

CHANCES FOR AMERICANS IN SIAM

THE NEW MINISTER TELLS OF THE BUSINESS OF HIS COUNTRY

WASHINGTON, May 12.—For the first time in our history, Siam has a Legation at Washington accredited solely to the United States. Prior to this there has been one Minister for the United States and England, who has spent most of his time in London, and visited Washington only periodically to pay his respects to the President and attend to business interests on this side of the ocean. Of late, however, the King has been pushing his side in every possible way, and has now established an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Washington. The new Minister has the title of Phya Akharaj Yaratthara, and he has held the highest official positions at home. He has been associated with the imperial cabinet, and has made a reputation for himself as a diplomat and statesman. The Minister is a native Siamese. He belongs to the nobility, and is a man of education and accomplishment. He does not speak English fluently, and his view concerning the country was, at his request, carried on through the Secretary of the Legation, Mr. Edward H. Loftus.

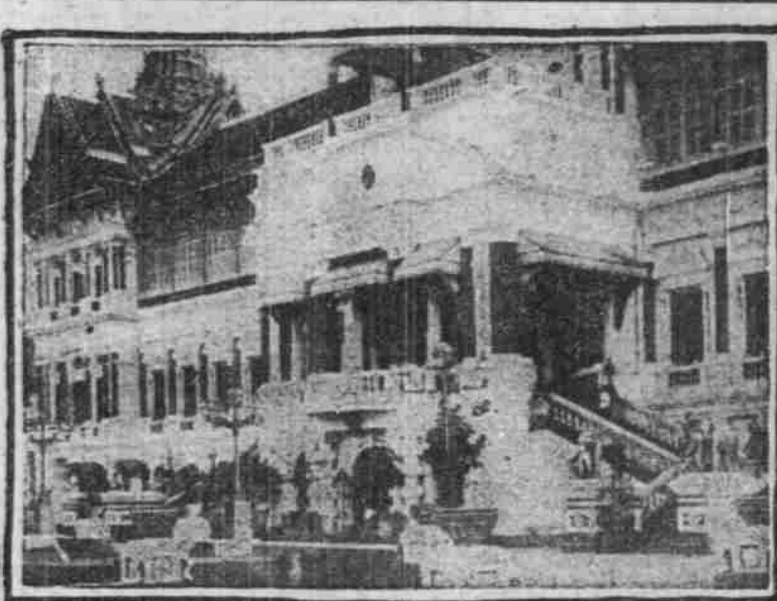
The King Likes Uncle Sam.

Our conversation opened with some kind expressions as to the friendly feeling which the King and his people have for Americans. Said Mr. Loftus: "His Majesty, the King, is anxious to further the trade of his country with yours. He has the friendliest of feelings toward Americans, and wishes even closer relations than those which now exist between the two peoples. The Legation will do all it can to better the trade between the two countries, and I really think we have a market there which your people do not appreciate. Siam is one of the richest countries of the Far East. It is bigger than France or Germany, and it has a population of about 7,000,000. It is a country of many large cities, and one with which the English and the Germans have a large trade. It is one which is equally open to the Americans, whom we hope will, from now on, rapidly increase their exports."

American Houses in Bangkok. "But have we not already a big business with your country?" I asked. "Nothing like so great as it should be," replied Mr. Loftus. "You need us some machinery and hardware and a large number of bicycles. We buy some of your printing and paper and a little stationery and some breadstuffs, tobacco and coal oil. The trade in 1900 was more than two and one-half times as great as it was in 1899, but you have not begun to touch its possibilities. You should sell all sorts of machinery and almost every kind of American notions. Siam is an agricultural country. It has also enormous areas of forests, of teak and other hardwoods, and American saws and axes should be in demand. Russia supplies you in the shipment of coal oil, and as to all kinds of cotton goods England has the lead. Indeed, about 90 per cent of the foreign trade of Siam is with England, although the Germans are trying hard to introduce their manufactures."

"Both Germans and English have business houses in Bangkok, and other Siamese cities, and the Americans should establish similar institutions. Your manufacturers should send out their agents and do business with the country direct, instead of selling through Hong Kong and Singapore, as you now do."

