

Japan's Side of the Present War With Russia.



THE JAPANESE MINISTER.

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(Special Correspondence of the Desert News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

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WASHINGTON, D. C., May 18.—I give you today an interview which I have just had with Mr. Kogoro Takahira, the minister from Japan, on the situation in the far east.

Mr. Takahira is one of the ablest of the diplomats at Washington. He has for years been connected with the foreign office of Japan, and has also represented his country as minister in Korea, Holland and Denmark, Italy, Austria, Switzerland and since 1900 at Washington. He is a man of broad education, speaking several languages, including English, in which our conversation was carried on.

The talk took place in the parlors of the Japanese legation. My first question was as to what Japan expects to get from the war with Russia.

"That question can be answered in one word," said the minister. "Japan expects justice. But speaking more in detail I may say that she expects the war to result in such a determination of the rights of the two countries as regards the North Asian littoral as will secure her against aggression in the future."

"What do you mean by the north Asian littoral?" I asked.

"I mean the territories of northeast Asia, and more especially those which border its sea coast below Siberia, namely, Korea and Manchuria."

JAPAN AND CHINA.

"But how about China, your excellency? Some people speak of the war as one for the control of China. Is Japan ambitious to control China?"

"Distinctly and emphatically no!" replied Minister Takahira. "Japan's attitude upon that subject was fully defined in the negotiations which preceded this war. In those negotiations she insisted upon a mutual engagement between herself and Russia to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Chinese and Korean empires, and also upon a mutual agreement to maintain the principle of equal opportunity for the commerce and industry of all nations in those countries."

THE YELLOW PERIL.

"Will there ever be an alliance of Japan and China against the world?"

"No," replied the minister from Japan. "I don't believe that any sane political thinker who understands the actual conditions of the two nations can honestly suggest such a possibility. The suggestion is either founded on gross ignorance, or it is based upon a malicious desire to injure Japan in the eyes of the world. An alliance between two powers must necessarily be based upon mutual advantage, and where could Japan gain strength by an alliance offensive and defensive with China? It is an established principle of modern political science that the power which is to hold any weight in the world must be able not only to defend itself from outside nations, but also to control and organize its people at home. It must keep order, put down rebellions and be able to call out its subjects at any time to its support in all matters of national defense. Every one knows that China is not in this condition; and while we of Japan admire the Chinese people for their scholarship, commercial integrity and other high qualities, we realize that they are not a military power, and we question whether they will be so in the ages to come. This being the case, there is no fear of any such aggressive alliance as you suggest, and hence no 'yellow peril,' as such a possible alliance has been called."

AN INDEPENDENT CHINA.

"What Japan would like to see as to

China," continued the minister, "is that she should follow in her footsteps in utilizing such elements of the western civilization as are suited to her needs. This would lead to the development of her great resources in industry, commerce and trade, and in the development of Japan only wishes to share equally with the other powers. What we need most is that the other nations should take the same position toward China that the United States has so ably maintained for the past few years. That, more than anything else, would help to preserve peace in the far east."

"Then you think that China should hold its present independent position upon the map of the world?"

"I do," replied the Japanese minister. "From our standpoint the preservation of Chinese independence, or what has been well termed 'the administrative entity' of the Chinese empire, is more desirable. That is one of the objects for which Japan is contending. A divided China means peril to Japan, and I sincerely believe that it would be of no lasting advantage to any western nation. On the other hand, an independent China, with her territorial integrity unimpaired, must, as her enormous resources are more and more developed, prove a fruitful field to the commerce and industry of all nations."

THE POSITION OF KOREA.

"How about Korea?" I asked.

"Speaking generally," replied the Japanese minister, "I may say that we hope the same good for Korea, with the introduction of western methods and civilizing influences and the peaceful development of its resources. At the same time the world recognizes the fact that the near neighborhood of Korea to Japan and the strategic importance of Korea to the Japanese empire, so far as regards the maintenance of the security of the Japanese empire, naturally give Japan what was called in the anti-bellum negotiations a 'preponderating interest' in Korea. In saying this I do not mean that Japan has any designs upon the independence and territorial integrity of Korea, nor any purpose of excluding from Korea the industries or commerce of other nations nor hampering foreign enterprise in any way. I mean that Japan cannot, with due regard to her own safety, permit any other nation to absorb Korea, or to use Korea as a vantage point from which to attack the Japanese empire."

Kogoro Takahira, the Minister from Japan to the United States, Gives and Revises Interview With Mr. Frank G. Carpenter, Special Correspondent of the Desert News, About the Situation in the Far East—What Japan expects from the War—Not Ambitious to Control China—No "Yellow Peril"—Russia and Her Designs—The War Fund and Japanese Resources—The Country Not Over Crowded and not Fighting for Territory—Formosa in 1904—How Japan Regards the United States.

es shall not have their full share in the future development of Korean resources. Japan has most certainly no desire to prevent such participation in the benefits which must follow the development of Korea."

