CZAR'S GREAT DIPLOMAT

M. Witte's Remarkable Rise From Clerk to Premier

OF GERMAN PARENTAGE

Success Attributed to His Initiative in Turkish-Russian War—Always Refused to take any Part in Movement Against Jews and Nihilists—His Great Popularity.

The rise of a railway clerk to the post of Premier is a much more wonderful achievement in Russia than it would be in any other European country, and for that reason the personality of Sergius Witte is the most interesting.

He conquered great difficulties before he came to his present high place. He is of German origin and the "Russia for the Russians" policy found in that fact an almost unforgivable crime.

He comes from Transcaucasus. In 1849 he was born at Tiflis of parents who had emigrated to Russia from the northern part of Germany. He was sent by his parents to school at Odessa and astonished his teachers most by his skill in mathematics and physics.

He wanted to mix in the affairs of the world. The army was impossible for him because he was not of noble birth. For the same reason he had to crush out his desire to go into the navy. Commerce was not to his liking and he decided to go into the State railroad department.

It was difficult for a man in his position to attract attention in the railroad service, but M. Witte did it when only 27.

The war between Russia and Turkey brought up the usual difficulties in the matter of transporting the troops and supplies to the frontier. The army trains were hopelessly inadequate. Opportunities were lost because it was impossible to get the soldiers to the frontier, and those who were there found themselves without food and other necessary supplies.

M. Witte undertook to straighten matters out as far as lay in his power. Nothing is so respected in Russia as authority, but the young railroad employe decided to make

M. Witte.

himself famous by ignoring all authority save that which came from the highest source.

He sidetracked the trains of many notable persons on their way to the seat of war and kept them waiting for hours while the trains carrying the troops passed on to the Generals who were clamoring for them.

In spite of the offence involved in his conduct the news of his efficiency reached the Czar, who personally thanked him, and awaited the close of the war to reward him more substantially. After peace had been declared M. Witte was called to St. Petersburg and appointed to a high place in the railway department of the civil service, which on account of his birth had been shut against him at the outset of his career.

He became director of the Russian Southwestern Railway, the head of the railway department and then by rapid promotion Minister of Means of Communication, Chairman of the Tariff Commission, Minister of Finance and last year Imperial Chancellor—the highest honor which it is in the power of the Czar to grant.

His efforts to develop Russia's material resources have resulted in marvellous growth. Five years ago he reported to the Czar that the industries in his country had trebled in value in twenty years. It was he who insisted on the State ownership of railroads in Russia. Under his initiative great manufacturing enterprises have been developed and over fifty towns and cities have recently been lit by electricity.

He put the currency of the country on a gold basis and the equilibrium of the budgets has been restored after many years of financial confusion. He has not hesitated to plunge when he has seen that Russia could really afford to spend the money, and one of the best investments he ever made for the country was the purchase of the railroads when the country was by no means prosperous. In every case his investments have been justified by subsequent events. He appointed committees to investigate the acute industrial and agricultural depression of Russia. All of these committees were made up of men influenced by him and their reports might almost have been written by nihilists, so drastic were they in their recommendations.

BARON KOMURA'S ETHICS

Believes Genius Means Capacity For Hard Work

A HARVARD GRADUATE

Regarded as the Most Astute Diplomat Japan Has Produced—Strictly Adheres to High Thinking and Simple Living—Expresses a Fondness for America.

As Minister at Pekin, as the pilot of the Japanese craft of State in the troubled waters of Corea, immediately after the assassination of the Corean Queen, as Minister to St Petersburg in critical times antecedent to the present clash, as negotiator of the English alliance and general clearer of the diplomatic chessboard preparatory to the struggle with Russia, which he, more clearly than anybody else, long saw was inevitable. In all these great tasks of high diplomatic strategy the modest, self-effacing little Japanese bookworm of the Harvard days has developed a skill and masterful force which have given him a

BARON KOMURA

place among the world's great diplomats, says New York Sun.

But little over 5 feet in stature and slight and apparently frail in proportion, he gave little promise of future distinction or even of very long life when he left Cambridge in 1877 and started for Japan by way of Europe.

In Europe he remained a year, living the simple life and studying hard while he was there. He went home to Japan, and the world did not open very brilliantly to him at the outset. Extreme modesty combined with a very robust article of independence was a handicap in the beginning of his career. He had been a government student sent out to America. He knew he had done his duty; he knew that he knew a good deal of law, particularly international law.

Baron Komura's rise in the world of statesmanship was no gradual process, unless the years of hard study in obscurity be counted a part of the process. All he wanted was the opportunity to show what was in him, and the opportunity came.

When he was first Secretary of Legation to China the Minister was called away, leaving Komura in charge, and he had hardly gone before the complications that led to the war with China came on swiftly. Through all these complications Komura conducted the Japanese interests with the skill of a past master in diplomacy. It was said of him that from the time the troubles began until he closed the legation and went back to Japan not a single error was made not a single thing left undone that ought to have been done, not a single thing done that ought not to have been done.