Chances of Making Money. "Along what lines could Americans make money in Siam," Mr. Loftus said. "There are many openings for capital allied to good business brains," was the reply. "The trade in teakwood is largely done by foreign syndicates. There is one English company far in the interior which has a capital of \$10,000,000. It ships its timber to all parts of the world. There is no wood so good as teak for certain kinds of shipbuilding, for railroad ties and other things. The wood does not rot when in the water, and at the same time it is easy to handle. We have some of the largest teak forests of the world, and our shipments of teak amount to thousands of tons annually. The teak is sold by weight, and it brings about \$20 per ton. We have a forest department, adminis-



THE KING'S PALACE, AT BANGKOK.



OUR NEW MINISTER FROM SIAM.



GIRL FROM INTERIOR OF FARTHER INDIA.



HIS MAJESTY KING CHULALONGKORN.

about 60 years to grow a tree so that it is large enough for lumber, and whether the trees could be grown in the Philippines or not I cannot tell. It is not right to speak of teak forests. There are no woods which are a teak, but the trees are found scattered through the other woods. They are gotten out by means of elephants and the work is very expensive, and very hard. The elephants are costly. They have to be trained to the work, and they can work only a certain number of hours of the day, and only so many days in the year."

"In what part of the country are the best forests?" I asked. "They are in the upper provinces. The wood is cut and brought to the river and floated down to Bangkok, from where it is shipped to all parts of the world. The government has certain taxes that have to be paid for felling and shipping, and altogether the expenses are great. For this reason a large capital is required. Nevertheless, the business pays very well, and fortunes have been made in it."

Siam's New Railroads. "How about your new railroads?" I asked. "They have opened up many parts which until now have been comparatively inaccessible," said Mr. Loftus. "The railroad from Bangkok to Korat has been completed and it is doing a good business. This road began its construction in 1892, when His Majesty the King dug the first spadeful of earth. He used a spade of silver and ivory and put the earth into a wheelbarrow of ebony and silver. The spade was of a New England pattern and the wheelbarrow was of American design. At the same time the Crown Prince took the wheelbarrow and wheeled it about 25 yards along the line of the road and dumped out the earth. This was to show that the King and the court were thor-

oughly interested in the undertaking."

"Tell me something about Korat, the terminus of the road," said I. "Korat is a big city, surrounded by rich plains. It is a great center of trade. It lies 166 miles from Bangkok and in the past about two weeks have been required for the trip between the two places. By the railroad it is made in 10 hours. There is now extending the railroad on the north, and it will eventually connect with Chienkai, the great center of trade of Northern Siam. From there a line will eventually connect with the Chinese base now being built toward China. I doubt not that in time the Chinese and trans-Siberian systems will be connected, so that one may really go from Paris to Bangkok by rail."

Another railroad is to be built from Bangkok westward down the Malay peninsula to the Strait of Malacca. We have a road from Bangkok to Paknam, on the Menam River, and altogether we are gradually becoming a railroad country."

Bangkok and Its Electric Cars.

"Do you use much electricity in Siam?" "We have 23 electric plants in Bangkok alone. We have one incandescent electric light plant which furnishes 17,000 lights. It originally belonged to the English Brush Company, and was used for lighting the king's palace and for the use of the public. It was once operated by an American engineer named Bennett, and an American syndicate, but was later on sold to a Danish company, which now manages it. The most of its supplies were purchased from Europe, but some from America."

"The Danish company now owns the electric roads. It has a tramway avenue and one-half miles long in operation, and a track of three and a half miles more is under construction. It advertises that it will supply electric power throughout the city, and it expects to run a line of automobiles in connection with its street cars. In addition to this, there are private plants, the equipment of which is largely American. You can now reach almost any part of the city or suburbs by street cars."

Bangkok and Its Floating Houses.

"Give me some idea of Bangkok. Our people think the town is made up of houses floating on the water."

