

**JAPAN'S SPIRIT WORSHIP**

**Ceremony Which Constitutes the Country's National Faith.**

**ADMIRAL TOGO'S SPEECH SYMBOLIC**

His Address to Spirits of Those Who Fell in War is Illustrative of the Japanese Religion, Says William E. Curtis—Beautiful Ceremony in Tribute Paid to Memory of a Deceased Artist.

The touching address which Admiral Tojo delivered at Tokyo the other day to the spirits of the officers and men who were killed while fighting under him in the Port Arthur fleet illustrates distinctly the Japanese national religion, says William E. Curtis, the Chicago Record-Herald's Washington correspondent. Many theologians insist that it is not a religion because there is no theology in it, that it is only a manifestation of certain superstitions in which the entire Japanese nation believes; but, as Hearn has said, it is "the soul of the race."

All Japanese are spiritualists, so to speak, and they are taught that the spirits of the dead in a large measure control the actions of the living. They do not believe in ghosts; they do not have mediums of communication with their dead, and they do not receive messages from the other world. But this world is full of friendly invisible beings, encouraging, protecting and comforting them, and the landscape is dotted with shrines that have been erected for the purpose of worshipping good and influential men.

If a Japanese is going to war he prays before the shrine of some great soldier; if he is preparing for a journey he goes to the shrine of a great traveler; if he is a party to a lawsuit he prays for the aid and guidance of some famous jurist; before he lays out his garden he prays to the spirits of some great landscape architect. He is in no way superstitious, and he is not in every day, pleasure and labor of life he consults the spirits of his ancestors and those of other wise and good men and without expecting any direct answer has faith that they will give him their encouragement, protect him from errors and lead him in the right way. This, the theologians say, is not religion, but it is a practical, actual, everyday thing and illustrates the Japanese character more strongly than any other act or word.

In 1904 I was invited to witness a beautiful ceremony in Kyoto, of which Admiral Tojo's address to the spirits reminds me, Iesuko, one of the most famous of ceramic artists, had accidentally produced a remarkable example of a texture known as "Chinese crackle" on the surface of a jar. This particular effect was common among potters in the interior of China a thousand years ago, but had been forgotten for several centuries, and jars and vases with that finish are very rare and valuable. It is the ambition of every potter in the interior to produce that particular effect, but all experiments have been unsuccessful, and Iesuko was amazed to find it upon a jar which he took from his kiln one morning in 1902. The result was unexpected for a time he was unable to realize what had happened. Then he tried to recall every act that had been done to the vase from the hour when the clay had come to the shop until his astounding discovery. He repeated the process over and over again; he did nothing else for the rest of his life; he neglected his ordinary business; he refused profitable commissions; he shut himself up like a hermit and denied himself food, rest, sleep and exercise and actually became insane in his anxiety to repeat the accident that he could not explain.

In the meantime the jar was sent to the Chicago exposition and was one of the objects most admired by the connoisseurs. Fabulous prices were offered for it, but Mr. Tejima, the Japanese commissioner, was not authorized to sell it and he could not get it from Iesuko, who was buried in his experiments and would not even read his mail. The jury of awards gave him a gold medal and a big diploma upon which his triumph was inscribed, but before these testimonials reached Japan poor Iesuko had committed suicide and his ashes had been carried in an urn on the hillside overlooking Kyoto, back of the Yasui hotel.

One day a friend invited me to attend what he promised would be a novel ceremony. We went together to the little hillside cemetery, where thirty or forty of the most famous artists in Japan were gathered. The Buddhist in gorgeous robes delivered what you might call an explanatory address. He stepped briefly the story I've told you. Then one of the friends of Iesuko stepped forward and addressed the spirit of the dead artist. Just as we would address a person to whom a testimonial was being conferred, he described the Columbia exposition at Chicago, explained John Ford Thacher's system of awards medals and diplomas, and finally concluded with a minute description of the medal and the diploma which he held in his hand. When he had finished the medal was nailed up in a cavity which had been carved out of the stone, and the diploma was heaped over the grave with a message and fitting ceremonies conducted by the priest, which, of course, I could not understand. But the significance of the ceremony was very clear. The medal, being indestructible and of material substance, could not be transported to the other world. But the diploma was carried there by the flames. Several of the gentlemen present made brief addresses and placed flowers upon the tomb.

**BILIOUSNESS AND CONSTIPATION CURED BY THEDFORD'S BLACK-DRAUGHT**

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**CANCER CURE FOR ANIMALS**

Experiments Upon Mice Develop Serum That May Cure Mankind.

The discovery and application of a serum that has successfully checked the progress of cancer in animals is the subject of a communication made recently at the Graylock pathological laboratory of the University of Buffalo, says a dispatch from Buffalo to the New York Evening World.

In the long period that Judge Haven has been probate judge he issued 8,569 marriage licenses. He performed the marriage ceremony for 3,119 couples. One minister in Leavenworth who performed more marriage ceremonies than any other in the same period did not exceed it. The oldest couple married by Judge Haven was that of a group of eighty years and a bride of seventy-six years. The youngest group was fifteen years old and the bride fourteen years. The parvits consisted in this case.

Since the establishment of the Kansas City Leavenworth Electric railway many couples came from Kansas City and were married by Judge Haven. When in haste they could alight from an incoming car at the courthouse, have the marriage ceremony performed and be ready to return home by the time the next car made the trip downtown and came back. More than 200 couples from Kansas City were married in Leavenworth in one year. The ceremony was held in one day from Kansas City, Labor day, 1903.

All told, for issuing licenses and performing marriage ceremonies, Judge Haven received more than \$25,000.

