WAR AND WOMEN IN JAPAN

One Effect of the Conflict with Russia Noted by Baron Kaneko.

OLD CUSTOMS HAVE FINALLY VANISHED

Independence for the Wife and Mother that Will Not Affect the Home or Its Care.

One of the results of the Russo-Japan war will be that a new era will arise for the woman of Japan. The attitude and participation of the Japanese woman in this great event has given her a real place in the world's history. For the first time, in her proper sphere, she has been introduced to the world, writes Baron Kaneko.

What the war has done to open the eyes of the world to the sterling qualities of the Japanese man is also true of Japanese women.

While it is to be conceded that our women, as well as those of any other nation engaged in such a conflict, would figure in it largely in a way, yet the real part our women played, because of their natural reserve and modesty and the general ignorance regarding the true character of our Japanese women, leave her as yet not so well known as our men.

The result of this war will be of incalculable benefit to our women of Japan. It has placed them in a new and altogether highly favorable light before the whole civilized world.

From the Russo-Japan war will date a renaissance for the Japanese woman, as far as history is concerned. Heretofore she has figured only in fiction, and oftentimes bad fiction at that, owing to the unfortunate misconception of the writer's subject in question.

While the war has brought sorrow and suffering into the hearts of its thousands of soldier widows it has also brought its blessings to the Japanese woman as a whole.

The Japanese woman has been the least understood of all women of civilized nations. Carefully reared, contented in her secluded home life, she has shown no desire to change her position, and her position today remains to a large extent that of her ancestors. The outside world has known little or nothing of her. Her home life she considers sacred, and carefully guarded in this, as she is, there has been little opportunity or even desire for her to extend her acquaintance outside her immediate family and other relatives, simply for social entertainment or for her personal pleasure. She has devoted her life to her family in the performance of the thousand and one little duties done in the interests of love. So long as she was happy and contented as the center of the best type of home life she had no desire to penetrate into the outside world to seek the flattery and admiration of so-called society. Thus the world knew little if anything of the true Japanese woman.

It is true that the visitors of Japan met a certain type of women called the "Geisha," or chorus girl, and they unfortunately carried away with them an opinion of Japanese women based on their limited knowledge of her.

Before the war I am sorry to say this opinion was quite general. Nor did we take the trouble to correct it.

The serious side of the Japanese woman and her innate talents have found best expression during these trying times through which her country is passing. To appreciate that she has shared generously in these, it is only necessary to consider her work, which has contributed to the Japanese successes in almost every phase with the exception of active service in the ranks. Almost all the appliances of war, including clothing, special food for the soldiers, cotton balls and bandages, even to the manufacture of cartridges, have been the work of woman. While she mentally formed letters of encouragement to brother, father, husband, or sweetheart on the battlefield, her hands were busily employed in making the appurtenances of war which would spell their country's success. Every home throughout the empire, humble or grand, representing princess to maid, was a beehive of woman's industry. Those not engaged in this work were administering to the wounded and dying—friend and foe alike—in the hospitals.

Now that the Japanese woman has played so conspicuous a part in the war, which has brought her into international limelight, she has avenged the critics of her ancestors and her sisters of today.

The stranger in Japan becomes momentarily impressed with the smiling faces of the Japanese women he meets on the streets or in the country places. He hastily concludes from her almost childlike smile an infant intellect or an undeveloped character. She is intensely gentle and modest. There are no striking mannerisms to proclaim to the stranger what she really is. Not knowing her, they fail to read behind the pretty smile the strength of character and beauty of soul.

The stern realities of war have brought out in strong relief the real qualities of our Japanese women.

While her education has expressly fitted her for a true and helpful wife and an affectionate mother, the war has proved that this education, limited as it would seem to the minds of many, has not unfitted her for the broader and nobler duties imposed upon her by war.

The war will necessarily work a social and industrial revolution for our women.

Different from many countries, the women left dependent as a consequence of war will be amply provided for. Besides, they will be paid the profoundest respect by their people and by their community, and the government will always consider itself their debtor.

The keynote of a Japanese woman's ambition is "to become the wife of a great man and the mother of an illustrious son." For this end she will sacrifice everything, even her own life. The effect of the war will not be to lose a particle of this, but it will tend to strengthen it. The widow's interest will be centered in her sons—to educate them to take their father's place both in the home and in service to their country, thus to keep up the family name and honor.

But it is only natural that a large number of young women left without parent, brother or sister will seek a new interest in life through the many avenues of industrial occupation.

