

文書課長 公 信 案

附屬別便

(原議用紙甲)ナ

文書課發送 昭和四年一月廿六日發送済
 管情報部長 任第一課長 (起草昭和四年十二月廿一日)
 報二 普通 一三一九 號 昭和四年一月廿六日 附 附屬書 通

受信 別表ノ通り
 人名 (在米支各公館宛 二十三ヶ所)
 件名 東洋訪問米公館記者団
 印象記送付ノ件

今春「カーネギー」平和財團主催ノ下ニ東洋方面ヲ訪問セル
 米公館記者団員ノ印象記今般頭本元貞氏ニ於テ上梓
 セルニ付何等ニモ考査 部送付ス

*別表ニ依リ記入
 了リタル
 懸案
 2195-11

在米大使館	一〇	在シヤンチン公館	二	在上海總領事館	一	在南京領事館	一
在紐育總領事館	五	在ポートランド	二	在天津	一	在長春	一
在桑港	五	在ニール 在レリス	三	在青島	一	在安東	一
在ホムル	五	在マニラ總領事館	二	在濟南	一	在鐵嶺	一
在市街古領事館	四	在支公便館	一	在吉林	一	在遼陽	一
在四維府	四	在奉天總領事館	一	在ハルビン	一	以上	
△宛先 (合計五十八部)							

(原議用紙乙)ナ

0355

23 76
 0354

American Journalists in the Far East 西配先

○ 支那	シヤトル、ポートルランド、ニューヨーク、マニラ (各3)	計 45
○ 支那	北京、奉天、上海、天津、青島、哈爾濱、南京、長春、吉林、ハルビン、安東、錦州、瀋陽 (各1)	計 13
○ 支那		18

0357

外務省

○ 支那	大臣、次官、政務次官、参事、官房長官、局長 (6)	計 24
○ 支那	情報部 (3)	
○ 支那	加東氏分室	
○ 支那	在米大使 (10)	
○ 支那	在紐者、スミタ、ホルン、領事 (各5)	
○ 支那	四班、シカゴ (各4)	

0356

外務省

昭和四年十二月二十一日配布

1054

全上者内配布先

大臣

次官

政次官

参事官

逓信局長

才一課長

才二課長

系部局長

次長局長

才一課長

才二課長

通商局長

才一課長

才二

才三

人子課長

審判官

監査官

地田

陸軍

海軍

船舶

外務省

0358

合計課長

文書課長

電信課長

對支文化事業部長

情報部才一課長

本林才二課長

印

印

電

出

印

丁

外務省

0359

0529

REEL No. A-0385

アジア歴史資料センター

AMERICAN JOURNALISTS

IN THE

FAR EAST

0360

REEL No. A-0385

0360

アジア歴史資料センター

FOREWORD

The letters of which the present pamphlet is made up were written by a Japanese correspondent resident in New York and well versed in matters connected with American journalism. They embody an interesting digest of the impressions formed by the American journalists who toured the Far East under the auspices of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace during the latter part of spring and the beginning of summer this year.

First impressions are proverbially deceptive, but they have the advantage of being refreshingly vivid and sometimes even startlingly suggestive. In any case they are always interesting, especially when they come from the pens of trained observers as in the present instance.

Some of the letters have already been printed in this country, but it was thought worth while to preserve all of them in some convenient form for private circulation among those interested in the visit of the American journalist party.

MOTOSADA ZUMOTO

Tokyo, December, 1929

0361

REEL No. A-0385

0361

アジア歴史資料センター

III.

Too Many Geisha Parties 40

Japanese Friendship for U. S. 41

Rebuilding of Tokyo and Yokohama.. . . . 44

Japan's Future. 48

IMPRESSIONS IN MANCHURIA

I.

Appreciation of Japan's Work 50

Triangular Situation in Manchuria 54

II.

A Comedy in Kirin. 57

Will Japan Retire from Manchuria?.. . . . 60

Far from Dust and Crowd.. . . . 61

S. M. R. and Progress in Manchuria.. . . . 63

A Cheerless View of China.. . . . 66

IMPRESSIONS IN KOREA

Grievances and Advantages.. . . . 68

Korean Life from the Train.. . . . 71

What Japan has done in Korea.. . . . 73

AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN THE
FAR EAST

IMPRESSIONS IN CHINA

I

NEW YORK, September 1. Early last April Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University, announced, as Director of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, that the Endowment had organized a party of eleven American newspaper men, representing as many newspapers, for a tour of Japan, Korea, and China. He said that the highly satisfactory results of similar European tours under the Endowment's auspices had encouraged him to sponsor this new enterprise never before tried in the Orient. He hoped that such tours would materially contribute towards better appreciation and understanding of the Far East by the American public as they had in regard to Europe.

Personnel of Party

The party thus organized consisted of George S. Johns, editor-in-chief of the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*; Gideon A. Lyon, associate editor of the Washington (D.C.) *Star*; Francis W. Clarke, managing editor of the Atlanta *Consti-*

0363



tution; William Philip Simms, Washington correspondent of twenty-five Scripps-Howard newspapers; Harry B. Wakefield, editorial writer of the *Minneapolis Journal*; Wilbur Forrest, Washington correspondent of the *New York Herald-Tribune*; Herbert L. Matthews, of the *New York Times*; Francis E. Regal, of the *Springfield (Mass.) Republican*; Fred Hogue, of the *Los Angeles Times*; Paul W. Wright, of the *Chicago Daily News*; and Judd M. Lewis, of the *Houston (Texas) Post-Dispatch*. The Carnegie Endowment was represented in the party by George A. Finch, secretary of the Endowment at Washington and also secretary of the American Association of International Law and managing editor of the *American Journal of International Law*.

The party sailed from San Francisco on April 24 and arrived at Tokyo on May 10. After a tour of Japan, Korea, and Manchuria, they went to Peiping by rail in the latter part of June, and visited Tientsin, Tsinan, Tsingtao, Shanghai and Nanking before starting on their homeward voyage in the middle of July.

Of the eleven journalists, Gideon A. Lyon, of the *Washington Star*, Francis W. Clarke, of the *Atlanta Constitution*, and Fred Hogue, of the *Los Angeles Times*, recorded their impressions of China in a number of articles, while George S. Johns, of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and Francis Regal, of the *Springfield Republican*, wrote two or three articles. The rest of the party evidently preferred to write after they returned home and had a little time to recuperate from the effect of the strenuous journey, for there is no

doubt, judging from the writings of their more industrious colleagues, that the party was travelling at a great peace and that their daily programs were of a nature to tax their mental and physical capacity.

Having been written on the spur of the moment and in the midst of crowded programs, the letters so far published in the various papers are just records of the first impressions of the visiting writers, and no doubt contain hasty judgments, which might, upon more extended and more careful observation, have been modified or corrected. Nevertheless, the first impressions are always vivid and often come nearer the truth than the observations of "old-timers." Moreover, these observations of the American journalists, though undoubtedly unpalatable to our Chinese friends, should be read carefully by those whom they criticize. The criticisms may at times be found too harsh, but honest criticisms, however harsh, are better than insincere flattery. Certainly the Chinese can afford to be tolerant with, even appreciate, these criticisms, if they have their national progress and welfare at heart.

On the Train to Peiping

I suspect that the party entered China in not too good a humor, for the car which carried them from Mukden to Peiping seems to have been far from comfortable, though undoubtedly it was the best the Chinese Government, which I understand was their host, could furnish. All experienced

0364

discomfort and expressed their feeling about it. Regal, of the *Springfield Republican*, wrote:

"A special car had been provided by Marshal Chang, and was no doubt as good as the Peiping-Mukden railroad had available, but it showed evidence of the deterioration of the road. It was a compartment car, but the sanitary arrangements were badly neglected; we were lucky to get half a cupful of water for washing and shaving."

Lyon, of the *Washington Star*, said about the same thing.

Hogue of the *Los Angeles Times* expressed himself more vigorously thus:

"I can attest to the condition of the Chinese national railroads, for I have ridden over them. The engines are in a deplorable condition, the rolling stock antiquated and dilapidated, and even the first-class sleepers smell to heaven."

Having entered Peiping in this frame of mind, it was not surprising that Clarke, of the *Atlanta Constitution*, should exclaim thus:

"Peking, a city of squalor, dirt, unkempt streets and decaying buildings. A city of heat, blistering enervating heat, of dust which penetrates clothing and lungs, and of misery, the intensity of which is shown by the repulsive horror of the thousands of beggars."

Interview with President Chiang

While they were in Peiping, President Chiang Kai-shek was gracious enough to give them an interview. The scene just preceding the interview is described by Lyon, of the *Washington Star*, thus:

"The room to which we were shown was rather small and in the center was laid a long, narrow table on which were dishes of cakes, a few pots of rather meagre flowers and some plates and cups and saucers. Evidently food was in prospect, which did not interest any of us, as we had just come from breakfast. We draped ourselves around the room and waited. Officers of the presidential escort came and peeped in at us and went away. Our Chinese companions of the trip bustled about nervously. We whiled away the time of our waiting by making plans for the verbatim reporting of anything the President of China might have to say to us, having been told that he spoke extemporaneously. Cigars and cigarettes were passed. Servants came and rearranged the table somewhat. A small table was set on one side. Everybody shifted seats. Half an hour went by. Our morning's prearranged schedule was being sadly disarranged."

To Johns, of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, President Chiang appeared a man of "intelligence and force," as indicated by "his face, speech and manner." But when the President, in the course of his long prepared speech, told the journalists that "the three basic principles upon which our party is founded, as handed down to us by Dr. Sun Yat Sen, are government for, of and by the people," some of them evidently thought that altogether too much. They thought, apparently, that President Chiang, by using the famous words of Lincoln, tried to flatter them, or maybe "kid"

0365

them. So Hogue, of the *Los Angeles Times*, snapped back:

"China is a republic, in name only.

"China has representative government....in name only.

"China is independent outside the spheres of influence. These independent spheres exist in name only. I have not discovered the independent territory, nor has anyone else with whom I have talked."

And Clarke, of the *Constitution*, expressed much the same feeling in these words:

"No American could be found who would not agree in the three principles of government of, by and for the people, upon which the government of China is now supposed to be founded. As a matter of fact the present government is one of, by and for the Kuomintang party. So far as accomplishments to date of this government are concerned, the three principles might well have been a single plank of 'the people be damned.'"

Gagging of Press

It was unfortunate that the party arrived in Peiping just when the foreign correspondents and foreign press in China had been bitterly complaining about the gag policy adopted by the Nanking Government. Lyon, of the *Washington Star*, called China "this land of concealment and camouflage." Matthews, of the *New York Times*, seeing that his colleague at Peiping, Hallet Abend, had been denied cabling privilege, went back to Mukden from Peiping just to file a special dispatch to his paper telling what Nanking had been doing to

the correspondents and the press. In this costly dispatch Matthews said:

"The Chinese press is already effectively intimidated, and the attempt to control the news is now centred on the foreign correspondents and foreign language newspapers, two of which already have been barred from the mails for varying periods this year. Since February Nanking has sought the deportation of George Sokolsky of the *North China Daily News*, Rodney Gilbert, an editor of the *North China Daily News*, and Charles Dailey of *The Chicago Daily News*, as well as Mr. Abend. Captain Erich von Saltzman, noted German war correspondent, was forced to leave China.

