

Where Will Japan Strike Next?

By WILLIAM G. UTLEY

AMERICA for Americans, Europe for Europeans—and Asia for Asiatics. That is the marching song, figuratively, of the Japanese army in eastern Asia, and the theme song of the drama of imperialism that is unfolding today in the vast theater of the Far East.

To all appearances its true meaning, in the eyes of America and European nations is "East Asia (at least) for the Japanese."

The rapidly expanding power of Nippon in East Asia—which, for the present means China—is the result of a nationalism which has been



Japan Backs Demands in China With Troops.

growing steadily with the civilization of its people and came to a full awakening with the realization of those people that they had "got ten with" the complete subjugation of Manchuria; the ever-increasing pressure of a spirited population to make room for its existence by enlarging its boundaries, and the self-discovery of a people's genius for making all manner of commodities for which there is a demand, at a cost low enough to get the business.

Japan has conquered Manchukuo and Korea. She has an eye, it is generally believed, upon the islands of the South Pacific. And she has already established a virtual protectorate over North China. How far she will go and how soon, are the answers to a question which all the rest of the world would give a cookie to know.

If the Japanese have gained control over the "heathen Chinese" they have certainly also bewildered him. For while the Japanese ministry of foreign affairs shakes his hand with an attitude of paternal benevolence, the Japanese army sneaks up behind him and kicks him in the pants.

Foreign Minister Hirota eulogizes the Chinese leader, Gen. Chiang Kai-shek; army leaders immediately dub him a fake and a fraud. Hirota honors China by making an embassy of the Japanese legation in China; the army immediately declares it's all news to them. While Japan on one hand speaks of cooperation and the common good, Japan on the other hand goes right ahead with methods of out and out coercion.

As an excuse for direct action, the Japanese army cited banditry, supposed to have been encouraged by the Chinese, and the assassination of two Chinese editors who had been friendly toward the Japanese policy. The army of Gen. Yu Hsueh-Chung has withdrawn south of the Yellow river and the Japanese army has moved in.

Whatever government finally emerges in the North China area, it is certain that it will be "guided" by Japanese policy and expediency. It is doubtful, however, if any kind of political union with Manchukuo will ensue, for the two areas combined in one would be a package mighty unwieldy to carry; the Japanese believe that it will be easier to administer them separately.

Under the provisions of the Tangku treaty of two years ago, China north of the Yellow river has been declared a demilitarized zone, but it seems the only demilitarization has been carried out by the Chinese in moving to the south and west. The Japanese army is still there and is completing occupation of the province of Chahar, which is rich in iron ore. This, with the other three North China provinces, Hopei, Shantung and Shansi, will unite to form a new territorial unit, completely divorced from the Chinese national government and distinctly favorable in its relations with Japan and Manchukuo.

Chinese coal and iron, and the opportunity for cotton planting, particularly in Hopei and Shantung, have been the incentive for most of the Japanese action; however, it is pointed out that the loss of trade in other parts of China as a result may offset these advantages. They become doubly important when it is considered that Great Britain, America and other powers may extend financial aid to China.

Where Japan's imperialism and expansion will carry it next is open for conjecture. Japan is, or was, an "island empire," and to its south in the Pacific are many islands in which it has enormous commercial interests.

mediately of the Philippines, but more important to Japan are the Netherlands East Indies, which buy more goods from Japan than does even China. Japan has an annual balance of trade with these heavily populated islands that is more than \$35,000,000 in her favor.

As to the Philippines, Japan make horrified gestures at the suggestion that her interests there are anything but platonic. Certainly, although defending the Philippines from Japanese attack would be a man's-size job for America, the Japanese would venture no aggression there so long as the islands are under the wing of American protection.

But in 1945, according to the present agreement, the Philippines will get their complete political independence. With American domination will go the privilege of free trade with the United States; in fact during the next ten years the tariff on Philippine goods coming into the United States will be annually increased. If the economic burden becomes too great for the Philippines—and there are plenty of those who say it will—the islands may be forced to enter some sort of union that would give them trade advantages with another large power. That would be Japan.

Consider Russia. It must be remembered that there is another great power which has something to say about the repartitionment of territory in East Asia. That power is Soviet Russia, with 200,000 fighting men and a far superior air force north of Manchukuo and across the Amur river.

