

Famous People of the Moment

Kogoro Takahira, Japanese Diplomat, Who Looks Like Kipling.
Thomas Taggart's Start in Business.



KOGORO TAKAHIRA.

THE expected appointment of Kogoro Takahira as successor to Viscount Aoki at Washington in the Japanese ambassadorship is taken to mean that Tokyo is especially anxious to maintain friendship with the United States. Mr. Takahira made a fine record in this country before as the Japanese minister, and when at the close of the Russo-Japanese war the Japanese legation at Washington became an embassy, in compliment to the part the United States played in ending that contest, Viscount Aoki was appointed first ambassador on account of his high rank. But Mr. Takahira is himself an ambassador now, being at the head of his country's embassy at Rome. His advancement to the embassy at Washington would be looked upon as a well merited promotion. He is about fifty-three, is a descendant of the old samurai, is sometimes called a "Yankee of the orient" and is likened in appearance to Rudyard Kipling. His diplomatic record is as follows: Attaché in foreign office at Tokyo at twenty-six, charge d'affaires of the Washington legation, chief of the political bureau of the Japanese foreign office, consul general at New York, minister to Denmark and Holland, minister to Italy, Austria and Switzerland, vice minister for foreign affairs, minister to the United States and ambassador to Italy. The diplomat once heard two women discussing his nation.

"The Japanese," said one of them, "ought to be excluded from the country. Their young men come here to school, and no sooner do they arrive than they begin a systematic course of cheating."

"How is that?" asked the other. "They pay tuition for only one," said the complainant, "and they learn enough for two or three."

The rise of Thomas Taggart, chairman of the Democratic national committee, who has been in the public eye on account of the meeting of that committee at Washington, was altogether out of the ordinary. About thirty years ago, when the girls in the railway lunch room at Indianapolis said "Draw one!" it was Taggart, then a red cheeked, blue eyed and broad shouldered young Irishman, who might have been seen turning the faucet of the coffee urn. It was a happy combination of industry and good humor which caused the youth's elevation through the various stages of lunch counter keeper, restaurant proprietor, hotel keeper, county auditor and mayor of Indianapolis and which in due time won him the honor of presiding over the national campaign organization of his party. Mr. Taggart thinks his business career began when he was about six. Of his later youth he relates:

When I was working in Xenia one of my duties was to go up the road every morning to buy flowers for my employer. At the hotel across the way there lived a very pleasant lady, Mrs. John Durand. One day she said to me, "Tom, bring me a flower when you come back," and every morning she would tell me what she would like, but never say anything about the money. My salary, a very small one in those days, was turned over to my family, but I was careful then and managed to save a couple of dollars that I had made by extra work. With this money I paid for the flowers for Mrs. Durand as long as it lasted. Then I would borrow the money until I had spent in all \$7 or \$8 for flowers, but I was ashamed to suggest payment to the lady.

"Things went on from day to day, but strangely enough I never despaired of being repaid for my outlay. One day she called me to her and handed me \$15. At that time it seemed a tremendous sum, and that really was the nucleus of any financial success I have had and stands out in my life as a memory of a very happy time. That day, with that \$15 in my pocket, I would not have exchanged places with any one in the world."

It is claimed by some that it was not President Roosevelt who started the much talked of campaign against nature faking, but the venerable naturalist John Burroughs, the "Sage of Slab-sides." Yet Mr. Burroughs himself has told stories of the nature faking variety. On occasion he can tell just as marvellous tales of that kind as anybody else. Herelated such a yarn at a dinner in Boston. It was as easy to believe, he said, as many of the nature writers' anecdotes. Then he began: "My cousin's wife's baby was very ill, and finally the crisis came, and the little one fell into a deep sleep."

John Burroughs as a Nature Fakir.
Captain Charles Polack, Who Was Decorated by the Kaiser.

The sleep was to be decisive. On the child's awakening the doctor would know whether it would live or die. Well, in order that this momentous slumber might not be disturbed my cousin's wife, going about on tiptoe muffled everything—chair legs, cups and saucers, plates, the doorbell. And Sa, the noble dog, from his seat on the sofa, taking in the situation at a glance, silently got up on a chair and stopped the eight day clock by touching the pendulum with his paw."

Captain Charles Polack of the North German Lloyd steamship Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, who was highly honored recently by the German emperor, is envied by his fellow officers in the steamship service on account of the way in which he distinguished himself. The emperor conferred upon him the Third Order of the Crown in recognition of his skill and courage in saving his ship from destruction when she became rudderless in the open sea and in bringing her safely across the Atlantic and into port. He is one of the youngest of officers in the North German Lloyd service, and the decoration recently conferred on him is the second he has received from the emperor. He was given that of the Red Eagle in recognition of his bravery in rescuing from drowning four members of a boat's crew of which he was in command while on the way to save the crew of a sinking ship. For his courage and seamanship on this occasion Captain Polack received the life saving medal of the Royal Humane society and was also decorated by the late Queen Victoria.



