

THE CANADIAN CLUB
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“Whither Japan?”

DR. TOYOHICO KAGAWA.

PRESIDENT COL. MESS:—Members and guests of the Canadian Club, may I, on behalf of your new executive, give you welcome for our new year of 1936-37? As usual our activities will be limited to special meetings for the reception of unexpected guests until our serious work starts in October. I notice that this morning's paper makes reference to this meeting as a joint meeting of the Canadian and Empire clubs. This is not the case. This is a Canadian Club luncheon meeting only.

Perhaps your executive has made its first blunder in that we have permitted our guest speaker today to choose his own subject. And, however interesting that subject may prove, we feel that perhaps we should have insisted that he talk only of himself and his life. The subject he has chosen is “Peace on the Pacific”. And what an interesting life our guest speaker has had! Left under foster parents when four years old, and as a child studied Confucius and then the Bible, and later astounding his university professors and fellow-students by his independence of thought, later falling into ill health, recovering miraculously and then mapping out a life, a perfect example of the Lord's teaching, with nothing but self-sacrifice in front of him for his

fellow-creatures. Student, novelist, poet, doctor, reformer, philanthropist, psychologist, evangelist, I could go on indefinitely enumerating the various fields of endeavour in which he has excelled, excelled not only in words but in deeds. All for the one end of helping his fellow-men. He has often been referred to as probably one of the best known men in the world, and probably one of the most useful. I would like to introduce him to you as a perfect Christian gentleman.

DR. KAGAWA:—My dear president, dear friends, it is quite an honor for me to be in Toronto once more and to meet the citizens of Toronto. I like Canada very much and especially Toronto. It seems that Canadians have wonderful things and wonderful characters. They combine the wonderful British character and American efficiency. And so I feel at home in Canada. The rocks and stones of Canada are very, very pretty. You have the oldest rocks in the world. You have wonderful gold mines and wonderful mineral resources and probably also you have wonderful resources of character.

Now this afternoon, I want to think about peace on the Pacific. As you understand throughout the world there is a certain anxiety of future peace because, since Japan went to Manchuria and Italy went to Ethiopia, the League of Nations is feeling badly about the peace throughout the world. Can we restore the peace throughout the world, and if so how?

I do not touch on the European situation because I do not know much about it, but I know something about the situation in the far east. So I want to describe the situation there. First I want to think about China; then let us think about Japan. Then I must think about the Dutch Indies. We might consider the causes of troubles with five divisions. The first about policy; then something about the question of need of raw material; then something about the international credit system in the far east; then I shall think about the commercial policies among those nations; then I shall touch the transportation policies among those nations around the Pacific area.

As you know, until four centuries ago the Pacific ocean was not discovered by the western people. In the year 1521

in April, Magellan came to the Pacific ocean. When he came across the Atlantic and went down to South America he had a terrible storm. Anyway he turned around the cape at the south end of South America. He had peace on the side of the west coast of America, so he named that ocean the Pacific ocean. And he discovered the Philippine Islands in the year 1521 in April, and he was assassinated on one of the islands. Then quite a number of people followed him, Portugal, Spain and the Dutch came to the far east and they possessed many territories. Then France came and Russia came from the north, and the far east has attracted the attention of the white people since that time.

But China had the biggest population. The population of China is about 415,000,000 people. Therefore, unless we shall keep peace in China, it is very difficult to have peace in the Pacific area. So I could say, without any hesitancy, that if Japan tries to be aggressive toward China, then China's population will suffer more and more. So, unless Japan or any nation will try to be aggressive toward China, there shall be no peace in the Pacific ocean. Unless we help China to be peaceful, it is very difficult to keep peace in the Pacific ocean. So I frankly say, Japan made a serious mistake in disturbing peace in China. Not only Japan but white races made mistakes, plundering the ports of China, not only Japan, but I can say France, Germany, and I can include even Great Britain, although you belong to Great Britain, I can say you made a mistake.

So I say: we must be fair to the Chinese people. For instance, though Japan went to Manchuria, Japanese people did not go there. Therefore I say we made a mistake. Why? Because there are about 22,000,000 Chinese labourers and their families in Manchuria, and those coolies mostly came from Shantung and they are the best labourers in the world. They live very cheaply. They receive only one-sixth as much as Japanese labour, so there is no chance for the Japanese people to go to Manchuria to compete with those wonderful labourers from China. Two million Koreans went to Manchuria; and it is interesting if you study carefully the question of the Far East. The Chinese of Manchuria live on corn and sawdust and 20,000,000 Chinese eat Manchurian millet and they raise rice and they export

Korean rice to Japan and the Japanese people live on Korean rice.

