

日米

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Ownership of Land by Foreigners in Japan.

The proposed Japanese law to permit ownership of land by foreigners and California's alien land law were discussed in Japanese by The Japanese American News on November 15. The following is a free translation:

WE have said several times that during the coming session of the Japanese Diet, which will be convened December 25, a bill to provide for land ownership by aliens will be introduced. This bill was presented at the last session of the Diet, but the Diet was dissolved in the midst of the session and the bill was not ratified by the House. It provides that foreigners, excepting in military zones and other specifically designated localities, shall have the right to own, utilize and dispose of land.

This right shall be reciprocal. That is, it shall be accorded to those foreigners whose countries vouchsafe the right to own land and other property to Japanese. This right, of course, is extended to land ownership in Japan's possessions.

Such a bill long ago was promulgated and should have taken effect, but for some reason which we cannot understand it is not in operation. It may be too late to introduce the new bill to the Diet, but, even so, it is better late than never.

We congratulate Japan, for the sake of her honor among nations, on the consideration of this bill.

So far as Japan's existing laws are concerned, aliens individually are not allowed to own land. Foreigners in Japan have experienced great inconvenience on account of this. But, while Japan has prohibited land ownership by aliens, this was interpreted, to a certain extent, to mean that Japan excluded foreigners. This caused an anti-Japanese sentiment. For example, in 1913, when the California Legislature was trying to enact a land law, and also when Californians planned to pass amendment No. 1 this year, it was said Japan does not permit foreigners to own land. Therefore, it was reasoned, it was right that California should prohibit land ownership by Japanese. This creed of the politicians, it would appear, was accepted by an unlighted public.

There can be no appropriate analogy between California and Japan, for California has a much greater area than Japan which is not under cultivation; and yet California is so sparsely populated that its people can hardly cultivate all untitled areas. On the other hand, Japan is so densely populated, and its cultivable areas so limited, that today most of its available cultivable areas are undergoing intense husbandry. Yet Japan feels that more and more land is needed for her own subjects.

In Japan no foreigner is allowed to own land, but he is allowed to lease land. The right to lease land extends over a period of ninety-nine years, so that it makes little substantial difference whether a man owns land in Japan or merely leases it. The act of California would abolish even the right to lease land to Japanese. Therefore, the Japanese restriction is not comparable with the California restriction.

Curiously enough, these facts are not made known to the general public. Great emphasis is placed on the fact that Japan will not allow foreigners to own land, which causes foreigners, particularly Californians, to think their action is reciprocal of Japan's acts.

Practically speaking, this is a hindrance to the expansion of Japanese in foreign countries. It is necessary, therefore, to set forth in her laws that all foreigners will be treated in an open-handed manner in the matter of land ownership, although certain limitations or restrictions are necessary, in regard to military areas and the like.

When the right to own land in Japan shall be granted to foreigners it does not follow that foreigners shall have the right to buy great areas in Japan. It means they shall have the right to buy lands for the purpose of establishing schools, residences, factory sites, summer resorts, gardens and the like. The right certainly is not intended to be extended to agriculture, forestry, mineral lands.

Viewed from a purely economic standpoint, there are wide fields in South America, Australia, China, Siberia and other places where money may be invested in lands and other things. So why should foreigners wish to buy Japanese soil, by no means rich and comparatively high priced?

Conceiving the situation in that light, we cannot understand why the land ownership bill passed by Japan ten years ago has never become effective. We trust that at the coming session of the Diet both Houses will pass the bill unanimously and make it effective at once.

Incidentally the bill, of course, is reciprocal. That is to say, any country which does not permit Japanese to own land will find it citizens or subjects shall not be permitted to hold land in Japan. In the case of a nation like the United States, where every state has the right to enact its own laws, Japan perhaps will accord different treatment to different states.

As for the California law of 1913 and Amendment No. 1 of this year, it has frequently been reported that the Washington and Japanese governments are negotiating with a view to adopting a new treaty that would make null and void the anti-Japanese laws of California. But if the treaty shall not make such provision, Japan may be expected to discriminate against Californians in the matter of land leasing and other things—which things are being done today by California to Japanese.

This discrimination by the state, though it is done in accordance with law, may not be effective, for if a Californian wished to buy land in Japan he would perhaps register as a resident of some other state. It therefore can be seen that the regulation would be without force and effect.

