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NOTICES



ANNUAL DINNER

It is expected that this will take place as usual at Claridge's, London, at 7.30 p.m. on TUESDAY, JULY 15. Formal notice will be sent to all members in due course.

The Council acknowledges with gratitude the following :

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IMPRESSIONS OF POST-WAR JAPAN

By COLONEL G. S. SALE

Report of a lecture delivered to the Society on Wednesday, July 17, 1957, Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, G.B.E., K.C.B., in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN: Colonel Sale, who has very kindly come to talk to us this afternoon on "Impressions of Post-War Japan," was himself born in Japan and he was of the third generation of his family to be born and to work in Japan. His father, in addition to trading in Japan, was the Governor of the Hudson Bay Company from 1925 to 1931. Colonel Sale has been back to Japan several times since the war and he was there earlier this year. He tells me that he spoke to this Society in 1934, which is some time ago, so he is no stranger to us here and it is very good of him to come and talk again. (Applause.)

I FEEL it is a great pleasure and honour to be asked to address the members of this distinguished Society today.

I have a rather difficult task because I do not know the special subjects in which the majority of you are interested, nor how much knowledge of Japan your members have. I have an apprehensive feeling there are some members who know far more than I do. Also, in the limited time at my disposal I shall have to condense a great deal, and I hope in so doing I do not fail to make my ideas clear. Your Society gave me *carte blanche* as to the aspects of Japan on which I should speak, and I hope that my choice will be of interest to you.

The record of the atrocities and the treatment of prisoners in the last war were a great shock to myself and many other foreigners who really knew the Japanese. Living among them, and visiting them often, we had found them cheerful, kindly people, with a great appreciation of art and the beauties of nature, highly literate and hard working. They had some other characteristics, such as pirating textile designs and a proneness to copying, which were not so admirable. But their conduct during the war came as a great surprise.

I am not attempting to condone their conduct, but to try to understand it, as this will, I feel, enable myself and others to judge how they are likely to behave in the future.

Here we must go back to the Tokugawa Era. During the first 300 years of this era the mass of the people had been dominated by the feudal lords and their followers, who regarded themselves as a class apart—the rest of the population were downtrodden and oppressed. Also there was almost complete isolation from contact with other nations. Gradually during this period discontent grew among the lower warriors class, the bourgeoisie and farmers; but these spontaneous riots among the farmers and others were futile because of the merciless domination of the feudal lords.

Then came the restoration of the Emperor Meiji, which was brought about by the insistence of the Western Powers, led by the Americans, upon

opening up Japan. This gave the opportunity for the old governing feudal class to be replaced by a newly risen class, who immediately set up varying political institutions for the modernizing of Japan. Parliamentary politics came into being, though the Emperor remained supreme head of the country. Three wars followed: the war with China, the participation of the Japanese contingent on the occasion of the Boxer Rising in Peking, and the Russo-Japanese War; followed by Japan's participation in the First Great War, from which Japan emerged as one of the leading powers of the world.

But now that Japan had gained the status of a great power the attitude of the other great powers changed, and Japan felt herself isolated. The Treaty of Alliance with Great Britain was not renewed. Japan felt that her large cotton and industrial organization required overseas markets as well as interior development, and so she branched out into an era of expansion.

The Emperor Meiji had died in 1912, and he, with certain famous Japanese such as Prince Iyoto, who drew up the Constitution, Prince Yamagata, who created the army, and Prince Matsukata, who organized the finances, had really dominated the country's development behind the scenes of parliamentary government. But the political parties, which gained greater power after the passing of the Emperor Meiji, showed great corruption and selfishness. In the 1930 panic Japan's economic structure was shaken throughout, there were many bankruptcies and large numbers of unemployed, and the political corruption which I have already mentioned was rife.

Militarism, radical Socialism and Communism vied with each other in claiming solutions of the situation. Democracy or existing political institutions were not based on long traditions nor on ample precedence. Faced with, and to cope against, Western economic power, the growth of Japanese economic institutions naturally required to be fortified by unified power. Thus, unlike that of Great Britain, Japan's economy in modern times had been introduced by governmental intervention from the beginning. Besides, high concentration of the national power was required to maintain her existence as a nation.

