PRINCE ITO IS MURDERED

Shot by Korean at Harbin While Meeting Russian Minister

MISSION RELATED TO MANCHURIA

Japan Plunged Into Mourning by Death of Great Statesman

TOKIO, Oct. 26.—Hirobumi Ito, a prince of Japan, but the greatest commoner in the Empire, and for two years the uncrowned ruler of Korea, who above all stood between Korea and the degradation of immediate annexation, hoping to build up that country also, was assassinated by Koreans today, just as he alighted from a special train at Harbin, Manchuria, to which place he went from Tokio in his capacity as president of the privy council on a mission of peace.

Prior to his departure Prince Ito said to the Associated Press: "I am going on my own initiative, with the approval of my Emperor, with the hope of securing a better understanding with Russia and of assuring the world that Japan's intentions in Manchuria are amicable to China and friendly to the commerce of all nations. When I return I hope to give positive proof of this."

Undoubtedly Prince Ito intended to inaugurate and enforce a distinct policy in Manchuria, but the exact nature of this was not disclosed.

Marquis Katsura, the premier and minister of finance, after the assassination, said in an interview: "The death of Prince Ito will not change the policy of Japan. The pacific motives of Prince Ito will ever be maintained, and the tradition left by him always will be followed."

The entire nation is mourning. The flags on the foreign embassies have been placed at half mast, while all public and many private functions have been abandoned. The Japanese and foreign newspapers appear with black borders. Only the death of the Emperor could arouse similar demonstrations of sympathy. Perhaps Prince Ito's death causes more universal sincerity and grief because he was idolized by the masses as the great councillor of the Elder Statesmen, the creator of the cabinet and the friend of the Emperor himself.

The boy crown prince of Korea is reported to have been inconsolable when the news of the assassination of his aged grand tutor by Koreans was broken to him. For the last two years the crown prince has been a resident of Japan and the frequent companion of Prince Ito, who formed an affection for him which he was reciprocated. The fact that he was assassinated by Koreans was especially shocking to the youth, who was well informed as to Prince Ito's plans regarding Korea.

Honors for Dead Statesman

The posthumous honors have not yet been announced, but it is certain that they will be the highest in the gift of the Emperor, and that the funeral will equal that of a prince of the blood.

A warship will bear the body to Yokohama from Dairien, probably arriving a week hence. The grand chamberlain will accompany the body with a naval and military guard of honor. No details of the funeral have yet been arranged. The newspapers without exception editorially express sympathy and horror at the act, pointing out that Prince Ito was the Korean's best friend always, even in the face of opposition at home. He looked for the regeneration of Korea, and endeavored to alleviate the evils of its condition. Intimate friends of the murdered statesman are too stunned to discuss the situation. They are of the belief that the death of Prince Ito will have no immediate effect on the policy toward Korea, but that Prince Ito's wishes and hopes probably will influence the policies of Japan for many years to come.

How Tragedy Occurred

HARBIN, Oct. 26.—Prince Hiroburai Ito was assassinated at the Baitsagni railway station here today, at the moment when the Japanese diplomat was acknowledging the noisy welcoem that had greeted him as he stepped from the railroad track. Smiling and bowing, he turned toward Russian Finance Minister Kokovsoff, who was awaiting him on the station platform a few paces distant. Suddenly came half a dozen revolver shots in quick succession, followed by the cries of those standing near the prince. At the second report Prince Ito staggered and fell. It was subsequently found that he had received three bullets, two of which entered the abdomen. Prince Ito died twenty minutes later without recovering consciousness.

The fusilade of shots threw the crowd into a panic, but when the excitement had somewhat subsided, it was found that three other members of the party on the platform had been injured. They were Prince Ito's private secretary, Japanese Consul General Kawakam and General Manager Tanaka of the South Manchurian railway, who had moved closer to the prince as the firing began. Their wounds are not believed to be mortal.

Assassin Defiant

The assassin was not hard to locate, as he stood defiantly in the crowd, revolver in hand. He proved to be a Korean with two companions of the same nationality. He boasted of a conspiracy the object of which was was the life of the former resident general of Korea. As the police prounced upon the three Koreans, the one who did the shooting exclaimed dramatically: "I came to Harbin for the purpose of assassinating Prince Ito, to avenge my countrymen."

None of the three Koreans attempted to escape. All calmly confessed that they had conspired against the life of Prince Ito. The assassin, while claiming to have been inspired by patriotic motives and to believe that Japan's wrongs to Koreans justified his act, admitted under examination that he had a personal grudge against the Japanese statesman who while resident general in Korea caused the execution of several of his friends. It had been supposed that the police protection for the prince was adequate, but the police stated later that they were unable to distinguish the Koreans among the many Japanese who had been admitted to the railway station to welcome the prince. The Russian police claimed that the Japanese Council General Kawakam had requested them to permit entrance to the station of all Japanese who sought admission.

