

# Canadian Missionary Trink

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## THE YEAR 1915 ON THE MISSION FIELD.

It will be our endeavor to conduct the reader through a swift review of the great mission fields of the world, with a view to forming at least a general impression of the state of the work as a whole.

### JAPAN.

We will begin with Japan. Surprising to say, the war has not bulked large in the minds of the people, and the missionaries bear testimony that only to a very small extent has it been used as an argument against Christianity. Still, the moral prestige of the Christian religion has received a blow, and the missionaries will have to commend it on other grounds than its power to control the national life. Politically, the great event of the year was the forced agreement with China, which gives Japan a predominant influence in the affairs of that country. Religiously, the two outstanding features were the visit of the Embassy, consisting of Dr. Shailer Mathews, of Chicago University, and Dr. Sidney L. Gulick, representing the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and the National Evangelistic campaign, in which nearly all the missionary societies co-operated. The Embassy held crowded meetings in the great centres of Japanese life, and was everywhere received with great cordiality. The object was to interpret to the Japanese people the real spirit of American Christianity.

The Evangelistic campaign was very successful. Nine hundred and fourteen

meetings were held, with an attendance of over 160,000, of whom 5,000 were enrolled as inquirers. It was financed and managed largely by Japanese Christians themselves. The secular press freely advertised the meetings. Needless to say, considerable opposition was aroused on the part of the Buddhists and Shintoists, who held rival meetings to counteract the influence of the campaign. There was a notable increase in the circulation of the Scriptures. Indeed, the sales for 1914 were about double those for 1912.

### KOREA.

The Japanese now call Korea "Chosen," and that is the name by which it will probably be known hereafter. It is now a part of Japan. The past year has been a trying one, owing to the economic disturbances caused by the war; yet, in spite of this, the country has made great progress. New railways are being built, scientific agriculture has been introduced, and education greatly extended. The smoking of opium has been prohibited. The new government regulations in respect to education, forbidding all religious exercises in the schools, is causing some alarm. However, as the rules in this regard are not to come into force for 10 years, it is hoped that by that time the Government may be induced to either change or relax them.

Religiously, the year has been one of great progress, without any very remarkable revivals such as were reported a few years ago. The statistics of the Methodist and Presbyterian Missions for 1914 show 76,825 communi-