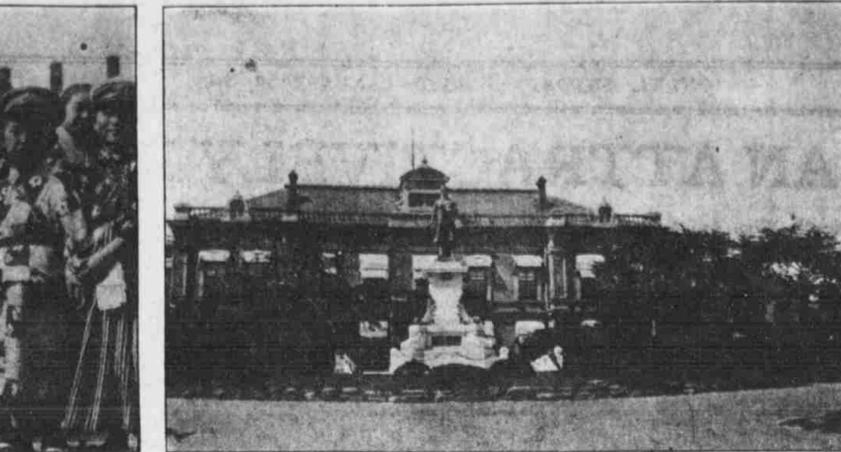


# New Movements That Have Been Inaugurated in Land of the Mikado



JAPANESE SCHOOL CHILDREN.



FOREIGN OFFICE AT TOKYO.



K. ISHII, JAPAN'S VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

**T**OKIO, Japan.—(Special Correspondence of the Bee.)—Come fly with me across the Pacific and take a bird's-eye view of the little yellow giant of the other side of the globe. We shall look at him as he stands on his empire, off the coast of East Asia, and see his work along the lines of our civilization, which is stirring up this whole continent. We may even hear the stamping of his feet which is causing our own country to wobble and take notice, and the whistle of his steamboats and the din of his factories which are now competing with us for the trade of the world.

It is now twenty years since I wrote my first newspaper letter describing the new Japan. That was in 1888, two decades after the Shogun or commander-in-chief of the feudal regime had been overthrown, and the emperor made the real head of the government. Japan had then adopted a constitution, organized a parliament and started to build railroads, telegraphs and schools. I was given a guide by the government, and had a good chance to see the army, the courts and such other institutions as were then in their beginning. Today I am able to look at the same things and to mark their wonderful progress.

**Japan's New Railroads.**  
The country then had only 400 miles of railway and 400 miles more were under construction. The chief road ran from Tokio to Kioto, and I had to make most of my journeys through the country by jinrikisha. Every part of the empire can now be reached by rail. There are more than 5,000 miles of tracks as good as those of the United States, and the government wants 1,000 miles more.

In a talk which I had today with Mr. Shueichi Hagiwara, the head of the commercial bureau of the empire, he told me that Japan is anxious to get capital to build these new roads and that it will welcome investments of that kind from America. He believes that the government would build the roads now if it had the money, and that it would accept loans and issue bonds which would net about 7 per cent on the investment. Japan is now constructing railroads in Formosa and in the Philippines. Every part of the islands from Saghalien to Formosa will be gridironed with tracks.

**Japan's Big Postal Service.**  
At the time of my first visit to Japan the postal system had been inaugurated. It was introduced by an American named Bryan, who was connected with our Postoffice department at Washington, and all of the machinery and other arrangements were modeled after our own. The system was then three years old and it was carrying 37,000,000 letters, 40,000,000 postal cards and 18,000,000 newspapers a year. Japan had then begun to make its own postage stamps and I saw 100 Japanese girls at work in the bureau of engraving and printing.

