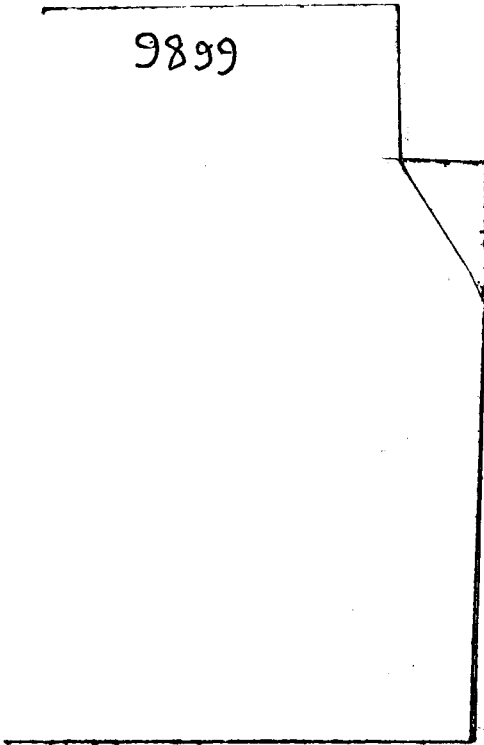


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JAPAN'S ECONOMIC POSITION



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Frontispiece

JAPAN'S ECONOMIC POSITION

THE PROGRESS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION

BY

JOHN E. ORCHARD

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With the collaboration of

DOROTHY JOHNSON ORCHARD

WHITTLESEY HOUSE

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To
J. RUSSELL SMITH
TEACHER AND ASSOCIATE, FRIEND THROUGH MANY YEARS
THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED

Prepared under the auspices of the
Council for Research in the Social
Sciences of Columbia University

FOREWORD

DURING the last century and a half, the Industrial Revolution has spread in ever widening circles from its point of origin in northwest Europe. It has reached the Orient and to the Oriental countries it has brought many fundamental economic changes. Machinery and power are finding their way into industry. Modern factories are supplanting the domestic workshops, and manufacturing is beginning to gain ground at the expense of agriculture as an important occupation of the people. With the increasing dependence upon industry, commerce is taking on a new significance. The Oriental countries are receiving attention as possible economic rivals of the West. It is with this transition as it is occurring in Japan and with the relation of the new economic developments to the environmental background and with some of their social and political implications that the present study is concerned.

The study is based mainly upon an investigation carried on in the Orient in 1926 and 1927 that was made possible by the interest and the generosity of the Council for Research in the Social Sciences of Columbia University and by a year's leave of absence granted by the University. Without the field work, the scope of the study would have been greatly restricted since much of the material on the background and the development of Japanese manufacturing has never been published and was obtained only through personal contact with the industries concerned. The Council has also provided the funds for the three years of research in this country that have supplemented the field work in Japan. The study is published under the auspices of the Council.

A few of the chapters have appeared in the *Geographical Review* of the American Geographical Society of New York and in the *Political Science Quarterly* of the Academy of Political Science. I am indebted to the editors of those two journals for permission to republish the material here.

For the supplementary research, I have depended upon my own collection of Japanese official documents and upon the very excellent collection in the Economics Division of the New York Public Library. It is a pleasure to express here my appreciation of the assistance and the unfailing courtesy always extended by the members of the staff of that division.

Of the hundreds of Japanese—workers, farmers, merchants, porters, industrial leaders, artisans, educators, scientists, officials of national,

prefectural and municipal governments, leaders of tenant farmer and labor unions and of outcaste groups, officers of trade associations and chambers of commerce, chance passers-by—from whom assistance and information were obtained, only a few can be mentioned by name. Certainly, many of them must have considered the questions of the American regarding their occupations, their manner of living, and their antecedents unnecessarily prying, but invariably I was received courteously and with the sincere desire to be helpful. My sojourn with the Japanese people amid the beauty of their islands will long remain a pleasant memory. It is my one regret that my persistent prowlings in the factory sections and slums of the large cities and my visits to the meeting places of labor, where "dangerous thought" might be harbored, gave so much concern to the Japanese police.

My greatest debt is to Shinjiro Kitasawa, professor of economics in Waseda University, Tokyo, and prophet of the new Japan, who proved to be the open sesame to the knowledge that I sought. It was through his close contact with the industrial and agricultural workers and with the social leaders that I was able to reach a side of Japanese economic life not revealed to the investigator who entrusts himself to the guidance of the Japanese government or of the large banking houses.

Intimate contact with the raw silk industry was made possible by Saburo Morita, secretary of the Raw Silk Association of Japan, and with the tea industry by Seiichi Ishii of the Fuji Company, Ltd. Through the late Naomasa Yamasaki, professor of geography in Tokyo Imperial University, and K. Ide, professor of geology in Kyoto Imperial University, I obtained letters of introduction to the leading Japanese mining engineers and to the officials of the steel industry. Shosuke Sato, classmate of Woodrow Wilson at Johns Hopkins and now president of Hokkaido Imperial University, and K. Morimoto, professor of economics in the same institution, opened the way to an understanding of the industries and the resources of Japan's north island.

Halleck A. Butts, American Commercial Attaché in Tokyo, through advice and suggestions upon my arrival in Japan, made it possible to proceed with my investigation with the least possible delay. Miss Caroline Macdonald, of Tokyo, who has labored long as a social worker among the Japanese people and who has gained their confidence through her sincerity and her knowledge of their language, provided a contact with the important Japanese social movements.

And finally, I wish to mention Eiichi Suzuki, Shigeo Hayashi, Kenichi Matsuoka, Ichizo Harada, and Kiyomi Maeda, five young men then students of Professor Kitasawa at Waseda University, who

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proved to be excellent traveling companions and who, acting as interpreters and translators, aided in surmounting the formidable barrier of language and opened the way to many sources of information that must otherwise have remained inaccessible.

There are many people in the United States to whom I am indebted—representatives of Japanese concerns in New York and officials of government departments in Washington, especially the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Professor J. Russell Smith and Dr. Isaiah Bowman, through their friendly interest and advice, have repeatedly given encouragement when it was very much needed.

Dorothy Johnson Orchard has been associated with the study since its first inception. She shared in the arduous field work in Japan with its endless visits to factories, workshops and mines, and upon her has fallen the task of assembling and analyzing most of the statistical material. The six chapters on labor and foreign trade are entirely her work. Her active experience with the American labor movement from 1923 to 1926 provided a sound background for the analysis of the Japanese labor supply.

JOHN E. ORCHARD.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
September, 1930.

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¹ This list is not intended as a comprehensive bibliography of the literature on economic conditions in Japan. It includes only the more important sources that were consulted in the course of the present study and that have been referred to repeatedly in the footnotes.

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