Decentralization of national power inferred the enfeebling of the national strength, which might lead to foreign interference. Strong administrative control from the centre led to the emergence of a band of bureaucrats who made themselves up to be a privileged class. It was quite natural that the brains in the business field, and the progressive aims of the bureaucrats, unified into a sole driving force of Japan's national progress towards a world power. Swift and effective measures were taken by this "brains trust" of the state when it was necessary. Such a national structure opened the possibility of being governed by any of the totalitarian ideologies, and in the crises of the 1930s it was the military party which gained control of the bureaucratic machine.

In between 1921 and 1940 on my visits to Japan I always noticed that when I came into contact with the Japanese military they seemed so different from Japanese business men, bankers, politicians or the naval officers. They seemed to live in a dream world of their own, convincing

themselves that the Japanese were a superior race with the right to rule all others. They worshipped force in their own army. Their treatment of the common soldiers was brutal. They greatly believed in physical hardships to toughen their soldiers. Long route marches and exposure to cold and wet were all part of their training. I even heard of one general who insisted on marching his men wearing the right boot on the left foot and the left boot on the right foot, but whether this is true I do not know. But it is typical of the way the Japanese military ideas ran. "

The Japanese Army in the war with Russia and during the Boxer trouble had a good reputation, but in the period from 1930 onwards a relatively small clique were in complete control and reverted to feudalistic ideas and discipline. Japan being really a backward country politically, and not having sufficient strength of mind, these military parties were able to dominate all others in the business world who did not see eye to eye with them and lacked the moral courage to stand up against them. The Japanese military party may be described as a small clique of minor Hitlers.

It was part of their code that a soldier should never surrender. Therefore they regarded a prisoner as having no civil rights. So we had all these atrocities, which shocked the world and still remain as a thorn in the good relations between Japan and Great Britain today. It is not possible to compare atrocity with atrocity, but I feel that although the German and Italian atrocities may not have been so bad as the Japanese, yet, considering the claims of the Germans and the Italians of a civilized background of hundreds of years, they were as great, if not greater, offenders than the Japanese.

Again, while the Japanese do not emphasize the horror of the atomic bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, yet the dropping of these bombs does not leave the Americans, and to a lesser degree her allies, untarnished.

When the final defeat came, the Japanese Emperor showed great courage and statesmanship in forcing unconditional surrender on to a people who were proud and who had never known defeat. He did this at the risk of his own life, supported in the beginning by a minority when there were still five million men carrying arms, many of whom were prepared to fight to the bitter end according to Japanese custom.

At the beginning of the occupation a relatively small handful of Americans carried out a peaceful occupation without sabotage or resistance from isolated pockets, a precedent which I think is unique in history.

Now we must come to the future, and this is in the hands of the younger generation of thirty and under. One of the benefits brought about by the occupation was the freeing of the educational system from feudalistic and military control, and, dating from the occupation period, students were allowed to express their opinions with great freedom. I do not attach so much importance to their opinions, which among students of all countries are often brash, as to the fact that they can now express their opinions. In due course, these students, when they are old enough to succeed to positions of power and influence in business, commerce and government, are likely to decide what the real political future of Japan will be. There will still be an interregnum of fifteen to twenty years while

the pre-war generation are still in control, though their ideas have been greatly modified by defeat.

I am sure the Japanese themselves are not able to foresee exactly where they are going politically; therefore I always find it of great interest to revisit Japan and try to sense the way of their development.