Very soon after the body of Prince Ito was made ready for removal home, and placed upon a railway train. The casket was covered with flowers.

Object of Visit.

Prince Ito had come to Harbin to meet M. Kokovsoff, the Russian minister of finance, for what was believed to be an important conference. The conference was suggested by Prince Ito in his capacity of president of the privy council of Japan. The objects to be discussed were not definitely known to the public, but they were supposed to concern affairs of administration in Manchuria. Minister Kokovsoff had before declined an invitation to visit Japan for such a conference, and Harbin was agreed upon as a meeting place. The conference had been announced widely in advance, and it was generally known when the diplomats would reach Harbin.

THE DEAD STATESMAN

Prince Ito, who was greatest of all Japanese statesmen, first in precedence at the Japanese court after the princes of the blood, has been marked for death by Korean patriots, since he wrested a treaty from the deposed Emperor while troops marched about the palace at Seoul. He has been constantly guarded, and despite the strictness of the guard maintained attempts have been made on several occasions to take his life. Both he and Durham White Stevens, the American who served Japan under pay of Korea as advisor to Korea, were marked for death, and White was killed at San Francisco, but the Japanese statesman was too closely guarded.

"I remember him well as a kindly old man, diplomatic, a statesman above all else, with a hobby for Chinese poetry. During a visit I made in the spring of 1904 to his villa at Oiso, the village 'of the long beach,' from the verandahs of which the snowy crest of Fuji and the blue hills of Hakona show to one side and the sea with verdured Izu's peninsula on one hand and Misaki's on the other with Enoshima's sacred isle with its temples nestling among the trees and the junks and sampans flitting over the blue waters decking the sea in front. There are several villas of Japanese statesmen at this village and it has been the scene of historic conferences. On those mats where I sat launching queries, the bulk of which found answers that were gems of evasion, problems embodying the fate of countries had been decided. There is foreign furniture in the villa at Oiso, carpets and such things that Ito never knew as a boy. Japan was a different country to the Japan of today when he was a child. There were no cradles for him as a boy, no chairs, no bedsteads, the mats were for chair and bed, and as a boy Ito sat on his hams and heels.

When I had last seen him on the deck of a Nippon Yusen Kaisha liner at the outer wharf in Victoria some years before Prince Ito had seemed more buoyant; less burdened with cares than when I went to see him for the first time at his Oiso villa. He, as then, immediately impressed a visitor with the sense of his greatness; but his intense earnestness impressed most. He had a keen sense of humor, and was a brilliant conversationalist. He was a pioneer of modern Japan; in all that went for progress and advancement he led his countrymen to achievement, and from the time, in disobedience of the orders of the Shogun that Japanese might not go abroad under pain of death he and his boyhood companion Prince Inouye stowed away on a sailing ship that they might see the wonders of the world beyond Japan, he went from one step to another, introducing reform after reform and, despite all opposition, despite threat of assassination and clamor of the superstitious, he forced the progress of his country, his work being chief among that of those who made Japan the power it is today.

The assassination will have a marked effect on the Manchurian question, for there was no doubt but that his mission was to enter into negotiations with Russia whereby Japanese influence was to be made paramount in Manchuria.

His Career.

"He was born in 1841, the only son of the Lord of Choshu, head of the clan which always gave statesmen to Japan, and as a boy was the pupil of Yoshida, that same Yoshida, who, in 1853 stood on the decks of Admiral Perry's gunboat in Uruga bay and begged to be taken to the United States. Yoshida fired the boy Ito and Inouye also with the desire to get western learning. The last of the Shoguns ruled the country then, and Ito was one of those who rebelled against the Yeddo bureaucracy. The Restoration, which came in 1867, was the youthful Ito's dream, and it was in a great measure due to his efforts that the adoption of western learning so quickly followed the placing of the present Emperor on the throne.

In 1862 Ito and Inouye formed part of that mob which attacked the British legation in Tokyo, and when the guards drove away those who sought to burn down the legation and kill those within it, Ito and Inouye hid themselves in the garden of an English merchant at Yokohama and begged to be taken to London. The spies of the Shogun were upon their trail then and arrest for their part played in the interest of the Emperor seemed near when they huddled among the plants. Two years later it was that with Inouye he stowed away on a sailing ship and visited England, a visit which had a great bearing upon his future. It moulded his character differently. The boy Ito had been a firebrand, the youth Ito dropped the sword and took up the olive branch and the man has always been a factor for peace, so much so that his policy has sometimes brought down upon him the anger of the people, and one of his own countrymen attempted to assassinate him some years ago on the ground that he was sacrificing Japanese interests to maintain peace. It was the bombardment of Kagoshima when the allied warships made reprisals for the anti-foreign policy of the Satsuma and Choshu clansmen that induced Ito to return to Japan—to come home with a mission, a missionary in praise of the adoption of western manners and communication with the west.

