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The Korean Movement

(Peking and Tientsin Times.)

Four months have elapsed since the Koreans launched their independence movement, and it is a fact full of significance that there is at present no sign of an abatement of the agitation. The signatories of the original Proclamation of Independence were imprisoned immediately after the appearance of the manifesto, and eleven other Korean leaders who succeeded them and had the audacity to present a petition to the Governor-General, a fortnight ago, were also taken into custody, but these and countless other arrests have had little or no effect on the organization of the campaign, and it is evident that there is no lack of leadership. An admirable illustration of the fearlessness and skill of those at the head of the agitation is given in the secret circulation throughout the capital and neighbouring provinces of a daily bulletin, which keeps the people fully informed upon what is passing. How this sheet is produced, and by what means it is circulated, under the very noses of the authorities, who are obviously sparing no effort to suppress it, will make interesting reading if ever the secret is disclosed. We have heard little of late of what is happening in the country districts, but in Seoul, we are creditably informed, there were no fewer than 30 demonstrations in two days towards the end of the month, when the Korean tradesmen were still refusing to do business and all shops were still closed. The movement in the meantime extended, as was practically certain, to Manchuria, where the Korean element has been steadily increasing of late years owing to the Japanese regime.

For the prolongation of the agitation the Japanese Authorities have only themselves to blame. The methods by which it was sought to crush the movement only stimulated the ardour of the Koreans and the many instances of brutality to which reliable witnesses have borne testimony have roused the whole country in a manner that would have been impossible had wise counsel prevailed in official quarters. The temper of the people has undoubtedly been greatly embittered by the crude and cruel measures taken by the troops and police, and it is fortunate for the sake of the Koreans themselves that no weapons of war were available to them. In their wrath doubtless they would have had recourse to such arms, regardless of consequences, and one shudders to think what would have been the inevitable result. The indignities to which Korean students in Japan and elsewhere have been subjected, and the relentless dogging of their every step, which ultimately impelled them to leave Japan and return to their own country—there, presumably, to be subjected to the same annoyances—will, also, have a sequel detrimental to the good relations between Japan and Korea, and will tend to destroy rather than foster

whatever desire there may exist on the part of the Koreans to reciprocate the professions frequently uttered by the Japanese Authorities in the direction of unity for the common good. The newly aroused national consciousness of the Korean people has, thanks to the Japanese Militarists, received an impetus which only the most conciliatory measures can hope to stay, and unless the Japanese Government quickly addresses itself to remedying the more important of the genuine grievances of the Koreans, it will find that its possession of Korea is a source of great embarrassment instead of strength.

The injustices which the Military regime in Korea has perpetrated are too real and too obvious to be swept away by baseless insinuations against foreign missionaries. The Koreans are proud of their long history and their old civilization, and naturally resent being governed as if they were a half-civilized people, and the denationalization policy which has consistently actuated the Administration has particularly aroused their indignation. They demand, and rightly demand, to be allowed to develop along their own lines. They accuse the Japanese of a determination to limit their knowledge, instead of encouraging the cultivation of their minds, and object to the measures which require them to receive their education through the Japanese language. The Government's expropriation of lands, whereby old Crown lands farmed for hundreds of years by Koreans were taken away and given to Japanese settlers, is another grievance. They have no Press of their own, such as other subject peoples of their status are permitted, and there is no liberty of speech. It is ridiculous for the Governor-General to prate about the "loving union" of the two countries while such injustices as cited remain. Had the Japanese Government interposed at the very beginning of the agitation, and given its solemn undertaking to investigate the grievances of the Koreans and to redress those grievances if they were found to be based on fact. It is probable that the demonstrations would have ceased forthwith, for, though the leaders demand independence, it is probable they recognize that the fulfilment of such an aspiration is not immediately practicable, and that they would be quite content for the present if the more grievous of the injustices of the present rule were modified. The Koreans would be satisfied if the administration modelled its policy upon British Colonial methods rather than, as at present, on the discredited methods of Prussianism, and until steps are taken by Tokio in this direction it is probable that the unrest will continue throughout the country.