The conflicting aims of these two powers was not so serious when Manchuria existed between them to absorb the shocks. Now their borders have moved right up against one another. Already border skirmishes, allegedly provoked by Japanese guns, have caused vigorous protests from the Soviet ambassador in Tokyo.

The Siberian army is far better mechanized than the Japanese, its airplanes are modern and double the Japanese strength, and the island of Japan itself is a perfect set-up for aerial destruction.

To offset this, Japan will be moving from interior lines, and administration of a Japanese army campaign would be possible on a much more concentrated basis, for Siberia is on the outside of a great, curving, northern frontier of Manchukuo. While Japanese reinforcements could be moved in with comparative celerity, because of the proximity of the homeland and because of far superior rail facilities, it would take a much longer time for the Red army to move replacements from Russia proper into eastern Siberia. These replacements would have to come over one lone railroad which is notoriously inefficient and easily susceptible to crippling by an enemy force.

The Test May Come. Soviet-Japanese relations may come a little more nearly to a head next year when new contracts will be discussed to permit Japanese fishing off the Siberian and Kamchatka coasts. Only 10 per cent of the fish taken from the waters bit on communistic hooks in 1927; now half of them do. Perhaps the red bait is more enticing. At any rate Japan now wants to pay its rental of fisheries in yen instead of gold rubles and wants to base the rentals on the number of fish actually caught.

age more than one-third in three years. These have all been built where they will make it easier to divert to Japan much of the traffic in goods which has passed through Siberian cities, particularly Vladivostok, which now must depend almost entirely upon inland Siberia for its trade. New railroads planned for construction will make even the far reaches of Manchukuo readily accessible to Japanese commerce. Japan also built 4,500 miles of roads in Manchukuo in 1933 and 1934, and schedules call for 2,500 miles annually in the years to come.

Last year Manchukuo became Japan's biggest export market, taking 18 per cent of the exported goods. The value of these exports grew from more than 75,000,000 yen in 1931 to more than 400,000,000 yen in 1934. This has confronted Japan with a serious economic problem, however, for if exports of goods to Manchukuo have grown, so have exports of capital. Japan's capital investments there were 99,000,000 yen in 1932, 176,000,000 yen in 1933, and 237,000,000 yen in 1934. The cost of military occupation in Manchukuo is about 150,000,000 yen annually. A balance of trade will have to be effected if Japanese investments are to be secure.

It is not merely Manchukuo's 4,800,000,000 tons of coal reserves, and the area's iron which Japan wants. She is honestly desirous of maintaining more peaceful and civilized conditions in Manchukuo, where the preceding rule was corrupt and oppressive. While she has admittedly improved the country, she is not so popular with the native population, probably because of her desire to acquire more high posts in the administration and in business than is seemingly necessary.

America Chagrined. Naturally, America has been chagrined by the Japanese abrogation of naval treaties and insistence on naval parity, and has been offended by the Japanese policy of forcing out foreign oil companies in Manchukuo. We, along with Great Britain and other nations, have been provoked at her interference in China and visualize the suffering of our trade. But Americans have only about \$200,000,000 invested in China. Great Britain has six times as much, Japan a little less than Great Britain.

Our export sales to China in 1933 amounted to nearly \$52,000,000 or approximately 3 per cent of our total exports. We exported \$143,000,000 worth of goods to Japan in the same year. If we were to go to war with Japan the value of our Chinese export business would vanish in no time. The expense would paralyze Japan economically and destroy our best customer in Asia.

The Japanese people are probably much more excited over our recent naval maneuvers in the Pacific than we are over their policy in Asia. Influenced by a press which speaks only with the voice of Tokyo, they feel that we plan to carry out our Far Eastern policy with an armed force, and that the fact that we demand a stronger navy than Japan's is evidence that we want to be equipped to carry on an offensive in the Pacific and have no intention of fostering world peace by limitation of armaments.

Japan, with her withdrawal from the League of Nations and her abrogation of armament treaties, has openly showed her disgust and disinterestedness in European affairs, and her intention to devote her activities entirely to Asia. But she cannot forget Europe entirely, because of the interests of European nations, particularly Great Britain, in her vicinity.

