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TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

PART TWO — SATURDAY APRIL 17 1909 SALT LAKE CITY UTAH — FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR

LOW JAPANESE WAGES

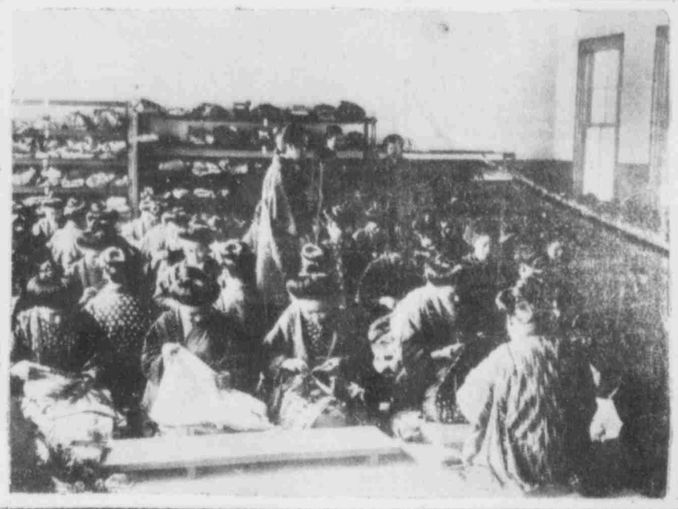
FOUR THOUSAND NEW FACTORIES WHERE EMPLOYES WORK FOR A FEW CENTS A DAY

Can the Country Support Our Civilization—Striking Facts As to Its Labor And Prices—Children Who Work Ten Hours for Six Cents—Women At Twelve Cents and Men at Twenty-five—Among the Mechanics.

What Masons, Bricklayers and Plumbers Receive — One Thousand Factories Run by the Government, Where the Wages Average Twenty-eight Cents —Low Salaries of Highclass Officials —How the Masses Live.

Making Straw Braid
These Girls Receive 6 cents a Day

Among The Poorest Paid are The Cartmen



The Women are Doing More Than Their Share of The Work. These Girls Get 25¢ a Day

Special Correspondence.

KYOTO, 1909.—Have the Japanese bitten off more than they can chew?

Can they support the western civilization with its luxuries and its extravagances?

Have they the natural resources to hold their own as a great world power?

These are some of the questions which are staring the statesmen of this country in the face.

Japan has, all told, good farm lands of about half the size of Kentucky. It has some coal and a little iron. It is discovering petroleum, but this is of poor quality, and it has a considerable amount of copper and plenty of fish. All these resources, however, are not enough to warrant the support of the increasing population, and the country must have outside lands or develop itself along the lines of industry and commerce. Suppose you should crowd more than half of all the people of the United States into the southrn half of Virginia, could we live as well as we do now? Would we have meat three times a day, carpets on our floors, and pianos in our parlors and, over and above all, money to burn. As to cultivable territory, that is the state of Japan. She has now 50,000,000 inhabitants and she is adding 500,000 new stomachs to her consumers every year. She has added 10,000,000 within the past two decades, and the avalanche of new babies rolls on.

Where are they to go, and how are they to be fed?

As to outside lands, Formosa, which came as a result of the Chinese war, is the only property absolutely in hand. It is just about twice as big as New Jersey and it is already supporting twice as many people. It has three or four millions, mostly Chinese, who have gobbled up the good land and cannot be moved. In addition there is Korea, which is controlled by Japan and which many think is to be exploited for the good of the home population. Korea is twice as large as Kansas, but it also is mountainous and its population is about 14,000,000. There may be some chance for expansion in southern Manchuria, but altogether the chances for emigration are few.

THE SIMPLE LIFE VS. THE NEW JAPAN.

This being the case as to the territory, the only thing left is expansion along the lines of industry and commerce. Japan is pushing both of these possibilities with all her might, and it may be that the natural skill and indefatigable work of her people will make her win out. If she does so, it will be by retrenchment and economy, rather than personal extravagance and increased government expenditures. Today the country is a thousand million dollars in debt. It owes on the average $200 per head, or a thousand dollars per family. It is taxed enormously, and there would seem to be but little room for either the people or the government to increase their expenses. The officials realize this and have cut down their estimates for the year. The people are already so burdened that they dare not branch out, and the outlook is that the simple life of the old Japan will have to continue with the masses for some time to come. This letter is to be devoted to the Japanese laboring classes. I want to tell you how they work and the wages they get, and also the prices they pay for their daily necessities. You can then judge of their ability to support a civilization like ours.