Once again I regret that the political parties are showing a great deal of corruption. There are numerous scandals in which the Members of Parliament and also the Japanese Government Department officials are involved, but I feel that this time public opinion will be strong enough to express its disapproval, and I think in due course this will lead to a cleansing of the corruption. The ex-Prime Minister, Mr. Ishibashi, laid down as his policy the elimination of bribery among Members of Parliament, the overcoming of corruption among the administration, and the elimination of poverty. His successor, Mr. Kishi, has endorsed this policy. Without being sceptical, I hope to see some progress made. Nevertheless, to have a Prime Minister who openly acknowledges these defects is, I feel, a great step forward. Looking around the world today there are many countries where corruption in politics is rife, and in our own history a couple of hundred years ago we had a fair measure of political corruption.

To sum up, Japan for hundreds of years was ruled by a feudal system and isolated from the rest of the world and had no aggressive ambitions. Then the Meiji Restoration, brought about by the Western Powers insisting upon opening up foreign trade to Japan, led a democracy which failed when the Military Party seized control, and so today we have a fresh start and a rapid development in industry in every direction. But, nevertheless, we must appreciate that in many ways Japan is politically still a backward country, but this time I think there are better prospects for success.

I feel confident that the aggression for which Japan was noted in the pre-war period has been completely eliminated. I am not so sure that this is the case with Germany. In Japan they have realized how futile war is and are determined to build up again by other methods. MacArthur's clause in their Constitution was that they should not have an army, navy or air force has the warm support of the majority of the people. It is rather ironical that it is the Americans who are pressing them to change it. It is a matter of politics, and the Government of today will probably yield to some degree to the pressure of the Americans, but no doubt extracting advantages in other directions in return. But this is a political manoeuvre and is not popular with the majority.

It will be interesting to watch which way Japan develops. I hesitate to make any prophecy, except that I am sure she has written militarism out of her programme and vocabulary.

I now turn to another subject, the recovery of Japan. It is the fifth year since Japan signed the peace treaty, and I will try briefly to express the remarkable progress which she has made. Outwardly, travelling around, one sees no signs of the war damage. Factories, houses, towns have all been rebuilt, though the whole country cannot be measured by Tokyo, where today there is a more modern city than ever before. For instance, their airport compares not unfavourably with London Airport and is better than any other I have seen on the continent of Europe.

Many new buildings have been erected on most modern lines, with perhaps two floors of garages below street level. They, too, suffer from traffic congestion, and so it is a great boon to be able to telephone down from your office and have your car brought up ready for you to leave.

One firm of stockbrokers-cum-bankers have completely mechanized their office equipment, spending over £200,000 on power typewriters, adding machines, and teleprinter service throughout Japan to their branches, and they even have their own wireless station on the roof to broadcast prices. Yet when I asked the president how many men he had dispensed with, he said they were keeping on the entire staff and fitting them into other work as the company grew up. This, of course, is typical of the paternal outlook in Japanese industry and business which was a feature of the pre-war era. When I visit Japan I am usually asked to lecture to this company, and to my amazement and rather to my horror the hour of 8.30 a.m. is chosen. The president, directors and managers are there at 8.30, so as not to interfere with their day's routine.

A few figures, I hope, will give you a picture of Japan's remarkable recovery. The gross national production has risen from £7,424 m. in 1954 to £9,122 m. in 1956. The national income has increased from £6,123 m. in 1954 to £7,610 m. in 1956. The personal consumption figure has risen from £4,715 m. in 1954 to £5,513 m. in 1956.

Taking the industrial production indices for the years 1934 to 1936 as 100 per cent., there has been a rise from 173 to 227 during the years from 1954 to 1956.

But this remarkable recovery will be slowed down by the following main factors: first, internal transportation—railways and roads have reached their limit and need considerable expansion; secondly, production of power—hydro-electric and steam power will find it difficult to keep up with increased industrial expansion; and, thirdly, the training of skilled workers. For the first six months of 1957 the balance of trade payments had moved unfavourably against Japan, amounting to \$560 m., and they have had to instigate a credit squeeze policy and charge higher rates of interest.

In the new Cabinet formed the other week, Mr. Ichimada, a former Governor of the Bank of Japan and well known for his tight-money policy, has been made Finance Minister, and so I think we shall see the tight-money policy pursued vigorously. And I note from yesterday's papers that the Japanese Government are cutting down by 15 per cent. capital programmes, designing measures to increase savings, and appealing to firms to reduce their capital expansion programmes. Japanese bankers with whom I talked hope that this new policy will be effective by the autumn.

