

# 南太平洋週報

東京通信

## 「徳田秋聲ゆく」

島崎藤村の死に秋風の初  
 莫の感ふかまいった文壇  
 は此に又徳田秋聲を失  
 た。行年七十三、本  
 名は末雄、金澤の生れで  
 其の出世作「足跡」に云つ  
 てゐる通り雪國生れの特  
 徴即ち鈍重忍耐の人で  
 自然主義文學に終始し  
 た爲藤村の様な異彩は  
 放たなかつたが圓熟の筆老  
 境の人の性問題を書い  
 ては決して他人の追従  
 をゆるさぬものがあつ  
 た。

## 「米麥減収と農民道」

今年の麥收穫は千  
 八百五十三万七千  
 石、米も六千三百万  
 石、前者はかつての二千  
 六百万石に及ばぬ事程  
 遠きものがあり後者は  
 戦時目標八千万石に對  
 し八分どほりの作で天  
 候不順、勞力不足、肥料た  
 りず、云々と口實はいく  
 らもあるが根本をなす  
 ものは軍需工場に出て  
 配給米をもらつた方が百  
 姓するより割だといふ  
 不心得者の續出、みすみ  
 す空襲の好目標になる  
 田圃の真中へわざ／＼  
 田地をつぶして工場等  
 を設くるむきの多いた

## 「ガソリン不足とありぬ」

概して心ある者は憂慮憤  
 らしむる。ガソリン不足とありぬ  
 取沙汰、地質上あまり  
 石油産出の望のない日  
 本では船舶不足が主因と  
 なり、満洲の板泥岩、北海  
 道の人造石油に全力を  
 集中してゐるのである  
 が、それでも越後迎りの  
 天然石油増産に大童で  
 色々の笑へぬ悲喜劇が  
 傳はつて來るので、ジャバ  
 占領ガソリン豊年の掛  
 聲に一時踊らされた民  
 衆殊に昨今のガソリン  
 減配になやむ漁村の間  
 には天然石油増産は必  
 ず末らざるを得ぬジャバ  
 放棄の前には非ず

やとの取沙汰を生むに  
至つてゐる  
八田交通運輸大臣の演  
説  
十二月十日某造船  
所工務員に對する八田  
文運大臣の演説中船舶  
の南方資源輸送戦線に  
對する増援補給に言及  
し、大に船舶増建の重要  
を強調し、又ソコモン辺  
りに、米國側は艦船航  
空機の多量生産に物を  
言はせどし、兵員器  
材を送りつけてゐるに反  
し、日本側は頗る貧弱で  
此分では輸送問題  
で戦局は行詰ると言つ  
た。ちなみに大西洋に  
於ける十千潜水艦の昨  
今頗る振はず其喪失が

其撃沈船舶を上まはり  
聯合國船舶十一月喪失  
は五月以來の少きに反  
し、米潜水艦の東亞方面  
跳梁依然として止まず  
最近も油輸送船一隻他  
八隻を沈めた。  
「ヤルバート最前線となる」  
ギルバートが敵に大損  
害を與へたとはい言へ十  
一月廿一日、餘りにも早  
く米軍に占領され、續い  
て表南洋東玄関口ヤル  
バートが十二月四日に約  
三百機の來襲を受け、陸  
上防禦施設に重大な損  
害を蒙つたのみならず  
乙巡二隻油輸一隻他三  
隻が沈められた。右に  
関し、愈敵がヤルバートに

迄迫つた今日、艦船航空  
機の不足に鑑み、一ギ  
ニア方面戦線を撤収、戦  
争正面縮少をやるべき  
であるとの意見が又し  
ても參謀本部内に頭を  
もたげ出した。  
「シンガポール通信」  
支米空軍活動の日に増  
し、活潑となり、今更の湖  
南作戦において皇軍將  
兵が上海戦以來の苦戦  
を味ひ死傷も亦甚だ高  
率であつた事など皆在  
支空軍活躍の爲で、今更  
で空偵の無かつた支那  
軍が之に依り大いに作  
戦の便宜を得、日本軍は  
行軍兵站共に慎重をよ  
ぎなくされた由、香港よ

