

Colonial Conference of Japan.

This article is a liberal translation of an editorial in Japanese published in this newspaper May 15, 1921:

THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE of Japan is now being held in Tokyo and the Asiatic policy of the United States seems to be the center of heated discussion.

The United States has no standing in China, but by her civil plans she is solidly established in the Chinese mind, and if she extends her influence together with her economical resources, then it will be very hard to anticipate Asia's future. It will undoubtedly have a great influence on Japan's Asiatic policy and therefore Japan must know what the United States intends to do in Asia before she can establish her policy. It is no wonder the question became the center of discussion.

We believe the United States hopes for the peace and development of China and proposes to attain economical expansion by using her capital on the Chinese market under the standard of the open door and equal opportunity policy. For that she sees the necessity of firmly establishing herself with China and consequently she shows dissatisfaction with Japan.

Moreover, the United States distrusts Japan's Chinese policy and her attitude toward China. She seems to think Japan is intending to oppress China, grab all rights and interests and invade Chinese territory. From this she stands ready to protect China.

Japan has made many explanations on these unfounded doubts of the United States, but as the United States watches Japan she encounters ever so often incidents not clearly understandable and her doubts return. Now her suspicion has become chronic and it will be very hard to change it.

Once some years ago when Special Envoy Ishii was dispatched to this country, he made clear explanations of the case to Mr. Lansing, then the Secretary of State, and Japan thought the matter settled for all time. But later when Japan loaned a large amount of money, out of proportion to her resources, to Tuan Ch'i-jui, and concluded a secret military treaty with the Chinese government and dispatched more of an army than agreed upon by the entente, to Siberia, the suspicion of the United States was again aroused.

All these things were taken as a sign of Japan's unreserved practice of her militaristic policy. And the attitude of Mr. Lansing has changed radically and he is reported to have confided to some one that he was deceived by Ishii.

We do not know whether Mr. Lansing has said any thing of the sort or not, but the attitude he assumed at the Paris Conference indicates his mental condition. It may be said he has cast away the spirit that joined declaration made between himself and Ishii. It is not only with Lansing we find this mental condition, but it grips most of the American people, the majority of whom seem to suffer from a chronic suspicion of Japan.

It is needless to repeat that Japan has no territorial ambition in China, neither does she intend to monopolize every right and interest in China. The open door and equal opportunity for all nations are two policies Japan sincerely wishes to see in China. Japan is geographically situated to enjoy the benefits of the invested capital of any country in China. Japan also has sufficient capital to invest in China to place her on an equality with any other power. Only Japan is situated right next door to China, a fact which necessitates different relations with China than those enjoyed by England, France and the United States. It is vital to Japan to consider China in the light of her defense. For this, Japan, must maintain some sort of political supremacy in the Orient.

This point is not clearly understood by the American people, in fact, the Japanese policy is not clearly understood by the world. These are the reasons why Japan is so often misunderstood and undeservedly suspected. Therefore it is absolutely necessary for Japan to explain to the United States what she wishes to undertake in China, and to restrain herself absolutely from planning obscure policies and to undertake economical expansion with the United States. Then the relations between the United States and Japan may not bring any danger.

Japan should change her attitude towards China and forget the petty advantages hanging over her eyes and the misunderstandings and ill feelings once and for all. She should return Tsing-tao to China, call back the army she stationed in China, assist in the discontinuance of extra-territorial jurisdiction now enjoyed by all powers in China, help in bringing about self-government in all provinces, lead them by civil undertakings, and put all power and resources in the establishment of economical institutions, sharing the advantages of them with the Chinese.

And then we can expect to see the new aspect of things in China.

Preservation of a Race.

The following is a liberal translation of an editorial published in this newspaper May 18, 1921.

COLONEL W. D. BOYCE, publisher of the Chicago Ledger and the Indiana Daily Times of Indianapolis, who returned from a six months' trip through Australia and New Zealand, made a startling statement in San Francisco.

He said, in part, that the tour of investigation of the British Commonwealth was a revelation to him and America can well profit by valuable lessons to be learned from Australia and New Zealand. One of those lessons was the absolute exclusion of Asiatics and Negroes with the rigorous immigration laws. If those different races were assimilated by the white race it will taint the blood of the white race. The analogous situation is found here and if American people wish to preserve the purity of blood they must keep out all Oriental immigration.

This argument is not new and we have known of its circulation for many years. It has a number of staunch followers. There have been organized movements to preserve the purity of a race or a people in the past. One of the most conspicuous illustrations was the attitude assumed by the British Government during the time of the late war. England has organized armies on her possessions and colonial areas all over the world and dispatched a huge army to the battle field. As the war progressed, the casualty brought about to her army was staggering and it made English people realize the grave danger to the future of her people. At this critical moment England was forced to resort to an extraordinary policy in that she made differential treatment between the armies drafted and organized in England and her colonies and those organized by different races in her possession.

That this was born out by the racial instinct could not be denied. The same measures were likely practiced by French and German armies and we need not pick out the English army especially, but it was most vividly witnessed in the English army. We can also deduce the fact from the heavy casualties suffered by the English colonial army.

The question of whether a people could maintain their superiority only by keeping their purity of blood or if it may be improved by the mixture of certain blood is an extremely difficult question to solve. If the theory that Japanese, the most superior race in the Orient, has mixed blood of Mongolian, Malay, and Ainu, the last supposed to be a white race, is correct in the main, then it is still an open question whether it is advisable to hold on to the argument for the preservation of what they call the purity of uniform blood or not. However, let us shelve this question for awhile.

