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## OUR NEW ACQUISITION.

concluded negotiations with the proprietors of the own in competition, and to regard a Japanese control Progress of the World, the publication of which has of certain markets as inevitable. We think, however, been discontinued with the March issue, as the result that the danger is very remote, for the reason that the of which that well known and highly creditable journal very labor troubles of which we have spoken above will henceforth be absorbed by the SCIENTIFIC AMERI- will act as a controlling and leveling influence, by CAN, and the subscribers to the Progress of the World bringing about an increase in the pay of the Japanese will receive the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN for a period workman. The higher wages of the artisan will cause equivalent to the balance of the subscriptions still him to acquire more expensive tastes than he had

magazine, summarizing in entertaining description tured article. The competition among employers to the leading current events in the progress of human secure labor will also favor a rise in the scale of achievements and general history, and it has made no wages; and as even the ingenuity of the Japanese promises which it has not amply fulfilled.

somewhat similar lines to this journal, our newly adopted subscribers will find in the weekly pages of the facture must in the future increase in Japan. SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN an enlarged treatment of a familiar class of subjects.

## THE LABOR QUESTION IN JAPAN.

Like causes are producing like results in Japan, and the remarkable industrial development of the country is bringing in its train those very same industrial troubles which have harassed or are still perplexing the held on April 21 at the Smithsonian Institution, at older civilizations of the West. If recent labor troubles are an indication, it looks as though the apparent pros- Prof. E. D. Cope, dated March 31, only twelve days perity of Japan was not as healthy as it might be, and before his death. that it was based very largely on the poverty and misery of the wage earners.

the condition of the Japanese lower classes, especially under the constitution, devolves upon the senior viceof those which are engaged in agricultural pursuits. These descriptions have shown that though the peasant is poor, he has few wants and less cares, and lives a free has been a member of the association since 1868. and happy life. The coming of the mill and the factory has brought confinement, monotonous toil, long hours, the council to order and stated the constitutional proand no adequate increase in the pitiful wages which are everywhere paid in Japan. The toilers have felt all the burdens of an industrial age without its rewards, and that the president just deceased had not prepared his the result has been that the factory owners are having annual message for the approaching Detroit meeting a great difficulty in securing operatives to keep their ma- vote of the council was passed, requesting Prof. Gill to chinery going on full time. So serious has the question deliver the annual address, in the form of an obituary become that recruiting agents are being sent out into the agricultural districts; and these, be it said, are the doubtful advantages of factory life.

ment. The result has been that it was immediately boycotted by all the members of the union, every action of business, and a systematic attempt was made were to induce girls from other factories to enter its service. Forthwith the union informed the purchasers of their own goods that no more sales would be made to them unless they gave up all dealings with this particular firm. The warning, however, has not affected their trade—a fact which proves that public sentiment is opposed to the methods of the union.

According to the report made by Mr. Robert P. Porter, superintendent of the eleventh census of the United States, to the National Association of Manufacturers, paid to tailors who make European garments, these resede by making them honorary members of the secis 14.2 cents per day. Other wages are as follows 15.5 cents; and dyers receive 12.7 cents per day.

when we come to study the agricultural industry, the the meeting at Buffalo. Besides President Cope, B. A. case is more pitiful yet. Male farm hands get at most Gould, one of the past presidents, and an auditor of the 9.5 cents per day; female farm hands, 6 cents; and day association, and G. Brown Goode, president-elect of laborers, 11 cents. These, we are told, are maximum figther section of zoology, have passed away. S. C. ures! The minimum figures are from 2½ to 7 cents a day | Chandler was elected auditor and L. O. Howard less, female farm hands sometimes receiving only 3.5 was nominated as president of the zoological section, cents per day; female silk growers, 4.4 cents; day to be elected at the general session of the association laborers, 7.3 cents; printers, 7.7 cents; and typesetters, at Detroit. Ten persons were elected to membership. 7.6 cents.

