

CONCRETE BUILDING INCREASES IN CHINA

Machinery of Modern Design in Demand.

SHANGHAI, Nov. 1.—Reinforced concrete construction is increasing in popularity in Shanghai, Tientsin and Hankow, where a large amount of construction is in progress.

JAPANESE LINES PROJECTED.

Among projected railways to be constructed under the ten year credit recently granted by the Japanese Diet are lines between Tekamatsu, Tokushima and Shikoku; Matsuyama and Yawatahama and Shikoku; Imari, a well known pottery centre in Kyushu, and Sasebo; Ota and Fuku, in the Habushi districts, and Nanao and Wajima, a lacquer ware centre in Ishikawa prefecture.

URGES WEARING OF COTTON.

To promote economy, a prominent lawyer of Kobe, Japan, has organized a society to encourage women to wear cotton instead of the more costly silk.

JAPAN NOT WARRI-LIKE, SAYS PREMIER HARA

What Other Race Has She Conquered? He Inquires of Critics.

PEACEFUL BY TRADITION. Statesman Points to Literature and Home Practices to Prove His Argument.

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TOKYO, Nov. 1. (By Mail).—Denying that Japan is militaristic and inviting foreign critics to study Japanese history to prove the contention, Premier Takashi Hara has written an article under his own name in the Chusei, Selyukai organ, which is entitled "Japanese National Characteristics as Misunderstood by the World."

"As I am a Government official," he writes, "it is very difficult for me to make my views public, but I shall express my observations as one of the Japanese subjects."

"There are many misunderstandings entertained by foreigners about Japan, due to lack of study. I have not examined all of the criticisms, of course. Some are much to the point, so that they may be taken as useful advice to improve ourselves. In the main, however, the criticisms have not shown that Japanese national characteristics are properly understood."

Not a Conquering Race.

"Japan has no record in her history of having conquered other races, as every one knows. The foreign wars in the Meiji era, especially the Russian war, were simply the result of a persistent and unrelenting aggression in her own defense against foreign aggression. In how difficult a defensive position Japan was placed in the Russian war the intelligent men of England, who financially and diplomatically supported Japan, and the intelligent men of America, who officiated in bringing about peace, should know full well. As the result of the war with Russia Japan came to control Korea, Saghalien and Manchuria, which was recognized by the Powers as necessary to remove the root of evil and insure peace in the Orient. The Powers thus heartily supported Japan's move."

"If Japan's history is examined closely it is rich in records of warfare, to be sure, but it is a great mistake to jump at the conclusion that the Japanese people have been a warlike race altogether, born and reared in the midst of wars. The wars of Japanese history are not political wars. In the days before civilization had advanced, political and military wars were employed for the same purpose by all countries which are now civilized."

"Turning in the direction of art, a study of Japanese art should enable an observer to understand most clearly the true characteristics of the Japanese people. The study of the Japanese art was introduced to western countries by men like the late Fenellosa and other close observers. There is no art object of Japan which is not somehow related with the Buddhist religion, whether in paintings, sculptures or buildings. The masterpieces of Japanese art are Buddhist paintings, Buddhist images or Buddhist temples. These facts will tell most eloquently how peace loving and devoutly religious the Japanese are. The ideas of the Japanese people are not aggressive or bellicose."

"The Nishikiy, which Europeans and Americans appraise so much, are representations of the peaceful and peace loving society and customs of Japan. They are evidences to prove how leisurely and sedate the Japanese people are, and to prove that the Japanese are not a warlike or bellicose people. We pay especially high tribute and thanks to Fenellosa, who was an American, and who studied Japanese art and introduced it to the world."

Literature Devoted to Peace.

"The same thing may be said about literature. If poetry, songs and other forms of literature really represent ideas and national characteristics of a nation, there can be no literature so devoted to peace and the praise of peace as the Japanese literature."

"Thus reviewed, one can see that the misunderstandings of a section of foreigners are based upon their ignorance of the true Japanese characteristics, the history and literature. Such foreign critics base their opinions upon their own hallucinations. The intelligent persons in the world want to study the Japanese characteristics calmly and dispassionately. Rather than anything else, it should be said that the Japanese people are a civilized race. If they can pursue a contented family life they will shun activity and tend to indulge in idleness. That is a prevailing custom."

Again, to succeed to one's father's business or trade is regarded as the first principle of moral conduct. Succeeding to his father's business, maintaining his father's house, acting like his father and being buried in his ancestors' graveyard is regarded as the life work. How can such a people be charged with warlike ambition and dangers of aggrandizing foreign territory? If there be one thing which has troubled the statement of the country most since the foundation of the empire it has been how to lead the people loving people into enlightenment so that they may receive the benefits of modern civilization and that the empire might be made as great as she is today, ranked as she now is, among the first class Powers of the world. When a section of foreign critics fear Japan's development and talk of Japan's aggression, it has been because they lack in a true understanding of Japan, too ignorant of things Japanese."

AWAITS EFFECTS OF WAR.

SYDNEY, Nov. 1.—Stuart McGregor, British Commissioner of Trade in Australia, during 1919, has published his report. He states that the probable effects of war expenditure in Australia will not be felt for about another two years. Ready money was plentiful and was apparently being freely spent, according to Mr. McGregor, on amusements and luxuries; but there was no doubt that the high prices of necessary commodities were also having a restrictive effect on consumption."

RUBBER SURPLUS FEARED.

Although the exportation of rubber from the Straits Settlements during the first six months of the current year was 20,000 tons less than for the corresponding time last year, the rubber market has been marked by a steady decrease in value from 50 cents per pound in January, 1920, to 37 cents in June and about 25 cents in September. Telegraphic reports from London state that unless exports are restricted there will be a surplus of 20,000 tons at the end of the year."