This would give rise to situations and practices which would have a bad influence upon the Japanese in California. We hope, therefore, that, somehow, something can be done regarding the land law of California and that a harmonious solution of the difficulty may be reached before Japan's enactment of a land ownership bill.

Rumor Harvest Time.

The following is a free translation of an editorial in Japanese, published in this newspaper last Tuesday:

AMERICAN newspapers are publishing exaggerated reports about the "hordes" of Japanese who are returning to Japan because they have been discouraged by the passage of the alien land law, or are anticipating a Japanese-American war, and are taking with them gold made in California, amounting, on a single voyage of the Siberia Maru, to the huge sum of \$10,000,000. The reports dwell on the grouped activities of the emigrants. They see in this movement a determination to be married in Japan and bring Japanese wives to this country.

American press agents are sending these stories to all parts of the United States. The task is too great to take up each and every one of these stories and explain or correct them all. Yet misinformed persons might bring about a grave misunderstanding, basing their arguments on erroneous reports. For that reason we offer an explanation of some of the stories.

It has been the custom of Japanese farmers in California, ever since they began coming to this state, to visit their homes after the crops have been harvested and before it is time to begin planting again. This exodus to the Orient is no new movement launched this year. The prices of farm products have been especially high during the past three or four years and Japanese farmers have been prosperous. But, looking into the future, they see conditions won't be the same as they have been in the past, and therefore they are anxious to visit the homeland while they may.

Another thing, a line of Japanese steamships has been opened between Los Angeles and Portland and the Orient. It is because it is more convenient for Japanese residing at those points to make trips to Japan and less expensive to go from one of those ports that Japanese have been embracing the opportunity to sail from Los Angeles and Portland.

Many more Japanese than in former years wish to visit Japan. It is not only the Japanese in California who are not thankful for the new land law, but Japanese in other states as well. The Japanese at home—and many Americans here—think the measure was not justified.

Discussing the land law, the New York World of recent date said that Californians are lacking in the idea of national responsibility and challenged Japan at the ballot box.

That editorial leads us to deduct that the act was contrary to all American sense of fair play. It is unnecessary for us to reiterate that the result is far from satisfactory to Japanese in California. But at the same time we are not such a weak-minded people as to throw away the fruits of many years of hard labor and return to the homeland. We still have hopes in the future and are trying to create better opportunities for ourselves.

When Japanese make trips to Japan they naturally take their earnings with them. But the report that returning Japanese took \$10,000,000 with them on one voyage of the Siberia Maru is entirely erroneous. When one considers the Japanese-American exchange rate it is natural that American gold should be shipped to Japan. Considering the amount of the treasure in gold Japan has in the United States, a shipment of \$10,000,000 or even \$20,000,000 is nothing to question.

WHEN THIS OLD WORLD WAS YOUNG.

(Continued from last Saturday.)

PRINCE Ishizukuri pondered long and long about making a journey to far Tenjiku in search of the Lord Buddha's begging bowl. It would take a long time, reasoned the prince; it would be a hazardous undertaking; and, finally, it would be futile. It would be easier, he concluded, to counterfeit the sacred bowl.

Having arrived at this conclusion the prince laid his plans cunningly and took pains that the Lady Kaguya was told that he had actually sailed forth on his journey. But, as a matter of fact, he hid in Yamato for three years. At the conclusion of that time he discovered in a hill monastery in Tochi a bowl of extreme age resting upon an altar of Binzura (the Successor in Sickness). He seized the bowl, wrapped it in precious brocade and attached to the gift a branch of artificial blossoms.

When the Lady Kaguya examined the bowl she found within it a scroll with the following verses:

"Over seas, over hills hath thy servant fared, and weary and wayworn he perished here. Oh, what tears hath cost this bowl of stone, What floods of streaming tears!"

But no hallowed light shone forth from this vessel and the Lady Kaguya knew at once that it had never been property of Lord Buddha's. So she returned the bowl to Prince Ishizukuri with the following verse:

"Of the hanging dewdrop not even the passing sheen dwells here. On the Hill of Darkness, the Hill of Ogura, What couldst thou hope to find?"

