

# OPINION GROWING THAT JAPAN MAY BE HOLDING BACK

By Norman Hagood  
 Editorial Staff Correspondent  
 Washington, Nov. 20.—(Sunday.)—That Japan is the final question mark of this conference is even clearer on a quiet Sunday than it is in the confusion of crowded working days. This day is a pause, with the churchgoing and trips to the nearby country, but the hush is heavy with surmise about the intention of the inscrutable Nipponese.

No matter if tomorrow does belong to France; that is merely a staged demonstration. The brilliant premier will make an adroit and touching speech. He will tell us again that as nobody else will guarantee safety to France, Belgium will have something to say about her army. To be sure, such a move would be outside the main purpose of the conference, but no more outside than the leading act of Monsieur Briand.

Premier Briand today personally communicated to Secretary of State Hughes, Arthur Balfour and Senator Schanzer the substance of his address.

**BRIAND VISITS HUGHES**  
 Senator Schanzer called at M. Briand's headquarters in the morning, and this afternoon the French prime minister visited Mr. Balfour and Secretary Hughes.

In addition to outlining what he plans to say in stating France's case tomorrow, Premier Briand inquired as to the opinions of the American, British and Italian delegates-in-chief as to what the procedure should be after he speaks. It was understood tonight that as a result of the conference, this general program was agreed upon:

After Premier Briand's explanation of France's contention that she cannot jeopardize her national security by reducing her land forces below the present strength of \$600 million there should be given her a practical guarantee of safety. It will be determined not to undertake any limitation of land armaments at the present conference.

Probably Mr. Balfour, it is understood tonight, will state that France has substantiated her claims to a special case and, therefore the time is not propitious for other nations to insist upon reductions in her navy. The guarantee

phase of the question will not be considered.

**ANOTHER BOMB FEARED**  
 None of these things could take first place away from Japan tomorrow. The only foreseeable event that could start up in interest against the Japanese puzzle would be another bomb from Mr. Hughes. Such a bomb is faintly rumored now and then, as due tomorrow, but the rumors apparently are due to shellshock; the shellshock that has existed for just eight days. Since the big bomb of November 12, nobody's nerves are quite normal. And the severity with which the American attitude has been explained since that the ratio of capital ships remains as laid down when we enter the armament race—has not taken away the nervous anticipation of more shell.

Tomorrow at 4 o'clock in the afternoon is when serious dealings with Japan begin again. That is when the Far Eastern committee meets to see what is to follow up the generous and vague sentiments yesterday. Not long can the question be avoided of what lay behind these altruistic phrases, which, as Mr. Balfour amiably pointed out, nobody has contented for long, long time.

On the armament question, Japan has raised the only serious obstacle, but nobody expects her in the end to hold out a program on which the United States and Great Britain unite.

Where she does have the power to throw in a monkey wrench that can stop the works is in the enterprise of agreeing to some kind of action that will keep China hereafter from being the mere prey and toy of countries which she looks upon as less civilized than herself.

I am supposed to interject an editorial opinion into these news stories only semi-occasionally, but I pause here to observe that in this opinion that what that at bottom she is fully as civilized as those who have despoiled her, I heartily concur.

**ONE MAN TO DECIDE**  
 The final decision of Japan rests with one man. That man is not Admiral Baron Kato. He is not Marquis Shidehara. He is not any member of the Japanese delegation. He is not any leader in the Japanese parliament. Nor is he the mikado.

He is an old gentleman of 85, known as Prince Yamagata. When the delegation here knows what this old gentleman thinks, it will know what it has to do.

That is the difference between the Chinese delegation and the Japanese. The Chinese delegation is more authoritative than the government at Peking. The Japanese delegation must be guided by the cable.

Prince Yamagata is in practice the regent of Japan. The mikado has become little more than a shell of authority. Parliament has gained power in many departments, but none whatever where army, navy and foreign policy are concerned.

The prince is the only remaining older statesman except Marquis Matsukata, who is senile and no longer counts. The 85-year-old dictator is in lusty health,

but when he dies a system will die with him.

There is no one to take his place; no one to carry on the tradition of absolute obedience to the state as distinguishable from and above the people.

**PRESS DEMONSTRATES**  
 Yamagata rules, but new elements stir under his feet. Ask somebody who really knows the East what is the most dramatic incident since the bang of years ago and he will make an answer you would never guess. He will not select the Chinese 10 points or Mr. Balfour's speech, or Baron Kato's little run-in with the American program.

He will select an episode that in our newspapers served only for a few lines of passing comedy. Of the Americans most saturated with knowledge of Japan not one believed in advance that it could possibly occur that a group of some 20 newspaper men could call on Admiral Baron Kato to remonstrate against the behavior of Japan and not lose their official heads on the instant. But they did call and they did remonstrate.

