

bers year succeeding year will be across the boundless Pacific in the direction of this Rising Sun where will be found the busy marts of trade where men and Nations congregate.

This vision of the Rising Sun is one of promise. It gives promise later of the full-orbed day. At a later stage the Sun will be higher in the Heavens and by its rays we can then obtain a view of a transformed country in the East; a new East. And, if I were to look into the future as far as human eye can see and see it as it will be 100 years hence and draw another picture of these great Oriental Empires with their teeming millions on the other side of our common Pacific at that time, what would it reveal?

Let China be the scene of this second picture of the dim but by no means misty future. It must be a mental picture for no canvas could contain it. This picture will show a vast country of diversified wealth and of abounding modernized activities. A Nation of six hundred million of people moving about busy with life's affairs. How will they be moving about? In rickshaws do you think as now, those two-wheeled primitive contrivances drawn by coolies,—because we must remember that until a few years ago, and even at present in the interior of that country, their manners and customs are much the same as in Palestine in the time of Christ. But in this picture of the future we see them moving about, not in rickshaws but in up-to-date contrivances, automobiles, railways and aeroplanes, just as we do now. Does that suggest trade possibilities? Look closer and you will see that instead of coolies moving about, as now, carrying freight on their backs, the motor truck is used and all the conveniences of western methods of transportation employed. Look closer still, and you will see this traffic passing over well-built highways capable of carrying the heaviest freight; because today the roads in China are in keeping with the two-wheeled carts drawn by oxen that alone can pass over them, as outside a few cities there are no roads on which an automobile can run. Carry your scrutiny further still, and you will see that, whereas today there are only 6,000 miles of railway in that vast Empire, this picture of future years shows a net work of railways running through Provinces of rapidly developing wealth, laden with freight, carrying the products of other lands inward and their own products outward to the sea. Let the picture include a view of the great Yangtze River, navigable for eight months in the year by the largest ocean-going steamers as far as Hankow, about 800 miles from the ocean, tributary to which reside one-seventh of the entire population of China, and you will see on this St. Lawrence of the Orient, vessels of commerce of stately build plying to and fro. This picture of one hundred years hence will show, a busy people, engaged in mining coal, for have they not coal fields in China larger in extent than in all the rest of the world? So reported an expert sent by an European Monarch. This great resource, with iron, copper and tin, will provide the smokestacks in the future for many varied industries. Look closer still, and let the picture show far in the back ground the great Province of Szchuen, an Empire in itself, now hid away more than 1,000 miles from the ocean with over 60,000,000 souls practically cut off economically from the outside world by heavy rapids making navigation impossible; a Province which today, in its primitive way, produces every necessity of life and which in these future years will be seen linked up by steel with the Ocean frontier of that ancient Kingdom. But why continue to fill in the picture with modern towns and cities here and there displacing the rude unsanitary compounds of the present, thronged with citizens of a new era clothed in western garb with all the manifold wants and requirements of western civilization? Why, the mind would get confused, and imagination only must be left to contemplate at will the picture of this ancient giant, shackled for centuries by heathen misconceptions, breaking its bonds. Who can doubt that such is the picture of the future? Who so

dull in comprehension as not to perceive that when that day comes, and as it gradually approaches, vessels of commerce will approach that Country's shores, laden with merchandise to supply its needs, returning to us with products of that land. And if we in the northern half of this continent, this great wheat-producing granary of the Empire, not to mention the varied products of this Province bordering on the Pacific, do not receive, in proportion to our population, the largest share of that trade, then, we are laggards in the race, because there is a sense—not the Biblical sense—in which the race is only to the swift and the battle to the strong.

Ah, but you say, conditions are unsettled in China; there is no strong central Government. That is true; my picture is of the future. But let us not be too pessimistic about the China of the present day as a great field for the development of trade relations. The policy of the open door, or equal commercial facilities to all Nations, and the elimination of the old policy of Spheres of Influence, has been established by the Washington Conference. When we say the Central Government in China is weak, and hear of bandit raids, we are apt to conclude that chaos is impending. That would be an error. There is a deep transformation going on in China. If this transformation were being effected by authority from above, as was the case in Japan, everything would seem orderly. The leaven in China is working from below upward. A whole people are learning and investigating, adjusting their methods of life and business, and forming a new basis of public action. They are working from the bottom up, and the resultant superstructure will not be superficial. It will be no mere western varnish over an ancient civilization. Their business life is sound. Their currency is on a metallic basis. Do you know that their total debt is only \$900,000,000—or only \$2.50 per head. The debt of France and Britain is about \$900 per head. United States \$260,—Canada's \$263. You ask if China is financially sound why she doesn't pay off her foreign loans with more alacrity? The answer is that while the Chinese public debt is small, it is very difficult for the Central Government to get a large income because, by treaty re-affirmed at the Washington conference, the Powers hold China down to levying a customs duty of only 5% and this is its chief source of revenue. You see the policy of the open door still allows the Powers to say how wide it shall be open as far as tariffs are concerned. It might be well if other Governments had obstacles placed in the way of raising too much revenue. This coupled with the fact that the Provinces in China retain their own taxes explains the situation. The fact remains that this great Empire is industrially sound, and offers opportunities of tremendous import to the people of Canada.

So much for China. What about Japan, which, in spite of recent events, will rise like Phoenix from its ashes—Japan, the Great Britain of the East, that much-discussed Island Empire which since 1853, when it opened its ports to foreign trade, has gone forward by leaps and bounds? For 212 years prior to that date this ancient Empire, rooted in antiquity, lived its quaint life amid curious customs absolutely to itself. Two hundred years before, when Spanish Priests and traders were obtaining a foothold in that country, the people of Japan, resenting their intrusion and the Christian message brought, drove many of them out; killed those that remained and until 1853 any foreigners found in that country were condemned to death. They forbade the practice of the Christian religion. They lived absolutely within themselves.

But in that year the shackles of superstitions were thrown off; their ports were opened to foreign trade; the steamship, more ubiquitous than the sailing craft, could not be kept out. Then they emerged into the modern world, and what rapid strides they have made? Since that time they have doubled their possessions; they acquired the islands to the North; they secured large increase of territory from Russia; they obtained Formosa after a war with China and extended their