Talk With Japan's Greatest General on the Subject of War and Peace



MR. CARPENTER AND PRINCE YAMAGATA IN THE LATTER'S GARDEN China, and was made chief of the general staff during the war with Russia.

Japan and the United States.

"No, there is nothing of the kin l. We

United States. On the other hand I can-

not believe that there is any such senti-

was from your teachers that we took our

nent in your country against our's.

the lines of peace, not of war."

creasing its army and navy."

"As your president has said, the best guarantee of any nation against war is the fact that that nation is prepared for war

if it should come. This we believe to be the case and I see the United States believes likewise, for it is now talking of in-

the forces on the ground, however great,

Yellow Peril.

"How about the vactow peril, your high-

may become a great lighting nation, and

"There is no such thing as a yellow

"As to China," his highness continued.

diers in the north. Upon investigation we

found that a great number of these men

existence except as men of straw, and both

modern times?"



PRINCE YAMAGATA.

(Copyrighted, 1909, by Frank G. Carpenter.) OKIO, Japan.-(Special Corre- be done away with? When such peace conspondence of The Bee.)-Have ferences as that of The Haguee will settle just returned from an inter- all international difficulties by arbitration view with Prince Yamagata, and conciliation?" one of the greatest generals many and Grant to the United States, in their efforts to benefit themselves and one years.

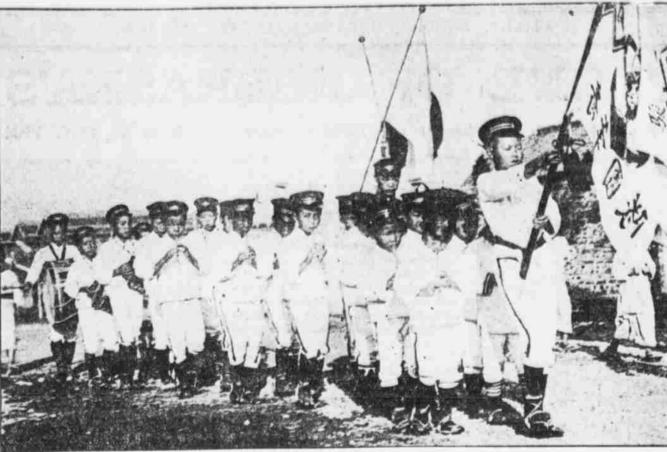
Prince Yamagata has been to Japan. In bumanity as well we may be able to diswas practically the originator of the a day will some time come. Japanese army, the man whose organizing military ability has made it one of the most formidable fighting machines of the world. and one or two others are all that now re- one?" western civilization.

Prince Yamagata in 1909.

It was at his home in the suburbs overlooking Tokio that I met General Yam, should be successful they would change agata by appointment this morning. My the conditions of battles and fighting. A sudience had been arranged through letters few such machines and some bushels of of introduction from Baron Takabira, the Japanese ambassador at Washington, and might be charges from the clouds which son-in-law, Mr. Shulehi Hagiwara, acted could not resist. Inventions of that kind as interpreter, and for an hour the famous general talked most interestingly about army matters and of the position which Japan now holds as to the rest of the ress? Is there not danger that the Chinese

But before I give you the interview let that by combining with Japan the yellow me tell you something about how this great races may conquer the world?" Japanese general looks, and a bit as to his history. He is now 70 years of age, but is peril," replied Prince Yamazata, "and no as straight as an arrow, and his mind is as reason why Japan should be associated clear as it was when, as captain of the with China in the minds of the west. The Choshu Clan, he fought against the Sho- chief difference between the nations of the gun invasion more than forty years ago, west and ours is that of color. We have He is tall for a Japanese, is slender and the same ambitions along the lines of wiry, and so gentle and quiet in his man- civil'zation, and the same desires toward ner and conversation that one would never the betterment of mankind and of the imagine that his life had been that of a world. There is no reason why we should minister of war, an organizer of armics and be set aside by ourselves.

a general in command. Prince Yamagata was born at just about "what it will be in the future I cannot the time Andrew Jackson left the presis predict, except to say that in the past its dency of the United States. He was in power has been greatly everestimated, and years old when Commodore Perry pre- that today it is in no position to have a sented the letters he brought here from war with any great nation. At the time President Filmore, and made the treaty of the Chino-Japanese war there was genwhich opened Japan to the world, and he erally supposed to be in the neighborhood was a man of thirty at the time the em- of 1,000,000 troops in China. Li Hung peror was brought out of his acclusion to Chang had \$0,000 men, who were reported be the ruler of the new Japan. At that to be well equipped and trained by Gertime he had already made a military repu- man officers, and he had also 200,000 soltation and soon thereafter he was appointed major general and then minister of war. He was acting as the war min- be taken by the officers. They had no leter at about the time that tieneral Grant ended his term as president of the tailed army and equipment were of a low order. States, and after that held many could as It will be a long time before China can well as military positions. He aided in put a great army into the field. As I look organizing the government, and has sev- at it, the Chinese empire today has very eral times been at the head of it as pre- little strength in itself, and its existence mier. He attended the coronation of the as a nation and its preservation as such exar in 1896, and then brought back the depends upon the great powers of the treaty with Russia, which goes by his world, who are interested in keeping it name. He was for a time commander-in- independent." chief of the army of Japan in its war with "But can Chine be westernized? It is



