

to greet us and took us to his quarters for a cup of tea. Our hotels were decorated with Canadian flags. Special menus were printed in our honour.

The efficiency shown in the organization of our visit was apparent in the industries we visited. Before the war, Japan was an important industrial nation, but it suffered a great setback as a result of war damage and dislocation and post-war developments. In some industries, such as steel, Japan has still a long way to go before it is back at pre-war levels. But the steel plant we visited, which was typical of the industry, was modern and efficient. I saw a shipyard with enormous ships on the ways, destined for countries the world over, including Canada. I visited a textile mill, as modern as any in Europe or the United States. I visited a plant producing cameras, so highly regarded throughout the world that it could not keep up with the demand. I visited a bakery, where the bread was never touched by hand from the time the flour--made almost entirely from Canadian wheat--was put into the dough mixers until the bread was loaded onto the delivery wagons, sliced and wrapped.

I saw, too, some of the beauty of Japan. The rice crop was being harvested when we were there, the farmers with their families carefully cutting and tying up the rice to dry. Every square foot of arable land is cultivated. In the mountains, the maples were turning colour, and I was reminded of the autumn scenes in the Laurentian and the Gatineau Hills of Quebec. I saw Mount Fuji Yama standing up above the surrounding mountains like an inverted fan. Outside the cities, Japan is a very beautiful country, and we saw it to best advantage in those two weeks at the end of October and beginning of November, when the weather is neither too warm nor too cold.

The natural beauty of Japan is reflected in her art and culture. This is a field in which I have no claim to knowledge or taste. It is impossible, however, to be in Japan for even sixteen days without coming under the spell of the ancient customs, arts and crafts of this talented people. Fortunately, we were able to spend a number of days away from Tokyo in industrial cities, such as Yokohama, Osaka, and Kobe, and in the ancient capitals of Nara and Kyoto. These last mentioned cities, which contain so many magnificent temples and shrines, were mercifully spared from the bombing which devastated the industrial centres.

I had the great privilege of visiting Nikko, some miles north of Tokyo, in the company of Prince Tokugawa, one of whose ancestors built its magnificent shrine centuries ago when he ruled Japan as Shogun. Prince Tokugawa, you may recall, was Japan's first Minister to Canada back in the late 1920's.

I had the privilege of meeting the Emperor, the Prime Minister and a number of Ministers of the Japanese Government. When I arrived in Tokyo, the Prime Minister was negotiating a