

capitalist himself is a laborer, and his profits are in fact his wages. But the plutocrat cannot say that of the profits of monopoly. Should he do so he would prove at once that he is not an honest plutocrat. The profits of monopoly really are made out of unpaid labor. There is no other source under heaven from which they can be made. Let us add, that most so-called capitalists who are very rich are in truth not capitalists but monopolists.

NEWS

Last week we told of the astonishing edicts, looking to the adoption of Western civilization and the advance of democracy in China, which the emperor had recently put forth. These edicts explained the new imperial policy, announced the establishment of a general postal service, required officials to publish monthly accounts of receipts and expenditures, and extended the right of petition to all classes in the empire. We told at the same time of a rumor to the effect that the dowager empress had regained ascendancy over the emperor, and suggested that this might imply a reaction from the reform policy which the imperial edicts had outlined. That rumor has since been confirmed. The emperor has virtually restored the dowager empress to her old position of regent, and it is reported, though the report lacks verification, that immediately after having done so he was assassinated.

The dowager empress of China was first a slave, then a concubine, and then a wife of the Emperor Hsien Fung. Upon his death she became regent for her infant son, whose name was Tung Chi. While still under age, Tung Chi died without issue. His brothers could not succeed him because they were all older than he, and were therefore unable, in accordance with Chinese custom, to worship him as an ancestor. A similar objection applied to the brothers of Hsien Fung; they could not worship him. Consequently, an infant son of one of Hsien Fung's brothers was chosen, and the dowager empress continued to rule, as his regent. His name was Kwang Hsu. When Kwang Hsu came of age, the dowager empress surrendered her authority as regent, and he entered into full pos-

session of the imperial prerogatives. Meantime he had come under the influence of a brilliant and progressive Chinaman, who inspired in him the sentiments which led to the publication of the democratic edicts already mentioned.

This nineteenth century Chinaman is Kang Yu Mei. He was born in Canton but was educated in Hong Kong, where he became thoroughly Europeanized. About two years ago he figured at the head of the reform movement, and in connection with a Presbyterian missionary, published at Peking a paper called "Chinese Progress," which advocated among other reforms the right of petition and freedom of the press. Kang Yu Mei succeeded also in establishing a personal friendship with the young emperor—Kwang Hsu. This friendship enabled him to instill into the mind of the emperor his own progressive and democratic ideas, and led finally to the promulgation not only of the decrees already mentioned but also of one looking to the establishment of a free school system in the several provinces, of another substituting modern affairs for the Chinese classics as subjects for the examination of candidates for public offices, and of another granting full freedom of the press.

But Kang Yu Mei's success in giving a democratic outline to the imperial policy was not accomplished without opposition. The emperor's tutor, Weng Tung Ho, a conservative leader, had always been one of the most influential personages about the palace, and he undertook to thwart the purposes of Kang Yu Mei. So far from making any headway, however, he excited the emperor's wrath, and for his interference was stripped of his offices and honors and forever banished from Peking. The conflicting interests of Russia and Great Britain are supposed to have played a part in this trouble at the Chinese court. Kang Yu Mei at least was affected by them. He appears to have been a friend of Great Britain and an enemy of Russia. He is said to have regarded English influence as better for China than Russian. Not only did he prefer the British form of government for its essential democracy, but he believed that Russia was maneuvering for the capture of Chinese territory while Great Britain only cared for freedom of trade. He is supposed also to have been in communication with the British minister at Peking, and to have

been instrumental in the recent reduction of Li Hung Chang.

That the imperial edicts which Kang Yu Mei induced the emperor to promulgate would excite the consternation and deadly hostility of the old regime of China might well be expected. And they did. It soon became evident that some sort of counter revolution had begun, and on the 22d a rumor gained currency in Shanghai that the emperor was dead. But no details were obtainable. On the same day it was authoritatively reported from Peking that the emperor had resigned his power to the dowager. The same dispatch told of the flight of Kang Yu Mei, the reform leader, and of the failure of vigorous attempts to arrest him. Rumor had it that he was charged with murdering the emperor. This dispatch also stated, upon the authority of the Japanese statesman himself, that the emperor had received the Marquis Ito most cordially only the day before, and expressed a desire for his advice in carrying out the policy outlined in the imperial edicts. That dispatch was followed on the next day, the 23d, by a copy of the edict of abdication. It is as follows:

Now that China is disturbed and there is need that all business shall be well done, we, the emperor, agitated from morning to evening for the welfare of all affairs, and fearful lest errors may occur, observing from the beginning of the reign of Tung Chi that the empress dowager had twice given instructions to the emperor, each time with signal ability and success, so we now, considering the important interests of the empire, have begged the empress dowager to give to the emperor the benefit of her ripe experience and her instruction. The dowager empress has been pleased to accede to this request. From to-day the empress dowager conducts the business in the imperial apartments, and on the 3th day of the present month (Chinese calendar, meaning the 23rd, English calendar, we will take all the princes and ministers to perform the ceremony in the Chin Chung palace. Let the yamen (foreign office) prepare that the ceremony may be performed with fitting honors.

