

TSINGTAO NOTES

A Newspaper's Anniversary: The Weather Forecast: Railway Guards: Bad Whisky

From Our Own Correspondent.

Tsingtao, May 18.

On the 15th instant, the editor of the "*Sheito Shimpō*" celebrated the seventh anniversary of the establishment of his paper, by a reception in his beautiful garden, which is situated behind the old Chinese *yāmen* of Tsingtao. These gardens are celebrated for their wisteria trees, and this year there is an exceptionally fine show of these beautiful blossoms. The reception began with a variety entertainment, which included a very clever and humorous juggling act, and specially arranged Geisha dances, such as were witnessed by the Prince of Wales during his visit to Japan. A sumptuous repast was provided later in the afternoon, and the guests included the British and American Consuls and other leading foreigners, as well as General Yui, Colonel Ohashy, the officers of the Tsingtao Garrison, members of the Chamber of Commerce and the Japanese Association, as well as former prominent Chinese officials. Altogether, there were about 500 guests present. Seventy geisha girls in charming attire ministered to the wants of the guests.

VISITORS ARRIVING.

Visitors have already begun to arrive in Tsingtao, and are enjoying the unusually cool weather with which we are being favoured, in comparison with other towns. The country is in spring array, and the gardens and hills are refreshing to look upon. Various garages are running motor-omnibuses and *char-a-bancs*, which should be much in request for picnic parties, and it is also announced that four motor launches for the same purpose will be obtainable during the summer season. These, as well as the new and up-to-date Carlton Café, should add considerably to the attractions of the town for summer visitors.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Notification No. 67 of the Tsingtao Garrison, dated May 14, was issued to the effect that the weather forecast and storm signals announced by the Meteorological Station will be wirelessed to vessels by the Wireless Coast Station, on and after the 15th instant. The notification runs as follows:—

1.—The weather forecast will be despatched at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. every day, and cover date, time, degree of atmospheric pressure, direction and speed of wind, weather, etc.

2.—Storm warnings will be wirelessed whenever the Station receives information from the Meteorological Station, (and also every evening at nine o'clock if necessary), giving details of

date, time, location of centre of low atmospheric pressure, or typhoon, degree at the centre, and direction in which it is proceeding.

3.—The above despatches will be forwarded twice successively in the English language, after repeating "Q.S.T." three times by 600 metre electric waves.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There are four great coal-fields along the Shantung Railway (Weihsin, Poshan, Changchiu and Tzuchuan). The Hsuhua Mining Company having received a licence to work, in July last, started boring, and discovered that the fields are rich in excellent coal. An unworked bed, which lies between "D" and "E" beds, in the Tzuchuan Mine, has been found to be a seam about 5 ft. deep at a point five Chinese *ri* south of Puchi Station; it is within the Company's zone, and it is pure anthracite.

Mr. S. Wada, Traffic Manager of the Shantung Railway, who has been to Japan on leave, has sent in his resignation, which has been accepted. His loss will be deeply felt in the Railway Department, where men of his ability are much needed.

Mr. R. Hoshino, who has lately been to Tokio in order to make preparations for the publication of an English weekly in Tsingtao, has returned to the latter place, accompanied by Mr. O. Kinoshita, who has recently returned from the Washington Conference and who has been appointed editor. The new venture will be named the "Tsingtao Leader," and the first issue will be forthcoming about the middle of June.

The Foreign Department Committee on Shantung left Tsinan on the 2nd instant by night train for Shanghai, whence they leave for Japan, arriving in Tokio about the 11th. Preparations for opening negotiations on details in connexion with the restoration of Shantung to China will be commenced after their arrival. Mr. Arino, Chief Secretary of the Railway Department, who accompanied them on their trip through Shantung, has returned to Tsingtao, and expressed himself as follows:—

"We have tried our best to explain the real state of things in Shantung to the Committee. They, on their part, spared no efforts in inquiring into the most minute points of any subject, and gave every attention to whatever opinions were expressed by representatives of residents at the various localities. The members of the Committee seemed to have been surprised at the business and industrial enterprises established by our people. For instance, our collieries at Fangtzu and Tzuchuan were objects of wonder to them, as it had been thought that these might be far inferior to the coal mines worked by Messrs. Okura or Fujita in Japan. We think that their inspection will be of great help on our behalf in the coming negotiations."