CAPTAIN CHARLES POLACK.

King Oscar II. of Sweden was born at Stockholm in 1829. His father King Oscar I., was a son of Joseph Francois Bernadotte, the French peasant who became a general under Napoleon and a great favorite with that conqueror. When it was discovered that Charles XIII., who occupied the Swedish throne from 1809 to 1818, was childless, Napoleon induced the national diet at Stockholm to establish Bernadotte crown prince. On the death of Charles XIII. he ascended the throne as Charles XIV.

King Oscar II. was monarch of Norway as well as Sweden up to about

King Oscar II. of Sweden was born at Stockholm in 1829. His father King Oscar I., was a son of Joseph Francois Bernadotte, the French peasant who became a general under Napoleon and a great favorite with that conqueror. When it was discovered that Charles XIII., who occupied the Swedish throne from 1809 to 1818, was childless, Napoleon induced the national diet at Stockholm to establish Bernadotte crown prince. On the death of Charles XIII. he ascended the throne as Charles XIV.



THE LATE KING OSCAR II. OF SWEDEN.

two years ago, when the Norwegian storting declared Norway independent of Sweden and the government of the latter country acquiesced in the separation. As a young man the king was trained in the navy and at the University of Upsala. He ascended the throne in 1872. Few European sovereigns have ever acquired such standing as scholars and statesmen as has been universally accorded to King Oscar, and few have ever acquired to such a degree the affection of their people or have been so democratic. In the days of his greatest literary activity he turned out works of poetry and volumes on military history, criticism and general literature at a rate which left the public to wonder how he ever found time to rule his kingdom, but it was generally acknowledged that he did the latter unusually well.

Rejected Manuscripts. "I received a lot of rejected manuscripts today," said Timmarsh to a friend. "Did you? I had no idea you had any ambition to shine as an author." "Not exactly that. You see, my sweetheart and I quarreled, and she returned all my letters."

COULDN'T BE BLUFFED.

The Judge Raised, but the Culprit Promptly Called.

A correspondent sends in the following account of an incident which occurred in his presence in a Kentucky courtroom:

Under the laws of Kentucky the penalty for gaming is a fine of from \$20 to \$50. Judge W. W. Jones was holding a term of circuit court, and when the case of the commonwealth of Kentucky against Daniel Cross was called he asked Daniel if he had a lawyer to defend him. Daniel said he had not, and Judge Jones asked him what he wanted to do about his case, which was a charge of gaming.

"I don't know, hardly, judge," said Daniel. "I thought I would just pay it off."

"Were you actually playing?" said the judge. "I guess we were," Daniel replied. "About how much were you playing for, Daniel?" the judge asked. "Oh, nothing much," said Daniel. "Just a nickel or dime on the corner." "Well, Daniel," said the judge, "I will see your dime and raise you \$20." Daniel looked rather crestfallen for a moment; but, catching the force of the judge's remark, he quickly looked up at the judge and said, "Well, judge, I am satisfied that you have got me beat, so I'll not raise you, but I guess I will have to call you."—Law Notes.

EXPENSIVE BOOKS.

Prices That Prevailed Before the Invention of Printing.

In the present day it seems very strange to read about the prices of books before the invention of printing.

King Alfred gave a very large estate for a book on cosmography. In the year 1174 Walter, prior of St. Swithin's at Winchester, purchased of the monks of Dorchester, in Oxfordshire, "Bede's Homilies" and "St. Austin's Psalter" for twelve measures of barley and a pall on which was embroidered in silver the history of St. Birinus converting a Saxon king.

About the year 1400 a copy of John of Meun's "Roman de la Rose" was sold before the palace gate at Paris for 40 crowns, or about \$175.

The Countess of Anjou paid for a copy of the "Homilies of Halmon," bishop of Halberstedt, 200 sheep, five quarters of wheat and the same quantity of rye and millet.

In 1471, when Louis XI. of France borrowed the works of Rhasis, the Arabian physician, from the faculty of medicine at Paris he not only deposited by way of pledge a considerable quantity of plate, but he was obliged to procure a nobleman to join with him as surety in a deed binding himself under a great forfeiture to restore the books.

No Time to Lose.

"Sir," said the young man, entering the office, "I sent you a communication yesterday."

"Well?" asked the grim faced man. "Well, Mr. Prater, I thought perhaps you might give me a reply to my request, and—"

"Wait a minute," said Mr. Prater. "Are you the man that sent this account for £10 for hats for my daughter?"

"No, sir; I—"

"Then you are the one that left this bill for £53 for her dresses?"

"No, sir. My commu—"

"Then it must be this for £7 for shoes"—

"No, sir. My note was one asking if I might have your daughter's hand."

