



金を借金は此は家賃
 ありく次女は所買屋の使ひ

In Japan they have a popular ironical ditty which runs as follows:-

Standing (I think of my) debts,
 Sitting (I am worried about my) houserent.
 When you see me walking I am on my way to the
 pawnshop.

This is a parody of a geisha song praising the charms of a woman:-

Standing she is like a shakuyaku (herbaceous peony)
 Sitting she is like a botan (peony)
 When she walks she reminds you of the lily.

This theme has been used for a pictorial leaflet on the present financial situation of the Japanese people with reference to the continuous increase of taxes. The doggerel is written in grass writing on the right, covering half the page. The left half shows two sketches. The one on top presents a salary earner scratching the back of his head (gesture of embarrassment) with an empty cash box in front of him. A short text expressing disgust at his financial predicament is written in the word balloon.

The second sketch shows a queue in front of a building with the signboard: "Shiei Shichiya" (Municipal Pawnshop). The text in the word balloon reads: "No money left! Back to the pawnshop again! What can one do about it?".

Intention. To draw attention to the bad effects of the war on the financial position of common people in Japan.