

Little Pu Yi, the Baby Ruler of China's Four Hundred Million People



GREAT DOWAGER, WHO MADE PU YI EMPEROR.—From a Photo by a Palace Lady.

PU YI, the baby emperor of China, is a month after birth. Before that he was known as "the little one" and as "baby" or "darling." At the age of one month his head was shaved and he was known as Pu Yi. The hair has since grown and it is now braided in four long plaits which stand out like tails on the different sides of his head.

The Yi, or the last part of the name, is that which distinguishes him from the other children of the same generation of the imperial family. According to precedent and the unwritten law of the country the emperors should run in one long uninterrupted succession from father to son. If there are no sons, the children of other princes are adopted to take their place, and this is the case with Pu Yi. Kwang Su had no children, so just before the great empress dowager sent out an edict that Pu Yi should be regarded as the adopted son of Kwang Su and heir to the throne. This was done, notwithstanding Prince Chun, Little Pu Yi's father who was the brother of the emperor, Kwang Su, was still living, and that in any other country he would have been Kwang Su's successor. The baby emperor is thus really the nephew of the last emperor, but he is his son by adoption.

Pu Yi is the great-grandson of the Emperor Tao Kwang, who ruled China from 1821 to 1850. His grandfather by adoption was Emperor Hsien Feng, who married the great empress dowager, of whom Pu Yi in his edicts now speaks of as his "holy grandmother."

How Pu Yi Was Crowned.
I was in Peking when Pu Yi was crowned. The ceremonies took place in the Pink Forbidden City, and only the highest officials of China were present. The baby was brought forth and made to go through the rites fixed for the occasion. Some of the requirements he could only perform by proxy, but word was sent out over the country giving his imperial actions, and according to the publications he acted as a young man rather than a baby. He was really carried into the throne room in the arms of his father, Prince Chun, who had already been made the imperial regent. I am told he cried when he came in, and that his father quieted him by promising to buy him a pony. The officials wore their gorgeous court



ONE OF PU YI'S PALACES.

dress. The new empress dowager was on the throne, and according to the Peking Gazette, the baby emperor got down before her and made three kneeling and nine prostrations. The officials also knelt when they asked his majesty to accept the throne, and after a lot of flubdubbery they placed him on "the jeweled seat with his face to the south." If the regular ceremonies were carried out as is asserted this little two-year-old monarch then changed his clothes a half dozen times, and at the end put on somber garments as a sign of his grief for the deaths of Kwang Su and the great dowager.

The Golden Phoenix.
All that I saw of the crowning was from the gate of Chien Men, on the top of the wall, opposite the tower which rises above the gate of the Forbidden city. I was several hundred feet away, but I could see the gorgeous officials come out of the palace and stand under that tower waiting for the proclamation of the crowning of his majesty as it came down from heaven. In the mouth of the Phoenix. This, according to the Chinese tradition, is a part of every emperor's coronation, and the fiction was carried out in reality as far as appearances went. A golden bird with the proclamation in its mouth was let down by a string from the tower, and was caught as it fell by the proper officials below. They took out the paper and put it in a sedan chair, which was covered with yellow silk, and then started in a grand procession to lay it away in the imperial archives. There were soldiers to guard the procession, and men with whips went in advance to drive the common people out of the way. Incense was carried in front of the chair bearing the proclamation, and men with great umbrellas of imperial yellow followed behind. The officials who went with it were gorgeously dressed, and the whole was really imposing. The procession marched right down to the gate above which I was standing, and I photographed it as it passed on below me.

Pu Yi's First Edicts.
The baby monarch began to work immediately after he came to the throne. According to law, all the imperial edicts are put forth in his name, and many have been issued which seem ridiculous as coming from the mouth of a 2-year-old child. I understand that they were written by the great statesman and scholar, Chang Chi Tung, but that the people suppose that they come from the mouth of the emperor. Here is the way in which Pu Yi describes his feelings as to the deaths of the emperor and the old empress dowager:

"All who have blood and breath cannot but mourn. We weep tears of blood and heat upon our hearts. How can we bear to express our feelings? The late emperor has ascended the dragon to be a guest on high, and we have received the commands of the empress dowager to enter upon the succession. We have lamented

to earth and Heaven, and we stretch out our hands wailing our inefficiency. We had hoped that her majesty would be vigorous and live to be 100 years old that we might receive her instructions. But her toil day and night weakened her, and on the 21st day of the moon, when the late emperor ascended the dragon to be a guest on high, her grief was so excessive that she suddenly came. On the following day she took the fairy ride, and ascended to the far country. We shall strive to be temperate so as to comfort the spirit of the late empress dowager in Heaven."