The reported escape of Kang Yu Mei was verified two or three days later, from Shanghai. He had found refuge there on board a British steamer bound for Hong Kong. In an interview with a London Times correspondent he said that he had left Peking on the 20th, doing so in compliance with a suggestion from the

emperor conveyed to him secretly; and he explained that the emperor had been compelled to sign the edict of virtual abdication on account of his leanings toward the reform party, which had aroused uncontrollable opposition among the officials. The charge against Kang Yu Mei is conspiracy against the dowager. He has been declared an outlaw. Latest advices give color to the report that the emperor is dead, though there is no positive information. An edict has been issued expressing regret at his increasing ill-health, and commanding the governors of all provinces to send their best physicians to Peking.

In France, progress in the Dreyfus case has been made since our last report. The cabinet had then decided to take the opinion of a special commission, as to the advisability of reopening the case. This commission had held its first meeting. On the 24th it was officially announced that the commission could come to no conclusion, being equally divided on the question; and on the 26th the cabinet, after a prolonged session and against strong opposition, decided in favor of revision. To that end they ordered the minister of justice to submit the petition of Mme. Dreyfus, for a revision of her husband's case, to the Court of Cassation, for a decision upon the legal question as to whether the conviction of Dreyfus is vitiated by the discovery of the forgery committed by the late Col. Henry. The criminal chamber of the Court of Cassation, which will act upon Mme. Dreyfus's petition, consists of 15 judges and a president. The president is a Jew.

Esterhazy's confession, which we foreshadowed last week, has been published in England. He says there was no legitimate proof against Dreyfus, but that there were ample grounds for believing him guilty. It was therefore determined by Col. Sandherr, now dead, to forge the proof. Sandherr thereupon ordered Esterhazy to forge the memorandum which has since become famous in the case, and he did so precisely as he would have obeyed any other order from his military superior. The memorandum having been forged, it became necessary to give it the air of authenticity, so it was handed to a porter of the German embassy at Paris, who is a French spy, and he gave it to one Genst, an agent of the

French secret service, as having been picked up in the embassy. Genst brought it back to the French secret service office, where it was docketed in usual course. Upon this memorandum exclusively, says Esterhazy, Dreyfus was condemned. The confession is discounted, and Henri Rochefort endeavors to show that it was probably procured from Esterhazy by bribery. Rochefort says that he and two other newspaper men were supporting Esterhazy by paying him 300 francs a month to prevent his dying of hunger while waiting for a pension, and asks why Esterhazy has abandoned this income and emigrated, and how he now pays for his meals, unless he has been bribed to confess to a forgery of which he had been twice acquitted.

Col. Picquart, who made the sensational speech in court that we printed last week, in which he said in substance that if he were found dead in the military prison, Cherche Midi, he wanted it understood that it would be murder, for he had no idea of committing suicide—thereby implying that Col. Henry's suicide was in fact a military murder,—was transferred on the 22d, from the civil prison to the Cherche Midi. But before the premier, M. Brisson, would consent to this transfer, he insisted that the war office should agree to give Picquart an open trial. It is believed in Paris that this prosecution of Picquart was sprung by Gen. Zurlinden for the purpose of getting a dangerous witness in the Dreyfus case out of the way. Zurlinden issued the order for Picquart's arrest, during his recent brief occupancy of the office of secretary of war, and then executed it as Governor of Paris. This position he had left to become minister of war, upon the express understanding that it should be kept open for him, and he returned to it upon his retirement from the cabinet.

Leaving European subjects for a moment, we find attention in our own country centered upon the bad treatment of the soldiers of the war with Spain. The president's committee for the investigation of these abuses has been completed. It now consists of Grenville M. Dodge, a major general in the civil war; J. A. Sexton, commander-in-chief of the G. A. R.; E. P. Howell, of the Atlanta Constitution; Charles Denby, late minister of China; ex-Gov. Woodbury of Vermont; ex-Gov. Beaver, of Pennsyl-

vania; Maj. Gen. Anson D. McCook, U. S. A., (retired), and Dr. Phineas S. Conner, of Cincinnati. The only original appointees are Dodge and Sexton. All the others declined, as did Gen. Weld, of Massachusetts, to whom a vacancy was offered. The committee met for the first time on the 26th, and decided upon the form of requests for information to the heads of bureaus to be investigated. Requests are necessary, as the committee has no legal power to make demands. On the 27th a second session was held at which it was decided to give out for publication the letter of Secretary Alger to the president asking for the investigation; a letter from the chairman, Gen. Dodge, enclosing the list of inquiries to the secretary and the heads of the various divisions of his department; and an address to the public. The address to the public states that the committee invite and are "ready and will receive and consider any complaints about the management of any of the various branches of the war department from any person or persons;" and that they "respectfully request that such complaints be made in writing, stating facts that the party may know of his own knowledge, plainly and in detail, giving names of any officers or enlisted men who may be charged with misconduct or incompetency." Before their first meeting, the committee called upon the president at the White House, where he addressed them. Thanking them for their willingness to serve, he assured them of his earnest desire that they should thoroughly investigate the charges of criminal neglect of soldiers in camp, field, hospital and transports, and make the fullest examination of the war department, with the view of establishing the truth or falsity of the charges. He added: "I put upon you no limit to the scope of your investigation. Of all departments connected with the army I invite the closest scrutiny and examination, and shall afford every facility for the most searching inquiry."

American interest in the Philippines, pending the action of the peace conference, is directed toward the movements of Aguinaldo and his government. During the week the text of his appeal to foreign powers has been published. This declares that the revolution dominates 14 provinces, besides the capital city of Manila; and that in all these, order and tranquillity reign and the laws of the re-