

JAPAN IS A CITY OF ROOFS

Tokyo, the capital of Japan, which not long ago gave a royal welcome to the prince of Wales, covers a larger space in proportion to its population than any other capital city in the world, except, perhaps, Peking.

The reason is the same as that which makes London, and American cities, too, in proportion to their number of inhabitants, incomparably vaster than Paris, or Berlin, or Vienna—the tendency for each family to live under its own roof tree. But as the average Japanese family is much poorer than the average Londoner, and as in any case Japanese houses are intricate creations of wood and paper, this city of hardly more than 2,000,000 souls occupies a space hardly less than that of Greater London.

Some years ago a Japanese painter exhibited in the annual Academy of Tokyo a picture of the capital as seen from one of its northern hills. He entitled it "A City of Roofs," and the title was an apt one. Each roof measures only a few square yards, and of the myriads of houses the vast majority are only one or two stories high. Even so, the buildings are so close by European standards that one can almost touch the eaves with one's hand without stretching, and so frail that one could effect burglarious entry with a pair of pocket-knives.

Were it not for the exquisite taste of Japanese architecture, even in mean houses, and the exquisite cleanliness of Japanese personal habits, one might not unfairly compare Tokyo to a city of henroops.

Save for one main street, the world-famous Ginza, which is the Broadway of Tokyo, the city's streets are quite unpaved. In the wet season the surface mud is so deep and sticky that it will suck a pair of low shoes off a European's feet. The Japanese do not mind the mud, because they wear wooden pattens or geta in the wet season. The deeper the mud, the bigger the geta.

The streets are merely narrow lanes between the henroops, so narrow that one can almost touch either side by stretching the arms. Right and left of the street are deep ditches of unspeakable filth bridged by stone flags at the entrance to each house or shop.

After all, medieval London was hardly better. And the truth about Japan is that still today it is medieval, both in its absence of sanitation and its morality.

At the very first glance a European arriving in Yokohama or Tokyo recognizes this medievalism. The coolies, the rickshawmen, the working class, are clad in jerkin and blue tights; they might, but for their Mongol faces, be "supers" in the conventional stage setting of "Henry IV."

To imagine Tokyo or any other Japanese city properly one might first imagine London in the fourteenth century, and then imagine that London equipped with every modern appliance save paving and sanitation, with trams, electric railways, the telephone and electric lights. But to complete the picture one must imagine a decorative, graphic and architectural art as living and spontaneous and gracious as that of London of the fourteenth century.

Without Vanilla Also.

Julian Wetzel, of the Keystone Press, speaking before the Service club at Indianapolis recently, told a story illustrating what happens when one dizzy person meets another.

"I went up to a drug store soda fountain," said Mr. Wetzel, "and ordered a soda without flavor."

"Without flavor?" queried the youth behind the counter, smoothing his long hair back. "Without flavor, did you say?"

"Yes, without chocolate flavor."

"Oh, we haven't any chocolate flavor. You'll have to do without vanilla."

The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland once ordered that every Irish must shave his upper lip or be reckoned an enemy of the King.



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Royalty Smiles



Something happened at this Astor fete which brought a smile to the royal face of Prince Gustaf of Sweden (left). Prince Gustaf's companion is the Duke of Connaught.

FIREMEN QUIT

ASTORIA, Jan. 5.—Eight members of fire company No. 1 quit their positions today without giving a moment's notice, following the appointment of a new chief of the department. The men presented their resignation to City Manager Kratz, saying "we, the undersigned, members of the Astoria fire department, respectfully resign, effective with the retirement of Fire Chief C. E. Foster."

The crew at No. 1 station was made up today by transferring men from other stations and a new crew was engaged to report for duty tomorrow.



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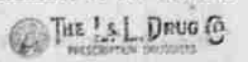
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STANDARD OIL PROFITS TOLD

(By The Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Profits averaging from 1 cent to 1 1/2 cents are realized by the Standard Oil Company of New York upon each gallon of gasoline produced in its refineries, according to testimony submitted by the corporation Wednesday in the senate oil investigation.

Testimony was presented to the senate manufacturers subcommittee conducting the inquiry, by four officials of the Standard of New York, who, replying to questions put by the committee counsel, described in detail operations of the company in the fields of foreign and domestic trade, transportation and finance. Incidentally the committee got its first direct information as to salaries paid to high officials of oil companies.

BRANNON TO MONTANA.
(By The Associated Press)
HELENA, Mont., Jan. 5.—Melvin A. Brannon, president of Beloit College, of Beloit, Wisconsin, has accepted the chancellorship of the University of Montana.

COAST LEAGUE MEETING

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 5.—A meeting of the directors of the Pacific Coast Baseball league was called today by President William J. McCarthy for January 15 in the Imperial hotel, Portland, Ore., to complete the schedule and to attend to other matters that may be brought before them.

McCarthy says "other matters" means anything "the owners or managers have on their chests." He said he was unadvised as to what they would take up at the meeting.

CHILD MURDERER SENTENCED

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 5.—Tony Dinello, 48, convicted of the murder of his 11-year-old daughter Flora, was sentenced Tuesday to 50 years in the penitentiary by Judge F. L. Fisher, in the Wyandotte county district court. Motions for a new trial and an arrest in judgment were overruled.

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OLCOTT RETIRES

SALEM, Jan. 5.—"In retiring from office I deeply appreciate the confidence and good will of the people of Oregon during my 12 years of public life. I retire with no regrets and only the best wishes for Governor-elect Pierce and his administration," said Governor Olecott, addressing the Rotary club at the Marion hotel.

Governor Olecott continues silent as to his future plans. He says he has several things in mind and will remain in Oregon for at least a few months. For about two months he intends to rest and he declared no would not be about the legislative halls during the approaching session.

At the conclusion of his address to the Rotarians the governor was warmly cheered by Thomas H.

Kay, who long has been associated with Mr. Olecott in state politics. "Of all the men whom I have known or worked with," said Mr. Kay, "I never met one for whom I had such respect and honor as for Governor Olecott."

CROSSING DANGERS

HAINES, Ore., Jan. 5.—One of the first things to be brought before the members of the new state highway commission to be named by Governor Pierce will probably be the dangerous condition in which the approaches to overhead crossings along the Old Oregon trail state highway have been left by road builders. The three large viaducts over the Union Pacific tracks at North Powder, Telocast and Hot Lake have become

dangerous to motorists with the advent of snow and ice. The communities along the line of the state highways are said to be planning a movement to induce the commission to place deep-set posts and heavy cable or a railing of sufficient strength to prevent cars from going off the grade and the Legislature may be asked to enact a measure requiring all such approaches to overhead crossings in the state to be thus equipped.

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