Today this country manages its postoffice quite as well as we do, and it has many improvements which we have not. Last year it carried more than 1,200,000,000 pieces of mail and of these almost 300,000,000 were letters. Its postal cards numbered about 700,000,000 and the books were half as many as the postal-parcel system. Japan has now a postal-parcel system, which is carrying 15,000,000 packages every year, and it has postal savings banks all over the empire with millions of dollars of deposits.

**Nation at School.**  
One of the greatest advances which Japan is making is along the lines of education. All Tokio seems to be going to school. The streets swarm with boys and girls in school dress, and this is so in all the towns in the country. The government requires that all school children shall wear uniforms. The boys have a sort of divided skirt which falls to below their knees, and above this may be a jacket or a kimono and a cap. The girls wear plum-colored skirts with heavy plaits and kimonos tucked inside. They go bare headed.

At certain hours of the day the streets are thronged with such students, ranging in age from 5 to young men and women of 20. There are more than 30,000 students attending universities, academies and special schools in Tokio alone, and there are other colleges in other parts of the empire. There are night schools in the cities for the working classes, and technological night schools as well. Altogether about 3,000,000 students are attending the elementary schools of the empire, and there are also 1,000 special and technical schools. There are kindergartens with 500 teachers. There are industrial schools of many kinds, schools for the deaf, dumb and blind, and also a girls' university and industrial schools where girls are taught.

**Land of Books and Newspapers.**  
At the same time a great publishing industry has grown up. About all the books used in the schools are made in Japan, and an enormous quantity of all kinds is imported. Last year something like 25.0 books were published and the periodicals numbered 1,800. Japan has more than a

hundred public libraries. The Imperial library at Tokio has now almost 500,000 volumes and is visited daily by 400 people. There is a big library in Kioto and two in Osaka. One of the largest book stores in the world is situated in this city. It claims to be able to supply any book of importance now published, and it is far superior in its equipment to any book store in Washington. Its chief customers are Japanese and its books are largely in French, German and English.

**Japan's Smokeless Coal.**  
The Japanese have often been called a nation of imitators and copyists. They understand how to pick out the best things of our civilization, and they are taking the cream of them. I find that they are now waking up along the lines of invention and that this is especially so as to war materiel. Their troops are equipped with a special rifle invented by a Japanese and they use field guns invented by one of their generals named Arisaka. These guns are manufactured by Krupp, but the designs were sent from here to Germany.

Among the surprises of the Russian war was Japanese smokeless powder of great explosive power, invented here, and they are now making a smokeless coal, which will enable their naval vessels to move about without a sign of fire or smoke. This coal was first proved during the Chino-Japanese war and was again used

in the war with Russia. It is made from coal dust which comes from mines near Nagasaki. The dust is first washed with water to remove the mud and sand in it and is then manufactured into bricks, which are said to have a greater heating power than the coal of Cardiff, England, or any coal from the United States. The brick factory is at Nagasaki and it is now turning out 50,000 tons of these bricks every year, all of which are purchased by the Navy department.

The brick coal is of two shapes, round and square. The square bricks are used in the battleships and cruisers and they are crushed before they are thrown into the fire. The round coal is for the destroyers and the torpedo boats. This coal is now bringing over \$9 a ton and the government pays more than \$20,000 a year for it.

The mines from which the coal comes are small. The vein now used is only three feet deep, but it is said that another mine has been discovered in the Hokkaido, where the vein is larger and the quality of the coal is better. It would pay the United States to investigate these deposits and find whether we have not a coal which can be made to burn without smoke. Such fuel would be of enormous benefit toward the cleanliness of our cities.

A large part of Japan's coal is coming from the Hokkaido, the island at the north, which we know asezo. It is one of the least developed parts of the empire, and it may add considerably to its mineral wealth. Mines were opened there about twenty-four years ago, and they are now producing 1,000,000 or more tons a year. The empire altogether yields 12,000,000 or 13,000,000 tons and practically supplies the

coal for all the ports on this side of the Asiatic continent. It will probably have a great increase of its coal supply through its new possessions in Korea and Formosa. The Korean mines are said to be especially valuable and soon or later they will be the property of the Japanese.

