

Quiz on the Pacific

1. When was the first railway line put through to Vancouver?
(Answer: p. 5)
2. Do Canadian-born Chinese have a vote in B.C.?
(Answer: p. 7)
3. Before the war, was our immigration policy friendlier to the Japanese or the Chinese?
(Answer: p. 6)
4. Have we changed our Chinese Immigration Act since China became our ally?
(Answer: p. 6)
5. Did we give China "most favored nation" treatment in our tariff before the war?
(Answer: p. 16)
6. Was our trade with Japan before the war larger or smaller than our trade with (a) China, (b) Australia, (c) the Malay States?
(Answer: pictograph on p. 8)
7. To date China has been 99% agricultural. Her industries may grow rapidly in the next twenty years. Will that make her more or less of a market for Canadian goods?
(Answer: p. 11)
8. A number of powers guaranteed China's territorial integrity in the Washington Conference, 1921-22. Was Japan one of them?
(Answer: p. 14)
9. If you were shipping lumber from the West Coast to Toronto, would it be cheaper for you to ship it (a) by boat via the Panama Canal and up the St. Lawrence, or (b) eastward across Canada?
(Answer: p. 10)

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CANADA AS A PACIFIC POWER

By A. R. M. LOWER



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Pacific Frontier

Canada's Fastest Growing Province—

That was British Columbia after the last war. In twenty-five years its population increased by three-fifths, its wealth more than doubled.

The stimulus for this advance came from four thousand miles away—the Panama Canal. Cheap ocean freight opened new markets to the forests, fisheries, mines and orchards of our Pacific slope.

In just nine years from the opening of the Panama Canal British Columbia's lumber output nearly doubled. Production more than doubled in copper, increased by three times in silver, four times in zinc, and nearly ten times in lead.

When world trade collapsed in the thirties British Columbia was hard hit. When war demands revived exports there was a new spurt of activity.

What Will Happen After the War?

Let us get ready now for something infinitely bigger than the Panama Canal.

In vast areas across the Pacific millions are waking up. They are claiming political freedom. They are planning for industrial progress.

Our very distant neighbours of yesterday, our allies of today, these awakening millions may be our customers tomorrow. Even a slight rise in their living standards would open the way for a tremendous increase in mutually beneficial trade.

British Columbians think of that prospect and say: "The next hundred years belong to the Pacific rim."



If you have any comments, write the Editor, *Canadian Affairs*, Wartime Information Board, Ottawa. Your letters will not be for publication. We want your suggestions, so we can do a better job.

*We have a big stake in the Pacific.
This article explains what and why.*

Canada as a Pacific Power

By A. R. M. LOWER

GET off the train at Vancouver some fine summer morning, look across the harbor to the mountains. Go out to Point Grey where you can see a stretch of sea leading across to the lighthouse on Point Atkinson and the mountains of Howe Sound in the background. Note the loveliness of the flowers and the forest. Anyone who can do that and not be a bit overwhelmed by the beauty of it is a peculiar person. And most people will add to appreciation of the scenery a little thrill of pride when they recollect that it is part of their own country, that as Canadians they have their personal share in that part of the world.

This Is Our West

Vancouver is one of Canada's gateways to the Pacific. Hundreds of miles to the north lies another, Prince Rupert. Between the two are mountains, rich forests and seas full of fish. Off shore lie thousands of islands ranging from the most minute to the sub-province on which the capital, Victoria, is situated. Inland, range after range of mountains, filled with minerals, and many a fertile valley with its fruit lands and little towns. Hundreds of miles it stretches, right through to the prairies. This is Canada's Pacific region and when she occupied it, Canada made herself into a Pacific power.

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CANADA GETS TO THE PACIFIC

The Far West

To Canada the "Far East" is the Far West. We use the expression "Far East" because our traditions carry us back across the Atlantic to the old European world, from which the Orient really is the "Far East". But for us, "going out to the East", means crossing the continent to the Pacific coast, then taking ship westward across the ocean to its western shores.

Most Canadians live in eastern Canada: it has therefore been doubly hard for them to think westward to the Orient, rather than eastward through Europe to

"the Far East". One result has been that for most of us "the Orient" has been a rather shadowy part of the world.

