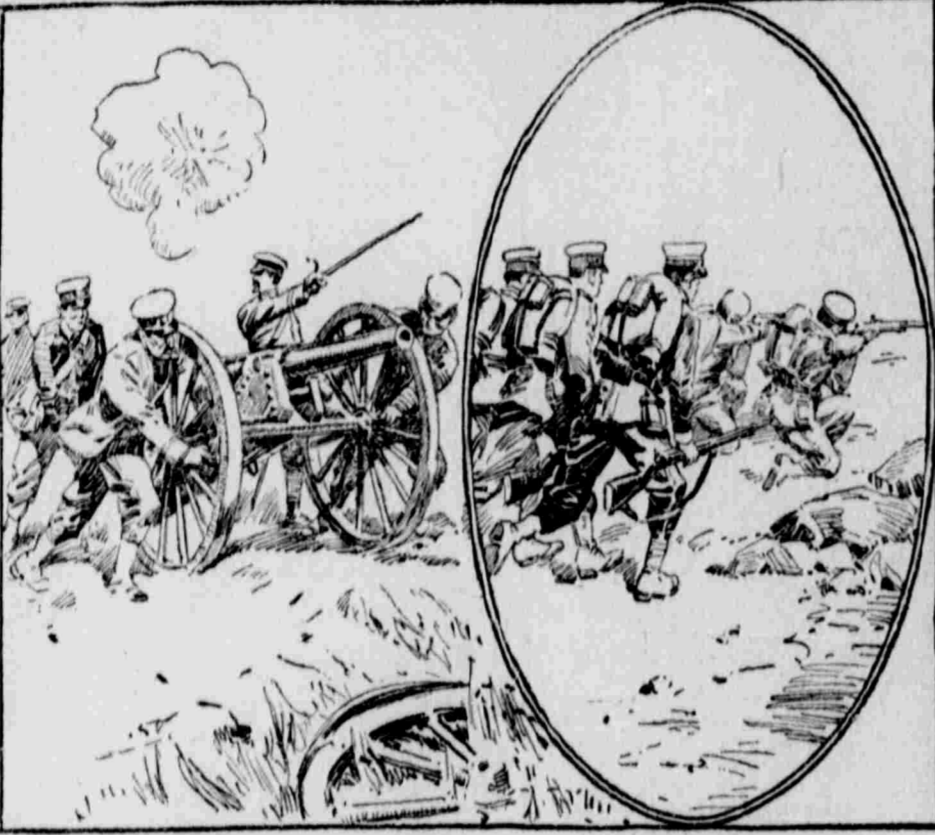


The True Inwardness of the Russo-Japanese War



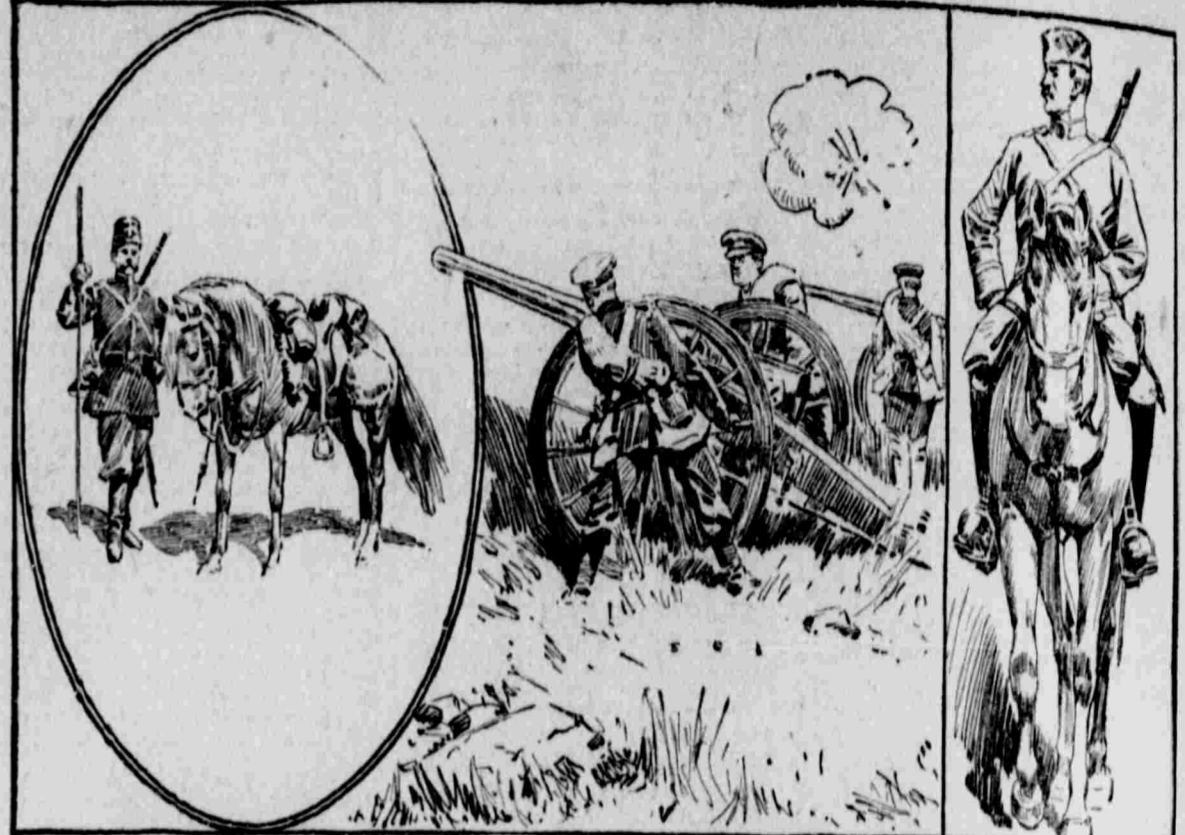
JAPANESE CAVALRY-MAN.



JAPANESE FIELD ARTILLERY.



JAPANESE INFANTRY SKIRMISHING.



A COSSACK SCOUT.

RUSSIAN FIELD ARTILLERY.

RUSSIAN DRAGOON.

EVERY nation has a "mission." At least in the opinion of that nation. The evident "mission" of Russia is to spread all over the world and convert everything to the temporal dominion of the czar and the spiritual dominion of the Greek church. The declared "mission" of Japan is to carry western civilization to the orient, to be the leader of the far east in the march of modern progress. In the course of events these two "missions" collided. The result is war.

In following his destiny the great bear has crowded over and lain down on everything that did not offer too strenuous a resistance. In this manner he smashed all the national life out of Finland and smothered and crushed Poland. When not too busy in other quarters of his domains he lumbered down to the Caspian sea and wrestled with the Turk. The Moslem apparently enjoyed bear fighting for awhile, but the usual windup of each wrestling match was that the antagonist took to his heels and left brain a strip of territory. Then "the bear that walks like a man" ambled over into

central Asia and scared the wits out of the folks in Turkestan and some other provinces, with the result that he secured their lands also. After this his bearship underwent a metamorphosis and became a Russian diplomat. The change of his skin, however, did not alter his appetite or characteristics. He still had the habit of moving into any national domicile that he found temporarily unoccupied and holding it by mere force of possession. The latest international "squatter sovereignty" act of this kind was in Manchuria.

There have been many conquerors in the history of the world, and the land grabbing habit has been strong in all of them. Sooner or later, however, each of these Goliaths met his David. The case that was most nearly a parallel to the present one was that of Persia. Cyrus had taken pretty much all of Asia and annexed it, and one of his successors got ambitious and concluded to gather in Greece. It looked easy, for Greece was small, only consisting of a few islands—like Japan, by the way—but the upshot was such as should have proved a lesson to overgrown men—and nations—with the land mania in all ages. Unfortunately it did not.

There have been other similar cases, but they all ended in pretty much the same way. There is one distinct difference between the other conquerors and the Muscovite, however. They earned what they got by good, hard fighting, while he has not done very much in that line.

