

Interpreting China

By Rev. L. V. Lewis

The Shantung controversy has drawn the attention of thinking people to the Chinese Japan question and it will not be out of place for us to consider Japan's policy not only towards China but to all Asia.

The historic and much discussed "Twenty-one Demands" made by Japan upon China only rank with the rest of her dealings with neighboring nations. For instance, her invasion of Seoul in 1894; her underhanded declaration of war with Russia in 1904; her annexation of Korea in 1910 and the treatment she gave the Koreans. It has been seven years since Japan made those "Demands" but her attitude is the same, in fact it has not changed perceptibly since her statesmen, a quarter of a century ago, laid it down as a root principle that Japan must dominate all Asia washed by the Pacific. When China suddenly turned her back on the East, and by her revolution in 1911 declared to the world that she wished to enter the Western family of nations as a republic, a great menace to Japan's Imperial militarism arose. She fomented the rebellion of 1913 but was beaten by Yuan Shih Kai and a Western loan.

In 1895 Japan with the aid of a modern army and navy soon defeated China in the Chinese-Japan War and in the treaty signed at Simonseski forced China to declare the absolute independence of Korea, to cede to Japan the island of Formosa, the Pescadores, the Liaotung peninsula and Port Arthur and at the same time pledging China to pay an indemnity of 200,000,000 taels. But, the nation that controls Port Arthur controlled the commerce of Asia, for Port Arthur is the Gibraltar of Asia. This blocked Russia's aim for an ice-free port on the Pacific Coast. Russia induced Germany and France to unite with her in demanding that Japan exact a much larger indemnity from China and return Port Arthur and the Liaotung peninsula, on the ground that Japan's sovereignty on the Manchurian coast would render the independence of Korea illusory, would menace the security of the Chinese capital, and constitute an obstacle to the peace of the Far East.

Japan bowed to superior force, but with great inward bitterness over being robbed of the just fruits of her victory. To show how much Germany was concerned about the "security of the Chinese capital" in 1897, in punishment for the death of two German missionaries who were killed in a riot she demanded of China 200,000 taels for the murdered men, the rebuilding of the church destroyed by the rioters, reimbursement of all German expenses incurred, dismissal of the governor of the province, the severest penalties on the assassins, the cession of Kiaochow as a permanent naval base for Germany, exclusive coal mining rights in Shantung, and railway concessions in the province. Never had the very rudimentary principles of international morality been so grossly betrayed before. But this was not enough. To keep "the peace of the Far East" Russia asked China for a lease of Port Arthur and Talien in the Liaotung peninsula and gave China five days to reply. China, of course, yielded. A few days later Great Britain demanded and obtained from China a lease of Weihaiwei, on the north coast of Shantung; and also two hundred square miles of the Kowloon promontory. France secured a part of the mainland opposite the island of Hainan. Therefore the only result of Japan's humiliation was the increased aggression of other foreign Powers, and the lessened chance of Japan ever securing the fruits of a future victory over China. The iron entered Japan's soul and immediately she began to double her army and treble her navy. In 1904-5 came Japan's war with Russia. Japan gave as her excuse for starting the war, to drive Russia out of China where she was a menace to both China and Japan. She also wrote

to China and Korea that she would not annex a foot of Korean or Chinese territory. Japan's wonderful, and we might say brilliant, victory over Russia startled the world. She defeated a nation deemed hitherto well nigh invincible; it was the first great triumph of the yellow race over the white race and over night Japan took her position as one of the great world Powers.

In the treaty of Portsmouth, Japan secured exactly what she announced was the object of the war and also a little more as the treaty gave to her Port Arthur and the southern half of Saghalien, but not a dollar to repay her for her tremendous expenditures. Japan had lost one hundred and thirty thousand of her noblest sons, a larger number were crippled for life and there was also a war debt of \$500,000,000. We cannot blame her for feeling dissatisfied with the results and while we do not know that it had been Japan's plan at the beginning to seize Korea, yet in spite of her former statement, her troops never left Korea.

Possibly Japan had her just reasons for pursuing that course but from her subsequent actions we cannot help but believe that she planned a uniting of the yellow races under her leadership, the supremacy of the Pacific Basin, and who knows, but finally of the entire world. She could see stretching before her immense fertile plains, a territory of nearly 400,000 square miles and capable of sustaining a population of eighty million people. To this was added the knowledge that China was absolutely impotent to protect her own.

Then came the Great War. All Europe was engrossed in a life-and-death struggle; and no European nation would or could interfere with Japan's realization of her ambitions. The United States was too far away and the protection of China would not furnish her a sufficient motive for going to war with Japan. And if she would the U. S. could not transport troops fast enough to conquer Japan. Here was her opportunity. With a weakened Europe, a united yellow race, what was to hinder the flag of the sun from floating over the entire Pacific Basin.

