

East Side Is for Japan

Significance of the War to Russian Jews in New York

From the New York Sun

The 200,000 Russian Hebrews in New York are almost a unit in rejoicing at the Japanese naval victories over Russia. They are not burning red fire or jubiling in public meetings over the sinking of the Czar's ships, for experience has taught them to keep their opinions pretty much to themselves. But in their homes, on the streets and in the shops and cafes of the East Side men are reading the war news aloud from the Yiddish papers. Their little audiences listen gravely, and at the end as gravely congratulate one another that the Japanese are punishing the government which drove them to this country.

A Russian Jew who is a leader on the East Side and a man of education overheard two men of the lowest peasant type talking on the street. Translated, their conversation ran about like this:

"Well I see the big sailor had some trouble in the pond over there."

"What trouble?"

"Didn't you hear about the Japs?"

"No. What Japs?"

"Why the Japs came up at night with oil on their oars so that no one heard them, and they tipped over all the big sailor's boats."

Then they gravely shook hands and wished the Japanese more luck at tipping over boats, but the power of the conversation was in such an idiom that the hearer could not make it all out.

These men were representatives of the least intelligent Jews in the Ghetto, but their attitude was declared typical of that of all their neighbors. The Sun reporter's informant said that in all his dealings with his countrymen since the first talk of war he had heard only quiet satisfaction at the pluck of the Japanese in tackling so big an adversary and hope that they would win.

The more intelligent Jews, of course, realize the power of Russia. Some of them have an even better understanding of it than any Gentiles, and while they doubted the ability of the Mikado to withstand the full power of the Czar's fighting forces they expressed the hope that Russia could be met more than half way, and held.

"Usually the East Side is divided on every question," said this gentleman. "It is seldom that there is not long argument over every conceivable point to any question. But on this war the East Side is united. I don't believe a Russian Jew in the world would turn over his hand to help Russia."

He was asked if this showed a lack of patriotism, if the Russian Jew was not more of a Russian than anything else, and should not stand by Russia in her trouble; if the military training of most of the men ought not to make them wish to return to their regiments.

"Not at all," was the answer. "Let me tell you right here that the Russian Jew in America is not a Russian. He is an American."

"Ask any man in any station of life and he will tell you the same thing. Probably he will show you his naturalization papers, and perhaps quote you a few sentences from the Declaration of Independence."

"As the Jews understand America and their citizenship, there is not a more loyal and patriotic part of the community. I think thousands of them would fight for the United States, but not one for Russia."

"As for their service in the army, that is only an added argument against their return. All of them were forced into the army, most of them when they were mere boys."

"No matter how hard they worked or how well they drilled they had only the hardest service, they could not become officers and they were paid so scantily that they could scarcely live. Why should a man wish to return to such service?"

"You will find the general attitude of the Russian Jews in America one of passive satisfaction so long as the war continues as it has begun. If Russia gets the upper hand they will probably still be passive, but anxious. If Japan continues to win they may become wildly enthusiastic."

This gentleman thought that 50,000 men of fighting age was a very conservative estimate of the number in the 200,000 Russian Jews said to live in New York. A very large proportion of these are subject to military duty as members of the reserve. They have served before emigrating, and at their discharge are held liable to duty until 45.

It is probable, so this man said, that the entire reserve will be called upon soon to hold itself in readiness to go to the front if needed. Government agents will look up all who do not report promptly, and it will then be officially known for the first time how great are the numbers of men subject to military service who have left Russia.

Relatives in the old country will be accused of hiding them and there will probably be a good deal of trouble. General notifications will be sent out ordering members of the reserve to report by a certain date. They will probably be told to apply to the nearest Russian consul for transportation home.

If they do not report all will be well—so long as they stay in America. But should they return to Russia, government secret service men will be likely to find them and have them before a court-martial. Desertion from the army is a very serious offence.

So the war is a pretty serious affair to many in this country. Some who had planned to return to Russia for their families will not dare to do so now, and many of the more ignorant will be afraid even to write, lest they be traced through their letters and in some way fall into the hands of the

secret police who have always been their oppressors. Letters from them might be made weapons against members of families remaining in Russia, and that, too, has to be considered.

"The war has struck the New York Russian Jews in different ways," continued the gentleman who gave the information. "A large number take it quietly and hope fervently for Japanese victory. Then there is a class of the educated Jews who will watch closely for revolutionary movements. They believe that a few more warships sunk will mean more active social movements."

"If the Japanese continue to win, these movements will become more general and more public. If the Japanese win the war the Czar will have his hands very full at home."

"They believe that an ultimate and decisive defeat of Russia will mean a great revolution in her social and political life. Even if Russia fights to a finish, or is the winner, there will be increasing signs of a revolutionary nature."

"These men believe that the present war, no matter what its outcome, will mark a step in the history of Russia much greater than the significance of the fight with Japan for control of parts of China. It is on Russia herself that the lasting changes will be made. I know several educated Russians in this city—not Jews—who hold the same opinion and are watching closely for signs of a revolutionary character."

