

JAPAN'S "PEACEFUL PENETRATION" OF THE PACIFIC COAST STATES

What It Has Done in Hawaii; What It Is Doing In California, and What It May Do In the Nation.

Fifth Instalment

The Increase of Japanese
As to the increase in Japanese population in this country which may be looked for under present conditions, and without any contributory legislation of the "constructive" character suggested by Dr. Gulick, these facts are significant:

The United States Census showed that in 1910 there were in the United States 24,326 Japanese, of which 985 were females—a proportion of about 25 to 1. In 1910 the Japanese population had trebled, the figures showing 72,157, of which 9,087 were females—a proportion of 7 to 1. The estimates already made above indicate that since 1910 the Japanese population has more than doubled, and it is known the proportion of females to males has very largely increased.

Increase of Japanese in California.
In 1910, three years after the "Gentlemen's Agreement" went into effect, there were in California about six Japanese males to one female. With the introduction of the "picture-bridges" plan, the proportion of females has very rapidly increased. While the statistics do not furnish the necessary details, the result is sufficiently attested by the fact that Japanese births in California in 1917 numbered twenty times as many as in 1907, though the Japanese official reports claim that the total Japanese population of the state had increased in that time only about 40 per cent.

The biennial report of the California state board of health, July, 1916, to July, 1918, shows the following as the registered number of Japanese births for the respective years from 1906 to 1918 inclusive: 134, 331, 455, 682, 719, 995, 1463, 2215, 2874, 3342, 3721, 4168 and 4365. Total for 13 years, 25,298.

Due to the increase in Japanese births above indicated, the percentage of white births to the total in the state has steadily decreased from 98.4 in 1906 to 90.6 in 1917.

In Sacramento City Japanese authorities claim today a Japanese population of 2536. The United States census for 1910 showed 1437 Japanese in the city. The total white population of the city now is about 75,000. The report of the state board of health for the year 1918 shows within the city 137 Japanese births and 1073 white births.

That is to say, the Japanese birth rate per 1000 in Sacramento City is already five times as great as the white birth rate. As the influx of "picture brides" raises the proportion of females in the Japanese colony, the birth rate will steadily increase without a check. The average Japanese birth rate, death rate in Sacramento City have remained about the same—10 to 20.

It is worth noting that the birth rate in Sacramento City is 1100 in the rural portion of the common county, outside of Sacramento City. In 1918 there were 136 Japanese births and only 224 white births, although the white population is many times as great as the Japanese. There are no population statistics available for this year, but in 1910 the census shows 2337 Japanese and 19,335 whites in the county outside the city.

According to the Los Angeles Times of June 26, 1919, the Japanese births in the county of Los Angeles, outside the incorporated cities, for the month of May, 1919, were one-third as numerous as the white births. Los Angeles county is the most populous county in the state, with a large foreign born country population. The Japanese population of the district is said to be a small fraction of the white population in those districts.

The increase in Japanese population in the Pacific coast states will receive additional impetus under the Gulick plan from the fact that all Japanese in Hawaii, whether born

there or born in Japan, will be free to come to the mainland, and that most of them will wish to do so because of the attractions it offers to them.

The Chinese Problem.

The Chinese and the Japanese have been mentioned in the same category by the proponents of the "constructive immigration" legislation in such a way as to give the impression that the conditions affecting both and the nation's problem as to both are the same. That is an entirely erroneous impression. The Chinese, under the operation of the Exclusion Act have steadily decreased in number. The Japanese, under the "Gentlemen's Agreement" which was supposed to secure the same result without hurting Japan's pride, have steadily and rapidly increased.

In Hawaii in 1909 the Chinese numbered 13,201, in 1910 there were 21,674, but these have apparently been no increase since then. Dr. Gulick's figures for 1914 being 21,631.

In the United States there were in 1909 89,824 Chinese; in 1910 the number was 71,331. There are no available figures since then.

In California the Chinese numbered in 1906 72,623; in 1909, 45,753; in 1910, 36,245—a decrease of 50 per cent in 20 years, and they are being a steady decrease since.

Sacramento county shows the same decrease—1896, 4771; 1906, 3254; 1910, 2443. These are all U. S. census figures.

The Chinese births at present are only about one-tenth the number of the Japanese births. In the entire state the total births for 1917 were: Japanese, 4167; Chinese, 419.