Neighbor to the "Orient"

No wonder, perhaps. From the west coast stretches out the widest and emptiest sea on the planet. Yet if we had looked at globes, instead of maps, it would have become apparent that one could almost paddle a canoe across to Japan—if he followed the coast. That brings the Orient nearer; if not in miles, in accessibility. And the ocean is never a one-way street.

To few of us was it a living fact that out there in the west, lived untold millions of proud peoples; peoples with as great cultural accomplishment behind them as we could boast; peoples who scorned the white man's claims to superiority and knew that it was only lucky accident that had put him, by means of his machines, one jump ahead of them.

Westward March

When the little fur-trading and gold-mining communities on Vancouver Island and up the Fraser Valley entered the Canadian Confederation in 1871, there was nothing but a legal connection between the far-off western coast and eastern Canada. It took a great deal of vision and courage for the statesmen of the time to make the great decision upon which this country rests: the project of a railroad across the wilderness. That may not sound very startling today but seventy years ago, 2500 miles of rock, muskeg, prairie and mountain, without a supply base, made it heroism.

When the Canadian Pacific had been finished across to Vancouver (1886), Canada moved out and acquired a stake on the Pacific. People came in from the east and

public institutions came with them. The Canadian banks established branches, the Canadian churches sent out their clergy, and educationists brought up in the east went into the schools. British Columbia was caught up in the westward march of Canada—that restless drive that has led our people to the western-most edge of the continent until, as someone has said, "If they want to get any further west they'll have to swim".



"they'll have to swim"—

Enter, the Chinese

Canadians had hardly taken over the coast before Chinese began to arrive. Their coming, as railway laborers mostly, marks the impact upon our west coast of the other side of the Pacific Ocean. The margin by which we secured it was not too wide. Shortly after the C.P.R. was completed, that company put on a regular steamship service to the Orient and this served both to build up trade and to stimulate Oriental immigration.

Chinese immigration aroused hostility in British Columbia from the first. Political pressure from the province upon Ottawa secured the device of the "head tax"—the amount per head being advanced at intervals from \$50.00 to \$500.00. Eventually Canada followed American practice and in 1924 the Chinese Immigration Act was passed. This was an exclusion act, and it is still in force. There were certain exceptions made, such as "merchants", students and diplomats, but Canadian administrative practice has tended to define these exceptions rigidly and rather mechanically, so that in practice Canada has appeared to the Chinese as an exclusive and unfriendly country.

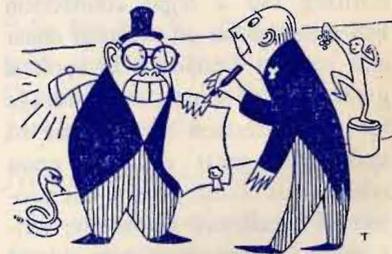
Next, The Japanese

There were few Japanese in British Columbia before 1900. After that a few hundred a year began to come in. In 1904-5 occurred the Russo-Japanese war. During it sentiment in Canada was strongly pro-Japanese. Our attitude towards Russia had been created not by political realities but by memories of the Crimean War and tales of people exiled to Siberia or flogged with the knout. Japan was David assailing Goliath: the Japanese were heroes.

When, however, in 1907 some

7,000 of the "heroes" arrived in British Columbia, they promptly lost their glamor. Heroes were all very well at a distance. Great excitement was caused and in the next year, through Canadian diplomatic pressure in Tokio, the so-called "Gentlemen's Agreement" was arrived at, by which Japan agreed to limit the annual number of emigrants: the number was not to be more than 400 per year.

The Japanese, in contrast with the Chinese, brought their women with them and thus took root in a way that the Chinese could not. Their colony did not cease to excite antagonism, with the



"Gentlemen's Agreements"—

result that in the 1920's two more "Gentlemen's Agreements" were made, by which the immigrants were not supposed to exceed 150 and after 1928, 80 persons per year. Even this was too many for public opinion on the Coast, which right up to the outbreak of hostilities did not cease to press for exclusion.

Different Types

There were many differences between the two groups. The Chinese were unobtrusive. It was impossible not to like them as individuals. They were mostly single men and were steadily growing older and not being replaced. The Japanese had a knack of getting themselves disliked. They were aggressive. They had large families. They got into the coastal fisheries, into the Fraser delta farmlands, into the lumber camps and into a good many lines of business. Their young people went on to school and university, where the good showings many of them made created for them enemies as well as friends. People admitted that they were good workers, clean in their habits and law-abiding. But these virtues, many felt, only added to the threat they presented.

