

# The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 8, 1917.

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## CONCERNING JAPAN

The very hearty welcome given by the United States to the deputation from Japan appears to indicate that the fears of some Americans that the two countries will clash in the not distant future are not generally entertained. Not many months ago a distinguished citizen of Massachusetts, addressing a St. John audience, pictured Japan as the coming menace to world-peace, and it is not long since a Japanese professor was quoted in the New York Tribune as saying that the complete defeat of Germany would not be of benefit to Japan while British victory would give Britain the dominant power in the Far East, and thus seriously affect Japan's political and commercial position. One American writer asserts that many people believe there is a tacit agreement between Japan and Germany that after the war each will further the plans of the other. This writer also expresses fear that Japan's activities in China may jeopardize the "open door" policy upon which the United States and Britain insist, and that "an irritability with the British on the part of the Japanese has lately been too apparent to be overlooked," while the certainty that Canada, Australia and New Zealand will have voices hitherto unheard in the councils of the British Empire "has made the Japanese restive participants in the war." He says further: "It will be recalled that early in the war Japan took from Germany the Marshall, the Mariana, and the Caroline Islands, all in the Pacific Ocean. These shortly thereafter Japan offered to turn over to the Australian forces and there the matter still rests. The compensation if any then demanded by Japan was not made public, but it is fair to assume that it was unsatisfactory to Australia, or to Great Britain. There is at present in Japan great opposition to its surrender of any of the islands it has taken. Now it should be pointed out that it cannot possibly be a matter of indifference to the United States who among the nations occupies these islands, since their harbours dominate all of our transportation routes across the Pacific. Having possessions to protect and responsibilities to fulfil at the far side of that ocean, we cannot look with unconcern upon the setting up of new naval bases directly astride our lines of communication from the Canal and San Francisco to the Philippines. If such bases are to exist it is of the utmost importance to us that they be not in the hands of a member of an anti-Anglo-Saxon group of nations, or, if they are, that we make it a condition that they be not developed and fortified. It is this question, as well as the need to preserve our trading and other interests in China, that makes of the future alignment of Japan a matter of grave concern, grave not alone to us but to all of the Anglo-Saxon communities of the Pacific.

"The interests of British Columbia, Australia, and New Zealand are included and dealt with herein as if they were our own because it is apparent that the time has now come for all Anglo-Saxon peoples residing thereon to act in concert to make of the basin of the Pacific a safe and salubrious nursery for the peaceful development of our race. As the United States is the most powerful Pacific nation, and the three great British Pacific commonwealths share with us a common stock, a common language, a common form of government, common literature and traditions, we are bound in duty as well as in interest to assure the safety and enhance the well-being of all alike. No one of us longer can afford to stand alone.

"That such a pooling coalition, bent upon keeping the peace of the seas which unite its members, might be helpful to us in time of need the redoubtable performance early in the war of the young Australian navy suggests. Nearer to the Philippines than ourselves, and flanking our lines of communication the Australians ever will be in position to render us great service; while in the protection of Alaska, British Columbia might well be able to furnish us invaluable service in the hour of trial."

This writer points out that if Japan would strike a vital armed blow against Germany, "there would be little left of the suggestions, now frequently heard, that democracy's every threat to destroy autocracy falls as unpleasantly upon Tokyo as upon Berlin, and that the military life of Japan, having been based upon German tradition and theory and organized by German military instructors, makes for a bond of sympathy between the two empires, the fact that both are virile autocracies, fast growing in a world bent upon breaking down monarchical forms, erects into a menace for the Anglo-Saxon people of the Pacific basin."

One of the questions frequently asked since the war began has been this: Why has not a Japanese army taken part in the war? And today many are asking why Japan does not come more vigorously into the conflict when Russia is so hard pressed, and when even China is reported to be preparing to send an army division to Europe. No doubt there are reasons in diplomacy which seem to those most deeply concerned a sufficient answer to these queries, but

they will not be revealed at present. Meanwhile Germany will get no comfort from the development of more cordial relations between the United States and Japan.