Unless we help each other, even as Asiatic races, it is very difficult to have peace amongst them. So I quite frankly say this, as long as Chinese and Japanese continue to fight, that is a terrible situation in the Far East. But I can say the same thing of the white races in the Far East. If France and Russia and Great Britain would try to be aggressive in the Far East as Japan is aggressive there shall be no peace. I am sorry to express this fact; since 1919 France captured Cambodia—probably you do not know it. France took it over just after the signing of the treaty of Versailles, and she took it from Siam; for that reason Siam got angry and fought against Japan and Japan has withdrawn from the League of Nations; but throughout the world you do not know that fact. When that capture was made by the French, the white people in the world kept silence. And when Japan went to Manchuria, all the League of Nations made noise. I do not see the reason why. If the French went in one place, you kept silence; and when Japan went to Manchuria, you made noise. What a distinction! So we must repent first. Whether you are white people or whether you are yellow, both races must repent.

So we need to examine the question of over-population. Now in Japan we have found that we have the most intensive population in the world in proportion to arable land. With the advance of science we can produce now nearly 200 bushels of rice per acre. About ten years ago the then premier of Japan appointed many committees to study the question of population in relation to the food resources of Japan, and to our surprise the committees reported that, with the help of the science of agriculture, we have no fear of shortage of food. It is amazing the recent development of the science of fertilizer, and with the help of science, we can grow more per acre; and recently we discovered we can utilize the mountain slopes, and probably you know, Japanese people catch many fish. In Japan we have one and a half million "oeioke" as fishermen and they capture one-third of the whole fishes in the world caught in one year. And they eat one-third of all the fish captured throughout the world; and we discovered, if we could raise more fish in the open

sea, there is no fear of shortage of food; and if we can catch one whale, then we can get about 1,000 cans of meat. So if we can make the Pacific ocean into a pasture for whales there is no danger of shortage of whales for Japan. Don't take it as a joke. With the advance of science we can make the Pacific ocean into a pasture for whales.

So with mountain slopes. In Japan 85% of the territory is covered with mountains. Up to the present time, we ignore those mountain slopes. Then recently we discovered if we would plant chestnuts, English walnuts, and other nuts then we could grow more hogs and so forth. And we can raise more milk goats. So we discovered there is no shortage of food in Japanese territory.

But about 8,000,000 Chinese live in Java, and in the Dutch Indies, and in New Guinea, in British territory, and in Dutch territory, with New Guinea as the big area. It is five times greater than Japan. But its population is only half a million, and it is still virgin forest and recently the Dutch government was very kind to the Japanese government and two years ago gave to Japan a certain concession of 2,000 acres to try to raise hemp and Japanese labourers are going there to try to raise hemp. In Borneo is the same situation. Borneo is five or six times greater than Japan and they have not utilized the land at all. So if Dutch Indies, Great Britain, France, China, Russia and Japan would sit down quietly and cooperate with each other, we should have peace in the Pacific. It is of no use to have suspicions and fear of a coming war.

And yet some people are not satisfied with the narrow area of Japan, because Japan has not much natural resources of metals. We lack the gold, silver, gasoline, lead, tin, which other countries have.

So Japan needs raw material. For instance, we need raw material from Canada. We need much timber and you have lots of timber. We have no good forests at all. If we can have good will between Japan and Canada we shall be very much pleased. For instance, between Australia and Japan we started good commerce since 1922. It is strange; before the earthquake Japanese girls did not wear foreign clothes. Since the earthquake long sleeves and beautiful kimonas are no good for Japanese girls.

When they hustle around, long sleeves are no good for them. So they change their way of dressing. And we get wool from Australia, the best wool in the world. In Japan we consume four pounds per capita, and each year we have one million babies added to Japan, so we need 4,000,000 pounds more each year. So Australia finds Japan is the best market in the Far East. If you study carefully we buy more wool than England herself. England buys much but England buys for others, but in the Japanese Islands we need more wool than the British people in Europe because we have more population. We have 67,000,000 people living in a small area. So, since 1922 Australians find that Japan can buy more. Since that time the Australians send a special messenger to Japan to have a special commercial treaty and they have a good time now. And last year in March I was invited to visit Australia by the National Council of Christian churches there.