The prince threw away the bowl and sought to turn the remonstrance into a compliment to the lady who wrote it:

"Nay, on the Hill of Brightness what splendor will not make? Would that away from the light of thy beauty the sheen of yonder bowl might prove me true!"

It was nicely turned, considering that the sutler who wrote it was a humbug. Lady Kaguya tore up his latest effusion, and the prince sadly departed.

ANOTHER WILY SUITOR.

Equally wily was Prince Kuramochi. He caused it to be noised about that he was setting out on a journey to the land of Tenjushin in quest of the famous Jewel-Bearing Branch. Instead, he employed sixteen men of the Uchi-mura, celebrated craftsmen, and rented for them a dwelling in an isolated locality, where he himself lived, for the purpose of instructing the craftsmen how they were to fashion a Jewel-Bearing Branch identical with the one described by the Lady Kaguya.

When at length the branch was finished he set out to wait on the Lady Kaguya. Attached to the gift was the following:

"Though it were at the peril of my very life, Without the Jewel-laden Branch in my hands never again would I have dared to return!"

Looking sadly upon this glittering counterfeit, the Lady Kaguya listened without interest to the prince's recital of his adventures, fabricated on the spot. He dwelt upon the terrors of the sea, strange monsters, gnawing hunger, disease, and assured the lady these were the ordeals through which he had passed for her sweet sake. Then he went on to describe a high mountain rising out of the sea and said he had approached this pile and had been greeted by a woman fairer than day who bore a silver pitcher which she filled with water. There were wonderful flowers and trees on this mountain, and a rainbow hued stream, yellow as gold, white as silver, blue as precious ruri (lapis lazuli), and the stream was spanned by bridges constructed of myriads of gems, and beside this stream grew trees scintillating with dazzling jewels. From one of these trees, the prince declared, he broke off the branch which he brought home to the gracious Lady Kaguya in conformity with her request.

Lady Kaguya gave signs of believing this circumstantial tale. But, at the very moment the prince's recital of his adventures, six craftsmen appeared on the scene and loudly demanded payment for the fabricated Jewel-Bearing Branch. His treachery exposed, the prince beat a hasty and none too dignified retreat. Happy to escape a perditionous lover so easily, the Lady Kaguya herself paid off the craftsmen.

(Continued next Saturday.)

CONFUCIANISMS.

THE Master said: "The rude tribes of the East and North have their princes, and are not like the states of our great land which are without them."

THE chief of the Ke family was about to sacrifice to the T'ae mountain. The Master said to Yenwe: "Can you not save him from this?" He answered: "I cannot. Confucius said: 'Alas! will you say that the T'ae mountain is not so discerning as Lin Fang?'"

THE Master said: "The student of virtue has no contentions. If it be said he cannot avoid them, shall this be archery? But he bows contentiously to his competitors; thus he ascends the hill, descends, and exacts the forfeit of drinking. In his contention, he is still the Keun-tze."

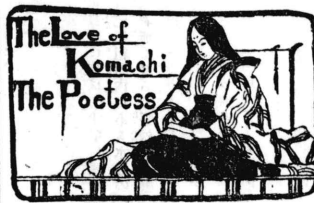
TSZ-HEA asked: "What is the meaning of the passage, 'The pretty dimples of her artful smile! The well defined black and white of her eye! The plain ground for the colors?'" The Master said: "The business of laying on the colors follows the preparation of the plain ground." The Master said: "It is Shang who can bring out my meaning! Now I can begin to talk about the odes with him."

THE Master said: "I am able to describe the ceremonies of the Hea dynasty, but Ke cannot sufficiently attest my words. I am able to describe the ceremonies of the Yin dynasty, but Sung cannot sufficiently attest my words. They cannot do so because of the insufficiency of their records and wise men. If those were sufficient, I could adduce them in support of my words."

SOMEONE asked the meaning of the great sacrifice. The Master said: "I do not know. He who knew its meaning would find it as easy to govern the empire as to look on this"—pointing to his palm.

The concern and misunderstanding expressed on account of the action of Japanese in pooling their interests were imaginary evils. Japanese travel in bodies because it is less expensive and easier for them to make their reservations. These men returning to Japan, of course, may marry, but there is nothing unusual in that. Returning alone to Japan, a man certainly has the right to marry if he so desires.

