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JAPAN WOULD BE DICTATOR OF EAST

To anyone familiar with the present trend of thought in Japan there is no doubt that the Empire aims at commercial and political supremacy in the Far East, says a correspondent of the Philadelphia Public Ledger. Japan cannot, of course, be blamed for cherishing so vast an ambition. The only question is whether she can effectively achieve it without menace to the interests of other nations. The danger is that she may identify her right to entertain the ambition with the right to attain it without reference to the results on others.

There is no doubt that the Japanese feel themselves both by right and qualification entitled to rule the destinies of East Asia; and with this there may naturally go the conviction that if this should be at the expense of others, well, it is only what they must expect. What right have other nations to insist on a share of the Far East, anyway? The average Japanese feels that the Western Powers have no more right to interfere in Far Eastern affairs than Japan has to meddle in the affairs of Europe or America.

It is easy to see that the logical conclusion of such an attitude is divergence of opinion from Occidental policy. It is, in fact, an attitude potential of endless difficulty. Will Western nations be willing to concede to Japan the same position in the Far East that America holds on the North American continent? For it must not be forgotten the feeling in Japan is somewhat on a line with the Monroe Doctrine, only Japan has not yet done more than proclaim herself a first-class Power, and on a par with any of the other great Powers.

It is apparent that Japan's supremacy in the Far East could not be well achieved and made permanent without the sympathy, and perhaps the practical assistance of the races of the Orient. How far she can depend on this is an important question. But she herself probably has not much doubt. I have heard Japanese say that once the millions of China were awakened into alliance with Japan for purposes of defeat they could not be defeated. China's present sympathy with the Occidental Powers is regarded as no more than an attempt to play them over against Japan; but once these Powers show themselves against China she will not hesitate to go into league with Japan to rid the Orient of white domination.

Japan has also much confidence in India and Siam. Every possible effort is put forth to strengthen the existing relations and foster further intimacy and regard. The Indo-Japan association was organized with that special object in view. Special facilities are offered to Indian and Siamese students to enter Japanese colleges, and quite a number of students are now enrolled in these institutions. Both in religion and race Japanese feel a strong affinity for the Indians and Siamese.

One of Japan's leading statesmen, Count Okuma, now president of the Indo-Japan Association, said some time ago that the millions under oppression in India were looking to Japan for sympathy and help. Nothing is left undone to promote trade with India. Heavily subsidized ships of Japan carry Indian cotton to Japanese mills and return it manufactured cheaper than it can be produced in India. Japanese Consuls in India keep the country posted about everything that goes on. If an Indian merchant asks the least suggestion to make as to Japanese goods shipped to India the matter is at once brought

before the chambers of commerce in Japan to complain about Indian education—they say the government of India provides no department of mining in Indian colleges, and the people have no way of fitting themselves for industrial work, as there is no system of technical education, such as they get in Japan. They can go to England, of course, but it is cheaper to come to Japan.

I do not say anything as to whether the student is not sorry afterward that he did come to Japan, for, although nearly all Japanese professors in higher institutions know some English, it is certain the Indian student cannot do efficient work in a Japanese school without first learning the language, so that at least two or three years of his time is wasted in acquiring a language for which he will have little or no use in after life. In any case the education is not to be compared to what he could have had by the additional expense of going to the United States or England.

Japan's interest in India was further emphasized recently by the visit of the Gaekwar of Baroda, and his family. The Maharaja was feasted and feted in princely style by all the leading officials of the Government.

The Japanese to some extent look to India for ancestral traditions. From that country once came Japan's religion, Buddhism, and Japanese scholars now say that the forefathers of the race did not come from Korea and China, but from the islands of the Pacific, especially Borneo, the Malay group generally, and even from the Philippines. A close study of the traditions of these islands leads the student to the conclusion that the people are more closely related to the Japanese than the latter are to Chinese and Koreans. For instance, the Chinese Emperor is always given or has a family name, whereas the imperial house of Japan is nameless, like deity. The sacred number of China is five, while in Japan it is eight, as it is also in the Pacific islands "Aga" has some resemblance in sound to the Japanese "waga," we or our; and so on in various ways the Japanese steer clear of a Mongolian origin, which they greatly dislike, and find themselves more at home among the Indians and the more southern people of the Pacific.

Value of British Friendship.
Japan's ambition in promoting friendship between herself and the people of the Far East has been greatly assisted by the Anglo-Japanese alliance, and indirectly her commerce and trade has benefited.

Is the continuance of the alliance consistent with aggressive promotion of British interests in the Far East? There ought to be no reason why this should not be so. Japan does not expect Great Britain to forfeit her right to further her own trade in China by virtue of the alliance. But the outcry in England against the alliance by Captain Bellairs and others is causing some reflection in Japan. Some of the Japanese are disposed to believe that the feeling against a renewal of the alliance is not very extensive in Great Britain, while others fear it is growing. The Japanese themselves admit that if the alliance be not renewed Japan will be obliged to increase her navy by at least 25 new battleships so as to come up to the fighting strength of any possible enemy, with the exception of Great Britain. There is to some extent an impression in Japan that Great Britain would like to continue the alliance, and that if it should fall of renewal the only reason will be its unpopularity in some of the colonies. The main question in the colonies is whether in case of clash of interests between Great Britain and Japan the alliance would assuredly save Australia, New Zealand and other British possessions in the Far East from attack. Personally I do not believe Japan

will ever make war on any nation that does not first attack her. The case of the war with Russia cannot be taken as illustrating the contrary for Japan would never have attacked Russia had she not felt the backing of Britain and the United States.

American Interests Safe.

