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THE JAPANESE TREATY

What is described as "a curious misunderstanding" has taken place in regard to the Anglo-Japanese treaty, which has been in existence for the past ten years. One of its terms provides that it shall remain in force unless denounced by one or other of the parties to it, and in the event of its being so denounced it shall continue in force for twelve months after denouncement. It has been assumed that the notification given by the British Government to the League of Nations a year ago that the treaty would be adapted to the requirements of the League constituted denouncement. To accept this view of the matter, seems to us to be rather a peculiar construction to put on the word "denounce." If a man tells a group of his friends, of whom his landlord happens to be one, that he intends to vacate his dwelling at the end of his tenancy he could scarcely expect his landlord to accept such a statement as notice of intention to quit. It would seem to be only reasonable and proper that if Great Britain did not intend to be bound by the treaty after the time fixed for its expiry, specific notification of this intention should have been given to Japan, and that a mere general statement made to the League of Nations is not sufficient.

There are two treaties at present in force between Japan and Great Britain. One is a "treaty of commerce and navigation" which deals with that subject and will remain in force till July, 1923. The other is the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, and it is this one that is now engaging the attention of statesmen. This treaty contained no reservation respecting the overseas Dominions. It applied to the whole Empire, without any assent of the Dominion Parliaments. It is for the following purposes:

(a) The consolidation and maintenance of the general peace in the regions of Eastern Asia and India;

(b) The preservation of the common interests of all Powers in China by insuring the independence and integrity of the Chinese Empire and the principle of equal opportunities for the commerce and industry of all nations in China;

(c) The maintenance of the territorial rights of the high contracting parties in the regions of Eastern Asia and of India, and the defence of their special interests in the said regions.

The principal article of the treaty is as follows:

"If by reason of unprovoked attack or aggressive action, wherever arising, on the part of any other power or powers, either contracting party should be involved in war in defence of its territorial rights or special interests mentioned in the preamble of this agreement, the other contracting party will at once come to the assistance of its ally and will conduct the war in common and make peace in mutual agreement with it." Under this treaty Japan came to the assistance of Great Britain in the late war and took an effective part in the winning of the victory.

This treaty, as before stated, was to run for ten years certain and to continue afterwards unless denounced by a year's notice. It is the question of continuing it that has latterly been under discussion. A new phase of the question has however arisen now because of the somewhat strained relations between the United States and Japan. In the event of war between the States and Japan, would Britain be obliged to assist Japan? There was no thought of anything of the kind when the treaty between Britain and Japan was made. Now that the question has been raised, there is an almost universal opinion throughout the British Empire that, while a renewal of the alliance with Japan is for many reasons desirable, it should not take a form which would under any circumstances require Britain to take part against the United States. Anglo-Japanese friendship is indeed desirable, but Anglo-American friendship is equally so. Canada, Australia and New Zealand are all deeply interested in the problems of the Pacific ocean, as are Japan and the United States; and the views of their representatives will no doubt have great weight with the British Government.

It was on this principle that the Conference of Premiers proceeded to discuss the renewal or otherwise of the Alliance, and the point that specific notice had not been given to Japan seems to have been overlooked, unless it actually be the fact, as has been suggested is the case, that, after calling the Conference, the promoters of it had difficulty in finding any practical questions to submit to the meeting. The really important question, often raised, as to possible changes in the constitutional relations between the Mother Country and the Dominions, having at an early stage been specifically excluded from the agenda, there was little real business for the Conference. It is alleged that under these circumstances, Mr. Lloyd George and his colleagues thought the Conference might as well occupy itself with speeches on the Japanese question, the British Premier knowing well that at a convenient moment the discussion could be terminated by a reminder that the consideration of the subject was quite premature. Lord Birkenhead's opinion was given at a moment when the discussion was beginning to be serious.

The discussion in the Conference has not amounted to a waste of time and effort, however. It has brought out and placed before the British Foreign Office and the British Government the attitude of the Dominions in regard to the whole question of the treaty, and to other questions which will be subject to consideration by the three powers should they agree on the holding of a conference on Pacific matters, and on limitation of armament generally. The views expressed by the Premiers of the overseas Dominions will not be forgotten merely because the matter with which they particularly dealt has not to be disposed of at this time. The peculiar "error" of the British Foreign Office as to the continuance of the treaty may prove a profitable one.

COST-OF-LIVING DOWN

The cost-of-living index of the Department of Labor includes staple foods used by the average family, fuel, rent, clothing, etc. The record shows a maximum increase in Canadian cities of 103 per cent., the peak occurring in July, 1920. Last month the index showed the increase over 1913 to be 72 per cent. The decline is, therefore, 30 per cent. from the peak. That is fairly satisfactory as a ate of deflation must be evident to everyone, because too rapid a general fall would cause widespread distress, and too slow a fall would bring about stagnation.

