

Canada's Oriental Problem and the Solution of It

NOTE:

Dr. S. S. Osterhout, who by request prepared the following article for the B. C. M., is well qualified to write on the subject. In 1910 he went to China and Japan for language study and to get acquainted with the social conditions of the Orient. He has been more or less intimately associated with Oriental affairs on the Pacific Coast since 1893. He worked as a missionary among the Indians in the North for ten years when at first Chinese were extensively employed and later when Japanese entered the arena as fishermen. He thus had opportunities of studying both races. His experience was afterwards enlarged as Superintendent of the Chinese Mission in Victoria and also when stationed at Kamloops and Vernon where he had opportunities of studying the Chinese and Japanese question from an agricultural point of view, many Orientals having settled in the Okanagan.

In 1911 Dr. Osterhout was appointed Superintendent of Oriental Missions for the Methodist Church. That work has

naturally given him more time and greater facilities for the study of this vexed question, which he finds to be the same throughout the Dominion.

It may be news to many of our readers to learn that such work of an organized character is carried on in twenty-five towns and cities in Canada, and that Dr. Osterhout visits many more than that number as his duties take him to other points where no organized work is established.

It is also in place to emphasize that Dr. Osterhout states that it would be easier to evangelize these people in their own country. It is anything but creditable to Canada to learn that Orientals are permitted to indulge in vices in this country which are not tolerated in the same open way in their own.

In the Doctor's opinion all immigration of Orientals should be stopped until "with a more virile type of Christianity or a more sensitive public conscience, we are able to solve the problem we already have in our present disproportionate population of Orientals in Canada, and especially in British Columbia."
(Editor, B. C. M.)

Three Assumptions.

Let us begin the study of this question with three assumptions in our mind as a background.

1. That God had the Oriental world upon his mind and heart when he planned the redemption of man. If in Asia there is found more than one half of the population of the globe then more than one half of the thought and concern of God in His world programme was bestowed upon that continent—"For God so loved the WORLD that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him need not perish but have everlasting life."

2. The supremacy of Christianity as a world religion. It is the only religion which settles adequately the question of sin, providing not only for salvation from sin but also from its power and comprehending the ultimate triumph of truth and righteousness. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto me."

3. The future peace and safety of the world can never be assured so long as one great nation or race remains unchristian in its thinking and in its ideals. With these three assumptions in our minds let us proceed to look into the problem.

The Seriousness of the Problem.

1. The problem is relatively serious. This becomes apparent when we reflect that in our population we already have forty or fifty thousand representatives of two races which alone aggregate almost five hundred millions of thrifty, ambitious, patriotic people—the population of China is generally estimated at four hundred millions, while that of Japan, together with her dependencies, would bring the total almost to the figure suggested. It must have been with this thought of the immensity of China's population in his mind that Napoleon said, "When China moves she will move the world!" Napoleon also doubtless knew that the Oriental people are vigorous, virile, ambitious, patriotic, religious and intellectual. Concerning the latter it has been said that there is no task in education too difficult for the Oriental mind. Missionaries engaged in educational work among those people assure us that such is the case. The system of education in Japan already ranks high among the educational systems of the world, topped by the great Imperial Universities from which there goes out an army thousands strong of highly educated specialists every year. We read of one writing his thesis for his M.A. degree on the subject "The Origin and Uses of the Anglo-Saxon Word 'If,' while another chose for his subject the "Bacteria of an Earth Worm."

A Menace to the World Unless—

These noble racial qualities above mentioned, together with this highly developed system of education, however, constitute the greater menace to the world, unless their education and culture are dominated by a strongly moral and religious sentiment. At the present time an overwhelming majority of the educated classes in Japan are dominated solely by a spirit of materialism. This army of highly educated men goes out from the universities, their hearts unmellowed by a gospel of love to God and man with no higher ideals in life than to achieve success either in professional, commercial or military life. Like Germany of old, their only God is a God of expediency, while education degenerates into a mere means for personal advantage and power. It is therefore highly essential that the impact of Christian nations upon the life of the Orient should be totally Christian and it is no less essential that our influence upon Oriental people in our own land should be of the same character.

The devil of militarism years ago led Japan, after her first military successes with other powers, to the pinnacle of her mount of temptation, but Japan very wisely resisted and set out upon an era of unprecedented accomplishment in the realm of science and commerce, hoping by this means to gain the respect of the other nations of the world. Failing to accomplish her purpose by peaceable means it is not altogether improbable that Japan may yet adopt the policy of some other nations and command their respect by the use of military power. Should that day arrive, without doubt the major por-

The House Behind The Goods

**MALKIN'S
BEST**

TEA

"None Better"

The W. H. Malkin
Co., Ltd.

VANCOUVER
NANAIMO
VICTORIA