

Mon from Japan has not yet been learned, and when President Roosevelt fails to see it, and demands only more battle ships, as the lesson of the great sea fight which has just been fought, he unfortunately diverts the minds of the people of this country from facts of supreme and overshadowing importance, which should be burned into the public mind as by a stroke of lightning from every victory won by the Japanese.

That lesson is the profoundly important fact that the Japanese man, the unit of her national strength, is the product of a mode of life and an environment which combines the physical strength which comes only from the rural life—from living next to nature—with the mental activity and keenness which come from constant contact with his fellowmen—the community life.

**A Nation of Gardeners.**

The Japanese are not a nation of farmers, as we understand the word. They are a nation of gardeners. There is neither isolation nor congestion in their life. They dwell, the great majority of them, not in great cities, but in closely settled rural communities. The ranch and the tenement are alike foreign to the life of the Japanese.

The great principle that must control our own national development henceforth is that the land shall be subdivided into the smallest tracts from which one man's labor will sustain a family in comfort, and that every child, boy or girl, in the public schools should be so trained in those schools that it will know how to till such a tract of land for a livelihood.

In other words, let us reproduce in this country the conditions so well described in an article from the Book-lovers' Magazine for August, 1904, from which we quote the following:—"While Japan is renouncing its way to rank with Christian powers as a

nor military equipment, nor manufacturing skill. Western nations will fail fully to grasp the secret of the dynamic intensity of Japan today, and will dangerously underestimate the formidable possibilities of the Greater Japan—the Dai Nippon—of tomorrow, until they begin to study seriously the agricultural triumphs of that empire. For Japan, more scientifically than any other nation, past or present, has perfected the art of sending the roots of its civilization enduringly into the soil.

"Progressive experts of high authority throughout the Occident now admit that in all the annals of agriculture there is nothing that ever approached the scientific skill of Sunrise husbandry. Patient diligence, with knowledge of the chemistry of soil and the physiology of plants, have yielded results that have astounded the most advanced agriculturists in Western nations."

**The Safe Foundation.**

The creation of the conditions above described under which the people of a nation are rooted to the soil in homes of their own on the land, is not only good statesmanship and the highest patriotism, but it is the only safe foundation for an enduring national structure.

To ignore and neglect this foundation while we build battleships, equip armies and annex islands and dig isthmian canals, is as fatal a mistake as it would be to build a twenty-story skyscraper in Chicago without any foundation but the mud of Lake Michigan.

We need not muster out our armies, nor disassemble our battleships nor evacuate the Philippines, nor stop work on the Isthmian Canal, but the fact remains, as clear as the sun from an unclouded sky at noonday, that the attention of our people as a nation is riveted on our naval and military affairs and schemes of foreign exploitation.

For, in fact, they are undeveloped. We have, as yet, hardly more than tickled the earth over this immense area.

**Our Own Country.**

When we compare Japan, with its dense population, its wealth, its revenues, its trade and commerce, its national strength, with any section of our own country equal to it in area and natural resources, we are amazed at the great possibilities of future development in our own country.

The entire population of Japan is about forty-five million, of which thirty million is a farming population, and this vast population of thirty million farmers and their families is sustained on nineteen thousand square miles of irrigated land. There is no agriculture in Japan but irrigated agriculture. They have learned that water is the greatest fertilizer known to nature, and save and utilize it with the same care that they use every other available process for the fertilization of their fields.

Nineteen thousand square miles is an area about one hundred and thirty-five miles square, and in a square in a corner of the State of Illinois, the comparative size of which to the rest of the State is shown on the accompanying map, is sustained a nation which, to the amazement of all other peoples on the earth, has sprung to the front as one of the great world powers.

**Source of Power.**

And the Home Acre Farms or gardens—the rural homes of Japan—are the source of that national power.

Commenting on this, the author of the article in the August 1904 Book-lovers' Magazine, quoted from above, says in that article:—

"From what its advanced agriculture has made its plains to yield, Japan has fed and clothed and educated its multiplying masses, fast nearing the

floods of the Mississippi and its tributaries will be led out through a net work of canals, large and small, and stored in reservoirs, and every drop devoted to beneficial use, a use that will be so valuable that its value for navigation will count for nothing in comparison. It may be a great many years before this will happen, but it is certain to come. In no other way can the vast population with which this country will team within a few hundred years be provided with the food to sustain it.

Japan, from her total area of 147,655 square miles, of which only 19,000 are cultivated, collected an annual revenue before the war—when Russia began of \$121,433,725, and her exports amounted to \$124,298,923.

The average population per square mile of Japan is 299.76, but only one-seventh of her territory is actually under cultivation.

