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WAR TALK DYING AWAY IN JAPANESE PAPERS

TOKYO, Jan. 27.—(By Henry L. Farrell, United States Staff Correspondent.)—While isolated quotations from speeches of statesmen out of office may be printed occasionally to prove apparently belligerent feelings on the part of Japan toward the United States there can be no doubt but that the people of Japan do not wish war. Nor are they even vitally interested in the issues which are supposed to make for war. This does not mean that it is at all impossible to irritate and insult Japanese national pride that Japan may feel driven into a fight, preferring even to be beaten in accepting an insult without protest. But even though a few politicians anxious to make a case against the Government may be found in Japan who make statements which appear warlike, it seems apparent that instead of interest and indignation against the United States in the matter of Japanese immigration to the U. S. increasing, the public is beginning to tire of the matter.

At present the Government is sitting tight, desiring that all matters connected with the California question be let alone, at least until such time as some definite outcome of the present Washington negotiations is at hand. The Foreign Office merely lets it be known that these negotiations are making satisfactory progress. It is evident that it even feels that the matter has reached the point where the State Department at Washington must feel out the Senate to submit to that body such provisions which have been agreed upon between Ambassador Shidehara and the officials of the State Department. If it is deemed fairly certain that the Senate will agree to these arrangements as practically settled, if, on the other hand, it is decided that there is fair chance of the Senate's turning down the proposal, it will not be submitted at all, lest Japan's pride be exposed to further humiliation in the Senate.

Keeping the public quite is, however, not anything like as great a task as it was a couple of months ago. The Japanese are a volatile people. The great limitations of the franchise of itself operate towards the general interest in matters political, and the newspapers which stirred up most of the row are seeking other subjects, only reverting to the California issue often enough to keep it from being forgotten entirely.

RECLAIMING OF FARMS IN WAR-TORN FLANDERS

BRUSSELS, Jan. 27.—Slowly, but surely, the battle-worn farms of Flanders are coming into their own again. Government is offering special favorable terms for the leasing of land for agricultural purposes, with a view to helping in this branch of national reconstruction. Belgian farmers are all "stiller" men; there is not a really big allotment in the kingdom. While it is true that there are spots, round about the Yser and elsewhere, that will not be available for cultivation for years, scattered up and down Flanders, are numerous farmlets which a couple of years ago, were little else than shell-ploughed wastes anderies of the carrion crew.

Quietly but effectively the Belgian smallholder is coming back to his farm; and the department of agriculture is affording as much help as red tape and bureaucracy will admit. There were no leased farms in Belgium before the war. Every small holder owned his land outright. Under the revised system of household farms, the government has instituted special facilities to enable ruined farmers to rent land. These impoverished people could never after their heavy war losses, hope to buy their allotment.

These small agriculturists, who have to work terribly hard to get a living out of the ungrateful soil, usually work a few acres on their own account, or, maybe, they are assisted by members of their family, and perhaps, in the busy season, by one or two, not more, hired hands.

With a determination to develop agriculture, the authorities subsidize a number of practical courses of training in the various branches of farm work. Local agricultural clubs and farmers societies are chosen for carrying out this task of technical education. Certified teachers in farming are paid for giving public lectures and demonstrations in agri and horticulture. The government colleges at Gembloux and other places are excellently organized. Apart from this college training, there are also public free lectures, to which even the humblest have easy access, and which are often held on Sunday or other "off" days.

If agriculture has revived with remarkable strides considering the devastation wrought by the war, it is largely due to the fact that government has recognized that farming, in one of the national industries and, as such, must be developed by all available means. A second factor in the revival is the perseverance of the Flemish peasant. He is a success as a small-holder because he is tenacious and is not easily disheartened by climate and soil.

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Bright Pupil: Two hours and forty minutes.—Nashville Tennessean.

In Command. The Groom—I understand your daughter has gone out of service.
The Butler—You have been misinformed, my man. She has accepted the management and control of a private household.—Houston Post.

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A SONG.
(By Frank L. Stanton.)
For you all sweet and gracious things to be—
All glory of bright years
From one to whom, in life's extremity,
You gave but tears.
For you all peace, after this worldly strife—
The tumult and the fears,
From one who, asking for one hope in life,
Received but tears.
Yet tears—for all the desolate, and ways
Upon earth's flowerless sod,
Are sweeter than some joys—a blind world's praise—
Tears are the gift of God.
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A REAL CHANCE FOR EMPIRE BUILDING

THAT the Lord helps those who help themselves is the successful man's motto and it is the spirit in which representative citizens of Umatilla and Morrow counties yesterday started upon the ambitious proposition of trying to bring about the development of hydro electric power at Umatilla rapids. It is the spirit in which a meeting to be held at Pendleton on February 5 is being staged.

