

AROUND THE WORLD WITH WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

Agricultural, Horticultural, Mineral and Timber Resources of Japan and the Industrial and Commercial Activities of the People at Present and Their Possible Development for the Future

THE basis of Japanese industry is agriculture, although each year shows a decreasing proportion engaged in the tilling of the soil. Rice is the principal product, but owing to the large amount consumed at home it is not the chief export. As this crop needs an abundance of water, the rice fields occupy the low lands or the mountain gorges. Sometimes the narrow valleys that pierce the ranges are so terraced as to look like steps, and at this time of the year when the crops are being harvested, they resemble golden stairs. The men and women work together in the field, and in many places we saw them standing almost knee deep in mud, cutting the grain with an old-fashioned hand sickle. The rice is tied in bundles somewhat smaller than our wheat sheaves and hung over poles or laid along the edge of a terrace to cure. If the threshing is delayed the grain is stacked, not as we stack wheat and oats in the United States, but in little columns with the heads of the sheaves tied to a pole in the center. Sometimes the stacks are built around a living tree. The grain is separated from the straw by means of a long-toothed comb, and at this season innumerable groups of persons are busily engaged at this work. The yellow heaps of rice in the hull, looking from a distance like wheat, can be seen from the train and from the country roads. Straw mats are used to keep the grain off the ground and, I may add, that the mat is in evidence everywhere in Japan and is used for all sorts of purposes.

Tea, Cotton and Silk Are Important

The cultivation of the tea plant is an industry of no small magnitude, although not so universal as the cultivation of rice. The tea fields occupy the higher levels and add an interesting variety to the landscape. At one point on the railroad between Yokohama and Nagoya the hillsides are covered with tea plantations, if such tiny farms can be called plantations. The tea plant is something like our gooseberry and currant bushes in size, but the foliage is much thicker. The leaves vary widely in value from the cheaper grades, which are exported to the U. S., which costs what is equivalent to \$5 or more per pound.

Some cotton is grown here, but the cotton plant, as we saw it, is small compared with our plant and the tillable area is too limited to admit of the growing of cotton on a large scale.

Tobacco is cultivated to some extent, but the sale of manufactured tobacco is a government prerogative.

Raw silk is by far the most valuable export. \$35,000,000 worth having been sent abroad last year. Three-fifths of the entire export goes to the United States, the remainder to Europe, with France as the largest European purchaser. As \$15,000,000 worth of silk fabrics went abroad, also, as against \$5,000,000 worth of tea and \$4,000,000 worth of rice, it will be seen that the cultivation of the silk worm and the mulberry tree is extensively carried on. The silk worms are kept indoors and the leaves brought in to them. When put outdoors the silk worms are devoured by birds.

Fruits in Abundance and of Great Variety

Fruits grow here in great variety. We have found everywhere apples of excellent quality, raised in the northern part of the islands, while the southern islands produce oranges, bananas and pineapples. The apple tree was imported from America thirty-five years ago; now apples are exported to China and Siberia. The most popular orange is the tangerine, or kid glove orange, as it is sometimes called; many of these are imported.

There is a kind of fruit called the ban-tan, grown on the island of Kyushu. It looks something like the grape fruit, but grows considerably larger and has a thicker skin; the meat is pink in color, sweeter and less juicy than the grape fruit. Peaches grow here; one variety looks like a russet apple in shape and color. Peach trees are sometimes trained as we train grape vines on an arbor, so that the orchard seems to have a flat roof of foliage.

They have here, too, persimmons as large as apples and as solid. We found these on the table in all parts of the island and there are several varieties. The grape is cultivated in Japan, but we did not see grape vines in such profusion as they are seen in southern Europe, along the lakes in western New York or in California. And, in this connection, I may add that wine is not used here to the extent that it is in some other countries, the national drink, sake, being made from fermented rice. Ordinarily this beverage contains from 11 to 14 per cent of alcohol, but there is a stronger kind called shochu, which contains as much as 50 per cent of alcohol. It is evident, however, that liquor by any other name can be as intoxicating as our whisky, and we found at Tokio a national temperance society, with branches throughout the empire. Mr. Ando, the president of this society, is a Japanese gentleman of great earnestness and intelligence, who was converted to Christianity a few years ago when he was representing his country in Honolulu. While, as I have stated in another article, I have seen no evidences of drunkenness, Mr. Ando informs me that his society has ample work to do. I carry back with me a badge which the society bestowed on learning of my total abstinence habits.

