

# THROUGH JAPANESE EYES

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by  
**Otto D.  
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## THE GOD-EMPEROR

III

IN the eyes and hearts of his subjects, the Japanese Emperor is no ordinary mortal ruler like the secular and political heads of state in the West, including kings who claim to rule by divine right. He is God himself, or rather the human incarnation of an eternal God.

This unique position of the Japanese Emperor, which by a historical paradox, is far more firmly established in modern than it was in feudal Japan, is based on the national Shinto faith which proclaims that he is the lineal descendant of the Sun Goddess, the highest deity in the Japanese Pantheon of "eight hundred myriad" gods, who rules the Heavens, and who charged her descendants with the rule of the Japanese Islands. This assumed descent is accepted by the whole Japanese nation, barring a few intellectuals long since silenced, as a literal and fundamental truth, and it is the basic maxim on which rests the whole Japanese theocratic state. There is, indeed, no ruler on earth able to command the same kind of religious reverence and fanatical loyalty and devotion as the Japanese people freely give to their Emperor.



Emperor Hirohito

"Japan is a holy land. It was made by the Gods, whose lineal descendant is the Emperor. Hence he must be . . . worshipped as a God."

### Legitimacy Questioned

There is no doubt that the Japanese dynasty is by far the oldest in the world—so old and unique that it is without a family name. But it did not always enjoy its present prosperity. Within historic times it has suffered many vicissitudes, and by Western standards even its legitimacy is more than dubious. By no means has the Japanese throne been always transmitted in direct succession from father to son. The dynasty could be sustained only because of the very flexible Oriental concept of what constitutes a family—a concept based not on the union between husband and wife, but on the relation between father and children. The woman does not account for much in Japan, and the illegitimacy of the offspring on the mother's side is no bar to inheritance. If there is no heir by the legitimate Empress, an heir by a concubine is just as eligible. The father of the present Emperor was himself the offspring of such a union between the Em-

peror Meiji and a lady of the court. If there is no offspring by the ruling emperor at all, the throne goes to the next of kin within the large Imperial clan comprising many families. Only thus was the life of the dynasty stretched out over many centuries. The succession to the throne is now regulated by the Imperial House Law which takes that situation into account. It provides that the throne shall go to the male descendants of the male line in the order of seniority and nearness of kin. But this ordered succession is of recent origin. Prior to it, the succession was often decided by the whims of individual Emperors or Empresses, or by the intrigues among the fadies—or the gentlemen—of the Imperial boudoirs, until finally the throne became merely a pawn in the power politics of the strong men who really ruled the country.

WHAT Shinto has been able to make of the Japanese Emper-

ors within living memory is shown by the following:

"According to Shinto, Japan is a holy land. It was made by the Gods, whose lineal descendant is the Emperor. Hence he must be revered and worshipped as a God."

—Constitutional Development of Japan, 1863-1881, by Dr. Toyokichi Iyenaga, Johns Hopkins University Studies, 1891.

"It is the duty of every man born on the Imperial soil to yield devoted loyalty to his Sovereign, even at the sacrifice of his own life. Let no one suppose for a moment that there is any credit due him for so doing."

—History of the True Succession of the Living Monarchs, by Kitabatake Chikafusa, 1293-1354.

**Heavenly Created Thrones**

"Japan's national polity is unique in the world. Heaven sent down Ninigo-no-Mikoto to Kashihara, Yamato Province, with a message that their posterity should reign over and govern Japan for ages eternal. It was on this happy day, 2601 years ago, that our first Emperor, Jimmu, ascended the throne. Dynasties in foreign countries were created by man. Foreign kings, emperors and presidents are all created by men, while Japan has a sacred throne, inherited from the Imperial ancestors. Japanese Imperial rule, therefore, is an extension of Heaven. The dynasties created by men may collapse but the Heavenly created throne is beyond men's power."—Baron Kichiro Hiranuma, Home Minister in speech to school teachers at celebration of the "2601st" anniversary of the foundation of the Japanese Empire, Feb. 11, 1941.

"That the Mikado reigns and governs the country absolutely, by a Right inherited from His Divine Ancestors, is the unconscious belief and the instinctive feeling of the Japanese people. Indeed it may be said to be their religion. Theoretically he is the center of the State as well as the State itself. He is to the Japanese mind the Supreme Being in the Cosmos of Japan, as God is in the Universe to the pantheistic philosopher. From him everything emanates; in him everything subsists; there is nothing on the soil of Japan existing independent of him. He is the sole owner of the Empire, the author of law, justice, privilege, and honor, and the symbol of the unity of the Japanese nation. . . . The Political Development of Japan by George Etsujiro Uyehara, former Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives, London, 1910.

