



JAPAN SOCIETY

會協本日

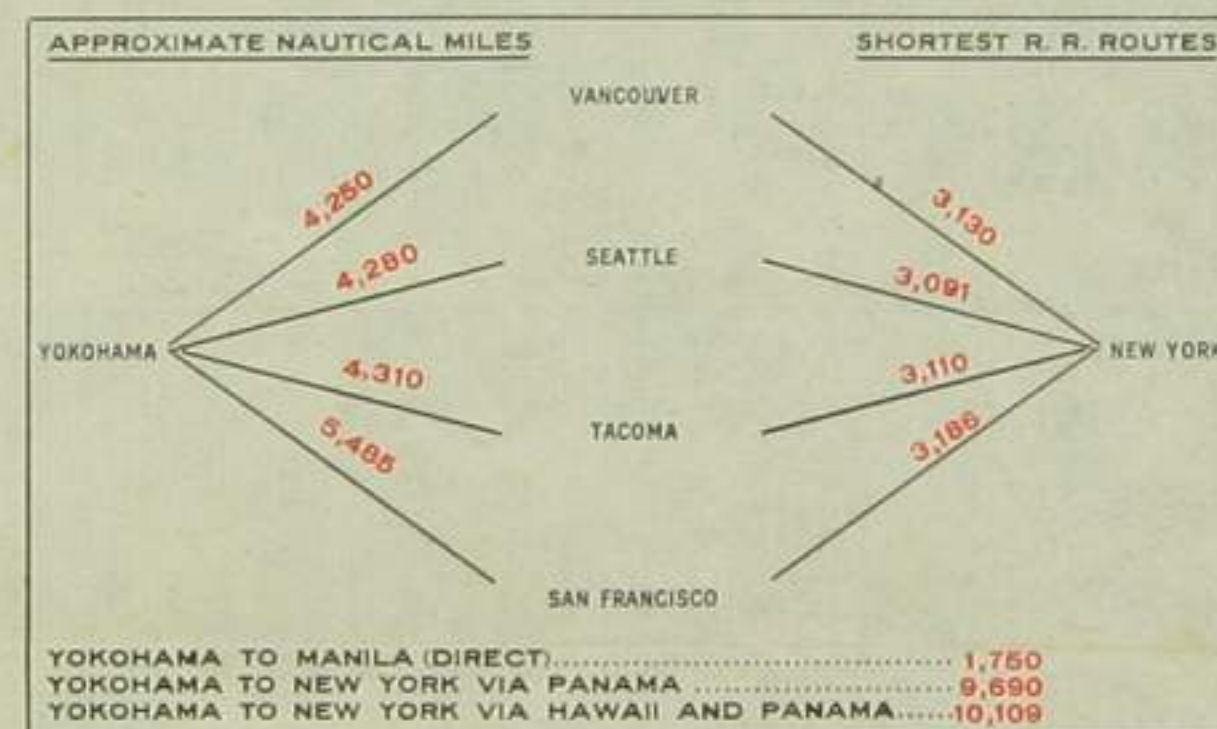
165 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

Bulletin No. 5

New York, July 21, 1913

New York to Tokio

New York to Tokio is now possible in fifteen days at a cost for railroad and steamship fare of about \$225. The Canadian Pacific has recently put on two new steamers which make the journey from Victoria to Yokohama in nine days and five hours.



The Japan Society is prepared through its Travel Bureau to furnish information regarding travel to Japan, itineraries, estimate of expenses and issue letters of introduction to the Japan Tourist Bureau in Japan.

Count Okuma

Count Okuma, known as the grand old man of Japan, is now seventy-five years old. Bred in the ideas and customs of old Japan Count Okuma is a modern man in his openness of mind and the frankness with which he speaks on all questions. When he talks his face becomes wonderfully animated and expressive and his eyes are keen with vitality. It is easy to understand the delight with which he is always heard on the platform. He is a master of the art of being intimate with his audience. His personality flows through his words and gestures, his eye glows with life, every faculty is brought into action and his audience ripples with applause and laughter. He knows to a nicety how to temper seriousness with humor, logic with irony, fact with sentiment. He is the Gladstone of Japan.

—(Dr. Mabie in the *Outlook*.)

Count Okuma on the California Question

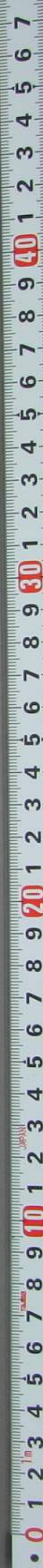
Interviewed by a reporter, Count Okuma has spoken on two points of great significance.

"So far," he is reported to have said, "I have not been asked by any one to cross the Pacific. As a matter of fact, the California question is not so simple that my trip to America could settle it. There are two ways of fundamentally solving this grave problem. One is self-reflection on the part of the Japanese people themselves. The other is appeal to the sense of justice of the leading nations of the world.

