

Some of the Crack Marksmen Who Took Part in the Omaha Gun Club's Mid-Winter Tourney

# Shotgun Experts of Middle West as They Appear at the Traps

Pictures from Photos Made by a Bee Staff Artist During the Shoot at the Club Grounds



BIEVERSON OF WINNER, Neb., CHAMPION OF FOUR STATES.



FORD OF CENTRAL CITY, Ia., RUNNER UP IN CHAMPIONSHIP.



KLINE, THE ONLY CLEAN SCORE ON LIVE BIRDS.



REED OF OHIO, Neb., FORMER STATE TARGET CHAMPION.



MAXWELL, THE ONE-ARMED WONDER.



WADDINGTON OF ALL-NEBRASKA TEAM.



LOOMIS OF THE OMAHA TEAM.



SIEVERS.



F. H. LORD.



SCHROEDER OF COLUMBUS.



BILLS OF LINCOLN.



ALL NEBRASKA TEAM, WINNER OF THE TARGET CHAMPIONSHIP OF FOUR STATES.



THE KANSAS TEAM.



GROUP OF SHOOTERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE TOURNAMENT.



KANSAS CITY'S TEAM.



OMAHA NO. 2 TEAM.

## Alonzo Stewart Writes from the Japanese Point Concerning Russia's Aggression

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—“Armed Russia is a menace to the peace of the Orient, just as Napoleon was a continual menace to the peace of Europe.”

This statement, made by Mr. Soichiro Asano, president of the Japanese Steamship company, owning the three vessels, Hong Kong Maru, American Maru and Nippon Maru, recently acquired by the Japanese War office, but previously a part of the Pacific mail system plying between San Francisco, Hawaii, Japan and China, is the real basis of the war spirit in Japan.

And this significant action on the part of the War office recalls an interesting afternoon spent at the palatial residence of Mr. Asano at Shinagawa, one of the suburbs of Tokio.

I first met Mr. Asano in his office in Tokio, in company with his son-in-law, Mr. Shiraishi, where we discussed the commercial relations between the United States and Japan, so far as they applied to the carrying trade of the Pacific. This meeting with Mr. Asano resulted in the establishment of such friendly relations that he invited me to call again on my return to Japan from the Philippine islands, where I proposed to be gone some two or three months, hence my visit to his house last October.

The subject uppermost at that time in the Japanese mind was the pending strained relations with Russia, and in the course of our conversation the position occupied by the younger element and more progressive spirit in the Japanese national life was very strongly championed by both Mr. Asano and Mr. Shiraishi. While seated at a many course home dinner, these two gentlemen put aside the natural Oriental reserve and talked very freely and forcibly upon the subject that lay nearest the Japanese heart, the defense against Russian aggression. To fully understand and appreciate the Japanese, it must be borne in mind that they are always loath to say anything that will in any way hurt the feelings of a friend or guest, and for

that reason it is difficult to learn their real thoughts. It is owing to this fact that Americans in particular find it difficult in dealing with the Japanese, the Japanese concealing from them their wants, from a national standpoint, fearing that they may say something that will be considered impolite or that will hurt the Americans' feelings. On this occasion America was, but slightly mentioned, and when it was, the relations between the two countries were frankly stated. I asked Mr. Asano what the position of the so-called younger element of Japan was toward Russia and why such hostility was shown, and his answer was the above striking statement, that armed Russia menaced the peace of the Orient, just as the first Napoleon was a continual menace to the peace of all Europe.

“But can Japan alone cope with Russia?” I asked. With a smile he answered: “That remains to be seen. For myself, I advocate war with Russia, not war over Manchuria or over Korea, but war for the disarming of Russia. Japan is not as poor as people imagine. It has not been taxed to its full capacity, and if Japan were sure that it could destroy the fleets and armament of Russia, even by the sacrifice of its own fleets and army, it would be cheaper for it to do so than to continue the ever increasing investment in the battle-ships, fortifications and armament necessary to keep pace with the increasing armies and navies of Russia. We would be willing to lose practically all of our navy if we could succeed in destroying the navy and fortifications of Russia.”

I asked him then about the friendship existing between England and Japan and what Japan might ask of England in case of war. His reply was that they asked nothing of England nor the United States nor any other country during the prosecution of war, if war must come, but if Japan was successful, and disarmed Russia in the Orient, hoped that England and the United States would join with her in refusing to allow Russia to again maintain its fortifications and navies on the

## Two Views of Nations Now Engaged in Struggle for Supremacy in Far East

boundaries of China. Why, said he, even France and Germany should be willing to join in preventing Russia from again disturbing the peace of the Orient, because as time goes by, unless checked, Russia's armies and navy on the borders of China will be so great that it will be impossible for the combined influence of all the European countries, the United States and Japan to prevent it from taking possession of China.

