

Women Assume Important Role In Twentieth Century Jap Life



Nippon's Westernization Brings Emancipation and New Duties

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Everywhere in Japan you are confronted with women working at all manner of jobs. Only in two places do you miss her—in jobs requiring skilled manipulation of machinery, and in government and professional positions. Everywhere else, bowed often under the weight of a child on her back, she cheerfully bears her full share of the work of the nation; frequently the heavier end of the load is hers.

One reason for her undertaking many outside occupations is that homemaking appears a minor problem of Japanese women. Houses are fragile wooden structures, unpainted, with sliding paper windows and partitions. The tiny one or two rooms with matting-covered floors are bare of furniture and decoration except for chests of drawers and the single scroll hung in a recess.

Low, individual, traylike tables and a few saucers and bowls for dishes are brought in from the entrylike kitchen at meal time. Beds are simply quilts pulled from the cupboards and laid on the floor at night.

Japanese Conserve Time.

A minimum of time and labor is required to get the family started every morning. Bed quilts are rolled up and put away in a closet. Chopsticks and bowls are rinsed out in either hot or cold water and left to dry. Even the daily cooking takes little time. Fish and rice are the staples. Fish is often eaten raw, and rice may be cooked at any time and set aside in a wooden tub to be served cold. Vegetables are few. Peas are cooked in the pod, and the big white carrots and cabbages are pickled. In slack seasons they are cut up and salted down in large wooden buckets and kept ready for instant consumption. The country woman, after giving the family a quick breakfast of rice, pickles, and hot tea, ties the baby on her back and makes for the fields. With kimono tucked up, she engages in any kind of farm labor. Sometimes she works alone, more often side by side with husband or son.

Rural Life Busy.

As you wander through the country in the Kyoto-Nara region during the rice-harvesting season, you come upon one family after another working on the small farms of two or three acres. In one group the small children play on a matting spread out on the ground. A young man threshes at a handmade device, his mother sifts the rice on a large round sieve, his wife carries up bundles of rice from the drying racks, and his sister drags away the stalks.

In shop houses lining city streets, woman does her full share of work. With the ever-present baby on her back, she switches from housework to shop duties. She arranges the shop, keeps it tidy, and waits on customers. Every village and city has a multitude of markets with open-air stalls.

Woman's work begins when she is young. Everywhere one sees little girls, their backs bent under the weight of the family baby. School releases no girl from labor. At the end of a day of hard study, girls push back the seats and sweep and tidy the schoolroom. Others sweep up the playground. Six years of primary school are compulsory throughout Japan. In low wooden rambling buildings the children are crowded 50 or 60 in a room. It is arduous to learn the intricate characters and to trace them with brush pen and thin paper.

Girls Start Work Early.

Despite all the wearying work, only half of the 3,000 characters necessary to read the newspaper are mastered at the end of the six years. When the six years of primary school are finished, the girls must find work. Many girls enter that institution rather new to Japan, the department store. In some, the girl wears a kimono, but in many she dresses in western style. She works in every department—women's and children's clothes, shoes, caps and hats, candy, stationery, notions, or what not. As one enters theater or motion

An example of Japan's new feminine emancipation is found in the Takarazuka girls' opera, soon to visit the United States. Above: the girls have a dormitory of their own with tastefully furnished rooms.



Traditional Japanese drama is included in the repertory. An actress is shown here making up for her role with the aid of an assistant.



All stage roles, both feminine and masculine, were once taken by men, but today women have invaded Japan's theatrical world. Miss Agugara Kuni, above, is ready for her act.

picture house, again one sees young women and girls at work. They sell the tickets and usher patrons to their seats. The ushers wear western dress—blue, brown, or green, according to the house they serve—and white collar and cuffs. Their hair is waved, and they look very chic.

In hotels and inns, whether native or modern, in restaurants and tea-houses, in railway diners, the young woman serves as waitress. In old-style inns, and in many restaurants, the girl moves demurely about, clad in a kimono; in other places, she is ultramodern in dress, with the latest style of white-lawn apron and cap.

Women Manage Restaurants.

In the native inns most of the work is done by women and girls. A row of kneeling maids greets low guest at the entrance and bows low to the floor. Then one comes forward, gives the guest slippers (shoes must be left at the outside entrance), and leads him to his room. This maid conducts the guest to the bathroom, brings meals, makes up the bed on the floor and carries it away in the morning, sweeps up the room and takes care of clothes.

When a guest leaves, it is she who accompanies him to the door and puts on his shoes. As he looks back from the street, she is standing at the outer gate smilingly bowing him farewell. Then there's the bus or tram girl who works on the bus routes that extend everywhere in Japan, and to a lesser extent in Taiwan (Formosa) and Chosen (Korea).

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

So-called yardstick becomes a straw man in joint senate-house investigation of TVA . . . How government can sell electricity cheaper than private concerns explained . . . Appointments present tough problem to President.

WASHINGTON.—One of the most extraordinary developments of any congressional inquiry in the memory of the oldest inhabitants is what the joint senate-house committee investigating the Tennessee Valley Authority is doing with regard to the so-called yardstick.

