

GEOGRAPHY

Koreans Pleased

They like the prospect of having their country occupied by American forces, for they look to us for independence. Japs prefer it to Soviet domination.

► THE SOUTHERN half of Korea is to be occupied by American forces, it is reported. This will please the Koreans, who look to America for independence and who have forgiven the United States for the small part it played in the 1905 Treaty of Portsmouth (N. H.) which gave Japan a protectorate over Korea and resulted in its complete involuntary absorption into the Nipponese empire five years later.

Perhaps it will please the Japs also, who prefer American occupation of Korea to Soviet occupation. Korea, called Chosen by the Japs, was the principal bone of contention in the Russo-Japanese war that resulted in the treaty. Russia wanted control of Korea as a protection for Port Arthur on the Manchurian coast, which she had leased from China, and for Vladivostok, Siberia, on the

Japan sea coast. To Japan, Korea under any control except Japanese was "a dagger pointed at its heart."

The loss of the Korean peninsula to the Nipponese empire is one of the most severe land losses of the war. Korea was its foothold on the mainland of Asia, and the road that led to Manchuria and China. Korea was needed also, the Japanese felt, for its coal and other minerals, for its agricultural resources, and for a place of resettlement of the overflowing Nipponese population. For 40 years Japanese overlords and settlers have exploited the native Koreans, their land and their mineral resources, and thwarted their education, their religion and their social and economic development.

Japan's desire to own Korea is not a late 19th century development. Three

centuries earlier she tried to gain a foothold on the Asiatic mainland by the Korean route, and waged a seven-year war against Korea. This ended in 1599 unsuccessfully, largely because of the famous ironclad "turtle" ship, invented and developed by a Korean admiral in 1592. Against it the Japanese navy and transports found themselves helpless.

This oar-propelled ironclad vessel, probably the first in history, was 120 feet long and 30 feet wide, with its sides and top covered with iron plates. It took its name from the general appearances of its top, and from its turtle-headed prow used for ramming purposes. Port-holes on all sides permitted the shooting of fire-arrows at an enemy, and also the use of cannon and crude bombs, it is claimed.

Korea, a little larger than Kansas in area and resembling the Florida peninsula in shape, lies between the Sea of Japan and the Yellow sea. Its southern extremity is about 120 miles across the water from southwest Honshu and Kyushu. Its prewar population was approximately 23,000,000. It is a mountainous country with fertile valleys and excellent grazing lands, and has a coastline of some 6,000 miles on which there are many excellent ice-free harbors and near which are some 200 inhabited islands. The Koreans resemble the Japanese in appearance, but there the similarity stops.

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CHEMISTRY

Durable, Hard Enamel For Household Equipment

► MORE durable and slightly finishes for household refrigerators, stoves and other equipment is promised with new synthetic, exceptionally hard, stainproof enamels developed by the Arco Company and already in production. They will be known as synox finishes.

One type of the new enamel is designed for such articles as refrigerators, stoves, ironers and electric mixers, and another for dishwashers and washing machines. Laboratory and practical tests show that they have an unusual degree of water and alkali resistance, it is claimed, also resistance to stains and change of color.

The new material has been successfully applied to clean steel, with or without primer, and to aluminum and magnesium. Despite its hardness, synox has a flexibility which is more than ample to meet all service conditions.

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ENEMY SPOTTED!—The three operators seated on the mount of this Radio Set SCR-268 see indications of the airplane echo on cathode ray oscilloscopes. One operator tracks the aircraft in azimuth, another tracks in elevation, and the third measures the range. "Mickey Mouse" is the name given to the type of radar set shown on the front cover of this *SCIENCE NEWS LETTER* which stood guard against the Luftwaffe near San Pietro, Italy. Official Signal Corps photographs.