RUSSIA IN THE FAR EAST.

"What in your opinion, Mr. Takahira, does Russia want in the far east?"

"That is a subject concerning which I must naturally speak with reserve," replied the Japanese minister. "We have spoken what we thought of Russia's designs in the east by our present action. Whether those designs were the result of a fixed policy on the part of a faction, as has been publicly stated, is not for me to say. It is sufficient to remember that Russia's actions before the war plainly indicated her intention of permanently occupying Manchuria and of finally absorbing Korea. We have to deal with facts not theories, and after endeavoring to obtain Russia's adhesion to proposals to establish a firm and enduring peace in the extreme east, nothing remained but to offer forcible opposition to the completion of plans which not only threatened Japan's commercial and industrial interests in China and Korea, but even her national safety."

JAPAN'S WAR FUNDS.

"But can Japan raise the money to carry on a war like this?" I asked.

"Thus far she has had no difficulty," replied the Japanese minister. "The domestic loans were subscribed for at home five times over, and the careful estimates of our financial experts indicate that there will be no difficulty in our raising funds enough to carry on the war for some time to come. We have no foreign debt of any great amount and so far we have made no effort to secure any large sum of money from abroad."

"But will not the war impoverish your people?"

"It will undoubtedly impose heavy burdens upon us," replied Minister Takahira, "but I do not think it is possible to impoverish the nation. It is a war of self-defense, not of aggression; and while the expenditures will no doubt be enormous I am sure there will be no extravagance or recklessness. I believe that Japan will display great recuperative power and that after the war is over her position will be much better financially than it has been in the past. Her opportunities for the unobstructed development of her commerce and industry will thereby be greatly increased. At all events it is evident that Japan would certainly become impoverished if Manchuria and Korea were occupied by Russia. In that case she would be excluded from the fields where her industries and commerce should otherwise have the best chance for peaceful development, and she would have to maintain a state of national defense, which in time could not fail to be a fatal drain upon her national resources."

JAPAN'S WAR WITH CHINA.

"What was the effect of the Chinese-Japanese war upon your industrial and financial condition?"

"The Chinese-Japanese war was followed by a period of depression. Baron Shibusawa, one of our most noted financiers, states that as in every country there are waves of prosperity followed by waves of depression, so in the economic history of Japan since the restoration there have been five or six such waves. He adds, however, that such changes do not necessarily injure the real financial condition of the country. As he states, the resources of Japan have varied and fair in quantity. We have an abundance of raw silk and tea and valuable mines of coal, copper and silver. We are rich in our water supply and water power, which may be used in the cheapening of the cost of production. Coal oil has been found in several parts of the empire, and this will doubtless take the place of coal to large extent. In Yezo there are coal and silver mines and oil fields, while Formosa is rich in gold."

"On the whole," concluded the Japanese minister, "I think our outlook for commercial and industrial expansion is bright. We are not rich as compared with the United States, but our resources are as yet to a great extent undeveloped. Our progress along modern lines is a matter of comparatively recent date, but within that time the country has made marvelous strides."

"What is the size and population of Japan?" I asked.

"The empire contains about 141,000 square miles. It is about four times as large as your state of Ohio. Its population, as shown by the census of 1900, was 47,600,000."

NOT A FIGHT FOR TERRITORY.

"That is more than half as many people as we have in the United States," said I. "Is not Japan overcrowded, and in this war after all a fight for territory?"

"On Japan's part most certainly not," replied Minister Takahira. "We have distinctly declared that we are not contending for territorial aggrandisement, and even if we had not made that solemn pledge there is no necessity for us to acquire territory for our surplus population, for we have abundant outlets for that as it is."

"Japan is and is not overcrowded," continued Mr. Takahira. "I mean by that that we have available territory of our own to meet the demands of our increasing population, although the emigration of the Japanese is not yet directed to those parts of the empire. Take Yezo and Formosa, for example. The Japanese government has systematically endeavored to develop the resources of those countries, it has met with fair success, but the climate in both territories has been an obstacle to their rapid development. In the case of Formosa, where the most desirable parts of the island are unhealthy. The government is improving sanitary conditions there, and in time Formosa will be a desirable place of residence for both Japanese and foreigners. The same may be said of Yezo, which has undeveloped resources and which will support a large population. There will always be an outlet for a certain part of our surplus on the Asiatic continent. Many Japanese who settle in Korea and in the other adjacent regions on the same terms as the citizens and subjects of other nations, and such settlement will be to the advantage of the countries, inasmuch as our people are naturally peaceful and

industrious, making excellent citizens wherever they go."

