

JO-SAN, THE SUICIDE LADY OF KOBE.



By ELSIE McCORMICK.

High up on a hill overlooking a harbor where great ocean liners nose in from the Pacific, lives the Suicide Lady of Kobe. Her real name is Mrs. Jo, or Jo-San, as she is respectfully called by the Japanese and foreigners who know her. It was only during the past year that Jo-San became the Suicide Lady. Her husband was a Christian pastor. For sixteen years after his death, Jo-San worked as a Bible woman among her people, opening her home to those who were in distress and her heart to all whose lives she touched.

Her evolution into the Suicide Lady concerns a certain railroad crossing at Suma and a bad Japanese tendency to cut the skeins of life instead of trying to untangle them. Suma became a popular suicide resort. Men and women came from many parts of Japan to end their lives by jumping into the sea, or by throwing themselves under the wheels of passing trains. Police stationed at the railroad crossing managed to prevent some of the suicides, but the number of deaths remained large.

At Left, Discouraged Girl, Entering Gateway to "Suicide Lady's" Home; At Right, Jo San, and Standing, One of Her Wards.

It was when police measures failed that Jo-San had her inspiration. One day all Suma was startled to see a large sign-board at the railroad crossing and another near the water, bearing the words: "Would-be Suicides, Stop a Moment! If for any reason you feel you must take your life, please call on me and talk it over." This announcement was followed by Jo-San's name and address. In just four months, 160 for peace and disillusioned after many years of service to Buddha, women and girls turned back from death to accept Jo-San's invitation. Geisha girls in pitifully gay kimonos and young women from excellent families stumbled side by side up the hilltop path which leads to Jo-San's.

One of the first surprises was the fact that the majority of the women were old, in what is called the "old" class, that by making the 250 mile journey over and over, she would at last find peace. One day, during her pilgrimage, a Buddhist priest held her up on the high-road and robbed her of all her

With the Introduction of These Modern Juggernauts Despondent Japanese Found New Way of Ending Life.

money. Disappointed in her quest the gray-haired woman turned her steps toward the Mecca of Suicides. Jo-San's signboard carried its message of hope to her and so it was that the woman who had sought peace for five years in the holy places of Buddha, found it at last in the gospel of Jesus.

Loss of health or occupation, strained family relations, and intemperate husbands started the large majority of the women on their journey to Suma. One young woman had entered a house of ill-repute, in order to pay the expenses of her husband, who was studying at an American university. Though the life was more than she could endure, she had no reproaches whatever for the husband who put her in it. She was his wife, and therefore bound to make his welfare her first concern.

Perhaps this modern graduate in philanthropy would find fault with Jo-San. It is doubtful if she ever heard of a card-index system. If one of her girls was referred to as a case, she would not understand. Her only "system" is to open her home to those who need a haven during the days of readjustment, to call on the disapproving mother-in-law, the unkind father or the intemperate husband, to find employment for those who must support themselves, and to touch each life with the golden wand of the gospel. Jo-San may be quite unscientific in her methods, but the fact remains that of the 160 discouraged women who sought her aid, not one has since taken or attempted to take her life. Somehow or other, Jo-San must have set them right.

Under the name of the Women's Welfare Association, Christian workers in Kobe give what support they can to the Suicide Lady. But the house on the hill-top is no longer large enough for all who have turned back from Suma; and as Jo-San's work is undenominational, no one board has assumed responsibility. Therefore the Integ- church World Movement survey committee for Kobe is asking \$2,000 for a new house, so that those who come to Jo-San may be sure of shelter during the first trying days of readjustment.

Meanwhile Jo-San's fame has spread abroad throughout Japan, and, day by day, up the steep path go weary factory girls and disappointed wives, unhappy geishas and tired old women—all seeking as their last hope in life the Suicide Lady of Kobe.



MEMBERS ADDED TO DIRECTORATE

Kay and Albert Chosen by Homebuilders, constitution Is Adopted

The board of directors was changed from five men to a body of seven men and a constitution and by-laws were adopted at a meeting of the stockholders of the Salem Homebuilders association, held in the Commercial club rooms last night.