We can not deny the strong undercurrent firmly gripping the American mind to preserve the purity of the Anglo-Saxon race as her mainstay.

Now let us consider the Japanese question in the light of assimilability. If it is maintained that the Japanese must be excluded because they are not assimilable there will be no exclusion. This is understood to be a going argument in general.

The Morris-Shidéhara agreement has, as the starting point, the assimilability of Japanese. They aim to prove the point and as the experiment to arrive at this objective, they propose to agree upon a policy of maintaining strict exclusion for the time of the experiment.

But we must be prepared to meet a reverse argument to the effect that Japanese must be excluded because they are assimilable. The advocates of this argument will find a strong ally in the undercurrent that the purity of American blood must be preserved. And in time the exclusionists will gain fearful momentum, we imagine. If it becomes reality, then the Morris-Shidéhara agreement will be not only useless but harmful.

The racial contact and intercourse of peoples are controlled by the natural force generated in the movement of races. The mere man-made treaty or laws can do nothing in hindering them.

Let us grasp the situation from a higher level and forget about a petty maneuver.

The Japanese American Review

SHANTUNG QUESTION.

(Taken from Far Eastern Review.)

(Continued from last Saturday.)

IT IS DOUBTFUL at this time, whether China will be permitted to seek a solution of her Shantung troubles by resort to an international conference, as the original issue has since been expanded to cover the application of the Manchurian Treaties arising out of the Twenty-one Demands. China, at the Peace Conference, lost her golden opportunity to have the Shantung question adjudicated on its merits as a separate issue. In the face of the secret agreements, under whose provisions Great Britain, France, Italy and Russia were compromised to support Japan at the Peace Conference, the Chinese delegation (influenced by their American advisers), insisted upon converting the Conference into a court for the trial of Japan.

In explaining the attitude on this question, it may be said that in response to an urgent cablegram from Peking, the publisher obtained from the American secretary of state in May, 1915, an assurance that the American government would urge an international convention at the termination of the war in which the whole case of China could be presented and the status defined.

This brief outline of facts will explain to our readers the criticism of the American and Chinese delegations to the Peace Conference. Our knowledge of the facts, we were justified in believing that when the time arrived to carry out the above promise to the American nation, the status of China could have been amicably settled on a basis equitable to all concerned, which would give Japan a good opportunity, and which concentrated the fire of the delegation upon any one nation, especially when that nation was Japan, who held the promises of the other powers to support her claims. From the outset of the negotiations in Paris, we advocated that the promises of the state department lived up to and China's problem be placed before a separate international convention so that her whole case could be considered and acted upon.

The rights of Germany should be addressed by one of the enemy. Without a moment's delay he turned his horse back and went ashore. Naozane rode to meet him. Both warriors drew their swords and struck at each other for some minutes; their blades glittering in the rising sun. But as their combat was undecided, Naozane was filled with admiration for his adversary's bravery, and also threw down his sword. No sooner had they grappled with each other than they fell heavily to the ground. In an instant Naozane was holding Atsumori down.

At that moment someone hailed him from the beach. It was Kumagai Naozane, mounted on horseback. "You are a general of the Taira army, are you not?" he asked, holding up an open fan. "Only a coward shows his back to the enemy. Come back and try your skill in a fight against me."

It was impossible for Atsumori to hesitate when addressed by one of the enemy. Without a moment's delay he turned his horse back and went ashore. Naozane rode to meet him. Both warriors drew their swords and struck at each other for some minutes; their blades glittering in the rising sun. But as their combat was undecided, Naozane was filled with admiration for his adversary's bravery, and also threw down his sword. No sooner had they grappled with each other than they fell heavily to the ground. In an instant Naozane was holding Atsumori down.

When Naozane had Atsumori well under him he said in kindy tones:

ATSUMORI MEETS FATE.

"Now that your fate is sealed, you must declare your name, in order that I may perform an exploit in killing you. If there is anything you wish done after your death, tell it to me frankly. As far as I am concerned, I am Kumagai Naozane, one of General Yoshitsune's retainers."

"Your kindness fills me with gratitude," answered Atsumori, who, at times, indicative of satisfaction and peace of mind, would venture to die by the sword of such a tender-hearted warrior as you! I am Atsumori, the son of Councillor Tsunemori. I fear that the news of my death will grieve my parents. I should deem it a kindness if you would send my corpse to them. Kumagai."

Naozane burst into tears. He helped Atsumori up on to his knees and brushed the dust off his armor.

"If I spare your life," he said, "it will make no difference to the victory of the Minamoto army. Fortunately, nobody is looking at us. You had better make your escape as quickly as you can." So saying, Naozane prepared to take leave of Atsumori. Suddenly Hirayama Suyeshige appeared on a hill behind them.

"Serves you right!" cried. "You are a double-dealed villain. You cannot really intend to save the life of a Taira general whom you have beaten down! Don't stir there!"

Naozane paused on hearing this cruel rebuke and for a moment did not know what to do.

"Don't trouble yourself, sir," said the young nobleman, in mild tones. "The Tairas are doomed to ruin. I am sure to meet a disgraceful death soon or other even if I am saved here. I much prefer to die by your sword. Kill me now!

"Serves you right!" said the master. "You are a double-dealed villain. You cannot really intend to save the life of a Taira general whom you have beaten down! Don't stir there!"

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