"The anti-Japanese agitation in America owes its origin to racial prejudice. Our countrymen can not assimilate with foreign races, and in respect of knowledge or morality you could not regard them as the superiors of Europeans and Americans. If they don't want to be ill-treated by foreigners, they must arouse themselves as to their shortcomings. They must try to outdo European and American nations by increasing their store of knowledge, elevating their standard of morals, and enriching the national treasury.

"It is the height of absurdity to talk of war as a possible means of eradicating the anti-Japanese trouble. In this matter, indeed, the elevation of our moral and intellectual status will do much more for us than armed force.

"The anti-Japanese question is indeed one that affects the principles of humanity. We must appeal to the sense of justice of the



Americans, or rather, of all the nations of the world, pointing out to them how the anti-Japanese sentiment is opposed to the spirit of humanity. This is not a question that could be settled in a short time. We may continue to appeal to the world for ten, twenty, or scores of years, until we succeed."

Realism in Art

Certain rice fields in Japan were at one time devastated by some unknown horse which could not be tracked. One night the farmers lay in wait; the horse appeared but eluded its pursuers. After patiently waiting for several nights they succeeded in following and saw him disappear through a temple door. The pursuers entered but could not find the horse; finally he appeared on the wall in a celebrated picture all foaming and still panting from pursuit. The farmers were at a loss to know what to do. Thereupon they consulted certain wise men in the district, who, not wishing to destroy the picture, finally sent for the artist who painted it. The painter studied for a moment, then silently went away and returned with his paint and brush and painted a halter and hitching post in the picture! Thereafter the horse remained in place.

Personals

Hon. George W. Wickersham and Mrs. Wickersham; Prof. and Mrs. Peabody and Mr. E. Burton Holmes are visiting Japan. In July Hon. George W. Guthrie, the new Ambassador to Japan, and Mrs. Guthrie will sail from San Francisco for Japan. Mr. and Mrs. John S. Sheppard, Jr., of New York will go via the same route.

Hon. K. Iijima, the new Japanese Consul General, has arrived in New York.

Obituary

Prince Takehito of Arisugawa-no-Miya died on July 6th. The prince belonged to a collateral branch of the Imperial family, studied in England and served in the Japanese navy, attaining the rank of an Admiral.

Count Tadasu Hayashi, statesman, diplomatist and publicist, died on July 10th.

Sweet Potato Professor

The sweet potato seems to have emigrated from China via the Loo Choo Islands to Japan. One hundred and eighty years ago Aoki Konyo recommended to the Shogun the cultivation of the sweet potato all over the Empire. In grateful memory of the benefactor there now stands over Aoki's grave a monument with this unique inscription: "The Potato Professor."

One of the distinguishing features of Tokio is the sweet potato bakeries where during the colder months hot potatoes prove a God-send to many. Around these potato shops the poorer children crowd with their coppers, anxious for the morsel which is to them what milk chocolate is to children of the West. A juicy, hot sweet potato is to the Japanese what stout was to the Irishman who once said that it was warmth, food and drink and a night's lodging if you took enough of it. Rumor has it that there are but three things the Japanese woman really loves: pumpkin, theatre-going and sweet potato. At present there are more than 1,000 potato ovens in Tokio and the sale of roast potatoes annually totals more than 1,000,000 yen. In no country in the world can the poor people get pure, wholesome food more conveniently and economically than in Japan. Whether one gets a box of rice with pickles and dry fish in a station or a pot of tea for 2½ cents on the train it is always clean and attractively served.

—(From *Japan Magazine*.)

"The California Potato King"

The *Country Gentleman* for June 3d says: Mr. George Shima owns from 2,000 to 4,000 acres in the Sacramento Valley. In addition to this he farms by contract thousands of acres more. He began as a day laborer some fifteen years ago and today there are few farmers in this country who are more intensively progressive in their agricultural methods. He employs a staff of highly educated young Japanese to line up the last word in the science of the day and apply it to his farming enterprises. For years Shima gambled against the floods that were constantly overflowing his farms. Time and again he was wiped out and overburdened with debt, but somehow he emerged from every fresh disaster with a tighter grip on the situation and a keener insight into the agricultural needs of the district. Most of the land he now owns he purchased as virgin tule partly under water, reclaimed and diked it and put in the first crop. He owns a fleet of dredges and boats and has a highly organized staff of engineers and foremen (mostly Americans) to perform these big feats of island making. The cutting of drainage canals and the building of levees subdivides the tule land into islands. Shima has brought to California more, better and cheaper potatoes.

Brief Topics

The Japan Society gave a luncheon at the Hotel Astor on June 26th in honor of Dr. J. Soyeda and Mr. T. Kamiya who were sent by the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Japan to study the American sentiment toward Japan. Dr. Soyeda was also one of the speakers at the City Hall on the occasion of the Fourth of July celebration.

Chikamatsu Monzaemon, known as the Shakespeare of Japan, is the most prominent playwright that Japan has ever had.

