

Chronology of the Eastern Situation

1800—Russia annexes extreme eastern part of Manchuria, thus securing the port of Vladivostock.

1881—Russia occupies more Manchurian territory.

1885—Russian colonies established in Manchuria.

1891—Czar Nicholas III. issues a rescript for the building of the trans-Siberian railroad.

1895—Treaty of Shimonoseki, making peace between China and Japan. France, Germany and Russia compel Japan to withdraw her claims as to portions of the Liaoting peninsula, and Japan yields to superior force.

1896—Private treaty between China and Russia, the latter promising to defend China against the world; Manchurian railway agreement perfected.

1897—Germany gets possession of Kiau-Chow; Russia takes the opportunity to seize Port Arthur and Talien-wan.

1900—Boxer rebellion gives further opportunity to Russia to fasten her grip on Manchuria.

1901—Protests by Japan and other powers to Russian encroachments on Chinese territory.

1902—Treaty of alliance between Great Britain and Japan is signed January 30. China-Russian treaty signed April 8 for the evacuation of Manchuria by Russia, and declaring the province to be an integral part of China; China's commercial treaty with Great Britain signed September 5.

1903—Russia fails to keep pledge to evacuate Manchuria, and April 23 demands new conditions as to the carrying out of the Manchurian treaty.

June—Japan and the United States object to the new conditions, and Russia begins movements on the Yalu river under pretense of taking up timber concessions.

July—Japan protests and presses Korea to open the port of Wiju to foreign trade. Great Britain and the United States concurring in the demand. Pavloff, Russian minister to Korea, makes threats.

August—Japan proposes a modus vivendi the 12th, and negotiations are opened. Japan presses Russia for fulfillment of all treaty conditions.

September—Russia gives new pledge that New Chwang and Mukden would be evacuated October 8, but later demands grants for landing places and military post stations, and Japan evinces resentment.

October 8—China signs commercial treaties with Japan and the United States.

October 15—Japan agrees to recognize dominant interests of Russia in Manchuria, but wants Chinese sovereignty unimpaired. It also demands recognition of Japanese influence in Korea and the opening of Yongampo and other ports, besides a neutral zone on both sides of the Yalu river.

October 30—Reoccupation of Mukden by Russia is reported.

December—Japanese diet opens the 10th and the government is censured for the inadequacy of its measures.

December 17—Russia makes reply to Japan's last note, but it excludes Japan altogether from the Manchurian question.

December 21—Russia is asked to reconsider its reply.

December 28—Emergency ordinance is issued in Japan, giving the government unlimited credit.

December 29—High court of war is held, with the emperor in the chair. Admiral Togo is put in command of the fleet; he captured the Taku forts in 1900.

1904—Jan. 5—Japan sends final note to Russia, intimating that her demands must be acceded to or war will result.

January 8—Review of troops is held

at Tokio and great enthusiasm is shown.

January 15—Russia delays answer and Japan shows impatience.

January 30—Minister Kurino makes inquiries at St. Petersburg as to when a reply to Japan's last note may be expected.

February 3—Russia's reply is sent to Tokio, but proves unsatisfactory.

February 5—Baron de Rosen, Russian minister, is notified at Tokio that Japan intends to sever diplomatic relations with Russia.

February 6—Minister Kurino, Japanese envoy, demands his passports at St. Petersburg and receives them, and Baron de Rosen is notified to quit Tokio.

February 8—Japan declares she will take military and naval steps to protect her interests in the east.

Sponge Fishing in Florida.

In sponging two men work together in a skiff. One sculls. The other leans over the side, and buries his head in a wooden bucket with a glass bottom. Through this glass he can see every fish, every bit of coral or sea feather, and every shell or sponge upon the bottom. His glance sweeps indifferently past shark, ray or pompano, past single fish or fish in schools, past big fish seeking a dinner and little fish seeking to escape making one. It hesitates at every growth upon the bottom, and rests for a moment upon every form of sponge which it encounters. When a sponge of commercial value comes within range of the sponger's vision his free hand reaches behind him for the thirty-foot pole with its sponge hook which lies across the gunwales. The motion of the boat is checked by the sculler, the hook is lowered to the roots of the sponge which is then torn from the bottom.