This movement is rapidly growing in strength and it will eventually succeed if the right work is done. This because the basic facts in the case justify success.

Preliminary surveys made by competent engineers not only show that the Umatilla rapids project is feasible but the facts show that from an engineering standpoint and from the standpoint of present day usefulness the project is superior to all other Columbia river projects for early development.

The great advantages possessed by the project are that the engineering task is simple, the cost comparatively light and above all else the power is needed right now for the irrigation of a vast area of waste land. We have a ready answer to the question, "What are you going to do with the power?" We will use the power to reclaim the desert, thus increasing production and adding to the taxable property in Oregon and Washington. On top of that a vast amount of power will be available for railroad electrification when desired and there will be abundant power for industrial and domestic uses in the contiguous territory.

That these facts are not generally known we must admit. They have not been fully known even to the people in this region. As one speaker expressed it yesterday Oregon, like Little Boy Blue has been "under the haystack fast asleep" while Washington, California and Idaho have been busy trying to make use of their natural resources.

However, the handicap is one that can be overcome and it should be overcome. The first steps must necessarily be taken by the people of the immediate territory. If we of this section are indifferent to a great wealth producing agency at our very door, how can we expect others to take note?

In awakening interest in the project there is every reason to expect valuable help. The railroads are seriously interested, it is believed. The federal government should be interested not only because of the reclamation possibility but also because the project will overcome navigation obstacles on the upper river. The people on the Washington side have the same interest that we have and we may logically anticipate their support.

It is needless to say that if power is developed at Umatilla rapids it will be the greatest industrial step ever undertaken in Eastern Oregon. In fact it will be the greatest power project in the northwest, if not in the entire west. The benefits will be beyond imagination.

Now that the ball is started, let's keep it going. "Where there's a will there's a way."

NO INCREASE IN HOUSE MEMBERSHIP

PARTLY for reasons of economy, the house refused to increase its membership from 435 to 483, but the decisive objection was that the house, as a legislative body, had already reached the limit of unwieldiness. On that point there was no room for serious argument, says the New York World. The census committee, in a spirit of accommodation, had recommended that forty-eight new members be added, solely in order that, under the new reapportionment, the representation of no state should be smaller than at present. Very wisely the house rejected its advice and defeated a scheme that had been furthered by log-rolling methods. It was an unusual victory for common sense.

Every ten years, after the completion of the census, congress has to meet the same situation. For its own good, this year the house has violated its own precedents. In 1911, as a compliment to Champ Clark, so that Missouri should not lose a representative, it increased the membership of the house from 386 to 435, making allowance for the admission of New Mexico and Arizona as states. Progressively it had risen, in pace with the population of the United States, from 243 in 1860 to 293 in 1870, 332 in 1880 and 357 in 1890.

By retaining the present number of members it becomes necessary in the new reapportionment to take twelve members from eleven states, so that eight other states shall have increased representation. Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, Rhode Island and Vermont will each lose one member and Missouri two, California will gain three, Michigan and Ohio each two, and Connecticut, New Jersey, North Carolina, Texas and Washington each one. That will be a thoroughly equitable arrangement based on the census figures for population according to States. The States that gain and the states that lose representatives will be neither better nor worse off than now.

If you have nothing else to do and don't mind working 24 hours a day a good pastime will be to keep posted on the multitudinous bills introduced in the legislature.

In the province of Ontario, Canada, threshing machines are operated by electricity; some day threshers of Eastern Oregon will be operated that way and there will be no worry over the price of distillate.

Right. Visitor—I would like some books on illumination.
Librarian—Electric or gas?
Visitor—I don't know; my doctor says some light reading.—Houston Post.

The Housing Problem.
"Mrs. Brush says her son is wedded to his art."
"But he has a wife. Would you call her art?"
"I suppose so. She's painted."—Boston Transcript.

When POST TOASTIES are on the program I want a front seat —says Bobby

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He'll look you up if his scissors have encountered your "for sale" ad.

He'll be clipping and answering ads tomorrow, too, and yours ought to be there when he reads the paper—if you have ANYTHING TO SELL.

"Used things," always find buyers if they're still USEFUL THINGS—if, to SOMEBODY, they are worth money.