**A Thousand Miles Square.**

A section of our own country contained within a square extending one thousand miles north from New Orleans and one thousand miles west from Pittsburg, and containing one million square miles, if as densely populated as Japan, would sustain a population of 300,000,000; but a much larger proportion of this great square in the center of the United States could be intensely farmed than in Japan, where only one-seventh of the total area is cultivated.

On the 19,000 square miles of land in Japan that is actually farmed, they sustain 30,000,000 farmers. It is a safe estimate that at least one-half of the thousand mile square section described could be as closely cultivated as the productive fields of Japan. Those Japanese fields sustain over fifteen hundred people to the square mile. At the same ratio of population, our own thousand mile square central section would sustain 750,000,000 of farming population alone.

A population of over fifteen hundred to the square mile sustained by agriculture seems to the ordinary mind incredible; but on the island of Jersey, off the English coast, a population of over thirteen hundred to the square mile is sustained by out of door agriculture in a climate by no means best adapted to intensive farming.

It must be borne in mind that we are talking now of the possibilities of future development, and the facts and figures above given will no doubt be looked upon as utterly chimerical by the average reader.

**Degeneracy in England.**

Bear in mind however, again, that they are based only upon the assumption that we in this country should attain to a point of development already reached by the Japanese people, and which rests their national strength. It is true that our development during the last half-century has not been towards the land. We have followed in the footsteps of England, rather than Japan; and while, in fifty years, Japan has restored the land to her people and rooted them to the soil in homes of their own, England has done the contrary. She has driven her peasantry from the farms to the cities, where they have become factory operatives, and degenerated physically and mentally to such a degree that the degeneracy of her citizenship now presents itself to the statesmen of England as a most appalling problem.

We are doing the same thing, but we are not, as yet, feeling the effect of it so severely because we have still a larger proportion of our people on the land.

**Back to the Land.**

We have much to do to reverse the tide of population, and turn it from the cities back to the land—from the tenement to the garden. It must not be imagined that it is necessary, in order to accomplish this, that the workers in our cities or in our factories should quit their present employment and become farmers. All that is necessary is that the facilities for rapid transportation afforded by our trolley systems should be availed of to plant every factory family upon at least an acre of land.

Let that be done, and the problem is practically solved no matter how large the acre be used for, nothing but to raise chickens and keep a goat. The children of the family will have fresh air and sunshine and pure milk, and will grow up to be healthy men and women.

The lever with which we must move our population back to the land must be the public school system.

**Gardens and Handicraft.**

Every child in the public schools, boy or girl, must be trained from its earliest days of school life to cultivate the ground and make things grow in a garden, and to raise poultry, and do all that needs to be done to provide the food for a family from an acre of land.

Add to this a training in simple sloyd work and home handicraft, cooking and sewing and making things for the home, and you will have created the impulse in the minds of the multiplying millions of our children which will lead them to shun the bricks and the asphalt, the slums and the tenements, as they would shun the plague, and flee from them far enough into the country to have an acre at least for a home and a garden.

Create this impulse in the minds of our children, the millions upon millions of them who are attending, and will attend, our public schools, and they will find a way to solve all the rest of the problem, how to get the land, and how to get back and forth to it, if they continue to work in the city or the factory.

Some will say that school gardens cannot be provided for city children. That is a mistake. The only diffi-

culty in the way of it is a mere custom or habit, easily modified.

The terms of school of all city schools should be changed. There should be a short winter term, during which the time should be given to instruction from the books and in handicraft within doors.

There should be a summer term of equal length during which the schools would be transferred to the suburbs, and work in summer school gardens. The children should be taken back and forth to these summer school gardens at public expense, as they are now taken to and from the consolidated rural schools on the trolley lines in some of the New England states.

The vacation, which would not need be so long, should be divided between a spring vacation and a fall vacation, intervening between the winter city term and the country summer term of each school.

**Building a Strong Citizenship.**

Of course, many will hold up their hands and say this is impossible.

England finds it impossible, as the result of her system of great landed estates, to provide her people with homes on the land, and in consequence her ruin as a nation is only a question of a comparatively brief time.

Japan, on the contrary, put forth her hand and solved the very problem which, to England, seems impossible, and beheld the results in her strength and power as a nation.

It is only a question with us, as a people, whether we will follow the lead of Japan, and profit by her lessons, or follow the lead of England and share in her eventual ruin.

The influences which are destroying England are at work steadily and insidiously in this nation, and though it will take longer for them to work our ruin, it is sure to come if we do not find a way to root the great majority of our people to the land in homes of their own, as Japan has done, and as we can do, unless we are as blind and as impotent in dealing with our national problems as seems to be the fate of England.