Elevated to Leadership.

The uncommon ability of the young Ito quickly attracted the attention of the leaders of the Choshu clan on his return home and he was taken under the patronage of the late Kido, then the leader of the clan. Soon afterward came the civil war, the struggle to oust the Shoguns and place the Emperor on the throne, which proved successful after a number of bloody battles, and when Emperor Matauhito took the throne Ito was made a councillor of state and acted as interpreter to the boy Emperor when he had his first audience with the foreign representatives in February of 1868. Soon afterward he was appointed governor of Hiogo Ken, and in 1869 he took the post of junior vice-minister of finance to which in July of the same year were added the posts of vice-minister of public works and commissioner of Hokkaido colonization board.

He did much for Japanese finance, and in 1870 was despatched to the United States to investigate the banking system, a mission which led to the promulgation of the banking regulations in Japan. His most important foreign mission as a young man, however, was that in which he served as a junior plenipotentiary under the late Prince Iwakura in the special embassy sent to approach the Powers to open negotiation for revision of the treaties. Without going further than the United States they found that they did not have sufficient powers invested in them to discuss with the representatives of the different governments the revision of the treaties and in order to receive ample powers Ito returned to Japan from San Francisco. He was instructed to notify Kido and Okubo, both long dead, to return and continue the mission to Europe, where a quarrel developed between him and his patron Kido, owing to a misconception of the instructions Ito had been given to induce their early return. Kido died in 1877, and Okube in 1878 and with their passing the position of Ito grew in importance.

Destroyed Feudal System

It is not generally known that Ito was one of the chief factors in the abolition of the feudal system. Of this Ito himself said: "I was one of the principle advocates of nullifying the old clans, and this measure was not popular. Neither the court or the different clans of the Empire had the slightest idea at the time of abolishing the clan system. The sumurai were still clinging to the idea of receiving their hereditary revenue of so many koku of rice, according to the value of ther fiefs, as they used to do. I broached the matter to Kido, discussed it with him, and he agreed with me. I approached the heads of the Satsuma and Choshu clans, and those of Tosa and Hizen. Princes Sanjo and Iwakura were with me on this idea from the start."

After the abolition of the feudal system, the disarmment of the samurai who with a stroke of the pen were made equals at law with the commoners, the dead statesman took up the idea of representative government, and in 1881 saw a proclamation made announcing the inauguration of the representative system ten years later. The following year Ito was despatched to the United States and Europe to investigate constitutional government and parliamentary practice. In 1883 he represented Japan at the coronation of Czar Alexander III, and in 1885 was despatched to Pekin, China, to conclude the Tientain agreement with the late Li Hung Chang with regard to Korea. When Prince Sanjo died in that year he was recommended as premier and at the age of 44 took that exalted position, which he afterward occupied four different times. He was created a Count in 1886. The difficulties of appeasing the clans made the duties of a Japanese premier difficult even without consideration of foreign policy in those days, and owing to the Chinese question being most acute the first administration of Premier Ito was a difficult one. So dificult was it that he resigned within ten days of his appointment. He was able a month or two later to compose a cabinet, though, which included four of his own clansmen of Choshu and two Satsuma men. Six months was the life of it, though, and it gave place to a government headed by Count Okuma. This was the first genuine parliamentary cabinet of Japan, being formed of a coalition of two cabinets leagued against the clans. It lasted but a short time, though, and in 1898 the Choshu and Satsuma clansmen returned to power under Marquis Yamagata, and the clans still rule.

Ito has never been popular; for patriotism was before popularity with him. He was so far in advance of his people that they were never ready for his innovations and greeted them with opposition and derision. When he was made Minister of Public Works he began that scheme of national and private railways, which in 1904, when they were nationalized by the government, had 4,237 miles of road in operation. In 1871 when Ito planned the railways the old time conservatives howled loud and long, and they looked with disgust upon the honoring of the "mere mechanicians" who devised the roads, the first being the line between Yokohama and Tokio, built by British engineers in 1872 under protest of the people. Then came the telegraph; and this had to be guarded. The poles and wires were looked upon as instruments of witchcraft by the superstitious people. The public schools came next and a host of teachers were brought from the United States and students sent there to acquire knowledge fitting them to become teachers. A thorough campaign of 10 years the foundation for Japanese education was carefully carried out. Thus it can easily be seen that Japan owes much to Ito, the financial system, educational, lighthouse and other systems, all owe their beginnings to him.