JAPANESE SCHOOL BOY SOLDIERS.

supreme and theoretically he controls that." tem might be centralized and the taxes re- German system of military training?" that his voice would favor the pushing of such a possibility, although China in the that so of the German soldier." whether there was any feeling here in a firm and capable hand. favor of a war with the United States,

How Japan's Army Was Created. The conversation here turned to the or-

ganization of the Japanese army, which was largely performed by Prince Yamalarge that other nations fear that you fare.

you think a big army a necessity in these the armies of Europe it was decided that and are then disbanded.

said to be now introducing our modern the German system was better suited to As an instance of the patriotism of the our needs. We then introduced German school children, during the war with Russia "I do not know. It will probably change officers, and our tactics of today are based subscriptions were gotten up by them to in time. If it should have a strong em- upon those originated in Germany. In purchase a warship for the emperor. Every peror, who would take the reins of gov- 1883 the army was reconstructed and in- little one gave his pennics, denying himself ernment into his own hands, it would be creased to 50,000, and in 1896, after the caudy and toys, and the whole amounted to as easy to change it as it was to change Chino-Japanese war, it was again reorgan- many thousand yen. Japan. The system of laws is similar ized and brought up to 500,000. On a war throughout the country. The emperor is footing it is now considered larger than

everything in his empire. The military sys- "What does your highness think of the Service in the army is universal and comorganized so as to give the country a "I consider it superior to any other," the army at 17, although he is not required

With a record like this one would imag- powerful army. In such a case China itself into a machine which makes him useless some exemptions. The only son of an indiine that General Yamagata would be an might become what you call a yellow peril, in times of emergency, where he has to gent parent over 80 years of age may stay uoka, one of the largest cities between like privileges. Many advocate of military aggrandizement and At present, however, there is no danger of act for himself? I have always thought at home, and there are certain exceptions Tokio and Osaka, during which he gave rent to such people, and the doctors treated

Japan to the front as a military nation, I past has had two rulers of the present. "The German is a very able soldier," re. There are a few young men of the higher among the school girls. Said he: did not find him so. When I asked him dynasty who have governed the people with piled Marshal Yamagata, "and the German circles who have to serve only one year in "It was in one of our girls' schools. The army, though not as good, perhaps, as it the ranks, after which they may be enrolled American teacher was discussing the war of soldiers. The Red Cross society, which fare, is a very well trained and efficient however, must possess an education equal morning and the teacher said she feared the field, was supported by all the people

Schoolboy Soldiers,

thing as to how it was done. He replied: have visited many of the schools to see 40, and this service is such that the greater the guns and fight for the emperor." "In the feudal times the imperial army the material which Japan is now working bedy of the people may be made ready for consisted of about 400,000 families of Shi- up into her soldiers of the future. Every active war at any time. The number of you as our great and good friend. You are guoka, or the followers of the daimyos, boy in the empire is now undergoing mili- trained and partially trained men available who were the feudal lords. Each daimyo tary drill. The law provides that all the at the beginning of the Russian war was kept as many retainers as his finances schools shall be equipped with guns and about 600,000. This was added to as the would permit and, allowing two or three knapsacks, and the pupils are regularly struggle went on, and when the war closed, men to the family, the army of that day trained by an army officer. Every school netwithstanding the heavy losses, Japan had possibly as many as 1,000,000 men. This has its drill hall and exercising grounds; had more than 500,000 men in the field. I hundreds of thousands more. All of these included not only the soldiers, but the sur- and rain or shine the boys go through am told that 600,600 men could now be came from the ranks of industry. They treasurers and other officials. It their marching. I see them in the streets, massed without trouble, and that within a were taken from the farms and factories, was in 1871 that the system of conscriptramping along with their guns on their short time an army of not less than 1,000,000 from the workshops and gardens. The poptar from the poptar from the system of conscriptramping along with their guns on their short time an army of not less than 1,000,000 from the workshops and gardens. tion was introduced and the reorganization shoulders and their knapsacks on their could be called forth. of the army began. It was first started backs. They are taken to see the army in addition to the many soldiers here and the factories not stop and the fields and they were made of such small dethroughout the empire. The imperial pointed to explain what is going on. The cheme was to organize a standing army children are taught that it is their duty stituting a permanent force of occupation "Besides,' continued his highness, "Japan of 400,000 men, comprising six army corps, to fight and die for their country, and s not anxious to be considered a warlike This was found impossible at the start and they have school songs in honor of the nation. Our military establishment was a small army, of 40,000 was created. That heroes of Japan. Almost every school From this it will be seen that the Jap- off to war. In many cases their overtime bigy them. Jinrikisha men and factory reated for defense and not for conquest, was about 1873. At that time French offi- teacher has been in the army at one time anese are a nation of fighters, and that wages were given to the families of the hands carried their savings to the bank We hope to continue our national life along cers were brought in to train the soldiers or another, and there is a six-week service in a war with them the whole people must soldiers. The farmers, clerks and mechan- and men who were working for 30 cents a and for several years they were our chief which has been especially created for the be taken into account. Every man, woman ics combined together to till the lands left day but all their little hourds into govern-"But your military establishment is so instructors along the lines of modern war- teachers of the primary schools. During and child is a patriot, and every one es- vacant. Often they worked at night and ment securities, and that largely from may need to make war to occupy it. Do "Then, after a careful investigation of the regular training of the ordinary soldiers During the war with Russia the women worked after school hours to help the fami-

