

# Instituting Reforms in the Schools, Courts and Prisons of Manchuria



MANCHU POLICEMAN.



INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL BOYS.



PRISON OFFICIALS, MUKDEN.

Copyright, 1909, by Frank G. Carpenter. Some of the finest of the native timber is walnut. It is the color of cherry and its grain is as close as that of birch. In the industrial shops this wood is being used for fine furniture. When stained it closely resembles mahogany.

This school teaches all sorts of iron working. It has spinning and weaving departments, glass-blowing shops and all the up-to-date appliances of the manual training schools of America. The students are bright young fellows from 14 to 18 years of age. They live in the school, sleeping in dormitories, five boys to the room. Each room has a kang or brick ledge about two feet high in it. This is heated by flues which run under the floor. The boys study in their rooms during the day, when not in the class rooms, and sleep there at night. As in all the new schools, the students have a special uniform and are subject to military drill. They wear trousers, jackets and caps and their feet are shod with boots of black cloth.

A great reform is going on now in the Manchurian courts and as to all matters of law. A well organized police service has been established and there are now uniformed policemen on every block. These men wear padded black clothes of almost European cut. The long Manchou gown has been abolished and they have coats, trousers and boots. Their pistols are covered with caps and they carry clubs as big around as a broomstick and almost as long. The clubs are painted black to make them look like ebony or iron, but in fact, they are exceedingly light, and a good blow upon a hard skull would break them in pieces. The policemen still have strips of white cotton about four inches wide wound around their left arms, as a sign of their mourning for the late emperor. For months after his majesty's death they dared not shave their heads, and their black hair, except where the scissor came forth, stood up like a shoe brush all over the scalp. Some of the police carry swords. The system of justice in the Manchurian courts is being reformed. The torturing of prisoners to make them confess has been largely done away with, and slitting to death has been abolished. So far I have met no criminals wearing the kang, although this was a common sight during my several previous visits to China. About eight years ago I saw three women locked together in a framework of boards three feet wide and six feet long. Their necks were fitted into holes, and the framework was such that it could be open and closed. The women could not feed themselves, and they could not move unless the all went together. At the same time I saw men undergoing similar punishment. They were loaded down with heavy planks which rested upon their shoulders, their heads coming out through a hole in the center, some such kangas were further weighted with iron. I saw one man who was inclosed in a barrel so tight that his head came out through a hole in the top, and his hands through the sides. The holes were just large enough for the wrists; the man could not scratch himself nor convey his food to his mouth. At that time no criminal could be punished until he had confessed, and every Chinese who was arrested was pounded with a bamboo on his bare thighs or struck

on the lips with a piece of leather, or made to kneel upon sharp chains until he could stand it no longer and said he was guilty. Such things have been abolished here in Manchuria, and, I understand, in China as well.

**Prison Reform in Manchuria.**  
I spent the greater part of today in going through the new prisons which have just been built here at Mukden. They are far different from those I have visited in China. A few years ago I went through the jails at Shanghai, notwithstanding a warning that the prisoners might tear my clothes off if I did so. On my way to the prisons I saw many men loaded with cages. One was standing in a framework so hung by his neck that his toes barely touched the ground. I could smell the prison before I came to it, and was almost sickened by the terrible stench as I went through. The buildings were low Chinese structures, without floors or sanitary conveniences. The convicts were chained to the walls like wild beasts, and some had chains about the neck as well as the feet. The prison had its dead house

connected with it, and deaths from starvation and torture were common. The jailers got most of their incomes from squeezing. They had the right to sell food to the criminals, and the prisoners who had no money were likely to starve. The law gave each man certain fixed rations, but the jailer could furnish less or more as he pleased.

**Mukden's New Prisons.**  
The prisons I have visited here are in costly buildings covering acres, and I found the criminals treated like men, not beasts. It was through the courtesy of Liang Yu Ho, the counselor of the viceroy, that I was able to inspect them. Mr. Liang is a graduate of Yale college, and as such is glad to have America know what his country is doing along the lines of our civilization. He sent two English speaking Chinese officials with me, and a director of the penitentiary accompanied us as we went through the wards. We visited two prisons during the morning, and in one found 370 convicts working away at all kinds of labor.

This latter prison covers about four acres. It is surrounded by a wall of gray brick fifteen feet high and its front gate is guarded by two six-foot Manchou soldiers, who presented arms as we entered. The buildings are large one-story structures made of gray brick and heavy tiled roofs. They are so built that they form a series of wings running out from a central point like the spokes of a wheel, so that the guards standing at the hub can command four or five aisles on each side, and the architecture altogether is not unlike that of our best prisons at home.