FORMOSA IN 1904.

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"Formosa is rapidly improving," replied Minister Takahira. "Since it became a part of the Japanese empire its revenue has been increased by 600 per cent. It has been charged that our government has done nothing for the development of the island nor for the betterment of its people since it became a part of the empire. This is not true. In connection with it I cannot do better than to quote what the Rev. W. Campbell, a Scotch missionary, who has

lived in Formosa for many years, says: He writes that in considering Formosa it must be remembered that when the Japanese took possession of it in 1895 they found the people everywhere in arms against them, and that though they fought their way from north to south before they could establish a settled government. As soon as this was done they sent out surveyors and scientists to report on the resources of the newly ceded territory. A complete census of the population was taken in 1897, and at this time 500 miles of roads were made and a tramway line constructed from Takow to Sin-tek. This was followed by the building of a railway from Keelung to Takow, about half of which is now open for goods and passenger traffic. Three cables were laid down connecting Formosa with Japan, China and the Pescadore Islands, and a telegraph and telephone system so improved that immediate communication is now possible with every important inland center. There are now one hundred post-offices in Formosa and at the end of 1899 one hundred and twenty-two government educational institutions had been established, of which one hundred and thirteen are for natives. There are ten government hospitals on the island, where 60,000 patients are annually treated without charge; and at the same time free vaccination and other sanitary precautions have become so general that the dangers of smallpox and the plague have been much reduced."

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Heihachiro Togo, the "Fighting Admiral" of Japan

GENERAL or an admiral is judged by result. Measured by this standard Togo is entitled to be classed among the great captains. He is the kind of man who says little and does much. There is nothing of the spectacular about him. He goes through no preliminaries and gives few orders. But he strikes. After that the other fellow does the talking, provided he is able.

That was a choice bit that Togo got off when he made his modest report of the attack that so nearly put the Russian Port Arthur fleet out of business. He said he thought "the moral effect" on the Russians would be good. It was good; so was the remark. The world has about decided that the delicious humor contained in the phrase was unintentional on Togo's part. After looking at the rather grim face and the gleam in the eye of the man one is inclined to wonder if it was not premeditated after all—a sort of sly attempt at rubbing it in, as it were. The "moral effect" on St. Petersburg was decidedly demoralizing; so much, indeed, that Admiral Stark was forthwith removed on account of "illness," and Makaroff, the ice breaker, was put in his place.

Makaroff has more whiskers than Togo at any rate and more avoirdupois. Likewise he talks more and, one would imagine, louder. But he lacks that little gleam in the eye that is so noticeable in the Jap commander.

Togo's face is worth studying. He looks like Christian De Wet. One can imagine that he is a little, rather retiring sort of a man, not at all the sort that would be picked out for an admiral, at least not in the eyes of our acquaintances here. But those quiet mien are deceptive. There was Grant; also De Wet before mentioned. There is a certain class of quiet men who see a certain thing to be done and then see nothing else until that thing is accomplished. Perceiving the objective point, he goes toward it with the least possible delay and in the most direct manner. Human life, everything else, is secondary. It is possible that a physiognomist would see these things in the face of Togo. At any rate his acts have shown that they are in his character.

This is Togo's second war. It was also his privilege to strike the first blow against China. He was captain of only one little ship then, not even an armored vessel in the modern sense of the term. It was a second class cruiser of 3,227 tons carrying two ten-inch guns, six five-inch, ten Maxim and two nine-pounders. This was the



Togo at the Age of 20.

Naniwa, of which Togo remained captain throughout the war. It saw the most fighting of any ship of the line. It was on July 25, 1894, before the actual declaration of war that the Naniwa ran aground of the British steamer Kowshing loaded with Chinese troops and military stores bound for Korea. A gun boomed on the Naniwa as a signal to stop. The Kowshing stopped. Togo signaled, "Remain where you are or take the consequences." The Kowshing returned, and shortly afterward came another signal to follow the Naniwa. The British captain started to obey, but here the Chinese balked, even threatening to kill the captain. Togo hesitated not an instant. Warning the Europeans to leave the Kowshing, he turned loose a torpedo and several guns. In the language of one of the European officers of the Kowshing, "the day became night; pieces of coal, splinters and water filled the air. Then I believe all of us leaped overboard and swam." Togo made no attempt to rescue those in the water. He was the son of a samurai samurai, and that was not his idea of war. But he did send a boat and save the life of the half-drowned British captain, who had been a schoolmate in England.