They also have the problem of increasing population, which is now 90 million, and it is expected to reach 100 million within a few years' time. Emigration is no solution; only increased production and increased trade can achieve the task of maintaining this large increase.

The increase is being caused not only by a larger birth rate but also by the return of many Japanese from Korea, Formosa and Manchuria, and also improved sanitary conditions. The expectancy of life has been in-

creased thereby and, although I am not sure of the figures, it may well have increased from 45 to 55 years.

With regard to the birth rate, the police are circularized officially with full details of birth control, as the Government feel that their families are too large for their salaries. They even feel this is not sufficient and that something quicker and more effective is required than preached birth control, and now each year there are 1,750,000 legal abortions.

The recovery of Japan also could be seen when one travels through the countryside and villages. Never have I seen children looking so healthy, better fed or better clothed. As you will know, the children in Japan go to Government schools. There is no selection of class, so when you see a school outing you get a complete cross-section of the community, and on holidays, and at other times you see large numbers of school children being taken on organized sightseeing. Their standard of clothing, and the accessories, such as the little bags for the girls and the knapsacks for the boys, is astonishing, when I remember thirty or forty years ago how dirty and squalid many of the children were.

At week-ends and bank holidays the roads are crowded with sightseeing buses, which are a menace on the bad and narrow roads, but I feel sure that within a hundred miles of Tokyo you see far more sightseeing buses than you would around London.

Again, the shops are carrying a larger variety of goods, and they are of better quality than ever I remember. True, many of the buildings are still wooden and might be regarded by one who has never visited Japan before as a sign of poverty; but, again, compared with thirty or forty years ago, I see a great rise in the standard of living and housing. The Japanese are used to the greatest simplicity, and a family of four to six are able to live comfortably according to their standards in a very small space. Their houses are not littered by furniture. They have no beds and their bedding is rolled up during the day and put into cupboards, yet these crowded houses will be kept scrupulously clean.

Their factories show great improvement, especially in regard to the conditions under which the workers have to work.

I am often asked how far post-war Japan has changed. I have tried to convey the economic revival of progress and the changed political outlook of the generation of 30 and under. That is one big change. Another is the corruption which has spread to business, apart from Government circles. In the trade experience of my family we never had to get business by bribes, but now if you wish to do big business somebody along the line has to receive a bribe or most elaborate entertainment.

Another change, brought about by General MacArthur, is the institution of trade unions. They have not yet become strong and I do not think the proper functions of trade unions are really understood, and I can well imagine they may cause considerable trouble in the future.

On the surface you see other changes; more modern cinemas, cars, department stores, and MacArthur broke down many Japanese traditions—the divinity of the Emperor, loyalty to the Imperial Family, the paternalistic attitude of employers. But, nevertheless, in many ways I feel that the Japanese have not changed. They work hard. Education is sought after.

There are more than 600,000 students graduating each year, and, I think, nearly double the numbers of universities and technical schools. They are polite and cheerful and still, I think, have an appreciation of art and value the beauties of nature. All this has not changed, and I am amazed that, even with the most sophisticated of Government officials, business men and bankers, they still prefer the old-fashioned geisha party to entertainment in the Western style on the most elaborate scale. The spirit of the geisha party is that you can relax and enjoy good food, well served, witty conversation of trained geisha girls, and intervals of traditional dances and songs. Any business or serious talk is limited and comes at the beginning of the evening, after which you sit back relaxed, chat and enjoy yourself, with the excellent custom that if you arrive late at a geisha party or leave early you do not upset your host's programme, and for a busy man this has great advantages.

Compared to pre-war, Japan is too crowded to be pleasant. If you wish to go to one of the country resorts or sightseeing, it is a question of booking your hotel room or your seat on the train perhaps a fortnight ahead. Everything is crowded, everything is so full up, and golf courses are quite impossible. Nowadays I find a week-end in Japan very difficult. Being on a short visit, I cannot plan too far ahead, and, therefore, by the time I have decided whether I am free or not, it is too late to plan anything.

