

CURRENT TOPICS

THE QUESTION, "who will succeed Prince Ito," is of general interest. The New Orleans Times-Democrat says: "The tragedy at Harbin may create problems for people which care not a rap for the fate of Korea. It is feared, for example, that the disappearance of Prince Ito will bring Japanese jingo to the fore. * * * For us the crux of the problem lies in the possibility that we may soon be vitally involved in the far east."

IN AN INTERVIEW printed in the Louisville Courier-Journal Thomas Sammons, American consul general at Seoul during Prince Ito's term of office as resident general, made the following estimate of his methods and motives: "Prince Ito considered the conquests of peace more permanently beneficial than those of war, and that thought characterized his life and work toward the westernizing of ancient forms of Oriental civilization."

CONCERNING the Times-Democrat's remarks the Courier-Journal says they are quite true, and adds: "Prince Ito, it is well known, was sent to Korea as resident general because his name was the best and most favorably known name in Japan among foreign nations, and because he was the most broad-minded statesman in the island empire. Inasmuch as he is generally regarded as having overshadowed the Mikado it might perhaps not be wholly inaccurate to say that he went to Korea, instead of saying that he was sent. It was said when he retired, to be succeeded as resident general by Viscount Sone, that the hand of the first resident general would guide that of his successor in the larger problems in Korea. It was feared that the 'military party' would scarcely be kept in check by Viscount Sone with Prince Ito too far removed from the theatre of his former activities to prevent the petty abuses that have kept up irritation between the Koreans and the Japanese."

IT TO, ACCORDING to the Courier-Journal, was a man of sufficiently large caliber to realize the advantages of walking softly while carrying the big stick. The Courier-Journal adds: "He may, or may not, have been in Manchuria at the time of the murder to advance the interests of his country with a view to insuring the continuance of the policy of aggression mapped out at Tokio, but as it has frequently been said, 'Ito is the Mikado,' it is unquestionable that he, more than any other single individual in Japan, represented the policies of Japan. He represented the dynamics of the contemplated expansion of the empire in a territorial sense, as well as the moral force behind its advancement in arts, industries and form of government. Much therefore depends upon whether Prince Ito; as a dominating influence in Japanese affairs, is succeeded by a statesman who believes 'the conquests of peace more permanently beneficial than those of war,' and who is farseeing enough to undertake the extremely risky work of piloting the Japanese ship of state between the Scylla of war and the Charybdis of territorial stagnation. The major ambition of Japan, and her major necessity, is territorial aggrandizement to make room for a population increasing too rapidly in an already cramped country. It is, apparently, the hope of the imperial government to find room for expansion on the Asian mainland. The ultimate annexation of Korea, which seems quite certain to eventuate, is generally considered to be merely one step toward increasing Japanese territory, and it looks as if China offers about the only field in which Japan can hope to expand. If the absorption of Korea and exploitation, and the colonization of Manchuria, should continue along peaceful lines until Japan's now depleted exchequer could be replenished, and her army and navy strengthened, it might be possible for her to slice off a good bit of Chinese territory for her own uses, provided China does not fulfill the often-made 'awakening' prophecies and become efficient in a military sense. The prospects of the 'Russian advance' interfering seriously with the Japanese

program within the next twenty years do not seem to be a large factor in the problem, and it has not yet been demonstrated that the powers contemplate any drastic concerted action to force Japan to live up to her 'open door' agreements. If a Japanese of the military party should become as prominent as Prince Ito was, as an adviser of the Mikado, and a mold of the policies of the empire, hot-headedness might plunge Japan into a course that would involve the nation in serious complications. Supreme tact is a requisite to the success of a program that contemplates the violation of treaties without the provocation of war. Prince Ito, rather than any other Japanese statesman, demonstrated that he possessed tact."

AN INDIANAPOLIS dispatch printed in the Chicago Record-Herald follows: "The necessity for reform in national bank operation will be exemplified here this week when the federal grand jury will investigate more cases of alleged criminal conversion of banks' funds than ever before in the history of this judicial district. The cases to be investigated are as follows: Elbert W. Shirk, president First National Bank of Tipton, charged with misappropriation of \$23,000; William H. Marker, cashier of the same bank, charged with making false entries; Noah R. Marker, assistant cashier of the same bank, charged with embezzlement of \$50,000. Max C. Emmerich, bookkeeper of the Capital National Bank of Indianapolis, and Paul C. Gall and Harry Prinzler, depositors, charged with defrauding the bank of \$40,000. James H. Phillips, bookkeeper of the Terre Haute National Bank of Terre Haute, charged with embezzlement of \$15,000. Frank H. Nicolai, assistant cashier of the City National Bank of Auburn, charged with embezzlement of \$5,000. E. N. Detzer, teller of the First National Bank of Fort Wayne, charged with embezzlement of \$7,000. Elbert W. Shirk is a capitalist of Chicago and northern Indiana, president of the First National Bank of Peru, Ind., and of the First National Bank of Tipton, Ind. A draft for \$23,000 was issued to him as reimbursement for a loan, which he says he made to the Tipton bank, but which does not appear on the books. Mr. Shirk and the members of his family are the owners and directors of the bank. One Monday morning in the late summer it was discovered that the assistant cashier, Noah R. Marker, had disappeared and that a package of \$50,000 in bank notes was missing. The assistant cashier returned after a few days and was arrested. An examination showed that there was a total shortage of \$103,000. The cashier William H. Marker, brother of the assistant cashier, then was arrested. Just where the bank's money went, however, has not been discovered."

