

JAPANESE ISLANDS NOT SOUTH PACIFIC

Mikado's Diplomats' Winners
at Paris Conference.

FORTIFICATION IS BEGUN

Use to Which Nipponese Mean to
Put New Acquisitions Kept
as State Secret.

BY LOUIS SEIBOLD.
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TOKIO, Sept. 15.—It was by no means a stroke of luck that Japan won a strategic advantage at the Paris peace conference and before the league of nations when it secured the control over some of the most important islands in the Pacific. No accomplishment of Marquis Saito and his fellow delegates from Nippon to Paris pleased the Japanese government and people quite as much as the manner in which they raised the empty cry of "race equality" to cloak the real aspirations of Japan for control over the former German island possessions that, in certain emergencies, might prove of incalculable value as naval bases.

The claim for "race equality" brought forward at just the right moment—to be abandoned in an equally propitious period—is now generally recognized by diplomats throughout the world. It is a stroke of subtle intrigue. Capable observers at Tokyo who are in position to reflect the state of the Japanese official mind are quite convinced that Japan knew in advance that her plans for recognition of her nationals by other countries would be denied.

Plans Are Secret.

They are also rather confirmed in their opinion that, by playing the game she did, Japan obtained what she wanted at Paris and Geneva—the allotment of islands under direct award or by mandate, whose strategic value in the event of foreign complications which might eventually in war, she had fully prospected in advance.

Just what use Japan proposes to make of the islands which were already hers or those given her in payment for the services she rendered to the allies in the war with Germany is probably known to the mikado, the ten elder statesmen that compose the imperial privy council, and the technical experts in the army and navy branches of the government. Certainly, no information regarding any plans the mikado's government may have already put into effect or which may be contemplated is permitted to reach the public.

Chromatological evidence, originating in unofficial channels and tending to confirm the reports that Japan has already set about fortifying Bonin island of the Parry group (a Japanese possession) is permitted to go by default. Evasive replies only are forthcoming regarding the islands which she controls under the terms of the Paris peace treaty or which were given to her by the Versailles treaty or under mandate by the league of nations.

No direct information regarding either her plans or actual undertakings in the line of fortifying the highly important island bases which are now under her control is to be obtained. One very good reason for this is that Japan allows no aliens without special permits to land on any of the new islands which, her critics say, she will use in precisely the same manner as she has Asiatic territory over which she now exercises fairly complete economic and partial political control.

Bonin island is not by any means the most important upon which Japan might depend for offensive and defensive uses in the event of war with any power that might seek to question her policies of expansion in the Pacific. The islands which have been Japanese territory since 1861. It might prove of tremendous strategic importance under certain contingencies. Fairly direct information is at hand to show that the Japanese government has already spent more than \$500,000 in fortifying Bonin island as the result of a careful survey conducted under the direction of the Japanese navy department.

Activities Are Significant.

