

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL By Carter Field FAMOUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT



Washington.—When a few young Japanese army officers assassinate a few cabinet members and force a change in the government, even if they do kill the wrong man for the premier, Washington diplomats and officials comment very cynically. They say without hesitation that the young officers are taking the blame because it would never do to have the real brains behind the movement exposed. It's a sort of survival, they point out, of the "king can do no wrong" theory. Which means that when the king really does something wrong, some one else takes the blame.

"Why, that's what ministers are for," said one old diplomat. But when the same type of thing—not killing people but taking the blame for what somebody else did—happens in America every one is very serious. It is solemnly debated in the house and senate just as though the "rap takers" were the really guilty parties.

Two recent episodes must have amused the diplomatic group here no end. One was the General Hagood case, which is still spouting fireworks, and the other was the definitely closed Marine band episode.

Every one on the inside in the Navy department knows perfectly well that the then assistant secretary of the navy, the late Henry L. Roosevelt, had no more important function in the Marine band episode than an errand boy. It is well known that he had his orders direct from the White House. It is even known who signed the order, for it was in writing. But there is no use dragging that in, for nobody thinks the secretary who signed the order originated it either.

But Henry Roosevelt was roundly denounced for having withdrawn the band from a patriotic women's society convention because Bainbridge Colby had made a speech the night before criticizing President Roosevelt.

Craig Takes Rap

In the General Hagood case, which has distinctly become a "hot potato," if not a boomerang, the gentleman to take the rap is Gen. Malin Craig. It was just terrible, to hear Representative Thomas L. Blanton of Texas tell that a tough, hard-boiled horsewhipper of petty thieves in the army should have been permitted to deprive an honest soldier like General Hagood of his command. Blanton felt sure President Roosevelt would not stand for any such nonsense, but would force Craig to reinstate the innocent Hagood.

Now no one is going to claim that Craig's heart beats warmly at the mere mention of Hagood's name. But neither is anyone who looks at the record going to figure that Craig suddenly became his old horse-whipping self—if you believe Blanton—just because General Hagood talked boondoggling and stage money, and demanded that the army should have better quarters for its men instead of squandering money on useless projects.

It's much harder than trying to believe that the young Japanese officers acted on their own initiative. For every army officer who has discussed the situation in private thinks that Hagood is perfectly right, though, some, of course, say he was indiscreet, to talk about "stage money." But they do agree emphatically that it would be better to spend some of this money on the army.

So that it would appear a reasonable deduction that however Craig may have disliked Hagood, he didn't originate the idea of punishing him for that. Yet as a result the friends of Roosevelt, trying to protect the President from such an unseemable maneuver, have actually been muckraking Craig's past history, digging out this horse-whipping episode, on which he was exonerated by a senatorial committee years ago.

Annoys New Dealers

Father Coughlin has yielded to William J. Cameron in being the most annoying speaker—from the New Deal standpoint—on the radio each Sabbath evening from Detroit. In his talk just preceding President Roosevelt's tax message, Cameron devoted all his time to explaining, in simple language, just what the value to the nation in general and the working man in particular was of a big corporation surplus.

He pointed out, for instance, that in the years since this depression began industry has spent \$27,000,000,000 out of surplus in carrying on, employing labor and buying materials—keeping the wheels turning. He made it perfectly clear that the corporations had spent \$27,000,000,000 more than they took in during this period, in addition, of course, to every dollar that they did take in. In the same period, Cameron pointed out, the government spending for relief of the employed, for providing jobs for them, and everything that goes with it, was only \$5,500,000,000—just about one-fifth. With the

tremendous difference that this spending by the government means taxes, which hamper business and reduce buying power.

No one can estimate the number of persons who listen to Cameron. The radio companies have never perfected any device which would show how many radio sets are tuned in on a given program. And as Cameron happens to make no appeal for funds, nor any request for comment, much less any suggestion that by sending in some cartoon covers you may win a prize, there is no means of arriving at even an approximate figure.

But Cameron does happen to work for Henry Ford. He talks on the Ford hour, which is mostly devoted to music, which would normally be classed as very high grade, in fact, mostly classical. And radio people say this would limit the number of listeners—even if Ford dealers should do a little plugging, as they have been known to do for other things in which Ford was interested.

Talks for Ford

The chief interest in the Cameron talks to most politically minded folks in Washington is that he is saying what Henry Ford wants said. Much of it is in an indirect way of flattering Henry Ford and the kind of business Ford runs.