The essential preliminary to any attempt at reform in the government of Korea is the removal of the Military Bureaucracy from all power. The Japanese Premier recently declared the intention of the Government to substitute Civil Authority for Military Authority in all of the Japanese Dependencies, and this policy is shortly to be inaugurated by the appointment of a Civil Governor in Kwangtung Leased Territory. The manner in which actual power is distributed however, does not inspire confidence in the results of this innovation. We realize how carefully the Government has to proceed in view of the vested interests of the Militarists. Any tendency, however, to allocate actual authority in such a way as to preserve for the Military Party their present predominance in the Dependencies, and to limit the announced policy of the Government to a mere gesture must be resisted. The Army must be made subordinate to the Civil Authority not merely in Kwangtung, Korea, and Formosa, but in Tokio itself. Only in such circumstances can Japan's foreign and domestic policies be consistently directed, and the conflicts so frequently demonstrated of late cease. It is impossible efficiently to discharge the duties of State while the present conditions prevail. Either the Military Party must have a free hand, or the Government must rule. The confusion and embarrassment under which the Japanese Government is labouring to-day can be directly traced to the conflict of aims and policies of the Militarists and the politicians. Can it be supposed that if the Japanese Premier instructed the Governor-General of Korea, when the Korean agitation was inaugurated, to adopt a policy of conciliation and to invite representations from a responsible delegation of the Koreans, Marshal Hasegawa would have carried out such behests? The Civil Head of Domestic Affairs, Mr. Usami, assured the Missionaries at the conference instituted at the request of the Civil Authorities soon after the movement began, that if the Koreans wished to present a list of their desires to the Government, this would be welcomed. When, however, a petition was presented to Marshal Count Hasegawa, the whole of the petitioners were immediately imprisoned. With the unanimous

opinion of the world behind them, the Japanese statesmen should not be unduly timorous if they wish to spare themselves the grave embarrassments which will inevitably continue to arise from the above circumstances.



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Suggestive.

The last vessel built and launched by the Newfoundland (?) Ship Building Company of Hr. Grace, was given the rather unusual name of "Delacnac," which if read backwards, makes the word "Cancelled." Rather suggestive when the concern about which so much was said and written, is now giving up operations and selling off its plant. Cancelled! sure!

Laughter in Court.

Robert was an honour to the police force. He did not make the acquaintance of cooks, nor did he fall asleep on duty. He was ambitious and yearned for the time when he would be able to prefix the magic words "Chief Constable" to his surname. One day recently he arrested a man on the charge of assault. On the case coming before the magistrate he inquired as to whom made the allegation against the prisoner.

Forward stepped the zealous Robert, who, with a sweeping salute, replied: "Me, your worship! I'm the alligator!"

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MONDAY and TUESDAY, August 4th & 5th,

Are the Days Set Aside by Royal Proclamation for Peace Celebration.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week are the days set aside for exhibition of items that are needed for this great event. Come early and secure yours before the best is picked up.

BOYS' HATS.

Boys' Linen Hats in White, Navy, Checked and other shades. These we sold in the regular way at \$1.00, but in order to clear the lot we have reduced them to this figure. Sale Price, each 75c.

TOWELS.

We cannot help mentioning this line of White Turkish Towels, because we know the value we are giving. This line can't be duplicated at this 35c.

LADIES' WHITE SHOES.

Ladies' White Canvas two-strap Shoes, the right style in footwear for present wear. These are good quality shoes with medium heels; all sizes. All Sale Price, per pair \$2.70

LADIES' BLOUSES.

A job line of Ladies' Blouses in White Muslin and striped. These are mostly large sizes and are worth \$1.20 each if sold in the regular way. Sale Price, each 98c.

BONNETS AND CAPS.

Only a few dozen of these pretty Embroidered Bonnets and Caps left. It is not easy to find anything to compare with these in quality of material, style and workmanship at this 55c.



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One of the cheapest lines in town. We have sold upwards of 60 dozen, and still going strong; sizes from 6 to 8; done fasteners. Sale Price, 45c. per pair

LADIES' CREAM GLOVES.

Ladies' Cream Colour Gloves; assorted sizes. These are one of the best makes in Cashmere Gloves and are sure to wear out 3 pairs of the cheaper grades. Sale Price, per pair. . . \$1.10

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A line of Ladies' White Cotton Hose at a very low figure. Here's a snap, full length and full fashioned. Sale Price, per pair 19c.

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Women's fine Lisle Hose specially priced at \$1.15 pair. These stockings from which you will get more than ordinary wear are of a commendable quality of lisle; medium weight. Sale Price, per pair \$1.15

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