Japanese Emigration Scheme

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MANCHURIA

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ALONG JAPAN'S CONTINENTAL POLICY.

The settling of Japanese farmers in large numbers in Manchoukuo (estimated at 5,000,000 people in 1,000,000 households in the course of twenty years from 1936) was decided upon the same year at a joint conference between the Japanese and Manchoukuo authorities.

About the same time, the plan to settle 750,000 Koreans in Manchoukuo in fifteen years' time was decided on by the Manchoukuo-Chosen Emigration Company.

Incidentally, the scheme of settling Japanese Youth volunteers in the young Empire was set in execution.

What cardinal importance this problem has assumed in laying the foundation for the so called East Asia collaborative units might be inferred from the address given by Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Isogaye of the Kwantung Army, Hsinking at the Immigration Conference convoked in the Capital in January last. He said in part: "In order to make the Japanese immigration scheme serve its intended purpose of laying the foundation for the East Asia collaborative unit system, the neighbourly understanding of Japanese settlers with their native brethren comes up as one of the necessary conditions towards realizing the national ideals of the 'One Mind & One Heart' and the fraternal concord of the Five Races that make up the loyal subjects of H.M. the Emperor of Manchukuo.

"Of course, the same problem will help much towards solving the dual question of surplus population and the low economic status of the rural districts of Japan, but above both, the fulfilment of Japan's continental policy based upon honour and humanity must be the fundamental aim never to be lost sight of.

"From this generous and practical point of view, measures ought to be taken to see both moral and material burdens borne by the different essential races of the young Empire equalized as far as possible."

The one new tone that underlay all the problems discussed at the Hsinking conference in January last was to unify the immigration policy for Japan and Manchoukuo.

In tune with this new line of policy, the General Board of Immigration was founded, and has been entrusted among other things with all affairs concerning the expropriation of land. The training of the Japanese youth volunteers has been taken over by the Racial Concord Association, while all matters
bearing on the administration of the settlers are attended to directly by Government authorities.

Further, the Immigration Commission and the Manchuria Immigration Co. are to be reorganized prior to the ultimate amalgamation of both the same company and its sister concern, the Manchuria-Chosen Immigration Co.

**MANCHOUKUO’S NEW CONTENTIONS**

At the Manchoukuo-Japan joint conference at the Colonial Ministry, Tokyo, in the latter part of April, Manchoukuo seemed intent on carrying their own contentions of which there are several as expounded below.

**MANCHOUKUO’S RESPONSIBILITY**

While conceding the need of confirming the indivisible relations of Manchoukuo and Japan and that of realizing the spirit in which Manchoukuo made her advent, the scope of her responsibility regarding the immigration issue should be definitely demarcated around the General Board of Immigration.

Where the Manchuria Immigration Commission stands and a rational change in the manner of operating the same commission, and incidentally how the Manchuria Immigration Co. stands should each be clearly defined. Then, how to adjust the relation of Manchoukuo’s position to Japan’s Emigration Council will have to be studied, so that the limit of Manchoukuo’s responsibility in carrying out her immigration policy in a more positive style may be laid down in black and white.

**LAND PROBLEM**

As regards the land system of the Japanese farm-immigrants, which topic was one of heated debate at the last session of Parliament, Manchoukuo proposes to vindicate their position on the question in guaranteeing to settlers the right of permanent tillage which constitutes the basic condition for a stable livelihood. They mean to set to rights the distorted views held on the matter in Japan by establishing the State policy of nationalizing the Heaven-endowed land, in order to give effect to a tenancy system as a permanent heritage. Again, while the readjustment, improvement, etc., of the settled areas are in principle conducted on a national management basis, what concerns the unsettled areas is to be attended to by the Manchuria Land Investment Co. to be organized for the purpose soon.
MANCHURIA IMMIGRATION CO.

Since the Manchoukuo Government is the dynamic centre or the subject-body operating the immigration enterprise, the management of the Manchuria Immigration Co. should properly be invested in Manchoukuo and the company ought to take up the guidance and aid of the immigrants as an instrument of the national policy, besides undertaking other sundry activities in their behalf.

MERGING OF TWO IMMIGRATION COS.

It would seem more desirable for the Manchuria Immigration Co. and the Manchuria-Chosen Emigration Co. to be amalgamated, in order to enhance mutual harmony among the different essential races on a footing of racial equality.

TRAINING OF YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

The supervision and training of the young immigrant-volunteers, as carried on by the Manchuria Immigration Co., ought to be handed over altogether to Manchoukuo in favour of the Concordia Association and the General Board of Immigration. These volunteers, granting their approved quality, are looked upon as the sturdy, virile backbone of the settlers, a veritable accelerator of the nation's forward march, at the same time, a positive link for Manchoukuo-Japan relations.

The propositions in the mind of Manchoukuo, as above given, are grounded upon high ideals, it may be readily admitted, but how far a scheme of so radical a complexion would meet the views of the Japanese is a matter for conjecture.

It is another instance of where theory meets practice.

NEW LAND PROPOSITION

For example, the land problem presents an indifferent front.

Heretofore, the South Manchuria Railway Co. bought lots of land for resale to the immigrants at cost price, for repayment in twenty years-time.

This institution has awarded landownership to the settlers concerned.
By the proposed plan, as far as land goes, it is to be purchased by the Hsinking Government as State property, and to be prepared for occupancy and cultivation at the hands of the General Board of Immigration, Manchoukuo. The immigrants are to secure permanent tenancy of land, in place of ownership. Of course, a sound guarantee is granted for the right of tenancy as proof against dispossession.

