

**JAPANESE GRABBING BIG SICE OF ASIA**  
Scheme for Holding China Matured Years Ago.  
**AMERICAN HELP SOUGHT**  
People Told Siberian Expedition Undertaken at Instance and Suggestion of America.

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SHANGHAI.—"It also occurs to the mind that Japan would never have sent troops to Siberia, had it not been at the instance and suggestion of the Washington government." This does not mean that the Japanese believe that this is just so. Perhaps the editor of the North China Standard, the best informed Japanese paper in China, knows better than we do. But every Russian, every Chinese and every American who knows that it is not so. They know it because Japan has been planning to conquer China since 1911; they have been teaching school boys in Japan that China was a conquered country since then; and they have been treating China as though she were a conquered country since 1911, when the rest of the world was too busy to catch the drift of things out here.

And Siberia is only a step in the conquest of China, in that pan-Asian movement which has for its dominant motive the hegemony of Japan over the hundreds of millions of the Asiatic mainland.

This may sound like flamboyant and self-exaggeration to the American at home. But it is quite a fact as events in the far east indicate. In 1915 Japan presented to China her notorious 21 demands. Because such an atrocity could not be kept secret, Japan did not gain her maximum ambitions at that time, but subsequently by lending enormous sums to China's militarists, sums variously estimated from 400 to 600,000,000, Japan has been in a position to make treaties with these militarists which give her all that she desired when the 21 demands were presented and more. There can be very little question that Japan has succeeded in considerably weakening Great Britain's influence in the Yangtze, for only the other day a Japanese was appointed instructor in the Yangtze arsenal—a post which previous to 1915 would have gone to a Briton. Japan has an iron hold on the Manchurian provinces of China is little more than a Japanese victory. Now comes the cancellation of its autonomy by Mongolia, which gives General "Little" Hsu complete control of this tremendous and rich territory and he is and always has been the chief and most notorious leader of the pro-Japanese crowd in China. So that more north of the Yellow river and surrounding the capital is practically under the thumb of General Yanaka. Chinese admit this and bemoan the fact, but it is so and it is so whether the Chancelleries of the various states deprecate it or ready to admit that they have completely failed to prevent Japan from pushing them out of China.

**Chinese Not Wanted in War.**  
Then came Chinese participation in the war. China wanted to participate actively. She entered the war entirely at the instance of the United States and she wanted to become a factor in defeating Germany. Not that she had anything against the Germans, in fact, the Germans are very popular in China and always have been. China wanted to be a factor in the war because her leaders saw in participation an opportunity to save their country, to develop a fighting army, to organize industry on a modern basis, to become adequately equipped for intercourse with modern nations, to reconstruct the Chinese state.

This Yuan Shih Kai saw and efforts were made to put this big programme across. Japan, however, bitterly opposed China's entrance into the war. Japan, first of all, did not want to lose Shanghai which she had just stolen from China; and secondly she dreaded the possibility of China making a good showing. Japan had no intention of making a showing herself. She wanted all sorts of excuses for not sending troops either to the eastern or western fronts. Had China been permitted and organized to send a million men to the front, Japan would have been forced to do her share and that Japan declined to do. Great Britain, for reasons not so obvious, also refused to permit a large Chinese army to fight in France. And China stayed out.

Then came bolshevism and with it the collapse of the Russian empire. Japan did nothing to revive that front. The Russians asked for Japanese aid but there was always talk of an inability to transport sufficient rice to Minsk and Dvinsk and Riga. It was not until 1918 that Japan saw her way clear to enter Siberia, and then it was her intention to enter alone.

At first Japan supported General Horvath against Ataman Semenov, but Horvath with all his faults, is more or less of an honorable man and Japan dropped him. Then they got behind Semenov solidly—so solidly that most of his nondescript army of those days consisted of Japanese recruits. Finally, they got behind the Kolchak government and gave it full support except in its relations with Semenov, who was always given a free hand in the Trans-Baikal region which is a gateway to Mongolia by way of China. Here Kolchak was told not to interfere, for Japan was not really interested in the allied intervention which followed, nor in the subsequent activities of the Omak dictatorship, nor was Japan interested in fighting the bolsheviks. Japan's one and only purpose was to get another hook into China and this is proved by two letters now public in China.

**Army Controlled by Japanese.**  
At the internal peace conference which met in Shanghai last spring, Mr. Tang Shao Yi, chief delegate for the south, asked the north for the treaties, agreements, etc., which had been entered into between China and Japan. He was shown some which did not interest him very much. He asked for more and he kept on asking for more, until finally two letters were shown to him. These letters were dated February 19 and March 1 and relate to the army and navy. In these letters the period for the joint participation of China and Japan in Siberia is clearly defined and China was to participate in Siberian intervention in co-operation with Japan as an allied ally. The allied ally was to remain in Siberia and Japan as an ally. By co-operation is meant that Japan is to equip, supervise, organize, advise, instruct and otherwise control the army of China. The anti-bolshevik campaign has therefore meant nothing more or less than

gaining control of the army of China. And in this Japan succeeded, for today the entire army of the old war partitioned bureau, the new frontiers defense bureau, the armies of Manchuria and Mongolia are in the hands of the Japanese. And all of these armies will remain in the hands of the Japanese as long as the Japanese stay in Siberia under definite agreements entered into between the pro-Japanese officials in Peking and the Japanese government.

Now Japan has expected to remain in the Trans-Baikal region and to let the Czech-Slovaks and the other allies look after actual fighting with the bolsheviks. But it did not work. Japan was given the seniority in the intervention movement and had to do a great deal of the fighting. Also Great Britain and America are far away and France and Italy are tired. Before Japan had to shoulder the burden of intervention and whereas the United States has about 700,000 men in Siberia, Japan had at one time as many as 70,000. Also she came for performance as is instanced by the fact that her citizens have bought up everything that is purchasable in such cities as Vladivostok, Habarovsk and Harbin.

