

# CURRENT TOPICS

UNDER THE headline of "The Wisdom of Silence," the Success Magazine prints the following story: "The late Judge Silas Bryan, the father of William J. Bryan, once had several hams stolen from his smoke house. He missed them at once, but said nothing about it to any one. A few days later a neighbor came to him. 'Say, Judge,' he said, 'I hear'd yew had some hams stole t'other night.' 'Yes,' replied the Judge, very confidentially, 'but don't tell any one. You and I are the only ones who know it.'"

THE PHILADELPHIA Public Ledger (rep.) prints a letter from the Canal Zone in which the writer severely criticises the conditions there. The Public Ledger says: "There is a spirit of dissatisfaction among the workers on the Panama canal, especially among the civilians who have been employed there almost from the beginning of operations. This is voiced in a letter to the Public Ledger, written by a man occupying an official position, who withholds his name from publication, declaring he would be dismissed immediately if it became known he was the author of the communication. It is the rule of the army officers, supported by a system of espionage, according to this writer, that has given rise to rumors that Governor Blackburn would not return, but would send his resignation to the president. Governor Blackburn is now in Washington. Good, capable engineers, it is asserted, have had to step aside, to be superseded by army officers. It is recited that A. C. Harper of Bellefonte, Pa., the first engineer to go to the Isthmus when fever was the order of things and sanitation was unknown, was informed when about to return from a vacation that his 'services were no longer required.' Another, Holcombe, who put in the water works and sewers, was placed in the position of necessarily resigning by having his department abolished. The letter points out that army officers were few and far between in 1905 and 1906, when fever was raging, but now they are everywhere and all-powerful. The condition presented is such as suggests the need of an investigation by the war department, and there is a possibility that this may result from the reports which Governor Blackburn is to present to the authorities in Washington."

THE "GRAND OLD MAN" of Japan has been assassinated. A cablegram from Harbin says: "Prince Hirobumi Ito was assassinated at the Tsaitagan railway station here today at the moment the Japanese diplomat was acknowledging the noisy welcome that had greeted him as he stepped down from the coach that he had occupied in the railroad train. Smiling and bowing, he turned to make his way toward the Russian finance minister, M. Kokovsoff, who was awaiting him on the station platform a few paces distant. Suddenly a half dozen revolver shots fired in quick succession, were heard, followed by the cries of those standing near the prince, who had either been wounded or imagined themselves to be. At the second report Prince Ito staggered and fell. It was subsequently found that he had received three bullets, two of which entered the abdomen. Prince Ito did not recover consciousness, and died twenty minutes later. The fusillade of shots threw the crowd into a panic, and it was some time before it could be determined who, beside the prince, had suffered. When the excitement had somewhat subsided it was found that three other members of the party on the platform had been injured. Prince Ito's private secretary received a bullet, as did Japanese Consul General Kawakan, and General Manager Tanaka, of the South Manchurian railway, who had moved closer to the prince as the firing began. It is thought that these three are not mortally wounded. The perpetrator of the outrage was not hard to locate, as he stood defiantly in the crowd, revolver in hand. He proved to be a Korean, and with two companions of the same nationality boasted of a conspiracy to take the life of the former resident general of Korea in satisfaction for the alleged tyranny of the prince over Koreans. As the police pounced upon the three Koreans, the one who did the shooting

exclaimed dramatically: 'I came to Harbin for the sole purpose of assassinating Prince Ito, to avenge my country.' None of the three Koreans attempted to escape. The assassin, while claiming to have been inspired by a patriotic motive, and to believe that Japanese wrongs to Koreans justified his act, admitted under examination that he had a personal grudge against the Japanese statesman, who, while resident general in Korea, had caused the execution of several of the murderer's friends. It had been supposed the protection for the prince was adequate, but the police stated later that they were unable to distinguish the Koreans among the many Japanese who had been admitted to the railway station to welcome the prince."

PRIOR TO HIS departure Prince Ito said to the Associated Press representative at Tokio: "I am going on my own initiative, with the approval of my emperor, with the hope of securing a better understanding with China, and of assuring the world that Japan's intentions in Manchuria are amicable to China, and friendly to the commerce of all nations. When I return I hope to give positive evidence of this." A Tokio correspondent adds: "Undoubtedly Prince Ito intended to inaugurate and enforce a distinct policy in Manchuria, but the exact nature of this was not disclosed. Marquis Katsura, the premier and minister of finance, after the assassination, said in an interview: 'The death of Prince Ito will not change the policy of Japan. The pacific motives of Prince Ito will ever be maintained and the traditions left by him will always be followed.' The entire nation is mourning; the flags on the foreign embassies have been placed at half-mast, while all public and many private functions have been abandoned. The Japanese and foreign newspapers appear with black borders. Only the death of the emperor could arouse similar demonstrations of sympathy. Perhaps Prince Ito's death causes more universal sincerity and grief because he was idolized by the masses as the great counselor of the elder statesmen, the creator of the cabinet and the friend of the emperor himself. The boy crown prince of Korea is reported to have been inconsolable when the news of the assassination of his aged grand tutor by Koreans was broken to him. For the last two years the crown prince has been a resident of Japan and the frequent companion of Prince Ito, who formed an affection for him which was warmly reciprocated. The fact that he was assassinated by Koreans was especially shocking to the youth, who was well informed as to Prince Ito's plans regarding Korea."