"That is so only to a limited extent," was the reply. "The city lies on the river, extending for miles up and down both sides of it. There is a large boat population, and perhaps 20,000 people who actually live in houses anchored to posts in the river, so that they rise and fall with the tide. Many of these houses are of large size, and they are built upon rafts, and are very comfortable homes. They are, however, but a small part of Bangkok. The city has a million people. It has many magnificent homes and fine public buildings. The palaces of the King are as fine as the great palaces of Europe."

"The city is a beautiful one. It is cut up by canals, and about 35 years ago was carried on in boats, and boats took the place of wagons and carriages. There are still about 75 miles of canals in Bangkok, but bridges have been built over them, paved streets have been laid, and you can now drive almost anywhere in a carriage. Ten years ago there were only about nine miles of paved streets. Now there are over 50 miles, and new streets are being opened up every year. The American bridge makers might do a good business in supplying the city with bridges. The old ones of iron and wood are being replaced by modern ones of iron and steel. The King himself builds one steel bridge every year to mark his birthday. There is an educational department in Bangkok, and we have a competitive examination every year, open to all Siamese, which gives scholarships for study abroad."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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HINTS FOR THE HOUSEWIFE

HOW TO PROTECT FURS AND WOOLENS FROM MOTHS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWENTY-NINE

of cambric, white or black, between the material and the iron.

Black silk fringe and galleons may be soaked in soap, rubbed, rinsed, well shaken, and then pressed into shape. A shelf or ironing board to dry. When nearly dry, comb out with a coarse comb.

Artificial flowers may be steamed over the tea kettle, then strung and pressed into shape. Lace figures from the old Egyptian and Spanish laces may be cut out and applied on to silk or velvet for hats, neckband or vest effects.

White laces and ribbons too delicate to stand rubbing may be soaked in strong soda for three or four days, then squeezed out, rinsed and pinned out to dry. Black and colored ribbons may be soaked for an hour in good soda, then wrapped smoothly around a large glass fruit jar or bottle, smoothing out all creases.

Put carefully and set in the air or rather cool oven to dry. Buttons and buckles may be polished to look like new. Flecks may be steamed and curled and blackened with a hairbrush, or even a piece of straw, and then smoothed out with a judicious application of shoe polish.

Shut Your Eyes and Save Them.

Strong eyes are said to give their possessor both pleasure and confidence, while weak eyes that feel and look hot and tired certainly give no delight to the owner nor to those who look back into them.

It is the eyes that shut them, if only for a minute at a time in some convenient interval, and if it is in any way possible to lie flat on the back for any length of time the gain to the eyes as well as to the whole body is incalculable.

Eyelids should never be pressed back to the eyes, even when they feel very sore, though it seems a very natural thing to do. But as much pressure on the eyelids flattens it and eventually causes dimness of sight, it must be guarded against.

The eyes will be greatly strengthened by putting the face down into a glass or eye-cup of water the first thing in the morning and opening them under water. This is somewhat difficult to do at first, but if the water for two or three days be tepid and gradually made colder by imperceptible degrees until it is so shock to put the face into quite cold water, it will become quite easy and is very invigorating and refreshing.

If done regularly every day this treatment will preserve the sight into quite old age. There is a right and a wrong way of wiping the eyes after this, and the right way is to pass the soft towel very gently from the outer angle in toward them the nose.

If after a long day the eyes feel so hot and tired that they dim when one tries to read or do a little necessary sewing for

one's self, they should be bathed in cold tea from which the leaves have been removed. The same treatment is recommended if the lids are apt to be crusted or to stick together in the mornings, or to smart during the daytime.

CRISP MUFFINS AND ROLLS.

Recipes for New England and Southern Hot Breads.

Every housewife delights in the making of hot breads. The Southern cook of all others is famous for these delicacies, which are utilized as a breakfast, luncheon and supper dish. The recipes given here have been tried with success:

Delicious Parker House Rolls. To make rolls that will literally melt in the mouth and are both delicate and toothsome, scald one pint of milk, add to it one heaping teaspoonful of butter and an even teaspoonful of salt. Then stand aside until lukewarm. Sift one quart of flour into large earthen bowl, mix with it a tablespoonful of granulated sugar and one cake compressed yeast dissolved in a little warm water. Stir together the flour and the warm milk, adding more flour as required to make a stiff dough. Cover tightly and let stand in a warm—not hot—room over night. In the morning knead the dough thoroughly and then make into small turnover rolls and let stand in a warm place until very light; then bake in a quick oven for 15 minutes.