I then asked him why Japan was so much interested in Russia's occupation of Manchuria. He said that they had no feeling except that in taking Manchuria, Russia would take Korea, and by using Korea as a base of supplies, Japan would be practically at the mercy of Russia, because Korea in the hands of an enemy, would practically separate the Island empire into two parts. Japan, he said, is fighting for its life, and if it strikes at all it should strike now. It is evident that the opinion of the younger nobles, or younger element has had great weight with the government, because Mr. Asano assured me that the ships of his company would not be taken by the Japanese War office unless war was unavoidable. It is also evident that Japan must have some assurance from England, and perhaps some of the other continental powers that if it succeeds in breaking Russia's power in Korea, and Manchuria, they will join with it in preventing Russia from again building up its military establishments in those countries.

For an hour or more these gentlemen discussed the dangers of the Oriental situation until coffee and cigarettes were served which turned us from the subject of war to that of peace and we touched upon the commercial relations between the United States and Japan. Here an animated little conversation took place in Japanese between Mr. Asano and Mr. Shiraishi, which Mr. Shiraishi laughingly explained to me by saying that he intended to tell me, much against Mr. Asano's wishes, some of the causes which might lead to friction between the United States and Japan. He first

called attention to the action of the United States which confined the trade of the Philippine island between the Philippines, Hawaii and the main land of the United States, to American vessels. He said this was resented by all the Japanese merchants as well as the shipping interests in Japan for the reason that under the treaty, which expires in 1908, the United States vessels have the right to trade between the treaty ports of Yokohama, Kobe and Nagasaki. He called my attention to the fact that in the International Commercial congress held in Philadelphia in 1899, the Japanese delegates protested against this action on the part of the United States. Now should the United States refuse to allow the Japanese to participate in this trade, when 1908 comes, Japan will undoubtedly refuse to allow American vessels to participate in the Japanese coastwise trade. This would place the American ships at a disadvantage and naturally the silk and tea trade between the United States and Japan would go to the Canadian Pacific line which could still enjoy the coastwise privilege of Japan, particularly as Australia proposes reciprocal coastwise trade privileges with Japan.

How would the United States regard the passage of strict coastwise laws in Japan, he asked me? Would it be looked upon as a friendly act? I had to answer that it would not be considered a friendly act. “And yet,” he said, “this is what you have done to us. Supposing,” he said, “that Japan, in consideration of England's friendship to Japan, granted English ships special exemption in the coastwise laws; could the United States object, especially when it is reciprocal between Australia and Japan?”

I answered by saying that while the United States could not look upon it with favor, it would certainly be stepped from criticizing such an act.

Another cause of friction, he stated, was the manner in which the enforcement of our immigration laws was carried out in reference to first-class passengers in transit through the United States, and he asked

me what the United States would say if Japan requested the privilege of establishment in the United States of the same Japanese quarantine regulations that the United States has in Japan, “particularly,” he added, “as our quarantine is far more strict than your own.”

I could but reply that the United States would either have to grant Japan's request or remove its own officials from Japan.

He then laughed and remarked that one of the causes of irritation to the Japanese was the fact that so many of the officials of the United States place the educated Japanese gentlemen in the same class with the Chinese coolie, and added that he only made this statement in order that I might see that the Japanese people were thinking about these questions.

Some days afterward I ran across some editorials in the Japanese papers pertinent to this discussion. In a long article on the coasting trade of the United States the Jiji Shimpo said:

“Although the international connections between the United States and Japan were organized in a peculiarly friendly relation, and is still continuing so, the recent development of the Pacific trade causes their mutual interest to often interfere. Now that the United States is going to apply to its new insular possessions the coasting laws originally enacted to govern the trade between ports in the United States proper, it largely affects the interests of Japan to strongly suggest its friendship, with a view to a reconsideration of the subject in the interest of Japan. It is not exaggerating to say the Japanese steamship companies will lose 50 per cent of their total business by the extension of the law to the Philippines. Needless to say, any nations are at liberty to enact any laws or enforce them in their territories, but, as in the case of the United States, to monopolize a line in the ocean by extending a law originally enacted for the coast trade of the mother country to its territory thousands of miles distant is absurd in view of the international relations. It is quite reasonable to

protest strongly in the protection of our own interests.”

On the same subject the Tokio Commercial News had to say:

“It will be a heavy blow to our shipping business if this policy is extended to distant territories of the United States. Even Americans cannot travel to the Philippines by a foreign steamer without paying a fine of \$300. Freight is absolutely prohibited. The trade between America and Japan is growing very rapidly, and the Japanese empire, situated as it is, must take prominent position on the Pacific. Although we permit coasting trade between Japan ports, the United States proposes to prohibit trade between United States ports and ports of its island dependencies. In its proper sense, coast means the seashore of continuous land, including adjacent islands, which is generally understood by professors of international law, and it is quite absurd to apply this to the Hawaiian islands, situated at a distance in the Pacific, and to the Philippine islands, in Asia, as part of the coast of America.”