り當地へ到着の某氏は  
 詰り且つ印度方面より  
 昆明に到着の米國製武  
 器彈藥器材等は毎日大  
 型輸送機で少い時で六  
 十台、多い時には百台に  
 上る由南支派遣軍密偵  
 の報告にあつた由詰り  
 ぬた。猶ほ在支米空軍  
 の香港廣東來襲は毎  
 日で港内艦船の被害も  
 亦相當に上ると。  
 南方前線基地特報  
 一ギニア方面サテルブ  
 ルグ攻略の濠軍は三縦  
 隊となつて北進日本側海  
 上大發陸上小径接續点  
 ラコナも其の手に歸し  
 たがソシガ河渡過退却  
 を餘儀なくされた日軍

は砲火並びに機関銃火  
 により其際可成りの損  
 害を蒙つた模様である。  
 此等地上作戦呼應の航  
 空作戦に於ても聯合軍  
 側空軍は相変わらず積極  
 的であるのみならず日  
 本側大發の被害も頗る  
 るもので今や殆ど晝間  
 之が使用は不可能とな  
 て來て居るがラム河谷  
 地域作戦に於ては濠軍  
 は御得意の乘馬歩兵を  
 使用各方面に戦車を使  
 用以外又日本側の意表  
 に出てゐる。  
 ビヂアツ海峡制壓成る  
 十五日未明米軍はフ  
 オン半島對岸ニューブリ  
 テンのアラウェに奇襲上

陸に成功ブーガンビル  
 オーガス夕湾方面米軍  
 作戦の第二段階に入り  
 たる。前記濠軍のラ  
 コナ占領より見て定石  
 を打つたまどがあるが日  
 本側が之を豫期せず又  
 してもオーガス夕湾同  
 様不意を打たれた形は  
 玄人筋では不思議とせ  
 りられてゐる。例によつて  
 日本側空軍は後れ馳の  
 妨害に出たが聯合側空  
 幕に遮られ其の作戦目  
 的を達し得なかつた。  
 航空戦景況  
 油田ブリクパ  
 ベスのマカサルチモ  
 ルのコレパン等對す  
 る爆撃は今や週期的行

事で特報に値せぬがラ  
 ボールが徹底的にやら  
 放日本側は於て既に其  
 豫想乃至他への轉換が  
 聯合軍側では、グロス  
 ガスマタ最近五日間作  
 左集中最近五日間にグ  
 口スタに對する投下爆  
 弾量は約八百トンに上  
 リ日本側空軍の消極的  
 態度と好對照をなして  
 居る。又カビエンでは  
 十二月一日一万トン級  
 輸送船が沈められ、駆  
 艦二隻が損傷を受けた。  
 巨頭会谈及歐洲情勢  
 リスボン通信英首相  
 一チル氏米大統領ル  
 ズベルト氏並に中華民

國大總統蔣介石氏各幕  
 僚を帶同十一月廿二日  
 よりエジプトの首府カ  
 イロに會同日本軍部  
 打創作戦につき協議完  
 全なる意見の一致を見  
 たが英米巨頭は其足で  
 イランの首府テヘラン  
 にスタリリン氏と會見  
 廿七日より十千ドイツ  
 打倒呼應作戦につき協  
 議を遂げた。一方ロシ  
 アに於ては冬期に入り  
 露軍お得意の冬期攻勢  
 を前に各正面とも聊小  
 康を見てゐるが英米空  
 軍の十千ドイツ軍需工  
 場等に對する爆撃は引  
 継ぎ行はれ、ベルリンに  
 對する年内投下爆弾量

一万四千五百噸に及び  
 各種段階に於てナチ側  
 は全く守勢に陥り又イ  
 タリアでも西ではロ  
 マ街道瞰制高地占領に  
 成功した米軍東では才  
 ルトナ(ロ)マの東北東  
 百六十キロに迫つてゐる  
 英軍に對し守勢である。  
 此方面鉄道バルカン方  
 面交通設備其他に對す  
 る聯合側空軍による破  
 壊は相変わらず繰返し  
 行はれてゐる。