I have only mentioned the leading products of the field, but I cannot leave the cultivators of the soil without a word concerning the gardens. They are so cute, occupying as they do the little nooks and corners that cannot be utilized for the larger crops. There does not seem to be a square inch of ground wasted. The vegetables are planted in rows which are either straight or curved, never crooked, and we have scarcely seen a weed. Fertilizer is extensively used, being kept in stone or cement vats protected from the weather by a straw covered shed. Near the cities the soil is enriched by the refuse from the closets, which is collected and carried away during the night. The introduction of sewage systems has been somewhat impeded in some cities by the fact that sewage would be an expense while closets are now a source of profit. It must be confessed, however, that the present system tends to make fresh vegetables unpopular with the tourist.

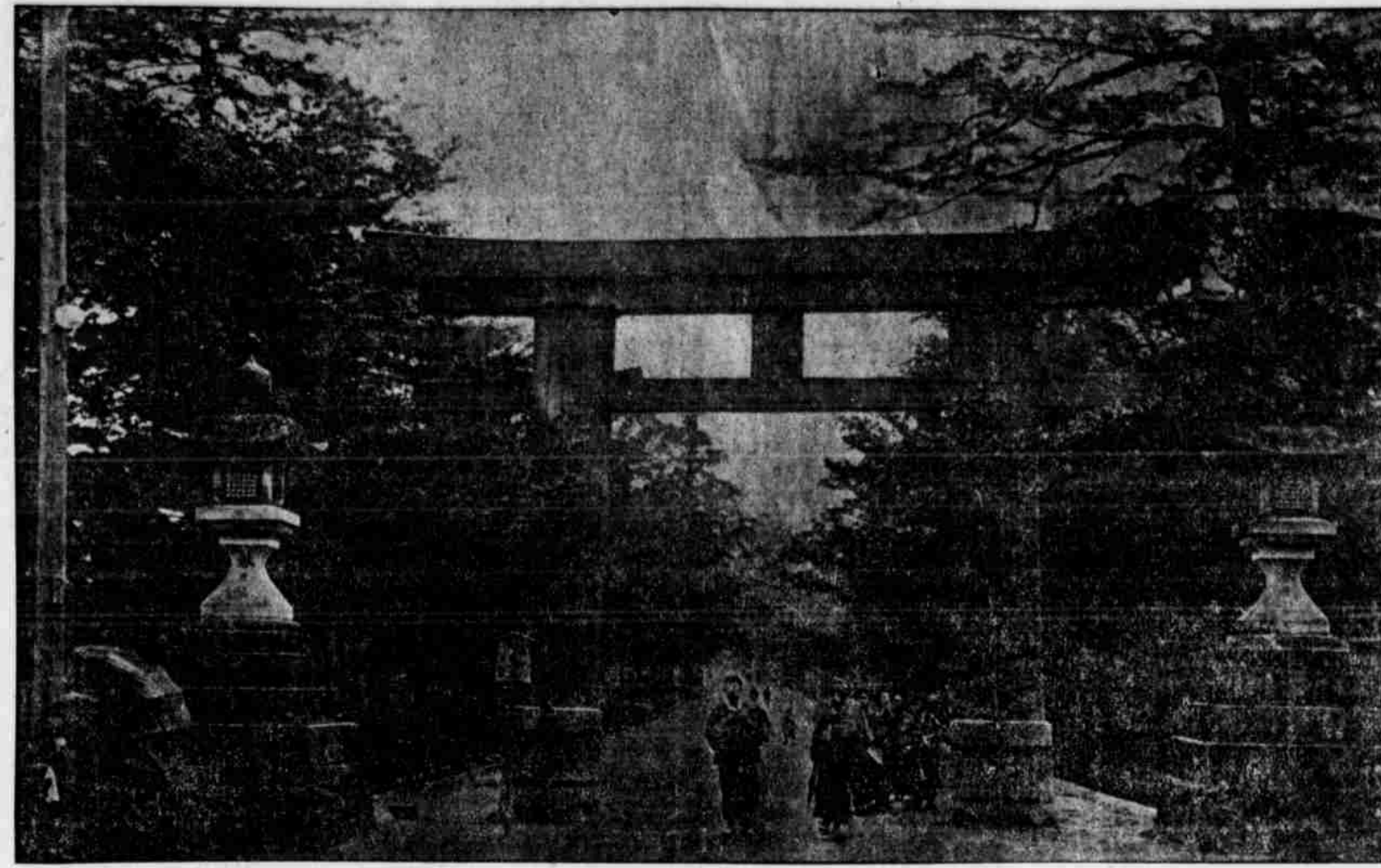
Panorama Enroute is Always Interesting

Most travelers land at Yokohama, and depart at Kobe, or land at Kobe and depart at Yokohama, these being the two principal ports. As these are about 300 miles apart, one has a chance to see much of the farming land from the railroad. The side trips from Tokio to Nikko, from Yokohama to Miyazaki and from Kyoto to Nara, give additional opportunities for seeing the farmer at work, but the ride from Kobe west to Shinonoseki surpasses any of these in interest and in beauty of scenery. As this route leads along the seacoast, as well as through densely populated valleys, there is greater variety. Now one skirts the inland sea, with its numerous islands, its transparent waters, its little harbors and its fleets of fishing boats; now he winds his way along a stream with falls and rapids spanned by frail foot-bridges, or by stone wagon bridges. On the one side he sees a bamboo grove and on the other a tiny graveyard or a little hill dedicated to a Shinto shrine—stone steps ascending along a shaded path from the sacred gate, which invariably marks the entrance to holy ground. In passing over this railroad route one gathers a large amount of information concerning the industries of the seacoast, as well as those of the inland, and besides can visit the Shinonoseki strait, which is of historic interest to Americans. The Sanyo railroad, which connects Kobe and Shinonoseki, is well equipped and well managed, and has built an excellent hotel, the Sanyo, at Shinonoseki for the accommodation of its patrons. From this point a steamer runs to Fusan, the nearest Korean port, where direct connection is made for Seoul, the Korean capital. From Moji, just across the strait from Shinonoseki, one can take a train to Nagasaki, the western seaport of Japan. At Shinonoseki one is shown the house in which Marquis Ito and Li Hung Chang drafted the Japanese-Chinese treaty in 1894.

