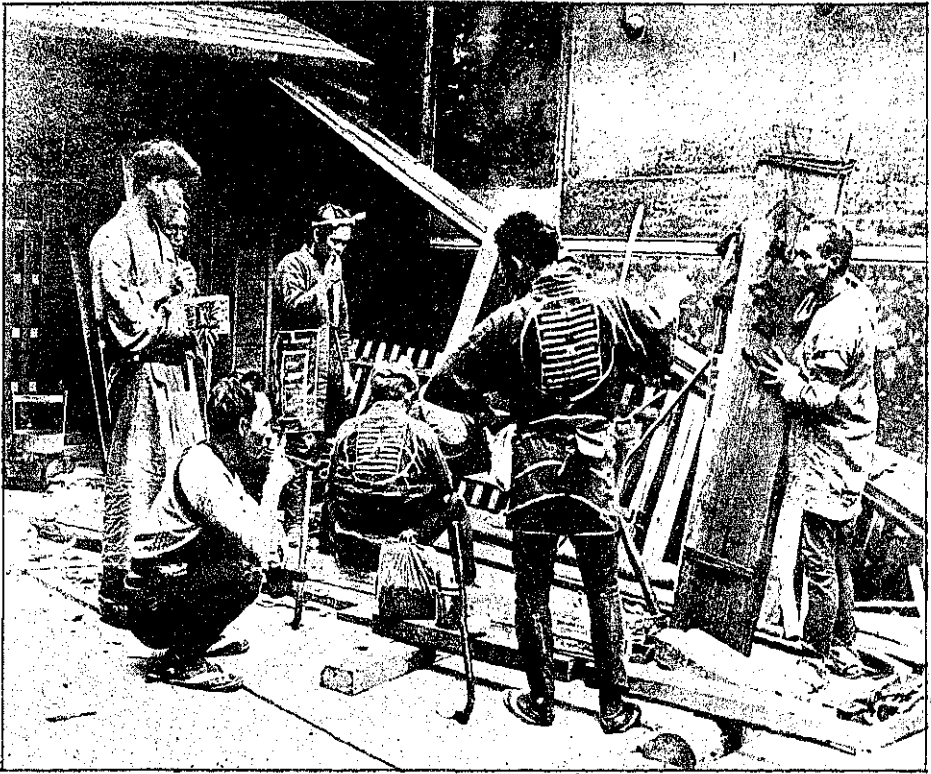


branches of the *yusuri* (*melia Japonica*), the older leaves of which still remain after the young ones have been shed. "So may the parents continue to flourish, while children and grandchildren spring forth!" Another plant in the central group is the *polypodium dicotomon* of Thünberg, a fern which is regarded as a symbol of conjugal life, because the fronds spring in pairs from the stem. *Gohei*, pieces of twisted paper supposed to attract the spirits of propitious gods, are

during her invasion of Korea in our third century, so invigorating them that in the strength of it they rushed to victory. The other seaweed decoration, the *kobu* (*laminaria saccharina*) through a pun on its name indicates joy. Besides all these there is probably a lucky bag filled with chestnuts, the row of the herring, the seeds of the *torreya nucifera*, and the dried fruit of the *kaki* (persimmon); and there may be a ship of fortune made of twisted straw,



CARPENTERS AT WORK.

scattered here and there. Then there may be also a *daidai*, or bitter orange, which through a play upon its name (which also means "generations") indicates a wish that the family pedigree may prosper. Another pun is involved in the presence of a piece of *sumi* (charcoal), that word having the additional meaning of "to dwell" and "to be easy in mind." The piece of seaweed (*holochloa macrantha*) has a historical significance: tradition says that this plant was used to feed the horses of the Empress Jingô

and represented as loaded with luxuries

When the snow comes, the children, like their brothers and sisters in Europe, build forts and fight mimic battles and make snow men. The personage whose effigy is most popular is Daruma, a disciple of Buddha, who, by long meditation in a squatting position, lost the power of his limbs. Sometimes Geiho is represented. Geiho is one of the gods of good luck, and has a forehead so high that a ladder is needed to reach his crown. In winter the youngsters