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EDITORIAL.

The new laws governing the National Council or Eui-chung-Bu deserve more than a passing notice. In looking over the original text we can not help but admire the way in which the laws are formulated. Great praise is due to His Majesty for sanctioning the idea of constructing the Government on a regular and systematic basis, and much credit should be given to those who helped His Majesty to make them. The whole text has been translated into English, and we will publish it little by little in successive issues, until it is completed. Therefore we do not here review the whole contents, but there are some points which we consider will have far-reaching effects in the politics of this Government.

According to the new law all matters of national importance will be discussed at the open Council by the members of the body, and the Ministers of State who have become ex-officio members of it. The questions that come up before the Council will be debated by any member, and each will tell the world his own idea in the matter by his vote. The trouble we have found with the Korean statesmen was that one could not tell where they stood in the important questions of the nation. They all kept a diplomatic silence in all things, hence the world had no opportunity to judge them. But under the new law every body will have a chance to express his opinion by speech and vote. Another important point in the law is that His Majesty will attend the Council meetings and he will hear the debates of the members. The difficulty which has hitherto existed in the Government was that whenever His Majesty consulted his Ministers the meeting was always a private one. Hence one Minister made one representation of a case to him, and another told another story of the same case when his turn for audience came. On account of this arrangement there has been much confusion to His Majesty. But when the new law goes into effect His Majesty will be present at the sessions of the Council and will hear the open debate of different Councilors. From these debates he will know the facts of the case and with that knowledge he will form his opinion. On the whole the new law is similar to the laws governing the Go-

vernments of Europe and America, and it will minimize the possible corruption of the official class. The personnel of the new Council seems to meet the approval of the people. The President, Kim Pyeng Shi, is an old type of statesman with a clean record, and is said to be very honest and fair in his dealings. He may not be familiar with Western civilization but a conservative man with an honest heart is far preferable to a corrupt *kaishaité*. The next person among the new Councilors is Mr. Min Yung Whan, who is now on his way home from Russia. Mr. Min is known to most of the foreigners in Seoul. He is considered by the natives as well as foreigners as one of the best members of the Min family. He always conducts himself as a gentleman and his past record is better than any other of the influential Mins of the days gone by. He was sent to Russia to represent his Government at the Coronation of the Czar, where he associated with the high officials of the Russian Government, and saw the wonders of a civilized Western nation, which will be a fine education to him. We expect great things of him when he reaches home and takes a seat in the New National Council. With a few exceptions the rest of the Councilors are loyal to His Majesty, and, when properly guided, will do whatever is good for Korea and her people.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Mrs. D. A. Bunker gave a lunch party last Saturday. Those present were:—Mrs. Waeber, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Hulbert, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Underwood and Miss Wantbold.

Cho Mai Bong sued Kim Bong Suk *et al* of Sang-Won to the Seoul Court for \$74.40 which amount he claims they owe him. The Court gave him an order to the Governor of Han-Kyeng stating that the case be thoroughly investigated and if the representation of the complainant is correct, the Governor may use his power to recover the money and turn it over to him. The complainant thought the order was not worded strong enough to suit him, so he added another sentence at the end of the original order, saying that the Governor must recover the money within a few days after receipt of the order and give it to the complainant. The counterfeit order was discovered by the Governor, and on the charge of altering public document, the complainant was arrested, and the case was reported to the Seoul Court. Moral. Honesty is the best policy.

The account of the robbery at the Roman Catholic cathedral last Saturday night was mentioned in our last issue. The thief's name is Yi Bong Kuk who entered the house of H. R. H. Tai-Won-Kun five months ago for the purpose of robbery. He was captured at the time, and served out his term of four month's imprisonment only a few weeks ago.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Addis are visiting Seoul. They are the guests of the British Consulate. Mr. Addis is connected with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

British gunboat *Peacock* and Russian gunboat *Koretz* have arrived in Chemulpo.

