

Growth of Trans-Pacific Trade—The Conflict

By GORDON SMITH

ARTICLE IV.

The struggle for commercial dominance in the trans-Pacific trade of the Pacific is beginning—the outcome of the Russo-Japanese war marks the commencement of a struggle the outcome of which is not difficult to see. The result of Japanese victory has greatly changed her position. In the Orient greatly, and the nation became a greater factor in Pacific ocean commerce. Japan has not yet won control of carrying trade across the Pacific, not with battleships—unless they be need—but with steamship-tramps, tramp freighters, coasters, clippers. Japan, nothing if not ambitious and dominant, of the North Pacific is the present programme of the nation's ambitions. Already the effect of competition is being severely felt; the chequered-manned steamers flying the Rising Sun flag can bid for cargoes cheaper and at such rates as are comparable to those Canadian, American or other craft plying the North Pacific at present—cargoes can even be carried at a third less cost than by Norwegian steamers which were looked upon heretofore as the world's cheapest freight-droghers.

The fight for Pacific trade means more to the Japanese, and with the same system with which the "Three" of the military staff planned a successful war with Russia for ten years before the final gun was fired, the general staff of the country and the government are planning with the same attention to detail to make Japan a paragon of naval and industrial power. The coast and the carriage and distributor of the trade of the American continent with the markets of China and contiguous countries of the Orient. The coast and the carriage and distributor of the trade of the nation of the nation is being increased, the armament is being practically doubled and all the dockyards are busy. New warships of new type are being constructed, fortifications are being improved; if it would seem that another war was being contemplated. This work is carried on with the utmost secrecy, but the commercial preparations, the arrangements for the war that is to be, are being carried on with flourish of trumpet.

The hand of the government in the strife is seen by the increased subsidies to private enterprises, chiefly shipyards, and the nationalization of iron and other industries and systematic State encouragement to all enterprises aimed to combat foreign trade. Sherman's dictum—"War is hell" seems to have been applied to Japan as a nation, however much it may have done to the individual. This was not as a curse, but as a benefit to the Japanese, for it is that which unloosed before were untied with victory, and the advertisement of war and its success sent capital to Japan. Private enterprises, while roomy growth of shipping increased as it had following the Chino-Japanese war, and the nation fitted itself for greater trade and conquest, the Japanese, the successes of the war, it is this ambition which will be the driving wheel of the trans-Pacific trade in the future of the Pacific Ocean.

Japan in First Place.

Already Japan has secured first place in the trade of North China and Manchuria, while Korea has become in effect a colony of Japan. The Chinese will soon see Japanese commerce in the van. Bitter freight wars between long established British and German lines have been fought out between Japan and the Straits Settlements and Siam have marked the keen competition of the Japanese steamship company in the Orient, and on the Yangtze river, the heady-subduing Japanese river fleets have been combined to better effect with rivals. As Mr. Iwao Kashiwa, manager of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, recently in "The Japanese steamship owners" have decided to check the arrogance of foreign shipowners in the "Suez." To aid the Japanese in their efforts, and to assist in the development of the Japanese trade, where four companies, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Osaka Shosen Kaihatsu, Kisen Kaihatsu, and Daito Kaihatsu, have joined together under the name of Nissin Kisen Kaihatsu, the Japanese government increased the subsidies to \$400,000 a year. Meanwhile, the ports of Japan are busily engaged in preparing for the war, for the Japanese, who are now busily engaged at the Kawasaki yards at Nagasaki and others are contemplated, and all other shipbuilding yards are altering old ones, repairing captured craft, and in every way pre-

paring to adapt everything available to the new field of Japanese endeavor. To the two pioneer lines of steamers operating across the Pacific, the Nippon Yusen Kaihatsu, formerly serving San Francisco via Hongkong, other lines are to be added, both the Shōsen Kaihatsu and Mitsui Bishi lines have announced their plans, and other companies plan to come into the field. Individual owners are already in the field with tramp carriers. The coming of numerous craft of this kind will bring new scenes of competition, not with battleships—unless they be need—but with steamship-tramps, tramp freighters, coasters, clippers. Japan, nothing if not ambitious and dominant, of the North Pacific is the present programme of the nation's ambitions. Already the effect of competition is being severely felt; the chequered-manned steamers flying the Rising Sun flag can bid for cargoes cheaper and at such rates as are comparable to those Canadian, American or other craft plying the North Pacific at present—cargoes can even be carried at a third less cost than by Norwegian steamers which were looked upon heretofore as the world's cheapest freight-droghers.

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Shipyards Are Busy.

Akin to the rush at the arsenals and dockyards on the eve of the recent war the shipyards of Japan are busily engaged in preparing for the war, for the Japanese, who are now busily engaged at the Kawasaki yards at Nagasaki and others are contemplated, and all other shipbuilding yards are altering old ones, repairing captured craft, and in every way pre-

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U. S. Consul's Report.