**Analyzing Tear Drops.**  
It is surprising how fast Japan is advancing along hygienic lines. The nation is increasing not only in population, but in its general health and physique. The sanitary arrangements used for the army during the war with Russia resulted in a lower death rate from disease than that before experienced by any great army in any great war. They had their food arrangements so systematized that the troops were kept healthy, and their hospitals were so many and so good that most of the sick got well. The doctors showed themselves able to deal with the situation, and they carried their investigations far beyond those of the ordinary surgeon. In certain cases they even analyzed the tears of the soldiers in order to learn more about their condition.

A nation must be healthy to increase in population and that especially in a laff that has no immigration. There are almost 30 per cent more people in Japan now than when I was here in 1888, and there has been an increase of 12,000,000 since 1872. The nation is stronger now than it was then. The people look healthier, they stand more firmly on their feet, their shoulders are broader, owing to their military exercises, and it is claimed that they have materially increased their average height by sitting on chairs and benches

such as are used in the schools, instead of on the floor as formerly. From data given by an army surgeon, showing the examination of the several hundred thousand men who have been drafted into the army in each of the years from 1892 to 1902, it is proved that the average height of the people is steadily increasing. This is furthered by special exercises which all school children must undergo.

**Wealth of Japan.**  
There is a general idea in America that Japan is very hard up. This is so and I shall write more of it in the future. She has an immense national debt due to her late war and the improvements which she has made in building up this country, and she is just at that point where for a time the capitalists of the world are refusing to lend her any money. This condition seems to be only temporary, and the finance department has already instituted a scheme which promises to put the nation again on its feet.

As to the country itself, it has numerous rich men and great material wealth. There are many banks and stock companies which are paying big dividends, and the foreign papers published here devote a large part of their first pages to financial advertisements. A copy of the Yokohama Journal lies before me. In it I see a half dozen banks advertised, each of which has a capital of millions. Here is the Yokohama Specie bank, which has 2,000,000 yen paid in and a surplus of over 14,000,000. The yen is worth 20 cents. The president and all officers of that bank are Japanese. It has branches in the big cities of Japan and agencies all over the east. It pays 5 per cent on deposits of six

months and 2 1/2 per cent on current accounts and notwithstanding that its gross profits for the last six months were over 1,000,000 yen. It pays dividends of 12 per cent and will add a half million dollars this year to its reserve fund.

Just below this advertisement is a statement of the Mitsui bank. This is owned by the members of the Mitsui family, who advertise that they assume an unlimited responsibility for all the liabilities of the bank. The Mitsui bank has a capital of 5,000,000 yen and a surplus of 11,000,000. Its deposits now approximate 70,000,000, or almost \$35,000,000. That bank pays 4 per cent on deposits of six months, and about 8 per cent on the daily balances of its depositors.

Another Japanese bank, the Dai Ichi Ginko, the president of which is Baron Shibusawa, has a capital of 10,000,000 yen and there are foreign banks with capitals

ranging up to \$20,000,000 and with enormous reserve funds. Among these is the International Banking company of New York, which has a capital and surplus of \$4,500,000.

As to Japanese banks, they are to be found all over the country. There are more than 2,000 of them, and their capital, all told, amounts to more than a half billion yen. Nearly all the leading banks of Tokio are paying dividends and some very large ones. The One Hundredth bank in 1908 paid 30 per cent. An odd thing about these banks is that each has its seal at the head of its advertisement. The seal of a man or a business firm is more important than the signature and payments are chiefly made by seal.

