

JAPAN ENGAGED IN FIGHT FOR LIFE OR DEATH

Must Expand or Become
Second-Rate Power,
Simms Declares.

BY WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—Behind the current news from the Far East is a drama as old as the human race.

Before there was any such thing as a nation, tribes used to press with their flocks from arid areas toward lush grass. They fought one another for the possession thereof. The strong won; and the weak moved on, or became vassals of the more powerful.

Japan is surging toward green pastures. Unless China can defend her grazing ground, or unless the world community unexpectedly comes to her rescue, she is doomed to the fate of weak tribes of the past.

If not today, it will come tomorrow.

Answer Always the Same

In the last two decades I have known many Japanese—in Japan and outside. It has been my privilege to talk with premiers, cabinet members, diplomats, army and navy officers, big business men, writers, members of the professions, peers, commoners, conservatives, liberals and radicals.

I have asked scores of them why Nippon behaves as she does—why she fought China in 1895, Russia in 1904-5 and Manchuria in 1931. And the almost invariable answer has been that it was and is a matter of life or death for the empire.

Japan proper is only 148,000 square miles in area. California is bigger by 10,000 square miles. Texas is nearly twice as big. Yet Japan has almost 70,000,000 inhabitants—approximately as many as the United States had in 1900.

Rated as Great Power

Despite her insignificant size, however, Japan is rated among the world's great powers. And rightly so, judged by the accepted standards. But this rating may be only temporary unless she can consolidate her position within a comparatively limited time. A man with \$100,000 can live like a king—for a while. But if he has no other resources, he must return to obscurity when that is gone.

So Japanese see two alternatives. Either Japan must expand to encompass the resources necessary to sustain herself as a great power, or make up her mind to return to the status of a second-rater.

Than do that, Nippon had rather be wiped off the map. Nor is this any mere figure of speech. In Tokyo, I was told by a ranking statesman of the period that Japan was convinced she was marching to her doom when, in 1904, she attacked Czarist Russia. But, said the statesman, it was that or become just an adjunct of Russia. The war with Russia, therefore, as Japan viewed it, was a choice between ignominious extinction and dying with their boots on.

Life or Death Mood

Japanese expansion in Asia since then has been pretty much in line with that same life or death mood. To remain cooped up virtually on one mountainous island about the size of New York and Pennsylvania appealed to them as imperial suicide. Sooner or later China—20 times greater in area and six times greater in population—would almost certainly absorb her.

Self-preservation, therefore, is given as the motive behind Japan's expansion on the Asiatic mainland. After Korea, she brought within her orbit Manchuria, Jehol, part of in-

CANNERS' LEADER



Kenneth N. Rider, Franklin (above) this afternoon was to be named president of the Indiana Canners' Association at the concluding convention session in the Claypool.

DE MOLAY TO ENTERTAIN

Vaudeville and Dance to Be Given in Chapter House Monday.

Indianapolis Chapter, De Molay, is to give a vaudeville party and dance Monday night at the chapter house, 1017 Broadway. Homer Cornell, Robert Steinmetz, Winfred Reed, James McClure, Dick Shaffer, Cliff Scholey, David Jordan, Paul James, Robert Myers, John Merrick, Roland Stout, Paul Croas, H. Hilderbrandt and Miss Hortense Davies are to have parts. James Dunlavy is in charge.

Three Youths in Service Recruiting, Branch Announces

The United States Army today announced that three Indianapolis youths have enlisted. They are: Carl Morgan, son of Mrs. Sally Morgan, 624 Home-pl; Paul J. O'Day, son of Mrs. Ethel O'Day, 5758 Wildwood-st; and Robert Anderson, son of Ike Anderson, 235 N. Harding-st.

Men in Mongolia and now, it would seem, North China.

Foreign critics say Japanese refuse to emigrate to countries they have taken over. Their answer is, they do not need to emigrate, providing (1) that they can make sure of food and raw materials, in peace and war, sufficient to supply Japan's home industries and inhabitants, and (2) that they can find a steady market for a reasonable amount of manufactured products.

Make Headway

They are making headway in that direction. Korea has 22,000,000 people; Formosa, 5,000,000; Manchukuo, 30,000,000, and the five provinces of North China, 95,000,000. The total area is something like 1,200,000 square miles, nearly half the size of the United States. This rich area goes a long way toward assuring Japan of the desired food reserves and raw materials, and provides her with 150,000,000 Chinese to absorb manufacturers "made in Japan."

Such is the Japanese picture. As they see it, they are fighting a battle of survival, and they are doing the job in the spirit of their Samurai ancestors. They will choose death before diminution. For Americans to lose this perspective might be costly.

Having fought three major wars and several lesser ones in the last 40 years in pursuit of this policy, Japan is now prepared to fight another—or others—to make it stick. Only superior force can turn her back.

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