One American lawyer friend of mine foresaw this problem by having his own small aeroplane, which he pilots himself, and, the plane being amphibious, he can land on many of the country's lakes. But not everyone, and especially the tourist, can follow his method.

There is in Japan a great deal of latent goodwill and admiration for the British way of life. I and many others who live in Japan feel that in this country we seem not really to have developed any policy as regards Japan. Perhaps it is so far away and our Foreign Office have so many nearer problems.

Japan is becoming an international centre. Statesmen and sovereigns are visiting her many international conferences, all held in Tokyo. Each year there is an International Trade Fair, either at Osaka or Tokyo, which gives manufacturers a chance not only to show the Japanese but also to show the buyers from other countries who visit this Fair what England has to offer.

Japan has been admitted to the United Nations and again is a completely independent power with international status. Once again she may be a help to Britain. She is keenly interested in the Colombo Plan, to which I believe she has contributed modestly. In co-operation with Britain and other countries, I think she could do a great deal to develop the South-East Asian countries which are so backward. I fear that if Japanese technicians do not get in there within the next five years we may then see technicians from Red China spreading and bringing on these backward countries or under-developed countries of South-East Asia, which would be a great danger. Nehru tries to dominate in the United Nations the Asian Group, but I feel that he is likely to be challenged by the Japanese.

I and many other business men and visitors to Japan, too, would like

to see a more positive policy in the relationship between Japan and Great Britain. I have named one sphere, the Colombo Plan, where Japan and Great Britain could collaborate for mutual benefit, and a little more sympathy and a little more understanding would, I feel, be of great benefit to our two countries. We have the precedent of the twenty years Anglo-Japanese Alliance, which was of mutual benefit. I am not suggesting an alliance, but I am suggesting greater co-operation and sympathy.

It was only last year that we sent a cabinet minister to Japan. Other countries have sent their prime ministers or foreign ministers. The Japanese are still a proud people and they, I know, would like to see more recognition by their old ally of their regained status as an international power. I also feel it would help them to grow politically in the right direction. In certain circumstances Japan could go Communist.

Commercially they are bound to be competitors and keen competitors. They have done their best to remedy the charges of imitation and pirating textile designs, and have put their house in order in this direction.

We in England have reached full employment and it is often difficult for a company to expand. We lead in technical advance and we have the know-how and the markets. I feel that by a closer co-operation between English and Japanese manufacturers we could take advantage of their spare labour and so between us produce a greater volume of goods, which would be to our mutual benefit; and by co-operating with Japanese manufacturers we could eliminate cut-throat competition and the sale and distribution of certain goods in international markets.

I know this is a startling and revolutionary idea, but I am sure it is worth studying. We see a great deal of co-operation between American and German industrialists. I do not see why there should not be greater co-operation between British and Japanese industrialists, which would put us in a better position to compete with the American-German combination. The more Japan produces the more she will be able to buy. Lately there has been an outcry in the papers about Australia giving Japan increased facilities to export more goods to Australia. And yet I think Japan was buying ten times as much from Australia as Australia bought from Japan. The Japanese are the second largest purchasers of Australian wool. Should they cease to be purchasers it would bring ruin to Australia's economic structure and, in turn, Australia would buy less from Great Britain.

Much of the criticism against Japanese competition is unbalanced, particularly as regards cotton goods. As a matter of fact, Indian competition in cotton goods and textiles is far greater, but it does not seem to get the same publicity. Each country is building up its own textile industry, and so in turn the Japanese will find their textile industry diminishing, especially when Red China gets into her stride. We have succeeded in building up other exports. Fifty years ago coal and textiles were two of our main exports. They have now been replaced by newer ones—motor-cars, tractors, aeroplanes and power plants.