"The recent issuance of a press card privilege to an American in Peking after three months' delay was accompanied by a note from the Under Secretary of the Foreign Office, cautioning him 'against sending news placing the National Government in an unfavorable light.' Repeated warnings have been issued to Americans not to say anything detrimental to Nanking."

This and later reports from various sources to the same effect caused the *New York Times* to publish an editorial entitled "Why China is Misunderstood," containing these passages:

"It is safe to say that if China's position is misunderstood, this is due in no small measure to the consistent efforts of the Nationalists to restrain the gathering and dissemination of news within China and its transmission to the outside world. A form of censorship so strict that it has silenced the

0366

editors of Chinese newspapers has for months prevented the publication in China of facts which the Nationalist dictators did not wish to become public property. As a result, the country itself is kept in ignorance.

“Now that the same sort of tactics is being applied in the case of foreign correspondents and foreign newspapers—albeit with a little more suavity and less active intimidation—the result abroad is to increase suspicion of the accuracy of such bits of news as the Nationalists permit to pass the censor, and to cause official communication of the government to be viewed with distrust. This cannot, in the long run, help China's standing in the world.”

Even George S. Johns, of the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, who is evidently sympathetically inclined to China, had this to say:

“Naturally, since the objective is unity, the party whips out opposition of every kind. Among the Chinese there is now no freedom of the press, freedom of speech or freedom of political action. The Chinese press is thoroughly censored and woe to the Chinese newspaper or Chinese writer or speaker who criticises the Government or the party.

“The censorship is not extended to newspapers printed by foreigners, because they have the right of extraterritoriality and the Chinese authorities cannot reach them, but now and then postal facilities are denied foreign publishers on account of criticism, or, as in the case of Hallet Abend, correspondent of the *New York Times*, deportation is attempted on account of alleged false and malicious statements.

It is unfortunate because such action intimidates the press and the correspondents and thus, if persisted in, will create distrust of all news printed in or sent out of China.”

0367

II

NEW YORK, Septembre 1. It seems to me, judging from the letters so far published, that whatever Chinese took care of the Carnegie Endowment party while they were in China overreached themselves in their zeal to "convert" these American journalists. Evidently, they tried to "rub it in." You can't convert seasoned newspaper men, American, European, Japanese or Chinese, in that way. It simply irritates them, and possibly makes them say things which, if they were left to form their own opinion, they might not say. Fred Hogue, of the Los Angeles *Times*, for instance, wrote after he listened to President Chiang at the Peking Hotel:

"Through his interpreter, he talked to us for an hour. I was so impressed that I collapsed at lunch and am now in the Rockefeller Foundation Hospital, outside the legation grounds."

Abolition of Extraterritoriality Premature

The party, or at least those of them who have already put themselves on record, seem unanimous in thinking that China's demand for the abolition of extraterritoriality is premature. Says Lyon, of the *Washington Star*:

"It is not a violent hypothesis that if 'extrality' were surrendered by the Powers and the settlements and concessions yielded, Shanghai would suffer a mortal blow, even as Tientsin is now in the agonies of commercial demise because of the silting up of its harbor in consequence of the neglect

of the Chinese authorities to keep the channel open. I have heard it said that if these present securities and safeguards were withdrawn Shanghai would be bankrupt in five years.

"These observations, it is due to myself to state, are not in any manner or degree the result of a 'holiday frame of mind,' or 'cordial receptions from hospitable hosts,' or 'conviviality.' They are the result of talks with all classes of men, here and in the north—business men, Americans, Englishmen and Chinese. The prevalent feeling is that the demand for the abolition of extraterritoriality is a campaign cry of the Kuomintang, and that the leaders are keeping it up for the sake of 'face pigeon,' not expecting success—indeed, not wanting success. Something of this sort has been heard of in American politics in the past."

To Johns, of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, the "obstacle to the abolition of extraterritoriality is the failure so far of the Government to establish a sound judicial system with guarantees of rights and liberties." "The flaw in Chinese administration," he says, "is the graft and tyranny. Foreigners in China feel sure that no foreigner could now get justice in a Chinese court, and that foreign business would be destroyed under Chinese jurisdiction."

Regal, of the *Springfield Republican*, noncommittally and diplomatically says that "opinion on extraterritoriality is divided." As for Clarke, of the *Atlanta Constitution*, he agrees with the foreign, including American, residents in China on this vexed question. He writes:

"To these demands the residents of the international

0368

settlements of Shanghai, living under the security of extraterritoriality, vehemently reply that the Chinese courts are no better now than they have ever been and that no foreigner could expect to secure justice in them. Many of the most influential merchants of the foreign settlements declare that, if extraterritoriality is abolished, they will immediately wind up their various business interests and leave the country, taking the position that it would be better to close up and get out with what they could, than to attempt to operate under the Chinese courts, as such an attempt would be nothing short of foolhardy."

Clark seems to have formed a very gloomy opinion of China, for he writes:

"Never in history has idealism, democracy and freedom of mankind been shouted from the housetops as in China today—and seldom have a people had less freedom of speech or action than under the reign of the leaders who are constantly proclaiming the gospel of the brotherhood of man.

"A treaty with China, not backed up by the mailed fist, is not worth the paper it is written on; theft and corruption in public office is rife and persecution constant.

"This is the government which, in strenuous cry, is calling for the abolition of the extraterritorial treaties, which are the only guarantee of justice to life and property to be found in China today."

Chinese Propaganda

Clarke, like the rest of the party, detests the policy of concealment pursued by the Nationalist Government. To

show how that Government is bent upon gagging everybody, Clarke quotes the following passages from the letter addressed by the Chinese authorities to Stirling Fessenden, an American, for six years chairman of the International Council of Shanghai, when he was about to depart for the United States on furlough:

"In view of your residence in China for a period of over twenty years, you are looked on as well-versed in Chinese affairs. The real situation in China, because of your limited knowledge of the language, etc., has not been available to you in all its manifold phases. May we, therefore, suggest that while in America you be kind enough not to make any comment on this country on the basis of your observations in China."

Such "instructions" Clarke thinks officious and impudent, and he takes the Nanking Government to task thus:

"Now what a different picture. Official greed and the necessity for funds to maintain China's huge army have resulted in the people being bled white. Today under the Kuomintang government, notwithstanding its broad-spread propaganda on unification and disbanding of armies, 36 per cent of the gross expenditures of the government is on the army.

"The nationalist government is based on the soviet system of government by committees and is, as I have stated, controlled by the Kuomintang, which is itself dominated by a small, self-perpetuating clique. It is not a government of the people, for the people and by the people, which is the

0369

slogan the visitor hears constantly from the lips of every Chinese official, but is a government by and for the leaders of the Kuomintang.”

To which Hogue, of the *Los Angeles Times*, adds:

“The use of the term ‘republic’ by the nationalist government, as by the governments which have preceded it, is a base counterfeit, just as the use of the term ‘Christian General’ by the Machiavellian Feng is a slander on Christianity.”

Bright Side Not Ignored

Happily even Clarke, of the *Constitution*, does not entirely miss the bright side of China, for he says:

“The situation is not, however, without its hope for the future. There is no gainsaying the fact that the group of younger Chinese who are now the controlling factor in the government are earnest patriots, men who are striving to clean house so that they can turn their attention to the bettering of the conditions of their people.

“They admit frankly that, instead of the general condition of the country improving since the overthrow of the royal family, it has grown worse. This they attribute to the necessity of gradually eliminating the imperialists and militarists, who, backed by Soviet money, have fought every step toward unified government.

“The bright side of the situation is that, even if it is not being put into effect, China has for the first time a constitution, the nature of the guarantees of which are such as

to make it possible to use it as the foundation upon which to slowly build a structure during the years to come, which would result in the bringing of education, health and happiness to this pitiful people, who have been downtrodden so long by their own leaders and by the hand of fate, that they are now little removed from the dumb animals alongside which they daily labor.”

Somewhat similar views are expressed by Johns, of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, in these words:

“The enthusiasm of young China, that part of its youth which is intelligent enough to comprehend what is happening, is manifest. The zeal of the young Chinese who support the Kuomintang and organize and direct the local councils leads them to extravagance, mistakes and tyrannies. But as a wise old Chinese statesman, who is now engaged in educational work, said to me: ‘Their mistakes are due to inexperience which retards progress, but they will get over that.’”

Financial Condition Deplorable

As to China’s cry “Lend us money and we shall show you what we can do,” these American journalists evidently think that time has not yet come when foreign money can be safely invested in China. Says Lyon, of the *Washington Star*:

“Frankly, these foreign business interests are skeptical of the ability of the Chinese to understand the basic principle of a national loan, which is the obligation to provide for its repayment in due time and for the regular payment

0370

of interest. Heretofore, it would seem, the Chinese official concern has been only to get the money, and to let the lender worry about principal and interest. Of course, that method of financing a government cannot continue without collapse in time."

Hogue, of the *Los Angeles Times*, goes quite a little farther saying:

"American creditors of the Peking-Hankow and the Peking-Suiyuan railways fared no better. Representatives of the General American Car Company, the Robert Dollar Company and the United States Steel Company, were here to plead for some kind of an accounting on bills totaling millions for material supplied. But all they received were promises. Most of their bills are from seven to ten years past due; the lines are making an operating profit; but the surplus went again into the coffers of the war lords.

"An army in the field is a better collector than an attorney in an office.

"Under the northern governments, before the Nationalists arrived from the south, some regard was paid to keeping pledges in nationally controlled projects, but the Kuomintang is following the example of Moscow. There is no paying teller at the foreign window in their banks."

Hogue even thinks American efforts for famine relief in China useless, for he says:

"Neither is it surprising that there is dreadful famine in the land. Last year the farmers were despoiled of their harvest by the different armies. There was no seed wheat

left for the planting. It is not a famine caused by flood and drought so much as a military famine."

Tsinan Incident

When the party arrived at Tsinan utmost efforts were made by the Chinese there to convert the journalists to their view of the well-known incident of May, 1928. A big delegation met them at the station, and the Mayor entertained them at breakfast. And as Lyon, of the *Washington Star*, tells us:

"We left Tsinan to the cheers of the multitude. We were loaded with gifts, the great portfolio of shocking photographs, monographs on Tsinan and its hideous history, and a heavy bolt of Shantung silk for suits, enough for several Summers' needs, gift of the mayor. These gifts are somewhat embarrassing, when they take the form of valuables, such as silk. We cannot reject them. Yet some of our members feel that acceptance of them is compromising. The course of courtesy seems to be to take them with thanks, and with full reservation of all rights of judgment on the questions pending and put before us for consideration. After all, we are not the judges of either side in this matter."