The silk-reeling season opened in Japan in June and the money market in Osaka is affected by the demands of reelers for funds.

The trade in silk cocoons is now at its height and transactions in cocoons are very active everywhere.

The sugar mills in Formosa have now concluded the production of sugar for the season. The total output amounts to 1,002,000 piculs.

The Imperial Theatre in Tokio was constructed at a cost of 900,000 yen.

The crab canning industry in North Japan has developed very rapidly and it is estimated that during 1912 about 3,000,000 pounds were canned, valued at 1,300,000 yen.

The cotton mills generally in Japan will declare a larger dividend this year than ever before.

A Japanese student has this year won the oratorical contest at the University of Chicago. Out of one hundred orations submitted to the judges of the contest, "The Mastery of the Pacific," by J. G. Kasai, won the first prize of \$100.

The raw silk supply of the world for the year 1911-1912 was 88,262,000 pounds. Japan is the chief raw silk producing country while America leads the world in silk industry, taking nearly 28% of the world's production as well as a vast volume of silk articles worth \$30,000,000 annually. During 1912 America bought from Japan raw silk worth \$56,967,822.

Move Up! in Japanese

It has often been questioned if the Japanese would not lose their traditional politeness under the stress of modern business rush. The City Electric Bureau of Tokio took the unprecedented course of asking the people how they preferred to be addressed when it was necessary to urge them to move into the middle of the street car. From the 2,719 suggestions sent the following were selected as most suitable, and the conductors will be taught to use them:

O-orini-naranu-Okatawa, Nakahodoni, Negaimasu (Those not getting off, to the middle, please!)

Nakahodo ga, Orakude Gozaimasu. (The middle is more comfortable!)

Okimo-dokusama, Hitokawazutsu, okuenegaimasu. (I'm sorry, but all move on by one strap!)

Other suggestions, although possibly more effective, were not approved by the municipal authorities:

Nakahodo ni wa beppin ga orimasu. (There's a pretty girl about the middle of the car!)

Nakahodo no kata wa Kippu ga irimasen. (No ticket collected from the middle of the car.)

Tadaima suriga-nori-mashita. (A pickpocket has just come on board.)

—(Independent, July 10.)

A Letter of Appreciation

The President of the Society has received the following letter of thanks for what the Society has done in connection with the situation in California. The letter is signed by officers of the Nippon Club, the Japanese Mutual Aid Society, Japanese Y. M. C. A. of Brooklyn, New York Japanese Mission, and the Japanese Christian Association of New York.

"In behalf of the various Japanese organizations and societies here represented, it is our special privilege to express to you, and through you to the members and friends of the Japan Society of New York, our most sincere appreciation of your constant endeavors to promote the better understanding between America and Japan.

"Especially do we wish to put on record our profound gratitude for the efforts you have hitherto exerted to find an equitable settlement of the controversy raised by the appearance and enactment of the California Alien Land Act. The strong support you have given to the course pursued by the President of the United States has deeply impressed us with the love of justice and high sense of patriotism by which you were actuated. For the cause you have graded neither time nor labor. We have been the observant witnesses of your noble endeavors.

"Living as we do in the hospitable atmosphere of your great Metropolis, and surrounded as we are by these thousand tokens of friendship, we are inspired with the hope that the present unfortunate dispute will soon be a thing of the past and will prove, when the storm is over, to have been a cyclone on a corner of the vast Pacific, which joins in peace and amity the two great nations on its opposite shores."

China Items

KIANGSI TROOPS CROSS YANGTSE AND ATTACK ARTILLERY.

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LONDON, July 14 (Monday)—5 a. m.—A Peking despatch to the *Daily Telegraph*, dated Sunday, reads:

"Heavy fighting is reported all around Kiukiang, Southern China. The Sixth Division is crossing the river in great numbers and attacking the artillery with Maxim.

"Nothing definite is available, but if success attends Kiangsi troops a civil war is inevitable."

GOVERNMENT BUYS AEROPLANES.

The sixteen aeroplanes purchased by the Chinese Government reached the Department of War in Peking May 29. The War Department expects to establish an aviation ground at Nanyuan, Peking.

CHINESE BLACK TEA.

The black tea of the Province of Hupei has been annually exported to England, Russia, France and America to the value of \$20,000,000.

ATHLETICS IN CHINA.

Interscholastic and intercollegiate athletics in China are a very recent development. In Central China, under the leadership of the Shanghai Y. M. C. A. and St. John's College, a start was made several years ago, and athletics are now developed to a quite respectable standard.

PEKING UNIVERSITY STRIKE

A Peking dispatch says that the students of the Peking University are on a strike and the professors are now endeavoring to persuade the students to give in and are urging the authorities not to enforce the expulsion rule.

SUFFRAGETTES IN CHINA.

Miss Shen Pei Ching is the young leader of suffragettes in China and is sometimes known as China's Joan of Arc by reason of her services in the Revolution.