After the war Togo was promoted to rear admiral and placed in command of the Japanese fleet. Later he was made commander in chief of the

dockyard at Malzuru and still later vice admiral. The admiral "little boy" was not the marquis, by the way—he held Japan to consult with the emperor and the cabinet, the active command in the present war fell on Togo.

The more the Japanese naval campaign about Port Arthur is examined the more its daring, brilliancy and skill brought into relief. On Feb. 8, the day before the Japanese announced their intention of breaking off diplo-

matic relations with Russia, Vice Admiral Togo received orders to be ready for immediate action. He was ready. Then he was very briefly commanded, first, to convoy to Korea a number of troopships; second, to establish a permanent line of communications between Korea and Japan. The convoying of the troopships was a simple matter; the establishment of the permanent line of communications not so simple. The subsequent part of the

campaign was based on that portion of the order.

Togo steamed at once for Port Arthur with the one object in view of putting the Russian fleet in such condition that it could not interfere with the Japanese line of communications. Hearing that the Russian cruisers Varzag and Korietz were at Chemulpo, he sent Rear Admiral Uriu to destroy them. Reaching Port Arthur, Togo signaled to the eighteen destroyers: "Go and sink the

enemy's squadron, success to you." That was all. But the world knows the result. The Carevitch, the Retzian and two other Russian vessels were seriously crippled. Without knowing the result of the torpedo attack, the Japanese admiral steamed in next day and

inflicted further injury. Keeping out of range of the forts, he demonstrated that the Japs are accurate marksmen and that the Russians are inefficient.

Having failed to entirely destroy the Russian fleet, Togo's next attempt was to bottle it up. The first move was the sinking of the hulks in the entrance to the harbor. The second was to keep the Russian forts busy with a bombardment while his torpedo boats daringly planted mines in the mouth of the channel. Both of these attempts were at least partially successful. Subsequently he inflicted still further damage on the enemy's fleet and on the harbor and town of Port Arthur by a series of well directed and terrific bombardments. In all of these actions against the boasted "Gibraltar of the east" the Japs suffered but trifling losses.

The end is not yet. The world will hear more of this man who showed himself such a persistent, intrepid and resourceful fighter in the Chino-Japanese war and who in the present struggle has exhibited such ability as a tactician that the English papers are already calling him "the Nelson of Japan."

Heihachiro Togo was born on Oct. 14, 1857. He comes from the famous Satsuma clan that has furnished all the naval heroes of the kingdom. He was educated in a war college at home, then went to England, where he spent two years, 1873 and 1874, in the incorporated Thames Nautical Training college, which was conducted on board the Worcester. He also spent some time at the Greenwich Naval academy and served for one voyage on an English warship. Returning home, he gradually worked his way up until he precipitated the war with China by sinking the Kowshing.

In appearance he is very much of a Jap, with a rather sparse mustache and beard and very little of the proverbial oriental slant of the eye. He is short, almost stout, rather reserved and is cool, keen, alert and determined.

Admiral Togo has one wife, which is a limitation to which every Jap does not subject himself. From this union there are four children, three sons and one daughter. The two older sons are already being trained to enter the navy.

Somehow, every Japanese commander that comes to the front seems a winner. Either somebody at the head of affairs in the Flowery Kingdom is very discriminating as to the men he chooses, or the whole nation is made up of natural tacticians and fighters. Whichever is true, the outlook is not comforting to "the bear that walks like a man."

FRANCIS W. GIBBES.



Admiral Togo's Wife and Children



PROF. RALPH V. CHAMBERLIN, Young Salt Lake Scientist Who is Distinguishing Himself.

Ralph V. Chamberlin, the young educator referred to in the telegram given below, as one of the successful candidates for the degree of Ph. D. in Cornell university at the next commencement exercises of that institution, is well known in this city, having been born and reared in this state. Though only 25 years of age, Mr. Chamberlin has already made a record as a student and as an original investigator in scientific lines. He was a student in the L. D. S. college and in the State university 10 years ago. After graduating from the university with the degree of bachelor of science, he was engaged for several years as teacher in the Latter-day Saints' university of this city. Here the young professor pursued a line of investigation in local entomology, making several discoveries of species new to the scientific world. Upon President Paul's recommendation he was given a leave of absence for two years, and immediately received a fellowship in Cornell, where for the last two years he has been pursuing higher work with such success that on May 17 the "News" received the following telegram from Ithaca:

"Mr. Ralph Chamberlin, B. S., Salt Lake City, is a candidate for the degree of doctor of philosophy at Cornell university. He is the author of a valuable scientific work called 'Studies on North American Spiders of the Family of Lycosidae,' the best book of the kind ever published."

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