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Japanese Women's First Ballot

The sudden opening of the ballot box to the women of Japan marks a tradition-breaking milestone in the movement looking to greater freedom for Japanese women. About 60 years ago, a Japanese "Susan Anthony," Miss Kageyama, started a campaign for women's rights, was jailed for her daring.

Throughout the Orient the idea of granting women a share in political life made practically no progress until 1935, the National Geographic Society points out. In that year the Philippines government granted equal voting rights to the women of the islands. Previously this privilege had been extended in parts of India only. Less democratic Japan did not grant suffrage even to men until 1925.

THE social position of the Japanese woman has long been carefully circumscribed. In early times the Japanese held their women in higher regard, as shown by their ancient reverence for the Sun Goddess, and the heroic proportions to which the Empress Jingo grew after the third Christian century. It was her peaceful conquest of Korea that exposed Japan to Chinese influence.

Buddhism proved a reactionary force in the sixth century; and under Chinese and Korean influence, Japanese law definitely fixed women in an inferior position. Confucianism was even more retarding in its influence.

Chinese emphasis on the importance of the family as the social unit stressed male dominance, and denied woman's right to choose a husband for herself. This same family reverence prevented her divorcing her husband for infidelity or cruelty, although the talk could be divorced for such a common failing as talkativeness. In spite of such partiality, women were more influential within the family circle than was generally conceded.

IN the twelfth century, Yoritomo, Japan's first shogun or commander-in-chief, was so influenced by his own wife, Masako, that he appointed some of Japan's ablest women to positions in the government. He made it mandatory that a widow receive at least four-fifths of her husband's estate. He also made legal the widow's adoption of an heir, if childless.

Following the opening of Japan to the western world, in the 19th century, Emperor Meiji stressed education as essential to the adaptation of Japan to an industrialized world. He urged upon Japan's early diplomats and aristocrats that they travel with their wives, daughters and sisters in order that the women might see how those in other lands were educated.

IN the late 19th century Japanese women were first sent to western countries for study. Comparatively few enjoyed this privilege, but they formed an influential social segment with a knowledge of western customs. The new point of view was spread by missionaries and teachers from Christian countries who painted a broader and brighter picture of woman's sphere. American movies further extended ideas of freedom for women.

By the beginning of the present century women when they reached the age of 25 had the right to choose their own husbands. It was forbidden to force a woman to marry against her will, or for a husband to desert his wife. Women were permitted to possess property and, with the consent of husbands, to engage in business. Polygamy was abolished.

The feminist movement was forwarded by the Blue Stocking Coterie, organized in 1911, and operative for three years. The New Women's association, formed in 1920, also continued for three years. It was succeeded by the Women's Suffrage Federation, which waged a campaign in western style in the face of many difficulties. By 1925 a tenth of the Diet was converted to votes-for-women.—N.G.

On The Side—By E. V. Durling

The skies seemed true above the rose tree on the tree. The bird seemed true the summer through. But all proved false to me. World! Is there one good thing in you? Life, love or death—or what? Since lips that sang: "I love thee" Have said: "I love thee not?" —Arthur O'Shaughnessy. A soldier's wife reports she has gained thirty pounds since her husband went overseas three years ago. Now his return is imminent. The young woman says she loves her husband very much and has been extremely lonely and worried in his absence. Yet she fears when he sees she has gained thirty pounds he may feel inclined to question her love and loneliness. She asks if our Horses & Women department has any suggestions which may simplify her problem. We suggest this subscriber to cease worrying. Lonely women are inclined to eat more than they should. The fact this young wife gained thirty pounds indicates she greatly missed her husband. So say our H & W experts who state there is considerable scientific opinion available which will back their claim.

ASKING Queries from clients. Q. Why is it that Leo men are so hard to understand? I am a Leo, therefore your query interests me. Q. In which of his works did Kipling say: "A woman is only a woman but a good cigar is a smoke"? A. Kipling's poem, "The Betrothed," deals with a young woman who told her sweetheart to give up smoking cigars or relinquish all claims on her. As the poem has it: Maggie has written a letter

people read one copy of a newspaper when it is a family newspaper. . . . An oldtimer informs me when the major league catcher, "Broadway Alex" Smith was sold by the Giants to Chicago he refused to report and in so doing gave voice to the immortal remark: "I would rather be a lamp-post on Broadway than the mayor of Chicago." PLEASE NOTE

Many men who have for years been reading in racing charts and other places how many lengths a horse won by do not know how long the length of horse is. That these men may cease to be ignorant on so vital a matter we call attention to the fact that the average racehorse measures eight feet from the tip of his nose to the base of his tail. A racehorse usually covers the distance of his own length in one-fifth of a second.

