

THE TIMES A CORONATION IN CHINA.

ENTHRONING THE KING OF HEAVEN—HOW A SHAH IS CROWNED.

In China there is some show of severity on the part of the monarch when he assumes his throne, but apparently this springs rather from a base terror of the forces of Nature than from a holy fear of some divine being.

The Emperor himself is the divine being; he is styled King of Heaven. In theory his power extends over all lands, and the disposal of the world is his. When a Chinese Emperor dies a proclamation is issued by the Council of Princes announcing that as the late sovereign has departed on "the great journey" the new Emperor has received the government of the world from Heaven and revolving Nature.

The newly selected Emperor, who has to be of "divine" descent that is to be able to trace his ancestry back to about 2114 B.C.—comes before the council and declares himself unworthy to reign. He refuses three times to accept the symbols of monarchy. When at last he consents says Christopher St. John in the *Lady* the astrologers fix a day for his installation. The ceremony is called "ascending the summit," and it takes place in a great hall known as the Hall of Peace. On the top of a platform with nine steps—symbolizing the nine heavens of Chinese religions lore—is placed a gold throne encrusted with precious stones. The Emperor's relations on the distaff side are present, but not his relations on his father's side.

Before arriving at the hall the Emperor visits the altar of his dead predecessor, and bowing nine times to his shade informs it that it is decreed that he should be Governor of the World. The Emperor next visits the Empress Dowager. Nine bows again. Then he enters a golden chariot and is conveyed to the Hall of Peace, where he is received by the President of the Board of Rites and humbly entreated to mount the throne.

When the Emperor is seated on the throne the great book containing the privileges and rights of Emperors is brought to a table set before the throne and extracts from it are read by the president of the Board of Rites. The chief officer of the Imperial Guard gives the word of command and the throne is struck three times with a brazen rod.

A bell is rung outside the palace, drums beat, within the hall there are prostrations and bowings and sealings of the proclamation, which is carried in procession to the Gate of Celestial Repose. And the Chinese Emperor retires installed. If not crowned, never to relax his dignity to the hour when he too takes the "great journey."

A very minute and interesting description of the coronation of the Shahs of Persia exists in the work of Sir John Chardin, a famous seventeenth century traveler, who saw the coronation of Solymán III, a Persian sovereign temp. Charles II. The ceremony takes place in a square room known as the "Hall of the Stal-

bles," which is hung for the occasion with crimson linen curtains gaudily painted.

The floor is covered with the finest Persian silk carpets, the Shah's platform, or "balcony of State" with carpets of silver and gold. "A little square cushion stool three feet in height serves for a throne, the feet of the pillars that support the corners being fashioned like great apples. * * * It was of massy gold, very thick; the four pillars and the feet beset with rubies and emeralds. * * * The same stool at other times is kept very carefully in the royal treasury, which is a dungeon like the fortress of Ispahan, and is so tightly that two men can hardly lift it."

In this same treasury at Ispahan are kept jewels valued at seven millions sterling. Here is the Kairian Crown, shaped like a flower pot and surmounted by an uncut ruby as large as a hen's egg supposed to have come from Siam. There are lambskin caps with diamond aigrettes and swords with scabbards worth a quarter of a million each. There is also the finest turquoises in the world, three or four inches long, without a flaw and of that incomparably lovely color which the Persian poets are never tired of praising.

The Chief Astrologer is an important functionary at a Persian coronation. After the King has mounted the balcony of State, where the throne (the stool described above), the crown, the sword and the dagger are placed he has to wait until the Chief Astrologer announces that in twenty minutes the auspicious moment will have arrived.

At a signal from the Astrologer the General of Musketeers, after many prostrations, presents to the new sovereign a document conveying the news of his predecessor's decease and his own selection as sovereign. The King hands it back and it is read aloud by the Ancient of the Law. "Then comes the investiture. The crown, sword and dagger are uncovered and prayers are said over them. After the crown is placed on the King's head a great and learned doctor delivers a homily.

