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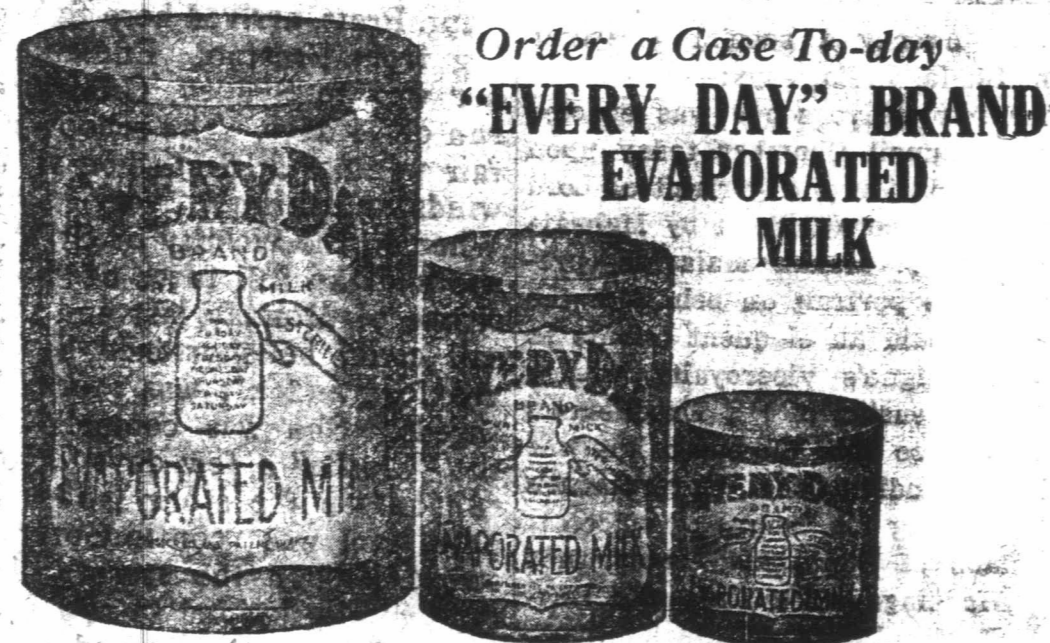
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Japan's Relations to the World War

THE NEW YORK TIMES publishes a translation of an article on Japan's to the world war recently published by Count Okuma, in which the Premier of Japan enlarges upon the good faith which his country has shown in her international relations since the outbreak of hostilities.

The translation follows:—
Although it is at present hard to predict whether the European war will end in a draw or cease with the complete victory of one side over the other, peace will and must sooner or later be restored. What will be the world conditions after the war?

In the belligerent countries taxes have already been increased, tremendous war loans have been floated, considerable inconvertible paper money has been issued, prices of commodities have been steadily going up. Immediate recovery from these effects of the war can scarcely be hoped for. Of course, it is not improbable that normal conditions may be restored earlier than people think, since modern progress does wonders. But in the light of past history the chances of quick recovery from the wounds are very remote. The American civil war was waged for four years at an expense of \$4,000,000,000. During that time paper money was issued, which, toward the end of the conflict, became a scrap of paper. For three or four years after the war one panic followed another, and finally the great panic of 1893-4. It was not until that time that recovery was really well under way, and more than twenty years had elapsed before normal conditions had been fully restored.

Due to the fact that the present war is in many ways far different from the war of fifty years ago, recovery will, no doubt, be much more rapid. Yet, with England alone already spending more than \$4,000,000,000 in a year, it is most probable that considerable time will be required for the restoration of normal conditions in Europe, and the high prices of commodities will continue for some time.

The War Japan's Commercial Opportunity.
Despite the fact that Japan, no less than other powers, has been affected by the war, she has benefited in this respect: prices have become lower which affords a greater opportunity for her foreign trade. Strange as it may seem, prices in Japan hitherto have been the highest in the world. In less than one year after the formation of the Cabinet, prices in Japan became the lowest in the world—this was especially so after the war with Germany—partly due to the financial policy pursued by the present Ministry and largely to the circumstances created by the war. While prices are going up in Europe they are coming down in Japan, and Japanese goods cannot fail to find a larger market there. Japan now has the best opportunity in the world's economic competition; this has not been attained by our endeavors alone, but comes as a blessing of the war.

Let us look around. There is no country which can compare with us in the Far East except China. Poor as she is at the present time, China awakened to her needs in world competition, is rapidly making progress along all lines of modern civilization; and who can tell that some day China may not find herself equipped with all the requirements of the modern world struggle? Blessed with vast natural resources, China's foreign trade is bound to increase. Should her development be as great as that of Japan or to-day—whose foreign trade is only a trifle over \$13 per capita—the total sum of her trade would be about \$5,000,000,000 per annum—the same amount as the total annual trade of Germany to-day—China's population, being estimated at 400,000,000. If our trade with China continues to increase at the present rate, more than a billion dollars will be shared by our two nations at the end of a year. Why then, should we worry? The present war has indeed offered us the best possible opportunity in commercial and industrial enterprise.

No doubt Japan's rise in the world has aroused suspicion among the powers. A contemptuous attitude is always accompanied by suspicion. As soon as the scornful attitude vanishes, race prejudice disappears. With race prejudice and suspicion gone, harmonious relations will prevail. Fortunately for us, our proper position is being gradually recognized by the powers, and, instead of looking down upon us, they are beginning to pay us due respect.

Japan's Faithful Aid to England.
Though England claims the indisputable supremacy of the seas, being the greatest sea power in the world, the safety of her colonies, especially Canada, and East India, was preserved very largely, if not altogether, by Japan. To make the navigation in the

Pacific secure, Japan's fleet of some 600,000 tons has been cruising about in these waters until recently, thus enabling England to concentrate her navy in the North Sea, without feeling any uneasiness for the Far East. Japan has already spent \$50,000,000 and ever at this time a squadron is on the watch at Singapore.