We hope that the Japanese, always complaining about Japanese marriages, will consider humanity; also, how society is maintained, stabilized and increased.



From the Drama of Ki-no-Kaion.

UNOHA'S brother, Chikatada, and several of his retainers, hearing the screams of the maiden and the shouts for help, rushed to the scene. Seeing his sister's lifeless body, Chikatada was at a loss to think who the murderer might be. Frantic with grief, he rushed about the yard in search of the heartless wretch, and, finding Arhira standing by the wall, trembling with emotion, he concluded this man must be the assassin. Drawing his sword he rushed on the nobleman, crying: "Accursed coward! You shall taste the sharpness and the bitterness of my blade, which craves revenge."

Startled by the turn affairs had taken, Arhira pleaded innocence and told what he had seen while hiding in the tree. But Chikatada was too excited to listen to explanations. At that moment Sadakage, chief retainer to Lord Arhira, rushed up with a plea for his master.

"Your sorrow is the most natural thing in the world," he declared, "but my master is not guilty of this infamous charge of murder. I beg of you to place his life in my hands for three days. Within that time I shall find and deliver the murderer to you; if you will be so good as to grant my request."

At this moment Yoshizane, father of Komachi, arrived and declared Lord Arhira was a man of such honor and refinement that it would have been impossible for him to have killed a young maiden. He prevailed upon Chikatada to comply with Sadakage's request. In doing so he warned Sadakage that if the real culprit was not produced within the period stipulated he would take Arhira's life.

DROUGHT GRIPS LAND.

THE land for weeks had been in the grip of a severe drought. The earth was dry, cracked; the rice and other crops were ruined. The Emperor and all his subjects prayed Heaven and Earth, the gods of the sea and the river, to send rain; but not a drop fell. A few days more of drought, and dread famine would break through the land.

The Emperor instructed his prime minister to induce the poets to offer verses to the god of rain. People believed, in those days, that a pre-eminently beautiful poem could move Heaven and Earth, the gods and evil spirits. A wonderfully beautiful poem would move Ryujin, the Dragon-god, to cause rain to fall immediately. Complying with the imperial order, the prime minister summoned the poets to meet on the Hirozawa Pond, in which dwelt the Dragon-god. The minister presided, and the poet laureate, Ki-no Tsurayuki, acted as judge and declaimer. All who had won a certain amount of fame as versifiers, noble, high officials, samurai and ladies attended the meeting.

First to offer his poem was the haughty Kurunushi. With great respect the judge read it aloud. It proved a commonplace composition, both in words and sentiments; but Tsurayuki complimented it.

"I don't wish to appear conceited, friends," Kurunushi said, looking around triumphantly, "but I should like to know the hour to say that I consider my poem a perfect example. Surely in virtue of it rain presently will fall. Pray behold the sky! Already it grows dark! Clouds gather! Let us pray for rain, my servants! Let us bring some protection against the rain, friends!" The poets looked at one another with wry smiles. When Kurunushi had finished, Arhira's retainer, Sadakage, walked up to the poet and said brusquely:

POEM IS QUESTIONED.

"Excuse me, sir, but are you quite sure that poem is your own? I fancy it is an ancient one, isn't it?"

"What insolence!" Kurunushi cried, flushing angrily. "Apologize to me at once, or you will not live another moment!"

"Then you are quite sure it is your own work, sir?"

"Whose else could it be, you insolent fellow?" Kurunushi demanded, his rage choking him.

By way of reply Sadakage beckoned to Chikatada and ordered the servants to bring some protection against the rain, friends!"

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(To be continued.)

MASAMUNE'S SWORDS.

By DR. E. A. STURGE

MASAMUNE hated self, But he wielded his own self Into every shining blade That he made. True as steel in which he wrought, Pure as dew in every thought, He impressed upon his art His own heart.

Masamune's weapon's gleam Like a flashing mountain stream, While upon their edge a haze Ever plays, Making those who behold Shiver, for the blood runs cold, Even in the warmest days, When they gaze.

In the hands of sons of Mars They will cut through iron bars, Yet remain unlicked, unscarred, Quite unmarred. His of all swords are the best, As it proved by every test, That can possibly be made Of a blade.