It was at this same time that the baby emperor sent his first telegram to the United States. It was addressed to the president and read:

"Again the imperial family is unfortunately. Again we have met great calamity. The 22nd day of the present moon our holy grandmother, the great empress dowager, was taken up by the fairies to the far-off land. Our mourning and lamentations have no limit. Prostrate, we reflect how the gracious conduct and excellent virtues of the great departed were revered by all beyond the sea. China has long been on terms of friendly intimacy with the United States and your excellency, the president, on receiving this news will surely mourn with us."

Where the Baby Monarch Lives.
I wish I could take you into the home of Little Pu Yi. From now on he will live in the palaces of the Pink Forbidden City in the most secluded part of Peking. To this city strangers are never admitted, except they be members of the foreign legations or ladies invited to visit the empress. Such visits have been made only within the last few years, and it is a question whether any, and the ministers will be admitted in the future.

I have information, however, from confidential sources among the highest Chinese, which enables me to give you one or two peeps at these royal quarters. The palaces are surrounded by a yellow tiled wall more than two miles in length, and many feet high. There are huge towers over the gates to this wall, and officers in uniform stand just below. They keep out all but the servants of the palace and the highest Chinese officials, and the ordinary Chinaman has no idea of what goes on within. It is only by standing upon the wall of the Tartar City that a stranger can see anything, and then only the roofs. All he sees is a wilderness of high, broad buildings, covered with bright, yellow tiles, which glisten like gold under the sun. The buildings run up and down both sides of a lake, upon which are boats, and inside which on a little island is the palace where Kwang Su, the last emperor, was confined by the great dowager, when he would not do as she commanded. It may be that as Pu Yi grows older he may object to the orders of the present empress dowager and have the same prison home for a time.

The imperial baby will have many attendants. There are something like 10,000 souls in the palaces and the buildings about and it is their duty to do as the empress dowager wills. There are men servants and woman servants, as well as princes and ladies in waiting. One of the largest classes of the household is composed of eunuchs. They have been the servants of the Chinese emperor as far back as the time of Christ, and they are mentioned in Chinese history about 1,000 B. C. There are more than 3,000 of them employed to serve his imperial majesty and each has a job of his own. The eunuchs belong to forty-eight different departments. Some are mere servants, others take care of the imperial silks, jewelry and all sorts of treasures, and some wait on the ladies in the employ of the emperor. The empress dowager has her own force, and there are also lama priests, who supply the spiritual wants of the household.

Pi-Tsin-Li, the Squeezer.
At the head of these eunuchs is a man who has cut a big figure in the recent history of China. He was for years the favorite of the great dowager, and it was charged that he largely ruled China through her. He has committed all sorts of extortions and has made a great fortune by squeezing the officials who through him got the favor of the empress dowager. It is said that he is now a man of enormous wealth. Indeed, he had so much money in the Chinese banks of Peking that he created a panic when the old empress died by saying that he was going to withdraw his deposits.

A half dozen banks then failed on this account. This man's name is Li Lien Ting, or, as he is sometimes called, Pi-Tsin-Li or "Cobbler Li," because he is the son of a cobbler of Tung Chow, about fourteen miles from Peking. Li was taken into the palace as a boy, and grew up under the empress dowager. He was in charge of her toilet and personal wants, and later on became her business manager. He invested her money in pawnshops and in loans at high rates of interest and organized a system by which millions of dollars came into the palace. Toward the last he was placed in charge of all of the servants, and at the great dowager's death was the head of her imperial household. I understand that he holds the same position today and that the new empress dowager has made him the chief of the eunuchs.