When the party sailed for Shanghai from Tsingtao after they had been shown the effects of the Japanese "atrocities", they sailed, as Lyon says, "to the tune of a lively air by a military band, with a company of infantry standing at present arms in salute." Surely, nothing was left undone to please and influence the party. But this was another case

0371

of "rubbing it in," which the newspaper men generally detest. The only mention made by the party of this Chinese appeal was the following from the pen of Lyon, of the *Washington Star*:

"Tsinan did not need any longer than the two hours or so that we spent there to put over the bitter protest prepared for us against the 'outrage' of this undeniably lamentable happening. It had the railway stations—both of them—plastered with banners relating to the tragedy. It took us driving through the scene of the attack and showed us the scars of the fighting. It had provided a great album of photographs of gruesome scenes after the 'massacre,' a copy of which was given to each of us. It had other printed material bearing on the matter."

But the party took the attitude that "they were not the judges of either side." The other journalists have not written a line about Shantung. Hogue, of the *Los Angeles Times*, who was, I understand, ill in Peiping and did not go to Shantung, refers to the Province in one of his letters thus:

"When, under the terms of a treaty negotiated during the Washington Conference in 1922, the Province of Shantung was transferred from Japanese to Chinese sovereignty all the western Powers applauded. The Chinese delegates had exhausted all the superlatives in the English language to depict the oppression and misery under foreign rule and the glorious future that awaited the province, once it was a sovereign state of the great Republic of China.

"So much for theory; but how has the transfer actually

worked out? The war lords have been enriched by the additional revenue, much of it collected through forced tribute and plunder. The most important Chinese banks and business firms have transferred their headquarters to foreign concessions, fleeing the spoliation of the war lords. The natives of the province are streaming out into Manchuria and elsewhere at the rate of more than 1,000,000 a year.

"No sooner was Shantung under Chinese sovereignty than a battle royal began among the war lords. Each wished to be the first to despoil it, to exact tribute from the communities, which had been growing richer while the rest of China was growing poorer. Cities were besieged. Armies were maneuvered in the fields of growing grain. There was impressment for military service. Peace, security and justice were only a memory.

"For some years laborers had been leaving the province in the spring to work in the bean fields and grain fields of Southern Manchuria, returning to their homes and families when winter came. But when they now returned, they found the communities in which they lived despoiled and their families scattered or dead."

Such are the views of the American journalists. No doubt they are hasty. No doubt they are faulty. But they expressed themselves honestly and frankly. If they are not flattering, the Chinese may find consolation in Ben Johnson's words; "Very few men are wise by their own counsel, or learned by their own teaching; for he that was only taught by himself has a fool to his master."

0372

Epaminondas, so Plutarch tells us, finding himself lifted up in his day of public triumph, the next day went drooping and hanging down his head; and being asked what was the reason of his so great dejection, made answer: "Yesterday I felt myself transported with vainglory, therefore I chastise myself for it today."

Will China emulate Epaminondas and prove herself truly great?

In my next letter I shall describe Japanese impressions of these journalists.

IMPRESSIONS IN JAPAN

I

NEW YORK, Sept. 5. In my previous two letters dated September 1, I gave a resume of the Chinese impressions and observations of the American journalists who toured through the Far East from May 10 to August 2 under the auspices of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. In this and following two letters I shall present a similar resume in regard to Japan.

The articles on Japan summarized here were written by Gideon A. Lyon, of the *Washington Star*, Francis W. Clarke, of the *Atlanta Constitution*, Fred Hogue, of the *Los Angeles Times*, Francis Regal, of the *Springfield Republican*, and Philip Simms, foreign editor of the Scripps-Howard newspapers. To which will be added a poem or two by Judd M. Lewis, of the *Houston Post-Dispatch*, who preferred to record his impressions in verse. The rest of the party—Harry B. Wakefield, of the *Minneapolis Journal*, Wilbur Forrest, of the *New York Herald-Tribune*, Herbert L. Mathews, of the *New York Times*, and Paul S. Wright, of the *Chicago Daily News*, have not so far written any article.

When Lafcadio Hearn arrived in Japan, a kind English professor, presumably the late Basil Hall Chamberlain, proffered this advice: "Do not fail to write down your first impressions as soon as possible—they are evanescent, you know; they will never come back to you again, once they

have faded out; and yet of all the strange sensations you may receive in this country you will feel none so charming as these."

Charms of Life and Art

To all of the eleven American journalists, except Simms of the Scripps-Howard papers, Japan was new—long, perhaps, a land of their imagination and dreams. Being newspaper men, accustomed to quick action and carrying "portables" wherever they went, some of them lost no time in recording their first impressions vivid but evanescent. To Clarke, of the Atlanta *Constitution*, Japan seemed "a haven of tourists," potential if not actual, for

"Where else in the world than in the far east could a tourist take his dinner on the roof garden of a magnificent hotel, while the latest music came from the instruments of skilled musicians and cooling breezes blew down a broad and busy boulevard filled with finest automobiles of a half dozen countries and at the same time be within five minutes ride of scenes centuries old—strange, exotic, but alluring in their every respect?

"The lure of the Orient: It is something you can hear about, you can read about, but you will never know until you have felt it. Walk down a 'theater street' and your every sense leaps to answer its call.

"Probably no country in the world was so lavishly dealt with by nature as Japan. From the exquisite beauty of Nikko, the loveliest of all national shrines, to the grandeur

of the scenery of the Inland Sea on the south, the eyes of the tourist are kept busy taking in one beauty spot after another.

"In Japan you can ride along cliffs a thousand feet high overlooking azure blue bays; you may fish in lakes high in clouds, nestling in the craters of extinct volcanoes, or you may shoot rapids through canyons the sides of which seem to stretch up to the skies."

Lyon, of the *Washington Star*, was charmed with the artistry of the Japanese, and expressed his appreciation of this aspect of Japanese life thus:

"The Japanese people love to make pictures. They illuminate their lives with joyous colors, with beautiful shapes, with significant rituals of ceremony. They love their country, are proud of its varied features and want all comers to appreciate it as they do. Their welcomes and their farewells are sincere and spontaneous. They cling to old customs for the sake of artistry that is their inspiration. They may progress to new modes of living, to new style of clothing, to new methods of business, but at heart they retain their love of the ancient forms, and blessed is the visitor who evokes their real spirit of hospitality and friendship."

In another letter from Tokyo, Lyon wrote:

"I went up to Theater street the other night with some American ladies, friends at home. Whenever we stopped to price goods or to purchase trinkets, crowds gathered. A hundred men, women and children would stand silently, gazing upon the Westerners. Not a rude gesture was made or,

0374

so far as we could know, a rule word was uttered. There was nothing disrespectful in the steady stare of these on-lookers. They were simply interested. And if one of us looked around and smiled in appreciation of the situation, dozens of smiles came flashback in recognition of a mutual sense of humor.

"This is the Japan we are loath to leave, the Japan of the small streets—smiling Japan."

Regal, of the *Springfield Republican*, was so taken with the peculiar charm of Japanese life that he wrote at Kyoto that "I should like to read all the important books on Japan and even to learn a little of the Japanese language." Of Kyoto he wrote:

"In many respects this is the most beautiful of the cities we have seen, and it is not surprising that it is a great favorite with tourists, though their number is not great enough to be a blot on the landscape. I have fallen in love with dove color and gentle voices, so that I shudder when a raucous and graceless group of foreign women with shameless legs heaves in sight. Of course the great wave of westernism is bound to submerge Japan, but it is to be hoped that some of the old beauty will survive.

"I saw hundreds of women today as beautiful in tone and color as any Japanese print. That is only one side of Japan, of course, and the women need emancipation, no doubt, but it would be tragic for them to copy the West slavishly."

Japan is a land of contrasts, ultra-modernism jogging cheek by jowl with ultra-conservatism, customs out of the very age of the gods mingling with the gay manners of New

York or Paris, immense structures of steel and cement in juxtaposition with quaint, picturesque wooden buildings of the old style. Wrote Clarke, of the *Atlanta Constitution*, at Nara:

"The contrasts which meet the eye as you ride along the streets of the cities and the country roads of Japan—buildings and customs separated by 15 centuries standing side by side in the twentieth century. Motor along the broad boulevards of Tokyo and as you look ahead or behind you, as far as the eye can see, there are magnificent buildings of American architecture, clanging street cars and speeding automobiles. You are in the midst of 1929 at its best. Look to the left or the right, down the cross streets, and you are a thousand years back in history. Narrow streets, scarcely more than alleyways, rows upon rows of tiny buildings of the same architecture as was used in the days of the Samurai, rickshas and teeming thousands of men, women, children and dogs."

To Hogue, of the *Los Angeles Times*, "Japan is the museum of the art, culture, religion, tradition, symbolism of fifteen vanished oriental centuries." "To this archipelago," he tells us "that never has been successfully invaded, that turned back the conquering hordes of Ghengis and Kublai Kahn, who ravaged Asia and Europe from the China Sea to the banks of the Danube; to this sanctuary fled the sages and the artists of China and India with the treasures of thought and culture they had been able to rescue. In the temples, palaces and museums of Japan these precious manuscripts and objects of art still are preserved—more

0375

masterpieces of vanished years than are to be found in the Vatican, Prada, Louvre and British Museum combined."

Hogue's facts call for correction, but he is right in saying that to the lovers of Oriental art Japan is an inexhaustible store of treasures.

Tourist Attractions—Room for Improvement

All of which led Lyon, of the *Washington Star*, to make these businesslike observations:

"Japan's tourist attractions are so many that I will not undertake to indicate them. They are obvious. The tide of travel overseas is increasing as facilities are improved. The fact that travel in Japan is comfortable and safe and the fact that hotel accommodations are adequate and in accord with Western tastes, are getting known to people of our country more fully annually. Consequently, with better ships in service with a steady lessening of the time needed for the sea transit, and with a broader proclamation of the beauties and points of interest in Japan, the number of visitors grows each season. There is, furthermore, a certain advantage in coming out here from the Atlantic seaboard States, in that Americans can thus 'see America first' in transit on their way to the East and can see it again on their way home. So there is nothing unpatriotic about urging an Eastern American to make Japan his next long-vacation objective. But he will have to take lessons in long-distance packing and in souvenir storage in order to be quite comfortable in his mind."

