

\$37 BILLION JAP HOLDINGS FOUND

Assets Total More Than U. S. Pre-war Debt.

By SIDNEY B. WHIPPLE
Times Special Writer
TOKYO, Oct. 2. — Thirty-seven billion dollars worth of Japanese assets already have been located in countries outside the home islands and it is possible that the nation's total foreign holdings may reach a figure twice as great.

The \$37 billion figure comprises the foreign resources of 100 leading Japanese firms, a network of interlocking interests that ran from Manchuria to South America, from the East Indies to the United States. It is a careful estimate of foreign exchange, credits, stock and bond holdings, industrial plants and other physical properties once owned by Japan's Zaibatsu, that monopoly of finance and industry which has been dissolved and abolished.

World's Largest Trust Company
The vast foreign assets of the Japanese empire—more than our own national debt before world war II—are the concern of the American civil property custodian's office which in a little more than six months, thus has become perhaps the world's largest trust company.

It is operating with approximately 100 employees, army personnel and civilian experts, with the more or less willing co-operation of the Japanese themselves, who are called upon to furnish information. The unexpectedly large foreign assets already disclosed will have an important bearing on the question of reparations.

Thus far, the Japanese outwardly at least, have been willing to open their books to us. They realize that the "empire" is finished and their external assets must be forfeited as one of war's penalties. Therefore, they may figure, the more foreign assets are revealed, the further the nation will be advanced toward meeting the allies' reparations demands. A railroad or two in Manchuria or a factory in South America are less important now than a good road from Osaka to Tokyo or a glass factory in Yokosuka.

Functions Are Complex
The functions of Gen. MacArthur's "trust company" are complex. The civil property custodian is a composite detective, an investigator, an analyst, an economist, a claims agent, a trustee, an industrial engineer, a diplomat.

He is hampered by many things—the greed and impatience of other nations demanding immediate division of the assets; the impossibility of arriving at accurate figures until the world's currencies have been stabilized and the impossibility of arriving at a stabilization of the Japanese yen until the reparations question has been settled.

Another international complication that stands in the way of solution of the complex problem is the continued refusal of Russia to lend a hand in the bookkeeping and to disclose either the extent or the disposition of assets discovered in and presumably carted off from Manchuria and Korea.

Innumerable Claims
Furthermore on the debit side of the Japanese books, there are now pouring into the civil property custodian's office a flood of claims from Russia, China, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Holland, Malaya, Indo-China and other countries. A flood of claims already taxing the meagerly staffed office.

These claims range all the way from fire engines stolen from Hong-kong to rugs presumably stolen from some far-away Armenian. All these claims must be authenticated, analyzed and prepared for presentation and recommendation to an international claims commission which—years hence—may make a settlement with the aggrieved person.

Ex-Local Girl Reigns at Fete

A former Indianapolis girl, Vivian Allene Richards, is reigning as queen of the sesquicentennial celebration at Chillicothe, O., this week.

The blue-eyed, 18-year-old queen is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Lyons, 706 Parkway ave. She now clerks in a Chillicothe drug store. She was chosen "Miss Chillicothe" in a recent city-wide contest in which 40 girls competed. Miss Richards was born in Indianapolis and attended grade schools 54 and 35. Her father, now an instructor at Chillicothe Federal reformatory, was formerly employed at Polk Milk Co.

The queen and her court of five pretty girls will reign at all events of the celebration commemorating the city's 150th anniversary.

WISCONSIN STUDENT CYCLES TO NEW YORK

GREEN BAY, Wis., Oct. 2 (U. P.). —Charles De Larwell, a 16-year-old high school senior, pedaled from Green Bay, Wis., to New York on his bicycle this summer just for fun. Charles averaged about 70 miles a day on the 1200-mile trip. He stuck to the bicycle all the way, except for a train ride over West Virginia and Pennsylvania mountains. He came home by train to Detroit, pedaled across Michigan and took a ferry back to Wisconsin.