"You want to marry her?" gasped Mr. Prater. Then, turning over the pile of bills, he urged: "Take her, young man! I don't know your name, but take her quickly! She's talking about doing some more shopping."—London Scraps.

A Paris Restaurant.

The Parisian men are not likely to grumble at being asked to dine in dress clothes in any particular London restaurant, for they have in Paris one dining place where this unwritten law has always been enforced. No man ever goes to dine at the Armenonville in the Bois de Boulogne without putting on his dress clothes. Why fashion has decreed that a Frenchman may dine at any of the boulevard restaurants in tenue de ville, but must wear a swallowtail coat when he drives to the big park of Paris to dine, no one knows. It is custom, and there to a Parisian is the end of it.—Bellman.

The Effect on the Nerves of Gambling.

How can a man do his daily work quietly, which represents perhaps only the earning of a few shillings, when his anxious other neurotic self is wondering how a horse he has never seen, ridden by a jockey he has only heard of, in a race he has only read about, is faring as to money ostensibly his, which he cannot afford to lose because he has not perhaps got it if he should have to pay? Is such an existence likely to add to the race value of our stock of fleeting patriotism?—Fry's Magazine.

Made Him a Sinker.

Farmer Jones (to amateur hunter)—There wasn't a better water dawg livin' until you shootin' gents took to borrowin' 'im. Now 'is 'ide's that full of shots he'd sink to the bottom like a brick."—London Bystander.

The Meek.

"You should try to be a little less assertive, my dear. Remember, 'the meek shall inherit the earth.'" "Oh, yes; I dare say they will—when the others have done with it!"—London Opinion.

Joys are not the property of the rich alone.—Horace.



ASK your stenographer what it means to change a type-writer ribbon three times in getting out a day's work.

The New Tri-Chrome Smith Premier Typewriter

makes ribbon changes unnecessary; gives you, with one ribbon and one machine, the three essential kinds of business typewriting—black record, purple copying and red.

This machine permits not only the use of a three-color ribbon but also of a two-color or single-color ribbon.

Smith Premier Typewriter Co., 17th & Farnam Sts., Omaha

The McCook Tribune One Dollar Per Year



MODEL B SUSPENDERS

SENSIBLE, USEFUL GIFTS for the HOLIDAYS

Attractively Packed in Handsome Single Pair Boxes

They contain more and better rubber than any other make, have gold-plated non-rusting metal parts and strong cord ends that cannot wear through. The new back free action permits ease and comfort no matter what position the body may assume.

THEY OUTWEAR THREE ORDINARY KINDS, WHICH MEANS THREE TIMES THE SERVICE OF USUAL 50 CENT SORTS

The MOST COMFORTABLE suspender made for man, youth or boy

In Light, Heavy or Extra Heavy Weights, Extra Long (No Extra Cost)

They make inexpensive gifts every man, youth or boy will gladly receive

BEWES & POTTER, Dept. 87 Lincoln Street, Boston, Mass.

Our useful Bull Dog Suspenders Come in Case mailed for 10c. postage. Instructive booklet, "Style, or How to Dress Correctly," free if you mention this publication.

Our Best Offer!

THE McCOOK TRIBUNE and THE WEEKLY INTER OCEAN

Both a Full Year For Only

\$1.25

All the News of the World and Home

Only Twenty-Five Cents More Than the Price of THE McCOOK TRIBUNE Alone.

The Weekly Inter Ocean Contains Each Week

- 21 columns of news.
- 14 columns of talks by a practical farmer on farm topics—economical machinery, planting, growing, and storing of fruits and vegetables, breeding and marketing of live stock.
- 20 or more "Lost and Found Poems and Songs."
- 1 column of Health and Beauty Hints.
- Best short and continued stories—Chess and Checkers—Puzzles and Complications—Dr. Reader's Home Health Club—Miscellaneous Questions and answers—Poems of the Day—a special Washington letter—taking cartoons and illustrations.
- 5 columns of live, entertaining editorials.
- 7 columns of live stock and market reports.
- 30 questions and answers by readers on anything pertaining to the business of farming, gardening, raising of live stock and poultry, etc., etc.
- 10 to 20 questions on veterinary subjects.
- 7 columns of information on recipes, patterns, formulas, etc., furnished by readers.
- 14 to 21 columns of stories of public men; historical, geographical, and other miscellany.
- 5 columns of a specially reported sermon by the Rev. Dr. Quayle of Chicago and the Sunday School lesson.

These features, together with a Special Magazine Department, make up the Leading Farm, Home and News Paper of the West

OUR OFFER

- The price of The Weekly Inter Ocean remains \$1.00 a year.
- The price of The McCook Tribune remains \$1.00 a year.
- The two papers each one year will cost only \$1.25.

N. B.—This special arrangement with The Weekly Inter Ocean is for a limited time only. Subscribers to The Weekly Inter Ocean are assured that no papers will be sent after their subscriptions expire unless their subscriptions are renewed by cash payments.