The meeting was slightly hampered by a light attendance. However a sufficient number of stockholders was present to conduct the business meeting. Most of the evening was consumed in reading the constitution and by-laws prepared and submitted by the board of directors.

ATTEMPT MADE TO ROB BANK

Man Arrested in Salem Taken to Jefferson for Possible Identification

A lone robber made an unsuccessful attempt to break open the vaults of the Oregon State bank at Jefferson about 3:30 o'clock yesterday morning. Sheriff W. I. Needham and deputies investigated and later in the day a man was arrested and taken to Jefferson by Deputy Sheriff Smith for possible identification.

Three boys passing the bank saw a man inside, apparently tampering with the vaults. Seeing that he had been observed, the intruder came from the bank, drew a gun and ordered the boys to "move on". They complied but the robber also ran away.

Upon investigation it was found that the man had knocked the knob from the vault door with tools obtained from a blacksmith shop. He had entered the bank by the front door.

The boys who saw the robber were able to give a minute description of him. They told the officers he was apparently about 40 years old, had a dark mustache, about four days' growth of beard, was about five feet, ten inches tall, of stout build, wore a dark slouch hat, a dark checked macinaw and two pairs of overalls.

JOHNSON CRY IS "AMERICANISM"

Senator in Dakota Campaign Pleads for Freedom in Speech and Press

SIoux FALLS, S. D., March 3.—Senator Hiram Johnson of California, Republican candidate for president in the March 23rd primary election, speaking here tonight, pleaded for "free speech, free press and just pure Americanism."

"Let us all be just Americans again," he shouted. "We must zealously guard the right of assembly and free speech. This is especially true since the free press has become a thing of the past in the east. In many localities and to a great degree it is no longer functioning as an agent of democracy."

He declared in favor of the primary law of South Dakota, saying he thought it brought the issue directly before the people and gave them a choice in presidential preference.

He dwelt at great length on his opposition to the league of nations and promises suppression of individuals or organizations seeking to overthrow the government.

"Behind every man except him who has an independent fortune, stalks the dread spectre of want because of the high cost of living," he added.

Boy Tries Wild "Hold-up" With Blank Cartridges

NEW YORK, March 3.—Armed with an old fashioned pistol and blank cartridges, Tony Diadota, 14 years old, is alleged to have treated Brooklyn tonight to trolley car "holdup" in true wild west style.

The youngster, according to police, stopped the car by firing three shots. The passengers were panic stricken but before the boy could climb aboard he was arrested. Tony told the police that he meant no harm.

Convalescence after pneumonia, typhoid fever and the grip, is sometimes merely apparent, not real. To make it real and rapid, there is no other tonic so highly to be recommended as Hood's Sarsaparilla. Thousands so testify. Take Hood's.

PRESIDENT HAS RIDE ABOUT CITY

First Outing Since October Enjoyed By Wilson

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Lured by balmy spring weather, the first of the season, President Wilson went on a motor jaunt about the city today. It was the first time he had left the White House grounds since he was put to bed "a very sick man" five months ago today, on his return from his interrupted western speaking tour.

Mrs. Wilson told Mrs. Wilson and Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson, who accompanied him, that he felt as though he had been away from Washington a long time.

For more than an hour the president drove through the city streets and the capital grounds where he waved a friendly greeting to Senator Borah of Idaho, one of the chief opponents of the peace treaty. The senator returned the salutation.

The president was recognized by many persons and returned their greetings as the White House limousine rolled along at an easy pace escorted by another machine carrying secret service men.

"Delighted and much benefited by his trip," was the way Dr. Grayson characterized the president's attitude when he returned to the White House.

BELGIAN CHAMBER VOTES FOR VOTES FOR WOMEN

LONDON, March 3.—The Belgian chamber voted in favor of votes for women, 21 years of age, as well as men, in communal elections, says the Brussels correspondent of the London Times.

An amendment offered by Burgo-master Max, excluding women of "notorious misconduct," was adopted.

