

peace treaty in Russia, but immediately on his return he invited me to dine with his wife and himself at a hotel in the country, where he was resting from his trip. I was able to accept his invitation and had a very interesting talk with him and some of his colleagues on that occasion. You will of course understand that nearly all my talks in Japan were conducted through an interpreter.

I was greatly impressed by living conditions in Japan. The homes are of light frame construction, which would be totally unsuitable for our climate, but suits Japan. The rooms are sparsely furnished, since the Japanese people prefer the floor to a chair. The floors are covered with straw matting and no one would think of entering his or any one else's house before first removing his shoes. While there, I got so used to removing my shoes that it became automatic with me. Cleanliness seemed to be a cardinal principle in Japanese life. Washing, either with a steaming cloth which is served you on all occasions, or at the washing facilities located outside each home, is a frequent ritual. The only difference one could detect in the homes of well-off people and poor people was the size and number of rooms. Otherwise, the houses seem to be more or less standard for everyone.

Another feature that impressed me was the interest of the Japanese people in their children. There were swarms of children everywhere, usually in charge of a teacher or a parent. The children were invariably well-dressed, even though the parents were less so.

The women of Japan have recently been given the vote. Although the women work with the men in the fields, their position seems to be in no way inferior to that of the men. Western dress for women has been gaining ground in recent years, and on the city streets you see about half Japanese costume and half Western dress. Personally, I preferred the appearance of Japanese dress.

A country like this, with its dense population and its limited area, is, in many respects, the natural trading partner of Canada with our small population and large area. Japan must trade to live. It must import most of its raw materials and a large proportion of its food, and to pay for these essential requirements it must export manufactured goods. Canada, too, must trade to live. But, as you know, Canada finds it economical to produce large surpluses of raw materials and foodstuffs with which to pay for the large quantities of imported produce and manufactured goods.

This natural trading relationship has existed for many years, but since the end of the war a number of factors have worked together to increase trade between Canada and Japan. The most important of these is the emergence of Japan as an important wheat-eating country. In part, this is a result of the U.S.