

THROUGH JAPANESE EYES

by Otto D. Tolischus

HIROHITO'S ROLE

EMPEROR HIROHITO of Japan is in theory the absolute owner and ruler of his country and his people. He is God, and as such the highest being in the Japanese universe, to whom everything belongs. He is an Emperor who, by virtue of the national faith, the national tradition, and the national constitution, combines in himself all the rights of national sovereignty, to the complete exclusion of the Japanese people who have been granted civil rights but possess no sovereign rights—not even in theory. He is, finally, the High Priest of the nation, and as such its spiritual head. Whatever decisions he makes, or whatever decisions receive the Imperial sanction, are therefore acts of God, acts of an autocrat, and prophecies of a High Priest who engage all the religious and political energies of the nation, and to challenge which would be both blasphemy and political suicide.

Holding such a unique position, the Japanese Emperor can be a great force for good, and an equally great force for evil. The record of Hirohito's reign, which ironically enough is called by the name of "Radiant Peace," is one of unmitigated evil, culminating in the Pacific war, and indirectly in the whole world war.

Hirohito's Record

It is true that Hirohito's sins are primarily those of omission rather than commission. It is further true that Hirohito personally is supposed to be a westernized liberal who loves peace, and in particular opposed both the alliance with Germany and war against the United States. It is quite likely that he acted at least as a brake on the developments that led to Pearl Harbor.

But Hirohito has been a willing puppet. He has been so partly because of a weakness of character that runs through the whole dynasty which has produced few strong men. This weakness, which has permitted unscrupulous military upstarts to use the authority of the throne as a cover for their own ambitions, makes the Japanese throne an everlasting menace for the future. For whoever can control Japan's God has also the whole nation at his command. It is also possible that, like so many so-called Japanese liberals, he has been really in agreement with the general aims of Japanese expansion, though shrinking from its inevitable consequences. The indications are that the latter is the case.

Nobody knows whether he believes in his own divinity, but he has never raised his voice to oppose or condemn that interpretation of the Hakkō Ichiu principle which proclaims him Emperor of the World. On the contrary, he has constantly supported it by issuing Imperial Rescripts based on it.

He has never opposed or condemned the Japanese aggression that began in Manchuria in 1931 and led to the Pacific War. On the contrary, he issued Imperial Rescripts supporting it as well as Japan's secession from the League of Nations, thus giving them his divine, imperial, and priestly blessings.

Never Opposed Atrocities

He has never opposed or condemned the shocking atrocities which are an integral part of Japanese warfare and which were first exemplified in the rape of Nanking. Nor can he plead that he had no knowledge of them. It was his younger brother, Prince Asaka, who was in command at Nanking, and it is inconceivable under Japanese traditions that the younger brother did not describe in detail to his elder brother just what happened at Nanking.

He presided over that fateful Imperial Conference on July 2, 1941, which agreed on the conquest of East Asia even at the risk of war with the United States and the British Empire—a decision that already envisaged Pearl Harbor.

He issued the Imperial Rescript declaring war against the United States and the British Empire to "carry forward the task bequeathed by Our Forefathers"—which calls for extending his rule until it embraces the world.

He has finally, within the limits of his office, done everything possible to mobilize the Japanese people for a "Holy War" for the destruction of the United States and the British Empire, and he has specifically acknowledged the Japanese "warriors" as his own representatives.



Symbol of "Radiant Peace"—1938

Hirohito's reign, which ironically enough is called by the name of "Radiant Peace," culminated indirectly in world war.

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Our Boarding House With Major Hoople



THIS IS HOW WASHINGTON DIDN'T CROSS THE DELAWARE =

Out Our Way J. R. Williams



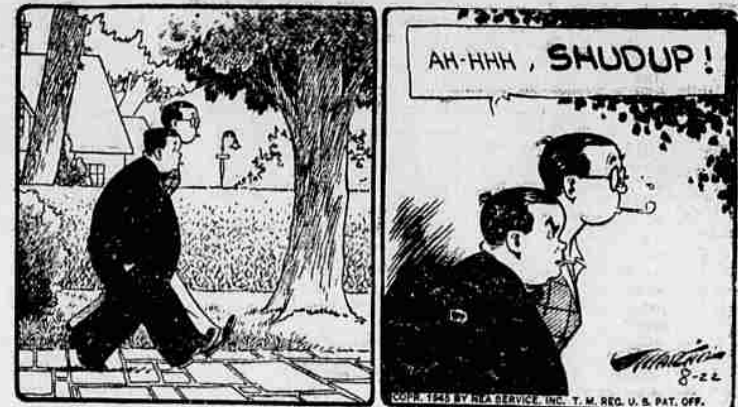
BORN THIRTY YEARS TOO SOON

Boots and Her Buddies



IF LARD WASN'T SO SKIRTY-FLIRTY, THAT FISH WOULDN'T GOT AWAY FROM HIM!

