

**EIICHI SHIBUSAWA'S 1909 JAPANESE GOODWILL/BUSINESS DELEGATION VISIT TO AMERICA LIKELY SERVED AS A CATALYST FOR THE CREATION OF THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE WORLD'S LARGEST BUSINESS ORGANIZATION**



November **1909** photo from **The Coast** magazine (Seattle, Washington) - The caption reads: **Baron and Baroness Shibusawa** and group of the commercial commissioners and some of their wives taken in front of the Forestry Building. **Alaska-Pacific Exposition.** – Courtesy “The North American Times,” Seattle.

Baron and Baroness Shibusawa are front center in group photo.

Note: *The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition* was a world's fair held in Seattle, publicizing the development of the Pacific Northwest. The fairgrounds became the campus of the **University of Washington.**

*The cover of The Coast magazine is presented below.*

SPECIAL FEATURES IN THIS NUMBER:

The Japanese in Seattle

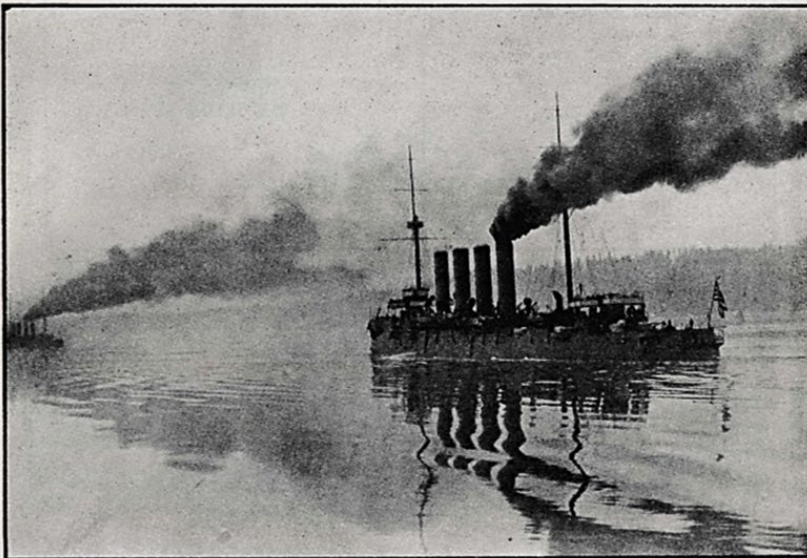
The United States and Japan

# THE COAST

ALASKA AND GREATER NORTHWEST

NOVEMBER, 1909

VOL. 18. No. 5



Japanese Cruisers "Aso" and "Soya" leaving Seattle for the Sunny Smiles of Fair Japan



THE COAST PUBLISHING COMPANY

14th and Main St., SEATTLE, U. S. A.

PRICE FIFTEEN CENTS

**THE COAST** – ALASKA AND GREATER NORTHWEST, November 1909, Volume 18. No. 5, The Coast Publishing Company

*Special Features:* The Japanese in Seattle & The United States and Japan.

This publication highlighted the history of the Japanese community in Seattle, Washington and also the **1909 visit to Seattle, by Eiichi Shibusawa** (1840-1931), accompanied by his Japanese goodwill/business delegation. This was part of a three month tour of the United States - During that period, they were greeted and befriended in 53 cities across the nation. The delegation included bankers, presidents of the chambers of commerce from the largest cities in Japan, businessmen who were members of the Japanese Diet (congress), and several Japanese consuls general who were stationed in the United States. Delegates also included representatives of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, lawyers, publishers, journalists, as well as a university professor and a physician. The Japanese delegation's trip was arranged by **Asahi**, one of the largest newspapers in Japan (which is currently known as **The Asahi Shimbun** (朝日新聞)).

To make the visitors' experience in the U.S. more enjoyable, six members of the **Associated Chambers of Commerce of the Pacific Coast** volunteered to accompany their Japanese friends/business colleagues, to assist in managing the events along their journey. These representatives were:

- J. D. Lowman, Seattle, President
- C. H. Hyde, Tacoma
- Charles Stallman, San Francisco
- O. M. Clark, Portland
- H. Z. Osborne, Los Angeles
- C. Herbert Moore, Spokane

The U.S. government recognized the international significance of the Japanese delegation visit and sent several additional representatives to accompany the delegates, to be of assistance during their travels. Included among them was: **Governor David Rowland Francis** (October 1, 1850 – January 15, 1927) an American politician and diplomat. He served in various positions including Mayor of St.

Louis, the 27th Governor of Missouri, and **U.S. Secretary of the Interior**. [\[Note 1\]](#) for more info about the U.S. government representatives accompanying the Japanese delegation.

During their visit, the Japanese delegates were greeted by many distinguished American leaders including **President William Howard Taft**, whom Baron Shibusawa *and* his close Japanese ally **Prince Iyesato Tokugawa** had already befriended years earlier, when Taft visited Japan while serving as minister of war, under President Theodore Roosevelt.

Shibusawa and his delegation were greeted by the inventor **Thomas Alva Edison** of **General Electric**, and **James Jerome Hill** of **Great Northern Railway**. When their continental journey ended, they left San Francisco on November 30, traveling to Honolulu, Hawaii, then arriving in Japan on December 17, 1909. With them, they carried fresh information on a wide range of industries, as well as many new cultural insights.

The stated goals of the Japanese delegation were:

- To increase and extend trade relations between the U.S. and Japan
- Improve personal acquaintances and friendly relations between representatives of both nations.

### **Additional Background History on Baron Shibusawa and his 1909 delegation:**

Baron Shibusawa is known as the “**Father of Japanese capitalism**” and frequently referred to as the “Japanese J. P. Morgan.” An industrialist and entrepreneur, he was responsible for introducing Western-style capitalism to Japan during the Emperor Meiji period (1868-1912). With financial interests in railroads, steel, printing, gas, electric, mining, fishing, and oil, Shibusawa quickly became Japan’s wealthiest man. During his long life, Shibusawa helped launch over 500 companies, and was responsible for modernizing Japan’s

economic and banking systems, including the introduction of paper currency. At one time, he was the director of seventy companies, however, he resisted direct ownership/control of most of the companies he helped launch, preferring an advisory role, thereby, giving more freedom for these new companies to determine their own strategies for growth.

