

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1936.

*Chuman  
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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Last night I was talking about the Geishas of the land of the cherry blossom. And I little knew that at that moment a violent revolution was under way in Tokyo.

( Again history repeats. Four years ago, assassins murdered the Premier and two of the Mikado's cabinet ministers. And now the tragedy has been repeated. Tonight Premier Okada and four of his colleagues lie dead. Five of the most illustrious xxx statesmen in Japan! Slain by the bullets of young rebel army officers. )

The latest report is that everything is quiet now in the Mikado's realm. Those are the advices from Tokyo. But, a rigid censorship controls all dispatches.

~~At a late hour, another report had it that one entire regiment, three thousand strong,~~



Meanwhile, the land of the cherry blossom is under martial law. Armed soldiers patrol the streets of Tokyo. A particularly strong guard has been thrown around the imperial palace. All the surviving members of the Cabinet are being protected. Two fleets have been mobilized, one to guard the capital, the other on its way to Osaka.

One result of the censorship has been that news about the happenings in Japan has come from Europe. For instance, the report that General Araki is now Prime Minister trickles through by way of Berlin. The German newspapers publish the rumor that the bellicose general - a war lord of the most aggressive type, has formed a Cabinet of imperial princes. If the report is true, it means that the Militarist Party is having things its own way once more. Araki was Commander-in-Chief during the Manchurian campaign. And unhappily for him, a bank scandal broke loose and a member of his family was implicated. He resigned his command - officially on the grounds of ill health. Since that time, he has been lying low. But now, according to rumor, he's in the saddle again.

Nevertheless, his position will not be any too comfortable.

The statesman whose death Japan is mourning most is the eighty year old Minister of Finance, Korekiyo Takahashi. He was compared to Duruma, the god of prosperity and harmony. The eighty-one years of his life were packed with adventure and excitement.

Takahashi was born two years after Commodore Perry arrived in Yokohama. He has been the subject of many legends. According to one of them, he was taken to San Francisco by an American and sold as a slave. He escaped and got back to Japan by disguising himself as an American cowboy. He is supposed to have whooped it up so realistically that the officials let him slip through. According to another yarn, he was sent to America by American missionaries, who found him while he was cup bearer in a Buddhist temple.

Finally he became a financier and was riding high, wide and handsome when an unfortunate adventure in Peru bankrupted him.



His friends got him a job in the Bank of Japan. Within eight years he was at the top again. When the Russo-Japanese War broke out, it was Takahashi who came to the United States and raised the funds.

He served as Premier in Nineteen Thirty-three, after the murder of Premier Inukai. He has been Finance Minister several times, and was considered the greatest in Japan. Now he's stricken down with four of his colleagues. The latest is that the casualties now total between eighty and one hundred killed.



Kuriyama.

Feb. 26, 1936.

INTRODUCTION TO MR. KURIYAMA

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It will be interesting to have at first hand the reaction of an intelligent Japanese on this sensational affair. As it happens, there is one ~~person~~ facing me at this moment. Mr. Kuriyama, chief correspondent in the United States of the Tokyo Nichi-Nichi <sup>and</sup> of the Osaka Mainichi, is the man I mean.

MR. KURIYAMA

L.T.: Mr. Kuriyama, ~~is~~ what will it mean to us Americans if the Militarist Party get the upper hand in Japan?

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MR. K.: It won't mean anything to your country directly. No matter what you have heard, nobody in either the Japanese army or the Japanese navy has any desire or intention to fight the United States.

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L.T.: But won't we be indirectly affected?

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MR. K.: Well, yes, indirectly. Of course the army people quite openly want to conquer certain parts of eastern Asia. And that may indirectly involve America. *noise about it.*

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L.T.: Is it true that American products are being shut out from those parts of Asia which have come under Japanese influence?

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MR. K.: That is true only of oil. Other products are not being excluded by the Japanese. It is true that American exports to Asia have been reduced. But that is not the result of politics. It is the result of competition. Japanese manufacturers, being closer and able to produce more cheaply, are able to undersell you. That's the real explanation of the situation.

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L.T.: What do you think will be the eventual consequences in Japan?