Mineral Resources and Timber Interests

Mining is an industry of considerable importance here. Gold, silver and copper are found in paying quantities. More than \$6,000,000 worth of copper was exported last year. One of the gold fields on the island of Kyushu, near Kogoshima, gives promise of considerable richness. Coal is found in such abundance that the exports of this com-

Fifth of This Notable Series of Letters---Sixth Letter Will Appear in The Bee Next Sunday



VIEW OF A SHADED AVENUE TWENTY-FIVE MILES LONG APPROACHING THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE AT NIKKO.

modity have amounted to nearly \$10,000,000 in a single year. A hard quality of smokeless coal has recently been discovered in western Japan.

The islands also produce a number of varieties of valuable woods. The camphor tree grows to an enormous size, a gigantic statue of the Goddess of Mercy in one of the temples at Kamakura being carved from a single camphor log. The value of the camphor exported from Japan last year exceeded \$1,500,000. Among the hard woods suitable for carving, cherry seems to be the most popular.

Most Useful of All the Trees

Of all the trees, however, the bamboo is the most useful. Just at this time, when the returning soldiers are being welcomed it is present everywhere in the form of flag poles and there is nothing that equals it for this purpose; long, slender, light and strong, it is just the thing

for flags and banners, and when a little plume of leaves is left at the top, it is still more beautiful. The bamboo is used for water pipes and for fences, for furniture and picture tubes, for dippers, baskets, fishing poles, flower vases, candlesticks, wicker work, etc. etc.

Skilled in Wood Carving

In wood carving the Japanese have long been skilled. Specimens of work done hundreds of years ago and testifying to their taste no less than to their deftness of hand may be seen in the ancient palaces and temples.

Stone cutting is also an ancient industry here. There is an abundance of stone and granite, and the lanterns, Korean lions and sacred gates have furnished subjects for many a chisel. Osaka seems to be the center of the stone cutting industry.

The iron industry is represented by an increasing number of estab-



A PICTURESQUE RIVER VIEW IN JAPAN.

A Cruise Through the Inland Sea

Nebraskan Supplements Mr. Bryan's Letter with an Interesting Account of the First Journey Made by American Men-of-War Through the Forbidden Waters

