

# Evolution OF THE Navy of Japan

THE development of Japan's navy from a handful of worthless junks into one of the finest bodies of fighting vessels in the world within the space of four decades is unparalleled in the naval history of the world. This marvelous development could not have taken place if the nation had not possessed the innate intelligence and inherent bravery without which neither military nor naval progress is possible. The adoption of modern methods was new to the Japs, but they did not have to acquire courage or intelligence, for those they have always had. Under the old daimios the Japanese were constantly at war with each other by land and by sea, but their warfare until a few decades ago was waged in the most primitive fashion. They have always been good sailors. They could not be otherwise and exist in the peculiarly located little empire which they love so well. Tens of thousands of Japanese get their living from the sea, and the average Jap takes to the water as naturally as a duck. It was therefore but natural that when the mikado began to get together a navy of fighting ships worthy the name he found ready comparatively well trained men to man them. A little, a very little, training gave the Japanese the knowledge necessary to enable them to use the guns with reasonable effectiveness, and the empire began to get ambitious in a naval way. Then began that marvelous

development which has literally started the world. But to fully understand the rapid strides Japan has made in the direction of navy building it is necessary to go back nearly half a century. It is less than fifty years ago that Commodore Perry one day dropped anchor in the bay of Yedo. That event in itself was not of any particular importance to the nation which sent him nor just then to the nation he visited. He had simply come to ask for the opening of two Japanese ports to American trade and had taken a fleet along to gain a respectful hearing. The shogun, who was the virtual ruler, looked upon the fleet, saw the force of the argument and gave his assent. There the immediate transaction ended. Yet to the very large number of small slant eyes that gazed upon the spectacle the Yankee squadron was like a revelation from another world. An Event of Portent.

The Japan that Perry saw was the Japan that had existed for centuries. The brown little people were wearing basket shoes and wide flowing kimonos, as their reversed ancestors had done for no one but the antiquarians knows how long. The samurai were fighting for their petty lords with the same bows and arrows and peculiarly shaped swords that their fathers had used before them. The queer tubs of boats darted out from the high and indented coasts as slender tubs had darted since the beginning of the Christian era. The gelsa girls and their little tea houses courted the girls had done from time immemorial. Two hundred and fifty noblemen, self-daimies having at their head one whom they had elected shogun, ruled the country while the titular mikado, like the Chinese emperor of the present day, was a prisoner who was only allowed to speak to his fellow men from behind a painted screen. There was little education except among the chief men.

All this, however, was before the visit of the strange American ships. The subjects of the daimios, in their childlike wonder, did not know that this thing marked the beginning of a new era in the history of their island empire. They had been touched by the universal spirit called progress, and nevertheless could they be content to follow in the ways of their fathers. The American fleet went as it had come, and the world of the Japs the Japanese people had caught of a larger world would not go. As the spokes of

the departing battleships had vanished over the horizon, so the old Japan was to vanish, and, compared to the long ages of its past, almost as swiftly. Other vessels came, messengers of peace this time, merchantmen carrying strange wares. But the articles of trade were not the only cargoes. Every ship brought the tales of another civilization. The Jap mind proved fertile soil for this new seed. Almost immediately it took root, and in a few years the land was overrun by new ideas. Perry's visit was in 1853, and in 1868 came the revolution that placed the present mikado on the throne in fact as well as in name. All nations were now admitted to the Japanese ports, and the emperor at once began to liberalize his policy by calling around him men who were advocates of the new order. Most prominent among these were Marquis Ito and Count Inouye. From a warring theater of the retainers of petty lords Japan suddenly became a united nation. Out of the idea of nationality grew the conception of a well defined national mission—that of being the leader of the orient in the introduction of western civilization. Almost in the twinkling of an eye the old exclusiveness disappeared, visitors were welcomed, and Japs began to travel. Perceiving the wonderful advancement made by occidental nations, the newly awakened land determined to share in their progress. To achieve that end it was necessary to adopt the

customs and the methods of the west. Turning herself from the traditions she loved, the little kingdom became the Land of the Rising Sun in fact as well as in name, and the morning that broke over her was the beginning of a new era in the life of all the far east. Simultaneous Development.

The development came to all times simultaneously. With the return of the first crop of Japanese graduates from European and American universities began the development of a modern educational system in Japan. From each country she took the best. Her model for her public schools was America. New industries sprang into life. Railroads were introduced. Japanese youths were sent abroad to study in the foundries. The marvelous inventive faculty of the people came into play, and in a short time steamships were constructing themselves in the exact pattern that had been observed abroad.