Virgin Islanders Don't Like Book Which Reveals Truth

By STEPHEN TRUMBULL
Times Special Writer

ST. THOMAS, Virgin Islands, Oct. 2. — If this place had a Watch and Ward society like Boston's there is a local school principal who probably would be in or under the clink.

His name is J. Antonio Jarvis and he wrote a book called "The Virgin Islands and Their People." It was probably intended for the tourist trade, but the Chamber of Commerce voted Jarvis no medals. On the contrary, he was smothered in attacks and demands that he be ousted from his school post.

Hunting for the book shortly after his arrival here your correspondent received a very frigid reception at one of the bookstores.

So we looked up an old-time

resident here and asked the how-come of all the brush-off, and wasn't the book factual?

"The book has a grievous fault," he reported with the wisdom of more than 30 years of living in these islands. "It is too factual." And he loaned us his copy.

The sins of Mr. Jarvis were instantly apparent. Much of the book deals with the superstitions, voodooism and witchcraft common among a people which is otherwise quite literate. He cites actual cases which is a literary and civic error on any island in the Caribbean. The "better people" all over this area will solemnly assure you that it is, that other island, just over the horizon, where the poor illiterates go in for such monkey-shines.

Actually, many Jarvis stories are

confirmed by cold court records here and the very local papers that

carried the letters demanding his hide carried stories of Obeahmen hailed into court for practicing black magic and hexing their enemies with devilish brews.

Werewolf hunts, Mr. Jarvis reports, and many others bear him out, are still common in Charlotte Amelia, where the American flag flies over postoffice and insular government buildings. No one ever caught one, but they still hunt 'em. Dolls stuck full of black pins are found under doorsteps where men fight mysterious hexes, and foul-smelling concoctions. Dogs that bay the full moon are quickly beaten into silence, and a black feather is a symbol of death.

In many a neighborhood row the

participants hire both a lawyer and an Obeahmen before going to court. The Obeahmen catch large and fat lizards, name them "judge" or "prosecuting attorney" and then tie their jaws shut with black thread. That's supposed to make the prosecutor mute, or at least fairly incoherent, and to fix the judge up just dandy. The fact that justice still struggles on hasn't stopped the belief.

Fads in Obeahmen change. New arrivals from other islands sometimes do a landoffice business before they are exposed for the swindlers that they are and run off the island.

Mr. Jarvis still has his school job, a tribute to the prevailing sanity of those in power.

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COURT TO TEST \$50-MONTH LAW

Included in Alberta's New Bill of Rights.

By FRANK ANGELO
Times Special Writer

EDMONTON, Alberta, Oct. 2. — There is a restless stir in the halls of Alberta's parliament building these days.

Social Credit, the big idea of 1935, is about to get another, 1946-style airing from the courts.

This time the big idea is wrapped up in a bright, everyone-is-entitled-to-at-least-\$600-a-year bill of rights package.

It was approved by the last legis-

lature with the provision that it should not go into effect until its constitutionality passed a judicial test. That test is due, starting Sept. 30, in Alberta's supreme court.

The bill gives statutory sanction to freedom of religion, expression, assembly, choice of work and so forth.

\$50 a Month Guaranteed
It also states that citizens are "entitled" to health, educational and medical facilities; to a pension \$50 a month if gainful employment is not available; to retire at 60 with a pension of not less than \$50 a month.

These are the broad goals. To achieve them, the bill provides for intricate provincial control of credit policy, with licensing of credit institutions, and so forth. The dominion government contends such a step infringes on federal control of monetary matters.

In effect, this bill of rights is a

continuation of the losing fight Social Crediters made in the 30's for revamping the monetary and credit system to provide even man, woman and child with a \$2 a-month social dividend.

There is one important difference now. While the move in the 30's had a "crackpot" aura, today it is being pushed by a government that has achieved "respectability" and widespread support for its administrative policies.

It has survived two elections since it came into power in 1937. It controls 51 of 57 seats in the provincial legislature.

And the Social Credit group hates to be called a political party.

(Liberal party) a stunning defeat to the dominion parliament, electing its fourteenth member for dominion seat won by the Social Crediters outside of Alberta.

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