New Empress Dowager.
But before I go farther let me tell you something about the new empress dowager, the woman whom Pu Yi from now on must regard as his mother, and to whom, during his childhood, he must be subservient. She is the late empress of China, the wife of Kwang Su, who died last November. She is the niece of the old empress dowager, and was first cousin of the late emperor, whom she married little more than twenty years ago. Her father was Duke Chow, a noble Manchu, and her mother a Manchu lady. I was in Peking at the time of her marriage and saw the carts containing the girls from whom she was chosen on their



MANCHU WOMAN AND CHILD—PU YI LOOKS LIKE THIS.

way to the palace. According to law, the emperor of China can marry none but a full-blooded Manchu. It is also provided that when he reaches marriageable age all the daughters of the Manchu nobility between 13 and 18 are to go to the palace in order that they may be looked over by the empress dowager, and the best one selected for the imperial consort. This is what will occur fourteen years from now, when Little Pu Yi is 16, and it is just what took place in 1888, when the empress dowager was picked out as the wife of Kwang Su. Of the crowd which then came there were only three who were kept, and the chief of these was Ye-ho-no-lah, who now rules the palace. The other two were his majesty's secondary wives, and were respectively 13 and 15 years of age.

The selection was made by the empress dowager, and, as Ye-ho-no-lah was her niece, the choice probably went by favor rather than beauty. This woman is now between 30 and 40 years of age. I am told she is short and lean and that she has a yellow complexion, almond eyes, a large mouth and a long chin. Her nose is bigger than that of most Chinese ladies, and her teeth are decayed. She is said to be a woman of tact and good sense. She has not the force of the old empress dowager and will probably allow herself to be ruled by the prince regent and the other high Chinese officials. She will, however, be supreme in the palace and will have much to do with the education and training of his imperial majesty.

Pu Yi's Education.
And this brings me to the question of Pu Yi's education. The officials are already discussing what it shall be, and the more progressive of them want him trained along modern lines. They propose to hire foreign governesses to teach him the modern languages, as is done by the imperial families of Europe, and he is to have a knowledge of our civilization. The school books now in use in the new Chinese schools are being examined with a view to preparing some special ones for this little baby. He will be made to learn the Chinese classics and to commit to memory the actual rules of the Confucius and Mencius. When he reaches the right age he will have man teachers, who, according to the old Chinese custom, will remain on their knees while they instruct him. No ordinary man

is supposed to stand in his presence, although in the reformation which China is now undertaking this may be changed. There is one thing sure, and that is they will never whip Little Pu Yi. When Kwang Su was little he had his whipping boys, who studied with him and recited the same lessons as he. If his majesty did wrong the teacher was allowed to whip one of these boys, and this was supposed to answer the purpose. If not, the great dowager took the matter in hand and ordered an eunuch to punish Kwang Su. The same will probably be the rule as to Pu Yi.

Baby Emperor's Playthings.
This imperial infant will have all sorts of toys. The Chinese are famous for making such things. They have animals of wood, iron, paper and cloth. They have mechanical toys and toys which teach certain things. The last emperor had many foreign toys and the imperial baby will first learn of the new civilization by playthings brought from abroad. He will have railroad trains, phonographs and electrical car lines, and he may perhaps have Teddy Bears and Billie Possums. He will have watches and clocks of all kinds. Indeed, there is already a large collection of such in the imperial palaces, and when the last emperor was a boy he amused himself by taking them to pieces and trying to put them together again. He did not always succeed, and the old empress dowager was in constant fear the Kwang Su would ruin the clocks she loved most.