That the struggle is not expected by other nations now prominent in the Pacific is apparent from the annual report of the Consul-General Rodgers of Shanghai. He says in part: "For the half that is told of Japanese intentions as to merchant marine, there are no active signs of war in the Pacific ocean which will astonish the world. It is too late this year to get full development, but one year from now there will be a wonderful Japanese fleet and every one of the nations which have practically monopolized the seas will have to look to their laurels. This participation, which is current in Shanghai especially, is causing great uneasiness in the Orient, even to the Straits Settlements and some parts of India, and makes and are now competing with those made in America and England in the home markets of those countries."

National Harbors.

How optimistic of the future of the struggle in the coming commercial port of the Orient is evident from the ambitious programme of development of national harbors. Kobe, at present is the chief centre, but a great work is being undertaken to make the greater commercial port of Japan. Five million dollars are to be expended on the first work, and many millions more will be spent. Mr. Takeo, a leading member of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce, in a recent letter to the Japanese Chronicle of Kobe says: "It is time for Japan to move on. Europe and America have done much in building up trade on the Atlantic and it is possible for Japan to do the same on the Pacific. Japan is already a great port, but the principal countries on the Pacific and is eagerly looking forward to the time when it will be able to extend its trade into all parts of the world. To this end, it will need facilities for handling, forwarding, receiving and transporting goods."

Mr. Nakashita, another Japanese merchant, writes in a recent paper that while Panama will be the leading port of the Pacific, Osaka will be next in importance. He says the chief ports of this side will be Panama, San Francisco, Seattle and Vancouver, no important port being possible on the West Coast, America, as geographical conditions will impede traffic via the port will be Hongkong, Shanghai, Osaka, Manila and Daiky, all of which are capable of being improved and doubled will bring about increases.

Commercial.

These things might well be added—machinery of all kinds, and, in fact, anything that could be copied.

The conditions of labor in Japan give the Orient a great advantage for the sale of labor for sailorman to man the Japanese freighters gives the Japanese a great advantage in the carrying trade of the Pacific.

The cheapness of labor in Japan gives the Orient a great advantage in the carrying trade of the Pacific. In Chinese and other far-eastern ports the Japanese shipping has shown remarkable results—no matter how often copied and the printing misspelled and ridiculously misquoted. For instance, the writer was offered a Japanese steamship chartered for a month at Shimomono hotel, which had the following label:

Fogron Co. vimes little seal
St. John
Bottled in Bordeaux.

Good Imitators.

So runs the whole history of imitations. A traveler who passed through Victoria a few days ago on his way to New York from Korea showed the writer a letter from a Kobe firm of manufacturers of machinery. (Japanese)

The Best Guaranty of Merit Is Open Publicity.

Every bottle of Dr. Pierce's world-famous medicine leaves the great laboratory at Buffalo, N. Y., has printed upon it's wrapper all the ingredients entering into the composition and fact of the medicine, "Dr. Pierce's Family Remedy in a class all by themselves." They cannot be classed with any secret medicine, because they are open to all inspection. They only so much information is given to prescribe them and recommend them to their patients. They know what they are doing.

They also contain all important commercial bodies of the Empire passed a series of resolutions in this direction. They are as follows:

1. Extending and completing works on customs houses and improvements in the former treaty port of Hongkong.

2. Establishing commercial and industrial commissioners' offices in the most important foreign ports.

3. Improvements and extension of the Distributing Centre.

Osaka, on the other hand, not only is situated on the highway of the world's commerce, but its position is unique, being situated on the coast for China, Korea and the South Sea Islands.

It possesses within easy reach many factories turning out our articles of manufacture, while in the marketable trade it covers two-thirds of the total population of the country. For fuel the wood is almost unlimited supply.

Osaka has already laid the foundations of becoming a great harbor and the aqueducts are being extended so as to keep a depth of 35 feet in the harbor. It will become a port possessing as nearly as possible all the essential elements of a great commercial emporium in the Pacific.

The writer of Osakai ignored Yokohama, but the big port Tokyo has been developed to a degree which is to be ignored, and is being rapidly developed to keep pace with the development of the east. All over Japan exists the same desire for the development of the future, and the future is the hope of the people.

Neither of the above medicines contains any alcohol, also entitles them to a place all by themselves.

Many years ago Dr. Pierce discovered the medicinal properties of proper strength, is a better solvent and preservative of the medicinal principles residing in the Indian remedies, than is alcohol, and furthermore, that it possesses valuable medicinal properties of its own, being demulcent, antiseptic, and a most efficient cathartic.

Neither of the above medicines contains any alcohol, or any harsh, irritating, or stimulating properties.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pectal cure constipation. Constipation is the cause of many diseases. Cure the cause and you cure the disease.

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