

New Japanese Factories Where Thousands Work for Few Cents Daily



THESE GIRLS GET 25 CENTS A DAY.



GIRLS MAKING STRAW BRAID FOR 6 CENTS A DAY.



CARTMEN ARE AMONG THE POOREST PAID.

K Copyright, 1909, by Frank G. Carpenter. YOTO, 1909.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—Have the Japanese bitten off more than they can chew? Can they support the western civilization with its luxuries and its extravagance? Have they the natural resources to hold their own as a great world power? These are some of the questions which are stirring the statesmen of this country in the face.

Japan has, all told, good farm lands of about half the size of Kentucky. It has some coal and a little iron. It is discovering petroleum, but this is of poor quality, and it has a considerable amount of copper and plenty of fish. All these resources, however, are not enough to warrant the support of the increasing population, and the country must have outside lands or develop itself along the lines of industry and commerce. Suppose you should crowd more than half of all the people of the United States into the southern half of Virginia, could we live as well as we do now? Would we have meat three times a day, carpets on our floors and pianos in our parlors, and over and above all, money to burn? As to cultivable territory, that is the state of Japan. It has now 50,000,000 inhabitants and it is adding 500,000 new stomachs to its consumers every year. It has added 10,000,000 within the last two decades, and the avalanche of new babies rolls on.

As to outside lands, Formosa, which came as a result of the Chinese war, is the only property absolutely in hand. It is just about twice as big as New Jersey and it is already supporting twice as many people. It has 8,000,000 or 4,000,000, mostly Chinese, who have grabbed up the good land and cannot be moved. In addition there is Korea, which is controlled by Japan and which many think is to be exploited for the good of the home population. Korea is twice as large as Kansas, but it also is mountainous and its population is about 14,000,000. There may be some chance for expansion in southern Manchuria, but altogether the chances for emigration are few.

present wages, which are considered exceptionally high. Take the clothing factories, where women are now getting 25 cents a day, working seven days of the week of nine hours each. They received only 15 cents ten years ago and 19 cents in 1904. Sewing machine operators are now getting 27 cents per day for their work. They were paid 20 cents three years ago, and only 15 cents in 1904. As to tailors, they now receive from 35 to 45 cents a day and are getting about three times as much as they did ten years ago.

They have some glass factories here. The blowers, who are especially high-priced men, are getting 51 cents, and they have only two rest days during the month. Some of the wages are as low as 25 cents and a few are paid as much as \$1, but this is only for extra time or night work. Cigarette makers, working nine hours, get from 12 1/2 to 16 cents per day, and the girls in the trade receive from 5 to 25 cents per day. They have 20 per cent extra for night work and double wages on national holidays. They have one hour off during the day, and this does not affect the nine hours of actual work.

Wages of Steel Workers.
I wonder how our iron and steel men would like to labor at the wages paid here. Take the Bessemer furnace employees. The blowers get less than 33 cents a day on the average, and their day is twelve hours long, with one or two hours' rest, which, as is the custom here, comes on in sections. They have thirty minutes off at 9 a. m. and another half hour at 2. There is a full hour at noon, and the 1st and 16th of each month are considered rest days. On all other days, including Sunday, the work goes on. This is the custom in many factories. As to other ironworkers, the bar-iron heaters get 33 cents, rollers of steel rails 32 cents and iron men 27 1/2 cents. With some of these workmen a bonus equivalent to about ten days' wages is distributed twice a year.

What Mechanics Get.
Japanese mechanics are about as good workmen as you will find anywhere. Every common carpenter is a cabinet maker, and many of the stonecutters would pass as sculptors. The painters have some artistic ability, and ordinary masons lay walls which would be a surprise to our people of that trade in the United States. I have been doing some building at my country home in the Virginia mountains and my contractor's account of the wages paid lies before me. They are lower than those of our cities, but still high enough. The carpenters are receiving from 12 to 23 per cent, and my plasterers are paid \$4, while the plumbers get \$3. Here in Japan the master carpenters receive 55 cents a day, and the best men under him 40 and 50 cents. This is for nine or ten hours' work.