From China he was sent to Corea, from Corea to Washington as Minister, from Washington to St. Petersburg, from St Petersburg to China during the Boxer troubles, and then finally to the highest seat in that Department of Foreign Affairs where he had so long plodded at rendering unimportant foreign documents into Japanese.

For years Baron Komura had made a study of the Chinese Eastern question. With the rare patience of his race and his own indefatigable persistence of research he had explored every ramification of it until he had an all but prophetic vision of problems far ahead which were bound to come up on the solution of which grave issues hung.

The Causes of Emigration.

"There is a double stream of emigration from England," says a writer in the London Graphic, "Our poor emigrate to the United States or the colonies to improve their circumstances, but there are every year some thousands of comparatively rich families among us that remove to the continent to live cheaply. This second stream is growing in magnitude every year, for prices in England are continually increasing. It was from the ranks of the 'moderately rich' that we used to get some of our officers for the army; but the sons of these 'emigrants' now become acquainted with foreign languages and find better employment in commerce and often on the continent."

Novel Life Saving Invention.

A poor laboring man in Denmark has made a new invention in life saving. He impregnates clothes with a substance which will keep a shipwrecked person afloat for several days without losing its property. A coat, a vest, a traveling rug—in fact, any piece of wearing apparel impregnated with the stuff is enough to keep any one above water. The invention has been successfully demonstrated.—Exchange.

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TREATIES OF A CENTURY.

Europe's State System After the Napoleonic Wars.

It was in November, 1814, that the famous Committee of the Eight Powers Austria, England, France, Prussia, Russia, Spain, Portugal and Sweden met at Vienna under the presidency of Prince Metternich to draw up a treaty which was to be henceforth the written law of Europe. The necessity for such a treaty was pressing. The moment seemed propitious. In the lawless grasp of Napoleon Bonaparte Europe had become a conglomeration of states without fixed boundaries or acknowledged rights to political existence. The old landmarks had been swept away, the balance of power destroyed, a strong state had become weak, weak states had become strong. The armies of Russia won in occupation of Poland. Austrian troops held all of Italy except Naples, English and Swedish troops held Holland and Belgium. English and Portuguese troops held a large portion of Spain, the Prussian troops held Saxony, the troops of Wurtemberg and Baden held the Rhine provinces. At length the hand which had wrought all this confusion was believed to have been effectually paralyzed. The sooner the normal state of things could be restored the better. Such was the train of ideas which led up to the Congress of Vienna.

It was Poland that formed the first stumbling block in the way of concord among the Powers. That unfortunate country had been torn into three fragments in 1772 and divided between Austria, Germany and Russia, the latter having the lion's share. Russia was now in martial possession of the entire country. It was the chivalric dream of the Russian Emperor Alexander I. to repair the partition and to replace the Poles in their condition as a free and constitutional kingdom under Russian suzerainty. But all other Powers objected to the proposal. Their combined weight won. Finally a compromise was arrived at. It was agreed that a portion of the Duchy of Warsaw should be divided between Austria and Prussia, the remaining portion (save Cracow, which was to be a free city) receiving a constitution, and being united to the Russian crown as the kingdom of Poland. Thus the sanction of a great European treaty was given to a great European wrong.

Two treaties of Paris are famous in American history. The first made in 1803, ceded the province of Louisiana to this country. The second, made between Spain and the United States, after the war of 1898, ceded to this country all Spanish possessions in the East and the West Indies.

The Spanish and American Commissioners, five from each country, met at Paris on October 1, 1898. The American Commissioners were William R. Day, chairman; Senator Cushman Davis, Senator William P. Frye, Whitelaw Reid and Senator George Gray. Spain was represented by Eugenio Montero Rios, chairman, Buenaventura d'Arbazuza, Jose de Garnica, Wenceslao Ramirez de Villa Urrutia and General Rafael Cerero.

The Cuban question was the first to come up for consideration. The Spanish Commissioners contended that since there was no Cuban State sovereignty over Cuba it must pass to the United States and that the latter was responsible for the Cuban debt secured on the customs of the island. The American Commissioners refused to accept for their government the capacity of sovereignty over Cuba, representing that the war avowedly had not been waged for territorial aggrandizement, but for liberation and order. It was not till October 27 that the Spanish Commissioners accepted the Cuban articles. The demands of the United States in regard to the Philippines and other islands in the East and West Indies were presented on October 31. They included the cession of the entire Philippine archipelago, as well as Puerto Rico and Guam, the United States agreeing to reimburse Spain to the extent of her pacific expenditures for permanent improvements. To this Spain demurred on the ground, among others, that the capitulation of Manila on the day subsequent to the signing of the protocol of peace was void. She offered to submit the question to arbitration. The United States refused to recede from its position, and on November 21, announced its final offer to pay $20,000,000 in a lump sum as compensation to Spain for all improvements. The Commissioners further agreed that the United States would maintain in the Philippines an open door to all nations, a stipulation which carried with it the admittance of Spanish ships and Spanish merchandise on the same terms as those of the United States. Further, they agreed to the mutual relinquishment of all American and Spanish claims, either individual or national, for indemnity that had arisen since the opening of hostilities. November 28 was named as the final day for the acceptance or rejection of these terms. On that date the terms were accepted by Spain. The treaty was finally drawn up on December 10 and was signed the same evening.