These buildings are situated in courts, one of which we entered as we came through the gate. At the same time a gang of seventy-five convicts marched in to take their afternoon meal. They had been working on the roads outside the prison. I asked the director to stop them in the sunlight that I might make a snapshot with my camera. He did so and I had a good chance to study them. The convicts are tall, burly fellows, weighing 150 pounds, one-third more than the average Chinese of America. They all wear queues and their faces are about the same

as those of the Tartars I see on the streets. The prison dress is of a jacket or coat which falls to the hips and a pair of thick trousers which look as though they were made of quilted comfort, such as we use on our beds. The material is wadded cotton. The color is light gray, except on the back, where a cross of dead black is painted. Each man wears shoes of pigskin, and his legs are so chained together that he can take but one short step at a time. As I looked I asked the director to point out some of the bad cases. He replied: "You can tell them by their collars. You see, the color of the collars are of the same gray color as the rest of the garment, but some are red, black and blue. Those black-collared fellows are each in for thirty years. The convicts wearing the blue collars are in for twenty years, those wearing red for ten, while the gray have still shorter sentences. The most of our men have been convicted of robbery and assault with intent to kill. The murderers we have in another prison, which has just been constructed."

**Convicts at Dinner.**  
After making the picture I followed the convicts on into the wards and saw them eating. As I looked the director told me that he gave them two meals a day, consisting of a breakfast at 9 and a dinner at 2. Said he: "The men rise at 5:30 a. m. and stop work at 5 in the evening. It costs about 5 or 6 cents of your money a day to feed each of them, and we are now spending fifty Mexican dollars, or about \$20 in gold, per day for the food we are serving to the 370 men we have here. We make the prisoners pay for their meals by their work. We allow each about 10 cents a day and of this 6 or 7 cents is taken out for his board and clothes. The rest he can put in his pocket. Oh, I assure you, they are treated quite well."

While we waited the food was brought in and served to the prisoners, who had seated themselves in the aisles as they entered the ward. Before doing so each man took from his back a little brown canvas knapsack, containing all the individual furniture he has for his prison life. This consists of a folding camp stool four inches high, six inches wide and twelve inches long; a pair of wooden chopsticks and two porcelain bowls, each of which holds half a pint. At a given signal the men pulled the stools from their knapsacks and set them down on the floor, and at a second signal they arranged themselves on the stools in two long aisles facing each other. Now a gang of convicts who acted as waiters brought in great water-tight baskets filled with steamed sorghum seed and vegetable soup. The millet was served first. It was shoveled out into bowls much like wash basins, and one of these was placed on the floor in each group of four men. There was a spoon in the basin and each convict filled his porcelain bowl. At the same time a bowl of the soup was handed around, each man helping himself, using his other bowl for the purpose. In eating, the men picked some of the vegetables out of the soup with their chopsticks, and mixing them with the sorghum, raised the bowl to their mouth and scraped the food in with the chopsticks. They seemed to enjoy the meal, and I was told that it was better than they had

been accustomed to before they were caught. Sorghum seed thus cooked is the chief food of Manchuria, holding the same place that bread and meat have with us.

**Look at the Cells.**  
After this I took a walk through the wards and examined the cells. They are about twelve feet square and well arranged as to ventilation and light. They are heated by the kang upon which the men sleep. The fire is put into a hole at the lower front of each kang, and an armful of straw suffices to keep one room warm the whole night. Five prisoners are kept in each room.

I asked as to punishment, and was told that the barbarous customs had been done away with, although the convicts are still bamboozed on their bare skins. For serious offenses dark cells are used, but the director says that it is not allowed to keep a man in one of these for more than five days at a time. At my request, he showed me a dark cell and what he made. The cell was of triangular shape with a base just large enough for the door, and the two long sides meeting in an acute angle at the opposite end. There is room for a man to lie down upon the floor, but he could hardly turn over without touching the walls. The room had neither bed nor chair, and it was unheated. The food was thrust in through a hole in the door, so arranged with a double lid that it could be done without admitting the light. After the door was closed upon the man the darkness was such that it could be felt. There was not a ray of light anywhere, and I was decidedly relieved on being let out.

**In the Workshops.**  
Leaving the cells, the director took us through the work shops. Until now no labor of any kind has been done in the prisons. Here every man learns a trade and all sorts of things are made to be sold in the stores. The first shop we entered was devoted to saddlery and shoemaking. This is about 100 feet square, and scores of these gray-gowned, pig-tailed Manchus were laboring in it. Some sat on low stools before shoemakers' benches, pegging and sewing; others were cutting out the fat boots used by the army, and a third group was working on sewing machines, joining pieces of leather together. I walked over to them and examined the machines. They were all marked "Singer" and had been imported from America. In another factory was a gang of carpenters who cabinet makers, and in a third about two dozen convicts were spinning and weaving. The spinners sat on the floor, turning their wheels with the hand, and the weavers were using looms worked by the feet.