The point is that the committee has heard testimony for days running about the yardstick. Experts for the utilities have occupied days of the committee's time attacking the concept, seeking to prove that it is the bunk, that it has no relation to what it is really supposed to be. The committee counsel, Francis Biddle, has spent endless effort trying to knock down the contentions of these experts, with some assistance from several of the Democratic members of the committee.

Which would be all right except for one little thing. What is happening is that a straw man has been erected, and everybody is acting as though he were real. The experts for the utilities are attacking the straw man and trying to knock him over. Biddle and the Democrats are also acting as though the straw man were the sacred ark of the covenant and trying to prevent a single dent or singe.

What is this straw man? It is the concept of the TVA yardstick that the public in general, and congress in particular, held up to last summer. It was the idea that the TVA was going to determine, by actual operation, what electric rates should be, and what prices extortionate. This yardstick was to be held up to the country, with the general idea that the public would then know whether, in any particular community, it was being treated fairly by its utility company.

But that concept was thrown to the winds last summer at Knoxville by no less an authority than David E. Lillenthal, who is the most powerful of the two remaining Tennessee Valley Authority commissioners.

Tells How Government Can Undersell Private Firms

Lillenthal was on the stand before this same committee. He was asked by Rep. Charles A. Wolverton what it was that enabled a government operation to sell electricity more cheaply than a privately owned one.

Lillenthal frankly stated, with no hesitation at all, what these elements were. One was the government could borrow money for 2 per cent, whereas private capital had to pay much more. He pointed out that in the production of electricity from water power the chief element of cost is interest on the investment, the cost of the dam, the land for the reservoir, the dynamos, the power transmission lines, etc.

Another element which made government costs cheaper, he pointed out, was that when the government built a dam it could charge off a considerable fraction of the cost to flood control and navigation, whereas a private company had no way of being able to cash in on such benefits, even if they were admitted.

Still a third element, he admitted, was the difference in taxes.

In some surprise, Sen. Harry H. Schwartz, one of the Democratic members of the committee, asked Lillenthal what, in view of what Lillenthal had just said, became of the yardstick. Lillenthal hesitated for a moment, and then asked the committee's permission to take some time in carefully writing out his answer. He would like to produce a definition of the yardstick, he said, which would be right, and could not be attacked.

Problem in Appointments Faces President Roosevelt

President Roosevelt faces a real problem on his approaching Supreme court and department of justice appointments. As a matter of fact the dilemma extends generally to recruiting for all New Deal officials, in such cases as appointments require confirmation by the senate before the officials can take office.

The senate is feeling its oats. It is returning from the country anti-C. I. O., anti-sit-down strikes, anti-Corcoran and Cohen, and, for the first time, not afraid of what the President might be able to do to punish recalcitrants.

So far as the attorney generalship is concerned, the President's problem is complicated by geography. His real choice for attorney

general to succeed Homer S. Cummings is Robert H. Jackson. But Jackson is from New York state, and the Empire state already has three cabinet members—Henry Morgenthau Jr., James A. Farley and Miss Frances Perkins.

The once very imminent prospect that Farley would leave the cabinet has been almost eliminated. The Roosevelt "recession" nipped one very good chance for Big Jim to get out and make some money for his family. While waiting for something else to turn up Jim, through a ghost writer, put out his book, which netted him \$75,000, according to reliable reports.

Now \$75,000 is not much of a capital if a man contemplates retiring and living on the interest, but it is a nice piece of change if one has a regular job paying \$15,000 a year.

So Jim's financial worries are over for the time being. He need not look around for a business job.

Morgenthau and Miss Perkins Love Their Work

The other two New Yorkers, Miss Perkins and Henry Morgenthau Jr. could not be pried loose from their jobs. In the first place, they love their work. In the second place, they love the glory of it, the social prestige, in fact everything about it. In the case of Morgenthau, Roosevelt would be genuinely sorry to lose him anyhow. The President does not regard Morgenthau as a Bernard M. Baruch, and he knows that "Henry" is stubbornly committed to a lot of ideas at wide variance from New Deal economics. But he knows also that no one could be more faithful to him than Morgenthau.

Miss Perkins is sometimes a worry to the President. She is doing better now, but for a time she could not have stirred up more trouble for the White House on Capitol Hill, if that had been her particular objective—simply because she rubbed the fur of senators and important representatives the wrong way. But Miss Perkins also is known for her utter loyalty, and she has the enthusiastic backing of Mrs. Roosevelt.

In addition, her leaving the cabinet would open up a real problem, unless the President were to appoint Edward F. McGrady, the only known person who could be appointed Secretary of Labor without starting something approaching a civil war between the A. F. of L. and C. I. O.

Not Easy to Find a Man Big Enough for the Job

New Dealers generally, admitting that the fact there are now three cabinet members from New York, which eliminates Robert H. Jackson as a serious contender for the attorney generalship, are predicting that Gov. Frank Murphy of Michigan will be appointed.