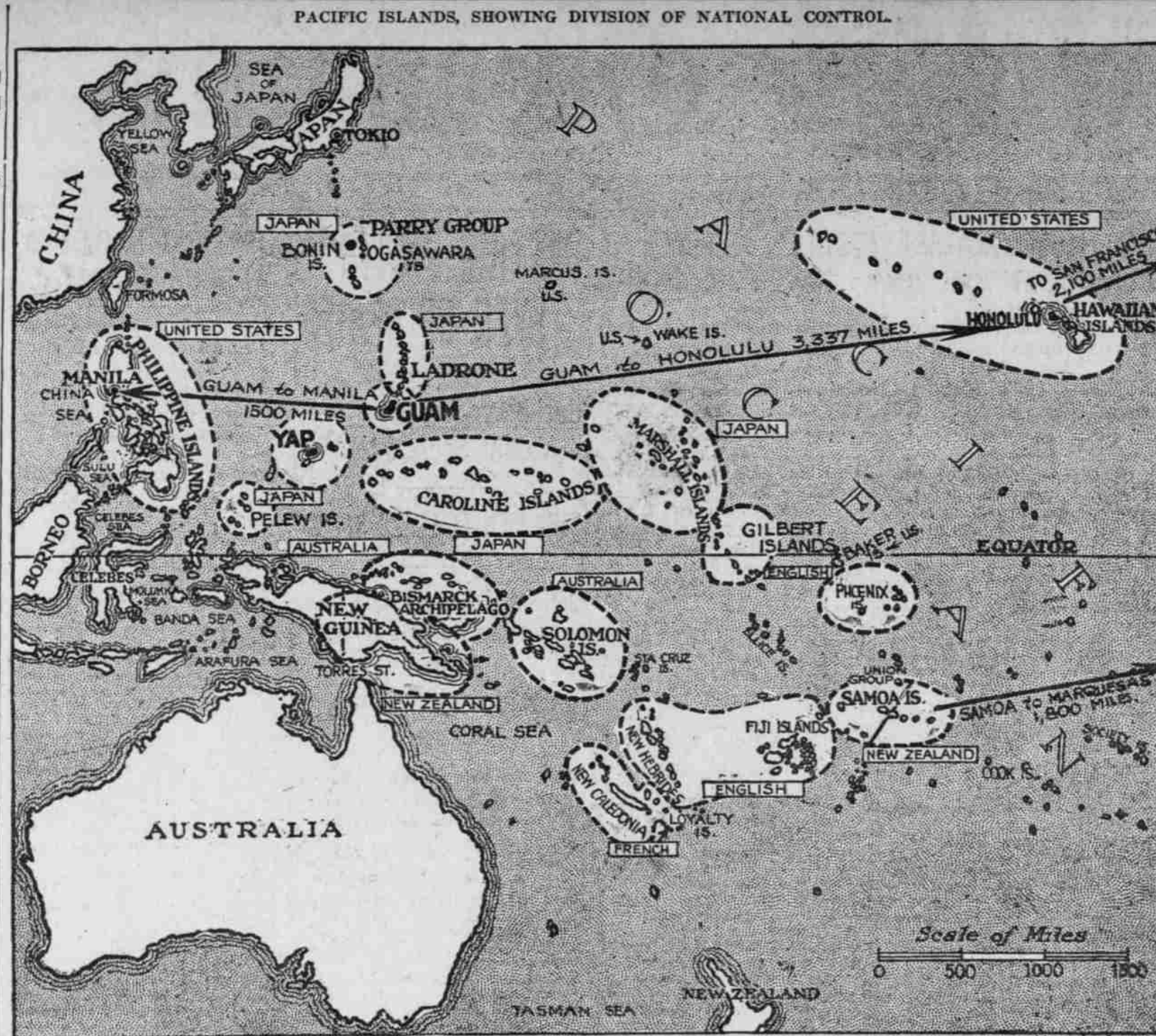
Much significance is attached to the activities of the Japanese navy forces on Bonin island by the fact that it is only 10 hours' steaming distance from Guam, the American naval base. Reports which depict representing other countries at Tokyo view with interest are, in effect, that the preliminary plan for fortifying the Marshall and Caroline islands, which are under the mandate of Japan, have been completed, but that no work has actually been inaugurated in the direction of transforming those islands into effective naval bases. The administration of these islands has been turned over to the navy department, notwithstanding the introduction of civil administration on the Marshall and Caroline islands.

The plans of Japan regarding the islands which she occupied before the German war and which have since come under her control form a lively subject of discussion among not only foreign diplomats but business men representing the interests of countries dealing with the mikado's government and people. It is considered very significant by these men that the Japanese government has not made formal denial of its purpose to transform those of established strategic value into naval stations and bases in such a way as to leave a comprehensive string of such stations from the Parry group to the coast of Japan itself.

Japanese Scoff at Reports.

Discussion among leaders of the Japanese government concerning the military value of the islands which the mikado's government now controls in the Pacific is naturally interpreted to indicate insurance in case of war, although it is not accounted for by any legitimate apprehension of attacks from foreign quarters. Government leaders at Pekin, Melbourne and Auckland, who maintain a vigilant eye upon all things Japanese, presume to read the maneuvers of Japan as indicating a belief that such preparations will be justified in the future, though versions emanating from this quarter are very naturally scoffed at in government circles here at Tokyo.

A comparison of the distribution of the islands in the Pacific which would be called upon to play important parts in a war involving the future of Asia shows that Japan occupies a very favorable position. Of the 32 islands scattered between the Japanese coast and Australia that could be used to great advantage by the nations controlling them, Japan exercises more or less complete do-



BLACK LINE WITH ARROWS INDICATES POSSESSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.

million over six, not counting more than a hundred little islands around Japan itself.

Location Is Important.

