

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2, 1907.

TOKYO WELCOMES MR. TAFT.

BRILLIANT GATHERING AND INTERESTING SPEECHES.

A great arch of evergreens crowned with bright golden chrysanthemums clustered together to form letters of heroic size, that spelled "Welcome," and flanked on either side by a display of festoons of red and white, served as the gate through which guests and hosts passed to the banquet given in honour of Secretary Taft on Monday evening. The arch stood in front of the entrance to the eastern wing of the Imperial Hotel. Past the corridor, as one turned right into a winding passage leading to the annex reception room and dining hall, the scene was captivating. One walked through the luxuriant growth of the "seven beauties of autumn," the flood of electric lights distributed and toned to play on them with the most exquisite effect, making them look the genuine thing, which they were not. The dining hall was literally ablaze with captive electricity, and gay with flags and bunting on the walls and ribbons of different hues in graceful folds and beaded cords in curious tangle, hanging from the ceiling.

By seven nearly all the guests and hosts had arrived. On the host side were Marshal Prince Oyama, Foreign Minister and Countess Hayashi, Naval Minister and Baroness Saito, Finance Minister and Baroness Sakatani, Baron Matsuoka Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, Count Tanaka, Minister of the Household, Prince Tokugawa, Marquises Inouye, Matsukata, Hachisuka and Nabeshima, Count Itagaki, Mayor and Mrs. Ozaki, Count Terajima, Baron and Baroness Shibusawa, Mr. Nagasaki of the Household, Barons Takahashi and Matsuo, Vice-Minister and Baroness Chinda, Vice-Minister and Baron Ishimoto, Mr. Soyeda Governor of Industrial Bank, President Kamada, Mr. Sugita President of the House of Representatives, Messrs. Okura, Y. Takahashi, S. Hayakawa, and about a hundred others. On the guest side were noticed among others Vice-Admiral Edwards, Prof. and Mrs. Swift, Mr. and Mrs. Snow of

Washington D. C., Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Ohl, Mr. and Mrs. Miller of the U.S. Consulate-General, Mr. and Mrs. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Egan, Judge and Mrs. Burke, and so on. A little after seven Secretary and Mrs. Taft arrived together with Ambassador and Mrs. O'Brien. Then followed an informal reception. Dinner was announced at 7.30 and Baron Shibusawa led Mrs. Taft, followed by Mr. Taft with Baroness Shibusawa and other pairs in due order. The head table was shared by Prince Oyama, Marquises Inouye and Matsukata, Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien, Baron and Baroness Sakatani, Baron and Baroness Saito, Count and Countess Hayashi and Prince Tokugawa. The band (Toyama Military College) was there of course, and enlivened the entertainment. When the banquet had arrived at the dessert stage Baron Shibusawa rose and proposed the health of President Roosevelt, the courtesy being returned by Mr. Taft proposing the Emperor. After the two toasts had been loyally honoured, Baron Shibusawa rose a second time and delivered a speech of welcome, which was enthusiastically cheered. Then Mr. Taft made a reply in a most eloquent and powerful speech, which made a very profound impression. Shortly after Mr. Taft's speech was over the gathering adjourned to the reception room, when fully an hour was spent in the most enjoyable manner, international good feeling brightening every face. It was just about 11 that the party broke up.

The speeches above referred to were interpreted by Mr. Soyeda into English and Count Terajima into Japanese. We give them below in full.

BARON SHIBUSAWA'S SPEECH.

Secretary Taft, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Availing itself of the opportunity of Mr. Taft's visit to the city on his way to the Philippines and of the arrival of the new American Ambassador, Mr. O'Brien, who, by a happy coincidence has come to us on board the same vessel as Mr. Taft, the Municipality and representative citizens of Tokyo this evening hold this welcome gathering in honour of the distinguished Americans. They consider it an unsurpassed honour to have with them Mr. and Mrs. Taft, and other eminent personages both foreign and Japanese.