Stand a Masamune sword In a brook, upon a ford, Let the edge but slightly lean 'Gainst the stream: Then a straw upon the tide It will certainly divide. If it strikes the weapon true, Into two.

JAPANESE PROVERBS.

It is time enough to cry oh! when you are hurt.

Learn not, know not.

It is well to take counsel of one's pillow.

It never smokes but there is a fire.

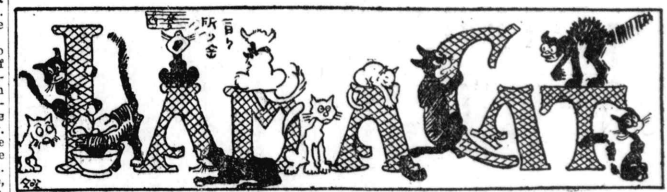
Judge not of men or things at first sight.

Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee.

It is rash to sell the bird on the bough.

It is the bride and spur that make a good horse.

Lean liberty is better than fat slavery.



(Translated by a Japanese Schoolboy.)

THIS pine tree you know called as the suspended pine tree. It is said that there are so many pine trees there but when one comes to this particular pine tree one feels to suspend himself, so that there are two or even three who commit suicide here in this pine tree each year.

"If you see this tree you will realize how that tree is suitably extending its branches for the purpose of suspense. I am sure you will feel that it is not complete as a picture if you do not have some one hanging on the branch at least you will feel that you want to have somebody to drape there. I wanted to have some body but no one came unfortunately. So I began to feel that if no one would come to try to suspend himself, but if I try myself it is of course dangerous, I must kill myself."

"While I am believing myself 'tis like dangerous to suspend oneself as a picture. It is surely to kill me, I chance to recollect to my memory Greek's story that, in order that to entertain guests in some sort of party, one endeavored to suspend himself, with some special or maybe particular devices so that he could get away from sure-fire hanging; and, curiously enough, I began to think to myself if that thing can surely be said to be done it indeed is more interesting thing to be done. It is not to be scaled."

"So I think to myself it is better if I try it myself. I put my paddies on tree and experience quite thrilly sensation; furthermore it is more like artifice."

"I fancied myself overjoyed when I find that I fancied that I was suspending to a branch by this pine tree that I have finally at great length decided to up and do it. But the thought that Mr. Kochi may have come to our house after I had departed out made me to think myself it is better to see him firstly, as he have such diligent regard to see me."

"Thus I have returned home to indulge some sort of talk by him and then would I go to suspend myself there by the neck until I am dead dead."

"All foregoing was said by great friend of my master, not myself. 'O, this dear master make to respond by articulating: 'Uh, what's the worth, anyhow?'"

COLDMOON IS INTERESTED. But Mr. Coldmoon appears like he is awful interested by this conversation and repeat: "Indeed it is how interesting" and furthermore have exhibited some peculiar which is the characteristic of this here man. The great friend of the good masters was still carrying on with his talks no difference whether anyone has pay him attentions or not, on he goes.

"When I got back home Kochi," he remarked further, "was not by any means there. There was a letter from him however instead by which he said that he has some other things to be done so that he was not at all able to call on me that day, and he make engagement he would call on me unmistakably some other days so that he can carry on converses with me."

"When I had perused of that there note I am really feeling relieved; I felt in this way or manner, well, old, if he don't return back again I can go out some more and suspend myself having no troubles at all that he would hinder my act. Here goes!"

"I began to go for that place as rapidly as I ever can go and when I come outside the inside of my house."

Here the great friend of the kind masters was stopped in this so critical moment and looked into the faces of the dear masters and Mr. Coldmoon. To this the master so good make articulate: "Then what, hey?" And Mr. Coldmoon he says: "Indeed, it sure is beginning to sound like it might be quite if not very interesting," or some such remarks, and saying such he seems to be manipulating something in his hands.

HE'S BEATEN TO IT. "Well, then," the great friend of gentle master says, "when I am reached the place lo and behold! some one already suspended there before I am! Now think it is by a skin's breadth that I miss appointment with Madam Galloway, yes, I am just trifling late I really resented about delay."

"But to imagine this here incidents by this time I can easily make myself to think I was captured by some deity of death by this time. Psychologist may have something to expectate on this here case I don't know but for my parts it is quite quite mysterious things indeed—it is really wonderful."