He might have added—I wish he had—that Japan, to be a real tourist country, must have better motor roads,

better hotels, better sewer system, etc. He was too polite to offer such frank criticism. But such criticism would have been valuable particularly at the time when Japan was anxious to draw foreign tourists to her shores. As far as natural scenery and manners and customs are concerned, there is little doubt that Japan is one of the most picturesque, interesting, alluring countries in the world. But she has not adequate facilities to show the foreigners the best she has. Not only along the beaten track along the Pacific Ocean and the Inland Sea, but in the interior along Nakasendo, in Sanindo along the Japan Sea, in Kiushu, in Hokkaido, Japan is full of beautiful sceneries and interesting places, but due to the absence of motor roads and good hotels, these are not accessible to foreigners, especially American tourists accustomed to modern conveniences at home. Even on the beaten track along which the foreigner travels we have but a few tens of miles of motor roads here and there. Even at such "show" places as Nikko and Hakone automobiles are driven over what the American would call "one-way" dirt roads, or rather paths, bumpy, dusty, full of ruts, full of hair-pin curves,—narrow trails zigzagging the mountain sides. Only by the dexterity of the Japanese drivers are these roads negotiated. The average foreign, particularly American, tourist does not relish the thought of whirling over these precipitous trails, even though the scenery along them might be worth braving the hazard. Even Lyon, of the *Washington Star*, so enthusiastic over Japan, wrote about his trip up Nikko to Chuzenji thus:

0376

"Nobody adequately prepared us for the trip. We knew that the lake is a couple of thousand feet higher than Nikko, itself about 2,000 feet above the sea. But we did not know that 5 miles of the way comprised a one-way road, 2 miles of which include 38 of the most hair-raising, breath-taking turns in the world. In those 2 miles the way ascends a thousand feet. That ride is one which no nervous person should ever undertake. And yet it is probable that nobody would ever refuse it, knowing the glories of scenery to be witnessed on the way and on the upper level."

No End of Praise for Natural Beauty

Of Nikko itself Lyon expressed himself thus poetically:

"Happy is the visitor who stands on the balcony of the hotel at sunset and hears the deep booming of the great bell in the Buddhist temple up among the giant pines. Below him rushes and clatters the river, speeding down from the mountain lake a dozen miles away. The fading light illumines the garden, with its flaming azaleas. The tones of the bell hang in the air, seemingly endless. It is the voice of the East."

Again, of his ride around beautiful Unzen near Nagasaki Lyon wrote:

"As it is, one must have perfect faith in the driver as he whirls his car up the grades and around the hairpin corners and honks joyously—all the drivers in this din-loving East take pride in their born-blowing capacities, and here in Japan they are rejoiced at the regulation requiring each car to be

equipped with three different-toned horns—and maneuver to make a passing on a piece of road definitely built for one-way traffic.

"Put me in a good car—of American make—with such a driver as we had the other day, with a dry road, winding around the buttresses of the big hills, with occasional views of the sea, now and then dashing through villages at a pace to threaten the lives of all the inhabitants, but never touching so much as the hem of a kimono, and I will claim to have arrived at the point of complete satisfaction. That is, if assured that the luggage is awaiting me at the other end of the route, or will arrive shortly after me. That is the one question in the mind of the motor tourist in Japan, or elsewhere. What of those clean clothes that are absolutely essential to comfort and self-respect? It is here to be recorded that I no longer have any anxiety on this score. Japanese efficiency has proved itself to me."

0377

II

Industrial Japan—Discovers

NEW YORK, Sept. 6. The party seem to have enjoyed their trips to rural districts and to the cities, now great thriving industrial cities, but absent on the map when these journalists studied their American text books on geography. Nagoya, for instance, was a revelation to them as Hogue wrote in the *Los Angeles Times*:—

“I have just discovered Nagoya, a Japanese city with more than 1,000,000 inhabitants, that didn't appear on the school map when I studied geography. Nagoya is the Chicago of Japan. Its population has doubled in the last ten years. It is building a harbor much as we have built one at Los Angeles Harbor. As an industrial metropolis it ranks next to Osaka. Its chinaware and textile industries paid more millions in revenue to the American government than to the government of Japan; and it has the best sake and the prettiest, liveliest geishas I have yet encountered in Japan.”

Of the famous castle in Nagoya, Hogue wrote admiringly:

“It was a revelation to me to find that the Japanese were building skyscrapers 300 years ago. I have never seen aught on the Rhine, in Czecho-Slovakia or Hungary to equal it. It is a wooden construction, but so lacquered within and without that it has proved impervious to time. The copper roof has not been replaced and its state of preservation suggests enchantment. About the castle is a wall of granite

rock twenty feet high with lesser fortress-castles at the corners. The approaches are defended on every side by a moat. For symmetry, harmony, architectural beauty, it is one of the wonders of the sixteenth century. What a civilization, what a culture was here, while Western Europe was just emerging from the dark ages!”

To which Regal, of the *Springfield Republican*, adds: “Most of us had the greatest surprise of the trip, when we reached Nagoya and found, not a city to match Chicopee or Holyoke or Springfield, but one of over 900,000 people, which is working to pass the million mark and hopes to come up from behind and edge Tokio out of second place.”

Shizuoka and its tea industry were another revelation to the party. To lift prosaic things of commerce to the etherial realm of literature I shall let Lewis, of the *Houston Post-Dispatch*, the poet of the party, record in verse what they saw at Shizuoka and at the nearby seashore city of Numazu:

In Numazu.

“On the wide beach at Numazu
I sit beside the sea
And Geisha girls in flowered gowns
Come out to dance for me
In their wide obis and in gowns
Of many a flowered fold.
They dance for me as Geishas danced
For the Shoguns of old.”

0378

The sampans of the fishermen
Come in across the sea
As Geishas play the samisen
And bow and dance for me,
And they seem bits of wind-stirred blooms
Like pictures on a fan
And as I think of them my heart
Is back in old Japan.

"Twas from the port of Numazu
Was shipped the wondrous tea
That first tea we had from Japan
In days of used-to-be;
The leaves in Shizuoka grown
And shipped from Numazu—
From Numazu, from nowhere comes
A more delicious brew.

"And I have but to breathe the steam
Of that enchanting brew
And I am sitting on the shore
Back there in Numazu,
And see the fishing sampans come
With harvests from the sea
And watch the little Geisha girls
Come out to dance for me."

Pearl Culture

Another country place which made a profound impression upon the party was enchanting seashore at Gokasho, where the celebrated Kokichi Mikimoto has a great pearl culture enterprise. Johns, of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Lyon, of the *Washington Star*, Hogue, of the *Los Angeles Times*, and Clarke, of the *Atlanta Constitution*, all wrote about the visit at considerable length. Wrote Hogue:

"Last night I dined with a Japanese Lucullus in his chateau of pearls; and no Latin Lucullus ever served his guests more regally. Our host was Mikimoto, the pearl baron of Japan, owner of the pearl fisheries of Gokasho Bay, reputed to have more millions at his command than Monte Cristo.

"Mikimoto owes his millions to the discovery of the secret of implanting a seed pearl in the shell of a baby oyster. Countless colonies of oysters are working for him, watched by the bewitching dark eyes of lovely Japanese maidens, more alluring than any mermaid that ever basked on the rock in the Mediterranean or any Lorelli that frequented the whirlpools of the Rhine.

"I spent the night as a guest at Pearl Chateau. To say I slept would be a fabrication; but my waking dreams were so seductive as to make me wish never to sleep again.

"For breakfast this morning we had luscious English strawberries in a Japanese garden.

"Before dinner I was escorted to a bath by two little

0379

Japanese maids; and they clad me afterwards in a rare Japanese kimono. I expressed my admiration for it; and when I opened my grip this afternoon I found the Kimono packed neatly inside, with a note in English asking me to accept it with the compliments of my host."

To this Johns added:

"The old man, who lives in a charming villa on the hills surrounded by mountains and bay, entertained us in Japanese fashion for a day and night and another day. He is a character, full of humor. He put on the luncheon plates two oyster patties each containing a pearl, and as a pleasant joke presented each one of us with 12 pearl-oysters, a sort of a gamble. The 12 oysters were opened in our presence, and we took the pearls produced. Each 12 produced seven to eight pearls in various size and form, two or three quite perfect."

"Sayonara" and "Banzai"

The party was especially touched by the "sayonara" with which Beppu, another of their "discoveries", bade them good-bye, so much so that Lyon, of the *Washington Star*, said that "I hope some day to return to Beppu—in cooler weather—and tell the people there how much I appreciated their 'sayonara' of last night."

What did Beppu do to move the hearts of the party? Let Lyon himself tell the story:

"We reached the steamer about 25 minutes before sailing time. Soon we saw gathering on the dock numbers of

people with paper lanterns. Presently, up the gangplank came hurrying a score of men with lanterns, bunches of them, lighted, in their hands. They found us on the upper deck and gave each of us one of the lanterns, which were suspended on slender, whip-like stems of bamboo. Then packets of reeled colored paper were given to us, handfuls of them. Over the side went the paper, to be grasped at the shore end by eager hands. Hundreds of these joined us with our hosts on the pier. The air was filled with the lanterns, bobbing and waving.

"The whistle blew, the lines were cast off and the ship slid out of the dock. From the pier arose a great 'sayonara'. The lanterns waved furiously. As the ship slid out to the breakwater, the scores of people holding fast to the ribands of paper followed. It was as though we were drawing them with us. At the pierhead, of course, they stopped. The ribands stretched and unrolled and then, one by one, they broke and streamed back, while the lanterns were waved and the air resounded with 'sayonara' and 'banzai'."

Nikko, Miyanoshita, Hakone, Yamada, Nara, Kyoto, Osaka—these were all interesting each in its own way. Of Miyanoshita, or rather the Fujiya Hotel there, Regal wrote in the *Springfield Republican*:

"A little river, now nearly dry but walled against prodigious floods, runs through the deep intervening gorge. The mountain at the back of the hotel and making its backyard, has noted mineral springs, and by climbing picturesque winding steps in the hillside among cascades, tiny bridges,

0380

pools of huge goldfish, arbors of wistaria, etc., one come to a great mineral bathing pool of deliciously clear green water, two feet deep at one end and eight at the other. It was only tepid today but in the winter it is so hot that there is year-round bathing."

Imperial Progress

It so happened that when the party were due to arrive in Kobe, the Emperor was also going there on a tour of inspection. "Probably," wrote Simms, of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, "no incident of their entire journey, since leaving the United States to tour the Orient, has interested the party of American editors more than the visit of the Emperor to this great Japanese seaport." Were the party privileged to participate in the welcome for his majesty, or at least get a glimpse of the imperial cortege? No! The rules prescribed by the local authorities for such participation were so rigid and exacting, that the journalists thought it wise to stay away from the scene. These rules seemed to them very strange—they were courteous enough not to say absurd or irritating. "The extent," wrote Clarke in the *Atlanta Constitution*, "to which these rules were enforced was illustrated in the hotels along the line of march. An hour before the time for the procession to put in its appearance, police went from room to room and guests were escorted to the lobby, where all window shades had been carefully closed. All employes were herded in the basement and, as a final touch, all lights were extinguished as the

parade passed." Hogue wrote in the *Los Angeles Times*:

"No one was permitted to look down upon the procession from a second-story window. All were required to kneel with bowed uncovered heads while the cortege passed. Perfect silence reigned. No native would think of carrying a cane, an umbrella or a camera that day and no foreigner was permitted to do so. The worship of the twentieth century Japanese for the reigning Emperor is that of the devout Catholic sisterhood for the Madonna. The Emperor is a Pope holding both spiritual and temporal power; and not in 1000 years has the throne been more firmly established.

