

Japan Seeks More Trade with Philippines



Recent Delegation of Japanese Peers to Manila

TIT Photo

Front row, left to right:—Kisichiro Oka, Katsuraron Inabata, Dr. Yasushi Hijikata, Masanosuke Kato, Viscount Kiko Okoehi, and Shintaro Kumeta. Back row, left to right:—Tobukei Tanaka, Baron Yoshishisa Saki, Baron Masatane Inada, Jiro Kobayashi, Mr. Inabata, Jr., and Mr. Oka, Jr.

Chairman of the delegation of Japanese peers who visited the islands late in June and early in July was Dr. Yasushi Hijikata. Following is a portion of an interview with Dr. Hijikata from the Manila Daily Bulletin of July 6:

"Any trade agreement that may be entered into between Japan and the Philippines must be in accord with existing treaties between Japan and the United States and must have the sanction of the United States," declared Dr. Yasushi Hijikata, chairman of the delegation of Japanese peers who left Manila yesterday afternoon.

Dr. Hijikata gave a special interview a few hours prior to the departure of the delegation, which left on the Dollar liner *President Jackson* for Hongkong. The ship sailed at 3 p. m.

A number of prominent persons in the city, including Gregorio Nieve, secretary of the Philippine legislative trade commission that visited Japan last April, and several local Japanese residents, went to Pier 7 to bid the party goodbye. From Hongkong the delegation will go to Japan direct on a Japanese steamer.

In the course of the interview, Dr. Hijikata pointed out the great latent and potential resources of the Philippines. He said for many years yet to come this country will remain agricultural. He visualized the tremendous possibilities for development. For this purpose, he said the Philippines needs capital and labor.

"It would be advisable," he declared, "if corporations jointly capitalized by Filipinos, Americans and Japanese could be formed for investment here and for the development of the vast resources of the country. As to labor, Japan can furnish all that the Islands may need. It is for this reason that Japan is encouraging the emigration of her people to the Philippines.

"With the development of the agricultural industries of the Islands, there is no doubt that the greater portion of their products can be easily absorbed by Japan. Our industries in the empire are in great need of raw products, and these can be supplied by the Philippines. Thus will the two countries be mutually benefited."

Among the products that Dr. Hijikata believes are greatly needed in Japan are mineral products, lumber, hemp and tobacco. He said that, according to information furnished him, the Philippines is rich in mineral resources. Greater effort should be exerted to develop and utilize them, he said.

Smuggling...

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The average Chinese has no inclination to pay customs duty because he sees no direct return for himself from the money so paid. And for that he can hardly be blamed. For centuries their public funds have been misappropriated, squandered and converted for personal uses. The money paid into the public coffers has been a donation to some overlord. While this situation is not true today of the modern coastwise cities, it is going to take much time to educate the people to take a cooperative and sympathetic view towards the necessity of meeting legitimate tax payments. A good portion of the customs tax now collected goes to the maintenance of light houses, ships for taking care of the light houses, and for the marking and charting of coastwise waters. Neither are most of the Chinese in favor of the taxes on food-stuffs, tobacco and the necessities of life. It hits them close to home. Such taxes are as unpopular as the Volstead Act was in the United States and are evaded as frequently as Americans evaded the Volstead Act, with even more reason for doing so.

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