Citizens Without Franchise

British Columbian counter-measures took the form of refusing all Orientals the franchise, excluding them from the professions, and attempting to restrict them in certain occupations, such as fishing. Refusal of the franchise in turn gave the Canadian-born Japanese excellent fighting ground, for Canada had created a category of second-class citizens.

The controversy has been a bitter one but it will have to be settled. It will be difficult for us to keep our honor towards China and deal harshly with those of that race who were born on Canadian soil. The Japanese problem will in one sense be simpler, but among that group there are quite a number whose Canadian birth and parentage makes them nominally Japanese. This running sore in Canadian life will have to be ended somehow.

Within the last ten years the Japanese birth-rate has been falling and it is not now overly large. Interestingly enough something from a quarter to a third of the Japanese in Canada report themselves as members of the Protestant faith. We are therefore on the way to assimilating them, insofar as skin color permits. The Chinese are in a different position. Only half of them are concentrated in British Columbia and quite a number elsewhere seem to have married white wives.

Turning the Tables

Before the war, Japanese interests held a significant area of timber land in British Columbia (which has since been taken over by the Custodian of Enemy Property). Japanese buying into our natural resources was turning the

"That the majesty of our Imperial House towers high above everything to be found in the world, and that it is as durable as heaven and earth, is too well known to need dwelling on. If it is to be considered that our country needs a religious faith, then, I say, let it be converted to a belief in the religion of patriotism and loyalty, the religion of Imperialism—in other words, to Emperor Worship."

BARON OURA,
*Japanese Minister of Agriculture
and Commerce, in 1912.*

imperialistic penetration into our territory was an unexpected turning of the tables, and provoked a great deal of feeling. Public sentiment, however, was not enough by itself to prevent members of the white community doing deals with Japanese firms if it was to their advantage.

"The Japanese people, once they are rid of their present rulers, will never want to undertake another war if they can exercise their will freely. But they will not be able to go their way so long as the Emperor remains a divine institution and the cult of emperor-worship a state religion."

DR. SUN FO,
*President of Legislative Yuan,
Chinese Government, 1944.*

tables. The white man had been operating properties all through the Far East for decades and often areas that had rich natural resources found themselves colonies of some great power. But to see the Japanese beginning the same

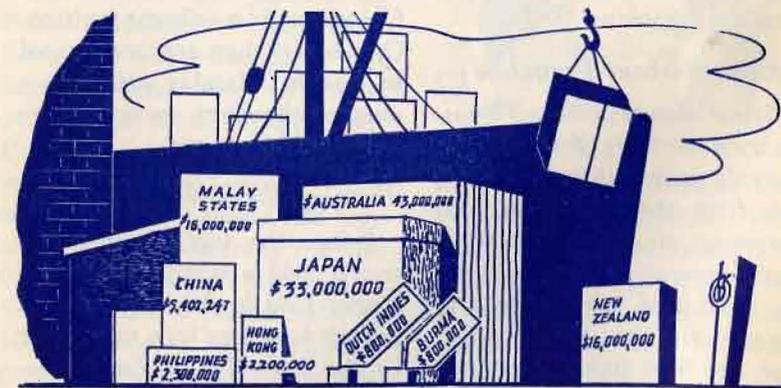


CANADA'S STAKE IN THE PACIFIC

Canadian interests in the Orient continued small until the end of the nineteenth century and even later. But after the last war there were a few years in which imports and exports were quite impressive. We sent out wood and wood products, metals, a little wheat and some miscellaneous manufactured articles. We bought silk, some rice, and, from Japan, quite a large total of cheap manufactured commodities. The attempt of the Bennett government in 1935 to keep out these last by a

tariff led to a "tariff war", with Japan retaliating by impositions on Canadian exports. With the depression of the 1930's trade greatly decreased.

In addition to trade there has also been a small amount of Canadian financial penetration in both China and Japan; some of our large insurance companies have had agencies and at one time one of our banks attempted an agency. None of these phases of Canadian expansion overseas has been of great moment, however.