**Japan and Our Panic.**  
I called this morning on the vice minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Ishii, and had a short chat with him over the financial situation as it exists here today. He says that the hard times will not be of long continuance and that the new arrangements which have been made by the government will lead to a rapid improvement. Said he: "One of the chief causes of our lack of prosperity is the depressed condition which has prevailed in the United States during the past year. Your country is our best customer. Our trade with you amounts to more than \$200,000,000 and in ordinary years we sell you more than \$100,000,000 worth of Japanese goods. In 1908 our exports to the United States amounted to more than \$125,000,000. Your panic of last year has materially decreased the demand for our goods and this is one cause of our financial distress. In order to get our relations with you as close as we can, we feel any change of the business situation in your country."

**Japan in Manchuria.**  
The conversation here turned to Manchuria and I asked Mr. Ishii whether it was so that the Japanese were capturing all the trade of that country? "It is not so," was the reply. "Indeed, our trade in Manchuria is so small that we are ashamed of it. We are doing all we can to get a hold there, but are not succeeding as we should. Our exports are less than \$1,000,000 in value, which is but a small part of the foreign trade." "Have the Japanese any advantages over other nations as to that trade?" "No, I think not." "But, Your Excellency," said I, "I have understood that your steamships are carrying Japanese goods at especially low freight rates and that bounties are given on such of your manufactures as are exported to Manchuria." "That is a mistake," said Mr. Ishii, "we have no such bounties. Our goods have to stand on their own footing. It is true that we are subsidizing our steamships; for we believe that it pays us to increase our merchant marine in that way."

**Japan Friendly to Uncle Sam.**  
"What is the feeling here as to the United States?" "It is of the friendliest nature. This talk about war and ill feeling is only found in the newspapers of those countries, and especially in those of America. Our friendship with you began with the opening of Japan in the days of Commodore Perry, and it has grown steadily. I believe that the best of feeling exists between the better classes of both countries, and that such a feeling will continue." "What do you think of the Chinese boycott of Japanese goods?" "It was somewhat of a surprise to us, as it was to the United States when the Chinese boycotted American goods. It seems to me that this is one of the elements we shall have to reckon with in our Asiatic trade of the future. The Chinese have learned the power of such combinations, and I believe that they will use them more or less against other nations with whom they are trading. Indeed, I see no remedy for such a situation except that of arbitration. One can not fight an individual because he refuses to buy his goods."

**Japan's Future.**  
"What is to be the future of Japan? Is it to go on fighting with other nations, or will it now devote itself to the arts of peace?" "As to that," replied the vice minister, "I would say that we are a nation of peace rather than of war, and we hope that our career will be along the lines of peace and commercial prosperity. We have plenty to do at home without engaging in trouble with any other nation. Our first business will be to reduce our war debt, and while doing that we want, if possible, to make for ourselves an important place in the commerce of the world. We are situated between two of the world's greatest markets. On the east we have the United States, the richest of all the consuming nations, and on the west the vast population of China, whose trade promises to increase enormously with the introduction of western civilization. We have one of the best locations of the commercial world, and we shall do all we can to take our rightful place in its trade."

**Clock Told of Death.**  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Massey of Fourth street, New Castle, Pa., are in possession of a clock which is looked upon with awe and wonderment, as they feel there is something uncanny about it. Several days ago the clock struck at 12:35 p. m., and then stopped, something which had not occurred for a number of months.

Some one in the room remarked, "Sixty-three," and Mrs. Massey said, "There is something wrong; I feel that something has happened to Brother Lewis." Within a few hours she received word that her brother, aged 63 years, had died suddenly at Allentown, Pa., just about the time the clock struck. The clock was given to Mrs. Massey by her brother forty years ago.