Southern Egg Bread. Few Northerners know or appreciate this delicious breakfast dish. To be made at its best the genuine Southern meal should be used, but even if it is not to be obtained the bread is exceedingly tempting and worth the trial. Scald 1½ cups of cornmeal thoroughly, and let stand until cool, but not cold. Beat the yolks and whites of three eggs separately and add the yolks to one pint of milk. Stir the milk and eggs into the scalded meal slowly, and when well mixed add half a teaspoonful of salt and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Lastly whip in the well-beaten whites of the eggs and pour into a deep earthen dish that has been well greased. Bake in a moderate oven from one-half to three-quarters of an hour. Serve from the dish in which it is baked with a large spoon. The bread should be firm at the bottom, but soft, like rich custard, at the top.

Boston Brown Bread. No hot bread is more tempting or more wholesome than the Boston brown bread at its best. To make it as it is made at home, it is necessary to obtain rye meal in place of the flour which is ordinarily used, but the result amply repays the trouble, which need not be excessive, as

the meal can usually be found at feed stores of the larger and better sort. Mix together 1½ pints of the rye meal and of Southern corn meal. Stir into them one teaspoonful of salt and one cup of molasses. Mix all together with 1½ pints of hot milk, and then add one heaping teaspoonful of baking soda dissolved in a little boiling water. Pour into a well-buttered mold, cover tightly, and steam for four hours. Serve hot with butter or cream.

Potato Rolls. The most delectable luncheon or breakfast rolls known to the Virginia cook have a foundation of potatoes, and involve considerable effort, but are so entirely satisfactory as to make it amply worth while to incur all the trouble. Boil six medium-sized potatoes and mash fine. Add to them one teaspoonful each of sugar and of salt, one large tablespoonful of butter and lard mixed. Stir well together and let stand in a warm place four or five hours, until very light. Mix with flour until no more can be worked in. Knead and let rise for about five hours in a warm place or longer where the temperature is not quite so high. Then make into turnovers and stand quite near the stove until light. Bake in a quick oven.

New England Muffins. Few forms of hot bread are more delicious than delicate muffins. The following recipe gives directions for making them quickly, and can be relied upon to give satisfaction: Sift two cups of flour with one even teaspoonful of salt. Work into it two tablespoonfuls of soft butter and two of granulated sugar. Add one cup of milk, one egg, well beaten and one teaspoonful of baking powder. Bake in a quick oven in muffin rings or gem pans.

Wheat Gems. Risen breads have certain advantages over other sorts. To make really perfect wheat gems scald one pint of milk, add to it one tablespoonful of butter and let stand until tepid. Then add one-half cake of compressed yeast dissolved in a quarter of a cupful of warm water, three cupfuls of flour and one teaspoonful of salt. Beat well, cover and let stand in a warm place until morning. A half hour before breakfast beat two eggs, the white and yolks separately, and add first the yolks, then the whites to the risen mixture. Beat vigorously and bake in gem pans in a quick oven.

Gingerbread. This makes a gingerbread which is crickly and shiny on top. The secret of making it thus is to pour the shortening boiling hot on the molasses and beat the butter as little as possible. Pour a small half-teaspoonful of boiling hot shortening, lard and butter, or beef suet and butter, mixed, upon one-half pint of New Or-

leans molasses; add two tablespoonfuls of milk, a tablespoonful of ground ginger, a teaspoonful of cinnamon; then sift in about three-quarters of a pint of flour, to which a teaspoonful of baking soda has been added; lastly add a well-beaten egg, then mix with a few deft turns of the spoon and bake in one large pan or two small ones in a moderate oven; serve hot, and break, not cut, at the table.