"We had been held here in Kyoto for two days, while the royal cortege passed through the streets of Osaka and Kobe only twenty miles away. We shall be carried to Kobe tonight, under the cover of darkness, and must depart tomorrow with the dawn for Shimonoseki. They will show us their factories, museums, universities, but not their Emperor."

Even Lyon, who discreetly put on the soft pedal in expressing his sentiments, showed himself somewhat impatient on the occasion, as he wrote in the *Washington Star*:

"A reading of these rules will explain why the members of our party are not anxious to stay in Kobe in order to see the imperial progress. Even if we were to remain in the hotel and use it for an observation post, it would be highly dangerous for us to look out of the windows. And as for a camera, we might as well ask for the number of

0381

our cell in jail as to produce one on this occasion. That is why we are off for Miyajima and the floating torii."

Enchanting Miyajima

And so to Miyajima they went from Kyoto. What did they find there? I shall let Lewis, the rhymester, tell the tale of Miyajima, the enchanting isle of the Inland Sea:

Miyajima.

"When I am old, am spent with toil,
When life's grim duties draw their coil
More tight about me, then, in dreams,
I shall see where the blue sea gleams
About the Torii which, before
Fair Miyajima seems a door
Giving ingress to lands of rest,
The residents wherein are blest
With peace of body and of mind—
Most fortunate of human-kind.

"In weariness my aching eyes
Shall see green mountains and blue skies,
Shall see the lighted lanterns shine,
Leading to Miyajima's shrine.
The Gods, in God-like tenderness
For body and for soul distress,
A haven for the world-worn made
Where winding paths and maple-shade,
Mount, sea and shore give of their best
To weave a spell of peace and rest.

"Those who have heard the Temple-bell
Across the perfumed twilight swell,
Who have known Miyajima's shore,
Shall know surcease forevermore
For weariness. Where'er they be
The spell of mountain, shore and sea
Shall be evoked by weariness
To minister to their distress.
Mem'ry of Miyajima's charms,
Soft as a mother's—sweetheart's—arms."

0382

III

Too Many Geisha Parties

NEW YORK, Sept. 6. "Exactly 47 functions, including visits to places of interest, made up our formal program for just over a week in Tokyo, an average of about five a day."

Thus wrote Simms, foreign news editor of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, somewhat in a tone of despair, upon the party's arrival in Tokyo. Evidently the reception committee tried to outdo the American known to be the most "strenuous" host in the world. The pace thus set was too fast, and here and there in the correspondence by these journalists I noticed a tone of weariness, though they politely suppressed the inclination to complain. Bravely they went through all the programs, including numerous "geisha parties." Speaking about the geisha, the reception committee or committees made too much of these parties. From their writings I could tell that some of the journalists were "sick" of them, though they refrained from saying so. For the sake of curiosity one or two such parties are desirable, but to repeat them so often is a great mistake. To me, personally, the geisha is a bore. Her talk is prattle, and of limited scope, and her dancing monotonous. To the foreigner, not understanding the language or the meaning of the symbolism of the Japanese dancing, the geisha must be a nuisance, except on the first one or two occasions. A Japanese dinner, attended by more than six or seven, and

waited on by geishas, is usually a failure, if the purpose be to establish better acquaintance between the host and the guests and among the guests themselves, for you can't talk with your neighbors across the whole length of a room in the din of the chattering of the geishas. A "western-style" dinner, which enables the diners to talk freely across and around a common table, is much better suited to such purposes. Regal, of the *Springfield Republican*, who I suspect was especially bored by the geisha, quotes a young Japanese, whom he met at one of the geisha dinners, as saying that the geisha was out of date and that she was doomed as an institution.

Japanese Friendship for U. S.

So let us leave the geisha, and talk about more serious affairs. How did the party find Japan's feeling towards the United States, for instance?

After a month's tour in Japan, Simms wrote in the twenty-five newspapers of which he is foreign editor at Washington:

"That Japan is eager to improve and maintain the most cordial relations with the United States, is perhaps the outstanding impression of the 11 American newspaper men. As a practical people the Japanese are sincerely desirous of reaching and maintaining the most perfect possible understanding with America. They are doing all they can to dissipate such clouds as may hover on the horizon, the chief of which, beyond question, being our ban on Japanese

0383

immigration. It is their hope that Washington will eventually, of its own accord, put Japan on a quota basis, like other countries, despite the fact that under such a system hardly any Japanese at all could enter the United States, so small would be their quota."

Simms' allusion to Japanese exclusion opens up a thorny question. Before the party arrived in Japan, they had all of them expected to hear much Japanese argument against the exclusion clause of the 1924 immigration act. To their astonishment they found few Japanese anxious to discuss the matter. Naturally, Lyon, in one of his letters to the *Star*, asked: "Was it merely a matter of polite avoidance of a painful topic in the presence of guests? Were we being granted a special dispensation of courtesy to prevent asperity?" To these questions he found an answer in the following explanation by an American resident in Tokyo:

"You will not hear this subject discussed, because Japan has adopted a policy of silence regarding it. Immigration is not mentioned publicly or privately. Japan has not forgotten or forgiven the slight put upon her nationals by the exclusion from the United States. She will not do so. But she understands the matter better now than at first, and realizes that political considerations in America prompted this discrimination. She hopes and believes that, if the subject is not discussed, Americans will themselves in time, perhaps soon, remove the stigma of the exclusion act and admit Japanese to the privilege of entrance, on a

quota basis. However small the quota may be, its establishment will be regarded as an act of justice, as a recognition that the Japanese are human beings entitled to association with Americans, even as are the peoples of Europe and Africa and South America and some other parts of Asia.

"Japan wants to be aligned with the Western civilization. She believes that the day will come when the East and the West will be in conflict, when Asia and the other parts of the world will be at odds. In that event Japan wants to be on the side of the civilization which was brought to her by America. And it is to that end that she wants to have the discrimination removed, this slight corrected, this classification with the undesirables of Asia amended."

All the members of the party seem practically agreed that Japan's friendliness towards America is beyond question. "I find everywhere," wrote Regal in the *Springfield Republican*, "a cordiality towards America which I feel sure is genuine." "Of all the striking characteristics of the Japanese people," wrote Clarke in the *Atlanta Constitution*, "there are perhaps none more outstanding than their will for peace, their admiration for America and their earnest desire for the friendship of the American people." In another letter Clarke elaborated the same idea thus:

"One thing is established definitely and absolutely in the minds of the men comprising the party of American journalists now in Japan under the auspices of the Carnegie Endowment for World Peace, and that is the practical im-

0384

possibility of a situation arising which would result in war between Japan and the United States.

"First of the reasons for this conclusion is the genuine regard for the United States and its people and customs evidenced by the people, high and low, of Japan. The great mass of the Japanese people frankly admit that it was America that opened the way for her to enter the portals of the great nations of the world and they freely admit their debt of gratitude. Secondly, and perhaps of more importance, under the present economic relations between the two countries, it is hard to imagine any cause or causes which would cause Japan to be willing to go to war with the United States.

"There are Japanese viewpoints and ambitions which are sharply at variance with American ideas and ideals, but these are of such inconsequence in comparison with the great lessons each people could learn from the other, and on which they could agree, that the mission of the eleven men now in Japan, representing millions of American newspaper readers, assumes a marked significance and importance."

Rebuilding of Tokyo and Yokohama

Apart from the beautiful scenery of the land, the picturesque customs of the people, the great work of reconstruction since the earthquake disaster of 1923 made the greatest impression upon the party. Of the rebirth of Yokohama, Clarke wrote in the *Atlanta Constitution*:

"Today a new Yokohama, a city of more than 600,000 people, built on the ashes of old Yokohama, is the gateway to the orient. It is a metropolis of broad boulevards, magnificent public buildings, and a city life teeming with business activity. Never in all the history of the world has there been witnessed such a rebirth. Not only has a new city been built on the site of old Yokohama, but a vastly improved city. In the place of the old narrow, crooked and poorly paved oriental streets, wide and straight avenues invite the peoples of the world who land at Yokohama.

"When world pilgrims come ashore they see an entirely reconstructed city 90 miles in circumference, with main streets crossing each other in all directions and intersecting rivers and canals. While the lure of the orient is gone, there is no lack of beauty, because in rebuilding their city the citizens of Yokohama planned for a city not of business conveniences, but of modern, western ideals of attractiveness and comfort. Parks surround the bay front and dot the city, while even the seemingly numberless bridges which cross the rivers and canals add to the beauty of the city. On all sides, in the business sections as well as the residential, are the riotously blooming flowers of the orient and the evergreen shrubs and trees for which Japan is noted."

To us Japanese reconstruction work, especially in Tokyo, has seemed slow, muddled, inefficient, encumbered with politics and corruption. We grumble and complain, and wonder when, if ever, we are going to see the end of a confused, torn-up Tokyo, a city muddy in rain, enveloped in

0385

dust clouds when windy. The rezoning, for one thing, was delayed by a year or more by municipal politics. Only a year ago a number of politicians were indicted for corruption in connection with the reconstruction of Tokyo. And so it goes. But such domestic matters were not disclosed to our journalistic visitors, and even if they were, such corruptions and such inefficiency are, after all, nothing peculiar to Japan. And so we turn to Lyon's admiring and admirably clear description of Tokyo's rebirth:

"I will give just a few figures, which will illustrate the magnitude of the work that started as soon as possible after the ruins had cooled and plans could be formulated for the regeneration of Tokyo: Ten thousand acres of city area were totally wrecked; 7,500 acres were relaid in streets; 746 kilometers of roads were built; 900 acres of land needed for new roads were given by the owners to the municipality. No less than 420 new bridges had to be built. In the construction of the larger ones, crossing the Sumida River, the rebuilders looked far ahead and, in the face of criticism, erected structures good for many decades to come and strong enough to withstand the severest earthquakes. Nothing finer is to be seen anywhere in the way of bridge construction than the Eitai-bashi, the Kiyosu-bashi and the Komakata bridges spanning Tokio's dividing stream. And it is somewhat a matter of pride to us that in the planning of these great works the services of American engineers were enlisted. I may mention that 54 new parks were added to the 30 that previously existed in the metropolitan area; that 117 new grammar

schools were built to replace those destroyed; that 5 free dispensaries, 12 employment offices and 10 municipal dining rooms, 10 municipal pawnshops, and 3 large central markets were established.

"These are in major part works in replacement and extension. There are new works of prevention and insurance against disaster as well, such as the adoption of a zoning system, which reduces the risk of congestion, and the establishment of several fire-prevention districts. In the rebuilding of these latter districts, the municipality has granted the property owners 20,000,000 yen—about \$10,000,000—as a subsidy for fireproof construction and has loaned in addition some 60,000,000 yen at a low rate of interest.

