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**COREA.**

The conditions preceding and indirectly occasioning the present oriental complication can best be understood by a consideration of the altogether peculiar nature of Corea, both as regards its topography and its government. The narrow peninsula which projects between the Japan and Yellow seas, is, like Italy, severed from landward commercial communication by a range of mountains. In this isolated strip of territory, not quite the area of one-half of France, the inhabitants for years have been awaiting civil warfare and revolt.

With ore-bearing and fertile lands and resources which may prove to be quite as rich as those of Japan, the estimated population of 10,000,000 or 12,000,000 has been held back not by a lack of the fruit of industry, but by extremely crude and primitive methods and a government rotten with the abuses of civil office. The nobles, and particularly those of military rank, live upon the people, and are themselves exempt from taxation. Below the nobles are the merchants and certain artisans. Beneath the caste come the "despised" classes, including other artisans and the serfs.

The sovereign of the country is an absolute monarch, honored as some one possessed of superhuman traits, whose person it is treason even to touch. Complete as his authority is, he is yet at the behest of the all-powerful nobles, upon whose traditional privileges he does not dare to trench. These nobles and the nine members of the supreme council of state, together with a large class of idle and superfluous functionaries, have managed for years to oppress the people and crush them under heavy taxation.

It was as much in revolt against this oppression as in dread and hatred of the royal power that the Korean revolution of 1894 was instituted, and although the revolt died with nothing more disastrous than the loss of a few hundred lives, it was significant. The people were tired of supporting the wasteful extravagance of 322 governors and an innumerable host of nobles to whom a stroke of work is dishonor. Like the Chinese, the Koreans have qualities of long suffering and patience, but when oppression becomes unbearable they protest with explosive suddenness.

The immediate cause of the present internal warfare was just such a popular outburst of indignation, the peasantry rising in their wrath and worshipping the government troops in the first engagements. The conditions which followed were better than anarchy, and the intervention of Japan was a step taken both in the protection of her own interests and in the quelling of what promised to be a bloody civil war throughout the hermit kingdom.

It has long been patent to the Japanese government that the trade interests of the orient might be greatly brightened were a reformed civil and fiscal system to be imposed on Corea. There were opportunities in the peninsula, but in the present condition of their development, either by the native Koreans or by the numerous Japanese residents, is impossible. Should the struggle growing out of this state of affairs demand European interference, one of the later problems to be considered would be the reform of the Korean government.

**COST OF THE STRIKE.**

Various estimates have been made showing, approximately, what has been

the cost to the people, including the strikers, of the Debs boycott. The highest estimate, and perhaps the most accurate, is made by Bradstreet's, which puts the total loss at \$166,000,000, more than one-half of which is charged to the employes of railroads and other wage-earners. This estimate fixes the sum of \$20,000,000 as the amount of wages lost by railroad employes, and \$35,000,000 as the loss of other employes in the various branches of business which were closed, or partly so, by the strike. The rest is made up of losses suffered by railroads, the government, merchants and others.

As the strike was purely sympathetic and with no direct grievance back of it on the part of the American Railway Union, it is apparent that it would have been vastly better for the strikers to have kept at work, earned the \$20,000,000 they have lost, and expended a part of it in assisting the real parties in interest in the strike at Pullman. Had the sympathy of the union shown itself in that direction there would now be neither appeals for food at Pullman nor petitions on the part of certain sympathizers for restoration to their old jobs. Mr. Debs would not be perplexed with legal proceedings, and the revival of business, which had begun when the strike broke out, would not be indefinitely postponed.

Strikes have ceased to be valuable as remedies for wrongs. Yet who shall say that the great railway strike has not prepared the way, directly or indirectly, for a better understanding with one another on the part of the great forces of the country? National authority has been strengthened; the working men are turning from the strikes to the ballot box, and are vowing independent action in politics; the whole world has been profoundly stirred by the destructive warfare. The vast sums which it has cost will not have been wasted if the lessons of the strike are taken to heart by the public.

As soon as the Western powers consent to the abolition of the independent jurisdiction of foreign consuls in Japan, an abolition which is already conceded in principal by the United States government, and which is demanded by the Japanese on the ground that their new codes have put an end to all differences between the law and that of the Occident, those who are in search of an easy divorce will do well to betake themselves to Tokio. The grounds for dissolution of marriages are seven in number, namely, infraction of the Seventh Commandment, disobedience to the husband or to the husband's parents, kleptomania, excessive talkativeness, incurable malady, childlessness and jealousy. The ease with which divorces are secured is shown by the record of 107,000 divorces for the year 1893. In view of the fact that American as well as European courts recognize Japanese marriages as valid, it is a question as to whether even under present circumstances a divorce obtained in Japan would be equally legal in the eyes of the American courts.

The Anarchist bill that passed the senate yesterday should become a law without delay. The public sentiment in favor of a more vigorous restriction of immigration is gaining strength constantly in all parts of the country. Keep out the anarchists, keep out agitators, keep out mob leaders. Keep out the idle, the vicious, the restless, the turbulent, the disorderly. America has been too long the wash-pot of Europe. Restrict immigration; that is the urgent demand of truly patriotic Americans in this day and generation.

The Japanese can give the South Americans cards and spades and beat them at fighting naval battles.

**LITERARY NOTE.**

The radical reduction in the price of Romance, from 25 cents to ten cents a copy, resulted immediately in a great increase in its sales, four editions of the July issue being required to meet the demand. It is safe to predict still larger sales of the August number, as the public only needs to know of such an opportunity to buy the best of stories, ten of them for a dime, and it is sure to improve it. The special feature of this issue is a group of Mystery Stories, the first of which is the famous Heaphy ghost story, unknown to this generation, but the source of much wonder and delight thirty years ago. The two other tales of this group are original and striking. Besides these there are one of Alphonse Daudet's charming fantasies, a pretty summer love story by Herbert D. Galland, an extraordinary tale by Stanley J. Weyman, a boy's story by Hetta L. H. Ward, and others equally attractive. Romance is issued by Romance Publishing Company, Clinton Hall, Astor Place, New York, and is 10 cents a copy.

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