Spiced Biscuits. Make baking powder biscuits, using one quart of flour, three tablespoonfuls shortening, eight teaspoonfuls baking powder, one teaspoonful salt, one cup brown sugar, three teaspoonfuls cinnamon, one teaspoonful nutmeg, enough milk to make a soft dough. Roll lightly on the board, cut with biscuit cutter and bake same as baking powder biscuits in a very hot oven. Allow about 15 minutes.

Best of Tea Cakes. One cup butter, two cups white sugar, one cup sour cream, four eggs (or two will do), one teaspoonful soda, one teaspoonful lemon extract, or one-third teaspoonful grated nutmeg, enough flour to stiffen but not sticky dough. Don't roll too tight. Bake well.

The Up-to-Date Baby. It isn't correct any more to have things daintily pretty for the new-born baby just in order to have them daintily pretty. It is no longer the proper thing to swathe the little body in yards and yards of muslin and lace and put him to bed in billows of down and silk perfumed with rose or violet. Up-to-date mothers no longer vie with each other on the point of delicate elaboration. They do not vie at all, any more. Their one object is to make everything as sanitary and comfortable as possible for the newcomer. Sometimes they give a sigh for the pretty bow or frill of lace, but after all, everything in the new fashion looks so clean and sensible and wholesome they come to see the other was only a perverted taste and take no pleasure in it. Things have advanced in the last few years. The nursery is one of them—Martha Houk in the February Woman's Home Companion.

Don't "Show Off" Your Baby. A baby's brain is naturally active, for everything is new and strange to the little mind. Therefore do not allow the child to get excited. Few realize how often baby's brain is fatigued needlessly. Callers come to "see the new baby." The little one is undressed and hurriedly clothed again in its best skirts and frilled and ruffled dress. Then he is taken downstairs and handed about from one to the other, to be duly admired and tossed and trotted and talked to and hugged and kissed. Now, all this is all right to the baby, but it is very conducive to nervousness. Keep him as quiet as possible, giving plenty of fresh air, but do not permit this indiscriminate petting and "mauling" even at the risk of giving offense to admiring relatives.

GEORGE ADE'S FABLE IN SLANG

SELF-MADE HEZEKIAH AND HIS MESSAGE OF HOPE TO THIS YEAR'S GRADUATES.

IN Wayback Township, along in the Thirties, there arrived a 12-pounder. When he was three days old he was exhibited to a Bunch in the Front Room by an Old Lady who had made a Study of Colic. She was a Baby Expert who always broke in to do considerable heavy standing around and calling off when there was a lift in the Population.

While little Ipsy-Wipsy was being inspected, he opened one eye and spotted a silver Half-Dollar that the Honorary Nurse wore as a Brooch. Immediately he closed in on it. They had to choke him to make him let go. In after years it was remarked that this was the only time that he went after the Coin and failed to bring it home.

The Baby never had any Tantrums at Night because he had overheard them say that it cost \$2 every time Doc was called in. He would lie quietly in his crib for hours at a time looking up at the Ceiling and Gold Piece that had been put in the Bank, to be drawn out when he should be 12.

His Parents gave him a Biblical Name so as to make him a strong Come-On for Investors who belonged to the Pious Element. Hezekiah Hooper is what they christened him. They wanted a Name that would carry weight on a Letter-Head and reassure the Soft Mark who was made an Important Discovery that the Venture with a Guarantee of 48 per cent Dividends.

At the age of 4 Hezekiah sat down and figured that if he devoted his Life to Physical Toil, he might some day be the Owner of a six-room cottage fully protected by a Mortgage, whereas if he wore a White Shirt and kept busy with the Pencil he might be Rich enough some day to land in the Senate. So he went out looking for Work to hand to other People, thus becoming what the Campaign Orator calls a Captain of Industry.

If a man wanted the Weeds pulled from his Garden, then Hez would take the Job for \$5 cents. He would buy 5 cents worth of Stick Candy and place it judiciously, so that at Nightfall the other boys would have Blisters and the Stomach-Ache, while Hez would have 20 cents salted away in the Tin Bank.