These carpenters are fully the equal of any we have at home. They do the work in just the opposite way from ours. They pull the plane toward them instead of

pushing it from them, and they pull the hand saw. Nevertheless, their joints fit and a great part of their housemaking consists of sliding walls which move in grooves.

Bricklayers, equal to those who receive as much as \$5 a day in the United States, are getting 45 cents for nine hours' work here, and this is 10 per cent more than they get in 1904. Brick masons get 22 cents a day, stone cutters 42 and plumbers 35, and that without helpers. Indeed, even an ordinary man can afford a plumber in Japan.

Other Low Wages.
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Ordinary laborers receive from 25 to 35 cents a day when employed by the municipality, and farm hands get from 19 to 20 cents for ten hours' work, according as they are women or men. Think of wading through the mud of a rice field,

with your dress rolled up to your knees, planting the rice sprouts with your bare hands in the fifth at 1 cent per hour, and you have an idea of one feature of women's work in Japan. Among the poorest paid are the cart men, who drag loads over the country for a few cents per day.

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In the tobacco factories which the government runs as a monopoly, there are over 22,000 hands, and they get from 9 to 18 cents a day. The lower wages are received by the women.

The government has woolen mills, cannon factories and military clothing establishments where proportionately low wages are paid. In the woollen factory at Senju, for instance, girls are paid 11 cents and men on the average about 18. In the government shipbuilding yards the pay is from 12 to 27 cents and in the arsenals of Tokio and Osaka, which altogether have about 150,000 hands, the wages are from 1 to 3 cents an hour.

In the steel works at Kure and in the naval arsenal at Sasebo there are tens of thousands of men employed who get on the average less than 20 cents a day, and this is for high-class labor. In those yards all kinds of fine steel work is done, including the making of armor plate for gunboats and the building of big ships.

Similar wages are paid in the government railway works scattered here and there over Japan. In the whole thousand factories there is only one where the average wages of the men are over 25 cents a day, and only three where they are over 25 cents. Of the 200,000 men and women working in those factories the average wage of the man is less than 25 cents and that of the women less than 12 cents per day of nine or ten hours.

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Simple Life vs. New Japan.
This being the case as to the territory, the only thing left is expansion along the lines of industry and commerce. Japan is pushing both of these possibilities with all her might, and it may be that the natural skill and indefatigable work of her people will make her win out. If she does so, it will be by retrenchment and economy, rather than personal extravagance and increased government expenditures. Today the country is \$1,000,000,000 in debt. It owes on the average \$200 per head, or \$1,000 per family. It is taxed enormously, and there would seem to be but little room for either the people or the government to increase their expenses. The officials realize this and have cut down their estimates for this year. The people are already so burdened that they are ready to revolt, and the outlook is that the simple life of the old Japan will have to continue with the masses for some time to come. This letter is to be devoted to the Japanese laboring classes. I want to tell you how they work and the wages they get, and also the prices they pay for their daily necessities. You can judge of their ability to support a civilization like ours.

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Cheap Living.
Wages like those of the masses are only suited to life on the cheapest scale. The average Japanese working man lives on rice, fish, vegetables and tea. If he is very poor the tea is of the cheapest quality and the rice is somewhat of a luxury, millet and other coarse grains taking its place. Indeed, the finer qualities of Japanese rice are too costly for the poor classes. They are exported to other countries and cheaper rice is imported for home consumption.

The table furniture of such a man costs almost nothing. He uses wooden chopsticks instead of knives and forks, and a few bowls suffice for his dishes. His cooking stove is a clay bowl, and his whole housekeeping outfit would not cost more than \$10. His furniture consists of little more than straw mats and one or two little tables about a foot high.

The mats cover the floor, and they take the place of a bedstead at night. Many of the people sleep in the clothes that they use in the daytime, rolling themselves up in cotton comforters and resting their heads on hard rectangular pillows, stuffed with straw, or upon wood'n blocks. The latter are always used by the women, in order that they may not disarrange their hair, the pillow resting under the neck.