The Japanese have concluded some 600 technical aid agreements, but less than 5 per cent. of them are with Great Britain. If it pays manufacturers in America, Germany, Italy and Scandinavia to collaborate in

technical aid agreements with Japan, then I feel that we too should co-operate. The Japanese are very interested in the development of the backward areas in South-East Asia. They have contributed to the Colombo Plan, and I feel that it is very important that the Japanese technicians should be established in these areas during the next five years, otherwise we may well find that Chinese technicians have taken their place.

So I will end on the note that I am trying to suggest, that in international politics we should cultivate the friendship of Japan, and by taking a greater interest in and sympathy with her encourage her latent admiration and friendship for Great Britain. In this way we could help her to build up her political institutions on a sounder basis. I am afraid I have only been able to touch sketchily on many subjects, which I may not have made clear to you, but I will be very happy to answer any questions upon points which I have not detailed or which are of special interest to other members. (*Applause.*)

Group-Captain SMALLWOOD: Colonel Sale said that Japan could turn Communist. Would he be good enough to tell us whether, on his most recent visit there, he found a growth of Communism compared with previous visits?

Colonel SALE: No, one could not say there had been a recent growth of Communism.

Mr. WHITTERON: I gather there is quite extensive collaboration between American and German firms and the Japanese, from what you said about technical aid, and so on.

Colonel SALE: Yes. In the struggle which is going on today in Japan as to whether Japan will buy a British atomic power station or an American atomic power station, one of the advantages the Americans have got is that they work in close co-operation with the big Japanese firms. If an American power plant were decided on, the Americans would be able to help more in the building of that power plant in Japan. The Americans would rely on firms there to supply some of the labour and some of the parts. There are no British firms which are offering atomic plant which would have the same agreement and collaboration with the Japanese engineering firms.

The CHAIRMAN: You said that Mr. Nehru's leadership or possible leadership in Asia might be challenged by the Japanese. I think it might be challenged by the Chinese also. Could you say anything about the Japanese and Chinese in that connection?

Colonel SALE: I have not the same knowledge with regard to China as I have with regard to Japan, and therefore my answer is based more on supposition than on facts. But I do feel the Chinese are likely to dominate the Russians in the not too distant future. I believe that today one man in four is Chinese and that in fifteen years' time one man in three will be. I think there will not for long be a wish to remain under Soviet domination, particularly if there is some lowering of the barriers between Red China and other countries of the world. That would give them courage to take a more independent line against the Soviet than

they are doing at the moment. If we could let them play off a little against the Soviet I think it would weaken the Soviet position. The American policy of a boycott of China seems to have driven the Chinese into the arms of the Soviet.

The CHAIRMAN: What about Nehru's leadership in Asia?

Colonel SALE: If the Chinese gain more independence from the Soviet I think they will undoubtedly enter into the competition.

The CHAIRMAN: And there will be a clash with the Japanese?

Colonel SALE: Yes. The Japanese will not have it all their own way. It will take five years, at least, but then I think the Chinese will be strong competitors with the Japanese against the so-called attempted leadership by Nehru of the Asian Group.

Dr. BRAMLEY: What is the standard of living in Japan compared with that of China?

Colonel SALE: It is very difficult to answer that question because the Japanese have a very different standard. Judged by our own it might be considered very low. I consider it very high, however, if compared with that of India or the whole of Asia, and I think it compares favourably with that of parts of Italy and Spain. It is unfavourable by the yardsticks of England, France, the United States or Canada. The Japanese are used to great simplicity and to putting up with hardship. But I think there is great personal cleanliness in Japan. If the Japanese cannot afford a bath in their house they go to the public baths, and the vast majority of them, even the poorest of the working classes, do have a bath once a day, and I do not think the same could be said of most other peoples.

It is very difficult to know what is laid down as important in the standard of living. As far as cleanliness is concerned the Japanese more than hold their own. I think about one family in twenty has a washing machine, and the number of expensive cameras per head of the population is very high. But the heating of houses is very much neglected. I do not know whether it is the same now, but they used not to heat the schools and the children had to keep warm somehow. They were, of course, used to it. It is hard to compare the food of one nation with the food of another. The Japanese like their rice and seaweed, and we should hate it. It is extremely difficult to compare the standard of living of England and America with that of Japan, but the standard of living in Japan is much higher than that of the rest of Asia.