Sponges, after being cured are put up in strings four feet eight inches long, and sold in Key West, like everything else there, at auction. In the fishing community of the keys the sponge is a sort of social wampum. Choice specimens are given as tokens of regard, or as expressions of gratitude for favors. They are available in payment of compliments or debts, and their value cannot always be measured by their monetary equivalent.—Country Life in America.

Dogs Blow the Bellows.

On an uptown street on the east side of the city hundreds of people daily pause at a blacksmith's shop to watch three large and intelligent Newfoundland dogs, which are employed by the brawny smith to work the bellows of the forge of his shop. In one corner of the shop is a wooden wheel about eight feet in diameter and wide enough for a dog to stand in. When the wheel is at rest the dog stands in much the same position as the horse in a child's rocker, with his head always turned toward the forge awaiting orders. When told to "go ahead" the beast on duty at once starts on a brisk trot, which makes the wheel turn around rapidly and by means of a crank and lever the power is conveyed to the bellows.

The dogs work willingly and with such intelligence that people are never weary of watching the efforts of the animals to keep the smithy fires bright. Each dog works in the wheel for one hour and then rests for two. They cost their owner about \$2 a week each to feed and he estimates that they save him \$12 a week as otherwise it would require at least the service of two men or a small engine to do their work.—New York Mail and Express.

More Cow Money. You can invest in nothing that will bring you larger cash returns than the EMPIRE Cream Separator. Guaranteed to turn more easily, to last longer, to be more easily cleaned, to give less trouble and to be more satisfactory in every way than any other separator. Simplest in construction. Investigate our claims—ask any Empire user. Handsome Catalogue Free. EMPIRE CREAM SEPARATOR COMPANY, Bloomfield, N. J., Chicago, Ill.

SEND FOR FREE LIST OF RECORDS & TALKING MACHINES. Columbia Graphophone. An hour at 10c. each. When sold send the money, \$3.50, and we will send you a guaranteed A. Q. Columbia Graphophone with three-song record. In case you are not pleased with the Graphophone, send it back to us and we will allow you \$2.50 on the purchase of any machine you may select from our catalogue. We will forfeit \$1,000 to any one proving any trick or catch about this offer, or that we give a toy machine or one that must be turned by hand. Our machine is a key winding, self-playing Columbia Graphophone, and with three-song record, is the greatest premium ever offered. Send for free list of records and graphophones. Send your reply to us at once and be treated fairly. A trial costs nothing. Address plainly, W. S. SIMPSON, Dept. 19, New York.

STEEL ROOFING. 100 SQUARE FEET.....\$2.00 We Pay Freight East of Colorado. Strictly new, perfect, semi-hardened steel sheets, 8 and 8 foot long, the best roofing, siding or ceiling you can use. Nails free. Painted two sides. Flat, corrugated or V crimped. Write for free catalogue 334 on material from Sheriffs and Receivers' sales. CHICAGO HOUSE WRECKING Co. West 35th & Iron Sts., CHICAGO.

Patent Secured OR FEE returned. FREE opinion as to patentability. Send for guide book and what to invent. Finest publications issued for free distribution. Patents secured by us advertised free in Patent Record SAMPLE COPY FREE. Evans, Wilkens Co., Dept. F, Washington, D. C.

GAIN ACRES by clearing that stumpy place of land. THE HERCULES Stump Puller pulls any stump. Saves time, labor and money. Catalog FREE. Hercules Mfg. Co., Dept. 10 Centerville, Iowa.

FENCE! STRONGEST MADE. Bull Strong, Chicken Tight. Sold to the Farmer at Wholesale Prices. Fully Warranted. Catalog Free. COILED SPRING FENCE CO. Box 234 Winchester, Indiana, U. S. A.

HEALTHY TREES We Pay Freight. Grafted Apples, 100 \$5.50; budded peaches, 100 \$5.00; budded cherries, 100 \$5.00. Good varieties. Concord grapes, 100 \$5; Mulberry, 100 \$1.50; B. & H. Locust etc. low prices. Big Premiums Given. Catalogue mailed free for the asking. CALBRAITH NURSERIES, Box 84, FAIRBURY, NEB.

STARK TREES best by Test—78 Years Largest Nursery. FRUIT BOOK free. We PAY CASH WANT MORE SALESMEN Weekly STARK BROS., Louisiana, Mo.; Huntsville, Ala.; Etc.