The houses of the poorer working man seldom has more than three little rooms, and it may have only one or two. There are outside walls of wood, which can be slid back during the daytime, and inner walls of sash, with paper panes, which slide back and forth. The roof is of thatch or of tiles. There are no chimneys and no stoves. The only means of heating such a house is by a firebox filled with charcoal or by a square stove or copper lined fireplace sunk in the middle of the floor, in which wood is burned, the smoke making its way out through the roof. Wood is sold in infinitesimal quantities. A small Japanese city will not burn as much as a town of American villages, and the average American family consumes more fuel in one week than a half dozen Japanese houses do in a month.

It costs the Japanese mechanic comparatively little for clothing. He dresses in cottons winter and summer, and seldom has underwear. His shoes are of wood or straw, and his wife's head always goes bare. The clothes of the working woman cost less than the ribbons of Uncle Sam's hired girls. A few dollars will buy a whole year's outfit for a man or a woman, and I venture that one could go to housekeeping on \$5 and have money to spare.

In the Japanese Factories.
Only a short time ago everything in Japan was made by hand in the houses. There were no large establishments and practically no factories. Today there is still an enormous home industry, but there are, all told, over 10,000 factories and they employ altogether about 20,000 workmen. There are thousands of men who labor in the mines, and millions in little industries of every kind which go on in the homes of the people.

As to the factories, I have already written of the shipyards and cotton mills. In the spinning factories the women are now receiving about 22 cents a day and children as low as 6 cents, while men get, on the average, about 34 cents. Cotton weavers receive about the same and silk weavers a cent or two more.

The seat of the silk industry is here in Kyoto, but there is an immense deal of silk made in Osaka, and that place has more textile workers than anywhere else in Japan. Coming to it is like approaching Pittsburgh or Chicago. You see the smoke polluting the air; there are hundreds of stacks rising above the low black houses and the surroundings are those of the new Japan. The city now has more than 1,000,000 people, and its population is largely composed of those who work in the factories of various kinds. There are long lines of law houses, the homes of the workmen and life seems hard.

In Osaka some of the factories work their hands six days of the week. Others work seven, and in the textile trades the hours are ten every day. There is considerable child labor, but not so much as is generally supposed. In all Japan only eight hands out of 100 are under 14 and of those four-fifths are girls. In the house industry the proportion of children is much larger. Fully 65 per cent of the factory employes are women and only 35 per cent men.

An increase goes on from year to year in the number of women laborers, and the females are doing more than their share of the work of the country. This is so notwithstanding their wages are often only one-half those of the men and the work quite as hard.

High Wages for Japanese.
I have before me a table of wages which has just been made. It has been gotten at first hand from the child employers of Osaka and Kyoto and it may be relied upon as correct. It shows the increase in wages in the last three years, and the

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Jules Lumbar, Sweet Singer, and His Services to His Fellow Men

JULES LUMBAR was so long a familiar figure in Omaha that it seems strange to refer to him as living in Chicago, but there he has made his home for the last three or four years, and there he is now, quietly passing the last days of his life. It is not likely that his massive form will ever tower over the other singers in choir or concert, but he will ever again shake back his lustrous mane and lift his tremendous voice in a joyous outburst of melody. We have heard him sing "Are Ye Sleepin', Maggie?" or "The Low Backed Car" for the last time probably. He is suffering from the effects of a paralytic stroke of a peculiar nature, and the Chicago physicians, while they do not say that it will be immediately fatal, hold out no hope for the recovery of the great singer. Jules Lumbar's death will be sincerely mourned by hundreds of men and women throughout the entire country, but by none more sincerely than those who knew him in Omaha, and that practically means every man, woman and child in the community. For almost twenty years he gave his life to this city. He sang in choirs and at concerts, in homes and at convivial gatherings, and was always a welcome guest wherever he visited. Here his last active work was done; here he buried his beloved wife, and here he spent what he said were the happiest years of his life, as well as those of his greatest grief after the death of the woman he loved so well. The ones who knew him best know how sincere that grief was, for they knew of the quiet hours he spent beside her grave, a vigil of love and devotion. The great heart was fondly true to the very end.



