

Koreans Problem in Japan

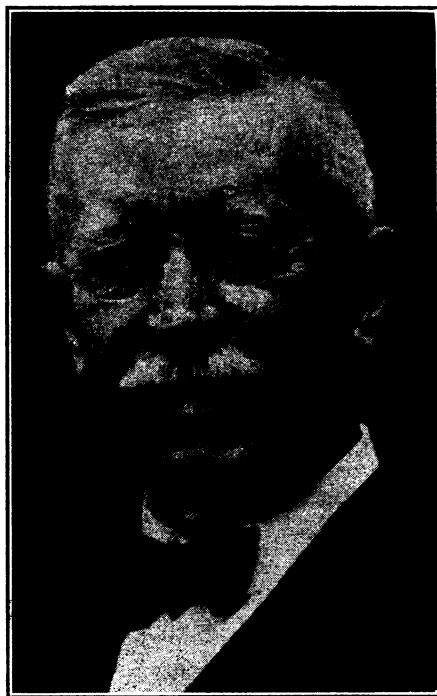
The frugality of the diet of a Japanese, particularly of the laboring class, is proverbial as the result of western states' campaigns to exclude them because they eat less than American workmen and therefore can work for less. But the Korean coolie is so much more frugal than the Japanese that his numbers in Japan have constituted a serious problem, according to a recent statement from the Department of Labor at Washington.

A veritable flood of cheap Korean labor has swept Japan in recent years, it is said, bringing about a situation so serious that government steps have been taken to meet it. The influx of coolies has amounted to practically a migration, but the Japanese government has yet done nothing to effectually check it. Korean day laborers live so much more cheaply than Japanese and will work for less money, so that the situation somewhat duplicates our problem in the west where Japanese labor conflicted with American standards of living. In fact the situation has somewhat brought an understanding and sympathy for the American attitude toward immigrant labor.

Korean laborers in Japan are largely engaged in the heavier and rougher tasks such as railway and road making, and the hauling of goods. The great improvement in living standards of the Japanese in the past decade has resulted in an unwillingness on their part to perform the harder and more menial tasks. They are, therefore, willing to let the Koreans do the lower work so long as they can find employment in other lines. The Koreans live in huts and rude shanties and can subsist on food so coarse that the ordinary Japanese will not touch it.

The fact that of about 133,700 Koreans now in Japan only some 23,500 are women was said to have given rise to grave moral problems. Frequent clashes also occur between Japanese and Koreans because of racial prejudices and the competition in industry. Only a fourth of the Koreans have permanent or near-permanent dwellings, the rest are rovers moving from place to place in search of temporary employment, and living almost as campers. The Japanese government has appropriated the sum of about a half million yen to advance at a low interest rate for the construction of cheap homes for the homeless, wandering Koreans.

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EDGAR FAHS SMITH

Chemist and Historian

While it is for his work in electrochemistry that Prof. Smith has attained most scientific fame and honors, including the award of the Priestley medal by the American Chemical Society at its recent Golden Jubilee meeting, his work as a historian of chemistry is of no less importance.

As professor for many years, and as provost for many years more, of the University of Pennsylvania, he has been especially interested in early chemists connected with that institution, such as Robert Hare, the inventor of the oxy-hydrogen blowpipe. But Prof. Smith's interests have not been solely provincial, as indicated by his "Chemistry in America."

Born in York, Pa., on May 23, 1856, he studied at Pennsylvania College (now Gettysburg College), graduating in 1874, when he went to Germany and studied at Göttingen, receiving his doctorate in 1876. Then he went to the University of Pennsylvania as an instructor in chemistry, and, with the exception of seven years from 1881 to 1888 in other institutions, he has been there ever since. In 1911 he became provost, and when he resigned from academic work in 1920, he was made provost emeritus. But this step has not meant his retirement from active work, for since then he has continued at his researches with unabated zeal, and with more time for them than he ever had before.

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Potash Beds Found in Texas

American potash, to break the European monopoly based on the Stassfurt fields, is a possibility held out by the results of a core drilling made in cooperation with the U. S. Geological Survey, in the southeastern corner of New Mexico. Mineralogists of the Survey told a representative of Science Service of ten beds of potash minerals aggregating nearly thirty feet in thickness, which the drill struck at depths ranging from 790 feet to 1760 feet. They also showed samples of the core brought up by the drill; most of these consisted of light-colored polyhalite, sylvite and other salts, which they stated assayed as high as 18.5 per cent potash (K_2O). The beds thick enough for mining averaged about 12.5 per cent, it was stated. The average run-of-the-mine minerals of the Stassfurt beds have a potash content of only 8 or 10 per cent. At about 1430 feet one seventeen-inch bed of a different mineral, langbeinite, was found. This contains about 18 per cent. potash. Langbeinite is merely a mineral curiosity at Stassfurt.

"It must not be imagined that this is simply a lucky strike made at random," said Dr. G. R. Mansfield of the Geological Survey. "We have believed for years that if paying potash deposits were ever to be found in this country the most likely place to seek them would be the panhandle region of Texas and the adjacent corner of New Mexico, and we have actually been hunting for them there since 1915. We have received many indications of the presence of potash, from samples brought up by oil well drills as well as from other sources, and recently Congress appropriated sufficient money to begin a really critical investigation. The present core drilling, however, the first of its kind, which gives us a really accurate picture of what is under ground at that point, was put down by the Snowden-McSweeney Company, an oil concern, on their own initiative and at their own expense but in full cooperation with the Geological Survey.

"Of course we can not tell from a single core drilling how extensive the new beds are," Dr. Mansfield continued, "But we do know definitely now that working quantities of rich potash minerals exist at this place, and our previous work, indicates that potash deposits of some sort exist in many places, distributed over an area about three hundred miles long by about half as wide, in eastern New

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Potash Beds

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Mexico and the Texas panhandle. We hope to make further core drillings, to obtain a better idea of the extent of the really rich deposits."

The new potash field is well served by railroads. Two lines run clear through it, and three others have branches into it at various points. Galveston is the nearest saltwater port, but practicable hauls might also carry the product to points on the Mississippi river. Geological Survey officials believe that for certain types of soil the minerals as they come from the shaft would need only grinding to make them satisfactory fertilizers, but for long hauls probably concentrating treatments would be advisable, to save bulk and weight. More or less rock salt occurs in between the layers of potash minerals, but this can be picked out easily by even the cheapest labor.

The exact geological age of the deposits has not been determined, but they are believed to belong to the Permian. This was an age of drought that intervened between the Pennsylvanian or coal age and the times of the dinosaurs. The beds were probably formed by a series of advances and retreats of an arm of the sea, which formed great salt-water lakes. These dried in the arid climate, just as the Caspian sea, or on a smaller scale the saline lakes of the West, are drying up today, and as they did so the various chemicals in solution were precipitated. The less soluble ones, like the compounds of lime and potash, came down first, and the easily soluble common sea salt only at the end of each drying-out, so that layers of salt now alternate with layers of potash and other minerals.

Russia has also been the scene of discovery of new potash deposits. These have been found in the district of Solikamsk, government of Perm, and declared by Soviet chemists to be Russia's delivery from the Franco-German fertilizer monopoly controlled through the Stassfurt beds, hitherto the world's principal source of this important mineral. The Russian deposits, it is stated, are found over an area almost a thousand square miles in extent, and beds capable of being mined exist as close to the surface as 300 feet.

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Superior intelligence is about five times as common among children of better class parents as among children of inferior social status, a recent investigation shows.

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