

THE TIMES Port Limón, Costa Rica (C. A.)

Prison Life In Japan.

CRIME ON INCREASE.

From time to time during recent years a good deal of indiscriminate praise has been lavished upon the Japanese prison system. The writer has a very vivid recollection of having read one stock paragraph in at least half a dozen periodicals and newspapers supposed to be descriptive of a wonderful penitentiary in Tokio, unique with palatial appointments which put to shame the most luxurious hostilities of the Occident, with marvellous gardens of Babylonian splendor wherein the convicts, more appropriately the guests of the State, take the air several times daily after being sufficed with the choicest delicacies of a cuisine which would drive a Brillat-Savarin to despair.

All this and much more of a like nature have been submitted as solemn fact by imaginative scribes hard up for copy during the silly season. More insidious than such palpable baldorasi have been official statements by persons like Mr. Takashi Sanagi, a commissioner of the Japanese Department of Justice, who recently attended the Eight International Prison Congress at Washington as representative of the Japanese government and lauded to the skies for the benefit of unsuspecting foreigners the Japanese system of treating criminals.

A comparison of information specially designed for alien consumption with actual facts intended for Japanese eyes alone is fortunately rendered possible by a series of revelations in a Japanese newspaper.

INCREASE OF CRIME.

No single phenomenon during the last few years has been more marked and ominous than the rapid increase in the number of criminals. Prior to the promulgation of the new Penal Code, in 1908, the number for the whole of Japan used to range in the neighborhood of fifty thousand, but since that day the figures have risen rapidly, until now there are a rarey fewer than seventy thousand incarcerated in the various prisons of the country. This accretion greatly exceeds the completion for the accommodation of which the prisons were originally designed, and this circumstance has gravely aggravated the unsanitary condition of the prisons, as demonstrated by the helictic rate of mortality, which has finally started the authorities from their tormented mood of equanimity.

A typical instance of the congestion from which the jails are suffering is reported from Amoyri prefecture. Owing to the sudden increase in the number of convicts at the well-known penitentiary there, the supply of quilts, or Japanese futao, became exhausted, until finally the same-faced warden was left with no other alternative than to ask the relatives of the inmates to furnish the futao, which the extra bedding required.

At Sugamo, near Tokio—apparently the model which in some mysterious way has supplied the inspiration for those highly colored descriptions of a Gilbertian institution averted to above—the condi-

tions are no better. The prison is planned to accommodate 2,100 convicts, but at the present moment more than three thousands are confined therein. Even under normal conditions a cell corresponding in size to an eight mat room has to hold seven persons, while now, owing to this unforeseen pressure upon the prison space the same area has to serve for from eleven to seventeen souls.

It may be stated with confidence that the ratio of seven persons to an eight mat room would represent for the foreigner an impossible condition of congestion, and when the proportion is raised to seventeen even the less exacting Japanese must suffer terribly.

Current News

The s.s. "Siberia" of the Hamburg-American Line of steamers is expected to arrive here early this morning.

The man Ernst Greig who was shot by a policeman a few weeks ago at Castro Branch and being lying in the United Fruit Company's Hospital for some weeks, was carried on a stretcher to the train yard yesterday and taken on board the passenger train to be carried to San José. We are informed that the man on his arrival there will be put in hospital and the X-ray applied to locate the balls that the man received, and then perform an operation.

The United Fruit Company steamer "Jansmin" sailed last night for Colon with the following passengers:—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jones, David Hinton, Otis Wilson, Fred Gordon, M. D. Broeder, Antonio Cozzarelli, Ricardo Paito, Juan Campillo, Tomas de la Perriere, O. L. Kitley, H. R. Tilley, John D. Paphan, Herbert J. Prescott, J. G. Duffie, B. C. T. Boss, Julia de Clare, Julia de Louderan, A. A. Davenport, E. P. Holloran and 8 deckers.

RAILWAY FATALITY.

Man Suffering from Liquor Attempted To Stop Train.

LOST BOTH LEGS IN THE ATTEMPT.

DIED THREE HOURS AFTER.

A sad accident occurred at ten minutes after five p.m. on Wednesday, near the crossing at Cieneguita which resulted in the death of a coolie man.

From information we got on the spot it transpired that an empty banana train was running from the direction of the dock with empty cars and when it got opposite the road that leads to where the garbage of the city is dumped, a coolie man who was coming from the direction of the north with a bag across his shoulders attempted to cross the line when the engine was a few yards from him. The driver seeing the danger blew the whistle and shouted at him three or four times, but this had no effect on the man, who it is stated was recklessly drunk. The steam was then shut off and the brake applied. The wheels of the locomotive then became motionless, but the empty cars

that was attached pushed the engine forward for a distance of about four or five yards.