"Mr. Taft's name is too well known not only in America but all over the world to require me to dwell on it. And it is peculiarly gratifying that his Excellency has visited and given

us an opportunity to welcome him not for once alone. A most pleasant duty falls on me, therefore, to say a word of thanks to Mr. Taft and through him to the entire United States.

"I think it goes without saying that Japan owes it to the showing of the way by the senior nations that she has attained her present position, in spite of the comparative shortness of the period that has elapsed since the opening of the country. Especially to the United States of America we owe an unforgettable debt of gratitude. It was more than fifty years ago; in 1853 that Commodore Perry came to Uraga in command of two warships. The event proved a rude awakening to our country, that had lain slumbering from the quietness of long cessation of foreign intercourse. The cessation was the result of the advent of Jesuit missionaries, 300 years before and the country had remained sealed to the outside world since then. The only exceptions were made of the Dutch and Chinese, but even here to very limited extent. Of diplomacy, what little learned before had become buried in total neglect and remained so for 250 or 260 years. It was only natural, therefore, that Commodore Perry's visit threw the country into a panic. As the circumstances were, one may well imagine the greatness of difficulty the Commodore felt in carrying out his mission. To make the situation worse, the country was largely under the influence of what we then called the "Exclusion Party," and ashamed as I now feel to confess, I, Shibusawa, was one of the party. What with frictions within and pressure from without, those were turbulent days. They were memorable days, too. Somehow things were arranged and a treaty of friendly intercourse

was concluded in 1853, thanks to the well-disposed efforts of America. Two years later in 1855 Minister Townsend Harris arrived at Shimoda and after protracted negotiations a regular treaty of commerce was finally signed in 1859. Fifteen sessions had to be held before agreement could be arrived at on all points; the patience he had to exercise and worry of mind Mr. Harris had to endure must have been tremendous. In 1860 his secretary Mr. Hueskin fell a victim to the anti-alien spirit of the day. The regrettable incident brought no change, however, in the attitude of Mr. Harris, but to remain a firmer friend and render greater help to this country. When next year in 1861, an attack on the British Legation occurred, all the Ministers of the foreign countries in Yedo, the present Tokyo, sought safety in Yokohama, with the solitary exception of Mr. Harris. He alone remained behind in Yedo; because, he said, events of the kind were liable to happen in all newly opened countries and there was no sense in getting rattled over them. The stand he took induced the others of the diplomatic corps to gradually come back again to Yedo. It shows what

sort of man he was and how friendly that man was to Japan.

"Years rolled on and happily the state of things improved as they went and came, until Japan's progress in civil and military administration has come to attract more or less the attention of the world. The same was true also of our economic development. To give an instance, about the time of the Restoration our foreign trade was too insignificant to be noted. Even in 1873 our trade with America amounted to only five million yen. Fifteen years later in 1888 the amount rose to twenty three millions. It went on swelling and last year the figure reached 200 millions. When we think of the course of events that gave beginning to this advance onward we cannot but recall fondly the names of Commodore Perry, Townsend Harris and other able Americans as those of men who opened for us the doors that had shut us from the light of civilization. Thus it is from the bottom of their heart that the people of Japan are ever aware of the gratitude they owe and always cherish the feeling of utmost cordiality toward the people of the United States. Our people look to Americans as they would to their own nationals. It is our fervent hope that when Mr. Taft goes home he will tell his countrymen that such is the sentiment we entertain toward America and Americans. We always hope that Americans will look on Japanese as they would on their own nationals. I now ask you all to honour the toast of Secretary and Mrs. Taft."

MR. TAFT'S SPEECH.