It is reported that the Japanese Minister Mr. Hara will return to Japan in a few days. As the rumor goes, his sudden departure is said to have an important bearing in politics. When Mr. Hara came here he received instructions from the last Cabinet, but lately the Cabinet has changed, hence with it the policy of the Government has also undergone alterations. He will return to Japan to receive either a new instruction from Count Okuma or he may resign his post in Korea altogether, and a new Minister will come. We will be sorry if Mr. Hara should leave us permanently, as he has been a very genial friend to many who have known him during his short residence here.

The September number of the Repository contains some valuable Notes on the Reigning Dynasty, a subject that is fresh to most of us and cannot fail to be interesting. Mr. Baird concludes his lucid and convincing ar-

gument in regard to Polygamists and the Church. Mr. Bunker tells us about the success of the Pai Chai School during the past year and Dr. Edkins interests those who are philologically inclined by a few words on the Polysyllabism of the Korean type of language. The Editorial Columns are unusually full and interesting and show a thorough grasp of the political situation of the day. Correspondence brings out some additional facts in regard to the story of Ta Jo Ta Wang's retreat to Ham Keung and Yi Ik Seup gives a parting and rather damaging shot at Mr. Hulbert's Tibetan origin of the Unmun. The notes are interesting but too few in number to suit the majority of the readers of the Repository.

DEPARTMENT NEWS.

Magistrate of Chung Pyeng Yi Ké Hun reports that 150 rebels entered his district and threatened his life, so he prepared a banquet and other entertainments for the rebels and treated them very hospitably. The rebels praised him and went away. The War Office charged the Magistrate with cowardice and recommended his dismissal to the Home Dep't.

Col. Kim Han Chin of Chun-Ju reports that a large number of rebels call themselves Christians and go about the towns and commit all sorts of outrages. He took a very prompt action in arresting these men. He further reports that another band of rebels call themselves Confucian disciples and are looting the villages of Sunchun district. He requests the Home Dep't to instruct the Magistrate of the district to arrest these men.

Capt. Yi of Buk-Chung reports that 26 leaders of the rebels were captured in Yung-Heung and Jang-Chin districts and put in the provincial prison. The head Chief is still at large.

President of the National Council Kim Pyeng Shi, Minister of Finance Sim Sang Hun, and President of Privy Council Min Yung Chun sent in their resignations but His Majesty refused to accept them.

Military Director Kim Chai Eun reports that Capt. Im Pyeng Il captured four leaders of rebels in Yang Yang district and obtained several pieces of arms. He further reports that Kang-Wha Militia captured forty-six rebels in Song-Wha district and shot them before a crowd of people.

STEAMER SCHEDULE.

Toyoshima will be due on the 4th and will leave for Japan on the 5th. *Genbai* will be due from Chefoo on the 4th and will leave for Japan on the 6th. *Satsuma* will be due from Japan on the 5th and will leave for Japan and Hongkong on the 6th. *Yagato* will be due from Japan on the 8th and will sail for Japan and Vladivostok on the same day.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

SERV. 30th.

Appointment.—Royal Private Secretary, Kim Pyeng Wo; Royal Grave Keepers, Hong Chai Sung; Ki-Ja's Grave Keeper, Kim In Sik.

Resignation.—Royal Private Secretary, Sim Ni Sup; Royal Grave Keeper, Yi Chul Yong; Ki-Ja's Grave Keeper, Chung Hi Cho.

(Continued from last issue).

Laws Governing the National Council.

(4) The following matters will be discussed and decided by the Council. (a) Laws, rules and regulations governing the Government and the national affairs in general. (b) Abolition, revision, and interpretation of the present laws, rules and regulations governing the whole national affairs. (c) Declaration of war or making of treaties with foreign countries. (d) In case of insurrection or any other disturbance in the country the Council will make plans and devise to pacify such troubles. (e) The matters relating to telegraph, railroad and mining. (f) The Government budget will be made by the Council. (g) Special appropriation can be made by the Council. (h) The matters relating to establishment, or abolition, increase or decrease of Government revenue or customs tariff. (i) The Council can make changes in the salaries of officials and other items in the budget for this year. (j) In case of using the private lands or timbers for internal improvements the proper price be decided by the Council and paid to the owner or owners. (k) His Majesty may send special messages to the Council for its deliberation. (l) Laws that are approved by His Majesty will be announced to the people by the Council.

(To be continued).