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MR. K.: It will weaken the Militarist Party. The people of Japan at large will look upon these murders with just as much horror as you or any other civilized person. You see, this revolution was started by the young hot heads in the army. There's hardly a man above the rank of captain concerned in it. Even if the aggressive war party gets some temporary advantage, it will be short. In the long run such conduct will alienate all public sympathy.

## PRIEST

There's a fascinating story behind Tokyo's grim tale of bloodshed. The story of a mad priest, a sort of Japanese Rasputin. A hangover from the days of Bushido, the days when knighthood was in flower in Old Nippon, when the Shogans ruled the land, and kept the Mikadoes in captivity.

The name of this so-called mad priest is Nissho Inouye. He's a Buddhist. Of the gentle creed of Gautama. But he founded a secret society called "The Blood Brotherhood." It has been freely whispered on the streets of Tokyo today that this Blood Brotherhood was at the bottom of this attempt at revolution.

Inouye and his gang first burst into the limelight in 1932. That was their first attempt at upsetting the government. They didn't succeed though they were held responsible for the assassination of Premier Inukai, Tokyo finance minister, and Baron Takuma Dan. The conspirators did not escape Scot free. The mad priest and a dozen of his devotees were arrested convicted and sentenced. In fact, they're still doing time.



But that hasn't stopped the nefarious activity of their organization. The Blood Brotherhood is still on the job. They've been able to foil the police and keep up their propaganda in many parts of the country. "Japan for the Japanese" is their cry. They demand the abolition of the constitution, and return of all power to the hands of the emperor. For the rest, they visualize a united Asia, under the hegemony of Nippon.

His "Blood and glory" slogans appealed particularly to young hot-heads. He also made a strong play for the mystically minded. He revived the mystic ceremonies of old Japan. To initiate his recruits he took them to a remote, secluded, and almost forgotten shrine. It is the shrine of the once famous Japanese patriot, Yoshida Shoin. In the dim half light of this temple the novice was required to take a knife and slash his own arm. He then was given a pen which he dipped into his own blood and signed an oath to devote his life to saving Japan from the politicians. Part of the oath was a promise of eternal fidelity and obedience to the mad priest.



The mad priest had so much weight and influence that after the triple assassination in 1932 he evaded the police for days. When they finally nabbed him they learned that he had been sheltered by some of the highest officers in the Mikado's army and navy.

At his trial he frankly and cynically admitted the part he had taken in the revolution. For all that the sentence given him was only three years imprisonment.

When he was sentenced to prison instead nine cadets in the army and navy cut off a finger each to dramatize their protest.

murders will hopelessly alienate the sympathies of the Japanese people at large as well as of all foreign countries. And that the Chinese people believe will surely be just for China. (It will mean a lightening of the pressure of Japanese militarist dict.)

One thing was definitely proved in the recent Japanese elections. That was that the militarist "drum and" policy was not what the people of Japan wanted. It represented the will of the army and not of the government. The average Japanese wants China as a friendly neighbor, not a commercial subject state.

## CHINA

Naturally, one of the first questions we are inclined to ask is, "What does the revolt in Tokyo mean to China?" Judging by the reports from Nanking, it means good news for the Chinese. At any rate, that is what observers are inferring from the broad smiles on the faces of celestial poo bahs. The feeling in Nanking is that the assassinations in Tokyo will inevitably injure the militarist party, the Japanese warlords. (Even if the report is true that General Araki has become Prime Minister of Japan, the gentlemen at Nanking feel that his reign will be brief.) They are convinced that these political murders will hopelessly alienate the sympathies of the Japanese people at large as well as of all foreign countries. And that, the Chinese people believe will surely be good for China. (It will mean a lightening of the pressure of Japan's mailed fist.)

One thing was definitely proved in the recent Japanese elections. That was that the militarist "grab all" policy was not what the people of Japan wanted. It represented the will of the army and not of the government. The average Japanese wants China as a friendly neighbor, not a conquered subject state.