Baron Shibusawa, Mr. Mayor, Gentlemen of the Municipality and Chamber of Commerce of Tokyo and other distinguished citizens of Tokyo,

I beg to extend to you my heartfelt thanks and acknowledgement for this magnificent evidence of your hospitality and good will. It is a little more than two years ago since a large party, of whom I was one, was the recipient of a similar courtesy and attention in this very hotel at the hands of the then Prime Minister Count Katsura. So many were we then that I ventured to compare our coming to the descent of a cloud of locusts upon this devoted land. But you stood the onslaught nobly and your treatment of us is a bright memory, never to be effaced. At that time you were engaged in a titanic struggle with another great nation, but the first traces of the dawn of peace were appearing in the East. We Americans shall always feel proud of the part that Theodore Roosevelt, with the prestige of the leadership of our people was able to play in hastening the end of the war. Peace has come under circumstances honourable to both parties and Japan having proved her greatness in war as in peace has taken her stand in the first rank of the family of nations. You have concluded new treaties with your former antagonist,

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of amity and commerce, and the wounds of war are healed.

The growth of Japan from a hermit country to her present position in the last fifty years is the marvel of the world. In every step of that development, even at the very beginning, we Americans are proud of record the fact that Japan has always had the cordial sympathy and at times the effective aid of the United States. The names of Commodore Perry, of Townsend Harris, of John A. Bingham, of General Grant and Theodore Roosevelt will be inseparably connected with the history of the advance of Japan to the first rank among the world powers. But now for a moment, and a moment only, a little cloud has come over the sunshine of a fast friendship of fifty years—a slight shock has been felt in the structure of amity and good will that has withstood the test of half a century—how has it come about? Well in the first place, it took a tremendous manifestation of Nature to bring it about. Only the greatest earthquake of the century could have caused even the slightest tremour between such friends. I do not intend to consider the details of the events in San Francisco. I cannot trespass on the jurisdiction of the Department of State, of my colleague Mr. Root or my friend Mr. O'Brien to discuss them. But this I can say—that there is nothing in these events of injustice that cannot be honourably and fully arranged by ordinary diplomatic methods between the two Governments, conducted as they both are by statesmen of honour, sanity and justice, and representing as they do two peoples bound together by half a century of warm friendship.

It is said that there is one word that is never allowed to creep into diplomatic correspondence between nations, however hostile, and that word is "war". But I am not a diplomat and am not bound by diplomatic usage.—I can talk of war. I am not one of those who hold that war is so frightful that nothing justifies a resort to it. We have not yet reached the millenium and there are international grievances that can be redressed, and just international grievances that can be accomplished in no other way. But as one of our great generals has said "War is hell" and nothing but a great and unavoidable cause can justify it.

War between Japan and the United States would be a crime against modern civilization. It would be as wicked as it would be insane. Neither the people of Japan nor the people of the United States desire war. The Governments of the two countries would strain every point to avoid such an awful catastrophe.

What has Japan to gain by it? What has the United States to gain by it? Japan has reached a point in her history where she is looking forward with confident hope to great

commercial conquest. She is shaking off the effects of war and is straining every nerve for victories of peace. With the marvellous industry, intelligence and courage of her people there is nothing in trade, commerce and popular contentment and enlightenment to which she may not attain. Why should she wish a war that would stop all this? She has undertaken with a legitimate interest in so close a neighbour to reform and rejuvenate an ancient kingdom that has been governed or misgoverned by fifteenth century methods. His Majesty the Emperor has shown his appreciation of the difficulty of the task by sending to Korea Japan's greatest statesman who has exhibited his patriotism by accepting the heavy burden when by his years and his arduous labours for his country in the past he has earned a right to rest. No matter what reports may come, no matter what criticism may be uttered, the world will have confidence that Prince Ito and the Japanese Government are pursuing a policy in Korea that will make for justice and civilization and the welfare of a backward people. We are living in an age when intervention of a stronger nation in the affairs of a people unable to maintain a government of law and order, to assist the latter to better government becomes a national duty, and works for the progress of the world. Why should Japan wish a war that must stop or seriously delay the execution of her plans of reform in Korea?

