

# Japan's Wonderful Military and Naval Evolution

Those who read of the brilliant showing made by modern Japan against one of the great empires of Europe scarcely realize the lightninglike rapidity with which the Land of the Rising Sun has striven from semibarbarism to a place in the forefront of nations. It is less than fifty-one years ago that Commodore Perry one day dropped anchor in the bay of Yeddo. That event in itself was not of any particular importance to the nation which sent him nor just then to the nation which he visited. He had simply gone to ask for the opening of two Japanese ports to American trade and had taken a

Introduction of western civilization. Almost in the twinkling of an eye the old exclusiveness disappeared, visitors were welcomed, and Japan began to travel. Perceiving the wonderful advancement made by occidental nations, the newly awakened land determined to share in their progress. To achieve that end she saw it was necessary to adopt the customs and the methods of the west. Turning herself from the traditions she loved, the little kingdom became the Land of the Rising Sun in fact as well as in name, and the morning that broke over her was the beginning of a new era in the life of all the far east.

The development came to all lines simultaneously. With the return of the first crop of Japanese graduates from

fleet of warships. What wonder, then, that one of the initial activities of the awakening nation was in the direction of the construction of a larger navy? The first tangible start seems to have been in the purchase of the Stonewall Jackson, a 1,300-ton ship carrying a ten-ton gun, besides smaller ones, a powerful vessel for that day. This was renamed the Adzuma, and with her as a model, the Japs began that career of adaptation and imitation that has had such remarkable results. The purchase of the Adzuma was made in 1860, two years before the revolution. In 1877 another and greater revolution was bought. This was the Fuso, 3,713 tons, double screw, speed thirteen knots. This ship carried a

ed to visit the country and assist in training an army. These experts, with the returned students who had graduated from foreign institutions, started military academies throughout the kingdom, so that Japan shortly became one vast training school. A public school system also sprang into being, in which patriotism was taught and incidentally tactics. The early model for the army was French, as that of the navy was American and English. Later the German military system was introduced as being more effective than that of France. In their selection of models the Japs have shown wonderful discrimination. They examined the armies and navies of all countries, then chose what seemed to them the best of each.

on both land and sea, but she had done it in a manner that reflected glory upon her arms. Her ambition to be the leader of the orient was given a fresh spur; she gained the confidence that comes from accomplishment; the praise she received from other nations fortified her belief in herself. The deeds of heroism of her soldiers at Pingyang, at Wiju, at the Yalu River and at Port Arthur were very dear to this soldier-loving country. The recital of these exploits would still further fan the flame of military ardor, and with this as a basis she would go forward to other victories. She would show herself worthy of the praise she was receiving.

The world has failed in one regard to do justice to the soldiers of the mikado

all, they possessed, like the Americans, the quality of individual initiative. They courted death. The Jap boy who held the bomb to blow a breach in one of the Chinese walls, though he knew that the explosion which opened the fort would blow him into atoms, did only what any Japanese soldier is expected to do in case of need. There is a peculiar fatalism in their system of belief. They are ever ready to sink the individual for the good of Japan. They love praise, and the thought that they will be counted heroes after death is as sweet to the hearts beneath the brown skin as it is to those covered by the white.

After the allies were withdrawn from Peking Japan's military activity continued. The navy was strengthened by

love for these hills and brooks, for these landscapes made more enchanting by touches of a truly artistic race, that actuates the Jap to deeds of valor. After all, every man at the bottom is a sentimentalist, and he fights best who has the most cherished things for which to fight. Appeal to the soldier's love of home or to his imagination, and you have an invincible army. The Greeks understood this fact, Napoleon comprehended and used it, and it is shown in the deeds of daring of the Scot, the Englishman and the American.

