

Japan aims to become the commercial and naval power of the Pacific is unquestioned. That she has also ambitions to sovereignty over the orient would appear from the recent utterances of Count Okuma, who has been prominent in financial and commercial affairs of Japan, and who, in a speech at Kobe, 'declared that Japan would surely disappoint the people of India if she failed to afford protection to the millions there now being oppressed by Europe.' Their ambition may also extend to the occident, and furthermore it is undeniable that the inevitable overflow of a new over densely populated country will follow the lines of least resistance.

England guards with jealous eye and with her best blood the northern passes of India. Mistress of the Pacific and with rapidly increasing colonies on our western shores will not a united and land hungry Orient turn a trained and calculating eye upon the passes of the Rocky Mountains. It will be noticed as an almost universal law that the political boundaries of nations of the old world are the mountain ranges creating and maintaining distinct national and racial divisions. In North America where the struggle for land has not yet become acute we have penetrated the mountain barriers unopposed. We have upset this almost universal law of the eastern hemisphere, although unconsciously it has appeared in the provincial and state divisions of territory. The All Red Line from which we expect so much is a bond drawing together the outposts of the British dominions. It narrows to a slender thread in the defiles of the Rockies. Guard well then the west; fill it with people who will be loyal to our ideals of national life. Guard well the strategic position which is not only of dominion but of empire.

An eminent statesman of the United States stated :

The Pacific ocean, its shores, its islands and the vast regions beyond will become the chief theatre of events in the world's great hereafter.

In fifty years more the fulfilment of that prophecy will be past history. England has made an alliance with this new world power, but this alliance and all other treaties or compacts of an Eurasian complexion can never endure. They can at best possess only the elements of expediency. They can never possess the elements of permanence or stability. It is impossible, it is impracticable, nay more, it is unnatural. As individuals the races do not and never will assimilate. As nations their ultimate individual destiny, their world-wide interests, their undying ambitious centre in channels as opposite as the poles. Canada recently accepted this treaty made by Great Britain. Whether this was done at the request of the Imperial authorities or of her own volition matters little. It is claimed that trade rela-

tions with Japan and the orient are of paramount importance. It will be found on investigation that trade with Japan is not an important factor as yet. Take the report of our Commissioner of Japan, Mr. McLean, it is not at all optimistic especially with reference to one of our principal exports, the item of flour. Let me read from weekly report No. 197, dated 4th November, 1907, page 615 :

Recent correspondence may be recited in order to show, what has already been shown from time to time in these reports that the unreadiness on the part of Canada to entertain any considerable export trade to the far east is disappointingly evident.

And again on page 618 :

It will be noticed that one correspondent of June 10, cites the milling trade as of the opinion that their sales to the orient have been so far at a loss or at a less net profit than if done at home. Another under date of August 12, states the objection to the Japanese market to be that it leaves no profit whatsoever. This simply goes to show that Canadian flour can get a better price than the market in Japan will offer which is a comfortable situation.

Those familiar with conditions upon the Pacific coast are well assured that this is not permanent. Already we have within a short time a remedy for the existing state of affairs.

Let us consider the present volume of trade with Japan.

Our total imports from Japan for the years 1902-1906 inclusive were..	\$6,644,381
Our total exports to Japan for the same period were..	1,793,892
The export item of salt fish, the product of Japanese labour in British Columbia, is..	729,348
The export item of flour..	350,000
Leaving a balance of..	714,000
made up of miscellaneous items of which lumber is about one-third.	

Japan's commercial and manufacturing activities are rapidly increasing and those who are now pressing for trade relations will in a few years be praying for relief for protection against the cheaper manufactures of oriental origin. The United States is not disturbed over trade relations with the orient. Why should Canada? I quote from House documents of 29th Congress, first session, in the report of the Department of Commerce and Labour, 1905-06, page 50 :

China offers a fertile field for American products and American manufactures but if the price to be paid for trade with China is the unrestricted immigration of Chinese of all classes, then in the interest of American labour, and American citizenship we had better forego entirely that trade.

Oriental trade will flow in the most favourable competing channels and when we consider that the ports of Vancouver, Victoria and Alberni are 600 miles nearer Hong