More than anything else Japan fears an Anglo-American agreement which would form a potential union of the two greatest navies in the world. The great puzzle is whether such action would avert or bring on a serious crisis.

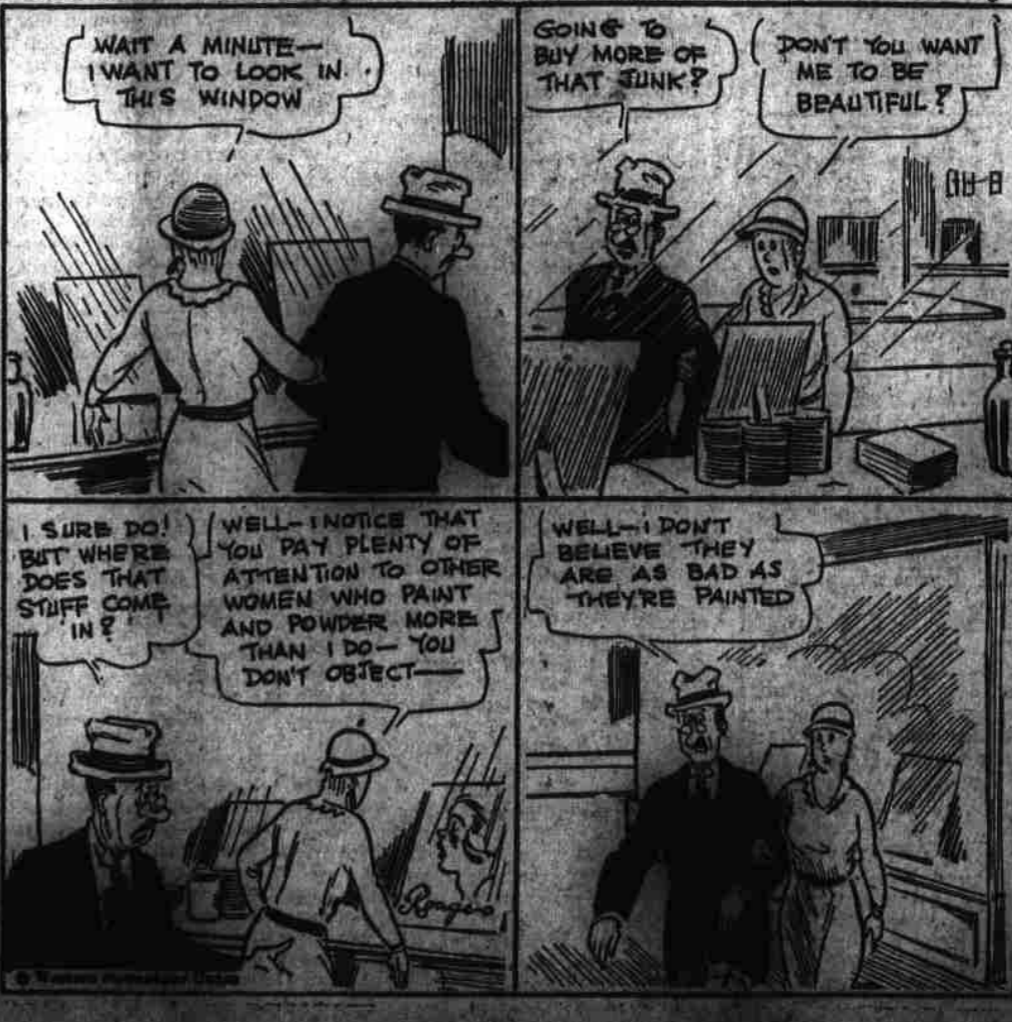
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SMILES

FUR, MEANING DISTANT

Teacher—Tommy, can you spell fur?
Tommy—Yes'm, f-u-r, fur.
Teacher—Correct. Now can you tell me what fur is?
Tommy—Yes'm. Fur is an awful long ways off.

Just to Prove That—
"Well, doctor?"
"Twin boys; one weighs five pounds and the other six."
"And I thought that all men were born equal."—Detroit News.

No Chiselling

"Coming to the pictures tonight, Albe?"
"No. I gotta stay at home and help Dad with my homework."

Sins of the Father

Man—I suppose that you and your wife share everything.
Friend—Not everything. She insists that I have all the faults.

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