Shibusawa founded the **Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry** [2] and the **First National Bank of Japan** [3] – and for two decades, he was the chairman of the **Tokyo Chamber of Commerce**. His priorities went beyond pure profit, when referring to his business ventures, he called it *stakeholder capitalism* (rather than traditional capitalism). He felt strongly that the growth of a nation, economically and otherwise, depended on the involvement of many stakeholders. While profit was a significant goal, he often integrated ethical beliefs, and even Confucianism, into his management practices...Beyond his business interests, he utilized his own funds to establish over 600 organizations aimed at social welfare, including hospitals, universities, and disaster relief programs among others.

At the start of the twentieth century, U.S.–Japanese relations reached a new stage, with Japan emerging as an economic powerhouse in the Pacific, combined with its growing military. To ease potential tensions between the two countries and also increase business/financial relations between their nations, a delegation of U.S. businessmen were invited to visit Japan in 1908. This invitation was sent to representatives of the **Associated Chambers of Commerce of the Pacific Coast**; this invitation came from the chambers of commerce of six major Japanese cities: **Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe, and Nagoya**. Their invitation was accepted, and approximately sixty U.S. representatives made a tour of Japan, where they were received with generous and even lavish hospitality, not only by the people, but also by the imperial government. The leader of this U.S. business delegation was **Frank A. Vanderlip**, a prominent U.S. banker - Prince Iyesato Tokugawa and Baron Eiichi Shibusawa were central figures in receiving this U.S. delegation during their visit to Japan. In future years, Vanderlip

would take a leadership role in creating the **U.S. Federal Reserve System**, to stabilize American monetary policies. He actively supported good U.S. Japan relations, and would become the President of the **Japan Society of New York City**.

-In appreciation for the fine cordiality shown to the **U.S. delegation** during their **1908** visit to Japan, an invitation in **1909** was now sent to the Japanese to tour the U.S. This invitation came from the **Associated Chambers of Commerce of the Pacific Coast**, whose membership included the chambers of commerce of eight principle cities, the first four in California, the others from Oregon and Washington:

-San Francisco

-Los Angeles

-San Diego

-Oakland

-Seattle

-Tacoma

-Portland

-Spokane

Based on this gracious invitation, in 1909, Baron Shibusawa headed the Japanese delegation. They sailed from Yokohama, on August 19, on the American steamship *Minnesota*, and arrived first in Seattle, Washington, on Wednesday, Sept. 1st. They left Seattle on Sept. 6th, and began their journey visiting 53 cities in total from the West coast to Boston, and returning from New York back to Los Angeles and then to San Francisco.

Of the fifty-eight members in this Japanese delegation, six were women (five of them the wives of the commissioners), thirteen private secretaries, and thirty-nine commissioners. They would travel 11,000 miles thru-out the U.S. before returning home. This delegation included nine members of the **Japanese parliament**, two of the

**largest banking houses** were represented by **Baron Shibusawa**, and the bank of **Mitsui & Co.** represented by **Kenzo Iwahara** Managing Director. There were six other bankers in the group, and also representatives of nearly every line of industry and commerce, including the ownership and management of electric railways, shipbuilding, manufacturing of silk and cotton, exporting and importing, and stock market brokerage – The professions of law and medicine were also represented, as well as some well-known Japanese educators, authors, and newspaper writers.

Their main goals were to develop friendship between the two nations while encouraging bilateral trade and commerce. This sentiment was repeatedly expressed by Shibusawa and other commission members, as well as by their American hosts. The delegation made the news across the United States, during the course of their three month journey. They traveled in a specially outfitted ‘Million Dollar Train,’ provided by the American industrial community. Their meetings included many chambers of commerce. There were also tours of factories, power plants, fire departments, port facilities, mines, farms, schools, universities, libraries, theaters, churches, hospitals, and many other facilities.

**\*It is significant to note that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1912, just three years after the 1909 visit of the Shibusawa delegation** – It is most likely that this highly publicized Japanese delegation visit served as a *pivotal catalyst* connecting chambers of commerce across America, motivating them to recognize the benefits of becoming a national organization. **President William Howard Taft** was one of the U.S. leaders that **Eiichi Shibusawa and his delegates** met with during their visit, and Taft is recognized as having strongly encouraged the establishment of the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce**, to support and enhance the economy of the United States. The Japanese already had a national Chamber of Commerce, which might well have served as a helpful model for the Americans.

*Note: **The Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation / Museum** (located in Japan) honors and preserves the legacy of Baron Eiichi Shibusawa and his allies – Their website is:*

<https://www.shibusawa.or.jp/english/museum/>

#### AUTHOR NOTE:

Much of the historical content for this article was discovered while researching for the illustrated biography **THE ART OF PEACE:**

This biography highlights Prince Iyesato Tokugawa and his allies, such as Baron Eiichi Shibusawa - these Japanese statesmen and humanitarians devoted their lives to creatively promoting peaceful international relations, a prosperous global economy, and democracy – The biography is based on two decades of research, combined with hundreds of illustrations, which reveal many significant unknown details that shaped the destinies of the United States and Japan.



Available thru Amazon:

[The Art of Peace](#) General Reader Edition

[The Art of Peace](#) Expanded Edition - Additional Notes and an Index



## Print and Kindle Edition of the Prince Iyesato Tokugawa biography:

HISTORY-BIOGRAPHY

# THE ART OF DIPLOMACY


This biography celebrates one of the great international statesmen of his time. Prince Tokugawa Iesato (1863-1940) (aka Prince Iyesato Tokugawa) was an adept diplomat and devoted humanitarian who served as a cultural and political bridge between the East and the West, while also supporting mutual respect within Asia. Tokugawa found creative ways to share his love of the arts, music, science, and nature to bring nations together in friendship and understanding.

If not for his untimely death in 1940, Prince Tokugawa would have prevented Japan joining the Axis Powers in World War II.


Prince Tokugawa has not yet been recognized for his many major accomplishments including the creation of "Safe Zones" in war-torn China that helped save the lives of a half-million Chinese civilians and tens of thousands of Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust in Europe.

With the goal of promoting US-Japan goodwill, Tokugawa took a pivotal role in launching National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC, which continues to this day as one of the largest international celebrations in the US Capital.

*The Art of Diplomacy* presents hundreds of illustrations, including many rare and one-of-a-kind photos to reveal Prince Tokugawa's inspiring life and the fascinating and often turbulent period he lived. It offers a new window to a half century of world history.




