

**MR. HOBSON IS WARLIKE**  
The Chicago Journal prints a dispatch from Topeka, Kan., giving an interview with Captain Richmond P. Hobson. The Commoner reproduces this interview in order that its readers may see to what extreme a person can go when the "big navy idea" gets a firm hold on him. The Topeka dispatch follows:  
"Japan is seeking war with the United States at the earliest possible

moment, and I don't blame her. "If I were a Japanese statesman I would urge war."  
In these sensational words Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson, the Merimac hero of Santiago, made stronger than ever to the correspondent of the Journal his opinion that war with Japan is imminent.  
Asked to amplify, Captain Hobson declared that the Japanese are ready for a war, that the United States is

not, and bluntly says: "It is our own fault." Continuing, the former naval officer said:  
"Japan right now is building seven warships to our two. They are just completing three of the Dreadnought battleships now. They have great strength in their torpedo boats, but I believe that our gunners are good enough marksmen to protect themselves against these little instruments of war."  
"Japan has been preparing for war while we slept, and already has 40,000 able-bodied men in Hawaii under the guise of workmen, and is taking a like hold on the Philippines. In one day it could seize the Hawaiian islands and the Philippines, later take and hold Alaska and the Aleutian islands and then capture the whole Pacific slope, having us as badly handicapped as was Russia. However, I do not believe they could hold their footing on our mainland."  
"It is our own fault if we are caught, for we have been stone blind during all these preparations. After the war with China we were advised to get three warships of the Dreadnought class, but congress postponed it two years on account of the expense. Land military preparations in Japan are as well advanced as naval."  
"Japan has perfected an army organization on a scale never before dreamed of. Not only the able-bodied men are soldiers, but all from the school boys to the aged, are trained."  
"Japan is also arming the mighty hosts of China. There are 70,000 Chinese youths studying military tactics in Japan, while China is swarming with Japanese officers, training and organizing the Chinese youths into military bodies."  
"Eight years ago some of the naval men began agitating a naval base in the Philippines and one at Pearl harbor in Hawaii, but as yet not a shovel has been turned. We need three fleets and have one."  
"What the United States should do is to begin at once the building of a new fleet, and until that is ready we have got to grovel and eat dirt and be diplomatic to Japan and England. The great danger that confronts us now is the alliance between these two countries, which puts the United States between two probable enemies. If the navy is removed to the Pacific the Atlantic coast is left exposed to England, and if it is not moved the Pacific coast is menaced by Japan. The navy is not large enough to divide into two fleets, and so there you are."  
"If Japan is going to strike it would be wise from her standpoint for her to do so before we complete the Panama canal, which would enable the fleet to go from the Atlantic to the Pacific much more readily."

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