

THROUGH JAPANESE EYES

by Otto D. Tolischus

EMPEROR OF THE WORLD

THE real origins of the Japanese dynasty are lost in the dim recesses of prehistoric times. But Japan's historic times did not begin till the middle of the fifth century of our era, when the Japanese learned to read and write from the Chinese and began to convert tribal mythology into national history. Prior to that time, Japanese history consisted of myths and legends transmitted by guilds of hereditary reciters who, like the troubadours of the Middle Ages, made their living by singing the praises of the mighty who fed them. Naturally, the more food, the more praise, which meant the higher the reward the higher the ancestry attributed to the praised. In that way, numerous noble Japanese families acquired "divine" ancestors, and the Imperial family, as the mightiest of all, saw to it that its descent was the highest of all. By the time the Japanese had learned to read and write the Imperial myth had become gospel truth which dominated all Japanese thinking.



Emperor Hirohito Reviews His Troops
"The Emperor of Japan is the Emperor not only of Japan but also of all the races of the world..."

spent most of their time in idleness and debauchery, punctuated by poetasting and elaborate temple ceremonies, while the actual government was carried on by others. These others were first a family of major-domos, the Fujiwaras, of whom Prince Fumimaro Koyoye is the present head. With the aid of brains and Buddhist priests, the Fujiwaras soon brought the whole Imperial family under their thumb. They married their daughters to the Emperors, while their sons monopolized all important government posts.

Beginning with the middle of the 11th century, however, the civilian rule of the Fujiwaras came to an end and was replaced by an age of civil wars, leading to military dictatorships by the Shoguns, or Taikuns—chiefs of rival clans who gained power by beating down their rivals. These dictators ruled nominally in the name of the Emperors and by theoretical appointment from the throne.

Restored to Power

In the 18th and 19th centuries, when German nationalism began to assume forms which culminated in Nazism, the Japanese, confronted with a breakdown of feudal economy and the rise of a merchant class clamoring for foreign outlets, likewise began to look for a new impulse to national life. They found it in Shinto. Japanese scholars revived, refurbished, reinterpreted—and further falsified—the ancient myths and staged a great Shinto revival which, by re-emphasizing the "divine" rights of the Emperors, put the Taikuns in the light of usurpers and thus laid the ideological foundation for their overthrow. This came in 1867, after Commo-

dore Perry had opened the doors of Japan. Feudalism went overboard and the Emperors were restored to direct rule under Hirohito's grandfather.

Today, by a transformation of Shinto as portentous to the world as its previous revival was to Japan, Japanese leaders have proclaimed the Japanese Emperor as the Emperor of the World. Digging up an obscure passage attributed to Jimmu, they have converted it into a divine command for Japanese world conquest.

This passage enunciates what is now known as the Hakkio Ichu principle, constantly referred to in official Japanese pronouncements as the "principle of the Empire-founding."

"FROM the standpoint of Hakkio Ichu, the Emperor of Japan is the Emperor not only of Japan but also of all the races of the world. Judging from the present condition of our Imperial Majesty, he is the Emperor of Japan alone at the present time, but his Majesty of Japan is the Emperor of the world, for the spirit of Hakkio Ichu has been the traditional principle of our nation."

—Tadahiko Imazumi, over Tokyo Radio, Oct. 12, 1942.

"If the ways of the Emperor were understood fully by the people of the world there should be no objection in having our Emperor as the ruler of the world. Under the principle of Hakkio Ichu, our Emperors were authorized to extend the rule of peace and happiness to the entire world. The foundation of international peace must be based upon the Imperial House of Japan."—Tadahiko Imazumi, over Tokyo Radio, Oct. 13, 1944.

(NEXT: Hirohito's Role)

Our Boarding House With Major Hoople



Boots and Her Buddies



Freckles and His Friends



Out Our Way



By Edgar Martin



Merrill Blosser



Fred Harman



By Leslie Turner



By V. T. Hamlin



Tea Towels



5026
By MRS. ANNE CABOT

These canary-in-the-kitchen designs work up into the gayest and prettiest set of tea towels you've ever embroidered. The diminutive three-inch canary is done in golden yellows in outline stitch—the rest of the picture-setting is done in blues, green and reds. Do the names of the days in cross stitch. A nice set to have ready for church bazaars and for holiday gifts!

To obtain 7 transfers, color chart for working the canaries-in-the-kitchen towels (pattern No. 5026) 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.

MANUFACTURED POISON
Some American Indian tribes of the old days manufactured their arrow poison from rattlesnake venom and raw liver. The snake was made to bite the liver until it was saturated with the venom and it was then buried and left to decompose. After decomposition the liver was dug up and smeared on the arrows.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

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States. These two plants will compete with eastern steel because western business and industrial interests are uniting to keep these plants independent and to manage them efficiently in the economic interest of the west and of the nation.

The industrialization of the west has rolled forward swiftly during the war. Its population has increased 10 percent; the trained industrial labor force has been multiplied two and one-half times; its industrial plant has been doubled. The west now demands equal partnership in the U. S. industrial economy. This is good competition. The thrill of the chase is on.

U. P. Salem Bureau Has New Manager

SALEM, Aug. 20 (UP)—Management of the Salem Bureau of United Press was today assumed by Eldon Barrett, formerly of Olympia, Wash., who succeeds Eric W. Allen, jr. in the position. Barrett has worked on the Daily Olympian, and on radio station KGY before joining the staff of the United Press. He is married and has a small son.

Hold Everything



"I'm your new neighbor—can I borrow a wrench?"

Side Button



8902
6-14 yrs.

By SUE BURNETT
Simple, charming school frock for the pigtail crowd. She'll like the pretty square neck, side button-closing and gay rickrack trim.

Pattern No. 8902 is designed for sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 8, requires 2 1/4 yards of 35 or 39-inch fabric.

For this pattern, send 20 cents, in coin, 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, Aug. 18:
M. S. Williams, 1420 Z avenue.

Water Turned On:
Charles Paxton, 2209 Adams avenue.

OLDEST SAUSAGE

Salami is the oldest kind of sausage. Its name, applied by ancient Greeks, has remained unchanged through the centuries.

Red Ryder



Wash Tubbs



Alley Oop