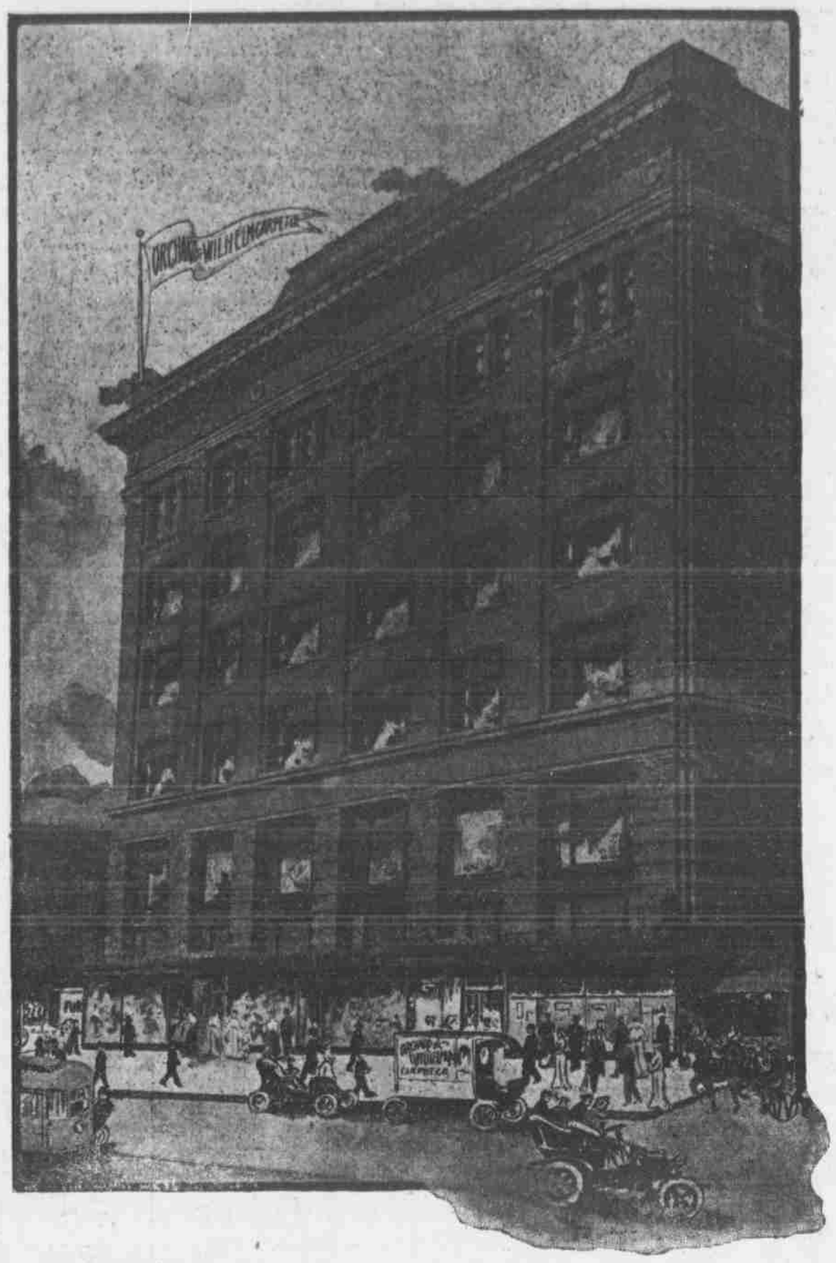
It is not because of her inability to succeed that the Japanese woman has not thus far followed her western sister's example to enter the industrial fields—a firmly rooted tradition in Japan has not so far encouraged it. But it will be but natural that many of these young women will turn to the occupations yet hardly touched by women, such as teaching, nursing and even the professions.

Heretofore woman in Japan was looked upon as a meek and mild creature with little moral stamina. Now that her moral fiber has been strengthened by her recent experiences, she will naturally turn to those avenues of activities where her new sense of independence and dependence will doubtless assert itself.

While the thousands of widows, mothers and sisters will be cared for as those dependent for a livelihood always have been by the community, friends, or relatives, with the additional small pension afforded by the government, that inherent pride of the Japanese woman will repel the thought of accepting this form of assistance. Rather she will wish to use her newly developed powers for gaining an independent livelihood in the many channels of commerce that will be opened for her.

Her entry into the new fields of industry, I believe, will put an entirely new complexion on the sure and higher progress of the extent.