What is to be the end of the wonderful evolution of the Japanese? If they succeed in overcoming or even in gaining an honorable peace in their gigantic struggle with the Russians, who can foretell the yet more marvelous progress that may be in store for them? May it not be that their dream of leading the orient to a higher civilization is to come true? May it not be that they are to prove the lever for the uplifting of the swarming populations of the far east? There could be no more honorable ambition. In its realization may come to the human race a higher good than any of us now see.

J. A. EDGERTON.

## SELF MADE MONARCHS.

M. Jacques Lebaudy, otherwise his majesty Jacques I., emperor of the Sahara, is not the only ambitious Frenchman who in recent times has crowned himself monarch of somewhere or other. Two other cases of the kind are recalled by a writer in a French paper. These were a certain De Tonnens, a lawyer at Perpignan, who obtained such influence over a South American tribe that he blossomed forth as Antoine-Orelie I., king of Araucania and Patagonia, and one David de Mayreia, who founded a Malay kingdom of Sedat. The empires of their exploits, however, are not wholly favorable to the emperor of the Sahara, for Mayreia was assassinated by his subjects, and Antoine-Orelie had to flee to France, where he died in poverty, though not without bequeathing his crown to his secretary. That monarch, Achille I., had too much sense to attempt to regain his kingdom, but contented himself with doing a little dealing in decorations with French "gongs" in which business was at one time fairly brisk. It is to be feared that the age of adventures of the sort that M. Lebaudy loves is over.

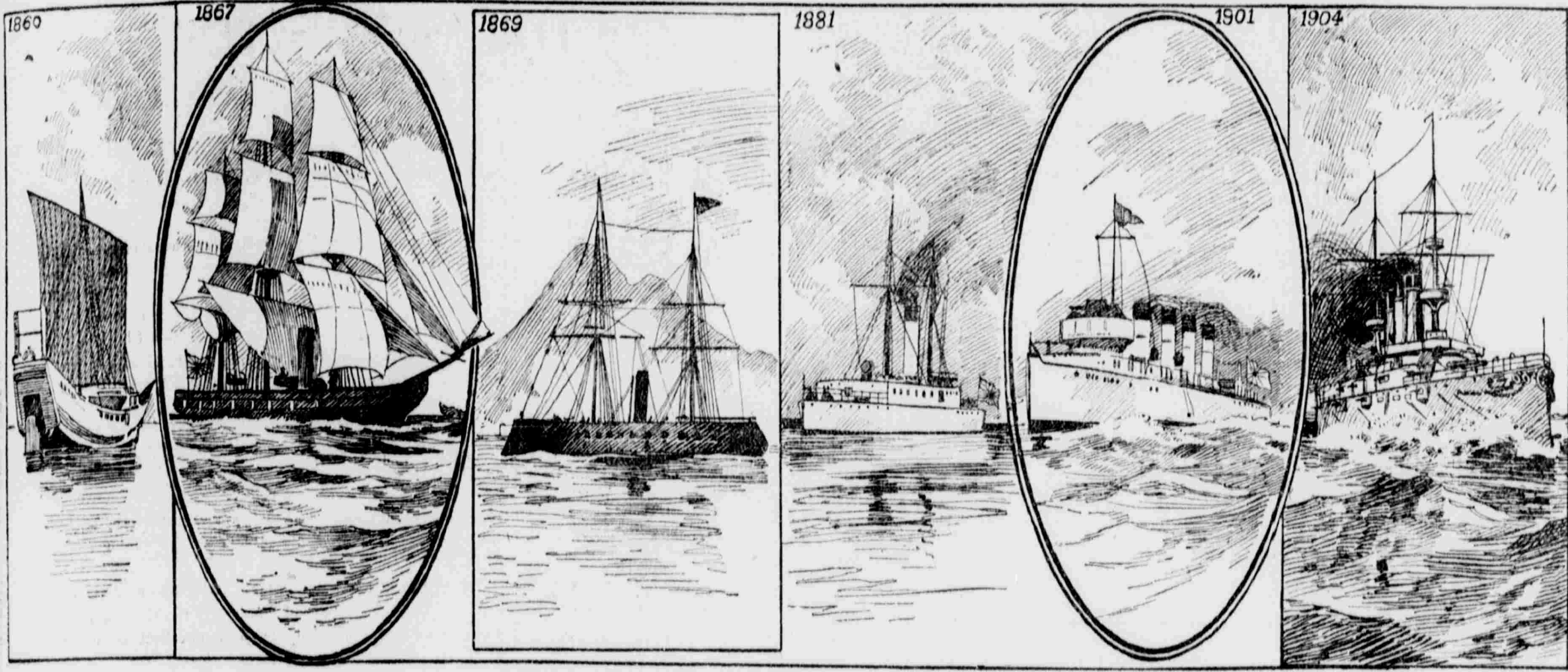
## THE POPE'S SLEEPING CAR.