On January 18, 1915 the "Twenty-one Demands" upon China were made. An examination of these Demands will show their cruel injustice to the Chinese, and the attempt of the Japanese government to keep them secret and to compel China by threats and by doubling the Japanese troops in China, to sign them speedily, will reveal Japan's own recognition of the injustice of her Demands.

It will take too much space to quote the entire Demands as they originally stood, but to thoroughly understand Japan's motives it will be advisable to briefly review them.

They are divided into five groups. The first group of 4 articles make it plain that Japan's idea of the Open Door means open only to her. The latter part of Article 2 reads "along its coast no territory or island will be ceded or leased to a third Power under any pretext". Group two does not allow China to borrow any money, carry on any aggressive business methods or build railroads without first consulting Japan.

Group three prohibits China from permitting any one besides Chinese or Japanese from working her mines or disposing of any mining property without Japan's consent.

Group four has only one article, composed of only one sentence but it is a masterpiece. "The Chinese Government engages not to cede or lease to a third Power any harbor or bay or island along the coast of China". But it was Group five that revealed the spirit of Japan. Its demands were that China employ Japanese as her advisors in all matters; that the police departments be managed by Japanese; that munitions of war be purchased from Japan and only Japan; that money could only be borrowed from Japan and that China allow Japan to propagate Buddhism in China. China refused to sign and at the friendly request of the United

States and Great Britain, Japan agreed to drop Group five from her list. She presented an ultimatum demanding that China accept the remainder of the Demands as the Japanese had revised them by six o'clock, May 9, 1915. On May the 8th, with no nation to come to her rescue, poor China, who had been butchered and hacked to pieces for centuries and with the treacherous wolf of Japan at her throat, was forced to sign. With all this history behind her is it any wonder the nations do not want China to come into her own? May God speed the day when China will be able to take care of her self and throw the Twenty-one Demands and all other Demands back into the teeth of those who write them.

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The Herald

Entered as second-class matter September, 1908,
in the post office at Monmouth, Oregon, under the
Act of March 3, 1879.

RICHARD B. SWENSON
Editor & Publisher

MONMOUTH, OREGON

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1922

Subscription Rates

One year	\$2.00
Six months	\$1.00
Three months	75 cts



Monmouth Meditations

Joseph Craven started spring gardening February 6 and while the robins have not started their nests yet it may be said the season of 1922 has begun.

The city fathers think an epoch in Monmouth history has been completed and another is about to start. At any rate they plan to put the old city charter, wrapped in mothballs, away in the archives of the municipality and bring forth a new one, bedecked and garnished for a prosperous future.

Some one ought to pause long enough to start a drive to secure adequate funds to make sure that the next time the beast-like Ar-

buckle comes to trial he be given his deserts. He has been up twice now and a third time at bat should result in conviction.

Portland papers reported that at a recent meeting of the highway commission the commissioners sat down heavily on a proposal to "compromise the Polk county highway case". Most people had supposed the thing was settled long ago and wondered what there was to compromise. But it seems the suit started a year ago has not yet been tried but will come up in the near future. If it shows the same speed through the supreme court some of the younger generation may live long enough to see the finish.

What is "flu" in Monmouth appears to be the "grip" in neighboring towns. And there is very little difference in it for the victim at that. The time will come, some day, when we will quarantine for common "colds" and there will be far less of that distressing and disagreeable ailment.

From the way farm tractors are dropping in price there seems a prospect that soon they may be handed out as prizes with baking powder and breakfast foods. This is just another indication calculated to make the farmer look more cheerful.

A Chicago father punched the nose of his 16 year old daughter and was taken into court and fined \$5 and costs. The judge admitted that the punishment was deserved but evidently thought it should have been inflicted where the marks

of violence were not so conspicuous.

The people who have been passing sleepless nights for fear the senate would not confirm the conference treaties may soon be able to breathe freely once more.

Wheat is on the upward track at last with the prospect that by the time a new crop is ready it will be high enough to bring out all the surplus there is in the country.

One of the brothers of the English king is said to have awakened the derision of the crowd at the opening of parliament, by picking his teeth in public. We suspect there are people who imagine that royalty can live without eating three square meals a day the same as the rest of us.

A wealthy woman of forty-five recently eloped with a young Russian named Anastase Andreivich Voniteskey-Vonsiatsky. She dropped the name of Stephens to take the name of her husband. Her calling cards will have to be made double size.

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