

Our possession of Eastern Siberia would indeed be the very occasion for early renewal of the Russo-Japanese conflict. No, your plan is not possible. We must inflict on Russia at the present time the least possible territorial loss and national humiliation with the hope that the renewal of the struggle will be the longer deferred. And in any case, after this exhausting war we shall have neither the time, the strength, nor the means to undertake the government of that vast country."

But here I in turn have insisted that my full proposal has not yet been heard. Were it limited to Japanese seizure and possession of Eastern Siberia, it would indeed be impracticable. The essential feature of my suggestion is, however, that immediately after making peace with Russia, Japan promptly arrange for the sale of Eastern Siberia to some powerful nation. Thus would the ends desired be attained. Japan's financial strain would at once be lessened and at the same time, she would enter a new period of national prosperity, unhampered by overwhelming war taxes.

With a power friendly to Japan in possession of Eastern Siberia, Russian reoccupation would be impossible, and with it her exploitation of