When the historian comes to write of the cause of the Russo-Japanese war, after the passions engendered by the conflict have cooled and the truth has come uppermost, he will be forced by the very logic of facts to ascribe it to Russian cupidity and duplicity. The entire record of Slavic aggrandizement is filled with these two elements. Especially were they in evidence in the dismemberment of Poland. Japan, however, knows little of that melancholy event, nor is she concerned with it. She need not go so distant a scene or time to witness the aggrandizement and double dealing peculiar to the Muscovite. She has only to look to Manchuria and the course of the St. Petersburg government since the close of the Chino-Japanese war in 1895. When the little island empire, to the surprise of the entire world, had whipped overgrown China and in a fair fight had won title to Formosa, Korea and Manchuria, Russia stepped in and

by diplomacy stole much of what Japan had earned by fighting. She did this in the pretended interest of the integrity of China. But when the Russian took Port Arthur for his own, when he built a city at Dalny, when he broke promise after promise as to withdrawing his troops from Manchuria, when he began to settle on the Korean side of the Yalu river and to assume the right of having a voice in the settlement of Korean affairs, the hollowness of his pretended friendship for China became apparent to all the world, and it was seen that he had been acting only for himself and that his ultimate intention was to take Manchuria, Korea and possibly other Chinese provinces for his own. After that, what? No one knew. Possibly then he would strike at the rest of China and at Japan herself. At any rate his course in the far east was a menace not only to Japan, but to the open door policy and the civilization of the orient. Herein is the cause of the present conflict. Russia may seek to shift the burden on a technicality, but the facts are known to all nations. There is scarcely one of them to which she has not lied in the matter of removing her army from Manchuria. In this matter she has been tried in the

court of mankind, and the verdict is made up.

The actual steps leading up to the war are well worthy of a disinterested review. When Japan, fresh from her wonderful victory over China, offered terms so magnanimous that the Chinese government would have been glad to accept, Russia suddenly took a paternal interest in keeping the Chinese empire intact and even hoodwinked the other powers into supporting her position. As a result the mikado's government got only the island of Formosa for its pains. Korea became independent, and Manchuria was nominally returned to China. Then Russia began to play her fine hand. It is asserted and generally believed by those most familiar with Chinese affairs that the Boxer uprising was instigated and abetted by Russia to furnish her an excuse for overrunning Manchuria, the province most affected, with her troops. At any rate she seized upon the event instantly and rushed an army of 200,000 into the province. About the same time she leased Port Arthur, the very stronghold that Japan had taken by a great victory, and began fortifying it. She then assumed the government of Manchuria, though leaving it nominally in Chi-

nese hands. When other nations insisted on her withdrawing her troops, according to the understanding when she entered the province, there was at first evasion, but finally a promise fixing a date for evacuation. That date long since passed. No troops were withdrawn, and no move was made in that direction. Then the great bear began to shuffle over toward Korea. He claimed rights in the port of Yon-gampho greater than Korea said she had granted. On a timber cutting contract he rushed settlers into the northern part of Korea and began fortifying. He hinted at landing in Masampo, a port in the extreme southern end of the peninsula. When Japan began insisting on the evacuation of Manchuria the Russian replied with a counter proposition concerning Korea, a country over which he had no more shadow of a right of control than America has over Madagascar.

From the time of Russia's move in robbing Japan of the fruits of her victory over China the Land of the Rising Sun had been preparing for war. Other powers might be deceived in regard to Russia's attitude. She was not. She knew that the only way to beat back the Muscovite was to fight him. Some of her people were for fighting

just then, but the cooler and wiser minds ruled. The odds were too much against her at that time. She would wait and prepare.

The course of Japan has been as frank and open as that of Russia has been shifty and insincere. The island empire has made no concealment of the fact that she intended to fight when the time came. She has not hidden her hand. Because of this frankness the world will be all the more ready to credit her when she says that she does not want China for herself; she only wants her own national integrity assured; she wants her sphere of influence recognized in Korea, and she wants to drive Russia out of Manchuria. Over and beyond all these, she wants to bring western civilization to the oriental world.

In other words, Japan stands for the open door in the far east; Russia stands for the closed door. Japan wants China, Manchuria and Korea for civilization; Russia wants them for Russia. Japan seeks to let in the western world; Russia seeks to let in herself. Japan is fighting the battle of progress and of liberty; Russia, a fighting the battle of conquest and of despotism.

ADAM P. WHEELLOCK.

