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CONTENTS

<p>Japan, a Land of Uniqueness, The Country Full of Features in All Phases of Human Living... 1</p> <p>Japan, As It Appears in a New Attire, Rehabilitation Looms in Sight, Industrial Development and Possibilities ... 3</p> <p>THE MESSAGE for TOKYO MAIYU SHIMBUN By Baron Giichi Tanaka, Premier and Foreign Minister... 3</p> <p>Political Status of Japan, Manhood Suffrage, What Has It Taught Us?... 5</p> <p>Japan's Population Problem, Emigration and Land Cultivation Discussed ... 6</p> <p>Japan's Internal and Ex'ternal Debts, Heavy Foreign Investment ... 7</p> <p>Astounding Development Marks Trust Business .. 8</p> <p>Japan's Bond Market, General Securities Market Promises to Develop ... 8</p> <p>Japan's Foreign Trade, Excess of Imports Marks Trade Balance ... 9</p> <p>Japan's Traffic Facilities and Communications, International Railway & Steamship Service ...11</p>	<p>Japanese Raw Silk Still Gains Popularity in United States .. 12</p> <p>Rayon Industry Promises Prosperity, Domestic Production Steadily Gains .. 13</p> <p>Cotton Spinning and Weaving, Favorable Growth in Recent Years ... 14</p> <p>Japan's Wheat Flour Milling, Exports Attract World's Attention ... 15</p> <p>Sugar Business, Civilization Measured by Sugar Consumption .. 18</p> <p>Tea Business Its Output and Volume of Export Stationary ... 18</p> <p>Beer Brewing Ranks High Position in Japan's Industries ... 19</p> <p>Kerosene Oil Business in Japan, The Country's Object Lies in Self-Supply ... 19</p> <p>Mining Industry of Japan, Steady Development of Copper Production ... 20</p> <p>Japan's Paper Milling, Conspicuous Stride in Production of Foreign Style Paper ... 21</p> <p>Steel and Iron Industry, Steady Growth Features ..22</p>	<p>Electric Industry of Japan, Heavy Investment Made Not only by Japanese But Foreigners ..23</p> <p>Ships and Shipbuilding, Gigantic Building Plan Advanced ... 24</p> <p>Cement Industry Sets New Records, Increases of Capacity and Production ... 25</p> <p>Japan's Lumber Importing Trade, Rushing Imports After Great Earthquake and Fire ... 26</p> <p>Lacquerware Business, One of Chief Domestic Production ... 27</p> <p>Motorcar Business, Still Infantile But Promises Steady Growth ... 28</p> <p>Japan's Chemical Industries, Fertilizers, Nitrogen Fixation Chemicals, Drugs, Camphor, etc. ...29</p> <p>Status of Dyestuff Industry, Competition Among Japan, Germany and America ... 33</p> <p>Miscellaneous Industrial Enterprises: Insurance, Warehouse, Rice Cultivation, Coal, Fishery, Etc. ... 35</p>
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Japan, A Land of Uniqueness

The Country Full of Features In All Phases of Human Living

A land whose beginnings are shrouded in the immemorial past, full of myths and legends—a land whose history is filled with awe and solemnity—a land whose arts and crafts reached high development rivalling those of any other lands in the Orient and of the West—a land whose literature and religions, cultural achievements and classical attainments occupied a place of distinction in the days when Europe was barbarian—a land whose traditions are filled with gods and semi-gods—a land whose people worshipped at their ruling dynasty as their source of morals and virtues—a land facing the eternal sea on four sides, impregnable from any outside countries—a land for thousands of years unsullied by footprints of invaders, never overcome by foreign foes—a land never smitten by adversity,—a land ever ambitious, materially and physically positive and rich in pride and courage—a land whose luxuriant rice fields and forested hills speak eloquently of the people's richness—a land full of historic interest and scenic beauty—

Such was Japan; the so-called "Land of the Rising Sun."

To develop the country into the world's comity after seclusion from international intercourse for centuries, to substitute industry for militaristic inclination, to increase production in the farms and fields, to improve living state among the people, to strive to get wisdom and knowledge ahead of the Western people, to bring peace by sacrificing a gigantic part of her navy to the cause of the world's peace, to promote the welfare of the inhabitants, to place education within the reach of everybody—to try to be kind to her neighbor countries—

Such is Japan's new policies she pursues, the policies appreciated both by her own people and her foreign friends.

A rapidity with which Japan is ever changing but with her basic and innate atmosphere remains as it has been since those days of the foundation of her Empire thousands years ago is a wonder to Western people. Changes that have taken place in Japan during the last several decades are astounding in many respects. They are never a mere transplanting or imitation of superficial civilization of a foreign country but have much deeper significance deserving uniqueness and feature. The industrial growth is one of the chief features of modern Japan. It called for superhuman efforts of the Japanese people to catch up with those who have preceded them in the world market—and that with material disadvantages.

Modernization

Modernization of cities and towns rivalling in name and substance with foremost metropolises of Western countries is a question that occupies a prominent position in domestic affairs. Japan is often called the "Switzerland of the Orient." The country has a large number of scenic spots, entirely characteristic of her own. Japan is a land of fine arts and theatrical plays, unique in every point, having no counterpart elsewhere on the surface of the globe. Sports have largely contributed toward the physical reconstruction of the younger generation of this country. The most remarkable tendency in recent years that should be writ large in the country's history of culture is her whole-hearted inclination to the industrial development, which, the country firmly be-