In view of the fact that voting at elections is compulsory, the presence of only one woman in the public gallery during the debate would seem to indicate how little interest the women take in the question.

SACRAMENTO WIRE MEN VOTE AN EARLY RETURN

SACRAMENTO, Cal., March 3.—Electrical workers in Sacramento employed by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company voted today to return to work tomorrow, the president of the local union said.

The union statement added that Sacramento had been considered as the key city during the strike and the action taken here probably would be followed elsewhere in California. The men had asked for an increase of pay. About 40 were out here mostly linemen.

Reported action of electrical workers employed by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company in Sacramento in voting to return to work tomorrow will have no effect on the general strike situation, T. C. Vickers, vice president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical workers, said tonight. Five states covered by the strike are Vickers declared other unions in the five states covered by the strike are remaining firm in their demands for an increase of pay. Another referendum would be necessary before the strike could be ordered off, he said.

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ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATES ARE SENT COUNTY SCHOOLS

The special achievement certificates awarded to the schools of Marion county that have enrolled in the industrial club work have been received by County Superintendent W. M. Smith and are being mailed to the respective districts. Each school organized as an industrial club unit where at least 75 per cent of the enrollment has completed the schedule of club work, is awarded one of the certificates.

Schools receiving the certificates are: Donald school district No. 1, Grassy Pond school district No. 54, Bethany school district No. 63, Noble school district No. 116, Oak Ridge school district No. 160, Aurora school district No. 210 and the White school, district No. 23.

The certificates are signed by Department of Agriculture officials in charge of industrial club work and also by state executives and heads of departments of instruction.

BROTHERHOODS REOPEN ON WAGE

Seek to Meet Road Heads To Start Negotiations for Increase

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Railroad brotherhood leaders who are still in Washington may meet informally with officials of the roads preliminary to the actual beginning of wage negotiations. As a result of a suggestion to this effect, the union leaders took no action today toward naming their representatives of the bi-partisan board provided for in the transportation act and which they were urged to do yesterday by President Wilson.

It was understood that union officials would meet tomorrow to discuss their next move. Some of them feel, however, that they should do nothing until their announced policy has received the concurrence or rejection of the brotherhood of maintenance of way employees and railroad shop laborers which was not a party to the decision reached yesterday.

While union leaders refused to comment publicly on the situation, it was said they anticipated delay in the formal opening of the negotiations.

CALIFORNIA FEELS GROUND ROCK WITH OLD TIME PEP

REDDONDO BEACH, Cal., March 3.—A sharp earthquake shock, accompanied by what was described by those who heard it as "underground thunder," was felt here and nearby at 7:25 o'clock tonight. The quake lasted several seconds but no damage was done.

GOVERNMENT TO PAY COST OF RETURNING SOLDIER DEAD

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Assurance that the government will pay all expenses incident to the return of American soldier dead from Europe, was given by Secretary Baker today to a committee of Gold Star fathers. The war department bears all expenses of transportation from Europe to the home of next of kin Mr. Baker explained and the war risk bureau is authorized to pay funeral expenses up to \$100.

PORTLAND IS ASSURED REGULAR FREIGHT SERVICE

PORTLAND, March 3.—"The Pacific Steamship company intends to maintain the schedule of its Admiral Line fleet here to build up a steady incoming freight traffic as well as outward business, even if it is forced to bring ships here practically empty," declared A. F. Haines, general manager for the company, who was in Portland today.

"With stabilization of government in Russia, there is every prospect for development of a strong trade out of Vladivostok to and from Portland," declared Mr. Haines.

AMERICAN FARMERS FORM NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

CHICAGO, March 3.—The American Farm Bureau federation was organized today at a meeting of representatives from 28 state farmers' bureaus. J. R. Howard, of Clemons, Iowa, was elected president, and J. W. Coverdale, Ames, Ia., secretary.

The objects of the federation, it was announced, are to correlate and strengthen the individual state farm bureaus and similar state organizations in a national body, to promote, protect and represent the business, economic, social and educational interests of the farmers of the nation, and to develop agriculture.

Dr. A. True, director of the states relation service of the United States department of agriculture, praised

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