Stan S. Katz grew up in New York City, then moved to San Diego. He has a background as a teacher and health professional. He has also owned bookstores and was a specialist in rare books when he acquired the personal library, photos and documents of a high-level US Intelligence agent who had befriended many of Japan's most influential leaders during the 1920s and '30s. These unique primary source materials, combined with Stan's passion for history and many years of research, has resulted in this exciting story about a truly unsung hero, Prince Tokugawa. To learn more, visit [TheEmperorAndTheSpy.com](http://TheEmperorAndTheSpy.com)



# THE ART OF DIPLOMACY

Katz



# THE ART OF DIPLOMACY

## FIFTY YEARS OF SECRET US-JAPAN RELATIONS REVEALED

*Prince Tokugawa befriended six US presidents and led an international peace & democracy movement. He guided Japan to join the US and her Allies in WWI and saved hundreds of thousands of lives during WWII.*

An Illustrated Biography

**DR. STAN S. KATZ**



***-For those who wish to read the November 1909 - The Coast magazine material linked to this article, it has been scanned and is presented below.***

This antique magazine is one of the last copies available; the first three pages present interesting advertisements of that period linked to the gold prospecting and to the local businesses. This is followed by the section which dealt with the Japanese community in Seattle and also the visit of the Shibusawa Delegation. The message presented was that Japan and the U.S. had much to gain by learning from each other and by promoting commerce with one another. As leaders in their regions of the world, both the U.S. and Japan could serve as models for peace and prosperity in North America and Asia.

The magazine also presents:

-The history of the Japanese colony in Seattle, along with assorted illustrations.

-Photos of the Shibusawa Delegation, including banquets and celebrations linked to the Shibusawa visit. Some of these events were given by the Chamber of Commerce of Seattle, hosted at the home of the President of that organization Hon. J. D. Lowman.

The publication presents Seattle as a new bustling, almost frontier town, working out its challenges as it grew, and that the Japanese residents contributed a lot to the positive direction that Seattle would achieve. One concern that is emphasized is that the Japanese immigrants were treated as second class individuals, and were denied citizenship, so they felt discriminated against - However, it was understood that despite this prejudice, the children of these work working immigrants would naturally intergrate into their new land and become patriotic U.S. citizens; the magazine contains an inspiring article written by the Tokichi Tanaka the Consul of Japan for Seattle, reinforcing this message.

**1909 Magazine Section** is presented below.

It is followed by the **Notes Section**

<p>Edward C. Neufelder, President. R. J. Reekie, Vice-President. Jos. T. Greenleaf, Cashier</p> <p>Incorporated Dec. 19, 1889</p> <p><b>Peoples Savings Bank</b></p> <p>Commercial, Savings and Trust General Banking and Exchange 4% Interest on All Time Deposits</p> <p>Corner Second Ave. and Pike St. <b>SEATTLE, WASH.</b></p> <p>Directors: G. B. Nicoll                      Jas. S. Goldsmith Jos. T. Greenleaf              R. J. Reekie Edward C. Neufelder</p>	<p><b>Brace &amp; Hergert</b> Mill Company</p> <p>Center of the City</p> <p>IF IT'S</p> <p><b>LUMBER</b></p> <p>WE HAVE IT</p> <p>Westlake Ave. &amp; Mercer St. SEATTLE, U. S. A.</p>
<p><b>VITRIFIED SEWER PIPE</b></p> <p>PAVING BRICK—DRAIN TILE—PRESSED BRICK—TERRA COTTA FIREPROOFING</p> <p>MANUFACTURED BY</p> <p><b>DENNY RENTON CLAY &amp; COAL CO.</b></p> <p>GENERAL OFFICES—LOWMAN BLDG. SEATTLE                      WASHINGTON</p>	
<p><b>THE ORIENTAL TRADING COMPANY</b></p> <p>C. T. TAKAHASHI, Pres.</p> <p>IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS WHOLESALE ONLY</p> <p>High Grade Pure Teas, General Merchandise, Provisions, Dry Goods, Both American and Japanese Manufacture.</p> <p><b>212-214 FIFTH AVE. SO., SEATTLE</b></p> <p>Main 426.                      Telephones                      Ind. 426. P. O. Box 1824.</p>	

ADVERTISING SECTION—THE COAST.

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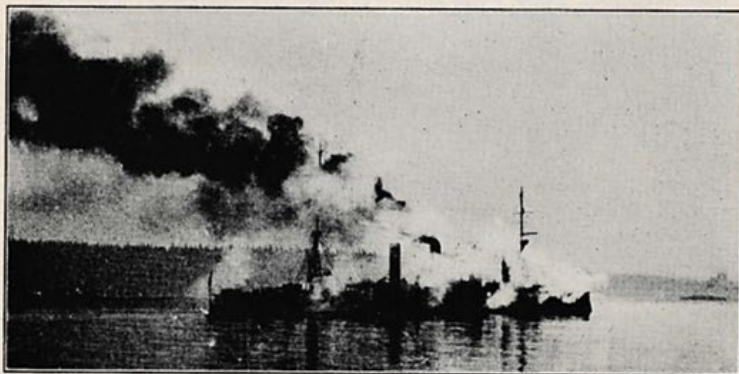
C. T. TAKAHASHI, President

K. HIRAI, Vice-President

T. ARAI, Cashier and Manager

# The Coast

VOLUME XVIII    NOVEMBER, 1909    NUMBER FIVE



The Japanese training cruiser "Asu," saluting as it entered Seattle harbor, in June, 1909.—  
Photo by H. T. Furuhashi.

## The United States and Japan

Just as European statesmen in the years of the awakening of their continent looked towards the lands of America and the building of dependencies and provinces there which would pour their untold wealth into the coffers of the depleted treasuries of the capitals, sending out squadrons of adventurers to discover and take unknown lands and armies of loyal courtiers to sack rich Indian cities and gold-possessing peoples, so now the United States, builded upon those lands which European nations had planned and hoped to plunder, are sending across another sea to the west, the great west, commercial squadrons and armies of commercial foragers with hope of gain in gold and treasure.

With this condition in mind we come to a consideration of the relations existing between Japan, the nation of the Rising Sun, the growing giant of the Orient, and the nation which is reaching out through its people to conquer in commercialism the entire world—the United States.