Everything however did not go well. Instead of the Omak government being ousted by the bolsheviks, it succeeded in driving them even out of Irkutsk. Instead of Japan controlling the situation, the bolsheviks gained control. And now Japan is in a serious dilemma. She does not want to get out of Siberia because through this territory she has her line of communication to the Pacific coast of China. At the same time, she cannot afford the cost of a great war on the remaining bolsheviks nor yet can she risk the possible "loss of face" in the event of a bolshevik victory. Again she has Korea in the rear of her and a tremendous anti-Japanese sentiment in China which would only be inflamed into action were Japan driven out of Siberia. So Japan is passing the buck to the United States and blaming her for the expedition.

The Jiji as early as November 22 has the following tale of woe:

**Disorder Feared in Siberia.**  
"The original object for which Japanese troops were dispatched to Siberia was to assist the Czech-Slovaks in co-operation with the allies. When this object was attained, all the allied troops could have been withdrawn. It was feared, however, that if all the troops were withdrawn, Siberia would be thrown into disorder and the people would be starved as a result of the paralysis of communication. The idea of Japan taking independent action, assuming the whole responsibility for maintaining order in Siberia single-handed, however, requires the most careful deliberation, especially when one considers the character of the army which is maintained for the defense of the country. If the powers jointly agree to support the Omak government through this and thin hemisphere, as Honolulu is in the north, has failed of realization.

During the war there were a number of troop ships and cargo steamers going to and from European waters that put in for coal. But since the close of hostilities in the Pacific, there have been very few of any kind of craft that have called only the San Francisco-Wellington mail steamers and an occasional cargo boat.

The Great Circle route between Panama and Australia passes far to the southward of Tahiti and to the eastward is the barrier of the Tuamotu (or Paumotu) archipelago. There fore it would be necessary for a steamer to lengthen its voyage considerably in order to call at Papeete and there is no object in doing so unless the vessel is short of coal or in distress.

The local island fleet of inter-island trading schooners is being constantly enlarged and there are times when the harbor presents a very animated appearance.

Much talk was heard some months ago of projected plans for improving the harbor. But as time passes and there appear no signs of intention to carry the plans into execution, there is growing the conviction that nothing will be done in the near future.

The opinion frequently is expressed that the islands are to be sold by France to England or America, although apparently no one has the slightest authority for such an opinion, and that this is the reason for the failure to develop the port. The Chinese here generally believe it and many are seeking instruction in the English language.



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**PEPEETE'S HOPES FADING**  
CHANCE AS MID-PACIFIC PORT OF CALL APPEARS SMALL.

Since Close of Hostilities Very Few of Any Kind of Craft Have Dropped Anchor for Coal.

**Independent Action Dejected.**  
"If the Omak government is forced to make another retreat with the bolsheviks advancing further east, Japan should, of course, take steps to defend herself against the bolshevik menace to her borders. Any such proposal as to assume the whole responsibility of maintaining order in Siberia single-handed, however, requires the most careful deliberation, especially when one considers the character of the army which is maintained for the defense of the country. If the powers jointly agree to support the Omak government through this and thin hemisphere, as Honolulu is in the north, has failed of realization.

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**"FLU" PROVES BLESSING**  
Both of Legs of Missouri Farmer Now of Same Length.

JEFFERSON CITY.—Jacob Bondel, a reputable farmer living eight miles west of here, tells a remarkable story about how an attack of influenza lengthened one of his crippled legs until it is now as long as the other leg and enables him to walk without a limp. He says that after the first attack of the epidemic, he had a relapse and for several days he suffered great pain in his crippled leg. When he was able to get out of bed and walk, the crippled leg was as long as the other limb. Fifteen years ago, Bondel was injured in an accident in a coal mine on his farm and when he recovered, one of his legs was two inches shorter than the other. Neighbors of Bondel, who have known him for years, accept his story as a fact. They say that before his last illness he was badly crippled and now he can use one leg as well as the other and they are both apparently of the same length. So far as known here, Bondel is the first victim of the epidemic who claims to have derived any benefit from it.

**FRANCE BUYS ASBESTOS**  
\$1,250,000 Contract Closed by Canadian Firm.

OTTAWA, Ont.—Arrangements have been concluded by which Canadian firms will furnish \$1,250,000 worth of asbestos roofing for use in the north of France.

The credits are on the usual basis, by which the French government issues bonds, of which the Canadian manufacturers take three-eighths, the government, through the trade commission, the remainder. Asbestos roofing, manufactured from Canadian asbestos and Canadian cement, is finding a large export market at the present time.

**OATS CROP NOT REDUCED**  
Farmers Not Alarmed at Prospect of Passing of Horses and Mules.

WASHINGTON.—American farmers are not reducing their acreages of oats because of the rapidly increasing use of automobiles and trucks, the theory that the horse and mule are being made a back number, according to a report by experts of the department of agriculture. They have made a special study of the situation and say:

"The number of horses and mules on farms, if decreasing, is doing so at a rate so slow as to have little or no effect on the oat crop. Furthermore, statistics show that American farmers are not cutting down their total oat acreage, but are actually increasing it. A great number of oreds Admiral Gomez Torres.

**Brazilian Admiral Promoted.**  
RIO DE JANEIRO.—Rear-Admiral Pedro Marques de Frantin, recently director of the navy war school, and who commanded a Brazilian naval division in European waters during the recent war, has been appointed chief of the Brazilian naval staff. He succeeds Admiral Gama Torres.

**THIS WEEK SHE PURRS! SHE CLAWS! SHE SCRATCHES!**

**The VIRGIN OF STAMBOUL**  
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