HOW DO YOU DO? OUCH!



While Japan and the United States, the latter depicted by the Congressional Committee which recently visited the Orient, are seen to be exchanging courtesies and felicitations, the child is bothered by a pup, not any too playful. The child represents the people of Japan, the pup those of California.

A JAPANESE THANATOPSIS.

MORE than half the year already has gone. Autumn winds sweep the fields. A cold which is destined to lose their brilliancy already have done so. The evergreens appear to be greener than ever. All the leaves predestined to fall each year already have descended to the earth. Sorrowful rains patter against lonesome doors.

Ah, a butterfly! It flies into my withered garden. I know not whence it came. Ah, innocent, tiny creature! Wandering here and there, everywhere, in search of a flower on which to rest, knowing not that the flowers already have withered; knowing not the end of thy life approaches. How lonesome the shades of autumn! Transparent is the sky, and so clear, with never even a fly flying about. The universe still is hushed, filled with solemn airs. All creatures seem to be sick at heart.

Autumn! This is the season for poet to weep; philosopher to think; ecclesiast to commune with Infinite Being; patriot to ponder the future of his country. This is the season for everyone to wash his unclean or impure heart, to be baptized by Nature.

Autumn holds great sorrow, but, at the same time, it offers great comfort; it teaches.

By some deity of death by this time. Psychologist may have something to expectate on this here case I don't know but for my parts it is quite quite mysterious things indeed—it is really wonderful."

Relating this story the friend of sweet masters was not bit worked up he is so calm as usually. As for sweet pathetic masters he has shown himself by some expression that he is fooled of this man again and eating some cakes putting in which I personally myself had occurred to just the same experiences as I myself already have had the same happenstance rather very recent."

This undoubtedly appeared like it appeared to curiously of sweet masters, who surprisingly said: "Why, my lan! Did you want to suspend yourself too?"

To this great excitement of impetuous masters Mr. Coldmoon make reply so calm like:

"No, it ain't so. My own sad case was a little different than that by suspending of Mr. Meitel (the great friend of the sweets master). But interesting parts of it is that that experience which I personally myself had occurred to just the same season—that is to speak it was at end of year and only differences were, mine ain't last year but year even before that."

But I tell you, it happened by same date and in same home, it is in facts as striking that so many similarities are there that I commence to feel it's the real mystery."

Great friend of kindly masters was so pleased that he said: "Yes, I'll tell the world, it really indeed is so interesting."

Saying such he eats the cake competitively with the sweets master. "O, this was some concert, I should implicate, which was meant to be the Endoftheyear." Mr. Coldmoon went on to comment, "and there were men of note and fashionable ladies and many of them was young lady I should remark, and I went to do stunts with my violin; so I up and went there. It was beyond peradventure of all reasonable doubtings one great event and every things was going on so nice indeed."

"After dinner service and concert also at its finality and the peoples was talking all things in many groups, which was continued right up to late hour. As it was such late like hour I was thinking of myself to take departings, but before I said bye bye to hostesses a lady who was wife to Professor Ex came by my side and asked me did I know this here Miss So-and-So was so sick."

HERE'S REAL NEWS. "Of course I did not know of myself that she was so very sick as all that as I have viewed her about three weeks before and by that season she appears like she was healthy and having nothing trouble so far as could have been seen by me."

"I was so surprised if not shocked by this sudden news of her and I asked to this lady many things of Miss So-and-So as I seemed very anxious about her. To my dreadful surprise I learn by this lady that she began to be sick immediately after I have ceased to see her last. She has something like strong fevers or other and by that very reason she has been for some time past unconscious and making some remark which no one can by any means seem to understand."

"If that was the all it might have been all O. K., but I was told that she was saying out loud my names when she was delirious in her lack of consciousness."

To this tale of course dear masters make no saying which is quite discouraging and great friend of dear masters is also maintaining very quiet, against his usual habit to mix up anyone by saying anything at all discouraging. This time, if it is usual, he would have said it to him that she is in love by you, I congratulate you, my own dear kind good friend, or something, but I does not make to say anything at all. None of them were listening very diligently to his story. (Mr. Coldmoon's mystical love stories is to be cont. at this point to next week Saturday.)

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