

FOREIGN COMMITTEE
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Shanghai
December 20, 1930

Dear *Sir Arthur.*

Last year, as I swung round the circuit of Japan's great cities - Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe - I was profoundly impressed with the Japanese Association's wealth of splendid lay leadership. The sure, constructive way its laymen were shaping policies, both local and national, was ample evidence of the place it had won in the lives of the people and gave ground for hope that on the eve of its fiftieth birthday the Movement was ready for a great advance.

That promise has been realized. After commenting on their reconstruction program after the earthquake, Dean Abe, the newly-elected Chairman of the National Committee, went on to say: "With the completion of the reconstruction of the buildings our whole national movement feels that it has reached a mountain top from which the future may be viewed...I must not take time to refer at length to the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of our movement in Japan; suffice it to say that this forward-looking tendency was so strong that the celebration took on the nature of a convention to plan for the future, rather than solely to commemorate the past." Coming from the lips of this vital, statesmanlike young college principal who is himself a symbol of all that is best in our lay leadership, these words are doubly inspiring.

Dean Abe is an impressive personality. He is the principal of one of the largest Christian colleges in the Empire. Yet he finds time to fill many important posts in his own church, among them that of Secretary for Home Missions, to serve as a director of the Tokyo Association (he has been an active member of the Boys' Work Committee for six years) and to answer calls which come in from all over the country to address important gatherings. In spite of his strong opposition to the proposal of his name for bishop in his Church recently, on account of this pressure of work, he nevertheless missed election by just one vote. In accepting the national leadership of the Association, he has bestowed on it a signal honor.