The pope owns a sleeping car. It was constructed in 1868 when the line from Rome to Naples was opened and will be shown at the Milan exhibition in 1905 to inaugurate the Simplon tunnel. The car consists of three compartments, a throne room, a compartment for the guard of honor and a bedroom. The throne room is richly furnished and has a cupola engraved with the papal arms and the twelve apostles. It is so arranged that the pope when seated on his throne can be plainly seen by the crowds who might be expected to throng the stations for his blessing.

As a matter of fact, the crowds do not assemble round the papal car, for it is never used. Whether Pope Pius X. will make use of it remains to be seen, but Leo XIII. kept up the tradition that the bishop of Rome was a prisoner in the Vatican and never left it, though he was really as free to go wherever he would as the most humble priest in the kingdom of Italy.

## PRIZES FOR UGLINESS.

Germany is ahead in novelties of a charitable nature. In the town of Haschmann prizes are offered yearly for the men who will marry the ugliest and most crippled women and for the women over forty who have been fitted at least twice. The money was left by a big financier, who, realizing that beauty is an attraction hard to overcome, made a provision in his will that out of the income of the fund not less than \$9 shall go with the ugliest girl in any year, and the crippled shall re-



TYPES OF JAPAN'S FIGHTING VESSELS OF DIFFERENT PERIODS.

fleet along to gain a respectful hearing. The shogun, who was the virtual ruler, looked upon the fleet, saw the force of the argument and gave his assent. There the immediate transaction ended. Yet to the very large number of small eyes that gazed upon the spectacle the Yankee squadron was like a revelation from another world. They remembered; the memory grew into an ambition, and the ambition into an accomplishment.

The Japs that Perry saw was the Japan that had existed for centuries. The brown little people were wearing basket shoes and wide flowing kimonos, as their revered ancestors had done for ages but the antiquarians knew how long. The samurai were fighting for their petty lords with the same bows and arrows and peculiarly shaped swords that their fathers had used before them. The queer tubs of boats darted out from the high and indented coasts as similar tubs had darted since the beginning of the Christian era. The geisha girls in the odd little tea houses courted and flirted and sang as other geisha girls had done from time immemorial. Two hundred and fifty noblemen, called daimios, having at their head one whom they had elected shogun, ruled the country, while the titular emperors, like the Chinese emperors of the present day, was a puppet who was only allowed to speak to his fellow men from behind a painted screen. There was little education except among the chief men, and their researches went into a system of learning so ancient that its skin cracked like the yellow parchments that they studied. These Japs of a half century ago were the most exclusive of the exclusives. Except for an occasional overrunning of Korea, or a fight with the Chinese, they knew next to nothing of the outside world, nor did they desire to know. Why should they? Did they not inhabit the Land of the Sunrise, the most beautiful country on earth? Did they not live in harmony with the traditions of a long and glorious past? Were not their women fond and willing slaves? Were not their people comfortably housed and clothed, and had they not an abundance of rice and tea? Why should they think of change?