LAST OF THE RAILWAY GUARDS.

Twenty-seven gendarmes arrived in Tsingtao on May 3 from Kaomi. This is the last of the railway guards, and none now are left in Shantung outside the Tsingtao district.

The remaining companies of the 2nd Battalion of Railway Guards,

formerly stationed along the Kaomi district, have been stationed temporarily in Tsingtao, whilst awaiting transport, after evacuation of their posts. They have now sailed for Japan—one company for Sakura, and the other for Kofu by the str. *Fukuoya Maru*, directly bound for Yokohama, which left Tsingtao on May 12. As these were the last of the Railway Guards from the district along the Shantung Railway, outside of the leased territory of Kiaochow, there was a large crowd of people of all nationalities, including many from outlying districts of Tsingtao, who manifested their thanks for the past services rendered by the guards in protecting lives and property.

SPURIOUS LIQUOR.

Referring to my former animadversions on the spurious liquor question in north China, and the various letters of others, as well as the flagrant police court case in Shanghai, reported in your columns, I append a copy of a label taken from a bottle of alleged whiskey sold in this town.

Fine old Scotch Whisky, matured and guaranteed by the Distillers Extra Special.

Round the neck of the bottle is—

Ten gold medals awarded for excellence, highest awards, diplomas, gold and silver medals at London, Manchester, Wolverhampton, Portsmouth, Brewers, Trades, etc., etc.

On the label is—

Ten gold medals awarded at International Exhibitions.

Rossetere Highland Whisky.

Rossetere & Co.

Glasgow and London.

None genuine unless our signature is on every label and cork. Please destroy the label when bottle is empty to prevent misuse.

There is also another label—

Certificate of Analysis.

Analytical Laboratory.

11 and 12 Great Tower Street,

London, E.C.

29 October, 1894.

"I hereby certify that I have submitted to very careful chemical analysis a sample of this whisky, purchased by me from a retail establishment in London, and find it to be a genuine and perfectly wholesome whisky, and entirely free from adulteration. Its great mellowness and delicacy of flavour bespeak it a choice blend, well matured by age in sherry wood."

The following testimonials are quoted:—

"These whiskies are well matured in sherry wood, and of delightful mellowness, delicacy of flavour and exquisite bouquet."—"The Caterer."

"Whisky consumers can now safeguard themselves in the matter of whiskies by using only brands that have both a name and reputation to sustain. This is a blend of the *Crème de la Crème* of Scotch Whisky, and can be strongly and highly recommended, in fact, there is not a headache, to use a well-understood expression, in a hogshead of it."—"Civic Service Gazette."

"A good class of whisky. In travelling about, one has to put up with so much indifferent and oft-times bad whisky, that it is a genuine pleasure to taste a glass of well matured spirit such as this blend is. We think it is bound to become popular amongst those who believe

in Scotch Whisky.—“Sporting Chronicle.”

“A combination of the finest brands, from six to 10 years old, matured in sherry wood, of a delightful mellowness, delicate flavour, and cream-like smoothness acquired in maturing by age, and not by artificial means.—“Trade and Finance.”

The following testimonial is from “The hotel.”

“The most wonderful whiskies on earth. The mingled souls of wheat and corn. For many years, this liquid joy has been within the happy staves of oak, longing to touch the lips of man.”

Highest awards, etc., etc., etc., etc.

A cursory glance at all of this would, I think, deceive the ordinary purchaser, and the stuff is on sale in a foreign shop. Those who were unfortunate enough to taste it found it of a deadly nature.