In the carrying out of this great patriotic purpose of building a strong citizenship by building rural homes on the land, we are, at the same time, doing that which will create the greatest possible commercial prosperity, and develop to the highest attainable point, not only the resources of the Middle West, but of our entire country.

**The Olive in America.**

The annual output of olive oil in California is about 150,000 gallons; of pickles 230,000 gallons. The imports to the country of oil amount to about 1,250,000 gallons per year and of pickles to 2,116 gallons. The olive was introduced into California 125 years ago, which is a bad showing for use of native olive oil, especially when it is acknowledged to be the superior of all foreign oils.

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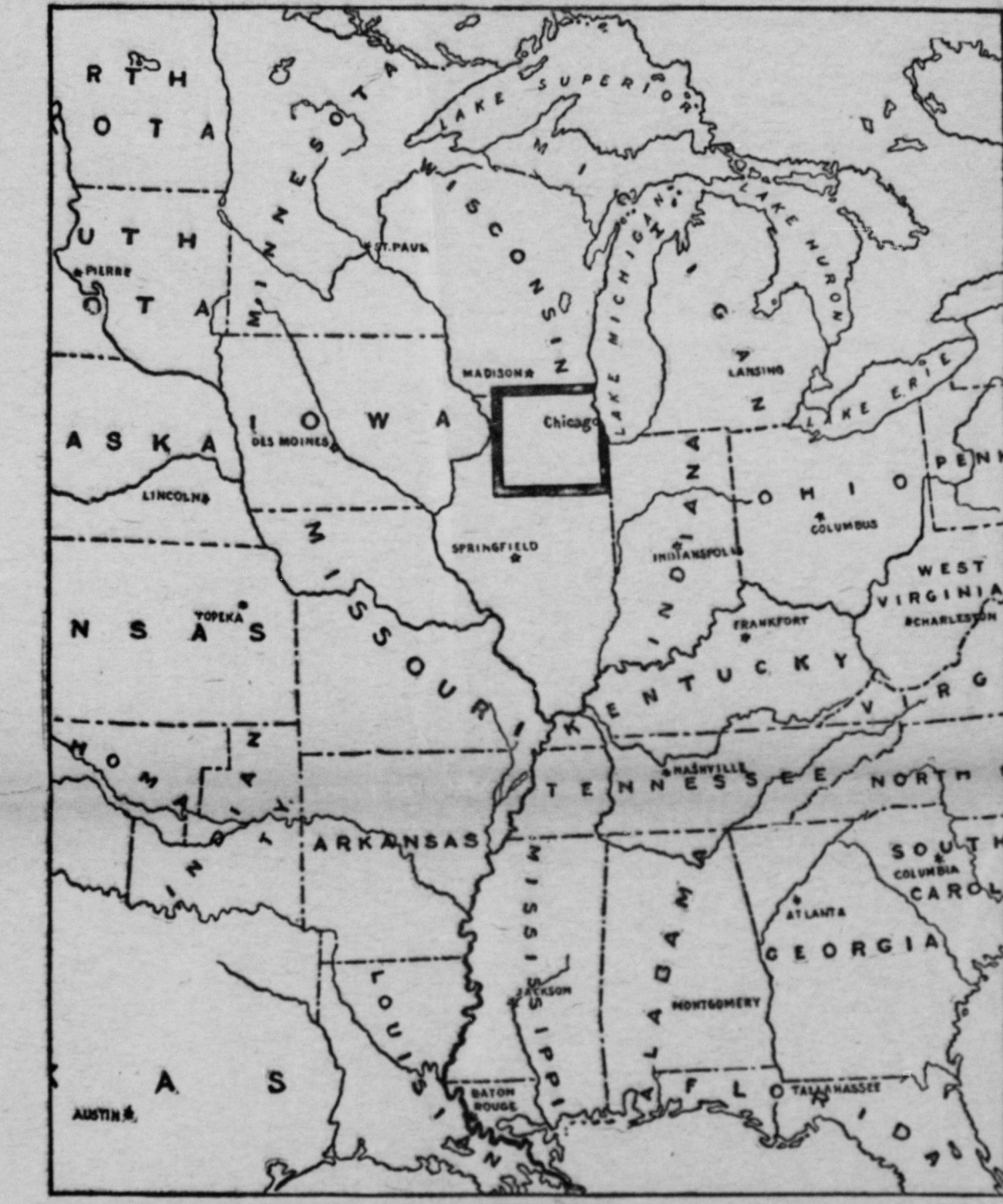
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THE MIDDLE WEST.