YOUNGER SET The Tennessee girls are still marrying young. Not only that, many are getting divorced at an early age. A Treazwell, Tenn., girl who married at the age of eleven recently was divorced at the age of thirteen. That may be the record for age of a divorcee. However, the records show that annually in the United States about 250 girls of fifteen become divorcees.

CHAMPION An informed banker who commuted daily from Ft. Wayne, Ind., to Chicago, a distance of 150 miles, was once named Chicago's champion commuter. This old boy commuted via the Twentieth Century Limited which stops at Ft. Wayne. That certainly is high class commuting. I don't think this banker should have been eligible to compete with the poor devils who had to do their commuting in day coaches.

News Behind The News By Paul Mallon

Washington, Dec. 6 — President Truman's labor-cooling program was largely the inner

handiwork of J. R. Steelman, the New York conciliator who was quietly brought into a White House office some weeks back, and of Labor Secretary Schwelienbach. Mr. Steelman has had a career of some 20 years or more as a labor conciliator in and out of the government. He has maintained an impeccable judicial attitude, although some employers occasionally have regarded him as leaning a little more on labor's side than on theirs. Schwelienbach always has been a strong left-center union politico and judge.

I THINK the basis of the union objections is not primarily to the plan itself. If the unions have a just case, they can get justice from the program. A final decision by one representative of labor, one of management and the third deciding man from the public, represents the best possible hearing labor could expect to get for its cause. Even then the decision is not binding. It merely represents a public judgment as to what is right and just, and carries only the weight and power of its manifest fairness.

But the unions have built up a great pressure game now behind the auto workers' case. That strike was the front running test case for the 30 per cent wage increase demand, backed by all labor, including Mr. Green and his A. F. of L., although they have not said much about this phase. White heat fervor has been worked up among the strikers and other union men eagerly watching the result of the contest. It is not often noticed in the public prints, but the human element, the human passion and excitement of leaders and men in strikes, is unquestionably a greater factor in the decisions which union leaders make than the wage facts of the matter, or the working conditions.

Nerves become frayed all down the line. Denunciation and recrimination of the managements, and vice versa, naturally characterize the negotiations rather than any cool consideration of the facts (see Walter Reuther's telegram to the president). The whole situation runs to emotionalism and propaganda on both sides.

THE great impetus which has made the railway labor mediation base program so successful (only one minor strike in 19 years) was because both labor and management wanted it and got together and wrote it themselves. Resistance by the unions now to application of these sound settlement principles for the large strike cases in which the public has national interest may tend to impede the effective workings of the plan. The White House apparently believes that,

after thinking it over, the unions will drop their resistance. Those who have looked into the facts of the auto workers' case say the fact-finding commission can be expected to recommend a wage increase between 15 and 20 per cent, which should be eminently satisfactory to the union.

They have some facts of which I am not fully aware, indicating prices and living costs would justify that much of a boost. Such a decision, would practically fix a national policy and could conceivably solve the whole situation.

If the auto workers go against this solution, the whole union case will go back to its current chaos.

Furthermore, union resistance would practically force congress to pass some of the pending bills requiring the unions to meet their national responsibilities in a degree commensurate with their great national political power—to sue and be sued at least, and perhaps made subject to the antitrust and other laws, thus placing them on an equal footing for the future with business. There are no other alternatives. Therefore, my guess is labor will come around and accept the solution.

Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson Co. History from the files of the Mail Tribune 10, 20 and 34 years ago.

TEN YEARS AGO December 5, 1933 (It was Friday) Italians bomb palace of Emperor Selassie of Ethiopia, who escaped unhurt.

Downpour of rain routs cold in valley. High 54, low 32, more rain predicted.

City school levy tax up 1.1 mills.

Oregon senator plans three way farm relief bill.

Christmas trade throughout nation improves.

Aubrey Sanders elected head of 20-30 club.