With these wages prevailing in the labor market, it

The low wages of Japanese labor and the rapid in-tional meetings and lectures, will be at the fine new

crease in her industries have led the manufacturers of We take much pleasure in announcing that we have other countries to fear that they could not hold their in his country life, and with this will come new ideas The Progress of the World was a monthly illustrated of his own rightful share in the profits of the manufacpeople cannot hope to compensate for this by propor-Inasmuch as the Progress of the World worked on tionate improvements in machinery and methods of manufacture, it is certain that the total cost of manu-

#### THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL. BY WILLIAM H. HALE.

An important meeting of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was Washington, pursuant to a call by the late president,

Such an event is unprecedented in the history of the association; in fact, no other president has ever died Various writers upon Japan have familiarized us with during his term of office. The succession to the office, president, who is Prof. Theodore Gill, of Washington, vice-president for the section of zoology. Prof. Gill

The permanent secretary, Prof. F. W. Putnam, called vision under which Prof. Gill was authorized to preside. The latter then took the chair. As it appeared of President Cope, which he undertook to do.

Owing to the importance of the approaching meetmeeting with very slight success. They find that the ing, the council was very fully attended, some twenty Japanese parents, who as a class have a more than members having been present, including the president average love for their children, prefer to keep them in elect, Prof. Wolcott Gibbs, who is also president of the the positive poverty of country life, with its cheerful National Academy of Sciences, then in session at and healthy surroundings, rather than let them go to Washington. Secretary Putnam read letters from Sir Vernon Harcourt, inviting members of the American That human nature is a constant factor in all parts Association to attend the Toronto meeting of the of the world is shown by the fact that employers of fac- British Association on the same terms as the latter, tory labor in Japan have already formed combinations, viz., on payment of \$5 dues; while the officers of the with a view to protecting their own interests by Detroit meeting of the American Association for the keeping wages at their present low figure. A signifi- Advancement of Science will be made honorary memcant instance of the persistency with which these bers of the Toronto meeting of the British Association unions carry out their plans is recorded in the case of for the Advancement of Science. It will be remema certain factory which declined to join the union bered that the American Association meets at Detroit and endeavored to give its employes more liberal treat- on Monday, August 9, and the British Association at Toronto, Wednesday, August 18.

Secretary Putnam was authorized to thank the obstruction was thrown in the way of its ordinary trans- British Association for their courtesy in extending the privileges of the meeting to the American Association, to prevent its obtaining employes. Thereupon the and also was requested to call the attention of the progressive firm employed agents on a commission, who British Association to our constitutional provision which entitles all members of foreign scientific societies to honorary membership at our meetings without payment of dues, and to invite them to attend.

It was stated that several members would reach this country in season to attend our meeting, while the great majority would barely arrive in time for their own meeting at Toronto, stopping over at Montreal on Tuesday, where they would be guests of the city.

Prof. Nichols, on behalf of the section of physics, requested permission of the council to enroll visiting the wages paid in the various Japanese industries are physicists as honorary vice-presidents of that section, invariably low. It seems that the highest wages are which suggestion Prof. Atkinson proposed to superceiving 24.6 cents (gold) per day. The ordinary pay for tional committee; but as both arrangements were found to be unconstitutional, it was finally voted Stonecutters, 18:2 cents; printers, 13:3 cents; typeset-invite foreign guests to register as honorary members ters, 14 cents; porcelain makers, 14 9 cents; blacksmiths, of the several sections in which they were specially interested.

These wages were low enough, one would think; but Death has made unusual havoc in the council since

Secretary Putnam, who has recently visited Detroit, reported extremely satisfactory progress in arrangeis easily understood how Japan can compete success- ments for the meeting; the facilities for physical comfully with the older countries in the production of cer- fort and convenience surpassing those of any preceding tain manufactured products, and that she can do so is meeting. The hotel headquarters will be at the large shown by the fact that the value of its exports in- new hotel, the Cadillac, with reduced rates to members. creased from \$15,553,472, in 1868, to \$136,112,177 in 1895. The general headquarters, and all the general and sec-