"This tremendous work has been costly. It has drained Japan of its spare cash and drawn upon its reserves and its credit. At present the total cost is estimated at 847,000,000 yen, or half as many dollars. This work and these expenditures are all under the Home Office supervision and by municipal authorities. In addition, the Imperial Government is engaged in reconstructions entailing an estimated cost of 826,000,000 yen. That makes 1,673,000,000 yen in all—\$836,500,000. And all has been done within five and a half years from the disaster. The expectation is that the set program will be finished by the municipality in another year. But private reconstruction will take longer. All temporary buildings erected for emergency use, for housing and for

business must be replaced by fireproof construction within 10 years of the fire."

All of which, and the general progress of Japan as seen by the party, caused Clarke to write in the *Atlanta Constitution*:

"No man can see the Japanese at home, see the wonders they have worked in the last half century, without an instant respect and sincere liking for the little brown men whose nation is now deservedly one of the great powers of the world. The Japan of today is a modern nation, with modern ideas and with a high type of civilization. Step out of the passenger station in Tokyo and you might think you were in the heart of a modern American city of a million population. Towering buildings of ultra modern architecture greet your eyes on all sides, while electric cars and American automobiles crowd the streets."

Flattering as these words sound, there is little doubt about the sincerity of the man who wrote them, for he repeats the same idea again and again. "It is in all verity," writes Clarke in another connection, "a great race, a worthwhile race, a race which, dormant for two thousand years, is just assuming its place in the ranks of great peoples, and assuming that place with a sincere display of lofty ideals and human brotherhood that is refreshing in its twentieth century of national selfishness."

Japan's Future

Let me conclude this summary on Japan with this alluring picture drawn by Clarke of Japan's relationship with America in the years to come:

"Japan sees herself walking down the paths of time as the centuries roll by in future, hand in hand with America, one of the greatest representatives of the white race, the other the outstanding nation of yellowskinned people—both actuated by the same desire for the improvement of man and his conditions, and following the same principles looking to good will among men and peace upon earth. The spirit of Japan, born of the travail of its last half century of evolution, is, in the power of its rising tide of today, certainly capable of carrying through its part in the accomplishment of such a dream of the future."

Will Japan live up to this high expectation? She might if she would never allow foreign words of praise to turn her head—if she would always remember that "he only is great who has the habits of greatness, who after performing what none in ten thousand could accomplish, passes on like Samson, and tells neither father nor mother of it."

IMPRESSIONS IN MANCHURIA

I

NEW YORK, Sept. 12. In the preceding five letters I have given the summaries of the articles and cable dispatches written on Japan and China by several of the eleven American journalists, who constituted the party which recently made a tour of the Far East under the auspices of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. In this letter I shall present a similar summary on Manchuria.

Appreciation of Japan's Work

At the end of the tour Francis W. Clarke, by way of conclusion, wrote in the *Atlanta Constitution* as follows:

"The greatness of Japan, the roseate future just around the corner for Manchuria and the hopelessness of China—these are the three high lights of the situations in the far east today.

"The high character of the inherent traits of the Japanese people; their desire for peace and their admiration and gratitude to America are at this time the high flung beacons which are welcoming the coming of the 'Pacific Era'. The misery and desperation of the hopeless mass of 400,000-000 living, but hardly civilized, human beings in China, existing under the rule of leaders who shout reform from the housetops, but whose government is shot through and through with treachery, graft and inefficiency, is the dark background

which makes more conspicuous the progress forward and upward which Japan has made."

The glowing tribute he and his associates in this party have paid Japan should not be accepted by us without much qualification, even though we have no doubt about the sincerity back of it. Nor can we agree with him that China's case is hopeless. Here, however, we are concerned with Manchuria. Mr. Clarke sees a "roseate future just around the corner for Manchuria." He thinks that the development of Manchuria since the advent of Japanese enterprise there "has been equalled only in the opening up of the western states of America." "It is," he adds, "indeed a land of promise, an empire in the building, and for this development and this promise Japan is responsible." He said further:

"Manchuria, an immense domain of untold mineral wealth and unlimited agricultural possibilities, had throughout the centuries lain dormant, with hardly a scratch on the surface of its opportunities. Japan, over-populated and in the transition stage from an agricultural to an industrial nation envisioned the opportunity Manchuria presented for the placing of some of her excess population and also as a market for her manufactured goods. So Japan built railroads, schools and public schools in Manchuria, encouraged immigration and even loaned vast sums of money to the Chinese government for the development and opening up of Manchuria.

"More than that, Japan brought peace to Manchuria—the only province of China which has during the past decade

0388

been free from war. Granted a continuation of this reign of peace, Manchuria, increasing in population at the rate of more than 1,000,000 a year, is destined in another quarter of a century to become, next to Japan, the section of dominating importance in the Far East."

Mr. Gideon A. Lyon, of the Washington, D. C., *Star*, though not quite so enthusiastic as Clarke, also says that "it is obvious to any visitor to that region that the area of Japanese control in Manchuria is the best administered, the most peaceful and the most progressive in the three provinces comprising northern China." He found that "everybody" in Manchuria "accepts the Japanese presence as a matter of course," and he wrote:

"Nobody out here expects Japan ever to yield this possession. Nonpartisan observers rather hope that Japan will extend its sphere for the sake of lessening of the danger of conflict. Just at present, with the threat of war between China and Russia over the control and management of the Chinese Eastern Railway, this feeling gains in strength and in frank expression. But what of China? Who knows when China will find herself; become, in fact, a strong, unified country with decided ideas of nationality and with a keen desire to regain possession and full control of its richest agricultural area?"

To Mr. Fred Hogue, of the Los Angeles *Times*, "Manchuria is the only safety zone in China." He says with a touch of the picturesque exaggeration which invests his writings with a certain piquancy:

"Manchuria is behind a bristling hedge of Japanese bayonets. The situation recalls to me a sign that hung, forty years ago, over a bar in Gila Bend, Ariz.: 'If you want to know who's boss here, start something.'

"Fleeing from enforced military service, devastation and exploitation in Shantung and the Yangtse Valley, 1,000,000 Chinese entered this territory last year. The streams still continue. Chiang apparently inspires no more confidence in Nanking than did old Chang in Peking.

"From the north, Russian nomads are fighting their way with their flocks across the Siberian border, overwhelming the Red guards and making their way out of the dominion of the Soviets.

"Men, women and children come, bringing with them what they have been able to rescue of their worldly possessions.

"If the Japanese were to withdraw from Manchuria the safety zone would vanish. They preserve peace because they are willing to fight for it. The fact that 1,000,000 Chinese a year are fleeing into the territory where Japan enforces peace becomes a scathing arraignment of the so-called Nationalist government in Nanking."

Mr. Hogue's facts are not entirely correct. In that vast region through which the Japanese railway runs Japan has only 8,000 soldiers. Nor do Chinese emigrate to Manchuria from the Yangtse Valley—they come mostly from north China. But let such minor details pass; his main conclusions are probably right.

Triangular Situation in Manchuria

The above-quoted statements by Mr. Hogue naturally call to mind the question of banditry in Manchuria. On this question Mr. Lyon, of the Washington, D.C., *Star*, writes:

"Banditry is practiced constantly in this area, I am told. Sometimes it takes the form of attempts to block the railroad line by the derailment of trains. These bandits are not politically minded. They may be soldiers who have become tired of waiting for their pay, or famished for lack of rations, or they may be peaceable farmers between raids. They are always Chinese, never Japanese. This condition naturally calls for a peace-keeping police force, call it army or what not."

The Carnegie party was in Manchuria just when serious trouble was brewing between Russia and China in North Manchuria. The Chinese authorities under the "Young Marshall" of Mukden had invaded the Soviet Consulate and expelled the Russian officials of the Chinese Eastern Railway. How did the party view this situation? Wrote Lyon, in the *Washington Star*:

"Now here is a strange complication in the case. The Japanese, who have no reason to love the Russians, do not want to see the Chinese Eastern Railway pass out of their (Russians') management. Because they regard the Russians by far the better railway operators, they do not want to see that live disintegrate, as do practically all the railways in China under Chinese control and management. The fact is

that the Chinese are not competent railroad executives. They do not keep up their lines. They strip the property of earnings, taking out as profits all excess of income over actual operating cost, and so leaving little or nothing for replacements and repairs and improvements."

Somewhat the same feeling is expressed in the following passage from an unsigned editorial in the *Minneapolis Journal* evidently written by Mr. Harry Wakefield, editorial writer on that newspaper, who was a member of the Carnegie party:

"If the onlooker knows the condition of physical property on the Chinese railways, compared with other railway lines, he is inclined to question the adaptability of the Chinese to such executive and operating responsibilities, even though he admit the external causes that may have led to railway deterioration."

In spite of the great ado made by China about "Red" agitation in North Manchuria, Hogue, of the *Los Angeles Times*, wrote:

"Red Russian influence here is at the zero point. There are some who go so far as to assert that this marks the beginning of the end of Soviet regime in Russia. I am for the opinion that they are thinking wishes. However, it will be no holiday excursion for the Reds to march into Manchuria and take back by force of arms the Chinese Eastern Railway.

"Meanwhile, what of Japan? Contrary to reports wired here from some European centers there are no Japanese

0390

troops north of Chang-chun in Central Manchuria, the northern terminus of the South Manchuria Railway. But Japan will not permit the contending armies to pass south of the Changchun-Kirin line into Central and Southern Manchuria. That is within Japan's sphere of influence."

Clarke, of the *Atlanta Constitution*, took a broader view of the Russo-Chinese situation, saying:

"In all the Far East at this time there is only one nation with stable government and an industrious, forward-looking people who have readily adapted themselves to modern progress. This country is Japan. And Japan must have a bulwark of defense against future possible attack from a reorganized and expanding Russia. Japan has once handled that threat through the arbitrament of war and settled it in a manner decisive and conclusive. No people, however, more fully realize the waste of war—the fact that the winners are losers, too—than do the Japanese, and Japan, therefore, has decided upon a new bulwark of defense.

"That bulwark is a prosperous and powerful Manchuria. That prosperity, wealth and power are sure to come if peace reigns—and the best possible guarantee is Japan's attitude."

II

NEW YORK, Sept. 12. A comical incident—comical but not without international significance—injecting mingled mirth and embarrassment into the rather tedious railway journey of the party from Changchun to Tunhua. I shall let the usual quiet Mr. Francis Regal, of the *Springfield Republican*, introduce the story:

A Comedy in Kirin

"From Mukden on, the Chinese began to want a turn at entertaining us, and on the two-day side trip from Changchun to Kirin and Tun-hua our car was filled with young Chinese, mostly educated in America, representing the Chinese Government or the Chinese railroad and all eager to practice their English on American journalists and to talk about Cornell or Harvard or Wooster, or Ann Arbor, as the case might be. Then, whenever we passed a town of any importance, the local Chinese officials and railroad authorities would troop aboard in highly ceremonious fashion to exchange cards and offer us hospitality which we usually could not accept."