I think the new woman of Japan will say: "I will retain the guardianship of my home. I will retain the same interest and devotion to my family, but as a member of society I will broaden my own education and extend my field of usefulness."



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Forecast of Fall Styles.

The first hints of fall styles are about, early as it is. There is nothing definite as yet, everything, instead, seeming in the transition period, waiting for some radical change to develop.

In these first hints (which are everywhere in the shops) only the conservative things have come out, and those are tentative. But, for all that, there are definite little changes, both of color and line, that mark the styles as different, even though the big changes haven't been determined upon.

The tailor-made suits—and they're the first things that a woman gets in the early fall—are more severely tailored in style than the elaborate, individual styles we've been seeing so long that we've almost forgotten the charm of the long, simple lines. But Paris declared for the severely tailored coats—and skirts to go with them—of linen this summer, and the earliest fall suits of cloth are nothing more than reproductions of some of the most stunning of the late linen models—the ones that wouldn't do up!

Tight-fitting coats—plain as a pipestem—are exquisitely shaped ("built," the French makers say) to the most graceful lines and cut to sweep out from the waist line into a long-skirted effect that has all the idea and suggestion of fullness, yet is nothing more than "easy." They're only tight-fitting in effect, most of them fitting with an easy grace that is impossible with coats that depend upon being buttoned up for their "set."

Instead of the straighter-lined box coats of covert cloth these fitted coats are promised.

Plaited skirts are about done with—those kilted skirts which were made up in every sort of practical and impractical stuff. Gored skirts are still in, but with the longer, severer types of coats the favorite skirts are either nine-gore or circular, made up in a hundred ways that disguise them for the models they are and permit all sorts of distinctive little touches to be used.

Perhaps the prettiest of these new skirts—it's a digression, not a coat suit at all—is of a material that belongs to the voile family, and is made with every other gore accordion plaited, but from the hips only. The gores between are perfectly plain, and the plain tops to the plaited gores make a little hip-yoke effect. As you walk the skirt sways and flutters out from the plaited gores. It's a very graceful model and long, of course.

Back to coat suits again. There's a lot of difference of opinion as to the coming most popular length of coat. Everybody thought that long coats were over and done with, yet some of the prettiest fall models shown have long coats, but fitted. Some of the best tailors, on the other hand, are making everything hip length—what they call a "long hip length."

There's as much diversity of opinion about colors, except for those three points on which almost everybody seems to agree; black, which has been out for a couple of years, and which began to come in in late spring, will probably be one of the season's colors, especially in broadcloth; brown is "dead," and checks—even the invisible checks—are giving way to plain cloths and to invisible stripes and broken invisible plaids.

Beyond these three statements, there are the most conflicting rumors. One tailor asserts that it's to be a gay season, even for the plainest of morning suits—claims that red and blue and green, strong, deep shades of them, will be worn more than the duller colors.

Another declares that everything quiet and unobtrusive will be worn as the foundation, given a touch of piquancy by velvet collars and cuffs of a contrasting color, or a brighter shade of the color of the suit.

And a third—indications point to his being nearer right than any of them—says that the smooth-finished, tightly twisted suitings will be best of all for the simpler suits, that homespuns and broadcloths and a host of materials that range in character between the two will be used for them, and that everything will be made up simply, and left practically untrimmed.

If he is right, and it looks as though he were, it is a natural evolution from the elaborate suits we've been wearing for three years now. And, to tell the truth, most of us are a little tired of the almost fussy styles of walking suits that it seemed impossible to get away from.

Shirt waists of heavy linen will be worn with these suits all winter, in place of the lingerie blouses, which are so evidently not the character of these severer styles.

Following in the wake of cashmere, which was surprisingly popular last winter—surprising because it had been out so long—henrietta promises to be high in favor for dresses and shirt waist suits and a hundred and one uses.

The shaggy stuffs, which went out with a bang a year ago, seems likely to stay out indefinitely, although it's a long way too early to prophesy about so definite a winter material.

Woman Saves a Horse.

While a crowd stood by and applauded her, Miss Alice Dudley, a nurse at St. Luke's hospital, applied first-aid-to-the-injured methods to a horse that had been overcome by the heat in West One Hundred and Twenty-first street during the recent hot spell in New York.

Miss Dudley was hurrying to the hospital when she saw that a horse attached to a heavy delivery wagon in front of 105 West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street was on the yerge of collapse from the heat. Ordering the driver, who had not noticed the condition of the horse, to unharness him, she sent a man for all the ice he could buy and for a bottle of whisky.