Instead of "Baboo" getting out of the way of the iron horse, he thought his strength was superior to the monster gladiator. He stood in front with bag across his shoulder and with one hand pressed against the engine. The struggle was hopeless as Baboo was soon felled by his opponent; the buffer knocking him down. The wheels of the engine which was not revolving passed over him severing both legs close up to the hips. The oil box of the engine then drew him a short distance.

Some fisherman that was near by seeing the accident went to his rescue. He was taken from beneath the train and placed on this sidewalk. He was conscious at the time and the first thing he said when the men went to his rescue was "I had no more than three drinks."

The matter was reported to Dr. Caspades who visited the man and ordered his removal to the United Fruit Company's Hospital. He was put in a box car and the same engine took him up. He was afterwards seen by Dr. Velasquez, who prescribed some liquid.

He died two hours after he was admitted. It was said he was one of the strongest men that was admitted in the hospital; as it was surprising to see a man hauled up in such a manner and lived at least three hours after and was perfectly conscious all the time.

The man was a jeweler and was known by those of whom he came in contact as an habitual drunkard. They said there was hardly a day that he was sober.

Military Cor- onation Display.

Mr. Peter J. Nash, Colonel Commanding semi Military Display for Coronation Day beg to state that in consequence of the inclemency of the weather yesterday afternoon on the meeting proposed to take place on the plaza de Toro after parade is postponed to Saturday 13th inst. at 4 p.m. It is expected to hold a full parade of what will take place on Coronation. All officers, non-commissioned officials and men of the infantry are also asked to attend parade on the said date and hour.

The ex-soldiers of the West India Regiment who have not yet joined the display, and those who have already joined are specially asked to be present on the parade above mentioned as they will be placed in separate companies. Dress will be worn for parade at 3.30 p.m., and fall in at 4. All officers, non-commissioned officers and men should be punctually on the ground.

Warning.

Among several other things a box containing 12 dozen bottles Singer Sewing Machine Oil was stolen from my Jewelry Store on the morning of the fire, the police are hereby warned against purchasing the above. A suitable reward will be paid any person giving me information as to the whereabouts of articles stolen from my establishment.

5 v.

A. R. MENDES.

Chinese Revolt Spreading.

PROVINCES ADJACENT TO CANTON ARE NOW AFFECTED.

Hong Kong.—Late despatches state that the anti-Manchu movement has spread from the West River, at the west of Canton, to the north and east through Kwang Tung Province, and to Amoy, in the south-eastern part of Fukien province.

According to the best information obtainable, the foreign missions have not been molested by the rebels.

Service on the Canton Kowloon section of the railway leading from Canton to Hong Kong has been abandoned, and the British railway officials have been ordered to come to this city. Vessels are making frequent trips between Hong Kong and Canton and bringing refugees here. Details of the fighting at Canton confirmed earlier reports of the ferocity with which the troops and the rebels engaged. Quinceless heads and headless bodies in European dress are still exposed in the streets. Other bodies show that death was caused by strangulation. The absence of queues, together with the clothing of western fashion makes it plain that the dead were rebels. The bodies of the soldiers killed appeared to have been removed.

A son of the viceroy of Canton was found hidden under a bed in the servants' quarters of the palace, which escaped destruction.

The commander of a Chinese cruiser was killed. Admiral Li, who commanded the loyal troops in the first two days of the fighting, is said to have personally killed ten revolutionaries before he was mortally wounded.

Barricade's guard Stamen, and close by are the American gunboat Wilmington, the German gunboat Itis, a Portuguese gunboat from Macao and several British warships.

Neuralgia, Toothache and Swellings are cured with Kirk's Pain Balm.

All Sorts.

Many persons are of the impression that wireless telegraphy is particularly subject to "stopping" but, as has been pointed out by Marconi and others, says the Scientific American, no telegraph system is absolutely secret. Any one familiar with the Morse code can read ordinary messages entering and telegraph office. A Poldini, on a telephone connected to a long horizontal wire, the messages passing on a government telegraph line a quarter of a mile away can be distinctly read. It has been shown that it is possible to pick up a line, on another circuit, conversations which may be passing through a telephone or telegraph wire. On one occasion an investigator was able to interfere from a distance, with the working of the ordinary telephones in Liverpool.

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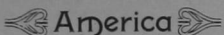
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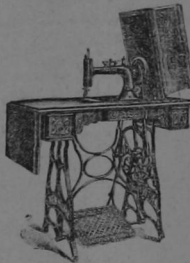
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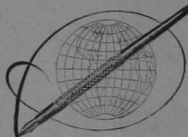
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Port Limon, C. R., 1911.

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