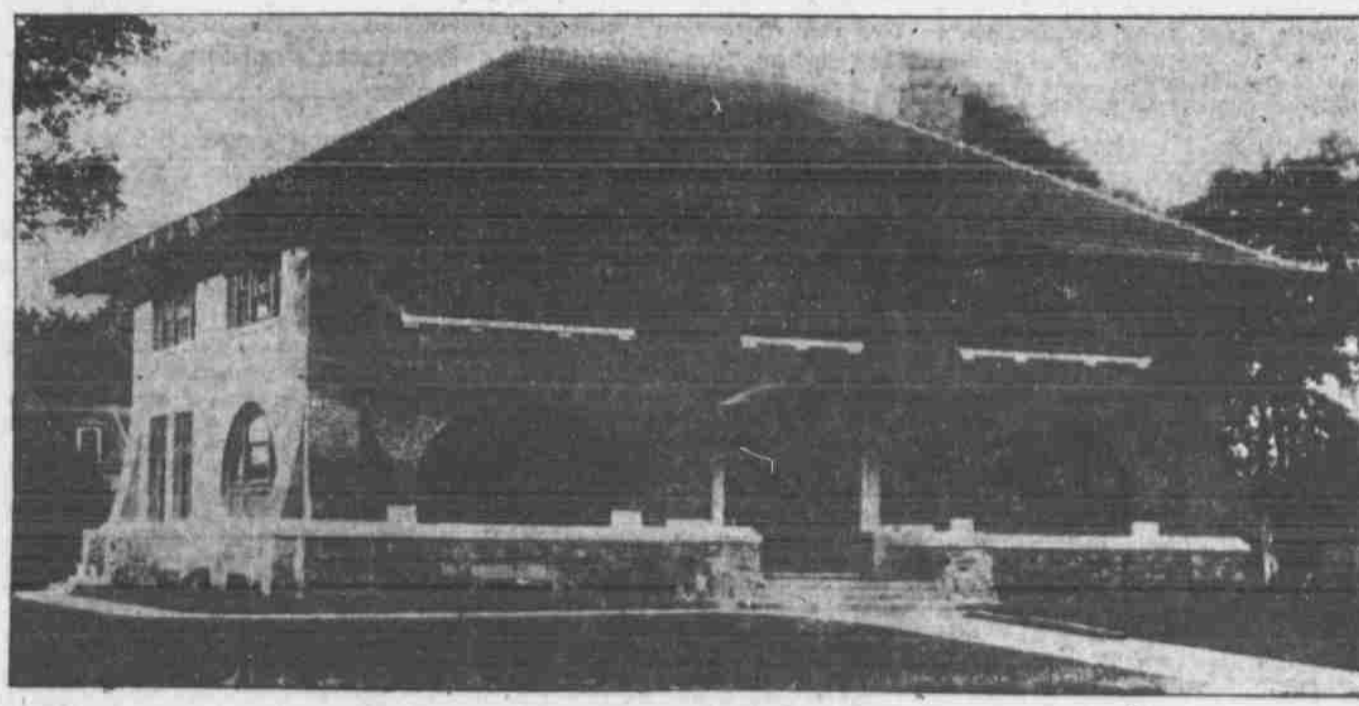
As his baby majesty grows older he should have all sorts of tutors and it may be that he will be allowed to travel over the country and see something of his own empire as it really is. Such a thing has not been possible with the emperors of the past, but his infant majesty is no more secluded now than the mikado was when he was a baby, and the present crown prince of Japan goes everywhere. China is so rapidly changing that it is impossible to tell what the people may allow their emperor to do before he grows up and takes the actual rule in his hands. If he lives, he will surely be the master of 400,000,000 millions, and of what may then probably be the richest and greatest manufacturing nation on earth.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

New Oliver-Carnegie Library Just Completed and Dedicated at Onawa

The very beginning of library activity in the town of Onawa, Ia., was in a collection of books of fiction placed in a general store and rented out to willing patrons. This undertaking by Miss Joanna Oliver was followed up in 1893 by her father, Addison Oliver, with a generous gift of \$500 for the establishment of a free public library for the town of Onawa and Monona county, on the condition that the town purchase a suitable building and provide an annual tax of 2 mills for support—conditions upon which the summer of 1894 she helped effectually in carrying the day.

The Congregational church, in that year vacated for the new building, was selected as suitable and purchased for the use of the library. A corner of the building was partitioned off for a workroom and the old primary room was set apart as a reference room, trustees' room and regular meeting place of the Women's club of the town. Wall cases were set up, the entire floor was covered with cork carpet, the woodwork painted a cream color and the walls papered in dull greens, although presenting a surprisingly attractive interior. Miss Fannie Durnin, now librarian at Ottumwa, was sent to Onawa by the State Library commission to organize the library. She was assisted by several young women volunteers, of whom Miss Maude Oliver, niece of Judge Addison Oliver, was unanimously chosen by the newly-appointed board to be the librarian.