The Mail and Empire wants to know what is the public's expectation, in respect of reduction in the cost of living? Does the public want a return to 1913 prices all round? If so, are the workers generally willing to accept the wage levels of 1913? Most persons might be inclined to say "yes" to the first query, and "no" to the second. Everyone wants wages to stay up, and their costs to come down. Obviously, that is impossible. There is a close relation between general wage scales and costs of living, especially costs of manufactures, distributive services, etc. About three-fourths of the cost of these things is attributable to labor and overhead, and only 25 per cent. to raw materials. This is why selling prices in so many lines in which raw materials have sunk below 1913 levels remain so high. Foodstuffs cannot be controlled by trade agreements, costs, or any formula used in the factory world as a basis for price-making. They have come down to too cheap a basis, compared with all other factors in the cost of living. Cities are still suffering from the cost of inflation, and the puncturing of this is a gradual process. As most city people are wage-earners, with a much more intimate dependence on markets for a livelihood than even the farmer has, deflation in the urban centres should, in the interest of all, be gradual.

That there is a normal relation between rents, wages, foodstuff prices, and manufacturing prices, is well recognized. Foodstuffs were by long odds the first to rise, then came textiles, then general manufactures, then wages, and then rents. If foodstuffs were the first to fall, textiles were second. General manufactures are undergoing slow readjustments along with wages, but rents have not yet been touched owing to the scarcity of houses. But there is no doubt whatever that conditions will constantly tend toward that normal relation between the various economic factors in the cost of living, because a fair apportionment of rewards for labor is essential to the country's well-balanced progress. Time, patience, and recognition of public needs, will effect the cure.

RAILROAD WORKERS DESERVE PRAISE

One million, five hundred thousand railroad employees have gone to work at reduced wages, without threat of strike, without ill-feeling toward their employers or the Railroad Labor Board but rationally subordinating their disappointment over lower compensation to understanding that the business could not afford to continue paying the old wages.

One must heartily agree with an American contemporary, when it declares that the country should appreciate the good spirit of the American railroad man. There are no better class of citizens than the hundreds of thousands of dependable fellows who are every day taking the responsibility of transporting safely the greatest traffic in the world.

A thousand railroad union leaders gathered at Chicago to discuss what formal action they should take regarding the wage cuts. No one expected that it would be otherwise than a loyal acceptance of the situation, even if there was some protest against the Labor Board's award.

The country would have been faced with very serious damage had the ranks of railroad labor been less intelligent or fair.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

More Economy.

For the sake of economy, it is announced, telephones have been removed from Carnarvon police-stations. Householders desiring to have burglars removed from their premises should send a postcard to the nearest police station.—Punch.

Gloomy Dean On Labor.

The Dean of St. Paul's varies his outbursts of savage contempt for Christian morality with many bracing and penetrating judgments. Some of the wisest things he ever said were contained in a recent address to the British Science Guild. We will quote but one sentence: "One might suppose that the trade unions would hasten to use their immense coercive power to become producers, freezing out the old companies, but notoriously they would not look at any such schemes, preferring civil war, blackmail, and indemnities levied on the exchequer." It is necessary indeed to make an honorable exception of the Building Trades Federation — on whose constructive activities we have commented above—and of one or two unions in by-industries. Otherwise the Dean has got right home; it is a fair blow, directly on the Labor movements' unguarded spot.—The New Age (London).

A Sunset in June.

The sun sank last night in a glory of crimson and yellows and greens and violets, as low lying masses of vapor, hardly dense enough to be called clouds, reflected and refracted its long, level rays. From the heights around the city the scene was one of wonderful beauty. The waters gleamed with opalescent colors borrowed from the glowing sky, while above the purple-black forms of the Lions and the Sleeping Beauty stood out, silhouetted against the radiance. A thread of black cloud flung itself athwart the most brilliant of the splendors of the iridescent firmament, such as in a Japanese painting would seem a last perfect touch applied with consummate art to throw into relief the gorgeous colorings of the composition.

Slowly the colors faded, but it was very late before the last faint, dying fires became the deep, dark blue of night and the bright full moon assumed the regency of the sky, now at last completely deserted by her lord and master, the great midsummer sun.—Vanvouver World.

A BIT OF VERSE

THE DEBT OF HONOR.

Or nation's debts go piling up, the
war debt is immense,
But one debt we have to pay regardless of expense,
It is the debt we owe the men who
fought for us and bled,
And who for healthy living limbs wear
wooden ones instead.

It is the debt we owe the men who
come with broken lives
To struggle once again to keep their
children and their wives;
Among the darkened homes of these
the famine-spectre stalks,
And daily in the streets and squares
we pass them in our walks.