## THE TRUTH FOR ONCE

The desire of Sir Robert Borden and the members of his government has been to avoid the stress and turmoil of a war election. This is quite true. The desire of the Borden government was and is to stay in power. That is also the desire of its friends the profiteers. They are entirely satisfied with a government which has practised the grossest partisanship ever since the war began, while at the same time it called upon all other people to be patriotic and self-sacrificing and non-partisan. But the Borden government could not go on forever. It got one extension from the Liberal party, and went on in the old corrupt and partisan way, and so mismanaged the country's affairs that a crisis was reached and a last-minute appeal made to the Liberals to give Sir Robert one more chance. There was nothing unselfish or patriotic about it. The government finally bethought itself of a union government only when it saw defeat staring it in the face. And now, that having failed, it is doing its best to devise measures to prevent the will of the people from finding full expression. The first thing to do is to defeat the Borden government, which does not possess or deserve the confidence of the people. When that has been done a really national government will be made possible. There is no anti-war party in Canada except the little group of Nationalist agitators if Quebec who helped to put the Borden government in power.

If Canada encourages and aids immigrants to come to this country, naturalizes them and welcomes them as citizens—and then disfranchises them—is that democracy? Which is more deserving of the franchise—one of the disloyal Quebec Nationalists who helped to place the Borden government in power, or a loyal naturalized citizen who came here on the invitation of Canada to make a home for his children, and who is on the side of Britain in this war?

The week ends without material change in the war situation on any front. There have been rumors of another Allied drive on the western front, but it has not developed. Undoubtedly the enemy is being worn down by the constant pressure, but his man power and gun power and air fighting capacity still enable him to hold tenaciously to his position. The Russian situation does not improve.

A series of practical demonstrations by experts on the preparation and use of foods would be of value at any time, and doubly so at this time when food-control is a national necessity.

The rumor that both Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier might retire from leadership of their respective parties is denied.

If the Borden government has its way a gross injustice will be done to a very large proportion of the womanhood of Canada.

Sir Robert Borden does not want to make Canada safe for democracy, but for the Borden government.

The Borden franchise bill is a tory election measure, framed to serve the purpose of a tory government.

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## THE WOMAN.

(Arthur L. Phelps in Canadian Magazine.) The gay world and the giddy. The bright world and the loud. I have followed it and followed it And been lost in its crowd.

The fine world and the stately. With its high men and dames, I have followed it and followed it Like a jester at its games.

The hard world and the bitter. The cruellest of all. It has followed me and followed me And slunk beneath my shawl.

## LIGHTER VEIN

Punch once had a scene in which a district visitor is shown entering the cottage of a poor woman. The visitor is evidently new to the business and somewhat embarrassed. The cottager says to her: "I'm quite well, thank you, miss, but I ain't seed you afore. 'Tee fresh at it, ain't yer miss?" "I have never visited you before, Mrs. Johnson."

The woman dusts a chair. "Well," she says, "yer sits down here, and yer reads me short Psalm, yer gives me a shillin', and then yer goes!"

"Children," said the Sunday-school superintendent, "this picture illustrates today's lesson—Lot was warned to take his wife and daughters and flee out of Sodom. Here are Lot and his daughters, with his wife just behind them; and there is Sodom in the background. Now, has any girl or boy a question before we take up the study of the lesson? Well, Susie?" "Pleasin' thin' I lipped the latest graduate from the infant class, 'where th' th' flea?'—Ladies' Home Journal.

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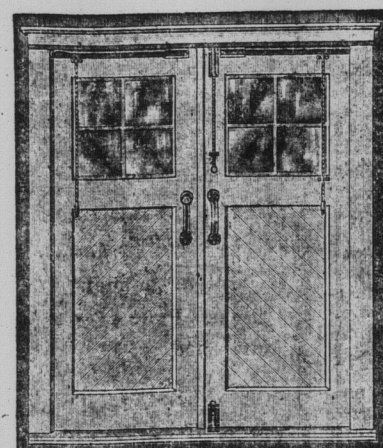
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