hungry and tired.

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