The Chinese, in addition to having no increase from immigration, are steadily decreasing from departures to China and from a death rate which is now about twice the birth rate. The state totals for 1917 were: Deaths, 818; births, 419; and for the 12 years—1906-1917—deaths, 8547; births, 3683.

In contrast therewith, not only do the Japanese receive large accessions from immigration, but their birth rate is now between four and five times as great as their death rate, while in 1906 their death rate was several times their birth rate. The steady increase of birth percentages has been due, of course, to the importation of "picture brides." In 1917 the births were 4168; deaths, 910; in 1906, births, 1241; deaths, 2641; and for the 12 years, 1906-1917, births, 20,933; deaths, 6775.

The Chinese, therefore, do not present a national problem, because of birth rate increase under existing immigration laws, with the Japanese or because of a very serious problem.

Wiping Out American Communities.
Now for another phase of the problem: The destruction of home and family life and the wiping out of American communities under stress of Japanese competition and methods.

The town of Florin in Sacramento County, eight miles southeast of Sacramento City, in the heart of the strawberry district has a Japanese population of 1,956, supplemented in picking season by about 500 more. The Japanese proudly point to it as a monument to their methods and enterprise. It is all that they claim for it. It is more. It is a graveyard to the hopes of the former American population of Florin, almost entirely wiped out by contact with Far Eastern civilization. It is a warning finger post to California and to the American Nation as to the inevitable end in all favored spots in this country if the "peaceful penetration" of the Japanese is not arrested.

The Japanese did not create Florin or the strawberry business. The Japanese do not create. They imitate, improve, appropriate. In the memory of young people of today, Florin

was an exclusively American settlement of five, ten, twenty-acre farms, devoted largely to strawberry and grape culture, on each farm a happy home, the Sacramento daily news paper delivered at each doorstep. The town was the center of the district and from it were shipped berries and grapes in various lots as far east as the Missouri River.

The Japanese saw and coveted. They secured a few farms in the center of the district and gradually added more, and they improved the culture. The economic and social pressure gradually drove the white families away and in time even the town and its business passed into the hands of the Japanese. Today there is no American newspaper distributed in that district, and it is in effect a part of Japan transplanted into the heart of California. The school for the entire district has a total attendance of 147 and 101 are Japanese. In one class there are forty-one Japanese and six white children.

Walnut Grove, on the Sacramento River in Sacramento County, is now a Japanese settlement. Most of the rich river ranches in the delta of the Sacramento River are now managed by Japanese under lease, where they could not secure ownership under law, and the white resident and his family have melted away.

The Economic Pressure.

On the American River, about twelve miles east of Sacramento City, is the little station of Mayhew, the shipping point for the productive orchards and vineyards for miles around. In years past white labor was employed in these orchards, and many families settled by the river. The women and children at home in the work of peeling and packing the fruit, while the men peeling and packing did the work in the orchards and vineyards.

Today when the orchards are being worked by the Japanese, the white families have disappeared. There is only one man or two still remaining on their property, and with white help, but to do it he must send out during the busy season for transient labor, working short hours at high wages. And he is in competition with the surrounding Japanese-managed orchards, operated under the co-operative system, with ambitious, interested labor, working sometimes fifteen and eighteen hours a day. And he must send his young children by stage to Sacramento City every day for schooling. For the district school is attended by Japanese, interested in learning English for business purposes, and no American mother will permit her little girl to remain in school with grown Japanese youths. When it is said that this orchardist could make more money from his huffman by looking to Japanese than by operating himself, with white labor, or even with Japanese labor, the great economic pressure will be better comprehended.

There are similar instances in the adjoining county of Placer, where it is said 90 per cent of the orchards are owned by Japanese, and many schools show as many as five Japanese children in one class. Through the San Joaquin Valley will be found similar settlements of Japanese and similar results as to displacement of whites.

Japanese authorities claim—and it is probably true—that the Japanese produce in California 90 per cent of the strawberry and cantaloupe crop; 20 per cent of onions, asparagus, tomatoes, celery, lettuce and all flowers; 55 per cent of cabbage and seeds; 40 per cent of potatoes; 20 per cent of beans, and 10 per cent of the grapes, fruit and rice.

This estimate was made early in 1918, probably based on 1917 statistics. In the items of rice and fruit it is certain that the percentage is now much greater than quoted.

In June, 1919, the consumers and dealers in San Francisco were forced to protect themselves by boycotting strawberries, because the Japanese growers in combination were forcing dealers to pay as high as \$17 per chest, while the canneries were given a price of \$9.10.

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