Canada's Export-Import Trade in the Pacific, 1939

Missionary Influence

The main Canadian impact on the Orient has been made by quite another agency: the missionary. As early as 1873 our Presbyterian and Methodist churches were sending out men to China and Japan. Since then, Anglicans, Catholics, and other denominations have engaged in missionary effort. Among the Catholics, the largest effort by many times over has been French, not English.

Before the present war our missionary citizens in China, Japan, Korea and the islands of the South China seas were numbered in the hundreds: they conducted hospitals, schools and colleges. While converts to Christianity were relatively few, it is impossible to over-estimate the missionary as a channel for those aspects of western life not directly related to power or gain. Most people would be surprised to learn how large a part in forming modern China has been played by Canada through our missionaries, a part altogether out of proportion to our size.

Our Pacific Region

What may be called Canada's Pacific Region includes all of British Columbia, most of Alberta and the western parts of Saskatchewan—all that part of the west

whose products go to Vancouver or Prince Rupert for export. Vancouver has grown as a great port on the trade of this region and has bound it close to itself, so that today it would be fair to call it Vancouver's hinterland.

This part of Canada now has a population of over a million and a half. Its area is huge and its natural resources large. Providing they are not as recklessly wasted in the future as they have been in the past, they should assure Canada's Pacific coast region of a brilliant future. But the forests of the Pacific coast will not stand gutting indefinitely, nor can Albertans go on wasting precious gas from their oil wells forever.

The Panama Canal

One of the chief agencies in developing Canada's Pacific region has been the Panama canal. Vancouver enjoyed its great growth after the opening of the canal, which enables wheat and other products to be shipped from about as far east as Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan (the approximate "watershed") more cheaply than via the Lakes and Montreal. Pacific coast lumber comes through the canal and up the Lakes. Right in the midst of the eastern forest, eastern lumber cannot compete with it.

In addition to the canal, the

development of the Pacific region has rested on its own natural resources and on the railways. Canadian railways reaching the Pacific from the eastern side of the mountains are either public property or have been at one time or another greatly aided from the public treasury of Canada.

Edmonton, Northern Gateway

The Pacific region is therefore an integral part of Canada, dependent on the country as a whole for its system of vital communications. Since the present war began, this dependence has deepened and extended. New flying fields dot the coast, and inland the Alaska Highway stretches north from Edmonton. That city, thanks to the air, may become after the war, a northern gateway to the Pacific, opening the door not only to our own northland but to Alaska, Siberia and the lands beyond.

Relations with the Orient

Our stake in the Pacific includes not only our own coast but also whatever interests we have or may develop on the other side of that ocean. Any country running on rubber tires and eating out of tin cans to the extent that we do, could not fail to be interested in the tin and rubber of Malaya and

the Dutch East Indies. It will therefore pay us direct dividends to see these regions taken out of hostile hands.



"running on rubber tires, eating out of tin cans"—

Neither China nor Japan has commodities equally vital. But there are things that it would be convenient to have from them and that we shall no doubt take in quantities large or small—silk, for example. Upon these goods our future trade relations will be based. With China we might do a large business in foodstuffs if the Chinese standard of living could be raised a little. It would therefore be good business after the war to join in efforts to help raise it. From a purely human point of view, too, most Canadians would now like to maintain good and friendly relations with China. China is already ranked as the fourth allied power. If it ever becomes powerful in proportion to its population, it will certainly pay us to have already won its esteem.

Stop Immigration Pin-Pricks!

The question of immigration will remain, however, to muddy the waters. The best way of settling it, it seems to the writer, would be to make it perfectly clear to the Chinese that we cannot under any circumstances permit mass immigration of Chinese into Canada, and then put our immigration policy and our treatment of our Chinese residents on a fair and equitable basis. Remove the pin-pricks that the immigration service has managed to inflict. Give Chinese-born Canadians the franchise.

Japanese Problem

Our relations with Japan will naturally be of a different character. The main factor will be safety. That will entail the termination of Japanese immigration, what there was of it, and some policy with respect to Japanese in Canada. There is sure to be a heavy pressure for drastic remedies, such as expulsion of Japanese, Canadian-born or not. Probably what will emerge will be a compromise of some sort.