Colonel ROYCE: It has recently been stated that the important question now was whether the Japanese were going to come in with the West, with our help and co-operation, or going to move towards the Chinese, and there would then be a yellow peril again in the Far East. It is suggested that this country should send people who matter to Japan, and try to encourage closer co-operation with us and save their fixing up with China, because that was their only way of living. Would you comment on that?

Colonel SALE: I do not think the Japanese themselves know which way they are going; they are feeling their way, and that is why I believe it to be so important that here in England we should try and extend our sympathy and co-operation to them in as many spheres as possible. They do have this

latent goodwill towards us, our way of life, the Royal Family, and everything of that description. It would be so easy for us to send prominent people to Japan more often, and it would influence the Japanese a great deal.

I do not think there is any immediate chance of the Japanese joining up with Red China, because Red China seems to be developing herself industrially so much. If the barriers of trade with Red China are let down I think Japan may feel the increased competition. For example, the machine tools which the Chinese are making, and which one never dreamt they could make, are coming into competition with the Japanese, the British and the Germans. Whether they are show pieces I do not know. China has a long way to go, but in twenty-five years' time she might be a great competitor for not only the Japanese but ourselves as well. As she opens up and needs more capital goods she is likely to sell consumer goods at any price in order to gain the foreign exchange for capital goods which she needs most of all.

Mr. MACLAUGHLAN: After the war it always seemed to me that America imposed very firm control on Japan, more or less to the exclusion of any other country. Supposing we now suddenly intensified our efforts for trade and better relations with Japan, would you say how you think that might react on American policy?

Colonel SALE: The Americans never liked competition in many ways, but, whether they like it or not, to a large extent British and European goods are more suited to the Japanese market. Where the Americans have the advantage, and will have it for a long time, is in the fact that they can lend money and give long-term credit. That is a very important factor. It has still not been finally decided whether the Japanese buy a British atomic plant or an American one. The Americans could probably give twenty years' credit, whereas I doubt whether our manufacturers could or would give such a credit.

Group-Captain BENNETT: Can you give us an idea of any improvements in the position of women in Japan?

Colonel SALE: Is it not a difficult point to decide what is an improvement? The Japanese women are docile and treat their husbands with great respect, don't complain if they go home late or do anything of that description. If that changed, I ask you, gentlemen, would it represent an improvement? They have the vote and they now go in for athletics; but I think that the attitude of the Japanese women, one of very great courtesy, dignity and gentleness, and of great loyalty to their homes and husbands, still remains. I do not think that arranged marriages are quite so common. A girl now has more say, though probably her marriage is arranged behind the scenes to a large extent. If you refer to political liberty and liberty to go around more, and that sort of thing, the lot of Japanese women has been improved. Anyway, they seem very happy.

Group-Captain BENNETT: I was thinking more of the remarkable lack of courtesy in the way the men treat them. It is shocking.

Colonel SALE: The men always were rude to the women and took them for granted. Perhaps the Japanese women do not consider that to

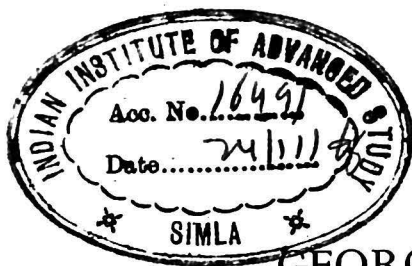
be rudeness. To give you a personal experience: when Mr. Yoshida was Ambassador over here I remember both he and his wife sitting at the table and entertaining in the usual way, but later when I was at his villa she had reverted to the Japanese way and insisted on getting our slippers for us and putting them on, and so on. She simply reverted to the role of the Japanese woman, and it would have caused embarrassment if I had protested. Perhaps the rudeness is not as great as it may seem, but the Japanese do not treat their women as we treat ours.

