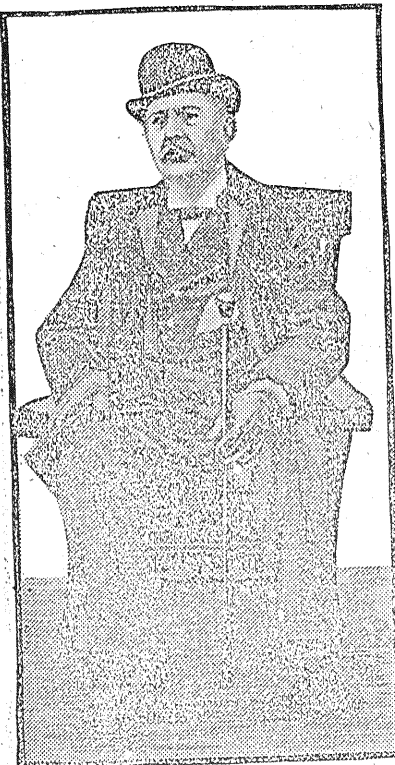


WILL WATCH IN FAR EAST.

Our Minister to Japan Will Be Alert In Case of Trouble.

Affairs in the far east nowadays are very much in the nature of a Chinese puzzle, and no one knows what will be the outcome of the muddle. Before things are straightened out much work will be necessary, and the brunt of it will fall on the diplomats. Although Uncle Sam is not trying to grab territory, he has many interests in the orient that need safeguarding, and for this he looks to his representatives, Special Envoy Rockhill in China, Minister Allen in Korea and Minister Alfred E. Buck in Japan.

Minister Buck is just now at his home in Atlanta on a leave of absence, and the legation is in charge of Secre-



From a Japanese snap shot.

COLONEL ALFRED E. BUCK.

tary Huntington Wilson. Minister Buck expects to return in May. His leave is in the nature of a vacation, for he has been at his post since 1897, and, being a man of 39, he naturally needs a rest.

Our minister to Japan was born in Foxcroft, Me., and received his education at Colby university. After finishing his studies he became principal of the high school at Lewiston, Me., and held that position at the outbreak of the civil war. He served throughout the war and rose to the rank of brevet colonel. Colonel Buck foresaw the possibilities of the south and settled in Alabama, engaging in the turpentine and rosin business on Mobile bay. Being a real "down east Yankee," his early life in the black belt was made interesting and exciting, and during the reconstruction period his

distillery and storehouses were burned by incendiaries.

Politics soon engaged the attention of Colonel Buck. After reconstruction had been effected he was one of the electors who placed Grant in the presidential chair, and in the same year, 1869, he became a member of the Forty-first congress. In 1871 he went to Georgia and became clerk of the federal court in Atlanta. He has also held other positions, and until his appointment in 1897 as minister to Japan he was the acknowledged leader of the Republican party in Georgia.

SHE PLANS FINE HOUSES.

New England Woman Who Designed Exposition Building.

New England's contribution to the great Pan-American exposition to be held at Buffalo this year is a building in the colonial style of architecture which will cost \$20,000 and will represent all of the six eastern states. Peculiar interest attaches to this building, for it will be the only one on the grounds designed by a woman.

Miss Josephine Wright Chapman, the architect of the New England building, is a Boston woman and is young, fair and tall. She has been practicing her profession since 1897



Photo by Robinson, Boston.

MISS JOSEPHINE WRIGHT CHAPMAN.

and is succeeding very well, in spite of early opposition. She won the commission for the Pan-American building in an energetic competition with male architects. Miss Chapman's most important commission has been Craigie hall, one of the Harvard dormitories. Miss Chapman says that the former prejudice against employing a woman architect is slowly but surely dying away. She is a member of the Society of Architects and was the guest of honor at the latest annual dinner of the American League of Architects.

CUBA'S SUGAR CROP.

AMERICAN CAPITALISTS PREPARING TO INVEST IN THE ISLAND

Two Million Dollars to Be Spent For Machinery and Equipment of a New Plant—How the Cane Is Planted and Grown.

Before the Spanish-American war we heard a great deal about the fertility and richness of Cuba, and it was thought that when peace had come to the troubled island many Americans would find fortunes there in the sugar and tobacco fields. It is true enough that Cuban soil is of unequalled fertility and that fortunes are to be made there, but they have not yet materialized, owing probably to its unsettled political fortunes. A combination of American capitalists just formed, however, purposes exploiting the Cuban sugar fields and to that end has acquired 65,000 acres of land in the eastern part of the island. Nearly 10,000 acres of this are already under cultivation, while on the rest the work of planting sugar cane will be begun immediately.

The work of the new American company is believed to be the first step in the consolidation of the various large sugar interests of Cuba. The company, in which a number of millionaires are interested, among them the Havemeyers, clearly means to do business on a large scale. Contracts aggregating more than \$2,000,000 for machinery, equipment, etc., have been made in this country, and a railroad 30 miles long is to be built on the estate. Grinding operations are to begin next December, by which time it is believed that 350,000 tons of cane will be ready to be handled.