By Edgar Martin



AM-HHH, SHUUP!

Freckles and His Friends



AND AS FOR YOU, SAD SAM, YOU WON'T EVEN HOOK A FISH IF YOU DON'T TRY!

Merrill Blosser



I'M MAKIN' AN ALL-OUT EFFORT!

Red Ryder



HE MAKE TRIP MANY TIMES!

Fred Harman



NOBODY EVER WENT BACK THAT WAY IN THAT SWIFT WATER!

Wash Tubbs



TINA RYAN'S MESSAGE SAYS SHE IS IN FUJIWARA, MAJOR MINTON, EVER BEEN THERE?

By Leslie Turner



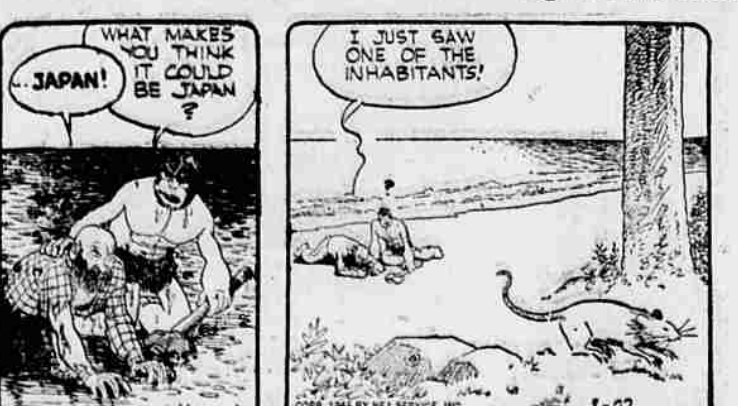
WE NEED THE INFORMATION SHE HAS EASY—NEED IT BADLY... BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET HER OUT OF JAPAN!

Alley Oop



LOOK, OOP! LAND! WE'RE SAVED!

By V. T. Hamlin



WHAT MAKES YOU THINK IT COULD BE JAPAN?

Fall Decorating!



5752

By MRS. ANNE CABOT
Planning to "do" over your own bedroom or the guest room this autumn? A smartly tailored bedspread in rayon silk, in chintz or cretonne or in one of the muted pastel cottons will work wonders in helping create a new room! Making your own saves a nice piece of money and is easy to cut, sew and finish.

To obtain complete instructions for making Tailored Bed Covers for both single and double beds (pattern No. 5752) yardages given, how to measure, seam finishes, flounce and pleating illustrations given, 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.

'Tree Grows In Brooklyn' Opens Wednesday Here

With the release of the eagerly awaited 20th Century-Fox film version of Betty Smith's "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," the best-selling book in years, will—judging by unprecedented Hollywood preview acclaim—become the best-loved picture of a lifetime, which opens Wednesday at the Liberty theater.

The role of "Katie" is played by Dorothy McGuire; James Dunn is seen as "Johnny Nolan"; Joan Blondell is "Aunt Sissy"; Peggy Ann Garner is "Francie"; Ted Donaldson is "Neeley"; and Lloyd Nolan is "Officer McShane."

Dorothy McGuire's portrayal of "Katie" is one of the greatest achievements in all of Hollywood history.

Queen Mary, Three Other Transports Arrive With Troops

NEW YORK, Aug. 21 (UPI)—The Queen Mary and three other transports, carrying 16,653 troops, dock here today.

Many members of the 30th division arrive aboard the Queen Mary which carried 14,800 soldiers who will go to camp Killdeer, N. J., for processing.

Other ships arriving are the Hawaiian Shipper, with 1,813 troops diverted from the Pacific; Occidental Victory, 29 troops; and the Sarah J. Hale, with two aboard.

Hold Everything



Whisper a little louder, Mr. Konk!

Junior Two Piece



8905 11-18

By SUE BURNETT
The sort of smart two piece frock teen-agers insist on—smooth fitting flared jacket to accent a doll-like waist—graceful gored skirt.

Pattern No. 8905 is designed for sizes 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 18. Size 12, short sleeves, requires 4 1/2 yards of 39-inch material.

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.

Building Permits

John Maston, erect one-story frame porch, 1426 Jackson street, \$100.
B. B. Mallory, erect one-story frame garage, 1907 Pennsylvania avenue, \$75.
C. A. Brown, erect one-story frame chicken house, 2115 Alder street, \$200.

Approximately 10 per cent of Minnesota's barley production is used for malting purposes.