

A Tiny Republic

No Rich, No Poor,
No Strikes &&&
and No Strife.

This model republic is no experiment, no colony scheme born of the brain of a social reformer, but has existed for over 300 years.

Within a few hours' ride of Tokyo, the Japanese capital, there thrives a little community who live and work in indifference to wars and rumors of war. Happily unconscious of the growing importance of Japan in the world, or of the changes taking place, they live free from want or the fear of want, content to remain still while the remainder of the race is moving on. Hashima, off the coast of Atami, ten miles from the watering place of that name, is a very small island not quite two miles long and one mile wide. The climate is warm and soft, and, with the scenery, is in harmony with the conditions of the inhabitants. Even in the coldest winter hyacinths and azaleas in bloom can be seen dotting the meadows, and camelia blossoms nod on the miniature hills. Visitors to Hashima are rare, but those who enter the island are greeted cordially, says the New York World. The islanders point reverently to an old temple, named Tenmjoji, established by Bishop Tenkaku, to whom belongs the honor of founding the republic over three centuries ago. The bishop's laws have withstood the wear and tear of time. They are based upon a fundamental idea—the common ownership of property. In Hashima there is no private property in land or the instruments of labor. No single person owns property, but all the members of the community possess an equal share. Every one receives income and is permitted to enjoy it. All receive the full results of their labor, together with what nature gratuitously confers upon them. As a result Hashima has no rich and there were never any poor. There is no competition and no strife. There is no hatred, no enmity, no jealousy. Liberty and fraternity are not abstract theories, but facts. The laws of Hashima are simple. There should not be more than forty-one houses, no matter how the population may increase. There are eighty acres of cultivated land, divided into equal portions of forty-one pieces. There is no rice field, but potatoes and rich vegetables are raised, with millet and other grains that grow on dry land. The produce is divided equally according to the individual needs, and the

surplus is exported in exchange for rice. The allotment of imported rice is reserved for festive occasions, such as the first day of the new year, or the 15th of July, which is the date of the commemoration of the foundation of the republic. If necessary, a marriage, birth, death or some other celebration is used for the allotment. The rice is stored in a common granary. Farming, however, is only incidental to the more important industry of fishing. The men are all fishermen and own eleven boats in common. From this source products of the sea are secured which are estimated to bring in 3,000 yen every year. This sum is divided among the forty-one homes without discrimination against any one. When one of the forty-one homes meets misfortune or accident the sufferers are taken care of by the republic. A man capable of doing so is, in cases of misfortune, sometimes charged, by special authority, with the duty of taking charge of a store, out of which he is permitted to make a good profit until he has recovered. Then he has to make room for some other unfortunate. There are two stores owned by the people, one for the sale of liquors and the other for the sale of coarses wares. These are manufactured on the island. The people are temperate; drunkards are an unknown quantity. The children of the island are educated at a grammar school which is usually in charge of a teacher from Amishiro, the nearest village on the opposite coast. The teacher receives his salary chiefly in rice from the common granary, and his clothes are woven and made by the young women in turn. Hashima probably enjoys the distinction of being the only place in the world where communism is in operation, although the Hashimians probably could not explain what is meant by communism or any other sociological term.

Found in Rome.

Another piece of the great plan of the City of Rome in marble, the "Forma Urbis" of the time of Sulpicius Severus, has been discovered in the Roman Forum, where it was used to stop a drain. It has engraved on it the plan of the greater part of the Baths of Agrippa, together with the Pantheon.

Wonderful Bird Dog

Animals Remarkable Feats as Related by a Relative of Ananias.

"Talking about bird dogs," said the man with the shifty eye, in the rear seat of the trolley car—and nobody had said a word about bird dogs or any other kind of dogs—"I had the most remarkable bird dog that ever happened. I guess, when I was living out in Santa Barbara, Cal., in '95, I don't suppose there ever will be the likes of that dog on this earth again. I raised him from a pup. He was a pointer from away back. It was just as natural for that dog to flop on to his haunches and point at a bird as it is for us humans to eat things that don't agree with us.

"He began to point before he had shed his milk teeth. I took him out for a walk one day when he was only about two months old, and it took us about four hours to get over two miles of ground, for that dog would sit down and point at a bird about every 10 feet of our progress.

"In the course of time pointing got to be a regular mania of that dog's, and I couldn't take him out for exercise very often on account of his habit of lagging behind and point at feathered things. Took him out one afternoon when he was about a year old, and a furniture van with a lot of pillows piled on top of some beds came along. One of the pillows was broken at the side and a lot of feathers escape. That dog of mine saw the flying feathers, and blame me if he didn't sit down and point at that furniture van. Fact.

"But that wasn't the cutest thing he

ever did. The cutest thing he ever did was one afternoon when I took him down to the Santa Barbara beach for a walk on the sand. I hadn't any sooner got him down to the beach than he sat down and began to point out to sea. I couldn't for the life of me make out what he was pointing at. There wasn't a bird, not even a seagull, in sight. But he kept right on squatting there at the verge of the sea and pointing out over the water, and if ever a man was puzzled, then I was. At first I calculated that he might be mistaking the crests of the waves for feathers, but no, a little reflection convinced me that he wasn't any such a fool as to do a thing like that. Then I noticed that he was pointing directly at a white ship that lay out in the harbor. I pulled out my field glasses and took a look at the ship, and then the mystery was clear. The ship he was pointing at was the United States man-of-war Petrel," and then the man with the shifty eye executed a sudden leap and escaped from the car before his wrathful listeners could hop on him and macerate him.

Odd Nesting Place.
One day the gardener at the North Creake rectory, Norfolk, Eng., hung up his jacket in the rectory greenhouse. On taking it down he found that a wren had built her nest in one of the sleeves. The intruder seemed quite at home in her odd nesting place, and has been left in undisturbed possession.

A Turkish Ban on Typewriters

The customs authorities have prohibited the entry of typewriters into Turkey, and 200 machines now in the custom house have been ordered returned to the consignor. The authorities have taken up the peculiarly characteristic attitude that there is no distinct feature about typewriting by which the authorship could be recognized or a person using a machine be traced, and that, consequently, any one is able to put in type seditious writings without fear of compromising himself. Hektographic paste and fluid also are prohibited for similar reasons. The embassies are making representations on the subject with the view of inducing the Turkish government to take up a more reasonable attitude.

Gamble to Sacred Music.
There is a gambling house in Philadelphia which employs an automatic church organ instead of a lookout man. "The scheme," says the Record, "has worked beautifully and neither the neighbors nor the 'fly cops' of the district are onto the game. When the organ is started, you might think in passing the house that a prayer meeting or a revival service was in progress behind the closed blinds, for it plays nothing but hymns. All the

evening it switches from Nearer, My God, to Thee, to Rock of Ages, and then to From Greenland's Icy Mountains. And all the time the chips are rattling and the 'kitty' is growing fat. Think of raiding a joint where the organ was playing "Nearer, My God, to Thee!"

School Statistics of Scotland.
Statistics just published state that during last year 756,558 scholars attended schools in Scotland; the total amount raised from the education rate was £923,358, while grants from the government amounting to £696,607 were earned by scholars. There are 867 evening schools in Scotland attended by 43,960 girls and boys, and altogether there are 10,845 certificated school teachers, or one for every 58 children.

Armless and Legless Soldier.
A German surgeon has in his service an old military man who has neither arms nor legs, and half of whose face was carried away by a shell in the war of 1870. He wears a metallic mask, which has been so skillfully adjusted to his face that he still retains some semblance of humanity, and has preserved his sight.

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