Mr. Lyon, of the *Washington Star*, described the incident at greater length, and thought it both amusing and embarrassing. The more dramatic Mr. Hogue, of the *Los Angeles Times*, told his story of it with gusto in his characteristically vivacious manner thus:

"Last night we arrived at Changchun, the northern terminus of the Japanese lines. A delegation of Chinese

0391

Government and railway officials were waiting for us, headed by a suave representative of the Nationalist Foreign Office.

"When the trip was arranged it was agreed that we should be the guests of Japan until we left Mukden for Peking and Nanking: then we were to be turned over to the doubtful mercies of Chiang of Shanghai and Nanking, and his Nationalist associates.

"But, once we were beyond the zone occupied by Japanese troops, the Chinese decided to assume control. They seemed to fear that we were getting so saturated with Japanese propaganda that they would not be able to put their stuff over.

"An importance is attached to us that causes us alternately to laugh and weep. One would think that Hoover and Stimson were waiting with baited breath, as well as the New York and California bankers, to learn from our reports what the government and the financiers should do next.

"All day the Pullman has been crowded. There are about ten Japanese and fifteen Chinese; and the Chinese are temporarily reinforced by new delegations at each station.

"The Japanese leader has insisted that we are in the Pullman of his company, and that the Chinese have no right to overcrowd it. But the guards on the train wear Chinese uniforms, and, whenever the protest is renewed two guards step to the door and set their bayoneted rifles down with a significant click.

"Poor Finch of the Carnegie Endowment has finally succeeded in barricading himself in an apartment. We have

roasted him for getting us into this confusion, and the excitable Japanese and Chinese crowded about him expostulating in tongues that he could not understand, and almost tore the coat from his back.

"I have been personally assailed by three young Chinese graduates of American colleges who have lost most of their English since returning to their own country.

"They have assured me that a clash between China and Japan cannot long be avoided; that the Japanese will not retire peaceably and, as soon as the great, the Honorable, His Excellency Chiang shall have decapitated the low-born, contemptible Fong, he will proceed to relieve Manchuria from Japanese oppression.

"Pledged to protect a sister republic, the Honorable United States should supply the arms and the finances for this campaign, in the interest of peace and self-determination, in support of the consortium, the Washington treaties and to insure Chinese participation in some international sporting event that the Honorable William Garland is bringing to Los Angeles.

"What these stammering students say may be all true; but I have been so periodated and exordiated during the last five weeks that I have forgotten every essential of the Washington treaties, that I wouldn't know a consortium if I met it face to face at high noon; and that I don't give a heck whether the Chinese attended Billy Garland's party or not."

It seems to me that whoever conducted the party for the South Manchuria Railway was too serious-minded to see the comical side of the Chinese performance which caused the above incident. Had he had a little more sense of humor he would have let those eager Chinese run the show for a while and sat back to enjoy it. He should have had more confidence in the good sense and good judgment of the American newspaper men who, as I said in my summary of their Chinese observations, would not allow anybody to "rub it in." What the Chinese delegates would have done at Changchun and on the train from that city to Tunhua and back would never have influenced the verdict of these trained and keen observers.

Will Japan Retire from Manchuria?

Immediately after the above incident Mr. Hogue wrote from Changchun to his paper, the *Los Angeles Times*:

"Representatives of foreign interests with whom I have conversed, and I have met a number, have faith in Japan, and no faith in the rapacious war lords. They say that, if the Japanese withdrew, foreign investments would suffer, just as they have suffered during recent years inside the Great Wall.

"The stage is set for a movement for Manchurian independence. Old Chang issued such an edict two years ago, and if he had not been assassinated, would probably have carried it into effect. He came from Peking back to Mukden for that purpose. Japan draped the father's mantel about young Chang's shoulders. I have met him, and I am con-

vinced he is too weak to support its weight, and the old war lord's boots are several sizes too large for him.

"Japan wants Manchuria, just as we wanted the territory that is now the Far West, and if there is anything in the theory that history repeats itself, Japan will increase its sphere of influence here, instead of withdrawing. Her statesmen protest that this is not their purpose, but necessity is a powerful urge, and the officials who succeed them may be of a different mind. These things generally reduce themselves to:

- 'The good old rule, the honest plan
- 'That he shall take who has the power
- 'And he shall hold who can.'

Far from Dust and Crowd

The party were agreeably surprised at the sight of American Pullman care running on the tracks of the South Manchuria Railway, traffic on which, as Paul R. Wright, one of the party, wrote in his *Chicago Daily News*, "moves as rapidly and regularly as on first-class American lines." Small wonder that they were shocked, as I noted in my summary on China, when they transferred to the Chinese railway at Mukden in order to proceed to Peiping. They found more surprises in the health resorts and comfortable modern hotels developed by the South Manchuria Railway in the country which to the average American is the antithesis of health and comfort. Hoshigaura, or the Star Beach, the beautiful, quiet, restful seashore resort near Dairen, the

0393

Japanese commercial metropolis of Manchuria, was an unexpected delight. Another unexpected delight was a night spent at the Tang Kwantse Spa, a restful resort which has sprung up under Japanese enterprise in the interior of drab Manchuria, not unlike lotus growing in muddy water. How the party enjoyed this treat after a strenuous visit to the Anshan steel mill, may be judged from the following description by Francis Regal of the *Springfield Republican*:

"We left the hot train and strolled with much contentment along a quarter mile avenue of beautiful shade trees to this charming Japanese hotel, set among ponds and gardens, and after parking our shoes at the door were shown by the excellent domestic staff to our rooms, where in lieu of our baggage we found handsome white and blue kimonos laid out for us.

"None of us tried the mud baths which bring many patients here, but a hot Japanese bath, slightly tempered to foreign weakness, proved to be just what the doctor ordered, and in the utmost bodily comfort we all sat consuming cool drinks and comparing our costumes while waiting for dinner, which as a further concession was served at a table and was delicious and so aggressively Japanese as to trouble those who detested the raw fish, celumari, prawns, and other delicacies. It made us feel so invigorated that after dinner we put on geta and went for a stroll. It was our first experience of clogs, and they went much better than I had expected, and I was surprised to find how comfortable they feel protecting the feet from impact with pebbles, etc., much better than even thick shoes do.

"Altogether we had a restful and jolly evening, with more sociability than at any time since we started, for while traveling by train or motor car we are split up into squads and in cities we either are busy in our rooms or are out on errands. Then, too, for the first time we were almost by ourselves, with but two of our Japanese acquaintances, and could be at our ease, and it was the most domestic and restful gathering we had had and just what was needed after the strenuous days at Harbin and the fatigue of travel."

Mr. Regal, in his turn, surprises us and the Japanese in Manchuria by paying these unexpected compliments to the Yamato Hotels along the South Manchuria Railway: "The coffee at the Yamato Hotels seems surprisingly good, and at breakfast in Mukden this morning it had almost Latin-American flavor, what with hot milk and dark toast." I am afraid that Regal has tread upon a debatable ground. Perhaps the coffee was good, but most American lift hands in holy horror at the mere suggestion of coffee *a la Europaine* or Latin American, that is, coffee with hot milk.

S. M. R. and Progress in Manchuria

So let us leave the highly explosive question of breakfast coffee, and join the party to take a look at safer and more obvious things—the Fushun coal mine, for example. Says Lyon in the *Washington Star*:

"The output of this mine last year was more than 7,000,000 tons, and this year it is expected to produce 8,000,000. This vein, with an average thickness of 130 feet and a

0394

maximum of 430 feet, is estimated to contain no less than 1,000,000,000 tons of coal. But that is not all. The coal is overlain by a thick stratum of brown shale, highly oil bearing, and there is now under construction, to be completed and operated in October next, a distillation plant capable of producing annually about 10,000 tons of crude oil, from which 53,000 tons of fuel oil will be obtainable, together with large quantities of by-products such as paraffin, sulphuric ammonia and coke."

Then he describes the spectacular growth of the port of Dairen and tells us that the ships calling there increased from 1,143 in 1907 to 4,335 in 1928. The tonnage loaded and discharged in 1907 was 919,952, and in 1928, 10,501,000. Both Mr. Lyon and Mr. Regal were impressed by the valuable work undertaken at the Kung-chu-ling Agricultural Experiment Station for the benefit of Manchurian farmers. Wrote Mr. Regal in the *Springfield Republican*:

"It is of course mainly devoted to the soya bean, which is the principal product of the region and the output of which is being steadily increased, but attention is also paid to hemp, sorghum and other crops and the stock department, which has attained excellent results in improving the Manchurian sheep, which is poor in wool, by cross-breeding with Merino stock from the United States. Manchurian hens lay larger eggs than ours but too few; they, too, are being improved."

But the progress of this region through the agency of the South Manchuria Railway is not limited to material

matters. According to Mr. Lyon, of the *Washington Star*:

"But together with this agricultural experiment work, the railway company is conducting an educational enterprise that is certain to have an important effect in the future for the advancement of this region. At a yearly cost of some 3,600,000 yen, this semi-government corporation is maintaining a system of schools for both Japanese and Chinese children in the Kwangtung leased territory. For the Japanese there are 20 primary, 3 girls' high, 1 commercial and 1 commercial and technical schools and also a college of engineering and a collegiate preparatory school, 30 institutions in all, with nearly 20,000 pupils, 464 classes and 704 teachers, working on an annual budget of 2,591,479 yen. For the Chinese there are 109 primary, 10 common, 1 commercial, 1 agricultural, 1 middle and 1 normal schools, with 31,700 pupils, 705 classes, 779 teachers and a budget of 3,608,282 yen. Tuition fees are charged for some of these courses, higher for the Japanese than for the Chinese, and the highest in that class only 50 yen a year, or about \$22. No fee is charged for the primary Chinese schools."

All these observations led Mr. Lyon to the following conclusion and query:

"Better soya beans and better children. Better sheep and healthier people. More coal and more food on the average table. These are some of the 'brackets' that appear in any survey of the situation. And still, flowing like a great tide, come the millions of Chinese from the bandit-ridden and war-torn areas of China proper, constituting the greatest

0395

human movement in history. The question that awaits answer is whether China will give the government these people require, for protection and development and education. Japan has no present intention of going outside of the concession and the limits of the leased territory with administrative works. But suppose after a time the occupants of the other areas in Manchuria find that they are not getting what they require from China and see that the people in the Japan-controlled regions are getting good government. What then?"