All this, however, was before the visit of the strange American ships. The subjects of the daimios, in their childlike wonder, did not know that this thing marked the beginning of a new era in the history of their island empire. They had been touched by the mysterious spirit called progress, and nevertheless could they be content to follow in the ways of their fathers. The American fleet went as it had come, but the wonderful glimpse the Japanese people had caught of a larger world would not go. As the smoke of the departing men-of-war had vanished over the horizon, so the old Japs was to vanish, and compared to the long ages of its past, almost as swiftly.

Other vessels came, messengers of peace this time, merchantmen carrying trade, but not the only cargoes. Every ship brought the tales of another civilization. The Japs mind proved fertile soil for this new seed. Almost immediately it took root, and in a few years the land was overrun by new ideas. came the revolution that placed the present mikado on the throne in fact as well as in name. All nations were admitted to the Japanese ports, and the emperor at once began to liberate his policy by calling around him men who were advocates of the new order. Most prominent among these were Marquis Ito and Count Inouye. From a warring theater of the retainers of petty lords Japan suddenly became a united nation. Out of the idea of nationality grew the conception of a well defined national mission—that of being the leader of the orient in the

European and American universities began the development of a modern educational system in Japan. From each country she took the best. Her model for her public schools was American.

New industries sprang into life. Railroads were introduced. Japanese youths were sent abroad to study in the foundries. The marvelous imitative faculty of the people came into play, and in a short time native shops were constructing machinery on the exact pattern that had been observed abroad.

This development was especially in evidence in the navy and army. Indeed, there can be little doubt that the dream of becoming a great military power was the actuating motive in the modernizing of Japan. The soldier had always been the national hero of the country. The nobles and the samurai under them had fought with each other from time immemorial. A contempt of physical danger and of death had been inculcated in the minds of the children from the earliest ages. A large section of the population had no other trade than fighting. Such a spirit as this had to have outlet in some direction, and when the unification of the empire came at the beginning of the present day, the military ardor had to seek an outward object on which to vent itself, as internal discord was at an end. It was then that the dream came of a greater

broadside central battery and was 229 feet long. The small ironclads, the Konko, Hiei and Kijou, of 1,300 tons each, were added in the two years following. These constituted the Japanese navy in 1860.

In the succeeding decade only two more ironclads were added to the list, but a considerable squadron of fast cruisers were built on Japan's order in various foreign countries. With the addition of two more very speedy cruisers in the next four years, these made up Japan's naval strength at the beginning of her war with China in 1894.

This remarkable naval evolution was not confined alone to ships. The far-sighted statesmen like Ito saw that boats were useless unless manned by crews that understood them. It takes longer to train officers and men than it does to build vessels, so at the very earliest stages of the evolution provision was made for such training. America, England and other countries were asked to allow Japanese officers to serve aboard their ships and also that Yankee and British officers be permitted to serve on Japanese ships. These requests were readily granted, and to the European and American naval experts that were sent to train the officers and crews of Japan is due much of the record made by that nation in later days. Of even greater importance was the opening of the Naval academy at Annapolis to a certain number of Japanese students. Here

A very complete plan of fortifications was adopted. The work along this line has not been entirely finished, but all the more important points are well protected, especially against attack from sea. The indented shore line and precipitous coasts lend themselves readily to defensive fighting. In fact, like England, Greece and other island nations, Japan is almost proof against invasion. Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagasaki and other important cities are already well fortified.

It was in 1875 that compulsory military service in the army and navy was adopted. Since that time every male subject of the mikado between the ages of seventeen and forty is liable to active duty. The army is made up of four divisions, and the conscript is slated for a term of service in each—three years in the active army, four years in the reserves, five years in the landwehr and eight years in the landsturm. In times of peace, however, only a small number of those eligible are admitted to the active army, choice being made by lot. In the beginning the main strength was laid on the artillery and infantry arms of the service. The cavalry, which is Russia's strongest point, is Japan's weakest. This lack is not so much felt, however, because of the roughness of the country over which the fighting must occur. If it were a level country, such as that with which the Cossacks are familiar, there might be a different story. But in the hills

In this victory over China. The lack of proper appreciation came through an underestimating of the Chinese. Later events revealed the fact that the Celestials are not such mean fighters after all, and that the manner in which they had been overcome by their neighbors from the island kingdom was not due so much to Chinese inferiority as to Japanese superiority.