A MEMBER: I hope I shall be excused for striking a dissident note, but perhaps it is difficult to think that in a conscript army, as was Japan's, the tone and behaviour adopted is due merely to the role of a ruling military clique.

Colonel SALE: I feel that the few at the top did set the pace which permeated throughout the whole of the conscript army. I have Japanese friends who have been with the army and I know their views. I have spoken to a great many Japanese who now feel they can talk freely, and they very much resent the attitude that was adopted, the shape that was moulded, and I do not think that is just because they are conquered. Some of them are people whom I have known for a long time. Their criticism, and that of the younger Japanese today, is very strong. I think that some criticism existed not throughout the army completely but in a large measure among the Japanese conscripts, although they dared not voice it. There were some willing pupils, one cannot deny, but I think the tone was set by the military clique which came into power in the thirties. I do not think the same cruelty was present in the Russo-Japanese war, and the Japanese contingent which went to the Boxer Rising won a very good name for their behaviour in every way. The change came about at a later stage in the army, and it is my feeling, although it is very hard to generalize, that it did come largely from the top.

The CHAIRMAN: I should just like to say myself, possibly backing up what has just been said, that when we went into Hong Kong and rounded up the Japanese, despite the atrocities, so many of the prisoners spoke of the great kindness they had received from individual Japanese gaolers, who did look after them. There certainly was that element.

Those of you who were at the dinner at Claridge's last night will remember what was said there of the importance of getting contacts between this country and the countries in the East. It was suggested that one of the things that this Society can do is to foster knowledge and contacts between Britain and the East. I do feel that Colonel Sale, by coming here and telling us of what he has seen in Japan, has made a great contribution to that end, and on your behalf I should like to thank him very much indeed. (*Applause.*)



GEORGIA IN HISTORY AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

By DR. DAVID MARSHALL LANG

Report of a lecture delivered to the Royal Central Asian Society on October 30, 1957. Mr. C. A. P. Southwell, C.B.E., M.C., in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN: First, I should like to express the apologies of Sir Hugh Dow, who was to have taken the chair, and to say what a privilege it is for me to occupy the chair in his absence.

Those of us who have been into even part of the area of Georgia are very often horrified by the lack of knowledge, even geographical, of these countries. The object of this Society is to try to bring the facts to our members. We are indeed fortunate today in having with us Dr. Lang, who is going to talk about Georgia. The title of his address covers a rather wide field, embracing history as well as present-day affairs. As a member of the staff of the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, and following a diplomatic career in Tabriz and Teheran, he is well equipped to speak about this area, on which he has also published a book.*

AS an outsider and a newcomer to this distinguished Society, I must say that when I received the invitation to come here today and address you, and when I saw the eminent names that make up your Officers and Council, I felt a certain trepidation. I became reassured, however, when I got to the end of the literature that was sent to me and I read in a memorandum for the guidance of lecturers that, while the Society includes numerous experts on different parts of Asia, many members are not well informed about particular countries. Should Georgia happen to be one of the particular countries about which some members of the audience may be particularly well informed, I hope that they will excuse the more or less elementary nature of some of the things that I want to say.

The excellent map which your Society has kindly provided illustrates the essentially "cross-roads" character of Georgia in the map of Russia and the Middle East. This factor has played an important part in the formation of the Georgian nation and of the Georgian national character. Georgia lies to the south of Russia, to the north-east of Turkey, and on yet another side to the north-west of Persia, and it is sandwiched between the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea. That means that Georgia, like Armenia, has been a focal point throughout its chequered history in the migrations of peoples and in the imperial power complexes which have existed in that region from time to time.

In prehistoric times the Caucasus region was a battleground for such races as the Scythians and the Cimmerians. But the earliest historical description of the Georgian tribes which is open to us is, I suppose, the very vivid, not to say lurid, account of Xenophon and the Ten Thousand

* *The Last Years of the Georgian Monarchy, 1658-1832*. New York: Columbia University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1957.