Every Japanese a Soldier.

pulsory. Every boy is expected to enter revenue. If properly trained the Chinese replied Prince Yamagata. "It seems to me to perform active service until he is 29. He the army funds and they frequently ex- were let out free to soldiers' families and might become excellent soldiers, and with perfect and I do not see how it could be then serves off and on until he is 40. At pressed their regret that they could not go capital was subscribed for them. in one the emperor's call the whole nation might to the field. I had a talk the other day village the families of the men absent at ury a strong emperor could create a most. "But does not that system turn the man be put into the field, although there are with an American professor who has been the war were given the monopoly of selling as to Japanese living in foreign countries, me an instance illustrating the war spirit their sick without charge. A relief associawould be had it had practice in actual war- as noncommissioned officers. Such men, situation. Some had arrived that was so efficient in the hospitals and on to that of the graduates of the middle Japan would finally be defeated. Upon this That society has 1,000,000 members, and

Since this talk with Prince Yamagata 1 regular intervals from the ages of 20 to the men are all killed we girls will take

In addition to the many soldiers here

Nation of Fighters.

PRINCE YAMAGATA'S HOME NEAR TOKIO

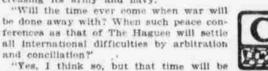
one little Japanese girl burst out; 'Oh, no. one in every forty-five of the Japanese Japan will never be defeated, for when

"At the time of the war Japan had a serious problem to face," continued the promen, who were all sent to the field. Then ulation here is comparatively small, and it in their pockets at the time of any national was a question how the war could go on struggle. Everyone subscribed to the bonds, in the mills worked overtime to make up \$2.50 of our money. When they were ofthe loss of the force which had been called fered the people rushed by the thousands to this time they are made to go through teems it a glory to die for his country, sometimes together in gangs. The children patriotism and their reverence and love worked almost day and night to add to lies of soldiers, and in some places farms

tion with a capital of \$1,000,000 was then himself to pay \$1.50 for ten years toward its maintenance. The Japanese Red Cross society was organized with the idea of paying the country's debt by helping its soldiers, and it has done an enormous

The money raised for the war, while men One could take a bond on the payment of

Opening of Parliament an Historic Day in Turkey



many respects he has been even more. He pense with our great armies. I hope such excitement as day by day the various bal- in everybody's mouth; "Will the sultan go?" occasionally. Once an officer stopped us; distance and another couple of them fell from 10 to 20, slowed with Flying Machines in War. "How about these new inventions in mod- were carried in state to the Sublime Porte, knives and forks, eat everything with their when another and younger officer came the fire brigade in shabby blue uniforms make them shout; we spoke to them, but The story of his life has been wrapped up ern warfare? May they not be so terrible accompanied by regiments of soldiers, bands fingers, the idea was dropped. Then the forward and, reading the card immediately, and tattered red helmets, all looking in they marched stolldiy on in silence, carin the new Japan, and he and Prince Ito that a small nation might destroy a great and an enormous crowd. But the opening president of the chamber had to be chosen, he saluted and allowed us to pass the need of a wash and many officers un-rying their flags, and when one of the

> destructive. Take the balloons and the flying machines in which your people are Humors ileated about the city that the next in age. now so wildly experimenting. If they

ONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 18 -- sultan would not attend the ceremony, so Yesterday long before 7 a. m. we were ter, soldiers lined the whole route, in some at night half a dozen lamps were fastened Thursday, December 17, will long a deputation of the Young Turk committee awakened by the sound of many trumpets parts two rows deep. Outside the British to short poles on either side of the bridge, be remembered in Turkey as the of union and progress visited him and re- and the tramp, tramp of soldlers' embassy were men from Salonica, Tripoli, The enormous crowd now assembled in day when Turks and Christians quested that he should. The sultan is re- feet, Every one was up early and we found and Albania, standing in twos, smart look- the streets was composed of ragged, assembled on an equal footing ported to have replied that he would go if a gloriously bright, crisp day awaiting us, ing fellows and seemingly well pleased with patched, rough-looking fellows all intent for the first time, thus achieve he were well enough, otherwise his instead of the snow and rain we expected their new uniforms and bright red fezzes. on making their way to the house of Parand statesmen of the last half distant. When all the nations of the world ing a great event in Turkish history-the brother, the heir apparent, would go, and We had taken the precaution to secure As a company of soldiers was marched liament, but moving along without any

lot boxes, little oblong tin traveling trunks. It was proposed the other day that a we showed him the card, written in Turk- behind. The Erthrogol lancers, dirty and heads bent, looking like a gang of crimingally decorated with flowers and ribbons of banquet should be given to all the members, ish, but he shock his head, puzzled over splashed with mud, were stationed outside als being led to prison and having no inred and white-the constitutional colors- but as many of them, knowing nothing of it and was about to turn us off the route the ministry of war, while further on came terest in life. As we got close we tried to day, originally fixed for November 14, had and it was decided that the honor should barrier, main of the links which bind the old feudo! "Yes, I can imagine inventions which to be postponed as all was not in readiness; fall to the oldest member. He happened to times to the up-to-date live activities of our would make warfare mean annihilation, the members could not be elected in a be an old fellow from a small distant vil- the arrangement of the soldiers. In Pera, rope of flags, and as we passed over an Every window was filled with unveiled Some of the new explosives are terribly hurry, as many of the voters knew nothing lage, and he did not know what to do or the European quarter, from Yildiz to the old Turk was giving the finishing safety Turkish women, who had thrown up the how to do it, so place of honor fell to the

There was a very marked difference in On the bridge men were busy tying up a the others joined in mournfully. bridge the men were placed in twos several touch to the dilapidated structure by driv- wooden screens which usually protect

What Von Moltke was to Ger- are equally civilized and they have united opening of the first Parliament in thirty- with this they were forced to be content. a card signed by the prefect of police so up the two end men were ordered to fall enthusiasm, shouting or noise. We came Up to the last minute, until he was ac- we were able to drive along the whole out and take up their position in a vacant upon a long procession of students from For weeks past there has been intense tually seen upon the road, the question was route, only having to show our permit place, then the rest marched on a short the military college, young men and boys shaved.

youngsters in front started a dirgclike song

yards apart; in Stamboul, the Trukish quar- ing in a loose nail. For the illumination them from the world and now looked out with great wondering eyes on the maving mass below. The grills and walls of mosques were thronged with men, and here and there a group of poorer Turkish women stood huddled together. On one narrow street several hours before the royal procession passed, we found a couple of benches filled with tiny white frocked girls decked out with green ribbons, the little creatures already shivering in their thin frocks and blue with cold.

As we neared St. Sophia, the huge mosque which overshadows the Paritamen; house, the road was blocked with magnificently diessed officers, one of whom requested us to leave our carriage and walk down the road some hundred yards to our destination, the terrace of a Turkish house immediately in front of the mesque.

Here we had a splendid view of the whole scene; to the right the insignificant twostoried building in which the Parliament meets and to the left the long road leading to it. The stalwart Albanian guard in cream colored uniform and red fez was stationed on this road, at one point of which several narrow streets joined. The double line of soldiers threatened to become broken by the surging red fezzod mob which moved to and fro like a crimson sea and gradually swelled, as though behind forced forward those in front. Suddenly a company of lancers galloped up and its officers commanded several of the men to ride in among the crowd and force it back.

For a moment we held our breath. The horses kicked and plunged; men pushed. fought and struggled to get out of the way; some clung to the horses' bridles, while others dashed underneath. Soon a space was made around the soldiers, who fell back into their former position while the eavalry rode around them to keep the ground clear.

Priests, hojas and men in all manne quaint costumes swarmed like files on innumerable roofs of the mosque, man putting up umbrellas to keep off the heat of the sun. Branches of trees cracked and



"THE CROWD ASSEMBLED ON THE MOSQUE OF ST. SOPHIA TO WITNESS THE OPENING OF TURKEY'S NEW PARLIAMENT.

(Continued on Page Four.)