Russia's grab of the Liautong peninsula and Manchuria furnished a direction for the newly awakened military enthusiasm of Japan. Here began the second stage of the evolution. Efforts toward creating a great army and navy were redoubled. The ships taken from the Chinese were repaired, remodeled and set afloat. New and larger ships were bought. The army was increased and more rigidly drilled than before. So rapidly and thoroughly was this process carried forward that at the time of the Boxer outbreak in 1900 the military establishment of the island empire had almost doubled.

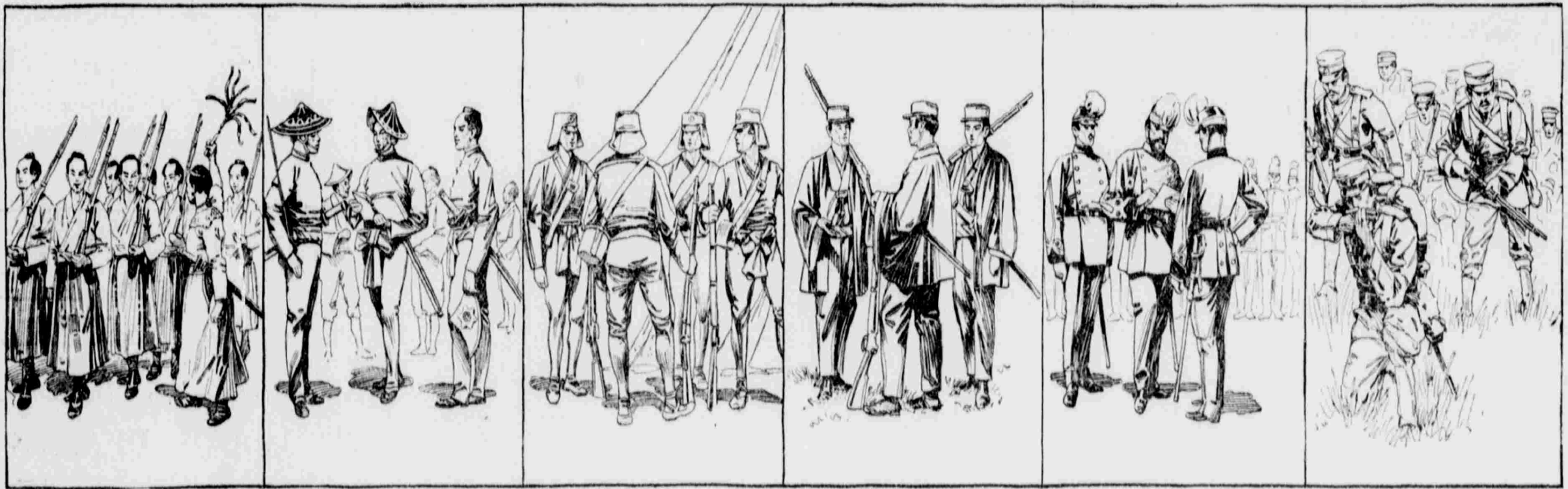
The conduct of the Japanese troops on the march to Peking and in the subsequent fighting about the Chinese capital was such as to still further awaken the admiration of the world. Prior to that time the little men had measured themselves only with the soldiers of China. Now they marched side by side with the soldiers of Europe and America. The Japs seemed to understand that much depended on the impression made. How favorable that

the introduction of some of the greatest fighting machines afloat. Today the Japanese fleet contains four battleships averaging over 15,000 tons each, two of them, the Mikasa and the Ashai, reaching 15,200. These are larger than any ships of the Russians and as large as any in the world.