Flushed with a phenomenal growth in extent of territory and in population, experiencing a marvelous development of industrial and manufacturing interests, grown wealthy beyond the wildest dreams of the Revolutionary Fathers, in the one hundred and twenty years of the country's existence, the United States stands like an overgrown boy yet in his teens full of play and mischief looking for something to do. He has taken all the playthings from the Indian. He has gathered under his arms the totem poles of the Alaskan. He has begun trading trinkets and toys with the Hawaiian and Filipino. His attention is directed to the open door of the Orient.

The Orient, rich in its centuries of history and fabled for an unknown wealth of treasure, with its billions of people and its many necessities arising out of the modernizing of its habits and modes of life, presents a field for commercial and trade relations which if properly served will bring great re-



Garden party given in honor of Baron Shibusawa and wife and party on the lawn at the home of Hon. J. D. Lowman, president of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce.—Photo by H. T. Furuhata.

ward to the successful caterer. An advanced nation in this field is the ancient realm of the Mikado, the Islands of Japan.

Japan, today, stands in all the glory and strength of a victorious nation and, for all of the terrible cost of blood and sinew and the loss of treasure and burden of expense of recent wars, the nation is prosperous and growing and a pulsing life for accomplishment and achievement beats with healthy vigor in the hearts of all its people. It is not correct to say that Japan is awakening: Japan is working and she is very busy. Throughout the length and breadth of the nation a sober and energetic people, loyal and patriotic, are industriously laboring in all lines of human endeavor, developing, creating, building.

Japan has an overproduction of many of its industrial products and for a consumption of them is looking for a field and the open door into the Oriental lands of Korea, China, Manchuria, etc., looks very inviting to the lads who were native to that land lying at the base of the sacred mountain, Fuji. The strong arm of the Japanese soldier has thrown a cloak of protection over the shoulders of the manufacturer whose goods are consumed by the Korean. In Manchuria the Japanese merchant has found a growing and prosperous



Portion of the parade on Japanese Day, Seattle.—Photo by H. T. Furuhata.

trade. In the Philippines and Hawaiian Islands the Japanese have large consumption for their manufactured goods and products.

The United States and Japan, together are interested in the peaceful pursuit of commerce and shipping upon the Pacific Ocean. Looking as they do in Japan to the rising sun for inspiration, knowledge and power, the brown men of that island kingdom are looking to the United States for the spirit, the method and the means which have wrought such marvelous changes in North America, and they are applying the same skill and adroitness in working out their financial, industrial, political, commercial, social and other problems for themselves.

Thus we see the United States with its hands full of many knotty problems which are taxing the nerves and capacity of the greatest men of the nation, making precedent and setting example for other nations to follow. It may be true that the United States is not yet of such age and maturity that the public mind of the people is sufficiently settled to know for any length of time what it really is and will be, but it is the willingness of the American



One of the main business streets in the Japanese Colony, Seattle.—Photo by Webster & Stevens.

people to try and learn; to endeavor and succeed, which brings in its direction the attention of the world.

The interests of the United States are along the same lines of those of Japan. Much the same field for operations extends out from each for their own peculiar conquest. In this conquest there is a friendly rivalry and a friendly mutual interest. The United States has one kind of products to dispose of in this territory and Japan another. The United States has one method of approach and Japan another. The United States merchant conducts his business in one way and the Japanese in another. Yet, the United States and Japan have few individual interests which conflict and their several interests lie in paths parallel.

Between the United States and Japan is a large and growing international trade. The flour from the grain fields of the Pacific Northwest; salmon from the canneries of the Pacific Coast; cotton from the broad acres of the South; American manufactured articles, and native fruits are shipped through the ports of the Pacific slope to Japan and in return come back teas,





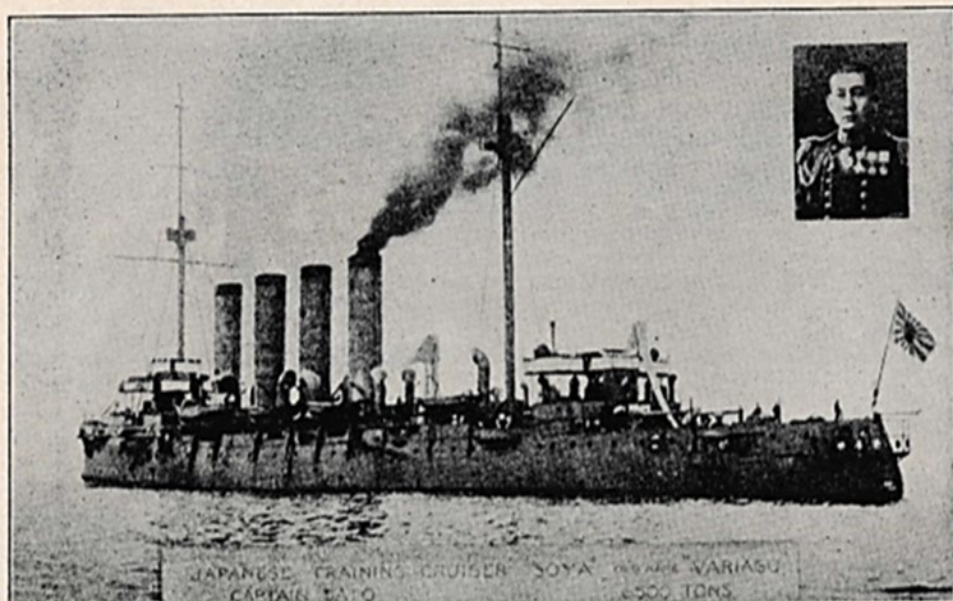
Courtesy "The North American Times," Seattle.

coffees, fruits, rice, and a great many manufactured articles peculiar to that island realm.

Alive to its opportunities Japan handles in its own steamships the large amount of traffic between itself and the United States. In commercial lines the Japanese people practically control the commerce of the Pacific. Between Japan and the American Islands the great bulk of commerce is handled in Japanese bottoms. With precision and regularity the tonnage of Japan grows and as its tonnage grows the wealth of its people and the extent of its trade grows also. In Asiatic waters Japan is supreme.

Valuing the advantages and opportunities of the United States many thousands of Japanese have settled in the United States, among which we find representatives of all classes. From the very best educated and wealthiest in Japan thousands have come to this country, who engage in commercial, professional and industrial pursuits, and common laborers in this country among the Japanese often include highly educated people. The universal regret among the highest type of Japanese coming to the United States is that the laws compel them to remain aliens. The hope of many lie in the families which they are raising in the United States, and no native born Japanese youth has yet been found who renounced the citizenship which the choice of his parents gave him.