The equipment for the new company already ordered includes a steam plant of 6,000 horsepower, buildings, pumps, machine shops, 200 sugar cars, tanks, etc. The mills will have a daily capacity for grinding 3,000 tons of cane. They will be fitted up in the latest and most approved style, with machinery made exclusively in the United States.

With the exception of 800 acres in the immediate vicinity of the factory the 10,000 acres already under growth are being divided among colonists who will cultivate the fields and deliver the cane at the factory for a certain percentage of their crop. This plan will, it is believed, insure the greatest possible return. The laborers will, of course, be negroes, since it is almost if not quite impossible for a white man to work in the Cuban sugar fields.

The present time is the height of the sugar harvest in Cuba, for it begins late in January and lasts until May, the planting season taking place during the breaks in the wet season, which lasts from June until the end of November. Sugar cane is not grown

from seed, but from cuttings, or slips, taken from the top of the plant, the lower leaves of which are stripped off. When stuck in the ground at regular intervals to a depth of about two inches, the cane slips soon take root and in about six months reach maturity, growing sometimes, but rarely, to a height of 20 feet. The cane is usu-



CUTTING CANE ON A CUBAN SUGAR PLANTATION.

ly cut with the well known and familiar machete.

When the cane is cut, it is taken to the mill, which immediately sets to work pressing out the sweet juice. As it comes out it is a pale green sirup, which flows into the troughs prepared for it. In its first state it soon turns acid and consequently must be boiled and clarified immediately or else it would be ruined, and this is one of the principal reasons for the busy appearance of a Cuban sugar plantation during harvesting season. The work must not be interrupted, but goes on night and day. Relays of hands relieve each other, rest being impossible, even on the Sabbath. The juice goes through a number of mechanical processes, boiling, clarifying, filtering, etc., before it finally emerges as golden sirup or as moist sugar.

The main drawback to the prosperity of the Cuban sugar plantations is the scarcity of cattle, indispensable to cultivation of the cane. Foreign cattle imported at considerable cost must be acclimated before they are of much use, and the native cattle have almost all been used as food for both Cubans and Spaniards. It is hoped that the importation of American mules and of cattle from Porto Rico will solve this problem.

GUARDING AGAINST FIRE.

Every Precaution to Be Taken at the Pan-American Exposition.

There are two fire houses upon the grounds of the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, N. Y., which are fully equipped with the apparatus and men necessary to fight any outbreak of fire upon the grounds.

In addition to this there are chemical fire extinguishers in all of the buildings. These are of the same type used at the World's fair at Chicago and are attached to the wall on the interior of the building. A cog on the bearing of the reel releases a valve which turns on the water in case of fire. It is only necessary to unreeel the hose and thus turn on a stream which can be directed upon the blaze without a moment's delay. In this way every precaution is to be taken to prevent the occurrence of any fire and consequent destruction of valuable property.

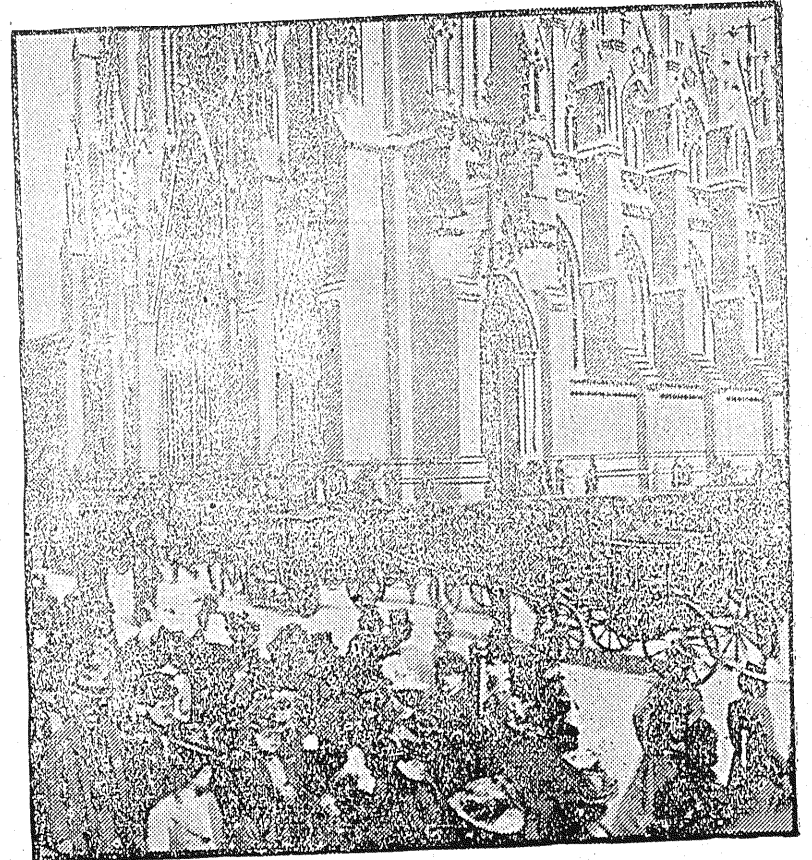


Photo by Ruggles, New York.

NEW YORK'S EASTER PARADE.