IN THE JAPANESE FACTORIES.

Only a short time ago everything in Japan was made by hand in the houses. There were no large establishments and practically no factories. Today there is still an enormous house industry, but there are, all told, over 10,000 factories and they employ altogether about 600,000 workmen. There are thousands of men who labor in the mines, and millions in little industries of every kind which go on in the homes of the people.

As to the factories, I have already written of the shipyards and cotton mills. In the spinning factories the women are now receiving about 22 cents a day and children as low as 6 cents, while men get, on the average, about 34 cents. Cotton weavers receive about the same and silk weavers a cent or two more.

The seat of the silk industry is here in Kyoto, but there is an immense deal of silk made in Osaka and that place has more textile workers than anywhere else in Japan. Coming to it is like approaching Pittsburg or Chicago. You see the smoke polluting the air; there are hundreds of stacks rising above the low black houses and the surroundings are those of the new Japan. The city now has more than a million people, and its population is largely composed of those who work in the factories of various kinds. There are long lines of low houses, the homes of the workmen and life seems hard.

In Osaka some of the factories work their hands six days of the week. Others work seven and in the textile trades the hours are 10 every day. There is considerable child labor, but not so much as is generally supposed. In all Japan only eight hands out of a hundred are under 14, and of these four-fifths are girls. In the house industry the proportion of children is much larger. Fully 65 per cent of the factory employes are women and only 35 per cent men. An increase of women laborers, and the females are doing more than their share of the work of the country. This is so notwithstanding their wages are often only one-half those of the men and the work quite as hard.

HIGH WAGES FOR JAPANESE.

I have before me a table of wages which has just been made. It has been gotten at first hand from the chief employers of Osaka and Kyoto and it may be relied upon as correct. It shows the increase in wages in the past three years, and the present wages which are considered exceptionally high. Take the clothing factories, where women are now getting 25 cents a day, working seven days of the week of nine hours each. They received only 12 cents 10 years ago and 19 cents in 1906. Sewing machine operatives are now getting 27 cents per day for their work. They were paid 20 cents three years ago, and only 15 cents in 1895. As to tailors, they now receive from 35 to 45 cents a day and are getting about three times as much as they did 10 years ago.

They have some glass factories here. The blowers, who are especially high-priced men, are getting 51 cents, and they have only two rest days during the month. Some of the wages are as low as 25 cents and a few are paid as much as $1, but this is only for extra time or night work. Cigarette makers, working nine hours, get from 12½ to 65 cents per day, and the girls in the trade receive from 5 to 25 cents per day. They have 20 per cent extra for night work and double wages on national holidays. They have one hour off during the day, but this does not affect the nine hours of actual work.

I wonder how our iron and steel men would like to labor at the wages paid here. Take the Bessemer furnace employes. The blowers get less than 33 cents a day on the average, and their day is 12 hours long, with one or two hours' rest, which, as is the custom here, comes on in sections. They have 30 minutes off at 9 a. m. and another half hour at 3. There is a full hour at noon and the 1st and 16th of each month are considered rest days. On all other days, including Sundays, the work goes on. This is the custom in many factories. As to other ironworkers, the bar-iron heaters get 32 cents, rollers of steel rails 32 cents and iron vessel men 37½ cents. With some of these workmen a bonus equivalent to about 10 days' wages is distributed twice a year.

WHAT MECHANICS GET.

Japanese mechanics are about as good workmen as you will find anywhere. Every common carpenter is a cabinet maker, and many of the stonecutters would pass as sculptors. The painters have some artistic ability, and ordinary masons lay walls which would be a surprise to our people of that trade in the United States. I have been doing some building at my country home in the Virginia mountains and my contractor's account of the wages paid lies before me. They are lower than those of our cities, but still high enough. The carpenters are receiving from $2 to $3 per day, and my plasterers are paid $4, while the plumbers get $3. Here in Japan the master carpenters receive 65 cents a day, and the best men under him 40 and 50 cents. This is for nine or ten hours' work.