Jules G. Lumbar was born at Honeyoe Falls, Monroe county, New York, April 13, 1831. When he was 8 years old he left the parental roof and went to live with a married sister at Seneca Falls. Later they went to Jackson, Mich., when that city was the western terminus of the railroad in those parts. Later still, with his father and family he lived in Green Oaks, Mich., and when still very young began work as a printer's devil in the composing room of the Astabula Citizen of Astabula, O., then edited by Joshua R. Giddings, a noted abolitionist. In 1847 a telegraph line was built between Buffalo and Detroit and the Astabula office was in the same building where young Lumbar was working. He became a friend of the operator in charge and almost without effort learned to be an expert telegraph operator. Having earned but \$10 in the printing office in three years' time and being then \$9 in debt, Lumbar forsook the composing office for the telegraph and became well known in the east as one of the best manipulators of the Morse instrument anywhere. He was finally assigned to an important relaying station at Tusculum, Ala., where he remained for several years, meeting his wife, Miss Mary Elliott, the daughter of a landed southern family, whose conditions and impaired health caused Mr. Lumbar to leave the south and he went to Chicago and studied law, being admitted to the bar in 1864, becoming a member of the firm of Farnsworth & Burgess.

As an attorney the young practitioner met with success, not only with this firm, but with another which had as a partner the man who became Governor Beveridge of Illinois. In the midst of this prosperity Mr. Lumbar married his southern sweetheart and brought her north to a tranquil home, as he supposed. The war and the turbulent events leading to it interfered with the contentful routine, however, and it was about this time that the self-made lawyer became famous—not through his skill in legal logic, but by his natural gift, singing. He sold his law library when the war broke out, and made arrangements to fight for the union as adjutant in the Eighth Illinois cavalry, which Colonel Farnsworth commanded. In this he was deterred by his wife, whose people were fighting on the other side. "It was either to enlist or to break her heart," said Mr. Lumbar. "and I decided that I would not do the latter. But I determined

that if I could not be in the ranks, I could send other men there."

Jules Lumbar and his brother Frank sang patriotic songs to the hearts of thousands of their countrymen. A writer on the Chicago Record-Herald in 1896 said: "It is estimated that the Lumbars won 20,000 soldiers for President Lincoln during the war by continuous good service of song."

It will be as a singer that the name of Jules Lumbar will be longest remembered. Hundreds of thousands heard his tremendous basso-profundo in churches, recruiting stations, trenches, on battlefields, theaters, concert halls and at reunions, conventions and all kinds of gatherings. Musical critics found it commendable; others discovered it to be soul stirring.

One of the proudest episodes of the singer's life and one upon which he liked to reflect was when he sang Dr. George F. Root's famous "Battle Cry of Freedom," before a Chicago audience of 5,000, just after the composer had finished the immortal stanzas and set them to music. Lumbar had become intimate with Dr. Root through their love for music. Said a reminiscence Chicagoan some years ago: "It was Jules Lumbar who gave the first rendering of 'The Battle Cry of Freedom.' The occasion was a memorable one. Recruiting tents were pitched in a public square and a great throng gathered to hear the song. I imagine I can still see the scene as I look down the street. The tune and the words were such that the people knew them after they were repeated twice. Jules stood on the court house steps and his powerful voice drowned every other sound. Then the crowds took up the refrain and the chorus. The recruiting

tents did a thriving business a few minutes later. Recruits were organized and the war feeling ran high.

"Upon several occasions Jules went to the front among the soldiers and sang the hymns which live on, although the soldiers die and are forgotten. In these bustling times we do not stop to think of the many foot-sore, weary soldiers who imbibed new life from Jules' songs and the memory of them. He became known throughout the whole army, making new friends and altering ways willing to start anew the patriotic fervor with 'The Battle Cry of Freedom' or other national songs. I always regarded the two Lumbars thereafter as the foremost exponents of our national battle songs."