Very cordial are the relations between the United States and Japan at the present time and among those who are able to read the future and its possibilities, there is a hearty hand-clasp across the waters. In the matter of coolie labor there is a mutual understanding between the governments of the two nations. However, it must be remembered that among the very poorest Japanese menial laborers in this country today we find men who are able to read and write their native tongue and in addition speak and read the English. The worst of it all is that we are beholding a strong settlement of sturdy people who live, prosper and thrive in our midst ENTIRELY AND EXCLUSIVELY ALIEN because they are compelled to be so—an army for a foreign power raised upon the strength of our own country, the subjects of another realm. In the city of Seattle, alone, two daily Japanese papers are



Courtesy "The North American Times," Seattle.

supported—"The Asahi News" (morning), and "The North American Times" (evening), these plants giving employment to fifteen or twenty people each.

In the advancement and development of the city of Seattle the Japanese colony is playing a strong part. That portion of the city covered by the Jackson street regrade and adjacent sections is almost wholly given over to their operations and settlement. All kinds of stores, two banks, shops, places of amusement, hotels, restaurants, etc., etc., have been established by them and are being successfully conducted. Much of the truck farming near the city is done by them. They promptly pay their bills and are satisfactory tenants. In every respect these people are enterprising and progressive.

The hope of the United States is the hope of Japan. What the United States is for North America, Japan hopes to be for Asia. The United States hopes to carry peace, progress and prosperity wherever the eagles of its armies carry the flag to unfurl the emblem of the country; Japan, also, hopes to carry with the banner of the rising sun the light of peace, progress and prosperity. The great men of both countries unite in one accord that the Pacific Ocean is no water for strife and conflict but an immense highway for the accommodation of a gigantic commerce. The hands of the people from each shore are reaching out unto the other with the people of the intervening islands extending their hands in both directions for physical necessities and comforts, and for mental, social and religious intercourse, making them better, nobler and larger men and women.

The United States and Japan! For all the past and present incongruous conditions and relationships, there will never be a written treaty between the

two nations—their national offensive and defensive operations will be to help each other for reasons deeper and more lasting than those which it requires written treaties to promulgate and keep in force. When the interests of each country are further developed and the future outlines of action more certain, the inequalities now existing and the misunderstandings and disadvantages now perplexing will be matters of history fading into a dusty and molding past.

Lo! To the east they gaze and worship the rising sun,  
Thrilled with the dawning light of another day begun;  
Up from the waters rise a glory with hope aflame  
The old dies out and the new begins under a name the same.

Unto the west the thrill of a new life flies to chase  
The phantoms that hang in splendor over an ancient race;  
From valleys and hills and seas the works of a new day rise  
And new flags float on unknown seas to flutter in new-known skies.

In glory and splendor the days of a new age have begun;  
The breath that comes to the Orient, with the light of the rising sun,  
Brings the glow of eternal freedom, the vigor and strength that makes  
Success assured and achievement sure whatever one undertakes.

And the flags that wave on the ocean—the one of the noble free;  
The one of the renewed nation that rises from out the sea—  
Wherever they flutter in breezes from land-built spires and towers  
Shall guarantee the fruits of peace that come through bitter wars.





## The Hope of Seattle

With its myriad modern buildings of concrete and steel standing upon its many hills, with its homes housing thousands who are dependent upon the products and demands of outside territory to provide an adequate income to meet the demands for a livelihood, with its new and struggling factories fighting for a local consumption, with its gigantic undertakings of regrade and improvement requiring the use of millions of dollars of outside capital, with its unequalled facilities of transportation both by rail and water, affording ingress and egress between an unlimited field of commercial activities, with solid and flourishing financial institutions providing means for the safe and certain conduct of its many varied enterprises, with one of the greatest expositions of modern times financed by local capital closed successfully without a debt or obligation against it, with evident progress and activity in all lines of trade, industrial and commercial pursuit, the city of Seattle today stands the wonder and marvel of modern times.

Some say that the city has been overbuilt and that many have undertaken greater responsibilities than they can meet; some say that the large capacity of the concrete, steel-built, modern office buildings and the magnificent fireproof, modern department houses and hotels lately constructed at an outlay of millions of dollars are ahead of the real growth of the city and that the near future will see many of them empty and hunting for tenants; some say that the immense public improvements will swamp the property owners because of the extremely heavy cost; some say that a season of depression is upon the city which will cause bankrupts and foreclosures of mortgages; some lay awake at nights fighting the nightmare of local panic and loss, yet

The fact is that as soon as new office buildings are opened tenants fill them and are paying larger rents and maintaining more expensive quarters than in the past;

as fast as the payments fall due upon the interest bearing debts and bonds in the city, they are promptly met; every enterprise as soon as it is started finds a remunerative field for operations; in the improved districts of the city, as soon as they are regraded and buildings erected for occupancy, they are filled with tenants who ply their various avocations, and the actual growth, progress and advancement of the elements which make and maintain cities unhesitatingly and decidedly advances.

The hope of the city of Seattle today is in that body of men who have an eye single to the ultimate end of achievement towards which the city is pointed. There are failures always; there ever are men who attempt more than their abilities will permit of accomplishment; there are everywhere those who are too small to swing the heavy loads they attempt to carry; there may be men who will fall and fall by the wayside, but at every failure there are others who rush in and take up the work where it was broken off and the general plans are carried out as attempted.

The owners of the buildings which line the streets of Seattle may change and those who are operating in those buildings may each and every one fall in their careers to be lost from the public gaze, but the buildings which have been erected and the business activities which are now carried on within the city's limits will never cease. The city as it is built today will never grow less. There may be some who will desert the enterprises which they have here instituted and will leave the opportunities which they have here started to develop, but as fast as each deserter walks out or each opportunity is left, new men will rush into the vacant places and the great work will go on and will go on with renewed vigor and certainty of completion.

Seattle is past the critical stage of experiment and the permanent character of its public and private improvements mark it as a permanent and abiding metropoli-

tan center. This has been rendered true because of the natural advantages of the city's location and the climatic conditions which surround it to some degree; it may be said to be due to the public spirit of its residents, but it is mostly true because of the extent and richness of the country supporting it and the varied resources which surround it.

The hope of Seattle lies in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Wyoming; it lies in Alaska, British Columbia and the Yukon; it lies in the Hawaiian and Philippine Islands; it lies in China and Japan. This means commerce and shipping; it means manufacturing and trade; it means a social, financial, educational, religious, amusement, art, music and general center enjoying the support of a complex class of people of three races. It means that the present is scarcely more than an embryonic beginning for the great future realizations.