とふの  
 ばかりなり  
 石の上  
 ばせを



昭和十八年十二月十五日編輯

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TOKYO NEWS

Death of Tokuda Shusei. The literary world had hardly overcome the feeling of loneliness caused by the death of Shimazaki Toson early in autumn when it suffered a new loss in the departure from life of Tokuda Shusei at the age of 73. The author, whose real name was Suco, was a native of Kanazawa and his character was typical of a man born in one of the snow provinces, patient and full of perseverance, as described in his chef d'oeuvre, "Ashiato" (Footprints). As he stuck to the naturalist school he did not show the extraordinary brilliance of Toson, but his brush left to the world some works unexcelled in their own genre. He was specially successful in writing on the sex problem of people of advancing age.

Lower Crop Figures and the Attitude of Farmers: This year's figures for the barley, rye and wheat crops have been published as 18,557,000 koku and the figure for the rice crop as 63,000,000 koku. The former is far below the level previously attained of 26,000,000 koku. The latter figure represents only about 80% of the wartime rice production aims. All sorts of reasons are given for this low figure, such as unsatisfactory weather, shortage of labour and fertilizer, etc. Many more could be mentioned but thinking people seem to be convinced that the decrease has much to do with the preference given by many farmers to factory labour above labour in the fields. They join war industry and thereby become just consumers instead of producers. As another important factor they see the new factories taking the place of padi fields, as they spring up in the heart of the rice country, exposed to future bombing attacks. These things cannot fail to move the people to gloominess and indignation.

Oil Production in Japan: After the rich oil wells of the NEI fell into Japanese hands, everyone naturally assumed that all Japan's troubles over oil were at an end. The Imperial Petroleum Co. concentrated all their energies on the exploitation of the petroleum resources of the South. It has therefore come as a shock to the public to hear that on account of the increasingly critical war situation, emergency measures have been adopted to concentrate effort on the poor oil fields in Japan Proper. This seems even more unsatisfactory than the continued pushing of production of shale oil in Manchuria. Oil produced from either of these sources is inevitably much less satisfactory and much more expensive than the NEI oil, and it is clear that this step permits of only two explanations. Either the shipping position is so desperate that the NEI oil cannot be transported to Japan, or else the government is actually contemplating eventual withdrawal from the Indies. This news has naturally thrown the public into a state of alarm, giving rise to astonishing rumours and wild speculations.

SHIPPING NEWS

The vital importance of shipping was recently emphasised by Hatta Minister of Transport and Communications. He said that ships were the only means whereby raw materials could be transported from their sources throughout GEA, and the finished munitions forwarded to the fighting fronts. He further pointed out that in the Solomons the Allies continue to counter progressively from one island to another. For this purpose they are able to ship vast quantities of munitions and supplies, and large numbers of men, and protect their convoys with naval surface craft and countless aeroplanes. He concluded that the side with the greatest supply capacity would win the war.

U.S. submarines operating in the Pacific claim nine more Japanese ships. They include a tanker.

The number of merchantmen sunk by U-boats during November was fewer than in any month since May, 1940, and less than the number of U-boats sunk.

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JALUIT BECOMES THE FRONT LINE. In spite of initial Japanese opposition the defenders of the Gilberts were quickly overwhelmed by the American forces after the landings of November 21. On November 22, Jaluit, the eastern gateway to the Japanese mandates, was bombed and on December 4 the Marshalls were bombed again by over 300 planes. They not only inflicted damage on shore installations but also sank two light cruisers, one oiler, and three cargo ships. As the enemy has now extended his attack to Jaluit, and in view of the lack of ships and planes, opinion in the Japanese General Staff is veering to the view that withdrawal from New Guinea, etc., and contraction of the front would be advisable.

#### CERTAIN BASE IN SOUTH PACIFIC

Fighting in New Guinea - After the capture of Sattelberg the Australian forces advanced to the North in three columns and took Lakona, the important connecting point between land trails and the barges of the invading forces. The Japanese forces, compelled to retreat, received heavy damage from Allied artillery and machine gun fire while crossing the Songa River. The Japanese barges are now so vulnerable to continuous attacks from the air that it has become practically impossible to use them in the day time. In the fighting along the Ramu River the Australians made use of cavalry - their speciality - which has added another surprise for the Japanese forces besides the tanks in use everywhere.

