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EMPRESS DOWAGER

Of China and Other Sovereigns.

WOMEN WHO DOMINATE

One Half the World's Territory And Two Thirds of its People—The Age of Woman and Petticoat Government.

If any proof were needed that this is the age of women it would be found in the fact that they are the virtual rulers of the earth. This does not mean that the majority of men are ruled by wives, mothers, and sweethearts, but that women are in charge of the political destinies of the world.

The recent enthronement of Queen Wilhelmina of Holland, together with the "abdication" of the Emperor of China in favor of his mother, calls attention to the fact that the affairs of great nations are intrusted to feminine hands. Queen Victoria is at the head of the most powerful nation. Spain is ruled by a woman, Maria Christina, as Regent. Aside from these nations, where women are nominal rulers, Russia and Italy are also under petticoat influence. Czar Nicholas is advised by his wife, who was Princess Alix, and it is said that his recent peace speech was due to her influence. For many years it was no secret that the vigorous intellect of the strong-minded Queen Margherita of Italy has dominated Humbert, and diplomats know that her approval must

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be secured before they can persuade her husband to do anything for the public good. The virtual ruler of a less important empire is Empress Elizabeth of Roumania, wife of King Charles. During the thirty years of their married life affairs of state have been in the hands of the beautiful and accomplished woman, who, as Carmen Sylva, enjoys a fame immeasurably greater than that of her husband, who is by no means jealous of his wife's ability and reputation.

Summarizing, one will find that the following nations are subject to petticoat government:

Nation	Population.	Area.
China	402,680,000	4,218,401
Great Britain and colonies	381,037,874	11,335,806
Russia	229,211,113	8,644,100
Netherlands	33,042,238	778,187
Spain	17,550,216	196,173
Italy	34,970,785	425,765
Roumania	5,800,000	48,307

Totals 1,004,292,226 25,648,739. The population of the world being 1,487,990,000, and the area 51,238,800 square miles according to the estimate of Ravenstein, the eminent geographer and statistician, it is apparent that women rule more than two-thirds of the people on the earth and more than one-half the territory.

The women who thus dominate the affairs of the world are a remarkable group. There is the Empress of China, Tuen Tson Hsi, the former slave girl, greedy, avaricious, but able; Victoria of England, called the good; Wilhelmina, the young girl sweet and pretty, but a promise of being self-willed; Margherita of Italy, bluestocking, spendthrift, and scientist; Maria Christina, the mother who has seen her son's kingdom stripped of its best possessions; Alix who won the affection of Nicholas, and rules his head by her beauty, and Carmen Sylva, whose poems have won the applause of other than courtiers.

The most remarkable among powerful and the one about whom least is known is Tuen Tson Hsi of China. A poor slave girl her beauty and wit won her the favor of an Emperor, who married her, and her intellect and will have enabled her long after her beauty faded to maintain her power over the people whom she robs. There have been more or less inaccurate sketches of her life. It is not true that she is the mother of the deposed Emperor, although that is the popular impression. She was the step-mother of his predecessor, Lung-Chi, a secondary concubine of Hien-Fung, the latter's predecessor, but no relation to Kwang-Su.

She was born in the family of a laborer, who did not kill this daughter, as is often the custom in Chinese families. But when 10 years old, as she was good looking and he needed money, he sold her to the Viceroy of Lung-Chang, who made the slave girl a servant. Winning favor with her mistress, she later won that of her master, and as a great boon he allowed her to learn to read. It may have been then that she became ambitious. Chinese history tells of the supremacy attained by others of her sex, as, for instance, by the Empress Liuchi under the Han dynasty and by the Empress Kia-hi under that of the later Tsin. Each of these two last named women removed occupants of the throne by poison, as the present Empress has done twice.

When 20 years of age the Viceroy sent her as the prettiest of his slaves with a present to the Emperor, Hien-Fung, in gratitude for a decoration of the peacock feather. By Chinese custom the slave who bears the present is a part of the gift, and Tuen Tson Hsi be-

ST. JOHN FORTIFIED

Britain Taking War Precautions

And Will Guard the Food Supply—Latest Developments in the Mining Difficulty.