This scene gives a glimpse of the great Easter parade on Fifth Avenue, New York, and shows that crowded thoroughfare just in front of St. Patrick's cathedral.

FAIRWEATHER BROS.

Leaders of Low Prices and New Up to date Goods

Wish to announce that they are showing the most complete up to date line of General Merchandise ever shown in these parts. Assortment large, prices right.



Dress Goods.

Nice line of Novelties in plain and figured goods at 10 to 25c a yd. Cotton and Wool Plaids at 10 to 50c a yd. All Wool Serges at 35c to \$1.50 a yd. All Wool Henriettas at 35c to \$2.00. Black Melrose at 50c to \$2.00 a yd. Poplins, Granites, Satin Seliel, Albatros, Brilliantines, Venetians, Chevoits, Satin Parola, Peppled Chevoits and all popular weaves for dresses and tailor made suits that the great markets afford. Nice line of French Flannels at 50c to \$1.50 a yd.

Wash Goods and Silks.

Wash Silks, nice line of patterns at 35c to \$1.00 a yd. Plain Silks in Taffeta and other popular weaves at 25c to \$1.00 a yd. Most beautiful line of Black Silks we have ever shown. See our line when you are looking for silks. We are showing this season one of the most beautiful lines of Wash Goods we have ever shown in Dimities, Lawns, Mousseline DeSoie, Percalles, Gingham, etc.

Laces and Embroideries.

In this department we can not be beat if you are looking for Lace and Embroideries. Our stock will please you without a doubt.

Lace Curtains and Porteliers.

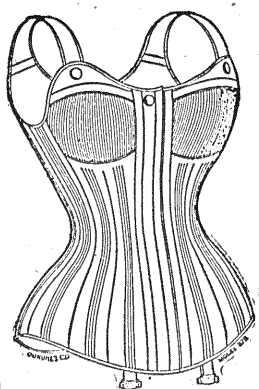
No doubt our assortment in this line is one of the most complete ever shown in these parts. They range in price from 75c to \$8.00 a pair. Porteliers in Chenille Tapestry and Rope at \$1.50 to 10.00 a pr. Our line of Mulls for curtains is hard to beat. Our new line of Window Shades just opened up is complete with all the popular shades.

Carpets, Floor Matting,

and Oil Cloths is another well filled department. Special pains will be taken to please you in this department. Our new spring line has arrived.

Ladies' and Gents' Furnishings.

800 new Shirt Waists at 50c to \$5.00. 475 Men's Fancy Shirts at 50c to \$1.00. Best Overall ever made for 50c. Fancy Sox and Hosiery, nice line. Beautiful line of ladies' and Gents' Ties. Full assortment of Trunks and Telescopes. Full line of Underwear. Largest assortment of Ladies' Wrappers you ever see at 75c to \$2.00 each. Best Kid Glove for \$1.00 in America. Every pair guaranteed. We have just received a new and up to date line of Straw Hats for gents' boys and children. Ladies' Skirts, new line just in. New line of Ladies' Underskirts at \$1.00 to \$5.00 each.



Corsets and Muslin Underwear.

We carry a complete line of Ladies Muslin Underwear and Corsets at popular low prices.

New Line of Linens.

White Table Linens at 25c to \$1.50 a yard. Unbleached Table Linen at 25 to 75c. Red and blue Table Damask at 25 to 50c. Good Linen Toweling at 5 to 15c. Nice line of Cotton and Linen Towels at 5 to 50c each. Good assortment of Center Pieces, Splashes, etc.

Ribbons.

Over 700 pieces of plain and fancy Ribbons. See our stock if you want Ribbons.

Garden Seeds.

This is the time of year when you must have them. We are here with the quality, quantity and right prices. Buy a small patch of Rape Seed this year for your hogs and sheep. You will be pleased with it.

Groceries.

Everything from the cheapest that is good to the best that is made. We have the largest assortment in the Thumb to select from. Come and see us and be convinced. Sugar from 5 to 6c a lb. Tea at 25, 30, 35, 40, 50 and 60c a lb. Coffee at 5, 10, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, 35c a lb. Spices, the best that can be bought is the quality we keep. 25 different kinds of Baking Powder to select from, 8c up to 50c. Raisins from 7 to 12c. Evaporated Apples at 5c a lb. Prunes, 4 to 10c a lb. A large variety of Can Fruits, Meats and Fish. Soap, from 3 bars to 15, for 25c. Fruits and Candies, we keep the best that can be found and the largest assortment in town. A large variety of Toilet Soap from 2 to 10c a cake. Try our peanuts, walnuts, mixed nuts of all kinds. Our Cheese is a winner. Try it.



Crockery.

We carry a nice line of Staple and Fancy Dishes, odd pieces or full sets. Stone Crocks from one quart up to thirty gallon. Churns, Milk Pans, Jugs, all sizes, Granite and Tinware of all descriptions.

Tobaccos.

Over 150 kinds to select from. All brands of Cigars except poor ones.

We want 500 crates of eggs and 2,000 pounds of butter by the first day of May and will pay the highest market price. Buy your wool twine of us; we have the best.