Nor was the mikado's government satisfied with securing only the ships. She already had well trained gunners and crews, as had been shown in the battles of the Yalu and Port Arthur. These were not enough. The Spanish-American war showed what marksmanship will do. As soon as the American gunners were left idle after the close of that conflict Japan began bidding for them. It was estimated that just prior to the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war there were at least 300 American gunners in the navy of the mikado. These are the men who fought with Dewey at Manila and with Schley at Santiago.

Because of the character of her shores the torpedo boat is peculiarly effective in Japanese waters. As a result a large number of these were secured. Naval men in recent times had come to the conclusion that the effectiveness of these craft had been overestimated. So well have they been handled by the Japanese that this estimate is being revised.

The experience gained with the allies about Tientsin and Peking was invaluable to the Japanese land troops. It



Earliest Inception of Drill: Sergeant with cat-o'-nine-tails. Soldiers in native Japanese dress and with native sword. Old style flintlock muskets.

Growth in Organization: European dress in all except headgear. Officer's instructions to sergeant of salute. Orderly doffing cap instead of saluting.

About 1870: European military tent and European caps, with regimental badge and neck protector. Soldiers carrying rice buckets.

About 1873: Slight return to Japanese dress in loose blouse. The swords here worn are native, but the guns are German. French cap introduced.

1875-60: Full dress uniform of infantry officers—French kepi, tunic, white breeches, gold chevrons and European swords. Japs are always natty.

Present Day: Field cap, knapsack, greatcoat and mess tin of modern German pattern. Sword bayonet and cartridge pouches. French trousers.

Japan, the shrewd statesman of the island empire saw that by the introduction of western weapons and methods of fighting the Japs could easily become the lord of the far east. Once having that end in view, the energies of the country were bent to its accomplishment. The first step was to build up an army and navy equal to the task. Because of the fact that Japan, like Great Britain, lies upon a chain of islands, it had been from the earliest ages a seagoing nation. Many of the fights between the petty lords had taken place on the straits, inlets and bays about the sharply indented coast. One of the great victories in the ancient times was the almost complete destruction of an immense army of Chinese that had sailed across in their junks to invade one of the Jap islands. The Celestials never reached shore.

The first glimpse of the western world that had come to the Japanese imagination was the sight of a

were trained many of the admirals now distinguishing themselves in the war with Russia.

The evolution of the army was equally rapid. The modernization of the military really began with the outbreak of the Satsuma rebellion or revolution in 1868. This destructive war, in which several hundred thousand Japanese lost their lives, lasted until 1874, when the shogun was finally overthrown, his retainers killed or scattered to all parts of the kingdom and the mikado firmly established upon the throne. To make up for the destruction of the fighting bands of samurai under the daimios an army built on European and American lines was immediately raised. As a first step the system of French uniforms was adopted. Just as in the navy, Japanese youths were sent abroad to study the military establishments of other lands. Trained officers from America, England, France and Germany were invited

to the agile and tireless soldiers of Japan are at home. There her matchless artillery, which is really the tower of her army, can do its most effective work.

The first period of Japan's military evolution extended from the beginning of the Satsuma rebellion in 1868 to the opening of the China-Japanese war in 1894. This struggle served not only to open the eyes of the world to the fact that a new military power had entered the field, but came like a revelation to the Japs themselves. The adoption of western methods had not been in vain. The careful and scientific drill of the men in both the army and navy, the marksmanship practice of the gunners in the artillery and on the ships, the years of study given to every military system on earth, the schooling imparted to Japanese officers and men by army experts from Europe and America—all these things had borne fruit. The island kingdom had not only overcome her hereditary and overgrown neighbor