The Country Over Which Japan and Russia Are Fighting

THE same condition that gave the Boers an advantage over the British in the Transvaal will operate to the benefit of the Japs over the Russians in Korea. The Muscovite soldiers are used to fighting over great plains, but know little of rough, mountainous regions, while the armies of the mikado are thoroughly familiar with campaigning through the defiles and passes of the hill country, that being the character of their own land. The hosts of Xerxes from the level lands of Media and Babylonia, who were held in check by a handful of Greeks in their native mountains, were not more at a disadvantage than the Cossacks and Slavs are against the agile Japs in the rough country about the Yalu.

Korea is exceedingly mountainous, the northern portion, where most of the fighting will naturally occur, being

especially so. Here the peaks rise to a height of from 4,000 to 8,000 feet. The main range runs parallel with the eastern coast, with spurs and lower ranges all over the upper half of the peninsula. In this part of the country the hills are well wooded, while farther to the south both the mountains and trees gradually dwindle until they almost disappear at the southern extremity of the kingdom, the brown hills in the region of Mok-phe and Pusan being almost bare in appearance.

Travel through the country is exceedingly difficult, not only because of the roughness, but for the further reason that there are no roads worthy of the name. Such trails as do exist never are repaired and are impassable except by the native Korean ponies, which, like the Rocky mountain burro, can go where even a man on foot would not find it easy. These trails and bridle paths lead up the beds of dry streams and along bowlder strewn ways utterly impracticable for the transportation of an army. Japan fought over some of this ground in the war with China,

and this fact will give her a further advantage in the present struggle.

The absence of roads is one of the greatest obstacles in the way of the development of Korea. For example, there may be an overabundance in one district and a famine in an adjoining one, yet because of the lack of transportation facilities it is impossible to relieve the want of the starving province. In fact, almost the only methods of carrying stuff from place to place in the interior of the country are on the backs of ponies and by a peculiar contrivance strapped to the shoulders of the natives themselves. They are big, strong fellows, these Koreans—that is, for orientals—and the loads they "tote" around in this manner often reach 600 pounds.

There is related an instance of a battle in the Hermit Kingdom that illustrates the difficulty of fighting in these narrow mountain defiles. There were not over a dozen killed on either side, but these so blocked the way that further progress was impossible. The two armies then sat down and tried to

starve each other out. After a week of this exciting warfare they gave the thing up as a bad job and recommended that the war be abandoned, which was accordingly done. This bit of history throws a flood of light not only on the impassable nature of Korea, but on the passive nature of the Korean.

Who knows what Thermopylae may be fought between Japan and Russia in this rock strewn land that in physical characteristics at least is not unlike the isles of Greece? Here some slant eyed Leonidas, with his valiant and patriotic handful, may withstand a Russian Xerxes, with his Slavic hordes. In the present instance, however, the course of events will be reversed, for whereas the Greek Marathon followed the Spartan stand at Thermopylae, the navy of Russia has already met her Marathon, and the Thermopylae, if it come at all, must succeed that glorious event in the annals of Japan.

About the capital, Seoul, are several royal retreats to which the emperor and his family may flee in time of danger.

The mountains are only a little distance from the city, so that the imperial stampede need not cover a great amount of ground. Once in the hiding place, his majesty can bid defiance to the world, for his eyrie is inaccessible, at least to any one not familiar with the mountain trails, and even then a thousand could literally be held at bay by three. The people may be killed and the land devastated, but the sacred person of the emperor is safe. There is one instance, however, when the plan did not work. It was at the time of the Manchoo invasion some centuries since. The king, after royal custom, valiantly turned tail and fled to his eyrie, but one of those in the secret was bribed, the Manchoss discovered the imperial hiding place, some of the king's concubines were stolen, and he was forced to come forth himself. As a result Korea henceforth remained under Manchoo rule until released therefrom at the time of the Chino-Japanese war in 1895.

In area the Cho-Sen peninsula, the name given Korea by the natives,

comprises about 90,000 square miles, being almost as large as the two states of New York and Pennsylvania. In shape it is something like a boot or a rabbit's hind foot. Perhaps it is to prove Japan's mascot, in accordance with the popular superstition of the hind foot of a rabbit caught in a graveyard. It might seem a little far-fetched to compare Korea to a graveyard for the mere purpose of completing the simile, yet the people are dead enough.