Premier Takashi Hara of Japan



BACK TO THE FARM NOW AIDS JAPAN

Unemployed Factory Labor Being Absorbed by Agricultural Districts.

TOKYO, Nov. 1.—Unemployment in Japan is adjusting itself by a back to the farm movement of labor released from factory work. Agricultural interests in central Japan are prosperous. A bumper rice crop has just been harvested, and millet and vegetables are in fine shape. The crop of silk cocoons is the best in years, with mulberry trees in excellent form."

CHINA'S IMPORTS OF COTTON HEAVY

Piece Goods From Abroad Help Supply Great Demand for Cheap Clothing.

China has been referred to as the land of the blue gown. Cotton fabric dyed blue has become the principal material from which the majority of the Chinese make their clothes. Since every coolie must possess at least one cotton garment, cotton cloth will doubtless retain its position for a long time to come as the premier article of foreign import. Last year's import of piece goods into Hankow amounted to \$26,844,519. In 1913 the import of cotton piece goods amounted to \$18,000,727."

JAPAN BEGINS WAR ON TUBERCULOSIS

National and Municipal Authorities Cooperate to Enforce New Laws.

TOKYO, Nov. 1.—Japan has inaugurated a widespread crusade against tuberculosis and a general campaign for public sanitation. Important social legislation recently enacted requires all physicians when doctoring tubercular patients to take minute care in preventing the spread of the germ. They have to instruct other members of the family of the patient how to protect themselves from contagion through personal hygiene and sanitary care of the house and utensils."

BRITISH WIRELESS TO COVER EMPIRE

Dominions Would Bear Part of Initial Loss.

MELBOURNE, Nov. 1.—The full text of the recommendations of the Imperial Wireless Telegraphy Committee has been received by the Federal Government. A scheme of imperial wireless communications connecting the empire by geographical steps of about 2,000 miles is proposed. The stations to be established in England, Cairo, Poota, Singapore, Hongkong and Port Darwin or Perth."

PLANES FOR CHINA UNCLAIMED AT PIERS

Unassembled Machines Are Finally Stored at Shanghai.

DEFATION THE AIM IN SOUTH AFRICA

Policy of Banks Brings on Atmosphere of Caution in Business.

GENERAL CONDITION DULL. Gold Mining Industry, However, Enjoys Exceptional Prosperity, Says Trade Commission.

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—South African banks have been following during the last few months a policy of careful scrutiny over credits with a view to securing deflation where it is considered wise, according to a special report from Trade Commissioner P. J. Stevenson, at Johannesburg, received by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The natural result of any such policy has been to breed an atmosphere of caution in the business community."

The recent sharp declines in the prices secured for wool, hides, ostrich feathers and wattle bark, which play a prominent part in the export trade of South Africa, have had a quieting effect, especially at Port Elizabeth, the centre of trade in wool, hides and feathers. As the import trade soon began to feel the effects of such a condition, it is probable that the imports into South Africa during the latter part of 1920 will be as large as those shown by the statistics for the first six months."

"The general business conditions," the report says, "can be classed as quiet or dull. This condition has been prevailing for the last two months and from present indications is likely to continue for some months longer. Unfortunately, goods did not come forward regularly during the early part of the year, when business was exceptionally good, but back orders in many lines began to arrive in large quantities just as conditions became unfavorable. Stocks now on hand or arriving are consequently in excess of present or even normal requirements. This is especially true of the soft goods trade, where it is reported that parcels are being sold in this market at prices under present British or American quotations."

"Interior merchants in many cases are stocked up with wool which has been taken in trade or bought as pure speculation. During the war the South African wool trade enjoyed great prosperity, due partly to the fact that it was not under Government control, as were the other wools in the British Empire. While the quantity of wool exported has decreased in comparison with prewar years, the value is several times greater. With large quantities of wool from the last clip still on hand and the new clip shortly available the future of the trade is not bright, with a corresponding influence on the import trade to be considered."

"Local industries, such as the boot and shoe factories, have felt the effects of heavy importations from England and the United States. The automobile trade has been seriously affected by the shortage of gasolene."

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MORE COTTON MILLS BUILDING IN CHINA

Government and Gentry Lend Aid to One Project.

PEKING, Nov. 1.—The Provincial Bank of Manchuria is reported to have received instructions from the Governor of Fengtien province to establish a cotton mill. The capital is to be subscribed by Government officials and gentry. It is stated that the cotton to be used will come exclusively from China. In that case machinery for the mill should be equipped to use fibre with a very short staple.

There are about twenty large cotton mills under construction in China. Though the spinning industry has developed rapidly, comparatively few Chinese mills have installed weaving machinery. The output of the mills with looms is largely confined to unbleached

SANDALWOOD INDIAN PRODUCT

Sandalwood is the product principally of the native State of Mysore, India, and the district of Coorg, in both of which places the industry is almost a monopoly of the Government forest reserve. Due to the development of the sandalwood oil extracting industry the exportation of the wood from Madras has steadily declined, while that of the oil has increased.

JAPAN QUITS BEAN GROWING

As far as information can be obtained, bean growing has been practically abandoned in Japan, the country relying on Manchuria for its bean crop, and the substitute for meal for bean oil and for bean cake fertilizer.

30 Years in Export Banking. Principal Branches: Brussels, Belgium; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cali, Colombia; Harbin, Manchuria; Havana, Cuba; Manila, Philippine Islands; Panama City, Panama; Port au Prince, Haiti; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Agents and correspondents in all the other important commercial centers of the world. AMERICAN FOREIGN BANKING CORPORATION. 53 Broadway, New York. Capital and Surplus \$6,500,000.

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