## BUDGET

Just by way of a change, Uncle Sam is going to live within his means. This may sound startling. But that's the interpretation the Washington soothsayers are placing on a bit of information that came from the White House today. (President Roosevelt vetoed the bill which would have put money in the pockets of farmers. It's the bill providing for the lending of some Fifty million dollars in crop loans.)

It went through both Houses smoothly and inconspicuously. ~~Senators and Representatives~~ But the Senators and Representatives neglected to devise any means of producing the wherewithal to supply those Fifty Millions. In other words, they just paid no attention to the trifling but necessary detail of providing the revenue. Hence, the veto that Mr. Roosevelt attached to the bill today. ~~Apparently~~ (That apparently is a notification to Congress that the carnival of spending is over.) In short, there's going to be no more spending of money that they haven't got. Well, a good many people will be relieved to learn this.

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The next important thing we heard from Washington concerned <sup>S</sup> the progress of the measure that is to replace the



defunct A.A.A. There's been a good deal of squabbling about it. The Soil Conservation Act, as they call it, has been pretty rigorously criticized. The people who don't like it say that it is actually just as unconstitutional as the measure that the Supreme Court kicked out. Its champions, of course, deny this. Whichever side is right, the new bill is being rushed through Congress. It is now ready for consideration by the Senators, who have to ratify it before it goes to the White House for signature.

You would hardly expect the selection of a college president to produce a row. But the naming of Dr. Robert E. Doherty the new head of Carnegie Tech has raised quite an uproar in Pittsburgh.

It's not exactly what you could call a controversy. It takes two for that. This is a one-sided row. The source of it is <sup>Capricious</sup> ~~Bill~~ Bill McNair, Pittsburgh's sensational mayor.

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This isn't the first time he has grabbed himself a slice of limelight. In fact he's been at it ever since he took office.

<sup>Capricious Bill</sup>  
Mayor McNair objects to Dr. Doherty. ~~He~~ claims that he was informed that the Doctor was a Communist. As a matter of fact <sup>they say</sup> President Doherty whose previous job was Dean of Sheffield, Yale's engineering school, has never had the slightest Communist leanings. But it is hard to convince Mayor Bill McNair. Said he:- "I want to talk to this fellow and find out for myself if he's a <sup>red.</sup> ~~Communist~~." Then he added:- "You never can tell about some of those Eastern professors."

These chaste remarks were quoted to Dr. Doherty.

His only reply was a chuckle.

The mayoralty of Pittsburgh was the first public office that Mr. McNair ever held. He was swept in by the Roosevelt landslide, coming on top of a violent reform wave which followed a rather highly colored scandal. Up to that time McNair had been known as the perpetual candidate. He was always running for something or other. So much so that the voters took him for granted -- and voted for somebody else.

*Capricious Bill*  
Outside of that ~~McNair~~ <sup>^</sup> is a curious figure on the American political scene. He's a single taxer. A follower of the almost forgotten creed of the late Henry George. Like other single taxers ~~McNair~~ <sup>he</sup> <sup>^</sup> is a fervant one. Wherever he goes a man follows him with a suitcase full of single tax ~~tracts~~ <sup>pamphlets.</sup>

When anybody asks Pittsburgh's mayor a question he can't answer, he hands out a ~~tract~~ <sup>booklet</sup>. His reply to everything is:- "That will fix it my friend."

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He is probably the most accessible man in all Pittsburgh. He holds open-house at his office, talks to anyone whose willing to wait, <sup>and listen.</sup> Anybody who has a grievance can get the mayor's ear. He listens to protests to everything from street



paving to the naming of babies. I don't know how true the story is but one lady is supposed to have asked his advice about the christening of child. McNair scratched his head and then handed out the usual <sup>pamphlet</sup> ~~tract~~ saying:- "Single Tax lady, that's the answer." On one occasion the mayor appeared in a vaudeville act. ~~His~~ <sup>¶</sup> His conduct in office has somewhat disconcerted his Democratic & colleagues. One of them said:- "We voted for a human dynamo — ~~a machine gun,~~ what we got is a phonograph record."

~~But not even that bothered McNair. His credo is "That government governs best which governs least."~~  
 You'll be saying the same thing

about me unless I say s-l-u-t-m.

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