The peninsula is so narrow that there are few rivers. The only considerable stream is the Yalu, forming the boundary line between Korea and Manchuria. It is wide at the mouth and navigable for a considerable distance. The Russians are strongly fortified along the Yalu, on the Manchurian side, and in some instances have crossed over, ostensibly to cut timber, but in reality to settle on Korean soil. It is probable, therefore, that some of the fiercest fighting of the war will occur along this river.

The other streams are inconceivable, though perhaps four of them could be

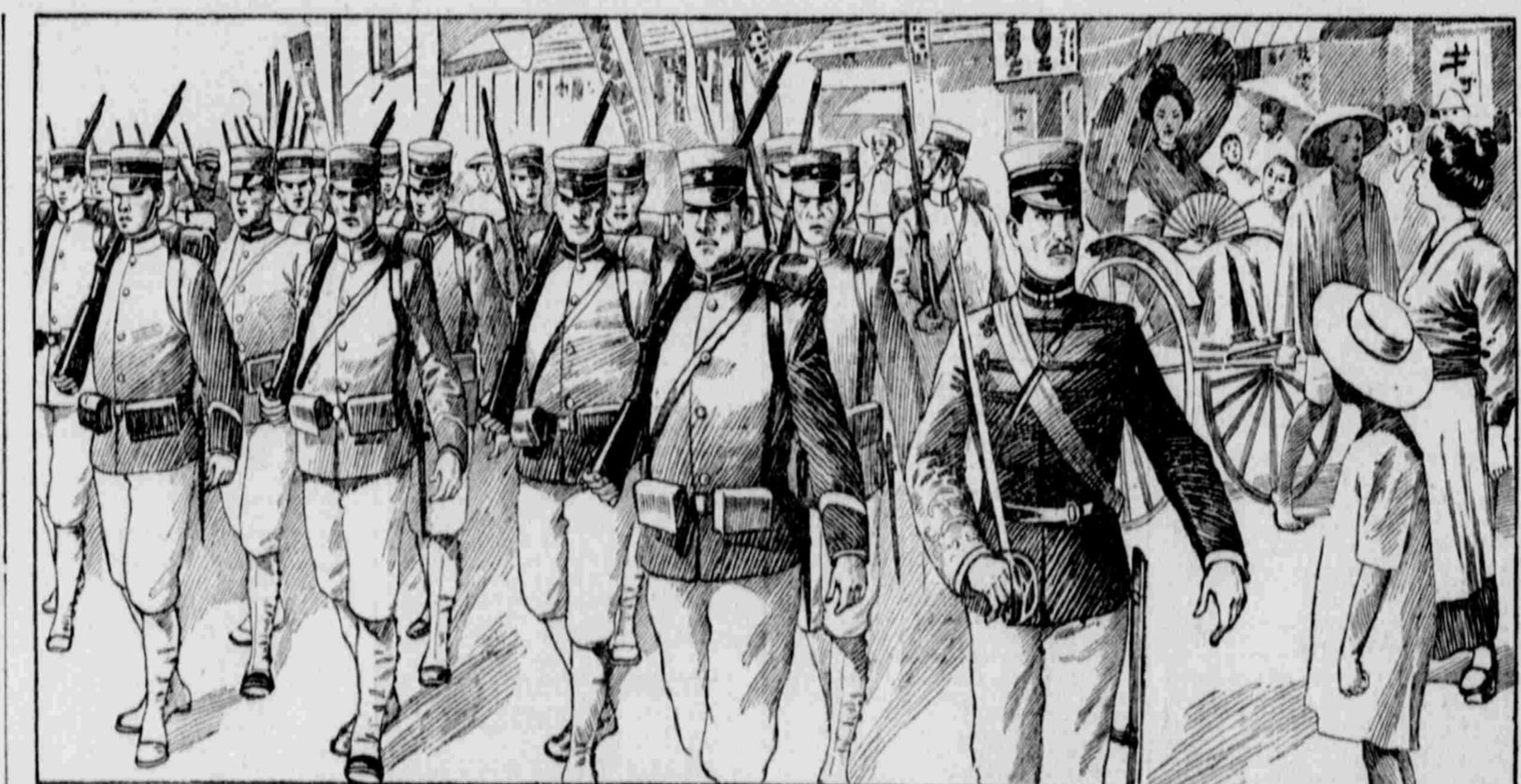
made navigable if the inhabitants of the country had sufficient energy to navigate them. One of these rivers empties at Chemulpo. On its banks Seoul is situated. Another river has its mouth at Mokphe, and still another flows into the sea near Pusan.