Said Congressman John F. Lacey of Iowa in a Memorial day address in Des Moines in 1897: "It was on the road from Bull Run to Appomattox in 1863, away down at Vicksburg, one of the great war stations on that journey, that on one occasion we had a striking illustration of the harmony produced by the concurrence of sweet sounds. Jules and Frank Lumbar of Chicago visited some friends in the trenches. Slowly Jules was going on here and there along the lines and the screams of shell and whistle of minie ball kept everyone in a state of eager attention. Some of the Lumbar's friends asked them to sing, and their clear voices rang out amid the roar of the guns. As they sang the firing slackened and nearly ceased, when a Confederate called out from the rifle pits, 'Hello, Yanks, isn't that Jules and Frank Lumbar singing there?'"

The response was, "Hello, Johnny. It is the Lumbar boys, keep still and you can hear them better." And so the firing ceased and the Lumbar's songs of love and war, songs that pleased the hearts beneath both blue and gray, and then they sang "Home, Sweet Home," and many a rough sleeve in either trench wiped away a tear, as the distant homes in the city and farms of the north and plantations of the south were brought back in loving memory by the cadences of the song we loved so well. But the music ceased and a shot rang out and the concert was ever and grim war resumed its sway."

Simple Life vs. New Japan.
This being the case as to the territory, the only thing left is expansion along the lines of industry and commerce. Japan is pushing both of these possibilities with all her might, and it may be that the natural skill and indefatigable work of her people will make her win out. If she does so, it will be by retrenchment and economy, rather than personal extravagance and increased government expenditures. Today the country is \$1,000,000,000 in debt. It owes on the average \$200 per head, or \$1,000 per family. It is taxed enormously, and there would seem to be but little room for either the people or the government to increase their expenses. The officials realize this and have cut down their estimates for this year. The people are already so burdened that they are ready to revolt, and the outlook is that the simple life of the old Japan will have to continue with the masses for some time to come. This letter is to be devoted to the Japanese laboring classes. I want to tell you how they work and the wages they get, and also the prices they pay for their daily necessities. You can judge of their ability to support a civilization like ours.

As to outside lands, Formosa, which came as a result of the Chinese war, is the only property absolutely in hand. It is just about twice as big as New Jersey and it is already supporting twice as many people. It has 8,000,000 or 4,000,000, mostly Chinese, who have grabbed up the good land and cannot be moved. In addition there is Korea, which is controlled by Japan and which many think is to be exploited for the good of the home population. Korea is twice as large as Kansas, but it also is mountainous and its population is about 14,000,000. There may be some chance for expansion in southern Manchuria, but altogether the chances for emigration are few.

What Mechanics Get.
Japanese mechanics are about as good workmen as you will find anywhere. Every common carpenter is a cabinet maker, and many of the stonecutters would pass as sculptors. The painters have some artistic ability, and ordinary masons lay walls which would be a surprise to our people of that trade in the United States. I have been doing some building at my country home in the Virginia mountains and my contractor's account of the wages paid lies before me. They are lower than those of our cities, but still high enough. The carpenters are receiving from 12 to 23 per cent, and my plasterers are paid \$4, while the plumbers get \$3. Here in Japan the master carpenters receive 55 cents a day, and the best men under him 40 and 50 cents. This is for nine or ten hours' work.

Other Low Wages.
Our printers will be interested in what the compositors receive. There are now dailies in all the towns of any size, and Osaka has several journals, each of which has several hundred thousand circulation. The day's work begins at 8 a. m. and ends at 4 p. m. The wage scale is from 20 to 30 cents, the average being about 45 cents. Coal miners get from 25 to 41 cents, blacksmiths, 28 cents; iron molders, 28 cents, and machinists almost \$1. In the shoe factories, from 45 to 50 cents is paid, all the work being done by hand, there being no factories, such as we have, in Japan.

What the Government Pays.
Our government pays big wages to all its mechanics, and as a rule the eight-hour law holds everywhere. The Japanese government has more factories than Uncle Sam and its hours are much longer. There are altogether 1,000 government factories, covering a great variety of industries. In the government printing office the wages are 12 1/2 cents a day for women and from 15 to 25 cents for men; in the mint men receive 25 cents and in the paper factory about 20 cents.