In another place they were weaving carpets and rugs, some of the latter being twenty feet square. Such rugs are made on a great framework. The weaving begins at the bottom, and as the rug progresses the men have to use scaffolds upon which to sit while they draw the threads in and out. All the work is done by hand, and that in designs of oriental patterns composed of many colored wools. One of the rugs now on the frame is to be fourteen feet wide and twenty feet long. It is being made for the American Tobacco company's new building in Mukden.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

## Quaint Features of Everyday Life

**"Bootlegged" in Jail.**  
HE liquor law against the sale of intoxicating liquor is more or less vigorously enforced in parts of Arkansas. Not long ago the sheriff of a county seat town seized two barrels of whisky in bottles, in the jail where the confiscated whisky was stored was a prisoner who by an ingenious contrivance got into one of the barrels. It was recalled afterwards that the prisoner had many visitors.

One day he announced that he was ready to pay his fine and he was released. It was not until after he had made his "getaway" out of the state that it was discovered that he had sold the liquor taken from the barrel for enough to pay his fine and secure his release from jail.

**Chicken May rival Mand S.**  
Judds, a ten-pound Plymouth Rock rooster owned by Abel R. Woodward, a merchant residing on Meadow street, Winstead, Conn., has been broken to harness by his young son, Irving, who hitches chandelier to a cart and drives him around. Judds can't trot yet, but he is a fast walker, and steps off with as much grace and style as any well groomed steed. The harness consists of a breast yoke, traces and reins. A whip completes the outfit. Judds will stand patiently while he is being hitched, and then, with a cluck from the driver is off.

**Lamps on Baby Carts.**  
Los Angeles has passed an ordinance, the effect of which is to compel baby buggies and pushcarts to be equipped with lamps like automobiles, two clear lights in front and a red light behind, unless the baby is red-headed. The necessity of having a honk horn on the perambulator was not felt, baby being trusted to do all the honking necessary.

**Auction in a Graveyard.**  
The spectacle of a vault wherein lay the owner's dead, being disposed of at a forced public sale was witnessed at Greensburg, Pa. at the old Unity cemetery. The sale was necessitated by the insistence of creditors of the owner, once a wealthy landowner of Latrobe, Pa. The creditors demanded that the cemetery property be sold, and the proceeds divided. James Keenan of Greensburg, the authorized referee in bankruptcy, after hesitation, directed that the sale be held. The auctioneer and others urged that the sale be held outside, but it was decided that no course was open for the auctioneer but to cry the sale in the plot where lie scores of the pioneer dead.

The bidding was started at \$50. Others raised it to \$100. There was a pause. From out the crowd emerged an old woman, whose only daughter and grandson lay in the vault. In a broken voice she bid \$100. A few more bids raised the figure. Several \$5 increases offered by her were raised by other bidders. With a sorrowful glance at

the receptacle of her dead she turned and left the cemetery.

The vault was finally sold to J. J. Peppary for \$75. Notice was given on the part of the owner that the sale would be contested.

**A Striking Coincidence.**  
Lovers of striking coincidences will do well to observe the late submarine boat disaster in Great Britain, says the New York Tribune. The steamer which crashed into the submarine was named the Eddystone and one of the victims of the disaster was named Winstanley. It is now more than 20 years since Henry Winstanley went to the Eddystone rock in order to weather the fiercest November gale that ever swept the channel in the famous lighthouse which he had built there. He went and the gale came, but when the storm had passed Winstanley and his lighthouse had vanished forever. That the two unconnected names should, after the lapse of 20 years, again be associated in a marine tragedy is an incident worthy at least of passing notice.

**Bumper Snake Crop.**  
There is a bumper snake crop in Pike county, Pennsylvania, this year. Martin Courtright, a state game warden of Hunter's Range, in Pike county, stated when common name should, after the lapse of 20 years, again be associated in a marine tragedy is an incident worthy at least of passing notice.

He told me that he had killed 115 snakes, most of them being rattlers of large size. The largest number killed in one day was ten.

# Omaha Tel Jed Sokol Teams to Compete in World's Turner Contests

**S**IX YOUNG men and six young women will be sent by Tel Jed Sokol the Omaha Society of Bohemian turners, to Chicago late this month, to compete in the world's Bohemian turner meet.

