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The Magazine of The Canadian West

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of
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Great Britain's Greater Opportunity

When the name of this Magazine was changed some years ago to BRITISH COLUMBIA Monthly, with sub-title "The Magazine of the Canadian West," we emphasised that one reason for suggesting a limit to our field was that we believed that, with increasing population assured, British Columbia or the Canadian West provided a "big enough world to conquer and to serve" in that home-influencing journalistic service which we reckoned "not secondary to any kind of social or ministerial work."

Like other countries, we shall always have our own local or provincial problems, and these may more peculiarly be the subject of special articles by contributors to this Magazine, or of attention in its editorial space.

Because of British Columbia's pre-eminently important geographical position, however, with about 3000 miles of territory to the East and the great Pacific Ocean to the West,—not to mention the thousands of Orientals in the Province—there is one phase of world politics in which every reflecting Canadian and especially the citizens at, and looking towards the Pacific Ocean should be interested.

Japan, the States and Britain.

In recent months there have been stories of various kinds concerning the relationships and armaments of Japan, the United States and Great Britain respectively. The ambitions of that active and aggressive yellow race have been enlarged upon, and the dangers of conflict between Japan and the United States commented on from various viewpoints in different quarters. Then, having in view the fact that the defensive agreement or Alliance between Great Britain and Japan is still in force, the possibility has even been mentioned of the two Island Empires being linked in opposition to the Great Republic.

On the other hand some writers suggest that Britain's Alliance with Japan will be allowed to lapse, and that, following that, there will be some form of co-operation between the United States and the British Empire against encroachments by the Yellow Races, Japan particularly, anywhere in the Pacific.

Germany's Greatest Crime?

In reviewing the possibilities of the situation, we think it would be well that all concerned, and especially those of the White Race, should remember one or two things in connection with the recent war that will stand out long after the terrible losses and world-wide suffering are forgotten. Perhaps the first thing is one that will humble all white people, and make them slow to forgive Germany, namely, that the Germans for ever disgraced the white races in the eyes of the world. It is common knowledge that in the course of the great conflict the Germans were frequently guilty of conduct that was not only "unmentionable," but practically unprintable, and (judging by remarks of men in positions to know well) almost unthinkable.

We of the White Race may not like to think of ourselves as on a par with other peoples of the earth, but there is a sense in which the sooner we lay to heart the truth that Heaven "made of one blood" all nations, the better it will be for us, and our attitude towards our fellowmen, be they black, or brown, or yellow. By the same reasoning, too, if by no other, we may be led as a people, to apply to Germany as a nation, the memorable remark credited to John Bunyan (and also to John Bedford) when he saw a murderer being led to execution—"There, but for the Grace of God, goes John Bunyan!"

The War's Revelation of Physical Unfitness.

Another, and scarcely less notable result of the war may be mentioned here, without being enlarged upon, namely, that it revealed in a way never before demonstrated, how far the populations were subject to conditions the reverse of healthful in connection with procreative powers. That revelation is related to social questions that will have to be faced fearlessly and courageously if the race is to survive and maintain its virility.

Parenthetically, it is in place to note that a step,—a long overdue step,—towards real progress, if not solution, through proper education in the evolutionary facts of life, (so far as they are known) is taken when a man like Dr. Barker is engaged to travel over the country lecturing as he does on "A father's responsibility to his son." If the Rotary International Organization had done, or did nothing else than arrange for such lectures, it would have justified its existence. Interest in Dr. Barker's unexceptionable exposition is not lessened by learning that he was outstanding in his own profession, having been physician to Mr. Taft when the latter was President of the United States.

How Britain's Alliance With Japan Might be Used.

Instead of advocating the lapse of Britain's Agreement with the energetic Islanders of the Far East, we venture to hope that the Statesmen directing our Empire's destinies will be men of such world vision that they will question if Britain was not, in other years, led into that Alliance just for such a time as this?

As the friend of Japan, Britain can warn and advise that enterprising nation against committing a mistake similar to Germany's, as we have reason to believe Japan is doing, or is liable to do in Korea and Manchuria. Sometimes we of the British Empire are reminded that our own Colonial or Imperial methods in former generations have been very open to criticism or even condemnation. But nations, as well as individuals may learn from experience, and surely Britain may NOW fairly exercise her friendly offices in the strongest possible way in protest against the massacring of Chinese or Koreans—even if threats of interference in India or Ireland are suggested in retaliation. Incidentally, we believe both