The life history of Soichiro Asano has been a somewhat remarkable one. Born in a country village, his father and his father's father having been medical practitioners, the idea of following this profession did not suit his ambitious designs, and he secretly stole away from Tokio, where his first venture, to keep from want, was selling drinking water mixed with sugar. He engaged in several similar schemes, each a step higher than the preceding, finally opening a coal store in Yokohama. His first large undertaking was placing the cement industry of Japan upon a practical basis. Japanese cement now not only ships out importations, but exports. In 1875, finding that the government gas works in Yokohama was making no use of coke and coal tar incident to gas manufacture, he made a three years' contract with the government to handle these materials, thus converting waste into an immense profit.

Not satisfied with organizing one of the

most successful brewery companies in the islands, he discovered native materials for making bottles, heretofore imported, and at once detailed sixty expert workmen to manufacture them. It is through these sixty men that Japan has come to make all its own beer bottles.

In 1884 Mr. Asano extended his energies into the shipping business. At that time there was but one Japanese foreign line, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, a monopoly which hindered the development of both foreign and domestic trade. He purchased several steam vessels at his own expense to engage in shipping, and his efforts culminated in this line in 1899 in the establishment of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha (Japanese Steamship company), of which he became president. This price of trade is also an extensive mine owner and operator in Japan, was the first successful opponent of the Standard Oil company, and now owns and controls numerous wells and tanks in different parts of the empire. Looking ahead, he contemplates the establishment of cordage factories in Japan. This is of interest to the United States, since it will make Japan a consumer of one of our most important Philippine products, hemp.

When a man of this stamp, whose every private interest would suffer in case of conflict with even corrupt national government to uphold the dignity of his country, the intensity of feeling and deadly earnestness of the people of Japan in the present crisis can be appreciated.

ALONZO H. STEWART.

## William Thorp Compares Russia's Control of the Asiatic with England's Colonial Methods

(Copyright, 1904, by William Thorp.)

“The Russians,” said a man who has traveled widely in Manchuria, “hold the sword in the right hand and a bit of sugar in the left, and when they have done with the one they begin with the other.”

This has always been the policy of Russia in Asia, and it explains why she holds her vast oriental conquests with such apparent ease and is less troubled by rebellions than any other great power holding sway over a multitude of subject races.

When the Russians gripped Manchuria nearly 5,000 Chinamen perished in the terrible massacre at Biagovetschenk. In the grim suppression of one of the czar's generals, “They went away.” But so indulgent were the authorities after the massacre that in a few months all the Chinese merchants who had fled from the town, never expecting to return, were back doing business at their old stands, and many more had flocked in to compete with them under the protection of the just laws and paternal government of the Russians.

The atrocities committed by the Russian troops during the Peking campaign and after, shocked the civilized world; but they did not shock the Chinese or antagonize the Chinese government. “The Chinese do not resent the brutality of the Russ as they resent far milder punishment at the hands of other nations. In that respect they resemble other Asiatics who have felt the scourge of the czar's legions.

War is war to the Russian and he takes care to make it “soft” while it lasts; but when it is over he is a half fellow well met with his conquered foe and treats him with a rough kindness and genuine comradeship which wipe out from the Asiatic mind even the memory of ruthless massacres.

“You Anglo-Saxons are fond of talking about benevolent assimilation,” said a former captain in the Russian army who is now living in New York, “but if you want to see it really put into practice you ought to travel through Russian Asia. Whenever you went from the Caucasus to Vladivostok, you could find the natives living happily under our rule and becoming thor-

oughly Russified, if they had not already become so.

“As soon as we have taught them to fear and respect us, we mix with them freely. We do not hold ourselves aloof as if we were made of different kind of clay and were altogether superior beings, as other foreigners do. We are half Orientals ourselves, of course, and naturally do not share the color prejudices of the American, the Englishman and the German. We freely intermarry with the Asiatics among whom it may be our destiny to live and we encourage them to rise to the highest civil and military positions in the czar's service, if they are worthy to fill them.

“Thus it is that our Asiatic subjects grow to like our rule and in time become more Russian than the Russians. They are fond of giving a Russian twist to their names as soon as they enter the czar's service.

“Two Asiatic-Generals Terzoukoff and Lazareff-commanded Russian troops in the war with Turkey in 1877-78. The name of the former was Terjou before he left his home in the Caucasus, that of the latter Lazar, Melik, an Armenian, became the greatest man in Russia under a former czar, and called himself Louis Melikoff, General Alkanoff, who made the famous raid on Merv, and became the governor of the province of Merv after its conquest.

“More than once the supreme active command in the Russian army has been held by an Asiatic, and there is absolutely no barrier to its being so held today. Terzoukoff commanded the forces in Central Asia—an Asiatic commanding Asiatics. Can you imagine England entrusting the command of either the Indian or the English armies to a Sikh or a Ghurka, however fine a soldier he might be? Why, he could not even command a company! He might become an officer in name, but practically

(Continued on Page Sixteen.)