A Cheerless View of China

Let us hope that the situation he pictures in his imagination will never develop. In due course China undoubtedly will put her house in order, and it should be Japan's duty to cooperate with this potentially great neighbor of hers to hasten the realization of a peaceful and prosperous China. Meanwhile, foreign observers take a gloomy view of China's outlook, as Mr. Clarke says in the *Atlanta Constitution*:

"Japan and China are populated by members of the yellow-skinned race; their origin was undoubtedly the same; the countries are separated only by a narrow sea, scarcely more than a channel, yet judged by the standards of modern progress they are as far apart as the poles. Japan, with a population 95 per cent literate, is actuated by ideals beyond question, with a sincere desire to shoulder the full duties and responsibilities which go with membership in the family of

great nations. China, 90 per cent illiterate, is helpless and hopeless at the foot of the ladder—possessing tremendous latent wealth, but being largely dependent upon the leadership and charity of the world for its actual existence."

Since the above was written Mr. Harry E. Wakefield, who represented the *Minneapolis Journal* in the Carnegie Endowment party, has published a signed article on China's extraterritoriality with the following conclusion:

"I doubt if any one of the five of us who visited Nanking and talked with officials came away unsympathetic toward the new era in China, or undersirous that success crown the efforts of the Chinese people. Yet I question if any of us felt that China, or the Government at Nanking, was ripe for the reforms in foreign relations that the Nationalist discuss on every possible occasion. We were unable to conclude that the recommendations of the International Commission on Extraterritoriality and treaty abrogation have been substantially carried out, or that China has a system of independent Chinese courts free from extraneous influence, capable of doing adequate justice between Chinese and foreign litigants."

0396

IMPRESSIONS IN KOREA

NEW YORK, Sept. 15. With this letter I conclude my summaries of Far Eastern observations of the eleven American journalists who recently toured through that part of the world under the auspices of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The party, it seems, just passed through Korea. They arrived at Fusan from Japan on June 9, and proceeded direct to Keijo (Seoul), where they spent a day or two before going to Manchuria. Naturally they had only a glimpse of the country. So far only three of the party—Francis W. Clarke, managing editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, Gideon A. Lyon, associate editor of the *Washington, D. C., Star*, and Fred Hogue, of the *Los Angeles Times*, have written about it.

Grievances and Advantages

When the party arrived in Keijo, the capital of Korea, they were met by a delegation of Korean independents or nationalists eager to lay their case before the American visitors. One of the newspapers published by these zealots issued a special edition setting forth their grievances against Japan, so that the American journalists might know just how they feel about Japanese rule. What was the reaction of the party to this appeal? If the tone of the letters written by the above-named three journalists represented the feeling of the entire party, they felt much as the Japanese themselves do—they were sorry for the Koreans, but were

inclined to think that the present Japanese regime was after all better than any regime the natives themselves were capable of developing. This feeling is well expressed by Mr. Clarke, of the *Atlanta Constitution*, in these words:

"It is true that the Koreans have practically no say in the conduct of the government of their country; that the Japanese language is used exclusively in the schools and that the male members of their former royal family are being married to Japanese women—that Japan is in reality Japanizing Korea, but it is also true that from a nation which was for centuries impoverished as a result of being buffeted about by stronger countries, it now has permanent peace and a future bright with progress and prosperity.

"The educated Korean is a man of great gentility and charm and of peculiar love of his country and its traditions, and the iron of bitterness over the loss of the autonomy of his country has entered deep into his soul.

"It is not hard to predict, however, that as time goes by and the poverty and suffering of Korea decrease under the genius of Japanese guidance, there will come to the Koreans the realization that, while they have lost much, perhaps, they have gained far more."

As Mr. Hogue, of the *Los Angeles Times*, sees it, discontent with Japanese rule is mostly among the young Koreans educated in the modern schools established by the Japanese. As for the farmers and the toilers who constitute the overwhelming majority of the Korean population, they take little interest in politics and rather view the present

0397

situation under Japanese rule as an improvement upon the old native regime. Writes Mr. Hogue:

"In the schools and colleges the thought of young Chosen is hostile to Japan. They have learned the shibboleths of democracy, and they obey only under rigid compulsion laws enacted in Tokio. But that farmer I see from the car window and his 10,000,000 associates accept without protest annexation to Japan, and they would view with alarm the withdrawal of the protection and security they have enjoyed for nineteen years.

"Governmental forms are outside their primitive conceptions; but for twenty-five years, ever since the Russo-Japanese war, the mud dikes of their rice paddies have not been broken down by the tramping feet of horses and armed men. There have been no invasions, no spoils. The tranquility of their rustic existence has not been disturbed.

"They have seen thousands of Chinese fleeing into their valleys and uplands to escape the horrors of civil war beyond the border. For the first time in twenty generations they enjoy absolute security against invasion.

"They eat no more than their fathers and their surplus brings prices that would have been fabulous four generations ago. They lend no ear to those who would tell them that the Japanese government is not their friend. Security is worth more to them than all the shibboleths of democracy their sons find in books written by foreigners.

"How long this condition will exist is problematical, for the Japanese government has established more than 4,000

public schools in Chosen, and primary education is compulsory. Progress is stamping about in the rice paddies. Just as one nail drives out the other, the new thought is driving out the old. The young generation, fresh from the schools, prefers walking on the cement streets of Keijo to wading in the water of the rice paddy.

"The head of the old rice farmer drops lower over his plow. He has something to ponder over that never disturbed his fathers. His only resentment against the new government is that it forces him to send his boys to school, to waste time that could be used to profit in the paddy, to learn so many things that aren't so."

Korean Life from the Train

Korea, seen through the car window, impressed the party as queer but picturesque, as witness the following passage from Mr. Lyon's letter written on the train between Fusan and Keijo:

"The Koreans dress almost uniformly in white, men and women alike. There is very little color in the costumes. Then, again, the comical horse-hair hat of the men is decidedly in evidence, that strange head-gear that astonished Washington about 40 years ago when a Korean delegation went there to seek recognition of this country as an independent nation, a fruitless errand.

"The wearer of the horse-hair hat bears himself with a certain dignity lacking in the coolie, distinguished by his 'chiggy,' or saw-bucklike burden carrier on his back. For

the hat is designed to protect the topknot, which is a cherished mark of the higher rank in social status. And the possessor of a second hat to protect the hat that protects the topknot is a very superior person, while the owner and wearer of a third hat to protect the hat that protects the hat that protects the topknot is extremely 'high hat' indeed.

"The women, too, run to headgear, though not of the ornamental kind. They are burden bearers as well as the men, though their loads are carried on their heads, after the fashion of some of our own people at home. They are erect in bearing, perhaps on this account."

The party was evidently surprised by the primitive condition of the Korean farmers and leaders. Writes Mr. Lyon:

"Down below the car window in one glimpse I saw two men engaged in sifting barley. One held the sieve, a crude affair, and the other poured into it from a shovel small quantities of grain. Then the first man shook the sieve while the second man waited. As long as I could see them, while the train rounded a curve, they were thus engaged in a slow, tedious process that one man could have done as well.

"A little farther along, out in a field, were two men engaged in slinging water up from a field well or pool to a higher level for distribution to the rice paddies. I have already described the one-man process in my preceding letter. These two men held two strands of rope, to which was attached a bucketlike scoop. They swung it down into the pool and up and up with a clear motion, emptying it at the end of the swing and starting it down again. It was adept

work, but endlessly toilsome. A pump or a water wheel would have done better, with less labor."

What Japan has done in Korea

We Japanese need not laugh at this backwardness, for our own farmers, up to a comparatively recent time, did much the same thing, at least in the remote country-side. What is the Japanese administration doing to improve the lot of the Korean agriculturists? Mr. Lyon finds the answer, or one of the answers in the following statement:

"I have noted in the annual report of the Governor-General of Chosen for 1926-27, that of the 19,103,900 population in this country at the end of 1926, 15,513,418 were engaged in agriculture, or 81 per cent. It is the policy of the Government to provide other employments for the people, if possible. And at the same time the administration is trying to lessen the labors of the people engaged in farming, teaching them better methods and training the young people in farm science, as at a large agricultural school near Keijo. But this is slow work, for the people are reluctant to learn and to adopt new methods. There is much superstition in this attitude and it may take a generation at least before improved methods can be established in the land.

"Soil erosion through floods has destroyed much of the value of the land of Chosen. Countless millions of tons of dirt have been washed down from the hills, covering the fertile fields under detritus that cannot be tilled without many years of preparation and fertilization. But happily this

0399

procedure has been checked. The hills are, in consequence of Japan's highly intelligent and progressive policy, already showing signs of holding their own against the rains. Since the annexation some 2,700,000 trees have been set out on these hills. The afforestation work is progressing at the rate of 8,000 hectares planted annually by the government and 80,000 by the people, under a system of subsidy and cost-price sale of young trees. Then in addition to these 88,000 hectares planted in trees, the government is annually terracing 3,000 hectares for flood prevention, making a total of 91,000 hectares that each year are being prepared against erosion.

"Floods have visibly decreased, it is said, since afforestation work started. In the course of a few years the river beds, which were steadily filling up with sand and gravel under the influence of the floods, are deepening. Some say that the rains are increasing. This I question. I doubt if there are yet evident any changes in the meteorological conditions of Chosen. But in 50 more years, if this policy is continued, this now semi-arid land may be as well watered as Japan, in consequence of the presence of the forests that are now being planted and cultivated."

To Mr. Clarke, of the *Atlanta Constitution*, "the metamorphosis which is now taking place in Korea" appears "the most striking illustration of the thoroughness with which Japan tackles a job," and he goes on to tell us:

"The Korean is a man of striking stature, capable of the highest mental development, but as a result of the un-

certain conditions which had obtained for generations, the nation when it was taken over by Japan was poverty-stricken and backward. There were no railroads in the entire nation, no automobiles, no irrigation of the farm lands, which is so imperative in the far east, the roads were mere paths across barren mountains, the cities were squalid and the public buildings, such as there were, entirely inadequate and antiquated.

"Now what a change. Seoul, the capital, is entirely rebuilt on occidental lines, with broad boulevards, fine schools and a capitol building which would have cost at least five million dollars to erect in the United States.

"As the tourist rides from Fusan, the country's main port, to Seoul, he gazes through the plate glass windows of an all-Pullman train to see a land of abundant crops, watered from the irrigation ditches that crisscross the valleys. Good roads traverse the landscape, while the bare mountain slopes in a few years will be covered with trees, as a result of the intense reforestation work which has been done by the Japanese Government. In 19 years Japan has bridged the gap of centuries which stood between the Korea of 1910 and a modern nation."

In the light of this metamorphosis, Mr. Lyon is led to this conclusion: "Call the new authority by whatever name is most pleasant and least provocative, it is evident that it has had its advantages for the Korean people in the mass, even though they may be in some cases impatient and in some instances they may be suffering."

0400

— 76 —

Japanese rule may be absolute, but it is neither despotic nor arbitrary—it is what we may call benevolent absolutism, a government best suited to meet the exigencies of the actual situation which has confronted the new master of Korea.

0401

REEL No. A-0385

0571

アジア歴史資料センター