Home and Foreign News.

The "Prinz Joachim" is timed to arrive here early this morning with mails and passengers.

The "Joseph Vaccaro" brought a large cargo of railroad ties and was unloading them yesterday.

The s. s. "Esparta" is due here to-day from Boston. She brings cargo, passengers and mails.

Mails for the United Kingdom and New Orleans will be closed to-day at the Post Office as follows: Ordinary letters at 3 p.m., registered letters at 2 p.m.

The s. s. "Louisianian" was only docked yesterday morning, there being no space for her on the motile pier. The fine craft after landing her cargo expects leaving here on Saturday for Tampa, Florida.

The s. s. "Zent," consigned to the United Fruit Company arrived on the 28th from Manchester with the following passengers: R. L. Hutton, J. G. Mosley, Mrs.

E. Blackshaw and daughter and 22 sacks mails.

The Criminal Judge has been very busy during the last few days taking down statements in the recent Camp One murder case. Mrs. Francis, the wife of the notorious prisoner that was apprehended in connection with this case has been liberated and his paramour now bear him company to answer to the worst of all crimes.

The s. s. "Heredia" of the United Fruit Company Line of steamers left here on the 28th inst. for Colon with the following passengers: Mrs. E. G. Adwin, J. R. Grobe, S. L. Dana, Horatius Taulovillo, Major E. J. Adwin, Francis Goldberg, Bessie Z. de Miller, and child, Doris Miller, Otto Miller, D. McDonald, J. N. Popham, Juan B. Bernat, Juan Borsch B., and 39 deck passengers; 32 for Colon and 17 for Jamaica.

William Gardner wanted to get a free passage to Baltimore and with this aim he stowed away himself in the hold of the steamship "Barnstable," when she was at Port Antonio, Jamaica. Before the vessel reached her destination he was discovered. He was carried back to Port Antonio and a charge was laid against him in the Resident Magistrate's Court. He was lectured and a fine of £10 was imposed on him or 21 days imprisonment.

News from Jacmel, Haiti, is to the effect that a fire occurred there recently, destroying a large house that valued twenty-five thousand dollars. It is said that the blaze caused a great commotion in the town and no one could tell for certain how it happened. Two men were killed by falling beams and in spite of assistance given from various sources the fire was not under control until it had done extensive damage.

The giant liner "Titanic," the latest addition to the White Star fleet, shipped from the ways into the Laffan river in the presence of a great throng of people. The "Titanic" is the largest ship afloat having a displacement of 40,000 tons. She is a sister ship to the "Olympic" now under construction by the same company. Officials of the line and many prominent persons witnessed the launching of the new liner, the largest ship ever sent off the ways from the Belfast shipyards. The Cunard line has under construction a big liner of the same type as the "Titanic" which will be used in the Atlantic transportation traffic.

The Intercolonial Sports came off at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad on Saturday June 3, under favourable conditions. Demorara and Barbados was represented and the absence of Jamaica's cricks was very much regretted. However the events were keenly contested, Cipriani, Trinidad's cyclic idol upheld his title as champion of the island which he belongs; he won all his engagements, defeating Sam Davis, the Demorara representative that lowered his (Cipriani's) colours by defeating him at his home recently. Unfortunately Davis met with an accident in his second race, he fell and broke his collar bone.

WANTED.—Bright boy at Winner's photo gallery.

Limon Friendly and Library Association.

The first half yearly General Meeting of the above took place at King Edward's Hall, on Wednesday night, presided over by the Ven. Archdeacon Robinson, acting President. There was a large attendance of members and after the business of the evening was concluded the election of officers for the ensuing term of six months was cried through, resulting as follows: President, Archdeacon Robinson; Vice-Presidents, D. C. de Mécado and Rev. Arthur Worsford Secretary, Ernest Rothery; Treasurer, Ernest Roddick; Librarian, Wm. Hodge. The auditors appointed to examine the association's books for the term just ended are D. G. de Mécado, F. Wynter and J. Paddyfoot.