Is Canada so deaf and blind she
cannot hear and see
The mute appeal of proud, brave men
and children at the knee.
And suffering women pinched and
starved in houses cold and bare,
While wealth and ease go rolling by
without a thought or care?

Across the sodden plains of death
these men have charged and
fought,
They bore the agony and strain and
our salvation wrought;
They did not swerve, they did not
flinch, but on and on they pressed
Till in the rain of splintering shells
came one that gave them rest.

Shall we then now forget the past in
selfishness and ease
And say they have no claim on us
such glorious men as these?
If on a nation's throne today our
country takes her seat,
It is the work of broken men that
pass us in the street.

Bestow now on the dead your praise,
they heed it not above.
The men that live and suffer still are
they who need your love;
The very stones cry out to us, too
long have we delayed,
The debt of honor faces us and that
debt must be paid.

CANON SCOTT.

Quebec, P. Q., June 21st, 1921.

THE LAUGH LINE

Changing His Political Views.

"And you," sobbed the wife, "you are the man who used to call me his queen."

"Yes," he responded with a wild glare in his eyes, "but when a man finds his queen has used his tobacco jar for a pale oak finish and his meerschaum pipe as a tack hammer, he begins to grasp the advantages of a republican form of government."

Obeyed Orders.

It was the reading lesson, and Johnny Brown was reading aloud, and reading very badly.

"The captain," he declared, stumbling painfully over the words, "as he stood on the bridge while the ship plowed her way through the fog, suddenly espied a——"

Johnny paused. The next word was altogether too much for him.

"B-b-b-ba——" he stuttered.

"Get on, Brown!" said the master. Brown get on.

"B-b-b-ba——" he continued.

"Barque, boy!" roared the master. "Barque!"

Johnny glanced pitifully around the classroom—then at the master, then at the book. Then he opened his mouth, and:

"Bow-wow," he replied, "bow-wow!"

Apprehensive.

She had just received a proposal of marriage from a man she had always regarded more in the light of a brother than of a lover.

"Janet," he began, "you know I have always turned to you; that I have always thought of you. May I—that is—oh, will you be my wife?"

"What a start you gave me, Henry," said Janet at last. "Do you know, I thought from your manner that you were going to ask me to lend you some money."

A Matter of Preference.

Mr. Baggs—I hear you have got engaged to my son, Miss Smythe. I think you might have seen me first.

His Stenographer — I did. But I preferred Harold.

Business Associates.

"Who's the swell guy you was just talkin' to? asked Tony the bootblack.

"Aw, him and me's worked together for years," answered Mickey the newsboy. "He's the editor of one of me papers."

Knowledge.

I used to think I knew I knew,
But now I must confess,
The more I know I know I know,
I know I know the less.

Damaged Goods.

Lucile—Harold told me last night that he had given me his heart.

Evelyn—Then he presented you with damaged goods, my dear. Night before last he told me I had broken his heart.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Skinny Martin's big brother Fred graduated from the osteopath collidge so now he's a osteopath, and Skinny was telling me about it on my frunt steps today and Puds Simkinses sissey cuzzin Persey started to come up, me saying, Hay, heer comes Persey, lets play we're osteopaths and Persey can be the patient.

And wen Persey came up Skinny sed, Hello Persey, youre jest in time, we're going to play osteopaths. Wich Persey started to look a little suspicious, saying, I never herd of it, I dont think I wunt to play, and I sed, Aw wy not, all you haff to do is come in the office and say you got a hed ake or something, and then us 2 osteopaths give you a treatment and thats all there is to it.

Wat kind of a treetment? sed Persey looking even more sispicious, and Skinny sed, O, jest a osteopath treetment, aw come on, jest try it once and if you dont like it you can stop playing, wats you afraid of?

I aint afraid, ware is the office? sed Persey, and Skinny sed, Rite heer, all you haff to do is wawk up and say, Doctor, I got a hed ake and Id like a little osteopathy.

Wich Persey did, saying, Doctor, I got a hed ake, Id like a little osty wat do you call it.

Hay dock, heers a man with a hed ake, sed Skinny, and I sed, All rite, dock, lets give him a little treetment. Wich we started to do, jumping up and grabbing hold of Perseys hed and starting to give it a treetment as if it was on fire insted of jest having a ake in it, and Persey yelled, Hay, hay, I dident meen a hed ake, I ment a back ake.

O, he's got a back ake, dock, sed Skinny, and I sed, Well then we better give him a back ake treetment to make sure, dock. Wich we started to do, ferst me giving him 2 fearse smacks on the back and pushing him over to Skinny and then Skinny giving him 2 more fearse cracks and pushing him back to me, and we was going to continue the treetment like that wen Persey started to run like the dickins looking sispicious as enything.

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The cocktail of today,
A courtship without a kiss—
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