

Manchuria, Asia's Tinderbox

wanted quick profits; the Chinese were content to earn a livelihood. The Japanese wanted bright, attractive dwellings; the Chinese lived huddled on top of one another in shanties. The Japanese clung to their daily bath, above all, they clung to the love of appearances, that great strength and weakness of their national character, while the Chinese continued

ness gave birth, attractive dwellings. The Chinese lived huddled on top of one another. The Japanese clung to their daily bath, above all, they clung to the love of appearance, that strength and weakness of their nation. Another reason for their desire to live and work like slaves, their only hope a dim and distant future.

Moreover, great numbers of Japanese were sent to the remote islands and the dreckery yellow plains of Manchuria for their cheerful Japs to work and Japs soon became physically ill. Their troubles were not only physical that the psychological and esthetic impressions—essential with a people so sensitive to their environment—were so great that the rise of a popular love for Manchuria.

Manchuria Proud of Dalen.

For instance, the Japanese are very proud of Dairen, the spotless town, which technically and commercially is the masterpiece of Japan in Manchuria, but Dairen has no place in the hearts of the Japanese. They are proud or they are of an American achievement. But they say with a sigh—*itai tamashi*. *Tamashi* is an untranslatable and exquisite Japanese word which means more or less heart and mind. How can a modern town with old forms and

Moreover, a recent experience has taught the Japanese merchants Manchuria (since practically speaking there are no more Japanese farmers) a lesson. I mean the consequences of the Shantung operation in 1928. In May 1928, Japan had sent troops to Tsinan, the capital of Shantung, to "protect" her colony there, just as she has now sent them to various parts of Manchuria. Then, as how she did so in

defiance of Nanking's protests. But her action was not unreasonable, as probably it is not unreasonable now, in view of the lawless state of the country, and of the fact that the Nationalist Chinese troops were the aggressors, and it is not impossible that they have been now. (No inquiry of any League of Nations will ever be able to find out the truth. For example, what importance should be given to recent speeches and tracts from young

Chinese officers telling their men that as the Japanese soldiers for many years had had no practice in actual warfare while the Chinese were having such practice in their innumerable civil wars, the Chinese could easily defeat the Japanese. Impudent and foolish vanity, or dangerous provocation? It is impossible to say).

But what did the Japanese gain by remaining for more than a year in control of Tsinan and of the railway

to Tsingtao. Simply this: The Chinese government organized a widespread boycott which lasted for a long period and inflicted tremendous losses on Japanese traders. Perhaps the leaders of the military party in Japan are too lofty to deign to take into account the sufferings endured directly or indirectly by the Japanese during the last two or three years of China's commercial hostility, but their humbler compatriots who know that their living depends on the

good will of their Chinese customers have not forgotten. The civilians in Japan have learned, even if the Japanese military leaders have not, that it does not pay to shoot their best customers.

Chinese Change Little.

Far from me to assert that the Chinese politicians are right in starting a struggle which can only be won by generations of discipline and

national union. Their inflammatory speeches against the "dwarf slaves" of Japan make one fear that, like the Bourbons, the Chinese government, be it monarchical or republican, has learned nothing and forgotten nothing. But, on the other hand, more than one fact has come to my knowledge which obliges me to admit that the heads of the military party in Japan have been only too glad to grasp an opportunity, a pretense to start a mil-

is not adventure, and that nothing has pleased them more than the provocations of the Nanking leaders and the foolish arrogant talk of some returned students. The Japanese military party is evidently looking for an occasion to intoxicate once more the Japanese nation which otherwise might detach itself more and more from the old myths upon which the empire has been built.

that a real danger of war exists in Japan, this much we will know: That it is not a spirit of war for the sake of the fatherland, but a daring attempt to stop the growing movement of

the Japanese masses toward a regime of democracy and of social justice. We also shall know that this action of the party, in spite of their bombastic patriotic words, will be a crime against the permanent, supreme interests of Japan.

It is impossible to win China through fighting. China is like a gigantic rubber ball—she undergoes all the pressures, all the shocks. But as soon as the pressure relaxes the rubber ball at once returns to its previous form.

I have already told in a recent book of mine a typical example of the astounding Chinese certainties. It was in Japan in the last years of the Manchu dynasty. While we were walking together on the Japanese beach of Kamakura, the famous exile Kang Yu-wei told me: "I almost hope that these little Nippons (and how full of contempt his words were) are going to conquer my China, to destroy the rotten Manchu dynasty and put in its place

their own Emperor. He will settle in the Forbidden City, he will officiate at the temple of heaven—and it will look like a sacrilege. But in two or three generations his sons and all his Japanese will become Chinese and will be proud of being Chinese."

Goethe's Anniversary To Be Observed in 1932

BERLIN, Germany.—The program of special events in connection with the "Goethe year" in Munich will include the founding on March 22, 1932, on the 100th anniversary of the poet's death, of the "Goethe Institute for German Language Abroad." Its purpose is to assist foreign teachers and other friends

The Bavarian state theaters will, during 1932, produce Goethe's "Urgötz," "Egmont" and "Faust" (first part) in a new setting. The Residence Theater will give "Iphigenie," "Stella," "Tasso," "The Fellow Sinners" and "Geschwister." The Schauspielhaus will produce "The Triumph of Sensitiveness," with music by Ernest Krenek.

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