Seattle is well established and its way is well defined. The great steel highways of commerce have already made it a battleground for titanic struggles. Millions of dollars have been spent in the city for tidelands which were little more than holes in the ground, which have been filled, tracks built and terminal improvements made and their use begun. Docking sites and sea shipping facilities have been purchased and millions of dollars spent in providing ocean transportation for the cargoes of the cars which are to be brought from the interior and here placed upon the travellers of the sea for distant points in all parts of the world.

Manufacturing institutions have likewise invested immense sums in making preparations for plants and in the construction of plants the largest, most complete and only thoroughly modern upon the entire Pacific slope. As a manufacturing and manufacturers' distributing center Seattle at the present time ranks first among all the cities west of the Rocky Mountains. This is true, also, in wholesale and jobbing lines. Firms of other western cities make this a selling and distributing center.

It is the immense wealth of surrounding cities and countries, being poured into Seattle which unconsciously makes it the city that it is and guarantees its future to be as

great and greater than its builders now imagine it will be.

The city of Seattle stands today with a public spirit that is unequalled anywhere else in the world. There is absolutely nothing too large and nothing too intricate for its people to attempt. As yet they have made no failures. Even if they had, failures would have spurred them on to greater and larger achievements. It is a determination like this which builds great cities and maintains them. It is this which is making Seattle and assuring its people of a future greatness and importance which as the years unfold will make the city more a marvel of the present age than what has been done has made it the wonder of the present time.

From a town-city Seattle has sprung into a full grown and mighty metropolitan center throbbing with the life and activities of all lines of human activities. It has reached and surpassed all rivals in the short time of its existence, and all that the city has and is has been created and grown from the seed sown and nurtured by its own citizens. Its future greatness is written in imperishable figures of steel and stone and its domes are burnished by the eternal enterprise and progress of its people. There is and can be only one Seattle. For the coming generation the name of the city is the synonym of earthly power and greatness as accomplished through the acceptance of phenomenal opportunities and development of unequalled resources and advantages. In the past the development of tributary country has built cities; in the case of the city of Seattle it has been and is the city nurturing and developing the tributary country and making it a supporting and maintaining field for fruitful activities. The youth of the Greater Northwest are emblazoning upon their shields the name of SEATTLE and are marching ahead to victory already assured of success in their life's work and future activities. In Seattle men never pass their youth and the buoyancy and vigor of its public life lead its people on to a city than which the past has never seen. Large the hope and great the faith and greater than all the width and breadth of operations for all the people on the earth IN SEATTLE.





Weller Street, Seattle, in the new business district of the Japanese Colony.—Photo by Webster & Stevens.

## The Japanese in Seattle

By TOKICHI TANAKA, the Consul for Japan.  
(By Request.)

When the first Japanese immigrant set foot on the soil of the city of Seattle, is unknown. As far as we can trace, there was a handful of Japanese living in or near this city as early as twenty-five years ago. They were mostly ex-sailors and their existence was insignificant. From the year 1900, or thereabout, the local Japanese population began to swell, keeping pace with the rapid growth of the city itself. Most of the newcomers arrived directly from the motherland, some from Canada and Hawaii and a few migrated from other states of the Union. At present, we have, according to conservative estimates, about five thousand fellow-countrymen living in the limits of the city. Probably two thousand will have to be added to this when the neighboring farming districts are included. Of this number it is presumed that about half are plain laborers or those who earn a livelihood by mere manual toil. The other half include professionals, merchants, clerks, mechanics, and so forth, or in other words those earning livelihood by mental labor, more or less.

In the former category we find two kinds; those working in the stores in downtown districts, like bellboys in the hotels, drivers, office boys, salesmen and those working in residence districts, like so-called school boys, cooks, butlers and chauffeurs. Most of them are young, their age generally ranging from teens to thirty, well-educated, and they understand English fairly well. If I am not misinformed, they are liked by their employers on account of their alertness, cleanliness and industry. The so-called school boys who work enough to earn time and money to attend schools are especially to be commended for their perseverance against various hardships. I only

regret to notice that some of them do not even deserve the name, taking the work not for the sake of study but from mercenary motives.

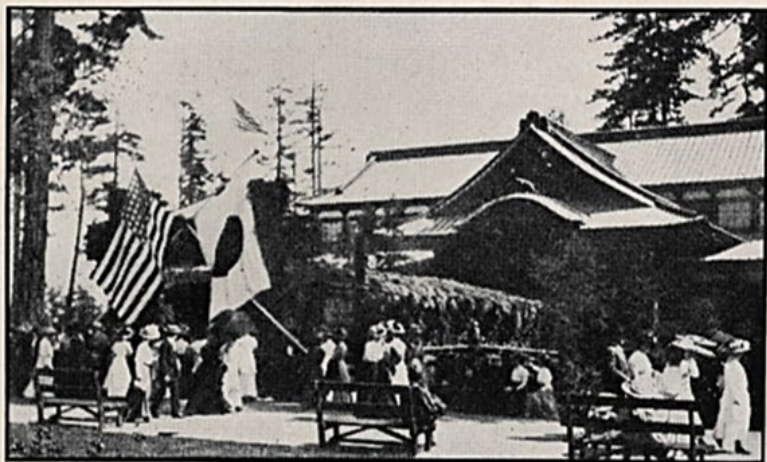
In the second category we find quite a variety of occupations, representing almost every line of ordinary business. According to a rough research made among the local Japanese community, we find, to begin with, two daily newspapers, half a dozen weekly and monthly periodicals; three banks; two commission firms; six physicians; fifteen labor contractors and employment offices;



Tokichi Tanaka, resident Japanese consul, Seattle.



The parade on Japanese Day, as it appeared coming down Second Avenue, Seattle, passing through the Welcome Arch erected by the city for the Exposition.—Courtesy "The North American Times, Seattle.



Japanese Government Building at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.—Courtesy "The North American Times," Seattle.

twenty groceries; thirty dry goods and provision stores; ten express offices; sixty hotels and boarding houses; eighteen tailors; thirty restaurants (for American meals) and thirty other restaurants (for Japanese meals); eighteen laundries; twenty-two barber shops; six photo studios; three printing houses; twenty dye works; besides a number of others, like shoe stores, jewelry shops, bakers, interpreters, carpenters, midwives, druggists, etc. I shall not attempt to enter into a description of fur-

ther details as that will unnecessarily tire out my readers.