And I had a chance to visit New Zealand and New Zealand had a terrible depression. They had about 90,000 people out of employment out of 1,500,000 people. So I told the authorities in New Zealand that, while in Australia they have reduced the numbers of unemployed to less than 18,000 people out of nearly 7,000,000, while in New Zealand they have nearly 1,500,000 people and 90,000 out of employment. And they are depending solely on the foreign trade of Europe. In distance it is 11,000 miles; while to Japan it is less than 5,000 miles. So Japanese boats visit Australia and New Zealand very frequently. There are about twenty Japanese steamers all the time around Japan and Australia, buying wool and bringing it back to Japan. Each year we spend about 250,000,000 yen for Australian wool and Australia cannot sell more than that. But New Zealand wool is mostly a little inferior in quality. New Zealand gives only six months' stay for Japanese merchants but in Australia they give us three years' stay as merchants. You know Australia has a white policy and Japanese can never enter into that territory. That is all right but if they want to sell the wool to Japan they must give some rights and privileges for Japanese merchants to stay longer to buy wool. So I advised the New Zealand government you must give some privileges to

Japanese merchants to get Japanese merchants to bring their wives, but wives can stay only six months. They must go home and be brought back next year. The Minister of Agriculture and Finance told me, "I would give better privileges to Japanese merchants, if they are willing to buy more wool", and he promised to give a life-long term of stay.

If we can do similar things with other nations, for instance, with Canada. We are sorry to say we have had some misunderstanding, that you thought Japanese people might make trouble in Canada and you set up a high tariff wall. And it made trouble against Canada. Since last year we sat down to talk to the United States. Japan agreed to send only 2% of miscellaneous goods to the United States. The United States thought that the Japanese cotton goods are making trouble in the States, so they requested the Japanese government that she will stop sending cheap goods to the United States, so Japan courageously agreed to keep down to 2%. But we are buying more from the States. For instance, motor cars and engines and electrical motors, and as we buy more from the States, so they must also have sympathy for Japan. We can do the same thing today between Canada and Japan.

What we need today is better understanding among nations. We have no bad feeling with the United States, for instance. Two years ago, in January, a certain fiction writer wrote a novel about the coming war between the U.S.A. and Japan and the government put through a bill providing that any man who would injure feeling between Japan and the United States shall be punished. If anybody would create bitterness toward the States he should be imprisoned. And that bill passed both Houses of Japanese Parliament. It is in force today. So if anybody would say bitterness towards the States he shall be imprisoned.

About fifteen years ago, when that Pacific combination was proposed, I could not see the future of it but today I think that Pacific convention was and is the most successful conference, that we ever had around the Pacific ocean because, when we sit down quietly and study our neighbours' conditions and the situations, we can under-

stand each other better. So, if we want peace throughout the world, we must have understanding. You know wars come from questions of population and raw material, questions of debts, of lands, of international credit system and commercial competition and it comes from transportation policies, so, if we want to have real world peace, it is necessary to have international economic conferences from time to time, otherwise there shall be no end of war.

It is necessary to have more Christian economic ethics to be applied to industry and commerce, otherwise there shall be no end to talk of wars. And in the year 1932, the International Economic Conference failed. Why? Because they brought so many subjects and topics together and they tried to discuss those topics at once. If we can approach questions, one at a time, it is easier to solve that question. And if we have that kind of international conference from time to time, why cannot we have such international conferences around the Pacific ocean between Canada and Japan; and the United States and Japan; and between Great Britain and Australia and Japan. We have an agreement with Ceylon, and last year we had an agreement between the Dutch Indies and Japan? So, we must come together and from time to time have international economic conferences then bring those results to the League or to London or New York. Then it will be easier to accomplish real peace and to talk about disarmament. We talk disarmament first and forget the real vital causes of war. So we must talk of economic solution first, then disarmament. Then it is easier to solve questions.

So I say it is necessary to have more economic conferences, starting with zones, market zones, European zones, Pacific zones, a Central Pacific zone, and then bring the results to the League. Then it will be easier to have peace throughout the world. So I ask you Canadian business men and leaders of Canadian politics, when they cannot understand this situation, let us talk more about the application of Christian brotherhood in commerce and to industry. Otherwise there shall be no end of talks of war.

I am so grateful to you Mr. President that you have given me a chance to talk and think about the peace of the Pacific. What we need today is the true spirit of Christ to be applied to industry and to commerce. I thank you.

CHAIRMAN, COL. MESS:—I understand that when our guest of today was visiting in the United States he had but one day off in thirty days and was on his feet talking for six hours every one of those days. You will realize then just how much we must appreciate having him with us today. He received an overwhelming reception in Toronto yesterday and we welcome him here no less sincerely.