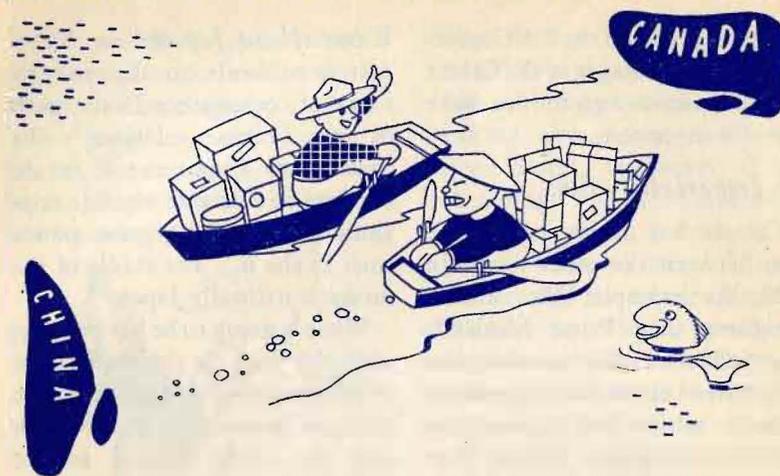
We shall probably resume trade and communication relations in some form again. But whatever we do in the future, we must pre-

vent the renaissance of an imperialist Japan.

Coastal Defense

Prior to about 1936 few people in Canada gave a passing thought to the defence of the west coast. In future, if there is not to be a repetition of Japan's bid for supremacy in the Pacific, the other nations fronting on that ocean, the United States, Canada, Australia, Russia, China, will have to come to some arrangement to maintain order and keep Japan disarmed. Either that or make so just a peace that the inevitable urge of a proud people to seek to wipe out the shame of defeat will be outweighed by their desire to become decent members of world society.

This brings up Canadian-American relations and indicates that they will have to continue close; the United States as a great power will naturally have to bear the greater responsibilities, but Canada will have to contribute. Unless they go to sleep again the military dispositions of the two nations are not likely to get very far apart. A further deduction is that Canadian foreign policy in the western Pacific also will not depart far from the American.



CANADA'S PACIFIC FUTURE

Apart from their traditional and sentimental relationships Canada and Great Britain do not impinge very directly upon each other in the Pacific area. Canada has none of the territorial interest of Great Britain in the western Pacific. Great Britain as a great, metropolitan power looked to the Far East as an outlet for manufactured produce and field for financial and transportation operations; Canada's main business interest was to sell her primary products to an industrialized Japan. The United States stood midway; it had both industrial and primary products to sell. Some of its companies had also made considerable economic penetration of China. The foreign policies of the three countries reflected their economic interests.

Britain and U.S.A. in Orient

Great Britain, which went into China early, taking Hong Kong in 1841, was for many years frankly imperialistic. In the 1920's, the period of rising Chinese nationalism, this began to change to a policy of conciliation and for some time before the war, Great Britain had herself been trying to replace imperialistic devices of control by accommodation to Chinese requirements. British imperialistic attitudes to China may therefore be regarded as over.

The United States, partly a metropolitan or industrial and financial economy, partly interested in outlets for primary products, has reflected this midway position in the uncertainty of its policies; at times it was "in" and

at times it was "out". Concessions and advantages in the Orient did not mean enough to it to make it really in earnest.

No Imperialist Aims

Canada has reflected her position between the other two. In 1921, for example, Mr. Arthur Meighen, then Prime Minister, was influential in securing the termination of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance which had become distasteful to the United States. That in turn led to the Washington Conference of 1921-22, which served as the basic law of the Pacific until the present war. All the great powers that had interests in the Pacific reached agreement on two important questions: first, to reduce their naval armaments by special treaties; secondly, to guarantee the territorial integrity of China.

Apart from these great occasions Canada's policy has, as a rule, reflected her position as a primary producer. Thus she has not had the same temptation to play an imperialistic role in the Orient. In this respect her hands are clean. Once she has washed off the immigration mud from them, this will be no disadvantage to her, to put it mildly, in her dealings with the trans-Pacific world.

What About Japan?

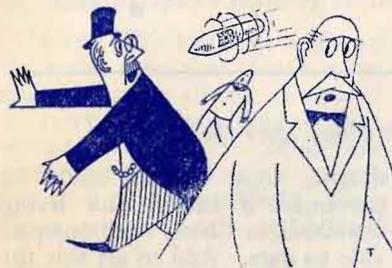
It is difficult to discern any rocks of consequence in the path of our Chinese relations. We shall show good sense if we do our best to cultivate amiable relations with a rising great power such as she is. The riddle of the future is naturally Japan.