(NEXT: Emperor of the World)

## Our Boarding House

## With Major Hoople



## Out Our Way

J. R. Williams



## Boots and Her Buddies



By Edgar Martin

## Freckles and His Friends



Merrill Blosser

## Red Ryder



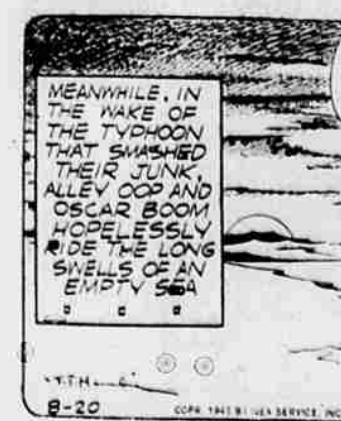
Fred Harman

## Wash Tubbs



By Leslie Turner

## Alley Oop



By V. T. Hamlin

## Beading Trimmed



By MRS. ANNE CABOT

Use two-inch white embroidery beading to finish the V-neck and to form the shoulder straps on this white rayon crepe or satin nightgown and you'll have the very newest and smartest of tresseau nighties! Narrow pink or blue silk or satin ribbon run through the beading completes the charming effect. If you prefer a more tailored gown, use bandings of self-material.

To obtain pattern and complete finishing instructions for the Beading Trimmed Nightgown (pattern No. 5894) sizes small, medium and large included in pattern, send 15 cents in coin, plus 1 cent postage, your name, address and the pattern number to Anne Cabot, La Grande Evening Observer, 709 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif.

## Building Permits

Clarence De Grande, alter and repair one-story frame dwelling, 1502 T avenue, \$50.

Lavi Kivett, alter and repair one-story garage, 1208 W avenue, \$30.

Steam is conducted through large pipes from volcanoes to industrial plants in nearby cities in Italy.

## Deeds Filed

Union county to city of La Grande, Lot 6, and W's of Lot 7, Blk. 25; and Lots 12, 13, Blk. 21, all in Fredmor's addition, La Grande city, \$278.64.

O. A. Garner et ux to John Stroeber, Lot 3, Blk. 4, Fynearson's addition, La Grande city, \$5 and other considerations.

Union county to Joseph M. Goben et ux, Lots 5 to 8, Blk. 51, Riverside addition, La Grande city, \$175.

West Coast Life Insurance company to Glen W. Owen et ux, Lots 7, 8, Blk. 4, Riverside addition, La Grande city, \$10 and other considerations.

Union county to John Stroeber, Lots 3, 4, Blk. 4, Rynearson's addition, La Grande city, \$100.

Jean A. Williams to John Stroeber, Lot 4, Blk. 4, Rynearson's addition, La Grande city, \$5.

Stephan A. Gardiner et ux to Al Thompson et ux, portion of Lot 12, Blk. 114, Chapin's addition, La Grande city, \$1 and other considerations.

Charles F. Marshall et al to T. R. Strand et al, portion of NW 1/4 of SE 1/4, Sec. 32, Twp. 2 S., R. 38 E., \$1 and other considerations.

James W. Herbert et ux to Wametta P. LaVerdure et vir, portion of NE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Sec. 28, Twp. 5 S., R. 40 E., \$1 and other considerations.

G. I. Hoas et ux to Irvin A. Westenskow, portion of SW 1/4 of SW 1/4, Sec. 18, Twp. 4 S., R. 40 E., \$10 and other considerations.

Wametta Phillips LaVerdure et vir to James W. Herbert et ux, SE 1/4 NE 1/4 SE 1/4, Sec. 23, SW 1/4 NW 1/4 SW 1/4, Sec. 24, all in Twp. 5 S., R. 39 E., \$1 and other considerations.

## Hold Everything



## Party or Play



By SUE BURNETT

For your pride and joy, a dainty party dress with full skirt gathered on to a round yoke—pert puffed sleeves to delight a very young lady. Make it for play in checked cottons and trim with bright pie-rac. Matching panties.

Pattern No. 8892 is designed for sizes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 years. Size 2, dress, requires 1 1/2 yards of 35 or 39-inch fabric; panties, 3/4 yard.

For this pattern, send 20 cents, in coins, your name, address, size desired, and the pattern number to Sue Burnett, La Grande Evening Observer, 709 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif.

Send for your copy of the new spring issue of Fashion—just off the press. Book full of smart, up-to-the-minute styles. 15 cents.

## Official Records

Water turned off, August 17:  
L. M. Ghan, 2705 Greenwood street; Rex E. Granes, 506 Adams avenue; Jess J. Jones, 1804 Washington street.

Water turned on:  
Rex E. Granes, 2705 Greenwood street; Dora Rand, 3118 Second street; Jess J. Jones, 506 Adams