In plainer words, the land in question is left at the free disposal of the tenant, except for the transfer of ownership which, in each case, belongs to the State.

Through this peculiar arrangement, a piece of land so tenanted is kept from being disposed of for the sake a profit for one thing.

Second, the tendency for farming of a capitalistic colour will be nipped in the bud.

Third, this novel departure concerning land management will help substantially to build farming colonies on ideal lines.

It is bound to work out an epoch-making revolution in the land-management system of the world in the end.

Nonetheless, it is apart by a broad gap from the deep-rooted conception of farming in Japan.

On the floor of Parliament, one day during the last session, an M.P. (Mr. Kobayashi) sounded a warning that all intending emigrants aspiring to landownership in Manchoukuo would be deterred from trying their luck there. "This institution," he went on, "may be regarded as anything but a wholesome one. Ownership is instinctive in man, and any economic system denying it cannot be solid or enduring."

On the Manchoukuo side, such a line of argument is dismissed lightly as not grounded upon the principle of land-nationalization or State ownership of land.

As a counter-argument, they aver that the land problem was debated upon in a thoroughgoing manner at the last Hsinking conference. Permanent tenancy is not yet accepted for a final decision.

However, unlike the permanent tenancy institution as is in vogue in Japan, the new Manchoukuo system admits no land-owner to interpose between the land and the tenant, but confirms the tenant's perpetual right to till and manage land.

It is meant to eliminate the high-handed domination of land-owners over their tenants, as is often met with in the Japanese rural districts.

PERMANENT INHERITANCE TILLAGE
Moreover, the Manchoukuo Government has further enlarged upon its principle the ensure to the tenant-farmers a permanent inheritance tillage, saying: "For building up wholesome rural villages, for managing the farming industry on ideal lines, for stabilizing agricultural economy, and for elevating the farmers' level of living, the authorities propose to establish a hereditary indivisibility between the farmers and their tenanted lands, to prevent any one outside any particular village from owning farmland in it, to keep a farm-field from getting split up, to prevent monopolistic possession of an extensive farm area, and to do away with all absentee land-owners from fattening on the tenancy rents, and to keep incongruous elements from intruding into the village community.

All these are for building up rural villages, both solid and wholesome, that are each composed of honest, steady independent farmers who really ought to constitute the core and kernel of the Manchoukuo people.

In addition, special regulations and arrangements will be instituted, restricting the transfer of farmland to any one other than one of the immigrant colonies or other specific parties. In case any settler is deprived temporarily, wholly or in part, of the ability to tend farmland, the gap so created then is to be properly filled by one of the parties just mentioned.

By this means, an abnormal rise in land price or the tenancy rent as a sequel to the random transfers of land-ownership may be precluded, doing away at the same time with possible inflation of farm-produce costs.

The living of both farming classes and consumers will thus be stabilized and improved.

The above line of argument reads indeed as logically sound and unassailable and will be presented at the coming Tokyo conference due to open in the middle of May.

However, the land problem being the focal question on which the immigration policy pivots, it is expected to turn out to be the central bone of contention.

In consonance with the new front to be adopted by Manchoukuo a necessary change will have to be introduced in the administration of the Japanese immigrants in Manchoukuo.

**JAPANESE COLONIES TO BE MERGED**

As the local administrative institutions of Manchoukuo become improved, the Japanese immigrants' colonies, too, will have to be merged in the existing township and village system under Manchoukuo Government control.

With this end in view, a radical change is expected to come over the make-up of the emigrants' parties
and the allocations of new colonial sites in future.

Preliminarily to the coming Tokyo conference, the leading representatives of the Japanese Government and the Manchoukuo Government, the latter by President Hoshino of the General Affairs Board, the Hsinking Government, have met in Tokyo to compare notes.

Above all, it is apparent that, as far as the Japanese immigration problem is concerned, the unification of the Japanese and the Manchoukuo system separately, accompanied with their proper adjustment to each other, looks inevitable.

On the part of Manchoukuo they expect the Japanese to recruit intending immigrants of fine quality, and to give them preliminary training before transporting them to Manchoukuo, allowing them a stated grant. For all the rest, Manchoukuo will be prepared to answer.

At the principal conference coming off in May, a permanent immigration policy is to be shaped once and for all.

**MORAL PHASE OF THE ISSUE**

By the immigration of Japanese settlers in strong force to Manchoukuo, the foundation of this country will be all the more consolidated. Her frontier defence be adequately strengthened, peace and order in her realm further safe-guarded, and moreover, growth in industry and an advance in culture achieved.

Parallel with the progress of the immigration scheme, the Five Year Reconstruction Programme of Manchoukuo is being pushed ahead, that will enhance her national strength and wealth to such plane as to make her amply capable of coping with any possible menace from the northern borders.

The Japanese immigration idea is not based upon its material phase alone, that is merely as an outlet for Japan's surplus population and the earning of a livelihood for the immigrants in the new land of promise, but also upon its moral phase which means that the Japanese settlers are expected to play the role of leaders to the other four races among whom they live in cultivating harmonious racial concord, for one thing, on the precept of right and humanity.

When this ideal becomes translated into concrete reality, the Young Empire of Manchoukuo will become the centre of the new order in East Asia, an effective earnest to lasting peace in the Orient.