When he was still a Young Man he made an Important Discovery that the honest Laborer who digs Post-Holes for 11-Hours at a Stretch gets \$1.25 in the Currency of the Realm, while the Brain-Worker who leads out a Spavined Horse and outs in 20 Minutes at tall Bunko Work

can clean up \$14.50 and then sit on the Porch all Afternoon, reading "The Lives of the Saints."

Also Hezekiah got into the Corral a Hold-Over whose Eyes refused to work as a Duet and whose Figure had all of the graceful In and Outs of a Flag-Pole, but she owned half of the Last of the Township. Hezekiah said something about the Beauty that faded even as a Flower and then he connected with her Property.

When grim-visaged War showed its awful Front, Hezekiah went down to the Court-House and hollered for the Union until he was black in the Face. He showed all the emotions of a Farm Hand where to sign their Names and promised to keep them supplied with Blue Overalls, Beans, Navy Plug and Hard Tack until the whole Works had been saved. Every time there was a new Call for Men, he took a fresh side-hold on the Commissary Department and began to gouge the Government in a new Place.

The Heroes who came home full of Mail and Lead were met at the Station by Hezekiah, who had grown a Chin Whisker and was sporting a White Vest. He gave each one a Card announcing that all of our country's Brave Defenders who had failed to become well fixed on \$13 per month would get what Money they needed at 2 per cent a Month, with Real Estate as Security.

By strolling through Bankruptcy, sidestepping the Assessor, working the Farmers for a Railroad Bonus, handling the Funds for denominated Colleges, and getting the double Hammer-Lox on the Small Fry who had Notes falling due, Hezekiah accumulated a Wad that put him into the Millionaire's Division.

He and other old Gentlemen with pink Jowls and cold fishy Eyes would occasionally meet in some Director's Room, finished in Mahogany. The Meeting would be opened with prayer, and the Deacons would discuss Ways and Means of putting the Interstate Commerce Law to the Bid, squaring the Legislature without passing over any of the Stuff themselves and handing the Public the Short End of it.

Having arrived at this proud eminence, Hezekiah was ripe to spring some Advice on the Young Men who were the Fate Youth who want an \$8 Job. So Hezekiah Hooper, the Eminent Financier, who never smoked a Cigar, never took a Drink, and never asked anybody else to do either, was invited to address the Class of Naughty-Two at the Local Business College.

He sat at the Rostrum wearing Black Broadcloth, betokening Virtue, and in address he was as dignified as a Deacon. He wore a White Shirt and the White Vest, he had

a White Bow Tie. As he sat there in conscious Rectitude, wondering if the Congressmen in scandal would harm the Best Trust, it could be seen at a Glance that he would never take anything that was nailed down.

The studious Young Gentlemen who had been in the Corral to go out into the Great World and draw Car-Pare as Bookkeepers and Stenographers, looked up at Honest Hezekiah and said: "This is where we go next to the Recipe for Getting There."

At last the Honored Guest arose and told the Class that the Young Man who wishes to succeed must have a Good Name, be better than Rich, even if other People don't think so. Then he sat down without batting an eye and every member of the Class of '02 knew just how to go out and pile up a Million.

MORAL. What's more, they believe it themselves.

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The Couch as a Nerve Cure. "Couches have saved more minds and nervous systems than all the doctors and medicines put together," said a familiar authority on house-furnishing a few days ago.

It is the best refuge that the over-worked housekeeper has, did she but know it, and the only fault that I have to find with women is that, as a rule, they do not use their couches enough.

I am not talking about these yard-and-a-half contrivances, that are as tough as a rhinoceros hide. What I mean is a broad, comfortable couch that is soft and luxurious and on which a woman may nestle among the pillows and be comfortable. Every room should have one. When distracted by the infinite cares of the household, and worried over this bill and that, a woman should have a place where she can throw herself down, and stretched at ease, allow her troubles to straighten themselves out of their own accord.

"By this means hysteria is avoided, beauty is preserved, and the woman's chances for eternal salvation are helped tremendously. No matter how comfortable the chairs in a room may be, they never take the place of the couch. To make the home truly homelike, to give it that air of solid comfort and exquisite ease that is so necessary for good living, give me the broad, low, hospitable couch, the very presence of which is an invitation, a delight and a benediction.