

# KING ASKS AID TO STOP SIAM'S GAMBLING EVIL

## Wants to Raise Tariff to Replace Revenue Gained from It.

### MISSIONARIES CONVINCED HIM

#### Going to Close So Many Houses Each Year—Appeal to United States, England, and Germany.

The United States is to be asked by the King of Siam to help him put a stop to legalized gambling in his country, according to advices received yesterday by the Rev. Arthur J. Brown, Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. Similar requests are to be sent to England, Germany, and other Christian nations. The aid to be asked is permission slightly to raise the import duties, in order that a part of the revenue now accruing from the gambling concessions throughout Siam may be replaced. The larger part of the revenue will be derived from an increased land tax.

Siam is an extra-territorial country, and its import duties are regulated by treaty with America and the European nations, and cannot be changed without their consent. The Rev. Mr. Brown, who has traveled extensively in Siam, said yesterday that gambling was the national vice of Siam. Every little town and village has its "official" gambling house, licensed by the Government, which frequently auctions the privilege. Bangkok, the capital, and other large towns each has a number of gambling places operated under official patronage. All are conducted openly, and in many of them free entertainments, theatrical and otherwise, are given nightly to attract patronage.

"The King of Siam is, for an Asiatic monarch, enlightened and progressive," continued the Rev. Mr. Brown. "He had his son, the Crown Prince, educated in England. The King is earnestly trying to rule Siam in the interest of the people. The Presbyterian missionaries, led by the Rev. Dr. Eugene P. Dunlap, have long pointed out to the King that the gambling habit is inimical to the best interests of Siam, and that the money that the Government derived from it was obtained at a ruinous cost to character and legitimate industry. The King has now come around to this view and has decided to institute a reform.

"Outside the city of Bangkok there are 103 licensed gambling houses in Siam. The plan of the King, as given in the decree of which word has just come to us, is that eighty will be abolished on the first of the coming month. The remainder, outside of those in Bangkok, will be closed in April of 1906, while the gambling houses in Bangkok itself will be closed the first of April, 1907. By this method the King hopes to wipe out gambling throughout the interior during 1905 and 1906, avoiding a too radical or revolutionary change.

"It is the purpose of the King to meet the loss of the gambling license fees from the places outside of Bangkok by an increase of the land tax, but the Bangkok revenue is too large to be covered in this way, unless a burden is put upon the people heavier than they can bear. Therefore the King seeks to increase the import duties and asks the Christian nations for their co-operation. The duties are now fixed at 3 per cent., and I understand that the increase asked will be very slight."

### CASUALLY EXAMINED SLOCUM.

#### That Meant "Simply Looking Around," Gen. Dumont Testifies.

Gen. James H. Dumont, formerly Supervising Inspector General of Steamboats, was the witness yesterday at the second trial of Henry Lundberg, probationary inspector upon whose report the vessel's license was issued. Lundberg is being tried for manslaughter before Judge Thomas in the United States District Court.

"Did you ever examine life preservers aboard ship?" the prosecutor asked.

"Only casually," Gen. Dumont replied. He then said that he had never known of a department rule fixing the life of a life preserver.

"Do you recall that Lundberg's examination of the Slocum which carried 2,550 life preservers occupied only four hours and a half, including the lunch hour?"

"I do not," said Gen. Dumont.

"What do you mean by a 'casual inspection' of life preservers?"

"Simply looking around," said Gen. Dumont.

### FOUND AFTER 53 YEARS.

#### Man from Flushing Turns Up Rich in Australia.

After a silence of fifty-three years James Travis, now a resident of Australia, has written to his brother, Ira U. Travis, of Flushing. Search had been carried on for twelve years, with the aid of the war department and advertising in newspapers all over the world. An advertisement in an Australian newspaper reached James Travis.

The Travis family lived originally in Glen Cove, L. I. When twenty years of age James Travis shipped on a whaler and was not heard from afterwards. A relative died twelve years ago, leaving to each brother \$90,000. James Travis says he married an English girl, and is the father of eleven children and has large property interests.

### HONORED EMPEROR'S CHEF.

#### Money on Fantan Table a Gift for Him, Chinamen Say.

"My clients were attending a meeting of Directors of the new Chinese Delmonico's to do honor to the Emperor's chef who has been engaged to cook at that place," said counsel who appeared in the Tombs Court yesterday for two Chinamen arrested in a raid at 22 Mott Street.

"What about the money found on the table?" asked Magistrate Barlow.

"Oh, that is the point I'm getting at," said Lawyer O'Reilly. "He has never cooked for Americans before, and the Directors thought that, in order to avoid any nervousness on his part, a little gift in advance was necessary."

The sum on the table which the detectives seized, in addition to a fantan layout, was \$103.08. The Chinamen were discharged.

### New York A. C. Pool Championship.

B. B. Tilt and E. F. Crowe were the winners last night in the pool tournament for the championship of the New York Athletic Club. Tilt defeated Plunkett by 100 balls to 54. He executed several surprising shots, the length of the table, playing his position and combinations with considerable skill. V. B. Hubble was overwhelmed by Crowe, the score being 100 balls to 21. Crowe had previously won the handicap tournament, and his speed last night was phenomenal. He cleared the table repeatedly and outclassed Hubble at every point of the contest. R. D. Radcliffe, Jr., acted as referee of the first game and Dr. Walter G. Douglas of the second.

### Great Inrush of Immigrants.

With 5,000 immigrants to examine, the immigration officials at Ellis Island were obliged to work until 8 o'clock last night. Commissioner Watchorn deemed it wise to dispose of this large number to prevent a further crush to-day when 4,000 more are expected.