All this would be sufficient to demonstrate how sincere is Japan to fulfill her treaty obligations. Though there was neither treaty nor convention with Russia, with regard to the European war Japan orally pledged herself to the protection of the Russian border states. So long as China's territorial integrity and the "open door" are maintained by the Anglo-Russian alliance as well as the Russo-Japanese entente, Russia can rest assured that Japan will never do anything to endanger the Russian border, and she can depend upon Japan to keep peace and order in Mongolia and Manchuria. It is entirely because of this pledge that Russia has gone so far as even to stip her garrison artillery from her Far Eastern forts for use at the front on the Germano-Austrian border.

France, too, relying upon Japan's good faith, is exerting all her strength at the front, leaving the maintenance of order in Indo-China in the hands of Japan. This territory is far from being secure because of insufficient defense in Tonking.

In Australia and Canada, where suspicion has long existed, the misunderstanding has somewhat diminished, and, though one would not go so far as to say that the anti-Japanese feeling there is dead the people seem to have been convinced that Japan is not an enemy, but a faithful friend. Amicable relations between Australia and Japan have hitherto been greatly hampered by agitators who succeeded in arousing fear among the countrymen, asserting that Japan was only waiting for a chance to realize her ambition and would surely invade Australia in case of a great world struggle. The attitude which Japan has taken toward the Allies in the present conflict has incidentally proved that she has no intention of seizing the first opportunity to invade Australia; thus the suspicion they long entertained has been killed.

Good Faith in Kiao-Chau Policy.
In the restoration of Kiao-Chau to China the world cannot fail to see another proof of Japan's love for peace and justice. As a matter of fact, there is no reason why Japan should not permanently hold Kiao-Chau; its occupation cost her blood and money and in the eyes of international custom it is regarded as a war prize. Yet Japan, entertaining no territorial ambition, is going to restore the territory to China at the end of the European war if free disposal be granted to her, contenting herself with the fact that Germany's military base, which was a menace to the peace of the Far East, is destroyed and her possible re-establishment on the coasts of Shanghai and the adjoining islands is prevented by the non-alienation assurance which China is to declare to the world. Japan is no less entitled to the permanent occupation of the German leased territory than was the United States to California from Mexico or Cuba from Spain, as a war prize. Have we not given up our indisputable right for sake of world peace?

Viewed from Japan's standpoint, territorial expansion is not only politically, but also economically a policy behind the age. No benefit, excepting in name, is derived from it. This conclusion is not the result of mere academic discussion, but is reached by authentic historical proofs. The ideal of the Japanese Empire lies in world peace, and we do not hesitate to say that the Japanese will not depart from this ideal.

Japan's Harmonizing Ideal.
Always adhering to this great ideal, we intend to create a new civilization by bringing the civilizations of the West and the East into a perfect harmony. By this I do not mean that our new movement is to bring the world under the sway of Japaneseism, replacing the civilizations of the Anglo-Saxon, Teuton, Latin, or Slav.

We would not go further than the promotion of world peace. We want to contribute to the world civilization no less than did England. Do not construe this, however, as making light of Western civilization. It has passed trials and ordeals through generations, and it is the product of great brains and lofty souls. Its science, especially, its greatness has been more than proved in the present war. Whatever change may take place in the future, our admiration for it will never cease, and great attention will be given to its assimilation in order to bring about a new civilization in this hemisphere. Fortunately we are in a position, geo-

graphically and historically, best fitted for it, just as was England a hundred years ago.

For generations, the white race has looked upon the colored race as inferior. This attitude is the combined result of deeply rooted racial and religious prejudice and the lack of understanding, which is not altogether unjustifiable with regard to some people. In the consideration of world peace, however, something should be done to do away with it. As soon as the harmonization of the two civilizations of the West and East is accomplished the equality of all mankind will be acknowledged. At present, Orientals and their civilization, to our regret, are looked down upon. We must, in some way, attain equal standing, not only materially but spiritually, with Europeans. That is the only way to bring about world peace. Instead of thinking this some of our countrymen insist that by the importation of material civilization alone we never can succeed in bringing eternal peace upon the earth. Eternal peace lies where one can walk the earth. Eternal peace lies where one can walk hand in hand and side by side with others in the true sense of human equality. Unless we succeed in making them understand theirs, thus effecting a harmony, the sentimental wall that separates us cannot be removed.

Wants Equality Recognized.
In heart Europeans may not be on intimate terms with us. It may be only in their own interests that England, France and Russia made us their ally. Be that as it may, the alliances are no doubt founded on their recognition of our strength. It is unreasonable for us, then, to ask that they go a step further and recognize our equality not only in name but also in reality? The conflict of interests often brings a quarrel even among kinsmen, while identical interests sometimes make the relations between those of different color and faith very intimate. In a world intimate relations grow only when people try to understand each other with openmindedness. There is no really independent country in the Far East except the island Empire of Japan, whose strength is now recognized by the powers and who is taking part in world affairs hand in hand with the Western nations. We sincerely hope that this understanding will be furthered in the future and thus, and thus alone, we, as a go-between, may succeed in bringing Occidentals and Orientals closer together of their civilization in order to realize our ideal—equality of mankind among races and eternal peace on earth.

What has the war taught us? Among other things there is one that will help the cause of a great deal, an apparent awakening on the part of the West to the merits and ideals of the East through bitter experience, paving the way to a realization of our ideal. Japan should leave nothing undone to make the most of the opportunity born of the war to this

end. It is the duty of the Japanese, who represent Oriental civilization, and who, by geographical position, are best fitted to take the initiative in the onward movement for world peace.

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