What is going to be her position after the war? Is there any hope of her becoming a peaceful nation that can be safely welcomed back into the circle, trusted not to abuse our confidence? Or is she to be destroyed? Is she to be weakened? Destruction in any total sense of a nation of seventy millions is unlikely. She will be weakened, but by how much? Will Japanese industry be smashed? Will her importing capacity be destroyed? If so, we shall lose a certain market but its loss will not be more than we can bear with equanimity.

If, on the other hand, Japan is preserved as a potential market, she sooner or later comes back to her old place as importer and exporter. Once again then she would be making offers for our timber, our copper, our lead, zinc, nickel. These would have to be carried over to Japan and some of our shipping would earn freights. What would our attitude be? In particular, what

would we do if Japan were to come again under the power of an imperialist clique?

Our position in this respect is crucial, for it was from us that Japan got her nickel before the last war—and now she is sending



"Sending our nickel back"—

some of it back again, rather forcibly! We would have to make a hard decision. There would be a great deal of pressure from interested parties in Canada towards resumption of the old exports. Could we withstand it? Should we?

What Future Policy?

Much would depend on the attitude taken by the other English-speaking powers, especially the United States. However, if we had courage and clear minds we might give a lead to that great power. Whatever we did, here is the crux of the whole question of Canada as a Pacific power: in future do we allow ourselves to become an instrument in reviving Japanese imperialism or do we not? If not, can we work out some solution that is neither sentimental nor selfish but founded on justice? If so, we will have contributed greatly to the world's decent future and have justified our fathers when they took the decision to extend Canada from sea to sea—a *mare usque ad mare*, as our coat of arms proudly says—and made Canada into A PACIFIC POWER.



Questions for Discussion



1. Can we hope for more trade with China after the war?

NOTE: In the five-year period before the war our annual exports to China averaged less than six million dollars annually, and our imports a little over four millions. This was partly due to the tariff. Our trade regulations never included China in the "most-favored-nation" category. The average duty levied on Chinese imports in 1935 was 35%.

A more serious factor was China's low purchasing power. The Chinese farmer produces on the average less than one-tenth of what the Canadian farmer produces. The total per capita income of 250 million people—more than half of China's population—is estimated at less than 16 bushels of grain per year. The amount of food now grown in China can feed adequately only 90% of the people. Of twelve million annual

deaths, eight million could be prevented if health and living standards in China were comparable to ours. Add to all this the terrific devastation caused by the Japanese invasion, and you get some picture of China's economic plight.

So before we can hope for profitable markets in China, her people must first develop their own resources and build up their purchasing power. To help in China's rehabilitation, Canada could send food and machinery, technicians, doctors, educators. With such aid China could produce goods she needs, thus raising her standard of living, and also goods she might offer us in exchange for our surplus food-stuffs, lumber, minerals, motor vehicles, etc.

2. Should Canada sell metals again to Japan after the war?

NOTE: Canadian nickel exports to Japan rose from \$630,000 in 1936 to \$8,580,000 in 1939; our aluminum exports from \$2,000,000

in 1936 to \$6,500,000 in 1939. How can we make sure that our products will never again fall into the hands of the Japanese militarists?

Obviously the first thing to do is to clean out the Japanese militarists. Another is to establish "scientific and judicious control" over Japan's imports of essential materials during the period of her disarmament. Japanese purchases

of metals like nickel, aluminum, copper, lead, etc., could then be restricted to the amounts necessary for civilian production. This kind of control would be part of the police-work necessary to prevent another war.

3. Should Japan's industry be destroyed after the war?

NOTE: This has been suggested to make sure that Japan never again gets the chance to re-arm. To carry it out would mean widespread starvation in Japan—not merely among the factory-workers but a lot of others as well. When Japan was a purely agricultural

country she supported around thirty million people. Her industry and foreign trade enable her to support seventy millions. Do we want to exterminate half the Japanese people? This brings up another question—

4. Are the Japanese people equally responsible with their leaders for Japan's wars of conquest?

NOTE: The Japanese people did as they were told by their leaders, and did it with fanatical loyalty. The recent atrocity stories show the extent to which they will carry out the brutal policies of their leaders. In that sense they are perfectly responsible. But Japan has never been a democratic country in our sense of the term, and her people never had a chance to make up their own mind or to express it freely. Their constitution came to them as a "gift" from their emperor, and reserved for the emperor absolute powers of making peace and war, convening or dissolving parliaments, appointing or dismissing cabinets, ratifying laws and issuing ordinances. So the emperor retained wide powers over the people. Before 1928 "dangerous thoughts" were punishable by ten

years' imprisonment; thereafter by the death penalty.