The valleys of Korea and the lower lands on the southern end of the peninsula are very fertile. The country is admirably fitted to sustain a great race. All that is needed is that the people be stirred into life or that a more wide awake nation take charge and develop the country. There are vast amounts of gold and other mineral wealth in the hills only waiting to be taken out and turned to human uses. Whatever its outcome, the present war cannot prove otherwise than a blessing to Korea. Especially will this be true if the peninsula comes under Japanese control and the same spirit that is now stirring the "Yankoes of the orient" made the motive force for the upbuilding of a similar civilization in the erstwhile Hermit Kingdom.

TRUMAN L. ELTON.

Some National Traits In the Land of the Rising Sun

A FORMER American senator on returning from a recent trip to Japan was asked what had produced the greatest impression on his mind of all the institutions of the island kingdom. He unabashedly replied that it was the public schools—the public schools modeled so closely after those of the United States, in which not only knowledge, but patriotism, is taught. Is it not possible that he struck the keynote of the wonderful progress and present military efficiency of this modern marvel of the east, for in all the world there are no greater students than the latter day Japanese? Their young men are found in almost every great university of Europe and America. Their own colleges are built along the lines of the institutions of learning in the west. In little over a generation there has been organized in the country a system of education extending to all classes of society. The actuating spirit of the people has seemed to be an insatiable appetite for knowledge. With the eagerness of children they have gratified the craving. In little more than thirty years they have assimilated the wisdom of western civilization, thus gaining results that it had taken laborious centuries for the authors of those results to achieve.



SOLDIERLY APPEARANCE OF THE JAPANESE INFANTRY.

To gain an understanding of present conditions in Japan it is necessary to consider the fact that nine-tenths of the rulers of the empire and a great majority of even the professors in the colleges are from the old fighting class of the samurai. They constitute the professional classes, the merchants, the officers in the army and navy, members of parliament, teachers in the public schools, and make up the vast majority of the influential men and leading thinkers of Japan. These descendants

of men who for hundreds of years knew no other trade than fighting, who were trained in the sternest discipline and who gained all the strength and virtue of the same fiber and characteristics of their ancestors. The first commandment of the samurai was "Thou shalt not live under the same heaven nor tread the same earth as the enemy of thy lord." In ancient days "the lord" referred to was some petty feudal chief. Today the same spirit of loyalty

is given to the mikado. It not only exists among the samurai, but permeates all classes. There has grown up a very great feeling of unity in this people. They are thoroughly nationalized. They believe in the mission and the destiny of Japan. Their highest sentiment is patriotism. Ask any schoolboy his most cherished ambition, and he will answer, "To die for the mikado." With such a spirit who can wonder that the Japs make ideal soldiers?

The unity of national thought is shown nowhere in a more marked degree than in the growth of the determination to fight Russia. Ever since the Port Arthur incident after the Chino-Japanese war, it has been the settled purpose of every subject of the mikado to help whip the great bear. Even prior to that time some of the farsighted statesmen, like Ito, saw that a conflict between the two powers was inevitable, but it took an object lesson to make this apparent to the people.

When that object lesson came there was no longer any hesitation. As one man the nation went to work preparing for the struggle. The army was increased and trained. The navy was enlarged, and the gunners were drilled. Every ship that went to Europe was required to bring back a quantity of arms and ammunition. The peasants in the fields, the boys in the schools, the workmen in the shops—all began to talk about the time that Japan was to meet Russia. It was only about eight

or nine years ago that the Muscovite stole the fruits of the Japs' victory. Never was time better spent than those intervening years in the preparation of the island empire to right the wrong. Spies dressed as coolies were sent in large numbers to Manchuria and Siberia to study the lay of the country and the characteristics of their prospective foes. Young men went to St. Petersburg and other Russian cities to size up the Slavic power and to devise how best to meet it. Every move the nation made was directed to the one end. Last year the professors in the Japanese universities memorialized the cabinet in favor of war, and all their arguments were directed to the one point of declaring war at once. They did not seem to regard it necessary to argue about the question of ultimate conflict. That was a matter of course. They only wanted to show the cabinet that the opportune time had come.