It certainly does try a girl's nerve when she braces herself to receive the shock of a proposal and the shock fails to materialize.

It's a pity that the average man is seldom able to catch up with his brilliant future.

Lion and Unicorn.

The lion is the emblem of England and the unicorn of Scotland. On the union of Scotland and England in 1603, one of the lions was removed from the British coat of arms, and the unicorn substituted.

Women as Porters.

The porters who carry the baggage of tourists on the island of Capri are mostly women. The men are busy as fishers, coachmen, cobblers and coral sellers.

Cost of War.

Russia's little dispute with Japan cost her about $7,500,000 a week.

Norway's Marine Earnings.

The earnings of the Norwegian merchant marine, especially of vessels engaged in the carrying trade between foreign ports, constitute a large portion of the national revenue. Norway's merchant marine is fourth in size among the merchant marines of the world, being exceeded only by those of the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany. Its total tonnage is nearly 1,500,000 tons, as against 625,000 tons for Sweden. Its total earnings in 1902 were $29,700,000, as against $13,400,000 earned by Swedish merchantmen, while the amounts earned by Norwegian vessels in carrying freight between foreign ports only, was $22,375,000, as against $3,644,000 earned by Swedish vessels for similar services.—Harper's Weekly.

Tattooed Women.

There are two sorts of tattooing in use among the women of the Congo. One is common to all the members of the same tribe, and indicates the origin and birthplace of the subject. It is an infallible and perpetual certificate of birth and nationality. The other sort of tattooing is simply fantasy and coquetry. But among certain tribes there is a third kind. The women record upon their bodies the epochs of their existence. A horizontal line marks marriage, oblique lines the birth of children, a vertical line weaning, another line change of residence. Thus the autobiography of the woman is written upon her person, and regarded with pride if it is full of events.—Exchange.

Berlin's Forest School.

Berlin's educational and medical authorities have organized a wonderful forest school for city children from the crowded districts of Berlin. In a wide clearing in the forest 150 children pursue the ordinary routine of school, varied by nature study at first hand. The hours of work are short and fresh air and exercise are given supreme importance. The children cook their own dinner at a campfire and the desks and seats and shelter sheds are made from timber felled from the clearing. At 1 o'clock the children take an hour's sleep, for which each is provided with a blanket and a steamer chair.

Some actors study to uplift their profession and some others study the art of getting to the next town.

Records are brittle things. You can't lower one without breaking it.

JAPAN'S ABLE STATESMAN.

Began his Diplomatic Career in this Country in 1879.

Kogoro Takahira, Japanese Minister to the United States is a remarkably vigorous looking specimen of his race. He is not tall, but his breadth of shoulder is unusual and his muscular development is a tribute to the wonders of jiu-jitsu.

Once or twice during his term as Japanese Minster at Washingon he has succumbed to the strain of diplomatic life. But his physical vigor would not be likely to succumb to anything less than the rigors of a social campaign.

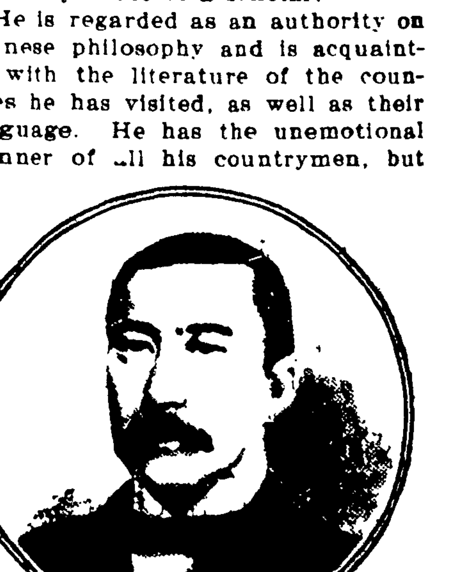
Mr Takahira held his first diplomatic post of any importance in 1879 in this country. Three years before that time he had begun his career with a series of brief stays in China, Holland, Italy and Corea.

He became then an attache of the legation at Washington, and for four years he remained here, learning the language thoroughly. His slowness in speaking our tongue now is not the result of indifferent knowledge, but of his own deliberation and carefulness of thought.

After his first stay here his Government made him charge d'affaires in Corea, consul-general at Shanghai, later at New York, then Minister to Holland, Italy and Austria.

Mr. Takahira has been accused of excessive stolidity, but that is considered by those who know him well to be the result of his extremely studious character. His tastes are naturally those of a scholar.

He is regarded as an authority on Chinese philosophy and is acquainted with the literature of the countries he has visited, as well as their language. He has the unemotional manner of all his countrymen, but



KOGORA TAKAHIRA

speaks with great animation and feeling on the subject of the war between Russia and Japan.

The Japanese Minister two years ago came to New York from Washington to be operated on for appendicitis. On his return to Washington he was taken ill, as the period of his rest had been too short.

With the exception of another brief period of retirement Mr. Takahira has stuck to his post steadily. His other brief period of absence began about a year ago when the pain caused by a wound received in Japan during his youth compelled him to take a rest.