The Elder Statesman

After his last government was dissolved he was appointed president of the privy council, head of the Genro or Elder statesmen. It was during his second premiership that the war was started with China. How he negotiated at Shimonoseki with Li Hung Chang who was shot and wounded by a would-be assassin on the steps of Shinpanro where the pen of the Marquis was shown me when I lodged in the room in which the treaty was signed ten years afterward; how he began to lean in favor of party cabinet, how he undertook to form "a model party"; how the backstair friction between Yamagata, the Marshal, and Marquis who is one of the military leaders, resulted in his installation in the Elder statesmen and to sever connection with the political parties and how the Marquis adroitly took Yamagata with him into the ranks of the Elder statesmen—all these are matters of too recent date to be out of the memory of those who have followed far eastern affairs.

Ito accompanied Prince Arieugawa when the Japanese Prince attended the Diamond Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria, and was at St. Petersburg when the news of the conclusion of the Anglo-Japanese alliance by the Katsura government was published, it being stated in Japan that he had gone to Russia to seek to make a treaty with Russia, but this never gained much credence. When the war with Russia began soon afterward he was sent to Seoul. As soon as the military freed Seoul from the environs of war he reached the Korean capital and the work, which resulted in his death, was begun then. Marquis Ito might have done much for Korea, but the grasping methods of concessionaires hindered his work there greatly. Despite difficulties he slowly but surely fulfilled the work with which he had been entrusted, however, and made Korea virtually a Japanese province, but not without considerable opposition and threats of vengence being made. He saw the Emperor deposed and a puppet ruler in the leading strings of Japan placed on the throne, and then he gave up his post as Resident General to return to Japan.

Constantly he was guarded, for threats followed threats against him, but at last the vigilance of the guards has been relaxed with fatal result. He was not a well man, having of late been confined to his bed at times by illness and it was not expected that he had many more years to live had he been spared the bullet of the assassin. Patriotic assassination has always been a great factor in the life of Orientals, none less than the Japanese themselves. Many statesmen have been assassinated—it has long been a recognized factor of the dangers of political life in Japan.

Ito was created a Prince when the war honors followed the war with Russia, and he wore on his breast all the honors possible to a subject of the Emperor, who hailed him as chief among all his subjects of Japan.

Gordon Smith.

Heinze's Brother Sentenced.

NEW YORK, Oct. 27.—Arthur P. Heinze, associated with his brother, F. Augustus Heinze, in the affairs of the United Copper Company, came near landing in the Tombs for a ten days' sentence yesterday, but at the last moment Judge Ward, in the United States circuit court, granted a stay of execution and Heinze's release under $2,500 bail pending the filing of an application for a writ of error.

Heinze was convicted some time ago of advising a witness to evade the service of a grand jury subpoena at the time when the government was attempting to get hold of the books of the United Copper Company. Acting on this conviction, Justice Ray, in the United States circuit court, today sentenced him to pay a fine of $250 and to serve ten days in prison. In passing sentence Judge Ray said that Heinze's offence was a wilful, deliberate and premeditated obstruction of the administration of justice. "You advised the covering up and hiding and furnished the money for witnesses to brave the jurisdiction of the court," he said, "and the administration of the law must be respected."

Then he pronounced sentence.

IN MIDST OF CONTEST

Premier and Other Members of Government Summoned as Witnesses in Libel Suit

VANCOUVER, Oct. 27.—Premier McBride, Hon. R. G. Tatlow and other members of the government were summoned yesterday by the World newspaper as witnesses in the suit in which the newspaper is defendant to R. F. Green, who asked damages for libel. The matter has been delayed for some time. Politicians are having a big joke about it, the suit being revived for November 10, a date which will be right in the midst of the premier's political tour through the upper country.

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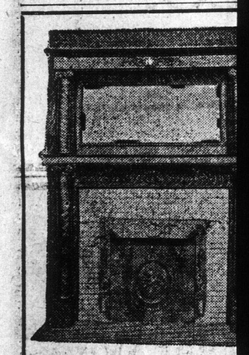

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LONDON, Oct. 26.—The mos markable brand of chocolate ever placed on the market is n sale here.

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The plus massol bacillus, as Metchnikoff pointed out, is not the sworn foe of the red bac colus communis, or putrefaction crobe—but its undisputed mast

The blue army of bacilli ha sooner been liberated in the system by the swallowing of a b than they begin at once to declar on the red army of putrefactio crobes, until at the end of weeks at most, by the swallowi three bonbons daily, the reds have routed.

The strange bonbon was exh publicly for the first time at private reception which signalize opening of the annual London m exhibition "for doctors only" a Royal horticultural hall, Westmi and caused intense interest a the medical men present.

Lake Captain Disappears.

OGDENSBURG, N. Y., Oct. Captain Lewis Holmes, of Milws commander and part owner of th freighter Omaha, which arrived yesterday from Chicago with cor disappeared, and the police of the lake cities have been asked to lo him. First Mate G. C. Smith r ed to the authorities last night th some time Captain Holmes had erratic, due perhaps to worry to the loss of two men overboard another command.