The members are arranging for a day's outing on the 4th July. We wish them success in their labors as well as their recreation.

The Potato Field.

There is no war on the farm that will pay larger and more certain profits than frequent cultivation of the potato field before planting time. All of the weed seeds that may have germinated will be destroyed and a better capillary attraction of moisture is established with the soil. The frequent working of the soil will make considerable plant food available and the young plants will take on a most vigorous and rapid early growth.

We make a practice of rolling our potato field as soon as it is ploughed and going over the surface of the furrows with a light harrow or that the interpaces between the furrows may become filled with loose soil to prevent the evaporation of moisture. After the field has lain a few days the soils are cut with a disc harrow both ways and the field harrowed with a combs spring tooth harrow until the seedbed established.

Care of the subsequent labor required to care for a crop of potatoes may be avoided when the ground has been thoroughly and carefully prepared before the crop is planted.

We grow better tubers when we plant in check rows and cultivate the rows.

The tubers are more uniform and fill grade better when marketed. There is but little real economy in planting small potatoes for seed, although some years they will produce fairly good crops of potatoes.

Venezuelan Concessions.

Caracas.—The Government signed a contract with a made river and coast navigation company that is the most extensive in the history of Venezuela. It accords to the company the privilege of navigation for fifty years of all rivers and lakes in the republic and its exploration and colonization of the entire Amazon territory with a preference of the mining claims and the rich rubber country. It also gives the company the right to monopolize for five years, the company in return agrees to form a \$10,000,000 corporation. British capitalists have already commenced negotiations to obtain a transfer of the contract.

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Americans and Manchuria.

St. Petersburg.—The "Novoye Vremya" is devoting much attention to reported plans of American agricultural interests to invade Manchuria. In a leading article, it bitterly attacks American representatives in the Far East and asserts that the recent loan to China was a covert reconstitution of Mr. Knox's proposal for the neutralization of the Manchurian Railways. The paper says that Manchuria has an open door for the commerce of the nations, but that its door is closed against political enterprises of all except the immediate neighbors, namely, Russia, China and Japan.

Denounces Wall Street.

Persia Warned Not to Seek Financial Aid From That Source.

Washington—Dmian C. Giesinger of the city denominated "the Wall Street financiers" and warned the Persian Government against accepting assistance from American capitalists at a meeting of the Persian-American Educational Society.

"Persia is about to seek financial aid, and from the financier of this country in an effort to rehabilitate itself in the affairs of civilized nations," said he. "But in so doing she risks in view the idea of American humanitarian principles which have of recent years given protection to oppressed peoples. But Persia in this instance is liable to fall into grave error should she seek financial aid of the trust magnates of this country."

"It is the American trust money which is the American breaker ahead of Persia" he continued. "Let that kind of money once get a foothold in Persia and Persia will be governed from New York, as is the Government at Washington, directed from Wall Street. So, Persia, beware! If you accept this kind of money your Parliament will soon be filled with their officers, as have our houses of Congress been filled with them for the past twenty years."

No Bridge Over Canal.

Panama.—The board appointed by the chairman of the Panama Commission to consider the question of the erection of a permanent bridge over the canal, which in November last made a preliminary report favouring the construction of the highest fixed type at the Empire section, has reconsidered the report. It has submitted another report recommending abandoning the project as impracticable. This action has met the approval of the chairman and the chief engineer.

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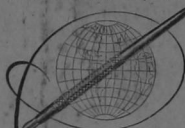
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Died.

Fitz Gerald. - On the 31st May at the U. F. Co's Hospital, Limón, B. J. Fitz Gerald, of Demerara. Age 32.
Barbados and Demerara papers please copy.
Limón, June 27, 1911 - 5 v.

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