

THE LEARNING OF ENGLISH

599

CPL. OBATA: "Say, have you a knowledge of English, Nakajima?"

PTE. NAKAJIMA: "Only a small number of words—ice (ice cream), sandwich, cinema—that is about all."

CPL. OBATA: "It is good to have some knowledge of English. For one thing it makes it possible to get at facts about the earth and the things in it that are in the great number of books in the English language."

PTE. NAKAJIMA: "It was in the newspapers that from the start of the war till now there are more English books than ever in the bookstores of Tokyo."

CPL. OBATA: "A common language for all nations would make for better feeling among them. English is simple and it is the language even now of more than two hundred million (200,000,000) persons. It is the international language of commerce as well. It would be a great help."

PTE. NAKAJIMA: "Yes, that is right! Here is a simple Japanese-English book for reading and learning. Why not let us make a start at learning English?"

CPL. OBATA: "Let us do so. It will take our minds off things—wounds, disease, poor food. War is nothing but a waste—a waste of all that is of value. Our chiefs have made very great errors, putting us without need into great danger. Is not that so?"

PTE. NAKAJIMA: "Yes, I am certain that is true."

CPL. OBATA: "Well, let us make a start."

Changed their names on other side.
(This is in Basic English, an international language in which 850 words can be made to do the work of 20,000).

Doshite?

両語本やはずめ

林兵長

どほど英語がわかるか。

森一算兵

アイスクリーム、サンドイッチ、シネマ程度であります。

林

英語が分ると調法だぞ、一広く書を読んで世界の
大勢に通ずることができ。

木林

戦争が始まってから反って英書が東京等の書店に
ふへたそうであります。新聞にそうあります。

林

世界共通語があると人類愛が高まる。英語など
も単簡で其一助となる。既に国際商業語であり
且二億からの人々の話しておる言葉だからだ。

木林

そほであります。こゝに初歩の英和讀本があり
ます。学習を始めて見たらどほかと思ひます。

林

うむ気が紛れてよい。戦争は全く全面的にむだ
の陳列だよ。策つたなくして萬骨枯るか。

木林

全くであります。

此の一種の英語は其基礎語たる八百五十語を以て二万語の活用をなす
式の一種の英語による讀本である。