With or without the Anglo-Japanese alliance the territorial interests of Great Britain and the United States may be regarded as safe; but both countries will have to put on a more aggressive front if their present volume of trade is to be sustained. This will be somewhat unpleasant to Japan, and probably cause considerable excitement, but if it be done in a frank and open manner, and on a basis of absolute fairness and justice, Japan will acquire. The thing Japan dreads most of all, and which would be the most fruitful ground for trouble, is race discrimination, or any overbearing attitude toward her as a supposedly inferior nation, either in power or prestige. This does not mean that she can be controlled only by flattery; it means that Japan's present conviction is that Occidental nations have no real respect for anything but power; force in the shape of arms and ammunition, a standard with Japan finds it difficult to compete, though so far she feels that she is conceded by the powers to have won her place.

My firm conviction is that Japan will bow to the supremacy of the Anglo-Saxon people and command respect from her by an extreme attention to justice. The best people in Japan have a profound respect for the best side of Anglo-Saxon civilization; and these sincerely desire their country to progress as far as is consistent with race and nationality along the same moral and ethical lines. But the vast mass of the Japanese are as yet ignorant and untouched by what the Occident is accustomed to regard as modern enlightenment. These, if fired to anger by accidental discrimination, or even an apparent injustice; might be difficult to control; they might even be the means of turning their navy against all odds for when Japan is roused she fears nothing, absolutely nothing. Death or victory is her motto.

The Anglo-Saxon alliance, which I have watched from its inception on

Japanese soil, has certainly done much to soften the feelings, and certainly the attitude of the average Japanese toward the Anglo-Saxon as the would-be ruler of the world, it has intended to make him feel himself a partner rather than a rival.

CALLINGS THAT SURVIVE.

(Boston Transcript.)

The launching at Essex of a vessel built to cruise for whales is a reminder of the vitality callings have even when they have sunk from their old-time spectacular prominence. The whale ships of New Bedford are no longer found in every sea, as in the era before petroleum, but a serviceable fleet that searches for sperm-ceti and whalebone still has that city for its calling port. Some of these vessels pay very handsome returns to their owners and crews, and New Bedford has an interest in the whalers that may make San Francisco their base of operations.

Steam has been applied to the business carried on in Pacific arctic waters, but on the old whaling grounds sailing vessels are free from its competition. Provincetown is also the home of many whalers who find the calling profitable, even if they do not push their voyages so far as the old-timers who flew the house flags so famous in New Bedford's annals. Nantucket's glory has departed long ago. Whales come to Nantucket, but Nantucket no longer goes after whales. New Bedford is now a great mill city, and promises to be still greater, but all its people have not lost the hankering for the sea. The old saying, "A stove boat or a dead whale," New Bedford's equivalent for "Victory or Westminster Abbey," has still its charm, even if the number of those to whom it appeals is still small compared to the time when the "harpooner" was the local hero. The personnel of the New Bedford whaler has undergone a change which reflects the general tendency of immigration to supply the deficiencies created by the withdrawal of the "old stock" from industries by the introduction of "adopted citizens." Many Portuguese names are found among the masters and

mates as well as among the crews sailing out of New Bedford, and the same is measurably true of all the whaling ports. The Portuguese being excellent seamen, steady, sober and industrious, the great traditions of the fishery do not seem to have suffered deterioration in their hands. New Bedford is the mecca of many an Azorean ambition.

Whale oil still has its uses, and whalebone commands prices that make the search for it well worth the capital invested. Once a calling has answered a great demand it seldom utterly disappears from human activities. When new inventions supersede its first great utility modern commerce turns its attention to the industries where profit can be made from the waste products.

Thus we find that the candle business, despite the progress of kerosene, gas and electricity as illuminants, is an industry that very profitably refuses to vanish. There is a demand for candles that is esthetic and there is another which is economic. There are persons who regard burning candles as very ornamental, and there are others that find burning candles very useful. In many parts of Europe the candle business is carried on by large establishments with abundant capital. In Great Britain there was quite recently, at least, what we should call a candle trust that yielded good returns. Anybody who has sojourned in a very rural English town will not need to be told whence come some of the demands for candles.

Similarly, though modern transportation agencies have stolen away the glory of the stage coach with its galloping spans, it can still be found in commission by those who seek it. It runs in the White Mountain regions, in Maine, and southwestern Massachusetts. In the South and West is known and respected. Its latest commercial competitor is the rural free delivery, and as this expands and railroads find a way of profitably negotiating mountain passes and tapping regions whose resources are vastly greater than their populations, the stage coach must yield what place it still has, but the process will be so slow that lovers of the

picturesque may count for years to come on the chance of meeting with the vehicle.

SKEPTICAL BEN.

Lady Cook (she was the beautiful and clever Tennessee Claflin before her marriage) told a New York reporter the other day that American women under the new English king, would not be so popular as they were under King Edward.

"King Edward liked Americans," she said; "but King George's wife is very aristocratic and exclusive, and I am as skeptical of the American woman's future in London as Franklin was of matrimony."

"He that takes a wife," said Franklin skeptically, "takes care."

Then he added, more skeptically still. "But he that takes care doesn't take a wife."



... IN SHAKESPEARE'S TIME ...

The big yellow moon climbed above the trees.

"Be careful, Romeo," cautioned the fair Juliet, "if papa hears you there will be trouble."

"But what objection has he to me?" said Romeo, somewhat plucked. "Didn't you tell him I move in the best of society?"

"Yes, dear, but he insists that you are only a climber."

And then and there Romeo decided to cut out on the balcony scene and make love out on the lawn.

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