Before the man returned with the ice the horse dropped to the pavement. A crowd quickly gathered, but Miss Dudley stood close to the head of the horse and refused to allow anyone to touch him. As soon as the man returned with the ice, which had been broken into small pieces, she rolled up her sleeves. Taking a blanket from the driver's seat, she wrapped it around the ice and fastened it securely in place. Then she moved up to the horse's head and poured the whisky down his throat.

By the time the veterinary surgeon who had been summoned arrived, the horse had almost recovered. So surprised was he at the skillful manner in which Miss Dudley had treated the horse that he asked her how she knew what to do.

"Why, that was nothing," she said, "I treat many heat cases at St. Luke's hospital, and I knew it was necessary to draw the blood as far as possible from the head."

When Miss Dudley started on her way to the hospital the men cheered her and several women who had blushed furiously at first were heard to say: "My! Wasn't she brave to do that?"

Women Play Polo.

A novel polo match, in which the players were women, has been decided at Ranelagh, when the "Whites," represented by Miss N. Barrow, Mrs. Bamfield, and Miss Arkwright, defeated the "Rainbows," represented by Mrs. Hume Spry, Miss K. S. Young and Miss Webley by eight goals to nothing, says a London cablegram.

London never previously had seen a game between players of the opposite sex, and the match referred to caused quite a flutter of excitement in society circles, where rumors were current that women were to be catered for at the leading polo clubs, and a woman's association was on the point of being formed there. However, it is evident that before the women will be able to play polo the prejudice against riding astride will have to be broken down.

As an amusing novelty the match was a success, but as a polo entertainment it was slow. An obstacle to anything like effective hitting was the side saddle posture, the whole essence of the game being ability to seize the opportune moment for an effective coup. The imminent danger of overbalancing on the near side naturally hampered the striking of the ball. The spectators who witnessed the game were more impressed by the humor of the situation than the seriousness of the encounter.

The seriousness was all on the side of the players, whose firmly compressed lips and desperate efforts to make the ponies follow the ball spoke more plainly than words of their keenness in winning the game.

"What handicapped the players more than anything," said Dr. Hastings, one of the Ranelagh polo managers, "was their inability to control the ponies with knees and heel as the men do. There will not be any more women's games at Ranelagh this season, and I should say it will be a long time before such matches find a place in the club fixture lists in England."

Over a Silver Bridge.

At Roumanian weddings it is the custom at the wedding feast for the groom to receive his ride over a bridge of silver.

Coins are placed in a double row across the table, and over this the bridge daintily steps to her husband's waiting arms.

The ceremony of laying the bridge is one of the interesting events of the wedding feast following the religious ceremony.

When the guests are brought to a proper spirit of festivity by the good cheer at the board a space at the head of the table is cleared and from a bag are drawn silver coins procured for the purpose, the proper provision being the production of coins fresh from the mint.

These are laid in a double row across the table, and when all is ready the father of the groom makes a speech to his son, admonishing him to see that his bride's way through life is always peaved with silver.

A proper response is made, and, mounting a chair, the elder man swings the bride lightly to the table. Carefully avoiding the displacing of a coin (for that would mean bad luck) the girl makes her way across the short silver pathway and leaps into the arms of her spouse.

At wedding feasts where ostentation is desired the bridge is built lengthwise of the table.—New York Herald.

Notes of Woman's Work.

Miss Margaret Edmunds has established the first training school for nurses in Corea.

Miss Bessie Bain, who lives near Chatham, N. Y., has been appointed overseer of highways in her district.

Mrs. Annette Mills, formerly of Rochester, N. Y., is the founder and manager of the only deaf mute school in China.

Miss Elizabeth Falconer of Louisville, Ky., will be enrolled among the benefactors of her race. She has invented a means of lacing shoes without stooping.

Helen Keller's book has been translated into twelve foreign languages, including Japanese, Russian, Roumanian, Finnish, Bohemian, Danish and Swedish.

Miss Elizabeth K. Brown, eldest daughter of the late David Wolfe Brown, who for many years was chief official reporter of the house of representatives, has gone into the mining business in Colorado.

Pundita Ramabai has secured a new farm of eighty acres, where she rescues and cares for the miserable child-widows of India, upon whom no one seems to take pity except her.