HENDERSON, Neb., Feb. 7.—To the Editor of The Bee: In my last letter I mentioned our trip through the Inland Sea of Japan, but did not go into details, so as an explanation of it will write a little more this time at your request. Would say that we received orders when at Nagasaki to be at Yokohama by a certain date, giving us very short notice, and in a time of year when the typhoons were very dangerous outside, so we decided to go by way of the Inland Sea, although forbidden to all foreign ships, so when we entered the mouth of the stream a shot was fired across our bow. We stopped and a boat crew came on board of us and wanted to know what we meant by so doing. It was explained to them through an interpreter, as I have before mentioned, but we promised no harm, but wanted to go through. They forbid us, but Admiral Perry said I must go this way, so with our three ships we proceeded. Then they fired a signal, each gun going clear through the line until the last gun sounded to us very dim. Both sides stood by their guns, as mentioned in last letter, so on arriving at a place called at that time Symongasaki, which was a large circular bay, with a very narrow outlet, through which we had to pass. What this place is now called I do not know, but in going through there was an undercurrent so strong that we could not make it, so we backed up and dropped anchor, which so frightened the people that there was a great uproar among them, for the shore was covered with men, women and children. While hanging to the hammer strings they sent off another boatload of people to inquire the cause. They were told. Then Admiral Bell took out his watch and said "We will now get up more steam and go through at just 12 o'clock; so, true to time, we started to go through. When on the other side

five sampans, all Japanese boats, fell in behind us and followed clear through, passing what was then called Hiago, a very pretty little village situated in the trees, and a small stone fort near the water line; thence to Osaka, where we all anchored, then a closed port to all. I shall never forget how the people acted; no one dare come near. There was some fishing boats that wanted to sell fish that pulled around us several times; we tried to call them alongside to make a purchase; they came a little closer and closer; finally one ventured alongside. I went over the side to buy some; got a string for a quarter bushel, or 8 1-3 cents, but had no change, so gave them a Mexican dollar to change. He would not take it at any price, so I went back, got the Japanese money and took the fish.

The next day, as the officers had been on shore and made peace with them, the people began to come on board in groups. The first group that came up the gangway stood and looked over, but dare not step down the steps to the deck; when they did they seemed to try every step for fear it was a trap. They finally came down and stood in a bunch, looking at everything, but dare not separate. They would come up to an officer, or man on deck, examine his clothing and wanted the buttons and stripes as a relic; so we gave them lots of trinkets. The next day they came up again, bringing presents in return to each man who had favored them the day before. My present was three wooden eggs, in return for a small hammer.

We passed through several times after, but had no more trouble in doing so. They then spread like a lot of Indians. We finally reached Yokohama in time, and afterward made the trip to Yeddo, or Tokio, finally accomplishing our mission. C. W. SMITH.

ishments. In many instances workmen have been brought from abroad and employed until Japanese artisans were sufficiently trained to take their place. Much of the iron work is still done in little shops and by hand, although machinery is being imported in large quantities.

I visited a tannery in Kogoshima and found that the proprietor had spent seven years in America learning the business and that on his return he had taught native help each branch of the business. He is now turning out an excellent product.

Cotton Spinning a Great Industry

One of the most promising industries in Japan is cotton spinning. There are a number of factories already in operation and new ones are being built. I visited one of the plants of the Osaka Nippon Boseki Kaisha Osaka. This company has about 70,000 spindles and the mills employ nothing but native labor. Foreign artisans were used in the beginning, but are no longer needed. A great many women are employed and some children; for the latter a school is maintained for two hours a day in the building. Cotton yarn is now selling for about 40 cents a pound, and is becoming one of the leading articles of export; China is the largest purchaser. Some idea of the growth of this branch of industry can be gathered from the fact that the export of cotton yarn amounted to less than \$4,000 in 1891 and 1892; in 1896 it had grown to over \$2,000,000; in 1898 to over \$10,000,000, and during the last two years it has averaged about \$15,000,000.

At Osaka I also visited a brush industry and found that from bones imported from the slaughter houses of America and from bristles purchased in Russia and in China they made tooth, nail and hair brushes for export to both Europe and America. Here, too, they have dispensed with the foreign labor which they employed in the beginning.

Porcelain, Earthenware and Lacquer Goods

Earthenware is manufactured in abundance and of every variety. The exports of porcelain and earthenware reached almost \$2,000,000 last year. In Kyoto we visited a pottery and found two rooms, in which the finished product was displayed. The first contained beautiful specimens of Japanese skill, graceful in shape and dainty in decoration; the second was filled with big pieces in loud colors and of inferior workmanship. These last articles, we were informed, were made especially for the American trade.

Some beautiful porcelain work is done in Kyoto, the decoration representing a high degree of artistic skill.

One of the most famous kinds of china produced by Japan is known as Satsuma ware, the glazing of which is of a peculiar tint and has a crackled appearance. The secret of the manufacture of this ware was brought from Corea by the captives taken in war some 300 years ago, and the industry still flourishes in Japan, although it has perished in Corea. Kogoshima is the center for Satsuma ware and a colony of Koreans living near there, as well as Japanese manufacturers, produce excellent specimens.