A HARBIN, Manchuria, cablegram says: "The assassin of Prince Ito was identified today as Inchan Anyan, a former editor of a newspaper at Seoul. He said that he was one of an organization of twenty Koreans who had taken an oath that they would kill the Japanese statesman. The assassin used dum-dum bullets which had been poisoned with cyanide." The Seoul correspondent for the Associated Press sends this dispatch: "It is evident from the attitude of a considerable section of the Korean population that the assassination of Prince Ito was not unpleasing. Those comprising this section represent the element which is now deprived of opportunities formerly offered here and they are agitating for further violence. Viscount Zane, the Japanese resident general in Korea, is much disturbed by the reports coming in regarding the attitude of some of the officials and others who were formerly closely connected with the court of the emperor. It is now believed that the entire plot was hatched in Seoul, and the closest investigation is proceeding to discover the instigators of Prince Ito's murder. It is said that there is reason to believe that several prominent Koreans, while not actually privy to the assassination, lent themselves to a secret agitation and encouraged the people in general in the opinion that the sympathy of foreign countries would be extended to them if the situation were forcibly brought to their attention. It is now known that secret societies existed to spread the propaganda that Prince Ito's outward friendship for Korea was merely a blind. The report also was widely circulated

that Japan had prepared to confiscate the property of all Koreans, depose the emperor and drive the people into the sea."

AN ATHENS, Greece, cablegram carried by the Associated Press says: "An actual revolt in the navy has taken place and the situation is acute. The band of naval officers who, on Wednesday, quitted the capital and withdrew to the island of Salamis, today seized the arsenal there and are now entrenched. They met no opposition. The rebels are led by Officer Tibaldos and are reported to number 300 men. The government has proclaimed Tibaldos a traitor and ordered his arrest. The Greek fleet is anchored at Keratsini, on the further side of the island of Salamis, and has not yet had time to declare which side it will take. Many of the junior officers in Athens disavow the revolt. Great excitement prevails in this city and the ministry of marine is guarded by troops. Lieutenant Tibaldos, who heads the revolt, is the commander of a flotilla of torpedo boats and submarines. It appears he demands that he be appointed minister of marine and threatens if this is not conceded that he will overthrow the government and establish a dictatorship. If Tibaldos succeeds in winning over the fleet, as it is rumored he will, it is feared he will be in a position to carry out his threats. Meanwhile an element in the military league which is opposed to the revolt has issued a proclamation denouncing Tibaldos as a traitor who broke his oath to the league. This afternoon a regiment of infantry and a battery of field guns were sent to Skaramanga, on the coast, a few miles west of Athens and opposite Leros, the point on the island of Salamis, where Tibaldos' men are entrenched. It is now said that Tibaldos has gained the support of the entire torpedo flotilla of eight ships and threatens to employ these in sinking the rest of the fleet. As Tibaldos holds the arsenal and ammunition depots, the vessels in the possession of the government are without ammunition and have not been mobilized. It is feared that the ships thus far loyal may join the revolt, particularly since the military league is now hostile to the revolt in the navy."

A STATUE TO the memory of the late Senator Matthew Quay of Pennsylvania was unveiled at Philadelphia recently. The following is taken from the New York Evening Post: "The Philadelphia North American describes the very informal unveiling of the Quay statue in the Pennsylvania capitol at midnight. It declares that it is 'inconceivable that there was no gathering of mute witnesses.' 'There must have stood the shades of J. Blake Walters, cashier of the state treasury, dead by his own hand; of John S. Hopkins, cashier of the People's bank, dead by his own hand, because 'My other hand is in the lion's mouth and I can not get it out;' of T. Lee Clark, dead by his own hand, because 'They have worked my ruin—I have been shamefully robbed;' of George Wallace Delamater, \* \* \* of State Treasurer Noyes, Treasurer Livsey, Treasurer Haywood, Treasurer Hart, Auditor-General Norris, Capitol Contractor Payne, Witness Jeffries, Treasurer Mathues, and Capitol Contractor Sanderson. \* \* \* of that negro messenger who knew how and why Chris Magee and Don Cameron paid a shortage of nearly \$500,000 in 1880, thereby keeping a certain statesman from drawing a razor across his throat in the Lochiel hotel—the negro whose body a few days later was found floating in the canal.' We may also note what happened when newspaper photographers were sent to Harrisburg to 'take' the famous statue in its permanent position. Around the upper part of the rotunda there runs a motto drawn from William Penn's writings: 'There may be room there for such a holy experiment. For the nations what a precedent. And my God will make it the seed of a nation. That an example may be set up to the nations. That we may do the thing that is truly wise and just.' After the photographers snapped the statue on its pedestal beneath those lines, their negatives, when developed, showed a blur for all these words, save two. These were directly over the head of the statesman, and were: 'My God!'"