PAUL REPS, an immigrant laborer from Russia was the hero of a novel reception given at St. Louis November 5. About to become an American citizen Reps sent to Mrs. W. K. Kavanaugh a letter in which he said: "I want to be a good patriot, good citizen, and this event in my life I want to remember and have as something great. Old Russia for me is dead. Is it possible for \$10 or \$15 for us to hold in respectable manner and place, to hear one singing 'America,' 'Banner of Country,' or other American patriotic songs, and even accompanied by fine music? We think it very bad and disgrace as mostly immigrants do in such event, induced by politicians to take naturalization, drink much beer, use bad language and fight."

THE ST. LOUIS women promptly accepted the challenge and prepared a thoroughly American reception for the new citizen. Referring to this celebration the Associated Press report says: "The leaders in the celebration were women whose names come at the top of the social register, whose homes are the finest in St. Louis and whose families are of the wealthiest. Reps had challenged the patriotism of the social leaders and the women made him their hero for a day. He received his final nat-

uralization papers today. Two weeks ago he wrote to Mrs. W. K. Kavanaugh, wife of the president of the lakes-to-the-gulf deep waterway association, informing her that he would become a citizen November 5, and asking her whether she could arrange with her friends for a celebration in his honor on that day—the greatest day of his life. Mrs. Kavanaugh, while astonished, had the letter investigated. She was told Reps was looking forward to celebrating his citizenship. He had spent \$12 for court fees and was willing to expend \$15 for a hall where Mrs. Kavanaugh and her friends could meet him if they would come. The use of the hall was donated to Mrs. Kavanaugh, as was the pipe organ in it. Reps, an employe of the Frisco road, Mrs. Reps and their three children, were in the hall early this afternoon. Among those who attended the celebration besides Mrs. Kavanaugh were Mrs. F. H. Kreismann, wife of the mayor of St. Louis, and Mrs. Wallace C. Capon. While Reps was the guest of honor, he requested his hostess to sing different songs, 'America' and other patriotic songs were rendered by a chorus of the social leaders, and these were followed by bugle calls and war songs."

UNLESS THE United States supreme court intervenes Samuel Gompers, president, Frank Morrison, secretary, and John Mitchell, vice president of the Federation of Labor must go to jail. The court of appeals for the District of Columbia has affirmed the decree of the supreme court of the district, condemning these men for contempt of court in the Bucks Stove and Range case. Chief Justice Sheppard dissented from the opinion of the court on constitutional grounds. The court held that the fundamental issue was whether the constitutional agencies of government should be obeyed or defied. The mere fact that the defendants were the officers of organized labor in America, said the court, lent importance to the cause and added to the gravity of the situation, but it should not be permitted to influence the result. "If an organization of citizens, however large," the court held, "may disobey the mandates of the court, the same reasoning would render them subject to individual defiance. Both are subject to the law and neither is above it. If a citizen, though he may honestly believe his rights have been invaded, may elect when and to what extent he will obey the mandates of the court and the requirements of the law as interpreted by the court, instead of pursuing the orderly court of appeal, not only the courts but government itself would become powerless and society would be reduced to a state of anarchy."

THE WASHINGTON correspondent for the Associated Press says: "The action of the supreme court of the District of Columbia in sentencing Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison to twelve, nine and six months' imprisonment in jail, respectively, was the result of the failure of these three defendants to obey the order of the court directing them to desist from placing the Bucks Stove and Range company of St. Louis on their 'unfair list' in the prosecution of their boycott against the corporation. While the name of the corporation was removed from the unfair list of the federation, Messrs. Gompers and Mitchell continued to keep alive the boycott by frequent reference to it in the Federationist, official organ of the Federation. Mr. Mitchell was involved in the trouble by reason of his membership on the executive board of the Federation and because it was alleged he had made no effort to prevent the adoption of a resolution at the convention of the United Mine Workers of America in antagonism to the Bucks Stove and Range company. The result of the boycott, it was said, was to cause a decline in the business of the stove and range company of fifty per cent. The boycott placed by the Federation against the products of the Buck company grew out of a fight made by the metal polishers' union and supported by the Federation for an eight instead of a nine hour day. This was resisted by the