NEW OLIVER-CARNEGIE LIBRARY, AT ONAWA.

The library was formally opened for the circulation of books February 25, 1902, with 2,375 volumes on open shelves, nearly all from the original catalog. Since that time the library has been opened for three days a week for seven hours a day. Surpassing the expectations of the most sanguine enthusiasts, the circulation for the first year was 10,325 books, with a separate pay collection of seventy-five books circulating 84 times. Six hundred dollars was received from the tax levy. The total expenditures for the first year amounted to \$2,324. The librarian attended the summer school for library training at Iowa City, and under her administration the library grew and prospered greatly. Upon her resignation in 1904, Miss Fannie Durnin, a graduate of Pratt Institute library school, succeeded.

The people of Onawa were not content to rest with the possession of their well-selected stock of books, but looked forward to the time when a real library building might be theirs. Once more Judge Addison Oliver came forward with an offer of an additional \$10,000 toward a new building and \$10,000 endowment for the purchase of books. It was then suggested that excellent lots on the main business street were covered with the best quality of cork carpet of a dark green shade that matches the green tone in the wood finish. The main entrance vestibule leads with swinging doors into the delivery room. To the right and left are the reading room and the children's room and behind is the stock room. These three rooms are really one, being separated by wide archways. Back of the reading room and children's room are two smaller rooms for reference and administration. The delivery room is decorated with Kesota marble to the height of seven feet. Marble bases extend about the lower floor walls. The reading room has movable shelving all around the room, three feet high, except under the windows, where space is taken by radiators. The rack for current periodicals is built into the wall and paneled above to bring it on a line with the shelves. The tables, in arts and crafts finish, are oblong and supplied with branched lights.

Progress in Public Lighting

NOT 20 years ago Broadway, New York, after nightfall was almost pitch dark and infested with ruffians and thieves. It was not safe to travel it by night without armed guards and boys carrying torches. Today this great thoroughfare is famous as the "Great White Way," because of the brilliancy of its night illumination.

Seventy-five years ago streets were being lighted with oil and gas. Twenty-five years ago the electric lights were introduced and the systematic lighting of streets began; now there is scarcely a hamlet so small it cannot boast of lighted streets. Men who know say the dawn of artificial light is just breaking.—Review of Reviews.

a frieze of Elizabeth Shippen Green pictures. The pictures above the dark wood wainscoting are highly decorated. The walls are the children's catalogue, a cupboard for the picture file, and above a bulletin board. Four low tables are used of the same size as in the reading room.

The large, semi-octagonal charging desk stands in the center of the building. All switches for lights on this floor are at the charging desk. The reference room is just back of the reading room. It is furnished with a long table and shelving about the walls for bound magazines and reference books. It has doors from the reading room, and into the large stock room, which is just back of the delivery room. Stacks are to be supplied here as needed. Here is also a lavatory for general use. Back of the children's room is the librarian's room, which is provided with a desk, closed shelves and cubbyholes. This room opens into a small hallway, which has an outside door leading to the stairway to the second floor. The space of the second floor is divided into a large auditorium across the front of the building covered with cork carpet and providing a seating capacity for 300 people. This room is separated by double sliding doors from a large room to be used by the women's club. A smaller room for the trustees' use, a toilet room and hall are also on this floor. The basement, as yet unfinished, may ultimately be used for an additional stock room and work room. The building is lighted throughout by electricity and heated from the power-house in the same block. Light, heat and telephone service are supplied gratis by the city.

Oldest Land in the World

STRETCHING across Canada, north of the St. Lawrence, and ending in the regions about the source of the Mississippi, is a range of low granite hills called the Laurentian Highlands. These hills are really mountains that are almost worn out, for they are the oldest land in America and, according to Agassiz, the oldest in the world. In the days when there was nothing but water on the face of the globe, these mountains came up—a long island of primitive rock with universal ocean chafing against its shores. None of the other continents had put in their appearance at the time America was thus looking up. The United States began to come to light by the gradual uplifting of this land to the north and the appearance of the tops of the Alleghenias, which were the next in order. Later the Rockies started up. The United States grew southward from Wisconsin