This development was especially in evidence in the navy and army. Indeed, there can be little doubt that the dream of becoming a great military power was the actuating motive in the modernizing of Japan. The soldier had always been the national hero of the country. The nobles and the samurai under them had fought with each other from time immemorial. A contempt of physical danger and of death had been inculcated in the minds of the children from the earliest ages. A large section of the population had no other trade than fighting. Such a spirit as this had to have outlet in some direction, and when the unification of the empire came at the beginning of the reign of the present mikado the military ardor had to seek an outward object on which to vent itself, as internal discord was at an end. It was then that the dream came of a greater Japan. The shrewd statesmen of the island empire saw that by the introduction of western weapons and methods of fighting the Jap could easily become the lord of the far east. Once having that end in view, the energies of the country were bent to its accomplishment. The first step to that end was to build up an army and a navy equal to the task.

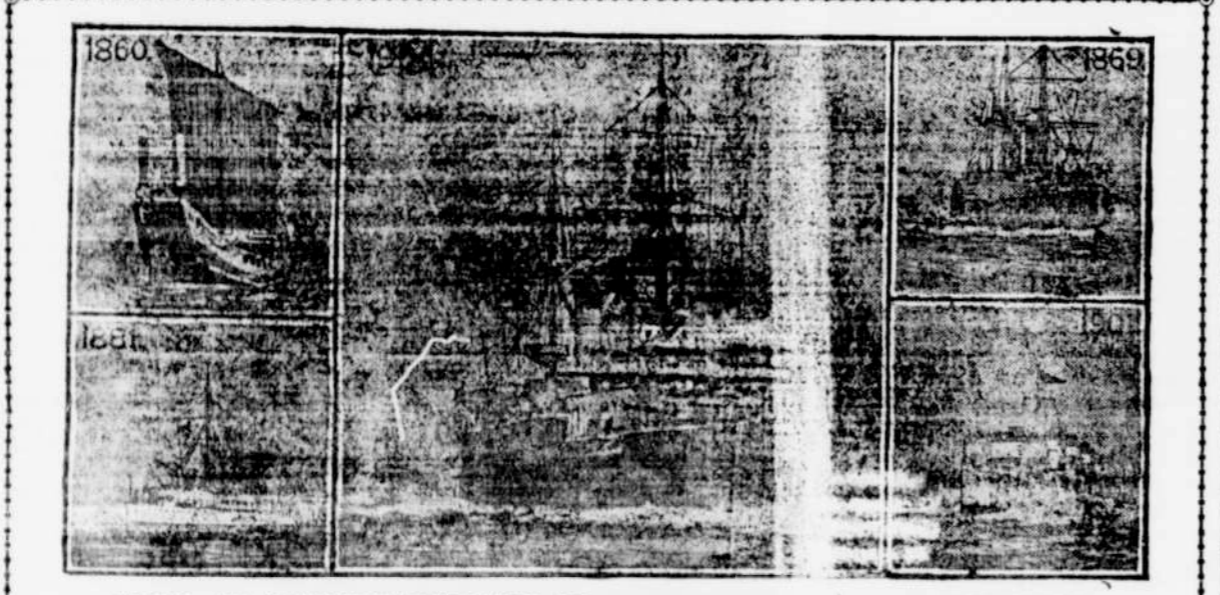
Because of the fact that Japan like Great Britain, lies upon a chain of islands, it had been from the earliest ages a seagoing nation. Many of the wars between the petty lords and factions were fought on the sea, and the Japs were about the sharply indented coast. One

of the great victories in the ancient times was the almost complete destruction of an immense army of Chinese that had sailed across in their junks to invade one of the Jap islands. The Celestials never reached shore. Lesson of the Ships.

The first glimpse of the western world that had come to fire the Japanese imagination was the sight of a fleet of warships. What wonder, then, that one of the initial activities of the awakening nation was in the direction of the construction of a larger navy? The first tangible start seems to have been in the purchase from the United States government of the Stonewall Jackson, a 1,800 ton ship carrying a ten ton gun, besides smaller ones, a powerful vessel for that day. She was renamed the Adzuma, and, with her as a model, the Japs began that career of adaptation and imitation that has had such remarkable results. The purchase of the Adzuma was made in 1861, two years before the revolution. In 1877 another and greater ship was bought. This was the Fuso, 3,718 tons, double screw, speed thirteen knots. This ship carried a broadside central battery and was 220 feet long. These small ironclads, the Kongo, Hiei and Hino, of 1,500 tons each, were added in the two years following. These constituted the Japanese navy in 1880.

In the succeeding decade only two more ironclads were added to the list, but a considerable squadron of fast cruisers was built on Japan's order in various foreign countries. With the addition of two more very speedy cruisers in the next four years, these made up Japan's naval strength at the beginning of her war with China.

This remarkable naval evolution was not confined alone to ships. The fast-acting statesmen like Ito saw that boats were useless unless manned by crews that understood them. It takes longer to train officers and men than it does to build vessels, so provision was made for such training. America, England and other countries were asked to allow Japanese officers to serve aboard their ships, and also that Yankee and British officers be permitted to serve



TYPES OF JAPANESE WARSHIPS AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF HER NAVAL EVOLUTION.

## REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

Nearly Five Thousand Have Put Their Names Down.

Only One More Month In Which to Register—They Are Coming in Rapidly.

B. F. Keeney, registration clerk at the county clerk's office, reports that 4904 voters had registered throughout the county up until noon today. Registration closes on May 10th, and the figures of two years ago or four years ago will be easily passed. The names are now coming in rapidly, and there ought to be 6000 registrations by the time the books close. Two years ago 5656 voters registered and four years ago 5265. Following is the registration by precincts up to noon today:

- N. Eugene No. 1, 190.
- N. Eugene No. 2, 212.
- S. Eugene No. 1, 251.
- S. Eugene No. 2, 150.
- E. Cottage Grove, 346.
- W. Cottage Grove, 196.
- Creswell, 108.
- Springfield, 141.
- N. Junction, 122.
- S. Junction, 111.
- Irving, 146.
- Florence, 177.
- Richardson, 67.
- Fairmount, 124.
- Willamette, 125.
- Saginaw, 80.
- Camp Creek, 54.
- Pleasant Hill, 63.
- Spencer, 40.
- Blanton, 45.
- Bailey, 63.
- Siuslaw, 80.
- Mohawk, 51.
- Lost Valley, 28.
- Goshen, 64.
- Fall Creek, 59.
- Long Tom, 62.
- Long Tom, 62.
- Coyote, 40.
- Elmira, 39.
- Jasper, 59.
- Gate Creek, 23.
- Thurston, 68.
- Blue River, 32.
- Wallace, 31.
- Zumwalt, 62.
- Lake Creek, 39.
- Lane, 50.
- Cheshire, 7.
- Five Rivers, 15.
- Mapleton, 46.
- Walton, 28.
- Glentena, 12.
- Herman, 9.
- Bohemian, 11.
- Middle Fork, 7.
- Mabel, 19.
- Mound, 27.
- Hazeldell, 4.
- Laceta, 16.
- Wendling, 46.
- Total, 4904.

## ANOTHER PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

Pictures of Eugene and Lane County Industries Will Be Sent to St. Louis.

F. L. Chambers and David Linn have prepared a photographic display of Eugene and Lane county industries to send to the St. Louis fair along with the display gotten up by the ladies' Lewis and Clark Club of this city. These gentlemen have gone ahead and gotten up the display at their own expense but will give the business men and citizens a chance to contribute enough to defray the costs as the display is an excellent one and is one that will interest eastern people most. It can be seen in the window of Linn Drug Company.

## Born

To Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Gossler, at Springfield, Wednesday evening, an eight-pound boy.

## A Boycott.

The Albany Democrat says: "The Emerald hotel, of Eugene has been boycotted by the commercial men of the coast on account of an incident which happened last year after the accident to the Elk's excursion train while the proprietor, was then in charge of a hotel at Chehalis."

## Hand Made Clothing

### At The Bon Marche

We have just received a large selection of strictly Hand-Made Clothing, made by the most noted tailors of the United States—COHN WAMPOLD—of Chicago. These suits have no superior for style, cloth and fitting qualities—the very kind good dresses and business men are looking for. Our prices are

**\$3.50, \$5.00 to \$7.50**

Below the so-called custom order houses and 100 per cent above in style, cloth and fitting qualities

We extend a special invitation to all the men and especially to the young men of Eugene who have not visited the Bon Marche Clothing department to call and examine our new Stylish Suits: We start Hand-Made Suits at

**\$10.00, \$12.00 and \$15.00**

That will make you think it pays to trade in the Big Store of bargains.

## The BON MARCHE Bargain Store

## Will You Sow Grass Seed This Spring

We carry a full line of all kinds of grass seed including

- High Land Alfalfa
- Mammoth Red Clover
- Spring Vetches
- Red Top
- Fancy Kentucky Blue Grass
- Millet
- Buckwheat
- Speltz, and a great many other kinds.

Choice Red Clover in 100 pound lots \$13.50

**Garden Seed in Bulk.**

Our seed is new stock and the best we can buy.

## F. L. Chambers & Bro.

Eugene, Oregon.

## J. W. Quackenbush & Sons

DEALERS IN

**Hardware, Vehicles, Implements.**

East 9th Street, Eugene Oregon.

## Look at Our Display

Of fancy groceries and see what a wealth of goods we show, put up attractively and conveniently in cans and jars. These are all appetizing, pure and wholesome, and, besides being so attractive to the palate, they are convenient for the table. Quality is high; prices low.

**W. M. GREEN,**  
Phone Main 25-1  
617 W. Lamette St

## Go-Carts AT COST

TO CLOSE THEM OUT. ONLY A FEW LEFT.

### DAY & HENDERSON.