"Then there is another much smaller class which is full of war spirit and talks pretty loudly of kicking. A man who has formed recently a physical culture club and a military company for boys conceived suddenly the idea of changing this into a regular company of men and offering them to Japan to fight Russia."

"He came to me about it, but I did not encourage him. He even went so far as to offer the company to the Japanese consul, but was told that Japan did not accept volunteers."

"He told an attaché in the consul's office that his company wanted Japan to win and wanted to help her win."

"But you couldn't understand the orders in Japanese and there would not be time to repeat them to you in English and for you to repeat them to your men in Yiddish," said the attaché.

"Never mind," said the Jew, "we are used to obeying orders we could not understand, and besides we would not need any orders when we stood up in front of a Cossack with a gun in our hands."

LA GUERIE'S COREA

Latest Information Concerning the Hermit Kingdom

(Paris Letter in New York Evening Post.)

There has sprung up, within twenty years, a new sort of French literature—that of distant journeys and explorations. The most energetic of our young men and young officers have found a field for their activity in all parts of the world. This spontaneous movement is perhaps owing to the prolongation of peace in Europe. The names of Col. Marchand, of Prince Heri d'Orleans, of Bonvalot, of Granddier, etc., have become very popular, and this new sort of popularity has the advantage of being independent of the narrow spirit of partisanship. Recent events have added much to the interest of one of the books characterized above. In the rich collection of "Illustrated Journeys" published by Hachette, I had already noticed a volume on Corea, the country which is at the present moment attracting so much attention and which has become a bone of contention between Russia and Japan.

The title of the volume by M. Villetard de Longuerie is almost prophetic: "La Coree, independente, russe ou japonaise." Here we have, so to speak, in a nutshell the question now agitating all governments, and, it may be said, all nations, civilized or half-civilized. M. Villetard de Longuerie resided in the Far East during the late Sino-Japanese war, as special correspondent of the French paper Le Temps. He saw clearly the importance of the part of Corea was to play in the final solution of a crisis that involved the fate not only of Japan, but also of China.

Corea is a part of the Asiatic continent, but extends between China's seas and the Sea of Japan very much as Italy lies between the Mediterranean and the Adriatic. It is about 900 kilometres in length, and 200 kilometres wide from sea to sea. Seul, the capital of Corea, may be compared to Rome, which is halfway between the north and the south; Corea, however, is but a truncated Italy; in the north it has no valley of the Po, no rich Lombardy and Venetia, albeit it has a sort of equivalent of the Alps in a high mountain barrier reaching from the sea of Japan to the Yellow Sea, from the port of Vladivostok to Port Arthur.

These Manchurian Alps are covered with woods and snow, and rise to the height of 2,000 metres. Italy has always been subdivided in kingdoms, duchies, principalities. Two races only have established themselves in Corea, the Mongol or Manchu race, the continental race, and the Malay or Japanese, the island race. Corea has from

time immemorial formed a single kingdom, and been inhabited by a single nation, a single race, formed by the union of two races. The continental element has, however, been predominant; politically and religiously, the Korean people has lived under the discipline of China as a vassal state ever since the end of the fourteenth century. It has been a kingdom of mandarins, though it had its own monarch and its autonomy; it had to pay annual tribute to China and to render annual homage to the suzerain Emperor of China, with all the forms of an old ceremonial. After the war between Japan and China, this state of things was altered. The first article of the treaty of Shimonoseki reads thus:

China recognizes definitely the entire independence and autonomy of Corea; and, in consequence, the payment of tribute and performance by Corea with regard to China of ceremonies and formalities in derogation of this independence and this autonomy will cease completely in future.

As for Japan, it was careful not to stipulate at the same time its own renunciation of the rights which it pretended to have over Corea. What these rights are worth I will not examine; if it has been said that for the most civilized nations might is right, it can all the more be said for nations which are only emerging from barbarism.

Corea has but a small population—probably only ten millions of inhabitants, a number which represents about fifty inhabitants per square kilometre. Japan is looking to Corea as an outlet for her ever-increasing population; she has about forty-five millions of inhabitants, and the rate of increase is very great. It is natural that the Japanese should, on account of its proximity, and of the character of its population, consider Corea a suitable land for the creation of colonies. Russia, on her part, is now considering Siberia and the Far East as an outlet for her population, already so large, and which will soon attain formidable numbers. The Siberian railroad, the occupation of Manchuria, the acquisition of Vladivostok and of Port Arthur, on the Japan and Chinese seas, are visible signs of the movement of Russia's expansion; but there is this difference between the Russian colonies and the Japanese; the first may be called military colonies, the second are really colonies of population given to all the arts of peace. Time may some day transform the military colonies which Russia is creating in Manchuria; at the present moment we can look upon them only as we do on the advance guard of an army. The Japanese colonies in Corea have a different character. The land of Japan proper no longer suffices for its inhabitants, and the population increases every year by 400,000 souls. Since 1897 there have been Japanese colonies in Corea; there are at present from twenty to thirty thousand Japanese established there, with their families. This emigration, concentrated at first in the ports, is spreading over the country; and it would rapidly augment if it were not for the deplorable administration and tyranny of the Korean officials.