## Experiments in Life-Saving Appliances for Miners

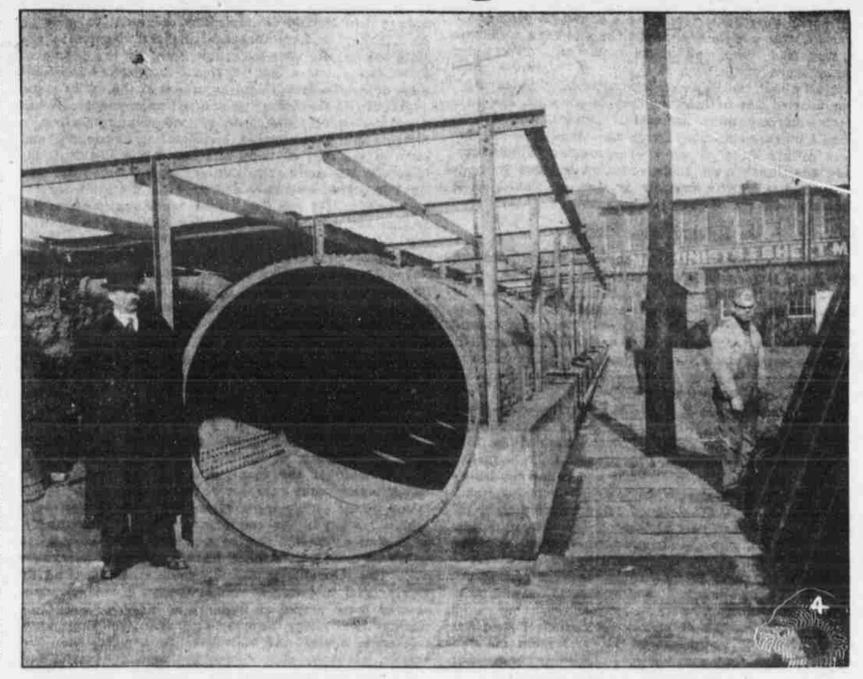
**W**ASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—In its effort to stop the appalling loss of life in the coal mines of the country the United States government is meeting with much success. For several months an experiment station under the direction of the geologic branch of the United States geological survey has been in operation at Pittsburgh, Pa., to discover the causes of mine disasters and to suggest remedies.

With the establishment of this section and the agitation which preceded the necessary legislation there has been a falling off in the number of deaths in the coal mines for the year 1908. While the official figures have not yet been obtained, it is stated that the number of deaths will be several hundred less than in 1907, which was an unusual year. In December, 1907, four explosions took the lives of 70 men, one of them at the Monongahela mine in West Virginia—being the greatest mining disaster in the history of this country. There were 266 victims. In 1908 there were but two accidents in which the loss of life was very heavy, one in January at the Hanna mine, in Wyoming, with a loss of seventy men; the other, November 28, at the Marianna mine, in Pennsylvania, which resulted in 154 deaths.

Already at the experiment station two discoveries have been made which will tend to decrease the number of deaths in the mines. It has been demonstrated that a number of the so-called "safety" explosives are anything but safe. It is the purpose of the government to continue these experiments until the explosives of the country are standardized in such a manner that the miner will have a definite idea what they will do.

After the government has gone far enough in its experiments a bulletin will be issued recommending as permissible explosives such as stand the test. The facts need concerning these explosives will be called directly to the attention of the state mining bureaus as well as the operators.

Perhaps the most important and far-reaching experiments so far at the station are those in which it has been definitely shown that coal dust is an explosive equally as dangerous as the deadly fire damp. Many mining engineers and miners have insisted that it is impossible to explode coal dust unless there is gas present. That the coal dust will explode in mines where there is no gas has been repeatedly shown to several hundred operators and miners at the testing station. The experts at the station are seeking some method by which this dust can be prevented from being a serious menace to the miners. Experiments in waiting it have been going on for some time, but nothing of a very definite nature has as yet been learned, unless it is that the coal dust does not ignite when there is a great amount of moisture in it.