Mrs. Emmons Blaine, whose contributions for the development of pedagogical science have amounted to more than $1,000,000, will be appointed a member of the Chicago Board of Education by Mayor Dunne, who will make a departure from custom by doubling the number of women on the board.

There died this spring in Paris the Viscountess d'Aquado, aged 88. She had been a lady-in-waiting at the court of Louis Napoleon and was renowned for her great beauty. The former Empress Eugenie, now a feeble and aged woman, desolate and unhappy, was represented at the funeral by Prince Murat.

Seven women physicians and dentists, successful practitioners in New Orleans, will combine in a free medical and dental clinic for women and children, which will be located in three rooms of a house in the most thickly settled portion of the city, where the most destitute people are found. The doctors interested in this undertaking are Sara T. Mayo, Susanna Otis, Elizabeth Bass, Cora Bass, Clara Glenk, Clothilde C. Jauquet and Fassy (dentist).

Mrs. Frederick Ferris Thompson of New York is an unknown woman—in a public sense, that is to say—who is doing handsome things with her money without the embarrassment of conditions. She has erected a physical culture building for the Teachers' college in New York, costing $350,000. A library building which she gave Vassar took $500,000 and a college chapel building for Williams college, costing $400,000, will be dedicated in a few days.

The New York Council of Jewish Women, Miss Sadie American president, has received an anonymous gift of $10,000 to found a house for friendless young women in need of temporary assistance. Mrs. Maud Nathan will furnish one of its rooms in memory of her daughter Annette. It is expected that the beneficiaries of this house will be mostly young girls who have just emigrated to this country with no acquaintances here. Such girls will be met at Ellis island and taken care of until they find positions. An excellent adjunct will be the Clara de Hirsch house for working girls, where girls will be trained for trades and professions.

Feminine Frills and Fancies.

New sweaters hint at fall sports.

For the plainer shirtwaists have come linen, fairly heavy, and embroidered with round dots or with eyelets—not brought together into designs, but set at regular intervals.

Princesse dresses are among the prettiest of the summer evening gowns.

High tan shoes are to be had. Earlier in the season they were almost impossible to get.

Skirts still show plenty of gores—seventeen and twenty-one gores being oftenest met with.

For the white ribbon belts that spoil so soon, wash ribbon proves mighty satisfactory.

White and silk petticoats alike come in varying lengths, instead of the one length (that always has to be altered) of a couple of years ago.

Coffee jackets of linen, or of allover embroidery or lace—the heavy kinds, of course—make a separate blouse and skirt into a stunning little costume.

One of the least expensive lingerie waists of the season for the money costs $5. Stocks, cuffs and the fronts of the waist are done in hand embroidered designs and fine tucking carried yoke deep gives fullness.

The prettiest of the lingerie hats has just made its bow—or its tilt! It is of pink handkerchief linen, embroidered in an exquisite eyelet pattern, and made up over plaitings of mousseline of the same delicate shade. A big bow of soft pink ribbon finishes it.

A white enameled stand for the dressing room has two under shelves. On each of these are placed two cretonne-covered hat boxes with straps at the bottom for drawing them out. In each box is a wooden peg hat support, the top covered with cretonne to match the outside of the box.

An old fashion in jewelry which is being revived is that of woven chains and these made into bow knots with the ends finished with fine gold fringe. A short neck chain is made in this way, the bow in the front. A pendant set with a large stone of some kind hangs from the center of the knot.

The heavy old fashioned gold bracelets are quite the smart thing now, and if you have any hidden away you may bring them out and wear them and find yourself quite in the fashion. Old necklaces, too, of the styles of the '70s, especially if they have cameo pendants attached, are very fashionable, and the woman who has them stored out of sight will have them cleaned and wear them. Generally only one bracelet is worn, and it is placed outside of the long glove when worn in the daytime.

Spyglass Caddying.

"I charge," said the caddy, "fifty cents a round."

"That's high, isn't it?"

"About double."

"But what right have you," said the golfer, "to charge double?"

"On account o' me equipment," said the boy, "Did you see this here spyglass?"

He displayed a good telescope.

"Well, this here spyglass cost $100, and with it I can locate every ball. I foller every shot with the spyglass. I watch where the ball drops, and I take the bearin's of the place. The result o' that there is that no player ever loses a ball when I caddy for him.

"Here's testimonials, three dozen, and they all say that with me and me spyglass caddyin's no balls ain't ever lost. They all say, on account of the savin' in lost balls, I, with me double charge, am still the cheapest caddy around the club."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

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