Why should the United States wish war? War would change her in a year or more into a military nation and her great resources would be wasted in a vast equipment that would serve no good purpose, but to tempt her to warlike policies. In the last decade she has shown a material progress greater than the world has ever before seen. To-day she is struggling with the abuses which accompany such material development and is engaged in an effort by process of law to retain the good for her people and to suppress the evil. Why should she wish war, in which all the evils of society flourish and on which all the vultures fatten?

She is engaged in establishing a government of law, order and prosperity in the Philippine Islands and in fitting the people of those islands, by general education and actual practice in partial self-government, to govern themselves. It is a task full of difficulty and one which many Americans would be glad to be rid of. It has been suggested that we might relieve ourselves of this burden by the sale of the islands to Japan or some other country. The suggestion is absurd. Japan does not want the Philippines. She has problems of a similar nature nearer home. But more than this the United States could not sell the Islands to another Power without the grossest violation of its obligation to the Philippine people. It must maintain a government of

law and order and the protection of life, liberty and property or fit the people of the islands to do so and turn the government over to them. No other course in honour is open to it.

Under all these circumstances, then, could anything be more wicked and more infamous than the suggestion of war between nations who have enjoyed such a time honoured friendship and who have nothing to fight for?

"If this be true" someone asks "why such reports and rumours of war?"

The capacity of certain members of the modern press by head lines and sensational dispatches to give rise to unfounded reports has grown with the improvement in communication between distant parts of the world. The desire to sell their papers, the desire for political reasons to embarrass an existing government, and other even less justifiable motives have led to misstatements, misconstructions, unfounded guesses, all worked into terrifying headlines that have no foundation whatever. In each country doubtless there are irresponsible persons that war would aid or make prominent who try to give seriousness to such a discussion; but when one considers the real feelings of the two peoples as a whole, when one considers the situation from the standpoint of sanity and real patriotism in each country it is difficult to characterize in polite or moderate language the conduct of those who are attempting to promote misunderstanding and ill feeling between the two countries. It gives me pleasure to assure the people of Japan that the good will of the American people toward Japan is as warm and cordial as it ever was, and the suggestion of the breach of the amicable relations between them finds no confirmation in the public opinion of the United States.

It is exceedingly gratifying for me to have as my companion in my visit to these shores, Mr. O'Brien the new ambassador to Japan from the United States. We have been friends for years. I am sure you will find in Mr. O'Brien all that could be desired in one whose chief official duty it will be to preserve the friendship between our two countries.

I have already referred to the enthusiastic welcome which was accorded our party of American Congressmen two years ago by the people of Japan. So great was the kindness of His Majesty the Emperor and the officers of the Government that we were overcome with our welcome. Coming now to this country for the fourth time I am an old story and am not entitled to any other welcome than to be accorded an old friend who comes often. The distinction of being the Emperor's guest at this time I do not deserve and I should feel it my duty to decline, enjoyable as the honour is, but the fact that I know that His Imperial Majesty graciously adopts this course not as a personal matter but to signify to the American people and Government the continuance of

his friendship for the United States. It gives me the greatest pleasure and is a great honour for me to be able to bring a reciprocal message of good will from our President and our people.

Following are the menu and musical programme of the evening:—

MENU.

Hors d'œuvre varie
Consomme à la Printanier
Dorade de Saumon sauce Crevettes
Aloyau de Bœuf à la Jardinière
Aspic de Foie Gras en belle-vue
Punch aux Champagnes
Asperges sauce vinaigrette
Poulet de grain aux truffes
Salade à l'Américaine
Glace Panachee
Fruits Dessert
Mocca.

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC.

1. The stars and Stripes Forever March. ... Sousa.
2. America Overture and National airs. ... Mosee.
3. Grande Fantaisie aus der Oper aus Carmen. Bizet.
4. Les cloches de Corneville Valse. ... Planquette.
5. Grande Fantaisie sur Faust. ... Gounod.
6. Donaumeibchen Walzer ... Strauss.
7. Galop du chemin de fer. ... Ernest Boué.