

sway over Korea. In a word, they not only doubled their possessions since 1853 but built a great navy modelled after our own, and, I repeat, became the Great Britain of the East, the leading Empire of the Orient, a position she is determined to hold. They claim that all their wars have been wars of self-preservation. I will not stop to discuss that claim, but I do say a reasonably good case can be made out in defence of that assertion. For twenty years she was by the Anglo-Japanese treaty an ally of Britain, and a vigorous ally in the late war. That alliance was recently terminated, or, to put it more correctly, it was replaced by a four-power treaty entered into at the Washington conference by Great Britain, the United States, France and Japan, its objects being the preservation of the general peace and the maintenance of the rights of the high contracting parties in the region of the Pacific Ocean. It is an important treaty because these Nations agree to respect the rights of each to their insular possessions in the Pacific. If controversies arise involving the rights of any of these Four Powers, which may affect the harmonious accord now existing, a conference must be held and an understanding arrived at as to the most efficient measures to be taken to meet the exigencies of the particular situation. It is to remain in force for ten years, and thereafter continue in force unless terminated by one of the parties. This treaty is of paramount importance to us in Canada because behind it and under its protection we should be able to work out by diplomacy the acute racial problems of the Pacific in which we are so deeply concerned. It is important to remember, too, that the interests of the United States, one of the signatories to the treaty, are in this regard similar to, if not identical with our own. This is an important element in the situation.

It would be interesting to study the interests of these Four Powers protected by this treaty in so far as treaties can—in the myriads of islands, far from valueless, scattered over the South Pacific, of which the general public have scant knowledge. These Islands so thickly dot the sea that they have been described in the words of Browning as the—

"Sprinkled Isles,

Lily on lily that o'er lace the Sea."

Robert Louis Stevenson, on leaving one of the Pacific Islands, was asked how he was going to Samoa. He replied that he would just go out and turn to the left. Many of them are rich in natural products of the greatest possible value. They possess more than natural beauty and romantic charm.

Study conditions and possibilities in the Island of Java with its population of 35,000,000—did you note the number?—with its infinite variety of resources; Borneo the fourth largest island in the world and its resources; Sumatra with its population of 6,000,000 and Singapore where the British are about to establish a naval base at a cost of \$100,000,000, and you will find in your research many avenues for future activities, diplomatic and commercial.

These Islands of the Pacific, together with China and Japan, present a new field for the open diplomacy of the future. Let us hope, with this treaty as our warrant, that in this, in a sense, new world to which the great shifting current of events is directing attention, we will not have there repeated the experiences of the old continent of Europe, plagued and tormented as it has been for twenty centuries with every passion, religious, racial and political, known to human experience, its soil trampled by armies and drenched with the blood and tears of mankind. Let us see to it that the history of the Occident is not repeated in the Orient.

But let us return to a study of the people of Japan. Let us look a little closer at this sturdy race. We have so much to look forward to in the way of future friendly trade relations with them, that we must not entertain misconceptions of the racial characteristics of these Japanese neighbors—and I say neighbors, with all that neighborliness implies. A

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