The location of Japanese business houses are mostly south of Yesler Way between First and Ninth Avenues. Still, some stores and restaurants, etc., are to be found in other sections of the city, notably on or near Pike Street. The regrading of the southern part of the city has had the effect of disarranging the Japanese business quarters but with the completion of Jackson Street regrade in sight, they are now settling down again



Group of Japanese school children on board of the Japanese cruiser "Aso," when in Seattle harbor during the early days of the A.-Y.-P. Exposition.—Courtesy "The North American Times," Seattle.





"Streets of To'io" concession on Pay Street at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, Seattle.—"The Asahi News," Seattle.



Baron and Baroness Shibusawa and group of the commercial commissioners and some of their wives taken in front of the Forestry Building, Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.—Courtesy "The North American Times," Seattle.

November 1909 photo from **The Coast** magazine (Seattle, Washington).



The Oriental American Bank Building, Seattle.—Courtesy "The North American Times," photo by H. T. Furuhashi.

near there. Few of our people being property owners, most of them rent quarters from American landlords, and I very seldom hear instances where they have been backward in payment of rentals.

It is generally believed that most of the Japanese buy and sell among themselves. This is perhaps true so far as it regards the articles which are exclusively made by the Japanese, or imported from Japan; but, otherwise, it is not true. With the growth of better understanding between Japanese and the community at large and with the rapid process of assimilation to American ways, which we are undergoing, I notice a gradual change setting in. The Japanese, fresh from Japan, and unable to make their wants known in English, will inevitably frequent Japanese stores, but others, almost exclusively, go to American stores for a host of articles which are not sold by Japanese, or else which are more conveniently and abundantly obtained from American stores. At the same time Americans are often seen patronizing Japanese stores for things which perhaps were procured elsewhere before. As soon as a Japanese emerges from the stage of mere laborer and, with more or less savings, starts a business of his own, he always looks for American stores for the supply of his particular line of wants. Boarding houses, barber shops, tailors and restaur-

ants are conspicuous among those who purchase from the American stores not only their furnitures and utensils, but the materials for daily use and consumption.

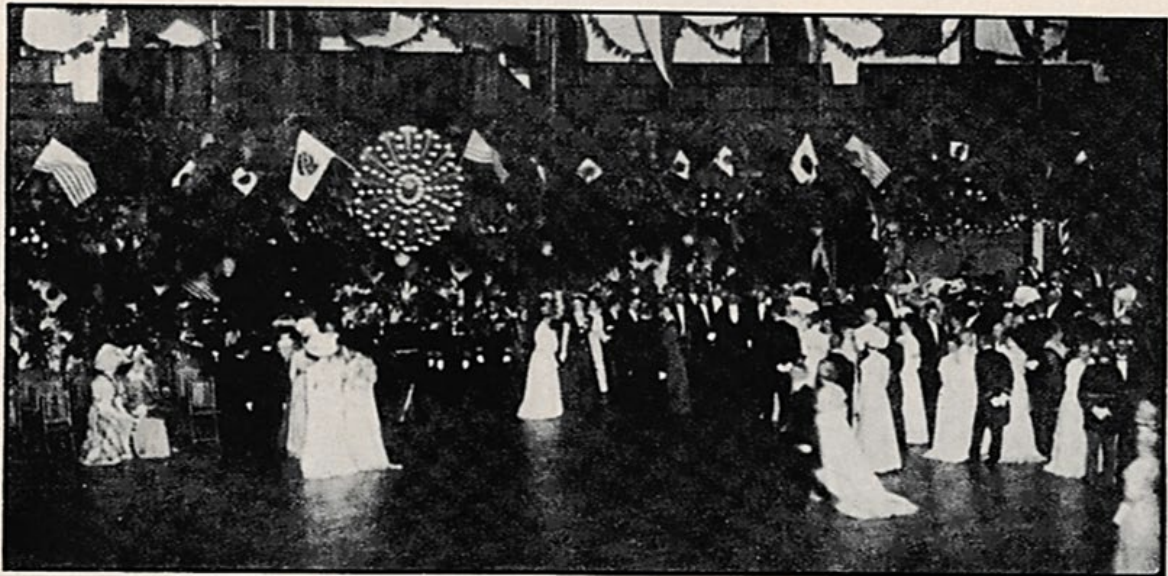
It cannot be denied that, while apparently



Jewelry store of O. Kimura, 312 Fourth Avenue South, Seattle.—Photo by H. T. Furuhashi.



A portion of the crowd at the reception given to the Japanese in Madison Park, Seattle, during the visit of the commercial envoys touring the United States.—Courtesy "The North American Times." Photo by Furuhashi, Seattle.



The banquet tendered the visiting Japanese commercial representatives at the Armory, Seattle.—Courtesy "The North American Times," photo by H. T. Furuhashi, Seattle.

NOVEMBER, 1909.

the existence of a Japanese community seems to deprive of other inhabitants of the city so much of their share of earning as would ordinarily come to them, it creates by its toll and enterprise new and greater demands and larger activities in the commercial life of the city, which otherwise would not exist. The idea that it is wise to keep back the progress of others in order that your own may be great is not shared by an enlightened and broad-minded community

like the city of Seattle. The thriving and industrious population, of whatever nationality they happen to be, is always a source of progress and civic pride in any community just in so much as the idle and degenerate population is the source of degradation and shame. From this point of view I always take pleasure in seeing our fellow countrymen prospering in whatever lawful pursuits they may engage.

It is the constant hope and endeavor of

our countrymen to better our condition, both moral and material, and to eliminate as much as possible the indecent and corrupt elements from us.

I shall now try to bring before the readers the organizations we have among us in order to carry out the object above mentioned. I like especially to refer to it at this opportunity because this feature of our community is not, in my opinion, well known to the public and because we place more



Looking down Fifth Avenue from Jackson Street, Seattle.—Courtesy "The Asahi News," Seattle.

importance on this feature than the mere accumulation of individual wealth.

The local Japanese community is naturally a congregation of the sons and daughters extracted from almost every province of the mother country. Fellow provincials naturally know each other better, meet each other oftener and have common traditions and tastes. Even in Seattle, so widely separated from the motherland, they began to form among themselves societies along the line of various state societies you have among yourselves. The object of these societies, however, is not limited to mere amenities. Their most important work is to help each other in time of sickness, or other distress. From the funds either raised by the members as fees or by voluntary subscriptions, many Japanese were either sent home or given proper attention who otherwise might have fallen to the public charge. The benefit which is derived from their work in this and other various fields for the improvement of the general welfare and the

promotion of a fraternal spirit cannot be too strongly emphasized.

