

人口問題

軍部や或は又所謂志士愛國者と稱する連中、即ち今日の大東亞戰を惹起した人達は日本の人口過剰を口にして侵略戰を是認させようとするが日本には人口過剰の事實はない。北海道はまだから空きで猶數百萬の人口抱擁力を有しており且つ北海道廳が年々移住者を招いても誰も來ず中央政府も此事についてには甚だ不熱心だと道廳はこぼして居る。始末、滿洲あたりでも軍部及び在郷軍人團の強要で移住者を農村から狩出して侵略後十二年間に世萬の移住者を見た丈である。これは無論在滿朝鮮人や滿鉄其他の事業に寄生してゐる日本人を含まない。人口稀薄な一平方里四十人足らずの滿洲に對してさへこれである。其他朝鮮でも日本人々口は僅に七十萬、臺灣が世萬しかも朝鮮でも台灣でも本當の永久的日本人移住者と云ふ者は甚だ少い。其斯の如く移住者が少いと云ふのは日本が麗しの美し國で人が之と離れるのを厭ふからと云ふ計りでなく實際的に移住の必要に迫られて居ないからで、此頃の食料不足問題から耕地十分の二がた増加が叫ばれてゐるが、開墾の餘地は日本内地にまだそれ以上にある事が明となつた。ところが皮肉にもそれには勞力不足（即ち人口過剰）である事が分り支那朝鮮等から労働者を移入して居る始末である。今日軍部が其湯水の如く使つてゐる國富を其ほんの百分の一足りずでよいから北海道開發工務狀態農村漁村生活狀態の改善に用ひられておたならは日本も人口都市偏綱はおおの模範國となり内は民人の幸福たかまり外は萬國の尊崇をうけ得たるものを。然るに軍部の野心はつひに國を損ふに至つた嗚呼。

THE POPULATION PROBLEM.

(long term).

The (Japanese) military clique and self-styled patriots responsible for the present war continuously repeat the argument that overpopulation justifies foreign conquest by war.

The truth is different.

Hokkaido is underpopulated and could support several million more Japanese settlers. Year after year the Hokkaido Governor complained that the Tokyo authorities were neglecting the northern provinces and that no settlers were forthcoming.

The fallacy of the Japanese overpopulation problem is further illustrated by the course of events in Manchuria. Since seizing that country the military clique has made great efforts to attract young Japanese agricultural settlers, bringing all kinds of pressure to bear in Japan. Using the Reservists League, they even resorted to compulsory emigration in many cases. Despite this pressure, permanent settlers now - after twelve years, number only around 300,000. Of course this figure does not include Korean immigrants nor Japanese personnel of the South Manchuria Railway and other temporary Japanese residents connected with the industries.

This is the record of Japanese emigration to Manchuria, a sparsely populated country three and a half times as large as Japan Proper. The density of population in Manchuria is less than 40 per square mile. In other territories under Japanese domination the position is similar: Korea has only 700,000 and Formosa 300,000 Japanese inhabitants and in both countries the number of permanent settlers is very small.

The reason for this is not only that Japan is a beautiful land and that the Japanese find it hard to go away from home, but also that there is no real need for them to emigrate.

The food shortage (in Japan) resulting from lack of shipping is now the talk of the day. But the cultivated area within the country could easily be increased by 20% and more, if only the necessary manpower on the land were available. There is irony in the fact that Japan now suffers from a shortage of labour and has to import workmen and farm-hands from Korea and China.

If only a fraction of the national wealth now being wasted like bathwater by the military clique had been spent on the development of Hokkaido and on improvement of rural and industrial conditions in other parts of the country, overcrowding in cities could have been avoided and national loyalty would have been fulfilled. Japan could have become a model country and a respected member of the family of nations.

(But) the ambition of the military leaders is ruining Japan.