These carpenters are fully the equal of any we have at home. They do the work in just the opposite ways from ours. They pull the plane toward them instead of pushing it from them, and they pull the hand saw. Nevertheless, their joints fit and a great part of their housemaking consists of sliding walls which move in grooves.

Bricklayers, equal to those who receive as much as $5 a day in the United States, are getting 45 cents for nine hours' work here, and this is 10 per cent more than they got in 1906. Brick masons get 32 cents a day, stone cutters 42 and plumbers 35, and that without helpers. Indeed even an ordinary man can afford a plumber in Japan.

OTHER LOW WAGES.

Our printers will be interested in what the compositors receive. There are now dailies in all the towns of any size, and Osaka has several journals each of which has several hundred thousand circulation. The day's work begins at 8 a. m., and ends at 5 p. m. The wage scale is from 30 to 60 cents, the averge being about 45 cents.

Coal miners get from 28 to 41 cents, blacksmiths, 28 cents; iron molders, 28 cents, and machinists almost a dollar. In the shoe factories, from 45 to 50 cents is paid, all the work being done by hand, there being no factories, such as we have, in Japan.

Ordinary laborers receive from 25 to 35 cents a day when employed by the municipality, and farm hands get from 10 to 20 cents for 10 hours' work, according as they are women or men. Think of wading through the mud of a rice field, with your dress rolled up to your knees, planting the rice sprouts with your bare hands in the filth at 1 cent per hour, and you have an idea of one feature of women's work in Japan. Among the poorest paid are the cart men, who drag loads over the country for a few cents per day.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT PAYS.

Our government pays big wages to all its mechanics, and as a rule the eight-hour law holds everywhere. The Japanese government has more factories than Uncle Sam and its hours are much longer. There are altogether 1,000 government factories, covering a great variety of industries. In the government printing office, the wages are 12½ cents a day for women, and from 15 to 25 cents for men; in the mint men receive 25 cents and in the paper factory about 20 cents.

In the tobacco factories which the government runs as a monopoly, there are over 22,000 hands, and they get from 9 to 18 cents a day. The lower wages are received by the women.

The government has woolen mills, cannon factories and military clothing establishments where proportionately low wages are paid. In the woolen factory at Senju, for instance, girls are paid 11 cents and men on the average about 18. In the government shipbuilding yards, the pay is from 12 to 27 cents and in the arsenals of Tokio and Osaka, which altogether have about 150,000 hands, the wages are from 1 to 3 cents an hour.

In the steel works at Kure and in the naval arsenal at Sasebo there are tens of thousands of men employed who get on the average less than 30 cents a day, and this is for high-class labor. In those yards all kinds of fine steel work is done, including the making of armor plate for gunboats and the building of big ships.

Similar wages are paid in the government railway works scattered here and there over Japan. In the whole thousand facorties there is only one where the average wages of the men are over 85 cents a day, and only three where they are over 35 cents. Of the 250,000 men and women working in these factories the average wage of the men is less than 28 cents and that of the women less than 12 cents per day of nine or ten hours.

OFFICES BIG—SALARIES SMALL.

The same policy of small wages prevails throughout the government. The emperor himself has a civil list of about a million and a half dollars a year, and he has refused to accept more on account of the hard times, although the people have requested him to do so. His cabinet ministers are paid much less than ours. The premier receives less than $5,000 a year and the minister of state $3,000. The chief of the railways is paid $2,500 and the resident general at Seoul the same. The foreign ambassadores get $2,500 a year, with from $11,000 to $15,000 for entertaining, and the foreign ministers less. The ordinary consul general has from $900 to $1,250 per annum and an allowance. The judges get little, their salaries ranging from $1,000 to $2,500, and the university professors are in the same category. The admiral of the Japanese navy and the general-in-chief of the army receive only $3,000 a year, and a rear admiral gets about $1,700. A colonel in the army has less than $1,200, a major a little over $600 and a captain $421. These are far below the amounts paid in our country, where a cabinet minister gets four times as much, or $12,000, and other salaries are parportionately high. It should be said however, that many of the high officers of the government have official residences furnished by the emperor, with a special fund for entertaining.

CHEAP LIVING.

Wages like those of the masses are only suited to life on the cheapest scale. The average Japanese working man lives on rice, fish, vegetables and tea. If he is very poor the tea is of the cheapest quality and the rice is somewhat of a luxury, millet and other coarse grains taking its place. Indeed, the finer qualities of Japanese rice are too costly for the poorer classes. They are exported to other countries and cheaper rice is imported for home consumption.

