

APPEALS TO THE PUBLIC FOR EMPEROR OF KOREA

Envoy Complains That Roosevelt Won't Restrain Japan.

SAYS KOREA IS WRONGED

Protectorate Agreement Obtained Under Duress, He Declares—Korean Sovereignty Practically Gone.

Homer B. Hulbert, who came to America from the Emperor of Korea to deliver to President Roosevelt the Emperor's protest against the Japanese protectorate over Korea, desires to appeal in Korea's behalf to the American people. Mr. Hulbert was in the city yesterday, starting last night for Cape Cod. At the Ashland House he told of Korea's wrongs at the hands of the Japanese and of his own efforts in Washington to have the American Government use its good offices in Korea's behalf.

"I cabled the Emperor of Korea today," said Mr. Hulbert, "that the only hope of American interference now lay in a direct appeal to the people of this country, and I am therefore ready to break the reserve which I have maintained since my arrival in this country as to the true situation in Korea.

"It is unquestionably true that Japan has broken her solemn promise to Korea even more definitely than Russia broke her promise to China with respect to Manchuria. Russia did not declare that she would not get out of Manchuria, she simply kept postponing the time of her evacuation until patience ceased to be a virtue and the Japanese declared war.

"But at the beginning of the war with Russia Japan did solemnly promise that it was her purpose to protect the independence of Korea, and now, under duress, she has forced an agreement from the Emperor of Korea which deprives Korea of sovereignty.

"It was because the Emperor of Korea understood the designs of the Japanese that he sent me to this country to deliver his protest against Japanese usurpation to President Roosevelt. The Japanese knew of my mission, and on the very day of my arrival in this country they executed their 'coup,' by which the Emperor, as it is alleged, was compelled to make an agreement with the Japanese Government which means his virtual abdication.

"I say it is alleged that such an agreement was made, for my information from Seoul is that the Emperor did not voluntarily sign the agreement, and that the Government seals affixed to the alleged agreement were stolen. On Sunday I received the following cablegram from Seoul:

"Emperor declares agreement of Nov. 17 null and void because obtained under duress. Enter protest immediately. Try to secure a joint protectorate of Japan and America. Emperor declares he will never sign this agreement unless terms are modified."

"I arrived in Washington on Monday, Nov. 20, and when I called at the White House and stated my mission I was told that I would have to make my appeal to the President through the State Department. At the State Department I was treated with indignity, being compelled to sit around for two days seeking an opportunity to see Secretary Root.

"Finally I informed the officers of the department whom I was permitted to see that I considered it beneath the dignity of an envoy from the Emperor of Korea to sit around like a lackey, and that I wanted a definite answer as to whether or not I was to be received by the Secretary. An appointment was thereupon made for me for Friday. When I saw Secretary Root on that day he informed me that the American Government was precluded from taking any action on my protest in view of the agreement which had been signed between the Emperor of Korea and the plenipotentiaries of Japan.

"That decision ended my mission so far as enlisting the good offices of the President and the State Department was concerned. But it seems strange to me, after all I have read about the new doctrine of the square deal promulgated by President Roosevelt, that I was treated as I was. Let me elucidate the diplomatic situation with respect to the protest of which I was the bearer.

"Korea and Japan, at the time I reached Washington, occupied exactly the same diplomatic relation toward the United States Government. Both were sovereign powers, each had a duly recognized and accredited Minister. Through the Japanese Minister, the State Department is notified that an agreement has been signed between the Emperor of Korea and the plenipotentiaries of Japan, by which all of the foreign relations of Korea are hereafter to be conducted at Tokio instead of Seoul.

"At the time of that notification it is known to the President and to the Secretary of State that an envoy of the Emperor of Korea is in the city with a protest against the aggression of Japan. No notice has been received by the Korean Legation of the agreement by which the Emperor of Korea has abdicated sovereignty. There is no evidence to support the Japanese statement, but, on the contrary, the fact of my presence in the city with the protest from the Emperor of Korea renders that statement a matter of dispute.

"Nevertheless, without consulting with the Korean Legation the Government at Washington recognizes the Japanese claim, and an order is issued to have the American Legation at Seoul removed to Tokio. Was ever a sovereign power treated more contemptuously?

"Korea is weak. Is the square deal only for the strong? Korea has had much more of a square deal from France than from the United States. The French have not yet ordered the removal of their legation from Seoul. In the treaty between the United States and Korea it was agreed by the United States that if any power should seek to abuse Korea the United States would use its good offices in Korea's behalf. Has that been done?"

Mr. Hulbert is the editor of The Korea Review, an English magazine published in Seoul. He is an American by birth, his native State being Vermont. He went to Korea in 1888 as a school teacher, and has remained there ever since. Mr. Hulbert says that he was well acquainted with Prince Min Yong Whan, who is said recently to have committed suicide because of grief over the passing of Korean sovereignty.

"The Japanese Government," Mr. Hulbert added, "had every reason to feel grateful to the Koreans. Japan had received the most valuable concessions from the Korean Government. For those valuable concessions Japan did not pay Korea or the Koreans one cent, and the revenue of the railroad all goes to the Japanese. Grounds for military barracks and naval stations were also given Japan by Korea without compensation.

"But the Japanese were not on plunder, Korea's independence was destroyed, and now the Japanese will be enabled to continue their outrages against the Koreans without fear of interference from the outside.

"The mistake which the American peo-

ple have made with respect to the Japanese is in inferring that their military and naval development is an indication of the development of the people in other respects. The great mass of the Japanese people approach no nearer the Western civilization than does the ignorant Korean. The civilization of the average Japanese is a mere veneer.

"The Japanese have robbed the Koreans right and left since they have taken possession of Korea. At the present time I am the owner of 50,000 acres of Korean farm lands deeded to me by their owners for 1 cent an acre, with the stipulation that the former owners should enjoy their occupancy in perpetuity rent free. That was done by Koreans who trusted me to protect them from the rapacity of the Japanese.

"Many Koreans have been compelled at the point of the pistol to work for the Japanese at starvation wages at the same time that their own harvests were to be gathered. The crops were either gathered and used by the Japanese or allowed to rot."

According to Mr. Hulbert, Korea is practically in a state of subjection and the Koreans have no rights which the Japanese regard themselves as bound to observe.

WOMAN STRUCK BY AUTO.

Chauffeur Puts on Speed and Police Only Get His Number.

Elizabeth Glasser, dressmaker, of 1,566 Madison Avenue, was taken to the Presbyterian Hospital last night, suffering from scalp wounds and shock from being knocked down by an auto.

Miss Glasser alighted from a southbound Madison Avenue car at Eighty-second Street just as two autos, also going south, dashed along. The police say that neither chauffeur sounded his horn, and the first of the machine struck Miss Glasser, hurling her to the sidewalk. Mrs. Henry Siegel of 26 East Eighty-second Street had the woman carried into her parlor while an ambulance was summoned.

Policeman Ahearn of the East Eighty-eighth Street Station tried to learn the name of the owner of the auto, but the chauffeur, after striking the woman, put on speed and vanished. The police said later that the number of the auto was 23,990, with a New York license.

Broken Fire Plug Floods Church.

While returning from a fire at the residence of Richard Fisher, 410 West 141st Street last night, a fire engine struck a fire plug in front of the Lenox Presbyterian Church, at 141st Street and St. Nicholas Avenue, and broke the fire plug off. The basement of the church was flooded with water seven feet deep before the flow had been stopped.