The merchants or professionals following same sort of trade also form among themselves unions or associations along the line above explained. Conspicuous among them are Japanese hotel-keepers' association and Japanese barbers' union. Besides, there is a Japanese commercial club composed of about eighty businessmen.

The Japanese Association of the State of Washington, as it is called, is an organization incorporated under the state laws and is the sole representative body of the local Japanese community. For obvious reasons, every individual cannot be canvassed and enrolled, his vote secured and his subscription collected. To save that difficulty, the unit of membership is unions and associations like those above mentioned, each organization turning out so many delegates according to its size and importance. The total number of delegates is at present sixty, the constituents being twenty-five



Residence of Tokichi Tanaka, the consul for Japan, at Seattle, himself and family.—Courtesy "The North American Times," Seattle.

provincial societies and other social, religious and trade associations. They have a regular annual meeting in February, when the officers are elected to serve during the ensuing year and general affairs of the association are discussed. The work which this association is constantly doing to improve the condition of the local Japanese community and to promote good understanding between Americans and Japanese is so frequently reported in the local American press and so well known to the public that further comment on my part will be superfluous.

Another potent factor in the moral uplifting of our community is religious institutions. We have four Christian missions, which are each presided over by an ordained minister. Their denominations are Baptist, Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist

Homes, one almost self-supporting and the other maintained by the Japanese Methodist Episcopal Mission. In all this Christian work, it must be mentioned that many Americans are constantly rendering us valuable voluntary services, which we all appreciate.

Of the Buddhist Mission, we have one. It belongs to the Shinshu sect, governed by the famous Nishi-Hongan temple of Kyoto. As the Buddhism is the popular religion in Japan, its local followers are quite numerous. Its mission work is in substance similar to that carried on by the Christian institutions. The mission is self-supporting and its house was recently erected at a cost of more than ten thousand dollars, all of which was raised locally.

I have mentioned before that there are



Weller Street, Seattle, one of the coming business streets in the Japanese colony, Jackson Street Regrade District.—"The Asahi News," Seattle.

Episcopal. The first named is the oldest, its growth dating nineteen years ago, and is now self-supporting financially. The other three are partly supported by the American institutions of the respective denominations. For the benefit of younger members they maintain dormitories, conduct night school for teaching English, and otherwise do splendid work in imparting Christian teachings and spirits. It is true that their regular members might not exceed three hundred all told, but their untiring labor is exerting marked influence upon the morals of the community. Besides the above, we have an Episcopalian Mission which, however, has no minister. We have the Japanese Humane Society, Japanese Y. M. C. A., Japanese W. C. T. U., all of which are non-sectarian and doing good work in their particular sphere.

There are, also, two Japanese Women's two daily newspapers in our community. Both are affiliated with no factions, both represent no set political views. They are one in exerting themselves in inspiring their countrymen with higher moral standards. Their views are especially moderate on the matters affecting international relations. I hope time will not be distant when they can afford to have some English columns and can be enabled to more practically foster the good relationship between the Japanese and other communities in the city.

The rapid increase of the female Japanese population is resulting in helping wholesome development of our community. Formerly people were apt to think the presence of female members in our community was an indication of the immoral condition prevailing

therein—an unthinkable paradox. Still, I must admit that in former times the wives and daughters of a good family in Japan never thought of going abroad, even when accompanied by those nearest to them; but that was only a passing relic of the feudal notions which is fast dying out. The women who seek America as their second home are generally more educated and of more painstaking temperament than those who go elsewhere. In our community we may have at least about five hundred female members who are generally married. Their influence is manifest on the remarkable decrease of crimes and general air of happiness and contentment shown in every household.

I do not pretend to claim that the foregoing exhausts the subject, but in this brief article I am unable to dwell on it more

closely. It must be remembered that with all organizations and endeavors, the moral and social betterment is always more easily said than done in any community. It is especially so in a community like ours, still very young in its growth, so widely separated from the land of our birth, where there is yet neither traditions nor historical prestige to be revered and cherished, where the laws and institutions are not necessarily made to meet its peculiar requirements. I do not disavow the fact that we have still among us elements which we will fare better without. With all these difficulties, however, we believe, we are doing our best under the circumstances, and with the lapse of time and with more exertions on our part, we will still better our conditions both moral and material, so that we shall be more worthy of the city adopted as our homes.

## NOTE SECTION:

### Note 1

Below are the names of the U.S. government representatives who accompanied the Shibusawa Japanese Delegation during their three month tour of America:

-Roger S. Greene – State Department

-Jackson S. Elliott – from Washington, D.C., representing Associated Press for the U.S. Dept. of Commerce and Labor

-Professor John Paul Goode – University of Chicago

-Professor S. W. Gilman – from the University of Wisconsin, representing the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Milwaukee, and Duluth.

-F. W. Rosenberger – from the city of Buffalo, he represented the Northwestern New York.

-W. H. Manes – of the Chicago Association of Commerce, represents the cities of Chicago, Des Moines, and Omaha.

-Governor David Rowland Francis (October 1, 1850 – January 15, 1927) was an American politician and diplomat. He served in various positions including Mayor of St. Louis, the 27th Governor of Missouri, and United States Secretary of the Interior. He was the U.S. Ambassador to Russia between 1916 and 1917, during the Russian Revolution of 1917. He was a Wilsonian Democrat. After graduating from University, David R. Francis became a successful businessman in St. Louis and served as the president of a grain merchant's exchange. The St. Louis Mining and Stock Exchange was formed in St. Louis in the fall of 1880 with Francis as a founding member. Source: Wikipedia.



## Note 2

The first **Chamber of Commerce and Industry** in Japan was established in March 1878 in Tokyo. Chambers were later set up in other cities, and in 1892 fifteen chambers gathered together to form the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

To learn more about Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) - 日本商工会議所

<https://www.jcci.or.jp/english/about.html>

## Note 3

The **First National Bank** building was initially constructed in 1872 as the main bank of the **Mitsui group**. In the following year, it became the headquarters of the First National Bank (Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank), which was founded by Shibusawa Eiichi (1840-1931) and other businessmen.