The table furniture of such a man costs almost nothing. He uses wooden chopsticks instead of knives and forks, and a few bowls suffice for his dishes. His cooking stove is a clay bowl, and his whole housekeeping outfit would not cost more than $10. His furniture consists of little more than straw mats and one or two little tables about a foot high.

The mats cover the floor, and they take the place of a bedstead at night. Many of the people sleep in the clothes that they use in the daytime, rolling themselves up in cotton comforters and resting their heads on hard rectangular pillows, stuffed with straw, or upon wooden blocks. The latter are always used by the women, in order that they may not disarrange their hair, the pillow resting under the neck.

The house of the poorer working man seldom has more than three little rooms, and it may have only one or two. There are outside walls of wood, which can be slid back during the daytime, and inner walls of sash, with paper panes, which slide back and forth. The roof is of thatch or of tiles. There are no chimneys and no stoves. The only means of heating such a house is by a firebox filled with charcoal or by a square zinc or copper lined fireplace sunk in the middle of the floor, in which wood is burned, the smoke making its way out through the roof. Wood is sold in infinitesimal quantities. A small Japanese city will not burn as much as an American village, and the average American family consumes more fuel in one week than a half dozen Japanese houses do in a month.

It costs the Japanese mechanic comparatively little for clothing. He dresses in cottons winter and summer, and seldom has underwear. His shoes are of wood or straw, and his wife's head always goes bare. The clothes of the working woman cost less than the ribbons of Uncle Sam's hired girls. A few dollars will buy a whole year's outfit for a man or woman, and I venture that one could go to housekeeping on $25 and have money to spare.

THE COST OF THE NEW CIVILIZATION

Some of these features are those of the old Japan. They represent the conditions which still prevail among the masses of the empire, and under which Japan is now paying its big taxes and carrying on its mighty public improvements. At the some time, the new civilization is bringing in new wants and vilization is bringing in new wants and new customs. The big army which went to Manchuria contained hundreds of thousands of mechanics. While abroad they were fed to some extent on foreign foods, they had foreign shoes and clothes of foreign cut. They acquired certain habits, which, in contrast with their simple lives, were extravagant; and they have brought back innovations to all parts of Japan. They want more than they have ever wanted before; and it is probable that they will demand higher wages. If such changes continue, they will gradually ask for all that the American laborer now gets; and it is a question whether their country will stand the strain.

At present prices are higher than they have ever been, and the taxes are heavier. Everything pays a duty, and the necessities of life cost more than ever before. Rice is now selling at over $1.50 a bushel, barley at more than $3, and wheat at about $2.50 per bushel. Chickens are sold by the kwan, which is a little more than eight pounds, as are also fish and meat. Chickens bring $1.25 per kwan, in Kyoto, or over 15 cents a pound. Ducks sell for more, and salted trout for about the same. Sugar is over 6 cents a pound, and salt, which is a government monopoly, costs more than 1 cent per pound. Other things are proportionately high, so that, to say the least, the Japanese working man on full time has all he can do to make both ends meet.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

ANCIENT TARSUS, PAUL'S BIRTHPLACE

Now Modern City of Opportunity.

Special Correspondence.

TARSUS, Asia Minor, March 4.—Paul was born here about 1,900 years ago, but it was an old city at this time, its antiquities dating back, perhaps as far back from Paul's birth as that event is antecedent to the present time. Here lately have been found Hittite inscriptions dating back to the remote past. Here also we saw an Armenian graveyard located inside of some high and extremely wide walls, constructed of cement and after a peculiar design. Antiquarians give their opinion that this place was built by the Assyrians as a place of sacrifice.

This was the place mentioned under the name of Tarshish in the old Testament. "Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish" and "he found a ship going to Tarshish," shortly after Jonah in praying said, "therefore I fled before unto Tarshish." The name Tarshish is mentioned in Genesis as being the name of a son of Japheth and a grandson of Noah, but the relation between the person and the city of the same name is not very evident.

ALEXANDER AT ISSUS.

Alexander the great fought the great battle of Issus, one of the decisive battles of the world, on the Cicilian plain, no great distance away; and on the falls of the Tarsus river in the suburbs of the city, inscriptions have been found showing that he erected both houses for his soldiers at that place.