Herein is revealed another Japanese characteristic—that of subordinating everything to the end in view. The closest students of this adaptive people agree that the Jap did not take up western ways because he particularly liked them. He saw that only by taking them up could he hope to make his country a great nation, and he was determined to be a world power, the leader of the orient. Thus he gave up customs he loved for those he loathed. This was not a matter of sentiment, but of cold blooded calculation, for underneath all his apparent gaiety and lightness the Jap has a scientific mind. He is more of a utilitarian than a sentimentalist. He saw that intellect had become the dominant factor in progress, and as he desired progress he entered the intellectual field. To keep pace with western civilization he must adopt western ideas and wear western clothes. So he sent his boys to the schools over the ocean, and he put on breeches—that is, in public. As soon as he returned to his home the breech-

es were thrown aside, and in a kimono he snuggled at ease on the floor as his ancestors had done for centuries.

Japan is still in the transition stage between the old and the new, but so rapidly is she moving that in another generation, the metamorphosis will be complete.

The Land of the Rising Sun is the poetic name that the natives give to their island empire. In a sense it is the key to their customs of life. There is a brilliancy, a freshness about it all, peculiarly suggestive of the morning. Then, too, it has the beauty and the exhilaration of the hour following the dawn.

In all the appellations that have been given the little people, such as the "Yankoes of the east" and the "English of the east," it is strange that no one has ever hit upon the designation that really describes them. They are the Greeks of the east. They have the same artistic quality. In all the world there is no more lovely country than the Land of the Rising Sun, not in the sense of beauty, but in the sense of life. Everywhere the scenery has been beautified. No spot of ugliness is allowed to remain. In building a railroad every ditch is neatly bricked up. Color and dashiness are everywhere. Above the moral, above every other consideration except the love of Japan and the determination to put her in the front rank, is the aesthetic. True, the Greek scenery has not come yet. For that there is plenty of time. Every other element is present, however. The religion is strikingly similar. Both are island empires and both mountainous. Now, if the parallel is made complete by the Japs whipping Russia as the Spartans and the Athenians overcame the hosts of the Persians the little people will have gained full right to the proud title of "the Greeks of the orient."

CHANNING A. BARTOW.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER.

Canada's 3,000 cheese factories make on an average thirty tons each of cheese a year.

A snowstorm started a fire on the premises of a farmer living at Hebuterne, Belgium. He placed a quantity of kerosene near a shed on his farm and left it there all night. In the course

of the night snow fell on to the lime, and the heat thus developed became so great that it set the shed on fire, completely destroying it and its contents.

The biggest monkey ever exhibited is a gorilla six feet ten inches high, with an arm spread of nine feet three inches, from the Kamurus, west Af-

rica. He stands, with his skeleton beside him, in the Museum of Hamburg.

The average age of death of workmen in East London is about twenty-nine, whereas in the well to do districts of West London the average age is about fifty-five.

College professors will never become rich because of their generous salaries. This is particularly the case

with those in Germany. In that country 131 of them get \$250 a year or less, eighty-seven less than \$400 and seventy-four \$1,000 a year. Only four get as much as \$5,000 a year.

A number of beggars who reside in the Sorbonne quarter of Paris have formed themselves into a society. This society is conducted on a businesslike basis. In the morning each beggar is

given the part he has to play for the day. In the evening the beggars muster in the Rue St. Jacques, and the day's takings are equally shared. The names of persons visited during the day are kept in a register, and the amount they have given is set down.

Metals get tired as well as living beings. Telegraph wires are better conductors on Monday than on Saturday

on account of their Sunday rest, and a rest of three weeks adds 10 per cent to the conductivity of a wire.

In Grindelwald, Davos and other Swiss resorts the hotels have almost as many guests in winter as in summer.

As a rule, pigs are generally averse to water, but a traveler reports some diving pigs which, he says, live in an

almost wild condition on certain of the islands off Florida and subsist entirely on the refuse fish cast away by the fishermen. To obtain this the pig dives under water, walking on the bottom at a depth of five feet below the surface.

Although about 45 per cent of married couples celebrate their silver wedding, only one in a thousand live to celebrate their golden anniversary.