Lacquer work has been done in Japan from time immemorial, samples of which, centuries old, can be seen in temples, palaces and museums. When gold and silver are used in connection with this lacquer, the product is often very valuable.

The bronzes produced in the little shops scattered over Japan give play to the artistic taste which one finds here. Osaka and Kyoto are noted for their bronzes. Sometimes various metals are inlaid in the form of flowers, birds, animals and landscapes, producing a most pleasing effect. Then there are damascene factories and places for embroidery and for pictures made in cut velvet, etc., etc.

No one can pass through Japan without being impressed with the taste which seems to be national, and with the delicate skill which has been handed down from generation to generation. And nothing, in my judgment, more clearly exhibits this union of taste and skill than the cloisonne work. Upon a metallic base, as a vase, plaque or box, an artist draws a design; this design is then outlined with fine wires of gold and silver, then enamels or various colors are filled in. When the enamels are hardened and the whole polished the product is a thing of marvelous beauty.

Minor Industries and Merchant Princes

I have not space to speak of some of the minor industries, such as paper making, matches (in which Japan monopolizes the trade of the east), fans, umbrellas, lanterns, napkins, etc. The Japanese lantern which we use for ornamentation is here a practical thing, in daily, or rather nightly, use. These lanterns hang in front of the houses and are carried on the streets. They are also used for illumination on festive occasions; at the time of the naval review and on the reception to Admiral Togo, Yokohama and Tokio were illumined by these lanterns as I never saw an American city lighted.

When Japan was opened to the commerce of the world, there were few business houses or trading establishments of any size. Now there are several department stores and large wholesale houses, besides manufacturing and trading companies of importance. One business man in Tokio, Mr. K. Okura, has a private collection of curios valued at \$1,000,000, which he offered to sell to Europe or America, the proceeds to be given to the government for carrying on the war against Russia. Osaka has a successful business man who has earned the name of the "Japanese Carnegie" by giving a fine library to that city.

As an evidence that the Japanese merchants are patterning after their American brethren, I might mention that a number of stores displayed notices offering special discounts to "our gallant allies, the blue jackets"; that a brewing company began a large newspaper advertisement with "Welcome to the British Squadron"; and that another merchant, after extending congratulations on the "Anglo-Japanese alliance," invited the visitors to try his "plum puddings and candies, and enjoy the sweetness of the alliance."

Statistics of Japanese Commerce

Consul General Miller at Yokohama and Consul Sharp at Kobe furnished me with interesting statistics regarding the commerce of Japan. Exports have increased from about \$80,000,000 in 1891 to about \$320,000,000 in 1904; during which period imports increased from a little more than \$63,000,000 to a little more than \$371,000,000. While our country sells less to Japan than Great Britain and British India, it buys more than any other nation from Japan. Our chief exports to Japan last year were electric motors, locomotive engines, steam boilers and engines, iron pipes, nails, lead, oil, paraffine wax, cotton drills, cotton duck, raw cotton, tobacco, coal, cars, turning lathes, condensed milk, flour and wheat. Of these items flour, raw cotton and oil were by far the most valuable, each amounting to more than \$4,500,000.

In the ocean carrying trade Japan is making rapid strides. In ten years its registered steamers have increased from 461 to 1,224 and its sailing vessels from 196 to 3,523. There are now 200 private shipyards in Japan, and in 1903 they built 279 vessels. The Japan Mail Steamship company has a paid-up capital of \$11,000,000, runs steamers between Japan, America, Europe and Asia and pays a 10 per cent dividend on its capital. The Osaka Mercantile Steamship company (Osaka Shosen Kaisha) has a paid-up capital of nearly \$3,500,000, owns about 100 vessels and pays a dividend of 10 per cent. These are the largest companies, but there are many smaller ones, some paying dividends of 16 and 20 per cent.

I will close this article with the suggestion that the mercantile marine seems likely to show large growth in the future, offering as it does, a legitimate field for national expansion.

Japan's fishing industries furnish a training for seamen and its people seem at home upon the water. It needs more territory for its expanding population and has about reached the limit in the cultivation of its tillable land. Every additional ship manned by its citizens is like a new island, rising from the waves, upon which its increasing population can be supported. If it seeks to acquire land in any direction, it finds its efforts contested by the inhabitants already there; no wonder it hails with delight these floating farms constructed by the genius of its own people—new land, as it were, won and held without the sacrifice of war.

W. J. BRYAN.