

*the American correspondent,*

Dairen, Manchuria, June 3—Mr. Henry George, Jr., <sup>of New York</sup> ~~from Japan~~ arrived here, to-day on his way over the Manchurian and Siberian routes to England and the United States. Your correspondent found him at the Yamato Hotel. He appeared to be in excellent health and spirits. He reported <sup>a good</sup> an excellent passage from Kobe, except for thick ~~weather~~ <sup>weather</sup> during ~~the night of the second~~ <sup>the night of the second</sup> hours during the latter part of the voyage. But the sea throughout was smooth, and the passage through the Inland Sea and ~~as~~ among the islands ~~of~~ fringing southern Korea exquisitely beautiful.

Mr. George seemed to take much satisfaction from the fact that he had traveled in a Japanese-built ship, the Kaijo Maru, of the Osaka line, and constructed at Kobe. She was running light on this trip, but he said she was an excellent sea boat, and being about 3,000 tonnage, is the type of boat that will within the next few years build up immense trade <sup>for Japan</sup> relations <sup>all parts of</sup> with <sup>of</sup> the ~~the~~ Occidental as well as ~~with~~ the Oriental world. <sup>outside</sup> "

"I hail this trade," said Mr. George; "for the more men trade, the less they will be disposed to fight with each other."

This caused Mr. George to speak of Captain Hobson, the ex-United States Navy captain and at present ~~member~~ <sup>member</sup> of Congress from ~~the~~ the State of Alabama. "Captain Hobson is an instance of a self-hypnotized man," remarked Mr. George. "I lectured through the middle west of the United States with him last summer, and he was predicting to his audiences war between Japan and ~~America~~ <sup>America</sup> this spring. But the spring ~~has~~ has come and gone, with no sign of war or even of serious friction. And the chances of trouble ~~between the~~ grow more and more remote. The tender spot was California, owing to the competition of Japanese laborers; but Japan is giving proof that she can stop this emigration and that she intends to keep it stopped. That ends discussion; and Captain Hobson will have to look ~~around~~ <sup>elsewhere</sup> for a war-night-

mare."

"As for Japan's immigration question," continued the American correspondent; <sup>"Japan's work"</sup> ~~it is~~ obviously is cut out for her in the reorganization and colonization of Korea. All fair-minded men must see that Korea has been the weak spot of Asia. The masses of the its people ~~has~~ have been robbed by its aristocracy into helplessness. The aristocracy was incapable of rejuvenating the nation, and so <sup>the country</sup> ~~it~~ has lain prone in its weakness, inviting the mastery of first one, then <sup>of</sup> another of the outside stronger powers. This was Russia's great opportunity, and it is perfectly clear that Russia meant to take Korea in its own good time. But with Russia in Korea---wedged in, as it were, between Japan and the rest of Asia, and with plenty of ports in which to assemble a navy---where would Japan <sup>have been?</sup> ~~be?~~ In direst jeopardy. And so she has taken <sup>herself,</sup> Korea and she must make Korea strong, even if she has to annex ~~that it~~ ~~country~~. I am for national liberties, but when a nation has become so weak as to imperil the liberties of another nation, then I am for that other nation taking possession. I cannot see what else Japan can possibly do.

"This rousing of Korea by Japan, <sup>the</sup> pouring in of capital, the infusion of verile Japanese blood in the form of emigrants, and the mastery by Japanese thought and energy <sup>will</sup> within a very short time bring forth a new order of things in Korea, and turn its people from a weak into a ~~stre~~ weakness into strength. Whether as a separate people or as an integral part of the Japanese Empire, Korea will fall into the march of progress---of Western progress as interpreted by Japan."

"Nor does Japan's influence over continental Asia stop here. It has been marked on China. The very talk of 'reaction against Japan' is proof of it. During the past few years many thousands of the flower of Chinese youth, educated in Japan's institutions, have car-

ried Japanned-Western learned learning, mixed with gratitude to their teacher, into the vitals of China; and the seed thus planted must in good time bear its fruit. But even more than that the glory of Japan's arms and her amazing achievements in the fields of peace and progress have thrilled China, as of the awakening spirit of Asia; and notwithstanding any trade or political antagonism latterly, the stir to the new life in China, ~~it~~ must in justice be attributed in large measure directly or indirectly to Japan. No matter what may be said to the contrary, Japan has Japanned China.

"But while Japan has been and is doing this great work abroad, she has her serious problems at home. I refer particularly to the debauching of her politics. Riches are being heaped together by grants or immunities of government, and these riches are being used to buy <sup>voters</sup> the electorate in elections and corrupt officials that fill the public ~~offices~~ <sup>places</sup>. This is plain, unpleasant speech; but the facts are as plain as unpleasant; and they are open to all the world. The Dai Nippon Sugar Refinery scandal is the most flagrant instance, but there are many others, ~~of~~ if of less note.

"I agree with the the Kobe Chronicle, which in a recent issue said: 'The Dai Nippon Sugar Refining Company was brought into existence by government aid and protection and obtained privileges which no other private undertaking would be granted. Other industries have been adopted by the state and their owners bought out at a huge profit. Why should not sugar also be made a monopoly? Hence the spending of a large sum of money in the wholesale subornation of legislators. The cause of the corruption in Japanese political life is to be found in the existence of high protective duties, the giving of bounties, the establishment of monopolies, the intervention of government in matters that should be left to private enterprise. So long as these causes exist, so long will corruption prevail.'

That is to say, when men, through legislation, can obtain things that cannot be had through private effort, they will seek to control legislation; first or last using unscrupulous means to that end. And bounties, subsidies, tariffs and monopoly grants are given by legislation and hence are the prizes of political corruption.

"Japan is not alone in this. It is the common fruit of <sup>the</sup> evil tree, wherever that tree may be found---in Occident or Orient; in Great Britain, France or the United States; or in Japan. These privileges must be removed from politics, if politics <sup>is</sup> to remain to be clean."

Mr. George also had some interesting things to say about ~~the~~ taxation matters. He thought Japan should take note of what its powerful ally, Great Britain, is doing on <sup>P</sup>this head. "With a similar necessity for large revenues at this time, the British Government has introduced a tax on land values which in principle is very far-reaching. The actual amount of revenue to be raised in this way will not be large; but to lay the tax, a new assessment of the land of Great Britain must be made---a valuation, based, not upon what the land is yielding, for much of it is under pasture and game runs; but upon the selling value ~~e~~ in the open market. This will reveal the truly enormous land values that have been going practically untaxed. And, as when any established privilege is attacked, a cry of 'robbery' and of 'confiscation' has gone up from the landed class loud enough to split the sky. Yet the valuation will be made and the tax will be laid. <sup>P</sup>Japan should take good heed; for she, too, may obtain a large measure of revenue from a similar source. The last valuation of the lands of the Empire were made some thirty years ago, and the cities have grown prodigiously. Why should the landlords not pay on the increased value that increasing population has given to their lands?"