TWENTY YEARS AGO December 6, 1925 (It was Sunday) Coast guard accused in rum smuggling charge.

State prison warden fired by Gov. Pierce.

Bagley cannery at Ashland closes successful season.

Annual Elks Memorial services at temple today.

Senate insurgents issue deft to President Coolidge, and will fight his tax cut plan.

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS AGO December 6, 1911 (It was Wednesday) City council refuses to open up King street.

Clear. High 47, low 41.

Federal probe of McNamara trial at Los Angeles under way.

Plans for "Irrigation Day" here completed.

WEATHER Northern California — Occasional light showers in extreme north portion but partly cloudy or clear elsewhere today, tonight and Friday. Little temperature change. Morning fog in the valleys. Gentle westerly wind off coast.

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LADY JAYCEES TO PRESIDE FRIDAY AT SEAL BOOTHS

Booth sale of Christmas seals in Medford will be carried on Friday by the Lady Jaycees. The three booths will be filled during the day by the following volunteers from that organization: Greta Humphrey, Jackie Lasley, Mary Lou Watson, Betty Fidler, Alene Milnes, Jerry Jewett, Zoe Stag, Connie Spenser and Nevada Danner.

Saturday Girl Scouts will sell the seals. The booth at Ward's will be handled by Troop 14, West Side district, Mrs. Leland Wilson, leader; Mann's booth by Medford junior high school troop 4, Mrs. Dierdorff, leader, and troop 5, Mrs. Larwood, leader. The post office sub-station booth will be filled by troop 6, of Lincoln, Mrs. Don Robbins, leader.

On Monday Chapter AA, P.E.O. will carry on the sale in the three booths with the following women serving: Mrs. Grace Collins, Mrs. Lyle Wilcox, Mrs. Walt E. Hoppe, Mrs. John Moffatt, Mrs. H. B. Murphy and Mrs. C. W. Lemery.

Several other groups have volunteered their services for the coming week, Mrs. Robert Sleeter, booth sale chairman, reported. Names of the workers will be released as soon as she receives the lists.

News of 4-H CLUBS

ROXY ANN 4-H CLUB Roxy Ann 4-H club will meet Saturday, Dec. 8 at 2:30 p. m. at the home of Mrs. Lehman. Anyone wishing to join the club is asked to be present at the meeting.

Boone, Ia., Dec. 6 — (U.P.) — Mrs. Dwight Eisenhower, still weak from an attack of bronchial pneumonia, was enroute to Washington today to rejoin her husband, the army's new chief of staff.

Daily Weather Report

FORECASTS Medford and vicinity: Cloudy with showers tonight and Friday. Little change in temperature.

Oregon: Showers tonight and Friday. Slightly cooler tonight. Slight southerly winds off coast.

LOCAL DATA Temperature a year ago today: Highest 40, lowest 37. Total monthly precipitation 40 inches. Deficiency for the month .05 inches. Excess for the season 2.61 inches. Relative humidity at 4:30 p. m. yesterday 78%; 4:30 today 81%.

Tomorrow Sunrise 7:26 a. m. Sunset 4:40 p. m. Observations Taken At 4:30 A. M., 12:00 Meridian Time

Table with columns: Place, High, Low, Precip. Rows include Boise, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Eureka, Havre, Los Angeles, Medford, New York, Omaha, Phoenix, Portland, Reno, Roseburg, Salt Lake, San Francisco, Seattle, Spokane, Washington, D. C., Yakima.

ONE CLEAR DAY IN PAST MONTH

Despite only one clear day during November, rainfall was only 0.5 inches above normal, according to figures of the United States weather bureau here. Total rainfall measured 5.34 inches with 1.01 inches the greatest amount falling in any one 24 hour period, Nov. 26 and 27. Four days were reported partly cloudy, 25 cloudy and 18 days with measurable precipitation.

Light fog occurred on 10 days out of the month with heavy fog reported on five days.

Mean temperature for the month was 44.3 degrees with a high of 65 on the 3rd and 22nd. Lowest was 30 degrees, occurring on Nov. 21. Highest November temperature recorded since records were started here in 1911 occurred on Nov. 3, 1929, when the mercury climbed to 80 degrees. Lowest on record is 13 degrees registered Nov. 27, 1919.

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