

seaside hotel in its architectural structure, it is made of frame, and is of two stories. It is situated in the center of Tokyo, not far from where the Shogun laid down the barbarous laws of the past, and just outside of the moats which run round the palace ground.

There is a wall around it, and when the houses are in session you see about 500 black jinrikshas with bare-legged men in utter bowl hats sitting in them and waiting for their masters, who are inside. You have to go through a narrow entrance, so small that only one man can get through at a time, in getting to the reception room and also in going into the hall, and this is probably to prevent the danger of a rush by Soshi or others. There are plenty of officers dressed in uniform, and there is as much red tape as about the houses of parliament in London. The two houses do not look much unlike our Senate and House. The desks run in concentric circles back from the rostrum, on which the president and vice president sit, and they are more like school desks than like those of our congress. The seats are made so that they can be turned up like opera chairs, and some members from the back districts, who have been more accustomed to sitting on the floor than on chairs, now and then get up and kneel on their seats or sit cross-legged upon them. They do not keep their hats on, as they do in England, and their modes of procedure are more like the Reichstag than those of our Congress. The most of the members dress in European clothes, though now and then you find one wearing a kimono.

#### THE TWO HOUSES

The membership of the two houses is about the same. The upper house is called the house of peers, and it contains about three hundred members. It comprises the aristocrats of the Japanese empire, and contains, in the first place, all the male members of the imperial family of the age of twenty and upward. Thus, the crown prince will be a member of this house when he gets to be twenty. It also contains members selected from the eleven princes and twenty-eight marquises, eighty counts, three hundred and fifty-five viscounts and twenty-nine barons of the empire. These men have to be elected by their own order, and their number is restricted. In addition to this, there are some whom the emperor has made members on account of their learning and of the services which they have done for Japan, and it is probable that the present war will largely increase this number.

Then there are certain members who come from the different counties and districts in Japan, who have been nominated by the emperor, and who are chosen by the vote of the fifteen men in each district who pay the highest taxes. Those who are members on account of their blood, or have been appointed by the emperor, are for life. Those elected by the different orders and by the taxpayers are for seven years. With all this it is questionable whether the upper house contains the brains of Japan. The house of representatives, like that of our own, is the noisiest and the ablest. It also numbers three hundred, and any man can be a member of Congress who is of Japanese birth and over thirty years of age and pays a tax of not less than \$15 a year. A Japanese has to be twenty-five years old before he can vote,

and voters must have a similar taxpaying qualification to members of Congress.

#### A LAND OF LOW SALARIES.

Japan is a land of low salaries. The officials do not get half as much as ours, and the members of the house of peers and of the house of representatives receive 800 Japanese yen and their traveling expenses. The yen is now worth about 50 cents, so they receive in reality only \$400 a year. Our congressmen, you know, receive \$5,000. The presidents of both houses receive 4,000 yen, and the emperor appoints the officers of the house of peers, and he selects those of the house of representatives from three candidates who are elected by the house.

All of the voting in the Japanese parliament is done in secret ballot. There is a great deal of speech-making, and the representatives grow very excited when they discuss the measures relating to the government. The emperor has the right to dissolve parliament, and he has dismissed the last two houses because they seemed inclined to cut down the expenses beyond the possibilities of running the government. The dissolution caused a great deal of excitement over the country, and the new election was much feared by the administration. The country seemed to be torn up by the different factions, but this has been all done away with by the war with China, and the emperor will get all the money he wants from now on.

#### THE EMPEROR AND PARLIAMENT.

The emperor has great power over parliament, and the constitution is so adroitly worded that he can act independent of it. The laws provided that congress shall vote all the money, but that the last budget shall be in force in case a congress is dissolved without passing new appropriation bills. The emperor can veto all laws, and he can proclaim a law when parliament is not sitting. He still holds the chief command of army and navy, the right to make war or peace, and to conclude treaties, and he can confer such titles and pardons as he pleases. Parliament has no right to interfere with his household expenses, and his cabinet go before the different houses and defend the administration. I don't know that the laws provide where congress shall meet, but the fact that the emperor has called them to Hiroshima, which is, I judge, nearly 400 miles west of Tokyo, shows that he can do as he pleases in this matter.

#### JAPANESE FINANCES.

Speaking of Japanese finances, it is wonderful how the people have come to the assistance of the government in this war. The bonds have been subscribed for even more eagerly than they were during our civil war, and millions of dollars more money has been offered than is needed. The condition of Japan at the time of the war was perhaps as good as that of any other government in the world. The debt was practically nothing and the treasury had a surplus of more than twenty million dollars. As soon as war was declared the people began to send in contributions, and patriotism exists to such an extent that the richest men of Japan would impoverish themselves rather than see the country lack money. Japan has for the past generation been on the up grade, and its people have been fast growing wealthy. A look over the Japanese stock reports shows that nearly every

institution in the country is paying dividends, and some pay as high as 10 and 20 per cent. The railroads have all been giving good profits to the stockholders, and the stock is not watered there as it is here. There are now about 5,000 stock companies in Japan, the most of which have sprung up within the past ten years, and some of which began in 1877.

These companies embrace mines, railroads, silk factories, cotton factories, banks and all sorts of mercantile firms. In about 5,000 of the factories steam is now used, and in something like 300 the power is steam and water combined. Every institution publishes reports as to its business, and it is possible to learn just how the country stands financially. Since the war prices have gone up everywhere, and on the top of all this the rice crop and the tea crop of the present year are about one-third larger than usual. This fills the pockets of the farmers with money, and it adds millions to the wealth of the country. In estimating the expenses of the present war, the economical living of the Japanese must be taken into account. The clothes for their soldiers cost less than ours, and they can be fed on one-third the amount required for any army of the same size in Europe. The government has considerable available property outside of that which she is getting in the way of loans. She owns many good paying industries, and among others, a large part of the railroads, which pay a good interest above their cost and operating expenses, and which could be sold, I am told, for something like \$60,000,000 in case of necessity.

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#### A DELIGHTFUL HOME-COMING.

CANNONVILLE, Garfield Co., Utah,  
November 6, 1894.

On the evening of November 5, 1894, a grand ball and reception were tendered Wm. J. Henderson Jr., who had just returned from a two years' mission to the northern states. The hall was crowded to its fullest capacity, for the people of Cannonville have established such an unrivalled reputation for hospitality, always courteous and alert for the enjoyment of their guests, that the people are not slow to avail themselves of it whenever the opportunity presents itself. The presence of the Bishopric and leading men and ladies of the ward gave air an official flavor. The grand march was followed by a tastefully arranged program of dancing, which was rendered with such vim to the accompaniment of mirthful music as to display nothing of rheumatic ailments. The evening's festivities were interspersed with songs, speeches and recitations, the gem of which was a song entitled "Watching for pa," creditably rendered by two little girls and one boy aged respectively eight, seven and five years. All during the evening gaiety was at a premium, and everybody shook the light fantastic to their heart's content until 12 o'clock, when the exhausted musicians betook themselves in search of the arms of Morpheus and the guests departed. By 12:30 the ball was a thing of the past, having faded away amid a glare of glory and good will that will c