The black square in the above map represents the total area of cultivated land in Japan, supporting thirty millions of agricultural people.

first-class fighting nation, it is not neglecting its fields of rice, genge, millet and mull, its groves of mulberry and bamboo, its priceless plots of tea and mitsumata shrubs, and its multi-million gardens of berries, vegetables, fruits and flowers. The thousands of patriots that have marched to the front have not thinned the ranks of the mightier hosts tilling the soil. Thirty million farmers are gathering ample harvests in the diminutive fields of Japan.

**Husbandry Dignified.**

"For twenty-five centuries the Sunrise sovereigns have dignified husbandry as the most important and most honorable industrial calling in the empire, and now more than sixty per cent of the Mikado's subjects till with incomparable skill the limited soil of his islands.

The same diligent genius that enables a landscape gardener in Japan to compass within a few square yards of land a forest, a bridge-spurred stream, a water-fall and lake, a chain of terraced hills, gardens and chrysanthe-mums, hyacinths, peonies and pinks, a beehing crag crowned with a dwarfed conifer, and through all the dainty park meandering paths, with here a shrine and there a dainty summer house, has made it possible for the farmers of the empire to build up on less than nineteen thousand square miles of arable land the most remarkable agricultural nation the world has known. If all the tillable acres of Japan were merged into one field, a man in an automobile, traveling at the rate of fifty miles an hour, could skirt the entire perimeter of arable Japan in eleven hours. Upon this narrow freehold Japan has reared a nation of imperial power, which is determined to enjoy commercial preeminence over all the world of wealth and opportunity from Siberia to Siam and already, by the force of arms, is driving from the shores of Asia the greatest monarchy of Europe.

**Roots in the Soil.**

The secret of the success of the little Daybreak Kingdom has been a mystery to many students of nations. Patriotism does not explain the middle of its strength, neither can commerce,

tion, to the disregard and neglect of the vastly more important problem of building men at home, and creating a citizenship which will be an enduring national foundation forever, and enlarging our home markets, which will be unaffected by any foreign complications or trade disturbances.

The attention of our people of late has been so much absorbed by the problems of our export trade, that we overlook the fact that the United States today manufactures annually a product aggregating in total value the combined manufactured product of the three other greatest manufacturing nations of the world, England, France and Germany, and we consume ninety-two per cent of our entire annually manufactured products at home.

**Create Farm Homes.**

And if every farm in the United States were cut in two, and a new home created on it so that the number of farm homes, and the capital invested in, and labor devoted to agriculture throughout the entire United States, were thus doubled, the result would be an enlargement of our population, our home market for manufactures, and our power as a nation, almost beyond the power of the imagination to picture to the mind.

It is to the development of its vast agricultural resources and the creation of a closely settled population of farmers and gardeners, who will cultivate the soil by the most intensive methods, that the Middle West must look if it is to achieve its full destiny in wealth, power and population.

The resources of the great territory extending westward from the crest of the Alleghany Mountains to the one hundredth meridian—the edge of the arid region—and from the sources of the Mississippi River on the north to its outlet to the Gulf on the south, are so largely agricultural that it offers the ideal section of the earth for the development of a nation along the lines of Japanese development, with a preponderating rural population.

There is no other section of the world's surface where latent agricultural resources of such inexhaustible richness and extent lie practically undeveloped.

fifty million figure; it has stacked up gold in its treasury, has created a great merchant marine, has captured a growing share of European commerce, has already outmarshaled commercial America on the Pacific, has crowded its cities with roaring factories, and has given costly and triumphant equipment to its aggressive fleets and regiments. And it has accomplished all this out of the profit of harvests gleaned from a farm area scarcely large enough to afford storage room for the agricultural machinery in use in the United States."

Could there be a more striking proof of the oft-quoted words of David Starr Jordan, that:—

"Stability of national character goes with firmness of foothold on the soil."

**Comparison of Areas.**

Now compare Japan and its development with the possibilities of development in the Middle West.

The area of all the islands comprising the Empire of Japan is 147,655 square miles; of this only 19,000 square miles is available for agriculture, for every available acre in that country is cultivated.

The total combined area of Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana is 146,369 square miles, and it is safe to say that considerably more than half of this area—probably more than two-thirds—is capable of as close a cultivation, and of sustaining as dense a population per square mile as the cultivated area of Japan.

The water with which to irrigate it now runs to waste. The water which Chicago turns into her drainage canal, instead of producing agricultural wealth by irrigating the lands of Illinois, produces law suits with St. Louis because it runs to waste past that city to the Gulf of Mexico.

The time will come when irrigated agriculture in the Middle West will absorb every drop of water falling within that territory.

And when the irrigation canals and the irrigated farms of the Middle West will dry up the Ohio and the Mississippi rivers, just as irrigation in the West has dried up Tulare Lake in California, and is rapidly drying up the Great Salt Lake in Utah, the

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