It is well to remember, too, that the great majority of the Japanese people have fared none too well under the rule of emperors, militarists and imperialists. Most of the land is concentrated in the hands of a few rich landholders. Three and three-quarter million acres are owned by the emperor and his family. Ten per cent of the landholders own one-quarter of all the land. Another six per cent own another quarter. Nearly 40% of the cultivated land is farmed by tenants who pay the owners half the produce as rent.

The peasant's poverty is the main reason for the notoriously widespread prostitution. Parents often send their girls to the licensed quarters in return for a small advance in cash, and the

remaining wages are turned over to them later. In industry, child labor is prevalent. According to an official admission, one million children under the age of 14 were working in industry before the war. The average daily wage of all women employed in factories in 1937 was one yen (50 cents of U.S. money at par). Child labor and cheap labor swelled the profits of the industrialists—averaging 14% on investment for Japanese industry as a whole in 1937.

Here is a comment on the future of Japan, made by Chiang-Kai-shek himself whose people have been experiencing Japanese aggression at first-hand for over 12 years:

"It is my opinion that all the Japanese militarists must be wiped out and the Japanese political system must be purged of every vestige of aggressive elements. As to what form of government Japan should adopt, that question can better be left to the awakened and repentant Japanese people to decide for themselves. . . . If the Japanese people should rise in a revolution to punish their war-mongers and to overthrow their militarist government, we should respect their spontaneous will and allow them to choose their own form of government." Chiang added that "President Roosevelt fully approved of my idea."

5. *Should the Chinese in British Columbia be given the vote?*

NOTE: We should distinguish between naturalized and non-naturalized Chinese; also between Canadian-born Chinese and those who were born abroad. (In 1931, of about 27,000 Chinese in B.C., some 24,000 were born in China. Chinese who were either Canadian-born or naturalized numbered around 3,800—some 15% of the Chinese in that province.)

The position of Canadian-born Chinese is now particularly difficult. Their race is Chinese, but their culture is Canadian. They

have been brought up in Canadian schools, know English better than Chinese, and find Canadian ways more congenial than the customs of their fathers. Yet on graduating from high school or university they find themselves treated as inferior citizens, and are excluded from occupations for which their education has fitted them. This must be a bitter pill to swallow, since they pay taxes, are drafted for military service, and have all the other obligations of citizenship.



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More on Rehabilitation



Our article "Future for Fighters" (Canadian Affairs No. 2) is no longer completely up-to-date. Here are some recent changes announced at Ottawa:

The Speech from the Throne

The Speech from the Throne on 27th January stated in outline the official post-war plan. The government aims to provide for the demobilization and reestablishment in civil life of members of the armed forces, to convert industry to a peacetime basis and, thirdly, to set up a scheme of social insurance against the effects of future depressions.

One new feature is to be "war service gratuities". These will be paid to all who have served in the armed services. The amount is not yet announced. A separate Department of Veterans Affairs is being set up. In effect the old Department of Pensions and National Health will be divided.

More Changes

Now further plans are announced. On February 10th the Minister of Pensions summed up the latest changes:

(1) Ex-servicemen and women living outside Canada will be eligible to receive the benefits payable to those taking vocational training or taking a course at university. The Minister's approval will be required. This will provide, for example, for Americans who enlist in the Canadian army and then go back home after the war.

(2) The vocational training and university grants are now payable to qualified servicemen who apply within a year of discharge or a year after the end of the war, whichever is later. This means that people already discharged who have taken temporary jobs in war industry, can also apply for the educational grants at a later date.

(3) The Minister can now approve of the payment of vocational training benefits for longer than 52 weeks, in cases where the course is longer.

That's a bare summary of some of the changes made. We will try to keep up-to-date on them and on what people are saying about the rehabilitation plan.

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