The difficulties between Japan and Russia now culminating go back to 1897, and, as is often the case, had their primary origin in a conflict of personal interests. Corea had become the field of many enterprising companies; its petroleum, its forests, could be used, and become attractions for European capital. In 1897 a Russian company obtained the concession of immense forests in the valleys of the Tumen and the Yalu; it was the first when Russia and Japan had signed a protocol, which so to speak, divided Corea between them. When a second protocol, which, so to speak, divided Corea completely to Japanese enterprise. It was thought that the Russian concession of 1897 would be practically abandoned; but in 1901 a Russian mission was formed, which appeared in 1902 in the valley of the Yalu, marked the trees in the forest, and prepared for their systematic cutting. This mission established itself in a Korean city, where foreigners have no right to reside built a telegraph line, and made plans for a railway which should unite the Yalu river to the railway lines of Manchuria. It obtained in August, 1903, the monopoly of the log rafting on the Yalu, and a piece of land at Yongampo.

The emperor of Corea had not a word to say to all this, but the minister of Japan naturally claimed similar advantages for his own country, and among others the opening of Wiju, the port of the Yalu. A constant struggle for influence began, and the relations of Japan and Russia became more and more tense. The Japanese asked for the opening of all the ports and the cities still shut against foreigners; for railways, telegraphs, administrative reforms. The Russians, on their side, fortified more and more their position in Manchuria, and looked with more and more eagerness on the land which separated Vladivostok from Port Arthur.

AN INDIAN ELOPEMENT

Chief Red Fox and Pretty Ball Woman Surprise Their Folks

(From the Denver Republican.)
Cupid's darts never sped truer to the mark than did the shaft sent by Chief Red Fox of Lame Deer Indian Agency, Montana, when he drew a bead on Ball Woman, the pretty Pottawatomie squaw with whom he eloped from Indian Territory early this week. He met her at the Cheyenne frontier day festivities.

They were both at the Union depot in Denver last night, chief and squaw, happy as eloping lovers can be. They had a section in a Pullman over the Burlington out of Denver, for Chief Red Fox is a shy old Reynard and has valuable pointers on a wide stretch of hills in Montana. He was paying his way with a lavish prodigality, and the section the two occupied was provided with nuts, candy and fancy pieces of gayly colored cloth which he had bought en route for his pretty squaw wife.

Many passengers were amazed to see an Indian travelling first class. When Indians travel they have to bear credentials. Uncle Sam does not allow them to roam at will from the reservation. Chief Red Fox was equipped with a passport from Agent Clifford of the Lame Deer agency in Montana, which said he left that place a month ago to pay a "friendly visit" to the Pottawatomie reservation in Indian Territory.

Ball Woman had a passport, too. Hers was signed by Agent John H. Seger of the Pottawatomie reservation in Indian Territory and was only good for sixty days. This passport was secured upon the representation that she was merely going to the Lame Deer agency on a visit. But as soon as she was safely on the way she was joined by Chief Red Fox, and the two were married in Wichita, Kan.

Chief Red Fox was unsuccessful in his open and above board wooing of Ball Woman, for the reason that she is an heiress and her title to an immense stretch of land in Illinois is still in the courts. The chief of her tribe used what influence he had to break off the match, and as a result of his interference Chief Red Fox and Ball Woman planned an elopement, which was carried out fully as well as the romances of their pale face brothers and sisters who skip by the light of the moon.

Joe B. one of the best known Indians in the Middle West, was the father of Ball Woman, and through him descended to her whatever title to lands in Illinois her grandfather, Shawnee, died possessed of.

The Indians had two modern suit cases in which they packed their belongings. Their dress was a combination of the picturesque costumes of the nomads of the plains and of that of the civilized Indians. Chief Red Fox wore "citizen's clothes" and had a broad sombrero to distinguish him from other passengers. His hair was cut short and his feet were encased in shoes. His bride wore moccasins, small and ornamented with beads. She wore a Navajo blanket and there was little to distinguish her from the border savage. Yet inside the blanket her dress was that of the civilized woman. She wore the blanket and moccasins merely as a travelling costume. She was educated in the Indian school on the reservation.

Whether the government will take steps to stop the runaway couple is not known. Their passports are regular and the railroad men who knew they were eloping were apparently anxious to see them get to their destination in safety.

"I'm sorry to hear you've been alling again, John. I must send you down something from the rectory. How would you like some soup?" "Thanky kindly, mum—but I hain't so terrible wrapped up in soup!"—Punch.

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