One of the six young men has been chosen a member of a class of six to represent America in the athletic contest with a picked team from Bohemia to decide in-

ternational championship. This champion is Frank J. Riba, and he and Frank J. Kreck, John Riba, Rudolph Zikmund, Peter Pecka and Anton Trecka. The six young women are Miss Tillie Kment, Miss Mamie Kment, Miss Tillie Trecka, Miss Marie Mik, Miss Emma Vitous and Miss Little Ulovec.

The world's meet will begin August 25 and continue four days.

The young women will take part only in fancy drills and in calisthenics, but

the men will participate in almost every known form of athletic exercise, or, ten in number, as follows: Calisthenics, vaulting horse, side horse, shot put, running jump, running broad jump, pole vault and 100-yard dash.

The contestants will be divided into five classes, but under the Bohemian method the first and second classes do not count for much. The fifth class counts the most, the fourth class next and so on to the first class. Ten points will be credited the contestant for winning out in the fifth class, nine points for winning out in the fourth class and eight points for winning in the third class. It is expected that some of the Omaha contestants will be put in a class under the third.

contestants will be obliged to go through four kinds of exercise on each piece of athletic apparatus. The contestants will have the privilege of selecting two of the exercises, the other two to be selected by the judges. Two of these will come from Omaha—oldrich Jela and J. R. Fiala. Before they can serve, however, the judges must pass examinations in drills to show they are qualified to act.

Aside from the regular ten contests from which the rating will be secured in the world's meet, the Omaha team will give a specialty drill with base ball bats. This drill will be similar to drills had with Indian clubs, the contestants swinging bats instead of clubs.

The champion team to represent America has already been selected. This will be composed of six men, of whom Frank J. Riba of Omaha is one. Mr. Riba was a member of the American team sent to Bohemia to contest with the local country team in 1907, and he carried off second honors for the United States.

Bohemia is sending seven of its best turners to contest with the American team for championship honors. There are over

20,000 turners in Bohemia and 3,500 of these contested in the Luxembourg meet in June, when the class of seven was chosen to represent the old country in the world's meet to be held in Chicago the latter part of this month. The seven selected are judged as the best of the 3,500 and therefore America realizes that hard work will have to be done to carry off the honors for this country.

Accompanying the class of seven will be twenty-two high Bohemian officials. New York turners will give them a reception upon their arrival in this country and they will be escorted to Washington and be presented to President Taft. Two hundred and sixty-five Bohemian Turner organizations in New York will take part in this reception.

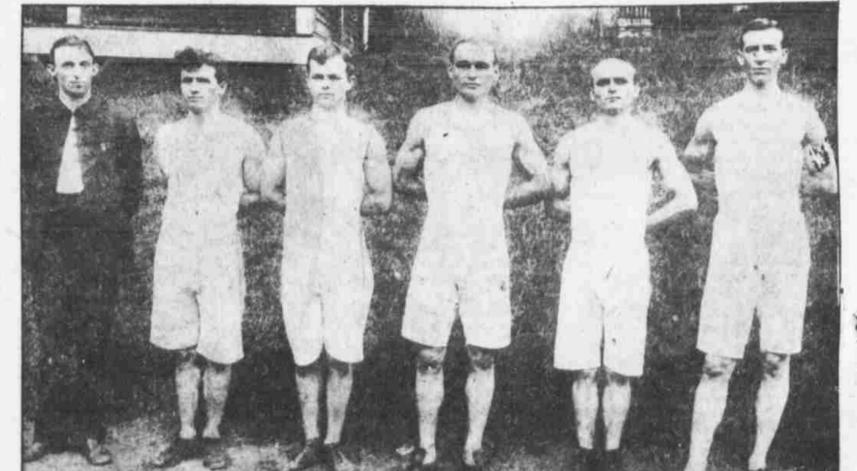
On the afternoon of Sunday, August 22, a public athletic exhibition will be held in the Tel Jed Sokol hall, Thirteenth and Dorcas streets, for the purpose of raising money to defray the expenses of the teams to be sent to the Chicago meet. The two teams will go through all the exercises which will be given at the world's meet and the hall will be open to all interested in athletics, whether of the Bohemian nationality or not.



From Left to Right—Little Ulovec, Emma Vitous, Mamie Kment, Tillie Trecka, Marie Mik, Tillie Kment. GIRLS' TEAM OF TEL JED SOKOL TO COMPETE AT CHICAGO.



Left to Right—J. J. Jelen, Peter Pecka, Rudolph Zikmund, Frank J. Riba, John Riba, Frank J. Kreck. MEN'S TEAM TO REPRESENT TEL JED SOKOL AT CHICAGO.



Left to Right—J. J. Jelen, Peter Pecka, Rudolph Zikmund, Frank J. Riba, John Riba, Frank J. Kreck. MEN'S TEAM TO REPRESENT TEL JED SOKOL AT CHICAGO.