In Japan they could not have called on him at all. There they are so far removed from the great ones that it would not enter into the head of one of them to send in his decorative visiting card to one so august as the admiral Baron.

Even now the wise ones are wondering what will be the outcome of the unprecedented act. Today I heard an exceptionally well informed specialist in Japanese matters say he believed at least half of them would lose their jobs. Others wonder if things are moving faster than we think in old Japan.

**ECONOMICS COME NEXT**  
 If Japan stands as a clear first in underlying interest the second place would go to the rumor that plans for an economic conference are already being laid.

The rumor may be somewhat ahead of the actual fact, but there is no doubt that economic and financial matters are showing their troublesome heads with every passing hour, and that the interest in having such a conference is strong.

My own judgment is that it will not be called until the smoke from this conference has died down. Two things will probably prevent either such a conference soon after this one or the alternative of intersecting economic and financial matters into the present program.

One is the fear of complicating matters so that the two main purposes will not be accomplished. The other is the fear of alarming the element in American opinion that does not like the suggestion of looking into the whole question of what part war debts are playing in the present industrial turmoil.

**MILITARISTS OF JAPAN PARLEY'S FIRST OFFENDERS**

By J. W. T. Mason  
 (Written for the Journal)  
 The disarmament conference has reached its first deadlock. The Japanese militarists are the offenders. They have brushed aside the advice of the Japanese Liberals at Washington and have decided to demand one more capi-

tal ship than the Hughes program allows them.

The United States cannot afford to permit Japan's offensive fighting luste obedience to the state as distinguishable from and above the people. The time for the exercise of statesmanship at the conference has now arrived. There are numerous difficulties in the way of winning Japan to the American position, yet, if this is not done, either the conference will be a failure or America will have to make greater sacrifices than any other power.

The Japanese reactionaries are unfamiliar with sentiment and international morality. They feel no world responsibility; only a responsibility for securing a proprietary interest in China for Japan.

This gives the Japanese negotiators an advantage. Both the United States and Great Britain have to recognize the force of a moral public sentiment in formulating their policies. There is danger, therefore, that the Japanese reactionaries may count upon western public opinion to compel an acceptance of Japanese demands rather than see the conference fail.

A struggle of momentous character has been proceeding between the Japanese military party and the Japanese Liberals since the invitations to the Washington gathering were issued. The militarists want to use the conference as a means for demonstrating to China that the western powers are afraid of Japan and that China has no alternative beyond accepting Japanese dictation at Peking. The Liberals desire to convince the world of Japan's good faith and wish to make China Japan's friend.

Others wonder if things are moving faster than we think in old Japan.

This conflict will determine whether the Japanese government shall continue as a military oligarchy under the control of medieval clan rulers, or whether a democracy shall be established with a ministry responsible to the people.

The first week's proceedings at the

Washington conference has given unfortunate proof that the sinister power behind the Japanese government is not yet being overcome. This is the real reason why the present deadlock has occurred. The issue is now between the conference and Japanese militarism. The conference can go a long way toward giving the militarists in Tokio a fatal blow. But not if the various delegations at Washington remain divided.

## Chicago Thousands Cheer Italian Hero; Speaks at Banquet

(By United News)  
 Chicago, Nov. 21.—Chicago gave General Armando Diaz, Italy's war hero, a tremendous ovation Sunday.

He was greeted by 50,000 cheering Americans of Italian descent upon his arrival, while guns on the lake front veterans of the World war, patriotic societies and school children. The parade of Italian and other national societies with many striking costumes added color to the long procession.

General Diaz spoke later at a banquet in his honor.

## BANK ROBBED OF MANY SECURITIES

Spokane, Wash., Nov. 21.—(U. P.)—Several thousand dollars in securities were looted from the state bank at Spangle early this morning, according to reports from President Newland of the bank reaching F. S. Alkus of the Burns Detective Agency and the sheriff's office here.

Breaking in a back door, the yeggs smashed and battered their way through a solid brick wall into the vault. Once inside they rifled many safety deposit boxes of securities, jewelry and cash. The main safe of the bank was not touched, the reports said. A check of the amount missing is being made, a telephone message from Spangle said.

The same bank was held up several weeks ago, a girl cashier being chloroformed and shot through the arm, according to her story to officers. The robbers were never captured.

The sheriff's office here has a posse out attempting to trail the bandits' car through the snow.

**JOSEPH BEVER, 84, DIES**  
 Centralia, Wash., Nov. 21.—Joseph Bever, aged 84, Civil war veteran, died Sunday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Verna Huntington, in this city. He had lived here for 35 years. Another daughter, Mrs. W. P. Hudson of Portland, and a son, E. E. Bever, of Lewiston, Idaho, also survive.

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