The number of islands thus controlled by Japan is not so important as the location of them. All of them are situated north of the equator and dot the waters within a radius of 2000 miles of the sea. The Japanese islands given under mandate are the Caroline islands with 55,000 population, the Marshall with 15,000, the Ladrone (chief) with 5000, and the island of Yap with 10,000. The combined territory of these islands is not far from 10,000 square miles. In addition to these Japan controls the Pelew, the Ogasawara and the Parry groups, the combined area of which is probably 5000 square miles.

The largest real estate holdings of any nation in the Pacific belong to the British government, which controls the Fiji, the Phoenix, the Gilbert, the Plesant and eight small islands in the region of Australia and, jointly with the French, the New Hebrides.

E. S. Holdings Named.

The United States, by direct acquisition, controls Hawaii, the Philippines, Wake, Guam, Marcus and the other islands, extending over a stretch of the Pacific north of the equator, with Baker island on the fringe of it.

Under league of nations mandates Australia controls New Ireland and New Britain, formerly identified as the Bismark group, and Madang, a stretch of the Pacific north of the equator, with Baker island on the fringe of it.

New Zealand exercises mandatory privileges over New Guinea and German Samoa, the United States maintaining its previously acquired base at Pago Pago. Through previous acquisition the French control New Caledonia and Loyalty islands and the Dutch the island of Timor. In this distribution of Pacific island territory the Japanese find themselves advantageously placed, almost in the line between the Philippines and the Hawaiian islands, over which the United States exercises direct control.

The distance from San Francisco to Hawaii is 2100 miles, while Guam is separated by 2337 miles from the United States territory in the Pacific, with the Philippines 1500 miles distant to the west from Guam. Guam is directly east of the Philippines and southwest from Honolulu.

Japanese Islands Near.

North of Guam is the Marianas group and 200 miles away to the northwest are the Ogasawara, both of which are controlled by Japan, and provide convenient stepping stones (or prospective naval bases) between Japan and Guam. South of Guam, and almost on a line with the Panama canal, are the Caroline islands. East of these are the Marshall islands. There are a great many islands in each of these groups and most of them are so advantageously distributed that they would provide the makado's government with unusually favorable facilities for naval operations and can be thoroughly fortified at comparatively small cost.

The strategic value of the island of Yap is fully appreciated by Japan and the impression exists here at Tokyo that she intends to assert her right under the authority of the Versailles treaty, despite the hostile attitude of the United States, which, on two occasions, has emphasized its objection to Japanese control over the vitally important cable station on that island.

School Contests Inaugurated.

HOQUIAM, Wash., Oct. 9.—(Special.)—The Junior American league committee of the American Legion has inaugurated a series of contests for school children of the grades and high school which will be settled in connection with exercises Armistice day, November 11, this year. Essays are to be written on the theme "Great Americans." For the grade schools first prizes of \$10 and second of \$5 cash will be given for the best, and the high school first prize will be \$25 and second \$15. The winners of first prizes will compete in a declamation contest Armistice day, delivering their own essays. The prize will be a photograph.

Water Frontage Rentals Set.

HOQUIAM, Wash., Oct. 9.—(Special.)—Rates for factory frontage on the port commission's Cow point property announced yesterday is for water front \$2 a year a front foot. A rental of \$250 a year for each acre leased will be the charge. A few inquiries have been received, as the property is now nearly ready for occupancy.

S. & H. Green Stamps for cash. Holman Fuel Co. coal and wood. Main 353; 360-21.—Adv.

PAPER MULCHER INVENTED

SUGAR CANE GROWING AIDED
BY NEW PROCESS.

Pineapple Plantations Also Make
Use of Idea to Increase
Crop Production.

HONOLULU, T. H., Sept. 24.—(Special.)—The paper mulching process invented by a local sugar man, to aid sugar cane cultivation, may revolutionize the pineapple industry of Hawaii.

Experiments conducted by the Hawaiian Pineapple company during the past two years on a test plot, show that the mulching process, besides reducing cost of production by preventing weed growth, also stimulates plant growth to the extent of increasing the tonnage at the rate of over three tons to the acre.

Mulching paper under this man's process is made from the bagasse, or residue, of sugar cane after it has gone through the rollers, and the juice has been extracted. This paper was used in sugar cultivation with great success, with the result that the sharp sugar plant stems broke through it, while the weeds could not go through it and hence died. Thus the entire value of the land went into the plant. Tried out on pineapples, it was found to be even a greater success, with the result that the plantations mulch paper mill of Hawaii is now commencing to manufacture a greater quantity with the idea of supplying the entire demands of the Hawaiian Pineapple company.

BRITISH IGNORE PERSHING

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