After the breaking up of Alexander's empire, and the division of his conquests among his generals, this and the surrounding lands fell into the hands of Seleucius whose descendants governed it until acquired by the Romans. Under the Roman rule, Tarsus was the capital of Cilicia; it was one of their colonies which gave the right of Roman citizenship to its inhabitants, and was noted for its commerce and its cultivation of Greek learning. Cilicia was at that time one of the granaries of the Roman empire, exporting grain to Rome. The Romans constructed irrigation works, (the ruins of some of these works are still to be seen) but irrigation is very little practised at the present time.

PAUL AT TARSUS.

The place mentioned quite frequently in the Acts of the Apostles, principally in relation to being the birthplace of Paul; Ananias received a vision, in which he was commanded to go to the street called straight and enquire for one called Saul of Tarsus. Barnabus departed from Antioch to go to Tarsus to seek Saul; Paul, on being led into a castle at Jerusalem under arrest, said unto the chief captain, "May I speak with thee?" The chief captain was surprised he could speak Greek, when Paul replied, "I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city of Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city." He was given license to speak, and when speaking from some stairs in the Hebrew tongue, he again states, "I am verily a man which am a Jew born in Tarsus a city of Celecia yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel."

There is a gate here called St. Paul's gate, and it is very probable that St. Paul went through it many times as the city was an ancient walled city. It is not now a walled city as only a few feet of the wall with the exception of gate are in place, the walls having been removed and the stones used in the construction of buildings in the city. The walls of the city must have been torn down and repaired many times before their final removal, which can be shown by the different kinds of material used. The gate was saved from destruction by payments made by some of the Christians to the Turkish authorities at different times.

ST. PAUL'S TREE.

In Tarsus many of the Christians have a great regard for an old, large tree, which they claim was planted by St. Paul. The tree is in a walled enclosure in which is situated the Armenian church and has timbers around it to protect it. There is no question about Paul having been born here and having lived here, but the statement as to his having planted this tree, will have to be taken with a good deal of allowance, although it is believed by many of the people of Tarsus.

The province of Cilicia with its capital, Tarsus in the Roman times became part of the eastern Roman empire. Its inhabitants embraced Christianity at an early date, and were Christian up to the Mohammedan conquest in the seventh and eighth centuries, when most of the population became Mohammedan. It passed through the rule of Saracens, and the Selik Turks, and saw many invasions before coming into the hands of the present Osmanli Turks.

FRUITFUL CILICIA PLAINS.

The fruitful plain of Cilicia produces and exports wheat and cotton and if modern modes of farming were introduced, and the irrigation works rebuilt, could support a population nearly as dense as that of the valley of the Nile. As it is, the population is increasing, and a few modern farming implements and machines are to be found. They are not in large numbers, but we saw in Turkey some steam threshing machines and heard of a steam plow. There are cotton mills at Adana and a cotton mill will be in operation at Tarsus during the present year. The cotton is a short staple which the English cotton mills will not use, so the export of cotton from here goes to the continent of Europe, principally Austria.

The present population of Tarsus is about 20,000, principally Turks with many Armenians and some Greeks.

West of here are the so-called Cilician gates, the pass through which conqueror after conqueror has passed from the tableland of Asia Minor into the fertile Cilician plains. We drove through the mountains, in four days by carriage from Eregli, but a route for a railway connecting Cilicia with the lines from Constantinople and Smyrna is laid out, and although the work will be extremely expensive, we have no doubt that in a year or so it will be built.

The commerce of Cilicia passes through the city of Mersina, a growing seaport of about 20,000 inhabitants, at which place resides the U. S. vice consul, Mr J. Debbas, who furnishes some of the facts above written and other information was had from Mr. Christie, the principal of the American college at Tarsus which institution has done a great deal of good in the advancement of education among the Armenians of Turkey.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CAPITAL.

There are now good opportunities for capital in this land, as there are fertile lands at low prices, fairly good markets and a population willing to work for subsistance that will barely keep soul and body together. The former restrictive regulations in regard to books, telephones, typewriters, traveling, free speech, free press, permission to open schools, etc., have nearly all been abolished, and this with a better organization for the protection of life and property, makes parts of Turkey for more desirable places of residence than they were a few years ago.

THOMAS P. PAGE.