

schools, except for the influence of the nationalistic military regime. The language difficulty, however, makes it impossible for most adults to take any active part in civic affairs because they cannot keep up to date on information by reading. In spite of the strong family and national unity, there is an obvious lack of civic and social consciousness. The people were not prepared to read the 5,000 characters used by



newspapers. The reduction of characters to approximately 1500 has now made it possible for more to read the daily printed news.

Education Extended

A school set-up known to educators as the "6-3-3 plan" has been adopted. This means 6 elementary grades, 3 years in junior high school and 3 in high schools. Compulsory education was extended through the seventh grade in 1947, the eighth grade in 1948 and will include the ninth grade in 1949. There are also special schools for the blind

and deaf and some vocational schools. Only about 15% of the students attended school beyond the required sixth grade previous to 1947, according to the U. S. Education Commission of 1946.

Mr. Weaver found that vocational guidance involved some distinctly different factors than he has dealt with in Oregon. The oldest boy in the family, for instance, has no vocational choice. He is expected to work with his father and to continue that occupation. Other sons may go elsewhere to work but they generally follow the family tradition. Employers prefer to hire 13 year olds, but a new law requires that children cannot be hired until they are 15, or 14 if they have completed compulsory education.

If an employee leaves his first employer he receives no recommendation and other employers will not hire him. This system practically "freezes" a person to one job from childhood.

MacArthur Respected

Mr. Weaver found that General MacArthur has won the respect of the Japanese people, with the exception of a minority of ex-leaders of the Japanese military government. MacArthur arrives at his headquarters and departs with formality and ceremony and there is always a crowd around to see him.

The OSEA offers congratulations to Glen Weaver for the honor he received through this assignment to Japan. We are pleased to have a fellow-employee thus recognized for his fine work in State service.

Oregon has more than 29 million acres of forest lands, including lake and stream surfaces, offering innumerable playlands for vacationists, according to the Oregon State Highway Department Travel Information Department.

Jumpoff Joe creek in southern Oregon was so named when a pioneer named Joe jumped off a bank into a mountain stream, presumably for a swim.