But Ford from time to time has been very keenly interested in politics, and the Cameron talk about the use of which the corporations of the country put their surpluses may be accepted as Ford's reflection on the ideas underlying the Roosevelt tax proposal.

Which is the more interesting, because it projects itself into the Presidential campaign. Because at the moment there seems little real doubt that the Roosevelt idea of forcing bigger distribution of corporation earnings is going to become law.

As experts here analyze the situation, the new tax policy would mean bigger dividends, bigger spending for replacements, more advertising aimed at the future as well as the present, and more wages. So far all to the good. But they also figure that it points inevitably to bigger and worse depressions punctuating the spells of greater prosperity. This on the theory that when depression comes there will not be the cushion to break the fall. Hence it will be more precipitate.

There would not be this \$27,000,000,000 for the corporations to spend, for instance. The New Deal answer is that if the surpluses are spent as they are earned, there won't be any depressions.

Cut Down on Relief

Assuming that congress does vote a tax bill calculated to bring in \$786,000,000 additional, the budget will be precisely balanced except for whatever may be appropriated later for relief, and plus, of course, anything else congress may appropriate which is not now on the program.

Which means that the federal government will go into debt during the year beginning July 1 precisely the amount of the relief appropriations. In his budget message President Roosevelt pointed out that if relief appropriations are less than two billion dollars, the budget picture will be just that much better than it was for the present year.

There is no doubt whatever that the relief appropriation will be less than two billion dollars. It will not be anything like that much. But it will have to be a good round sum. Some of the experts are talking about one billion dollars, but nobody knows, nor even the men who will decide what congress is to be asked to appropriate—President Roosevelt himself and Administrator Harry L. Hopkins.

Not only that, but they will not know what it is really going to be when they ask for it, nor after congress has given it to them. They may spend less than is appropriated, or the precise amount, or more. This last possibility is not as silly as it sounds. Government agencies that have the backing of the President have never worried too much about what has been appropriated. That is what we have deficiency bills for—to take care of just such "emergencies." And there are generally about two of those omnibus measures a year.

Taking the good round figure of one billion for relief, however, for no other reason than it is the best obtainable at the present moment, this would mean that the government will go one billion dollars further into debt during the year beginning July 1.

This is the really important situation that underlies all the froth of present tax consideration by the house and senate. It explains why members of the house today are in abject fear that when their tax bill gets over to the senate the notion of Senators La Follette, Vandenberg and Couzens may prevail.

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AMUSEMENTS in JAPAN



A Sandal Shop in Tokyo.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service

NOT many years ago it was held against the Japanese that they never indulged in athletics. Today there are in Tokyo two huge stadiums, one originally seating 65,000 people, but enlarged in 1931 to accommodate 80,000, the other 30,000, and on the days of baseball games there are few vacant seats.

With the exception of wrestlers, there are no professional athletes in Japan. Teams are made up largely of undergraduates in the various universities, and it is the interarsity games which draw the largest crowds.

Baseball, skillfully and intelligently played, is as popular in Japan as in the United States, but it is not the only popular athletic sport. Rugby football is played everywhere and played well. As it is part of the army training and as something like 100,000 young men go through this training, rugby may well supersede baseball in popularity. Hockey and association football are played more and more and boxing is becoming popular. Wherever there is space in Tokyo there is a tennis court. The Y. M. C. A. pool is always full of swimmers, as are the great outdoor pools in summer, and Japanese swimmers hold some world records. More and more rowing crews, in racing shells are appearing on the rivers and lakes.

Golf clubs are springing up, and, as in America, the links are used largely by business men. At the army maneuver field, on the outskirts of the city, you can see magnificent riding. So the old accusation of lack of interest in athletic sports can no longer be made.

These modern games have not entirely driven out the old, purely Japanese sports. Thousands gather, as of old, to watch the wrestling matches, where the immensely fat men so well known in Japanese prints carry on their strange matches under the ancient rules. Archery is also popular among the chosen few, and the great matches are always sponsored by some of the imperial princes. It takes a strong man even to bend some of the tough old bows.

Athletics Build Up the Race.

It would be impossible to estimate what athletics are doing for the Japanese as a race. The Bible says that no man by taking thought can add a cubit to his stature, but there is no doubt that succeeding generations of Japanese are taller. When you meet young men in Tokyo, dressed in gymnasium costume, running through the streets; when you see the finely proportioned bodies of the boys in the Y. M. C. A. pool; when you go to a university graduation and see the students all together, you no longer think of the Japanese as a particularly "little people." With a better-regulated and better-balanced diet and with physical training from the earliest years, through all grades of school, the Japanese are growing up physically. They grew up mentally a long time ago.