EXPLOSIVES CHAMBER IN WHICH TESTS WILL BE MADE

completing a double purpose, not only a reduction in the number of men killed in the mines, but also a saving of the waste

able explosives results annually in the waste of great amounts of coal. The use of too high charges in blasting or the use of unnecessary violent explosives shatters

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## Quaint Features of Life Observed Here and There

**First Swim of the Year.**  
HAVING the cold, Helen Wilcox, a teacher in the Great Kill public school, Staten Island, New York's afternoon, on a wicker chair would be the first to enter the water in 1909, went to the beach at Annandale and swam around in the icy water for more than twenty minutes. When admiring friends asked if she was not extremely cold she stopped and talked with them.

"It's all right when you're used to it," said the girl. Her teeth did not even chatter as she stood on the beach.

**Dog Party Ends in Fight.**  
Near-sightedness on the part of a dachshund, which mistook a stuffed dog for the genuine article and attacked it, resulted in the breaking up of a Pittsburgh, Pa., canine party in a free-for-all fight in which the gayly adorned tree was wrecked and about \$0 worth of furniture destroyed.

**Girls Whip School Teacher.**  
Because she flatly refused to promise to give them the customary holiday treat of candy, the larger girls in the Wadsworth, Calverly county, Missouri, dragged their teacher, Miss Mary Fox, in the road. Her clothes were soiled by the mud and her dress was torn. Still the plucky little

schoolmarm" of 30 years refused to surrender and promise to furnish candy for the fifty pupils in her care.

The Wade school is thirteen miles from Columbia, in what was known as a quiet neighborhood until this outbreak of rebellion broke loose last week. The pupils kept Miss Fox out of the school two days, when she went to her home.

The district is now divided into two factions, those for and those against the teacher. Two or three fights between the men of the district have resulted. The custom of "treating" the pupils at this season of the year still prevails in the rural schools of central Missouri.

There was a taxidermy dog in the middle of a table, which looked like the real thing, and Herr Heinrich, a dachshund, which had come to the party on the chain held by Jimmy Flaherty, got through his collar and made a low tackle of the dummy animal, which had annoyed him by its unapproachable stare.

Lord Searleyow, a British bull, got into the game, and there was a mix-up, which was not straightened out until the place had been swept by a storm of carnage and Teddy, the host driven to shelter on top of a chiffonier.

**Catamount Fights Farmer.**  
Edward Gillette, a farmer, of Bakeraville, Conn., was savagely attacked by a large wildcat or catamount Thursday, and but for the fact that he carried an ax would probably have been killed.

A quarter of a mile from his home, where he had set traps around a spring for foxes, he found the catamount in one of the steel traps, caught by one paw.

With a chain attached to the trap he started to drag the animal to his barn to imprison it alive, but before he had gone half way the infuriated cat got loose and attacked Gillette, jumping at his head. Gillette dodged, and when the animal sprang at him a second time a well-directed blow of his ax killed the beast. The animal weighed thirty pounds.

head could be felt on hers. She had no appetite and was mentally unobservant. This continued to October last. A physician then diagnosing the absence of the thyroid secretion took charge of the case. He administered twelve and a half grains of extract of the thyroid glands daily. The patient has now grown two and a half inches. Her skin is moist and warm, her face is considerably developed and she has cut several new teeth. She is constantly hungry.

The most wonderful thing, however, is in her mental condition. She has become extraordinarily loquacious, using a vocabulary she could not have acquired in two months, which shows that she unconsciously listened to and stored up words without the power of employing them.

**Still a Baby at 23.**  
The experiment of treating with thyroid extract a girl physically and mentally undeveloped has had remarkable success in London. The patient, Mildred Hart, although 23 years old, had the development of a child of only 8 years, and was thirty-three inches tall. Her teeth were the same as a child's, her skin cold and harsh and her features were undeveloped. The soft spot on the top of a baby's

head could be felt on hers. She had no appetite and was mentally unobservant. This continued to October last. A physician then diagnosing the absence of the thyroid secretion took charge of the case. He administered twelve and a half grains of extract of the thyroid glands daily. The patient has now grown two and a half inches. Her skin is moist and warm, her face is considerably developed and she has cut several new teeth. She is constantly hungry.

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