**Painfully Accurate.**

The Kansas City Star tells of a Kansas clergyman who peddled himself on his precise and scrupulous use of words. One Sunday this good man was praying for elevating grace and renewed working force, "O Lord," he pleaded, "waken thy cause in the hearts of this congregation and give them new hearts to see and impulse to do. Send down thy love and power, according to Webster's or Worcester's dictionary, whichever you use, and pry them into activity."

**IRRIGATION IN WYOMING**

**Government's Vast Project in the Big Horn Country.**

ENTIRE COST WILL BE \$2,500,000

How One Hundred and Sixty Thousand Acres of Desert Lands Are to Be Redeemed For Agricultural Purpose—Big Crops of Alfalfa, Grains and Potatoes Are Looked For.

One of the greatest of the irrigation projects now being undertaken by the government in the arid regions of the far west is what is known in official circles as the Shoshone project, in Big Horn county, Wyoming, says the Deseret News of Salt Lake. This is nothing less than a scheme now fairly launched and under way, for the redemption through irrigation of 100,000 acres of hitherto desert lands spread out to the northeast of the Shoshone river from the town of Cody and formerly known among the Indians of the section as the "Sitting Water," because of the rank subterranean fumes arising from various vents and crevices in the earth adjoining the stream, which is also more or less impregnated with the chemical.

Stinking Water river has proved altogether too unpropitious for the modern engineer and it has been changed to Shoshone.

Some years ago Buffalo Bill (Colonel W. F. Cody) sensed what might be done in this section and the way of irrigation and started out to organize a big irrigating company with a view to doing just what the government is now proposing to do. But it was not long before the immensity of the undertaking impelled him to halt and enter into negotiations with the government to take the job off his hands. Finally, about two years ago, Cody was induced to sign off all his claims to the lands immediately under the scope of the project, and then the government took hold. The scheme was placed under the immediate direction of Civil Engineer J. A. Brock, and the reclamation bureau of the geological survey for Wyoming and the necessary topographical surveys made.

The site of the proposed dam has been located in the Box canyon, half a mile below the junction of the north and south forks and six miles above the town of Cody, where the walls of the canyon are 1,100 feet high, 90 feet wide at the surface of the stream and 100 feet wide at the top of the dam. The dam is to be 210 feet above the water and 10 feet higher, where it will be necessary to penetrate to reach solid bedrock. Through the operations of nature this thirty feet has been filled in with boulders and slabs from the cliffs above, some of them being thirty feet thick. This has been done by Captain G. A. Hammond and Professor Swendsen, drill experts of the geological survey. So it will be necessary to excavate for the depth, and in the meantime a short tunnel and canal will be run around the south side of the dam site, through which the stream will run. The level of the crest of the dam has not yet been determined, but will be ample for any pressure that may be brought to bear on 200 feet of water.

The water will be set back some eighteen or twenty miles, the forks above being widened from one to three miles, and with such a depth of water so protected by Captain Hammond sees no reason why pretty sizable steamers should not be placed thereon, and this, combined with the remarkable scenery and healthful climate, ought to make any scheme to build here a summer vacation resort a reasonable one. The elevation at the dam is 5,200 feet above the level of the sea, which is neither too high nor too low for health purposes. The country is a mixture of mountain and wide valley land, the latter being covered with sagebrush and grasswood, but of such a character as will warrant expectations of immense crops of alfalfa, wheat and other crops. The water is spread over it. In fact, Captain Hammond says for a potato country this cannot be surpassed, some of the best growing to the west of the Colorado of respectable sized pumpkins—that is, local enthusiasts make that claim. In some levels are also grown there.

The country is a mixture of limestone and sandstone which has been tilted and in many places thrown to one side by an eruption of silurian granite from the beginning of first things in geology. This granite is very hard and has pushed its way through to the tops of the various peaks and will furnish the material for the dam. The river will furnish 400,000 acre feet per annum, and eight feet up from the stream bottom benches will be put in and a tunnel cut through the side hill to the main canal beyond, which is to be fifty miles long, capable of discharging 1,800 second feet. There is abundant water in the local sources of supply than can be entirely utilized, and when the reservoir is once full part of the year some of the water will have to run to waste.

Seven miles below the dam water will be taken from the canal and dropped 200 feet, where it will be utilized in an electrical power plant for pumping water from the canal to one of a higher level for high line distribution.

Engineering Albert B. Williams estimates that the cost of the dam and main road 300 feet up the canyon and along the line of the canal to be four and one-half miles long, two miles of which will be cut through solid rock. He is expending about \$7,000 per month for labor hire in this connection, and it will be a fine piece of engineering work to be done through it. The entire cost of the project will be \$2,500,000, and the time required for its completion will be three years.

**WIRELESS BURGLAR ALARMS**

Wireless burglar alarms are likely to be put to a new use, says the New York Tribune. In England experiments are being made with wireless burglar alarms. Steel safes are equipped with transmitters. When the safe is opened the electrical waves are radiated. These waves come in contact with the usual detector at some distant central point, ring a bell and so announce that the door has been opened. It is thought that when this system is perfected, which it is not as yet, no burglar will be able to so tamper with it as to destroy its efficiency.

**A JUDGE'S MARRIAGE FEES.**

Kansas Jurist Married 3,100 Couples and Received Over \$25,000.

Lawrence H. Haven, who recently retired from the position of probate judge of Leavenworth county, Kan., after a continuous service of twenty-two years, says a dispatch from Kansas City Star.

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**THOUSANDS FOR A PLANK**

For a plank which has won prizes at several horticultural shows in different parts of the country F. L. Pierson, a millwright resident of Tarrytown, on the Hudson, has sold W. B. Arnold, a Rockland florist, \$20,000, says a Boston special dispatch to the New York Herald.

Mr. Pierson will cultivate the plant and sell it up his estate on 17th.

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