It is said that the generation now reaching maturity is, on an average, an inch taller than the preceding generation. As a generalization, one should doubt this, but at the same time one feels sure it is true in the cities where modern ideas of exercise and diet are prevalent.

There is probably no phase of life in Tokyo which more clearly shows the contrast between the old and the new than do the theaters. You go to the Kabuki-za or to the splendid Tokyo theater and there see ancient dramas given in the old style of acting; or you go around the corner to a movie theater and see the latest Hollywood production.

The Kabuki and Tokyo theaters are enormous, thoroughly modern, handsome buildings. The orchestra seats are like those in an Amer-

ican theater except that they are lower. The boxes have no seats, because people seem to prefer to sit on the floor, in the old style. The plays begin—there are generally three or four given in succession—from two until four o'clock in the afternoon and last until ten o'clock at night.

Huge Theater Stage.

The stage is enormous, the lighting and scenic effects superb. It is probably true that the Japanese were the first to have a revolving stage for quick shifts of scenery. The actors strut in the ancient style and chant their lines. In fact, if the lines are emotional, they are sung by the musicians at the sides of the stage, since it is not considered proper to show too great emotion.

But, in spite of all this, the actors—men, of course, take the women's parts, and a Japanese lady explains this as being necessary "because men are so much more graceful"—are really great and make a profound impression on any foreigner who has the intelligence to rise above the "queerness" of the performance.

It may be true, as some have said, that the living actors of the stage adopted their stilted style from the puppet shows of old, but the style cannot hide their power of character portrayal. You feel, on leaving the theater, that you have been living in all the color of past centuries. And then the movies are just as crowded as the theaters. There is a movie industry in Japan, but this does not detract from the popularity of the Hollywood productions. Talking pictures were hard to deal with at first, but now a solemn individual sits at the side of the picture and translates, apparently to the satisfaction of the audience, as the play progresses.

Lots of Gay Cafes.

Tokyo is full of cafes, always crowded, modeled somewhat on the cafes of Paris. In former days people gave geisha parties, those rather solemn affairs at which geishas danced their symbolic dances. They were very expensive, and those who could not afford the expense contented themselves with picnics. Now the cafes are crowded, their principal patrons being, perhaps, the "mobos" and the "mogas." The Japanese, more than any other nation, love to abbreviate, and "mobo" is the abbreviation for modern boy, and "moga" is the abbreviation for modern girl. Indeed, these mobas and mogas, dressed almost always in European clothes and trying to adopt the freedom of European manners, are about the most modern aspect of Tokyo.

One might go on almost indefinitely in pointing out the various contrasts of this city, where at every point the contrasts between the old and new, between the occidental and the oriental, is so striking. It should never be forgotten that both the old and the new, both the western and the eastern, are real in Tokyo. Somewhere in the fusion of the two lies the truth of Tokyo. When one remembers that the western ideas have been naturalized for less than a century, one can understand the inevitable outcropping of oriental ideas.

In these days when the populace of Tokyo is excited over the China situation, when any soldier is applauded on the streets, there is, perhaps, an outcropping of the old military love of the samurai class. Yet even this is somewhat also occidental. In an American city nothing can arouse such enthusiasm as marching troops at a time when war is in the air. So far as ideas are concerned, Kipling was wrong in saying that the West and East could not meet. In Tokyo the West has met the East, and out of this meeting is growing a new kind of civilization, in which the ideals of the two hemispheres are fusing.

Alaskan Eskimo Is a Fast-Vanishing Race, Doctor Says

The average life span of Alaskan Eskimos is only 24 years, due chiefly to the prevalence of tuberculosis, says Dr. Victor E. Levine of the Creighton university school of medicine in Omaha, Neb. He has completed his third trip to the Arctic to make medical studies of the Eskimos.

Unless more physicians are provided in the Arctic to guard the health of Eskimos the race will become extinct in little more than a generation, Doctor Levine predicts.

Smiles

Tough Luck
"What you all doin' now, big boy?"
"Ah is an exporter."
"An exporter? What's dat?"
"Ah wuz pullman porter, but ah's been fired."

Heavy Competition
Jiggs—What happy people you must be to have eight nice daughters! What resources for your old age!
Jags (very sadly)—Yes, I have resources enough! But the difficulty nowadays consists in husbanding one's resources.—Everybody's.

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