

# JAP MINISTER DEPLORES LACK OF UNDERSTANDING

### Minister of Foreign Affairs Tells Charles Edward Russell That Ignorance of Real Japan Chief Source of the Trouble With U. S. A.

By CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL. (Special Correspondent of the Mail Tribune.)

TOKIO, June 10.—In general I am not very keen for the Japanese, but there is one respect about which we shall have to hand it to them. They keep their heads pretty well. Perhaps it is native stolidity or racial stoicism or something else; anyway, they don't blow up easily.

One of their seasoned political philosophers who is a joy to meet in any country is Mr. Hanihara, vice minister of foreign affairs and a good deal of an American himself, for he was a long time resident of Washington.

"What is your favorite indoor sport?" was his way of greeting me days ago. We had met before and ceremony had done its stunt and departed. I said I thought it was reading about the pacification of Ulster and Sinn Fein.

"Mine," said he, "is contemplating the justly celebrated picture entitled 'Japan About to Eat Up the World,' as drawn by some of the gifted artists that have undertaken this sort of thing."

I said that I thought myself there had been some choice grand prize work along that line. He said that if these word painters knew the actual facts about Japan he doubted if they would be able to get away with their hair lifting and blood curdling delineations. If they had no more than an idea of the troubles that Japan is now going through they would laugh at their own imaginations.

Don't Want Territory. They always draw us as going about like a footpad looking for land we can snatch like a purse from some unwary or unable nation. There was never anything so preposterous. To spy one who may wish to know the truth, there is one sure key to the situation. Let such a one always remember that Japan has not a territorial ambition. No matter what may be the misrepresentation about this, Japan has not a territorial ambition. We have no desire to encroach upon the territory of any other nation whatsoever; no desire, no such purpose. What we do want and all we

want is to secure our economic existence, and this we can do without in any way threatening the security of any other nation in this world. If that fact could be understood by western peoples what an immense amount of misconception about Japan would be swept away.

"Next, we know that we can secure our economic existence only by developing our home industries, but promoting our foreign trade and friendships, but never by antagonizing other peoples. That seems simple and obvious enough, but you must have noticed that it is entirely disregarded by the critics of Japan."

I said that if I knew anything about the Japanese press there were not lacking in my friend's country an element of jinxes and some that seemed to like the music of the war drum.

Jingoists Everywhere. "Jingoists, of course," says he, "every nation has them, Japan with the rest. But they do not maul nor in any way affect Japan's national policy—not in the slightest degree. In no other country are the utterances of a few extremists or alarmists taken to express the real attitude of the nation and I do not think it should be so with Japan. The truth is we are most strangely and persistently misled. Did you ever see that list of sea stories that George Kennan collected and exposed a few years ago? Twenty-two of them, all most alarming, all widely circulated in the United States, all absolutely untrue. They range from the Magdalena Bay scare to the story about Japanese spies on the Panama canal, waiting for a chance to blow it up. The imaginative ingenuity of these stories is amazing but not so amazing as the fact that they are believed without the least investigation."

"I referred to the belief un'orsal among the Americans in the Philippines that Japan would seize the islands as soon as the Americans should withdraw."

"Wild stories!" said Mr. Hanihara. "I can most positively and emphatically declare to you that Japan has no aggressive designs on the Philippines, latent, covert, open, deferred, up its sleeve or otherwise. This story is of a piece with the rest. The Japanese policy is neighborliness, good will and trade. Do you think we are a nation of lunatics that we want to go about provoking the rows that would kill the foreign commerce by which we live?"

"Well," I said, "there is Korea. Many persons think you have been intolerably brutal to the Koreans." "Korea," says he. "Well, anybody who goes there can see we have been of immense benefit to the Koreans. We have transformed their country for them and made it prosperous and inhabitable. There may have been errors of commission and omission, as in the colonies of other countries, but to err is human and through it all we have tried to do our best. If anyone can show us where we can do better we shall listen to the advice and be thankful for it. But vituperation gets nowhere."

Wants Understanding. I suggested that I should like to hear something about the present relations between the United States

and Japan and the chance of trouble there. He said:

"If there is any cloud between these peoples it is due to false reports and misrepresentation and the greatest need of the moment is to bring about a better understanding between America and Japan, for which all good people on both sides should do their utmost. Statesmen, politicians, business men, army and navy men, the press—all thinking Japanese simply want to live on the best of terms with America. I can categorically declare that all the charges on which Japan is held up as a menace to the world are absolutely groundless, imaginary and chimerical. I wish we could get that home as the real message of the real Japan to the real America."

## TALENTED BABY AT 18 MONTHS, PLAYS ON PIANO

(By International News Service.) NEW YORK, June 10.—A ten-year-old musical prodigy lives in Wood-Ridge, New Jersey.



Grace Castagnetta, American child, found her way to the piano. At first she just liked the sound of the separate notes that her baby fingers touched as they trailed over the pretty keyboard. Very soon she discovered the beauty that lies in the weaving of chords. And at that tender age, without knowledge of music, for her parents could not play the piano, the child worked out for herself her own idea of harmony. Her ear delicately attuned to music, the baby was able to harmonize in one octave.

At the age of three little Grace was playing in concert. When she was seven years old Grace attracted the attention of Dr. N. J. Eisenheimer, who gave her her first lessons. The lessons have continued now for three years, in which time she has given three recitals of her own. At each recital the little artist rendered works of the masters, such as selections from Liszt, Greig, Paradisi, Debussy, MacDowell and Schumann; sonatas from Beethoven, Scarlatti and Mozart, as well as Bach's English Suites.

## PROMINENT LABOR LEADERS SUCCUMB

FALL RIVER, Mass., June 9.—Word was received here today of the death at Brooklyn this morning of John Golden, general president of the United Textile Workers of America. Burial will be in this city, where he has made his home for many years.

DENVER, Colo., June 9.—Milton Smelling, national president of the Steam and Operating Engineers' union of Washington, D. C., who was in Denver as a delegate to the American Federation of Labor convention, was found dead in bed at a local hotel today.

WASHINGTON, June 10.—Informal responses of a favorable character have been received here from several of the governments to which the United States recently addressed informally the suggestion for international negotiations regarding disarmament.

WASHINGTON, June 10.—Senator McNary of Oregon was one of the senate members of the joint congressional commission to investigate agricultural conditions appointed today by Vice President Coolidge.

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Kellogg Bran, package	22c	10 lb. Sack Corn Meal	32c
Post Toasties, package	13c	10 lb. Sack Rolled Oas	54c
Corn Flakes, package	13c	10 lb. Sack Hard Wheat Flour	57c
Puffed Wheat, package	14c	10 lb. Sack Rye Flour	58c
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