Command over Vitiav Straits Obtained - At dawn on December 15 American forces succeeded in a surprise landing at Arawe on New Britain, opposite the Huon Peninsula. In the light of the previous capture of Lakona, and of the fact that the operations at Empress Augusta Bay have reached their second phase, this move can only be considered as a natural development. However, as in the case of the Augusta Bay landing, the Japanese forces were surprised, which is regarded as strange by expert opinion. As before, the Japanese air force came too late to interfere and missed its objective as the result of the strong protective cover put up by the Allied air force.

#### SINGAPORE

Activity of the American Air Force in China is increasing day by day. Due to this development of air activity on the Chinese side, Japanese forces in the recent warfare in Hunan experienced the bitterest fighting they have had in China since the attack on Shanghai. They lost large numbers of killed and wounded. By the acquisition of sufficient air cover, previously lacking, the fighting power of the Chinese forces has received a tremendous impetus. The Japanese Army is forced to take the greatest precautions to protect troops as well as lines of communication. This has been divulged by a visitor who arrived the other day from Hongkong. Japanese Army Intelligence from South China further reported that the number of large size American transport planes carrying war materials, arriving in Kuming from India varies between 60 and 100 daily.

Furthermore, raids over Hongkong and Canton by American planes are becoming an almost daily occurrence and a fair amount of damage is being caused to ships in the docks at Hongkong and Kowloon.

#### CERTAIN BASE IN SOUTH PACIFIC - Air Operations

There is nothing special to report about the raids on the oil fields of Balik Papan in Borneo, Macassar in Celebes, Koepang in Timor, etc., as they are now regular features of the war. Rabaul has been subjected to such terrific blastings that its abandonment or shifting of the base elsewhere can reasonably be expected. The Allies therefore have recently concentrated their power of attack on the Cape Gloucester and Gasmata areas. They have dropped about 800 tons of bombs on Cape Gloucester alone. The negative attitude of the Japanese air force is in striking contrast to the activity displayed by the Allies.

In the Kavieng area, a 10,000 ton transport was sunk by aerial attack and two destroyers damaged on December 1st.

LISBON - GREAT ALLIED LEADERS CONFERENCE. The British Prime Minister, Churchill, the President of the U.S.A., Roosevelt, and the President of the Republic of China, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, accompanied by their staffs, conferred in Cairo from November 22 to November 25. They agreed upon carrying the war against the Japanese military clique to a speedy and successful conclusion.

Next the Anglo-American leaders flew to Teheran where they met Marshall Stalin on November 27, to discuss strengthening of the co-ordinated attack on Nazi Germany. Again speedy agreement on joint future action was reached.

Fighting in Russia. In Russia the Soviet armies are busy preparing for their coming winter offensives so that at present there is a comparative lull on the Eastern front. This will end with the start of the real winter operations at which the Russians are pastmasters.

Raids on Germany. Since we reported in the last bulletin, Anglo-American air operations against German war factories etc. have been continuous. The quantity of bombs dropped on Berlin in the course of this year exceeds 14,500 tons. On all fronts the Nazi armies have now been forced on the defensive.

War in Italy. In Italy also they are on the defensive against the American forces who have occupied heights commanding the highway to Rome. In the Eastern sector they are facing British forces closing in on Altona (160 kms. NE by E of Rome). The railways in this sector and the lines of communication in the Balkans are subject to repeated devastating air attacks from the Allied Air Forces.

LITERARY ITEM:

A picture of the famous "Arsenic Stone" in Tochigi Prefecture. According to local legend this stone possesses the miraculous power of killing all living beings who get near it. The poem written on top of it is by Basho and reads:- "Of all winged beings only the clouds are able to pass over the stone".

The name of the stone is literally "life killing stone".

Both the legend of the stone and the drawing of the poet Basho approaching it in a typically Japanese landscape are calculated to have a nostalgic effect on the reader, even if he should miss the deeper implication of his useless fighting in the theme.