

FINE QUALITIES OF JAPANESE PRAISED

Seattle Man Lauds Industry,
Sense of Honor and Patriot-
ism of Settlers Here.

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Bank.

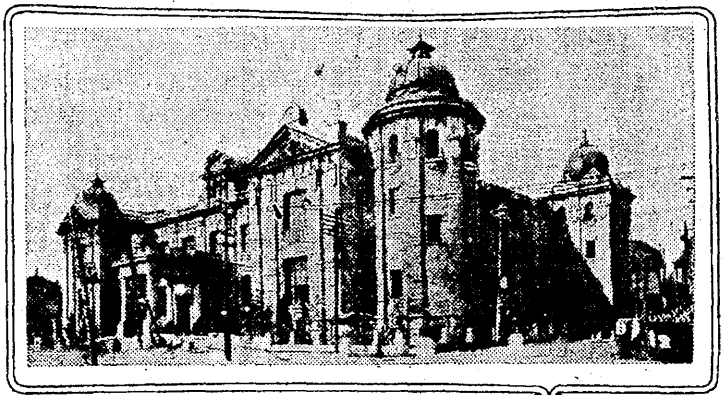
In the spring of 1903 the late A. Hat-
tori, a Princeton student and a man
noted for his genial, kindly interest in
all things American, approached me
with a view of establishing a Japanese
garden on Bainbridge Island. This he
did in the interest of his employer, M.
Furuya. From this first interview,
followed later by a visit from David
Fairchild, chief of the Bureau of Ex-
ploration, Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C., has come about the
development of sixty-nine acres of
rough land adjoining my own home
into a beautiful Japanese garden and
grounds.

It has also led to my friendship
with several Japanese gentlemen who
have given me an insight into both
old and modern Japan, so that when I
hear our famous Hobson talk about
"The Yellow Peril" I wonder how he
became inoculated with such poisonous
sentiments.

It would be fortunate if all the fol-
lowers of Mr. Hobson and his views
were able to hear Minosaku Yamamoto,
now lecturing on the Chautauqua cir-
cuit and making a most effectual re-
ply to Mr. Hearst, for I am rather in-
clined to think that most of the criti-
cism directed against the Japanese is
supported by what one writer calls
"the valor of ignorance," and not by
actual facts.

One hears on all sides the state-
ments made that if you rent your prop-
erty to the Japanese they will make it
produce abundantly and leave it in an

HEADQUARTERS OF BANK OF CHOSEN



ONE of the most important among
the larger banks of Japan is the
Bank of Chosen (Korea), which was
established in 1903 with headquarters
at Seoul. Its latest semi-annual report
shows subscribed capital of 20,000,000
yen; paid up capital of 17,500,000 yen
and reserve fund of 1,682,000 yen.
The bank has branches in Korea at
Chemulpo, Pyenyang, Wonsan, Taiku,
Fusan, Chinnampo, Kusan, Mokpo,

Masan, Shinwiju, Ranam and Hoilyong;
in Japan at Tokyo, Osaka and Kobe;
in Manchuria at Dairen, Mukden,
Changchun, Antung, Szupingchien, Kai-
yuan, Harbin, Yingkow (Newchwang),
Fuchiatien, Lungchingsun and Kirin;
in China at Tientsin.
The board of directors includes S.
Minobe, governor; T. Mishima, Y. Ki-
mura, S. Ohta and K. Katayama. Audi-
tors, C. Ito and K. Hattori.

impoverished condition when their
lease expires. Now the Japanese them-
selves are amazed when they learn for
the first time that many of our East-
ern farms have been abandoned be-
cause the soil has deteriorated to such
an extent that nothing of value can be
raised on it. In their own country, they
say, such a thing is unheard of. They
became farmers, of course, from neces-
sity. At a time when emigration was
forbidden and a ban was placed on the
importation of foreign products they
were forced to turn their attention in-
ward and to wrest from their native
soil all that it could possibly give them
without hurting its future productiv-

ity. And there is still another reason
for the acquisition of this habit of in-
tensive cultivation. (Their country is
small and they cannot afford to prac-
tise the improvident method of mov-
ing from one farm to another when
the first fertility of the soil has been
exhausted, since before long they
would find themselves with nothing
left to cultivate but the ocean. As a
result of these conditions, the Japa-
nese have made themselves preeminently
successful on the small farm. Recent-
ly many well-educated young Japanese
have taken up the study of farming
and should prove a valuable asset to
us among our emigrant population.
As to the frequent complaint made,
usually by other foreigners, that the
value of adjoining places is lowered
when a farm is rented to Japanese, it
might be worth while to note in this
connection that often the Japanese
take over what has always been looked
upon as worthless land and make
something of value out of it, so that
other people who had previously passed
it by for easier wages are anxious to
acquire it.

High Sense of Honor.

Another all too frequent assertion
that one is apt to hear is that the
Japanese are essentially dishonest. If
one is to judge from the experience of
people who have had extensive dealings
with them they are essentially honest
in their business transactions and have
an enviable sense of honor. The state-
ment of the distributors of the Encyclo-
pædia Britannica published in The Lon-
don Times some years ago, would make
interesting reading for the man who
insists upon attributing to a race char-
acteristics that belong only to certain
individuals or groups. In this connec-
tion I cannot resist reference to the
classical story that the Japanese em-
ploy Chinese cashiers in their banks be-
cause they cannot trust their own peo-
ple. This ridiculous legend has its
prototype in the assertion made by a
Russian writing on America, which was
in effect that as a nation we were so
dishonest that guaranty companies
were necessary to insure the fidelity of
our employees.

In the city of Seattle and its environs
there are now about 40,000 Japanese, all
enthusiastic boosters for Seattle and
Puget Sound. Liberty Bonds and War
Savings Limit Clubs receive strong sup-
port from them and there are no drones
or slackers when the call comes. In-
deed, were the Allies to ask for armed
intervention in the Far East we should
unquestionably lose a very large per-
centage of our Japanese American col-
onists who would welcome a chance to
do their bit.

Growth of Trade.

From an association covering a pe-
riod of many years I have watched the
growth of trade relations between the
Orient and Seattle and particularly be-
tween Japan and Seattle with a great
deal of interest. Ten years ago we had
now the leading Japanese American
bank in the city had dingy quarters in
the rear of a wholesale store and nomi-
nal deposits; now it occupies a leading
corner in the wholesale district and has
deposits of \$1,500,000. There are today
five Japanese banks in the city, three
state banks and two foreign branches,
with deposits amounting to over \$2,400,-
000. The exports through Seattle to the
Orient for the year ending December,
1917, amounted to \$123,000,000 and the
imports for the same period are valued
at \$17,000,000, and 75 per cent of these
exports and imports were made direct-
ly to and from Japan. There are at
present 150 business houses in Seattle
engaged in trade with the Orient, and
during the year 1917 there arrived at
Seattle from Japan 156 vessels of 675,-
502 tons and there sailed from Seattle
for Japan 204 vessels of 712,603 tons.



The Needs of Foreign Trade

When the history of these strenuous days
is written the expansion of Seattle, from
the modest port of the Northwest to one
of the greatest shipping centers of Amer-
ica, will form an amazing chapter of
achievement.

Our business men have been quick to note
the needs of the awakening world across
the Pacific and we are proud of the fact
that they have found the Seattle National
Bank a well informed and thoroughly ef-
ficient ally.

Whatever the needs of your foreign trade
may be you will find our Letters of Credit
available everywhere.

Consult us regarding your Export and
Import business. We may be able to sim-
plify it for you.