No one can be sure what the President will do, especially as it is not an easy task he has to pick out a man who will seem to the country big enough for the job, and yet be a militant New Dealer—especially as the department of justice is one place where it is extremely important, from the White House standpoint, to have a 100 per cent New Dealer. As a matter of fact, Homer S. Cummings had certain failings, from the New Deal standpoint, because every now and then he would have a conservative reaction.

So Murphy, once Jackson is passed over, would seem a "natural" for the attorney generalship. But to appoint him would be to provoke a new White House versus senate battle, which would approach the Supreme court enlargement fight in bitterness and popular interest. Moreover, the President would be committing himself in advance, in this battle, to the side which, if one is to accept the political verdict on Capitol Hill, is unpopular.

It is generally agreed among politicians here that the biggest surprise of this year's primaries and elections was the reaction of the voters to C. I. O., and the sit-down strike. The first important manifestation was the Texas primary. It cropped out in various other primaries, but then the verdict became confused with the Ohio primary, where C. I. O.'s most hated governor, Martin L. Davey, was defeated.

Sit-Down Strike Victories Turned Into Defeats

The confusion was complicated by the fact that Gov. Charles H. Martin was defeated in Oregon, after a vigorous fight by C. I. O., and blasts by Secretary Harold L. Ickes. But the election changed the impression given by the Oregon and Ohio primaries. Sit-down strike political victories, as the primaries had been regarded, were turned into bitter defeats by the overwhelming triumph of the Republicans in these two gubernatorial battles.

This, added to the impressive failure of the C. I. O. to roll up big majorities in Detroit and Flint when Governor Murphy was being mowed down by the Michigan voters, drove most politicians to agree that Vice President John Nance Garner was everlastingly right when he denounced the sympathetic attitude of the administration towards sit-down strikes as bad politics.

50,000-ACRE FARM UNDER WATER

NEW HOLLAND, N. C.—One of the world's largest farms lies at the bottom of a lake in eastern North Carolina. Built 15 years ago when Lake Mattamuskeet was drained to reclaim 50,000 acres of rich farm land, the farm was kept free of water by a gigantic pumping system which eventually proved incapable of keeping out the 1,500,000 gallons of water which flowed in every

YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER

America's royal bird, Tom Turkey, starts his journey to the Christmas dinner table. Fernand Pointreau, executive chef of Chicago's Hotel Sherman, demonstrates the fine points of preparing your piece de resistance.



1 If your turkey leg is to be tender and succulent, be sure to remove the nerves. Slit the legs up the side and pull out the nerves, using a heavy utensil that will give you purchase for a strong pull.



2 Slit the skin down the back of the neck so that it can be folded back to hold the dressing.



3 Cleaning. Make the incision as small as possible, and set aside the giblets for the gravy. Do not forget to remove the lungs.



4 Stuffing. No fancy dressing such as oyster or chestnut, insists Pointreau, but a simple stale bread dressing is perfect.



5 The dressing is in and Pointreau sews up the turkey, almost ready for its trip to the oven.



6 The bird is tied carefully with heavy string and placed in the roasting pan.



7 You don't put your Christmas turkey in the oven and forget it; baste the bird every 10 minutes during the roasting process.



8 And we're ready for the Christmas feast. Never, never put any garnishment on the platter except watercress, says Pointreau.

Undie Set and Day Dress Easily Made

THE undie set goes so quickly and easily, in fact, that you can finish it for a gift in time for Christmas—and you'll certainly want to make it for yourself. The house frock is a diagram design that you can finish in a few hours.

The Undie Set. Slip, panties and brassiere are all included in this one simple design that even the inexperienced can make with no difficulty. Make it up in fine quality materials—satin, crepe de Chine or flat crepe—and you'll save money not only



in the first place, but in the long run, because the undies will wear and wash so long and so well. The slip has a beautifully fitted line over which your doll-waisted clothes will look their best. The brassiere provides support and uplift that you need for a definite bustline, and the panties are unusually smooth-hipped, because they fasten with a zipper.

The House Dresser. This full-skirted frock is such a pretty thing that you'll be wise to make it up in flannel or challis for shopping as well as in calico, gingham and percale for around the house. The bodice has darts just above the waist to create becoming fullness over the bust, the sleeves are puffed high at the shoulders, and the neckline, outlined with a double row of braid or ribbon, is extremely flattering.

The Patterns. No. 1649 is designed for sizes 14, 16, 18, 20, 40, 42, 44 and 46. Size 16 requires, for the slip 2 3/4 yards of 39-inch material; for the panties, 1 1/2 yards; for the brassiere, 1/2 yard.

No. 1650 is designed for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Size 14 requires 4 3/4 yards of 35-inch material; 11 yards of ribbon or braid to trim. Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., Room 1020, 211 W. Wacker Dr., Chicago, Ill. Price of patterns, 15 cents (in coins) each.

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When the kidneys fail to function as Nature intended, there is retention of waste that may cause body-wide distress. One may suffer nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—feel tired, nervous, all worn out.

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