St. JOHN, Oct. 15.—(Special)—It is understood the imperial authorities will soon begin to erect a fortification here. The development of St. John as a grain shipping point renders defences necessary, so that in hostile times the food supply of the empire cannot be cut off.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Oct. 15.—(Special)—While 2,000 miners were attending the funeral of Edward Walsh, killed at Virden, the 106 imported negroes were quietly smuggled from the city on a special and sent to St. Louis.

came a slave in the royal harem. Her beauty and wit attracted attention, and she became known to the Emperor, who made her one of his secondary concubines. This was in 1854, when she was 21 years of age, and for the last forty-three years she has been increasing in power and influence, and for the greater part of the time has been ruler of China.

By the Chinese law the Emperor names his successor. Aien-Fung named his son, a child of less than 6 years, and appointed a Board of Regents. Three months later Tai Tshi the principal widow of the former Emperor, and the present Dowager, with Prince Kung his brother, together carried out a plot for the removal of the regents and the appointment of the elder woman as Regent. Afterward Tsen Tson Asi also associated in the regency. This being effected four years later, Kung, who had been made chief Minister, was removed for a year in order that the Empress might show their power, together they ruled until 1873, when the Emperor, being sixteen years of age, was given normal authority. He endeavored to kick over the traces, and it was then announced that his health was in a precarious state. He died and soon afterwards his widow followed him. Foul play was hinted at the time.

The successor as Emperor was Kwang-Su, the son of Prince Chung, and he was chosen because he was only 4 years of age. This was in 1875. In 1881 the elder dowager died, and the former slave girl assumed the reins by herself. It was reported at the time that the older dowager had been poisoned by her more ambitious and capable colleague who wished to rule alone. In 1884 she dismissed Prince Kung, the most powerful man in the empire, in

order to show her power, and since then her favorite Ministers were first, Prince Chang, father of Kwang-Su, then Marquis Tseung, and later Li Hung Chang. The two former, becoming ambitious, died sudden deaths, and Li has since been the most important man.

When Kwang-Su married, on Feb. 26, 1889 Tuen Tson Hsi abdicated formally but has really continued to rule.

The Emperor was intelligent in appearance, travellers said, but had a frightened look, and it is probable that he was ruled by fear of such a death as the world believes has now overtaken him. The Empress has always been the power behind the throne, with Li Hung Chang as her ally, and in 1893, after his temporary disgrace, it was only her interference that saved the Viceroy his head. In 1895, against Kwang-Su's protests, she had Li restored to his former dignities, and connived with him in his schemes for amassing wealth at the sacrifice of China's best interests. There is no need to attempt to summarize the character of the woman, which is clearly shown in this brief sketch of her life. It might be added that she is the richest woman in the world through speculations of various kinds. Her total, Li Hung Chang, is worth \$400,000,000. This being so, she must have \$800,000,000.

UNITED STATES FIRM.

And Will Give way Only On Minor Points

MADRID, Oct. 15.—(Special)—It is understood here the Americans are uncompromising, and will only give way on minor points. They are not disposed to agree to arbitration, while Spain will accept Russia or Germany as referees.

IT IS YES AGAIN

For Prohibition and That by a Decided Majority.

St. JOHN, Oct. 15.—(Special)—Official figures for the plebiscite as far as can now be gathered, show prohibition to have over 40,000 plurality.

CHICAGO MARKETS.

CHICAGO, October 15.—[Special]—The following are the closing rates:—Dec. wheat, 65; corn, 30½; oats, 22½; pork, 7.82. May wheat, 65½; corn, 30½; oats, 22½; pork, 7.97.

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THE CREW'S HEROISM

Of Wrecked Steamer Mohegan.

Movement Growing in London For a Washington Monument—Leiter's Gift to Lord Curzon.

LONDON, Oct. 15.—(Special)—Life boats landed 46 from the Mohegan wrecked on the Lizard. The steamer had 59 passengers and 115 of a crew. Life boats put out from many points and it is hoped that more will be saved. The crew behaved like heroes.

The movement in favor of a Washington monument is taking shape and Anglo-Saxon sentiment is growing all the time.

Returning Soudan soldiers continue to be lionized and are enthusiastically treated everywhere.

The Prince of Wales is now able to walk with comparative ease, but limps perceptibly.

To mark his satisfaction with his daughter, the first American lady Vice Royal of India, I. Z. Leiter, Chicago, has given Lord Curzon another London residence in the heart of the diplomatic corps.

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