

AN EXPERT OPINION OF RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA

Dr. Morrison, the well-known correspondent in Peking of the London Times, has been interviewed by the Melbourne, Australia, Argus, and gives a gloomy view of the situation in Manchuria and the far east, as the following extracts show:

"This is the year of danger, looked forward to as possibly the most important in eastern history, because the strength of Japan is relatively greater by comparison with Russia than it is likely to be in the future. Both the Japanese naval and military programs are complete. She has in her own waters her newest warships—six of the finest battleships in the world; her infantry have been re-armed with the 'thirty-year' rifle; her artillery equipment is modern and complete. It has always been expected that Japan would make some effort to prevent the Russian occupation of Manchuria; the impediment to popular, if not official, desire is her alliance with a peaceful power. It is just a question how far the inclination and policy of Great Britain can temper popular revengeful feeling in Japan. That spirit is quite explicable, too, for they find Russia, as a result of peaceful diplomacy in absolute possession of Port Arthur, the formidable position which they won by force of arms, the taking of which is the great event in their military history, but which, by agreement of the great powers, they were compelled to evacuate. No wonder that the students of the new and greater eastern question consider the problem more serious now than it ever was."

As to the Russian evacuation of Manchuria, he says:

"She will evacuate to the letter but not the spirit of her treaty. That is the masterful phase of Russian diplomacy—treaties so phrased that they can violate them utterly in the spirit, yet point to the parchment and say, 'We have done that which we agreed to do.'"

"Manchuria is one of the granaries of the east. Millet and beans are its chief products. The millet grows as high as a man on horseback, and the bean trade in the busy season is one of the most remarkable sights in the world. There is a daily road traffic to Niu-chwang of 2,000 carts, each drawn by from five to seven mules, and carrying, perhaps, three tons. The road traffic is all over the frozen snow. In summer some 20,000 boats are engaged in the river trade—3,000 will come in together, and on one occasion, when the river pirates were active, 6,000 boats were conveyed to port in a single flotilla. There is abundance of live stock, horses, cattle, sheep, goats and pigs—no bother about supplies. All eastern Asia is supplied with horses from the frontiers of Manchuria, and the small stout Mongol ponies are the very stamp on which Russia mounts her Kozak cavalry. The railway unites Port Arthur with Vladivostok, just north of which is the great Russian military camp. With the present rolling stock Russia can move 20,000 troops a day. Japan was checked by Russia on the plea that her conquest might have an injurious effect on the lasting peace of the Orient, and now Russia occupies the great strategical points from

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which Japan was deposed. So popular feeling in Japan is one of intense indignation.

"The tendency in Japan is to help the education and enlightenment of the Chinese, to try to obtain for them some of the advantages in trade and commerce which the Japanese have themselves secured by better education, closer intercourse with the outside world and the adoption of western progressive methods. The Chinese and Japanese got on well together during the occupation of Peking. The portion of the city assigned to the control of the Japanese went on as if nothing exceptional had occurred. There are several hundred of Chinese studying now in the Japanese military schools at Tokyo, and lately sixty students went over in one batch—all these the sons of prominent officials or from the best Chinese families. All this must help to a better understanding between the two powers."—Japan and America.

Nagging the Miners.

The coal trust has not abandoned its set purpose to destroy the organization of mine workers. It manifests no intention to abide in good faith by the decree of the strike commission. Its representatives on the deadlocked "board of conciliation" are not there to adjust grievances, but to provoke another anthracite strike. No other conclusion can be drawn from their refusal to recognize the members of the board chosen by the miners. Their alleged objections to the method by which the miners made selection of representatives are the veriest quibbles.

Unquestionably the district presidents represent the organized miners of the districts. Refusal to recognize them is only a renewal of the coal trust's fight against the mine workers' organization. The miners are eager to give the commission's plan of conciliation a fair trial, and stand ready to submit their grievances to a board chosen in accordance with the commission's directions. There is nothing conciliatory in the attitude of the operators. They have selected members of a board of irritation.

The miners have been held at work, under conditions condemned by the strike commission, only by the assurances of their leaders that there was hope of an early hearing of their grievances before a board representing both sides. They have been patient and reasonable. If they are denied a hearing and nagged into a strike to force the coal trust to abide by the award of the commission, the blame will be placed where it belongs.—Philadelphia North American.

Twenty Awful Days.

In the history of this country no previous twenty days, we believe, afford a parallel to those between May 24 and June 15 for combined destruction of life and property.

Beginning with the tornado at St. Elmo, Mo., on May 26, in which twenty persons were killed, the list continues as follows:

- May 29 to June 6, Kansas river floods; 80 killed.
- June 1, Gainesville (Ga.) tornado; 100 killed.
- June 6, Glendale (S. C.) cloudburst; 58 killed.
- June 7 to 15, St. Louis flood; 30 killed.
- June 14, Heppner (Ore.) Cloudburst; 300 killed.

The total value of the property lost

in the above-named disasters is estimated at \$27,500,000, and \$3,000,000 more is computed to have been lost in the forest fires that raged from June 3 to 7 in New York, New Jersey, New England and Pennsylvania. This makes a grand total of 568 lives and \$30,500,000 worth of property wiped out by flood and fire in these twenty days of destruction.—N. Y. World.

Postal Service Extravagance.

If the present investigation into the postoffice department has no other good result it will at least serve the useful purpose of directing attention to the extravagance which characterizes public business methods. A few days ago Postmaster General Payne made it known that a number of persons employed by the postoffice department throughout the country have been receiving salaries in excess of the amount allowed them by law. In some instances salaries have been paid to persons who hold office "under designations not authorized by law" in other words, offices which do not entitle them to salaries at all. Close upon the heels of this announcement comes the charge that the government has been paying extravagant sums for the postoffice space which it rents. As a result of a recent investigation it is charged that in the state of New York the government pays from 25 per cent to 100 and even 200 per cent more for the space which it rents than would be paid by private concerns for the same accommodations. In that state alone it is estimated the excess amounts to \$500,000 a year, and as the rentals are for ten-year periods this means an excess of \$5,000,000 for the life of the leases.

It is not surprising, perhaps, that landlords with office space to rent look upon Uncle Sam as a tenant who should be made to pay dear for his accommodations. The private tenant insists upon being treated as his fellows are treated and his resources are limited. The national government is vague and impersonal and has unlimited means. It is something to mulct of as much money as it can be made to give up. The point to be considered is that apparently this is not the attitude of the landlords alone, but of postoffice officials and members of congress.

The present reports should cause a general investigation throughout the union.—Joplin Globe.

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