impression was the reports sent back by newspaper correspondents and the soldiers of other nations simply testify. The praises of "the little beggars," as the Japs troops were called, were being sung from Berlin to San Francisco. They outmarched the other troops, were the first over the breaches, stood fatigue with less complaint and maintained better discipline than almost any other soldiers in the field. The well trained troops of the Kaiser were present, the English Tommies that had fought in India and Egypt, the natty and dashing French, the Americans that had been seasoned in the Philippines and the sturdy and stoical soldiers of the czar. None showed more endurance, more bravery or more ability to plan and conduct a fight than the little brown men from the Land of the Rising Sun. They were as natty, as polite and as dashing as the French, and they had the staying qualities of the Germans and English. Greatest of

gave them still further opportunity to study European and American tactics and methods, an opportunity that this most adaptable of all peoples was ready to grasp. It may be remarked in passing that the old idea that the Japs are only imitative is passing out. They have shown themselves inventive as well. For example, they today are using guns of native manufacture which they claim are superior to American and European weapons. These guns are the invention of a Japanese.

Perhaps the peculiar spirit that makes the soldiers and sailors of the mikado so nearly invincible can best be shown by a quotation from one of their songs:

Pure is Hatesue's mountain brook; So pure it mirrors all the clouds of heaven.

Japan is a beautiful land, so beautiful that many westerners on visiting it have been so charmed that they remained and married there. It is the

## THE USEFUL BANANA.

Immense fortunes have been made out of the banana business. Revenues do not accrue alone from the sale of the fruit, for the leaves are used for packing, the wax found on the underside of the leaves is a valuable article of commerce, manila hemp is made from the stems, and of this hemp are made mats, plaited work and lace handkerchiefs of the finest texture. Moreover, the banana is ground into banana flour. The island of Jamaica and the West Indies generally yield great crops of this useful fruit.

## BITS FROM EVERYWHERE.

In the matter of book publications Russia is at the foot of the list of nations. Biondelle is the most fatal disease in Finland, next consumption and then typhoid. In the island of Luzon there are nearly a million acres of rolling pine land, with no underbrush or tropical

vegetation, where the climate is like that of the upper Alleghany mountains in June. German imperial authorities have secured a fine of \$12,500 from the heirs of a German manufacturer on the ground of his having undervalued his income, and so paid too low a tax during several years of his lifetime. Records prove that the college man

at thirty is far in advance of the man of the same age who entered by the apprentice door. Even at thirty it is shown that four years spent at college are not wasted and that he really acquired the ability to learn how to do things. Athens has a weekly periodical—the Bulletin d'Orient—which is concerned with the affairs of the Greeks in Macedonia. One of the sources of motor power

used in the African Sahara is sand carried by the wind to elevated reservoirs. England's imports of food nearly doubled between 1892 and 1901, those from the Argentine Republic having increased nearly threefold, while England's exports to that country have scarcely risen 50 per cent. There is, perhaps, no country in the world which has more extended house industries than Italy. The silk indus-

try, the manufacture of hemp and tow, the twisting of baskets and braiding of straw hats, for example, furnish employment to many thousands of people in their own homes. In twenty years the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in Great Britain has increased its membership from 8,000 to 60,000. The treasury has a credit balance of \$1,400,000. A project is on foot to build a ship canal thirteen and one-half miles long

between Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie, which will save seventy-nine miles over the route by way of Detroit. In 1880 the south had but 25,500 miles of railway. In 1900 there were over 54,000 miles, representing a new influx of capital to the amount of \$1,500,000,000. The colonial treasurer of the Transvaal has sent to England for 450,000 worth of pennies with the view of aiding in the reduction of the cost of liv-

ing in the Rand. Owing to the dearth of pennies matches are at present used as a portion of the currency of the Rand. A writer in Nature compares the exhalation from cedar wood and the magnetic supply from a magnet with the emanation from radium, each being without loss of substance. To this might be added the grain of radium, which fills a room with its odor for years without loss of weight.