\$30 WEEKLY Straight Salary and all expenses to man with rig to introduce our Poultry and Stock Remedies. We mean business and furnish best of references. Dept. H 17 Royal Co-op. Mfg. Co., Indianapolis, Ind.

\$80 A MONTH SALARY And all expenses to man with rig to introduce our Guaranteed Poultry and Stock Remedies. Send for contract; we mean business and furnish best references. G. R. BIGLER CO., X 660 Springfield, Ill.

ECZEMA PERMANENTLY CURED! Our guarantee is backed by a National Bank. Booklet free. Manter Chemical Co., 6039 N. Indiana Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Would You Sell Your property for cash? If so write for my new plan, free. John McSheeh, Shawneetown, Ill.

\$75 Month and expenses; no experience needed; position permanent; self-seller. FRASE MFG. CO., Stat'n 59, Cincinnati, O.

100 POINTS OF MERIT Are to be found in the new 1904 SPLIT HICKORY SPECIAL TOP BUGGY \$50 The best buggy in the world for the money. Can be furnished as you want it. Is sold on 30 DAYS FREE TRIAL with an Iron-Clad 3 Year Guarantee. Send for our 186-Page Catalog illustrating this buggy, gotten up in twelve different ways and also illustrating and describing our full line of vehicles of all kinds and full line of harness, sold direct to user at rock bottom prices. The Ohio Carriage Mfg. Co., 2560 Wash St. Cincinnati, O. H. C. Photos, President.

"Once Grown Always Grown" The Maule motto for more than 25 years. My new SEED BOOK for 1904 Cost over \$50,000 to publish. If you have a garden you can have a copy for the asking. Send a postal for it to Wm. Henry Maule, Philadelphia, Pa.

SEEDS WONDERFUL OFFER. Two regular packets of Vegetable and one of Flower Seeds and ten sample packets of wonderful new grains and grasses, and our catalog. Also a due bill for 50 cents worth of seeds to be selected from our catalog, free. All for a dime or 10 cents in stamps to help pay postage and packing. Catalogue manual is free. Write for it. Be friendly. A. A. Berry Seed Co., Box 37, Clarinda, Ia.

TREES Fruit and Ornamental, Shrubs, Roses, Bulbs & PLANTS TESTED 50 YEARS. Send for Descriptive Priced Catalog FREE 600 Acres. 13 Greenhouses. Established 1852. PHOENIX NURSERY CO. 1307 Park St., Bloomington, Ill.

EVERGREENS including Blue Spruce, Douglas Spruce and Concolor of Colorado. Forest Trees, Forest Tree Seedlings, ornamental trees and shrubs. Nursery grown on our own premises. Very hardy and certified free from disease by State Entomologist. R. Douglas' Sons, 30 Waukegan, Ill.

BUILT TO LAST Never outclassed—Sure Hatch Incubators. Built better than your house. No hot centers; no chilling draughts on sensitive eggs. Every cubic inch in egg chamber at uniform, blood temperature of fowl. It's a continual pleasure to hatch nearly every fertile egg with a Sure Hatch. Free catalogue \$1.18 with pictures tells lively story. SURE HATCH INCUBATOR CO. Indianapolis, Ind., Clay Center, Neb.

Old Trusty Incubator. 30 Days Trial. Made by Johnson the chicken man. Great \$10 Special. Find out. Write to Johnson. Best incubator catalog ever published. Sent free. W. M. JOHNSON, Clay Center, Neb.

100 PER CENT HATCHES Our new catalogue contains hundreds of them obtained by BUCKEYE INCUBATOR users in all parts of the U. S. Send for a copy and read the proof. It is free. Buckeye Incubator Co., Box 50, Springfield, O.

LITTLE CHICKS DON'T DIE when fed and tended right. Feed Mrs. Pinkerton's Chick Feed and make good profits. Write now for free catalogue on chick raising and learn too about our prize winning, pure bred birds. ANNA L. PINKERTON CO. Box 18, Hastings, Neb.

CUT THIS OUT If you want 100 different samples of magazines and newspapers & send with 10c for 1 year's subscription to The Welcome Guest, the best original magazine published, which you will receive for 12 long months & 100 samples as promised. Ad. The Welcome Guest, Portland Me.