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# THE PACIFIC PROBLEM

By HARRY N. HOLMES



HAVE been very much impressed by the generous and kindly introductions given me this morning. I notice that Mr. Parks was very careful to say that I was a native Australian. I really don't know whether the men from Ohio know what a native Australian is. Those wild and wooly men that blew two or three oceans to France, and I am one of those who have not blown back. The reason is perfectly obvious. I am sure it would appeal to every Ohio man here. I married a girl from Ohio, and here I am. (Laughter).

I know that New Yorkers don't understand the Australians. They tell a story that two New Yorkers went thru the Bronx Zoological Gardens, and they passed the lion cage and the snake house and the tiger den, and came to a great enclosure in which there were some animals with long tails, and above the gate they noticed "The kangaroo, a native of Australia." "Gee whiz," said one to the other, "I am so glad to see an Australian, for my uncle married one, and I have always wanted to see what they looked like."

I don't know if you have ever heard the story of a thousand Australians that were sent down to Salisbury Plain during the war. Their com-

mandant was a young English officer, and he paraded them for the first time one morning, and he noticed that every one of them was spick and span. But they noticed something in that young officer they had never seen in their own. For he was wearing screwed into his right eye a monocle, quite foreign to Australian traditions and religion and politics. And next morning the thousand Australians came. You men in uniform will appreciate this. Everyone had withdrawn from underneath his shirt his little round identification disk and was wearing it in his eye.

But that young officer with all that delightful human touch which makes a man a success just carefully took down his glass monocle, wiped it with his handkerchief, put it on his thumb, tossed it up in the air and caught it in his eye, and then turned to the Australians and said, "Do that, you blighters, if you can."

I know you think that no Englishman can ever see a joke. It is a classical thing in America, you know. Al Jolson said, "The way to make an Englishman happy when he is an old man is to tell him a joke when he is a boy, and then he gets it."

Then you know someone else said,—I think it was Mr. Eddie Cantor—"The reason there is no comedy in London papers on Saturday night is

*Mr. Holmes, a "native Australian," has gained distinction for his Y. M. C. A. work both in the South Pacific, and during the war when he was in charge of the British Y. M. C. A. in France. He was twice decorated by his government for distinctive service. As first secretary of the Y. M. C. A. in New Zealand, and during his many years in Australia, Mr. Holmes was enabled to study American relations with these British possessions. The accompanying article was delivered as an address in Survey of Engineering, (Weekly lecture for new students) but the author's opinions and information are of universal interest to all engineers.—EDITOR.*



Railway Terminal at Sydney Australia

because the serenity of the congregation on Sunday morning might be disturbed on Sunday morning as they saw the joke."

You have that idea of the Englishman and Australian. I am glad to be here to bring this message from a far away country. As a matter of fact, when I join in the celebration of the 4th of July that an Englishman is always taken to participate in America, I always remember with intense gratification that Australia wasn't in the fight 150 years ago, and goodness knows what might have happened.

You know there is a wonderful close identification, Dean, between the founding of Australia and America. As a matter of fact, 200 years ago in England I think there were 175 crimes that a man might suffer deportation for. 176 of them were not serious. Before the War of Independence a great many of them were sent over here by the judges in the old country, but when you secured your independence, they couldn't come to America, and they sent them to Australia. There is that close connection between the War of Independence and the settlement of Australia.

The earliest settlements of Australia were two or three great convict settlements, but we have gradually recovered from our first invasion of Australia by our Pilgrim Puritan Fathers. Australia geographically is as large as the United States—3 million square miles. You can put all the mainland proper, excepting Alaska, into Australia, and have a strip around the edge. But the only agricultural and pastoral land worth while is the strip on the eastern and southern seaboard. Australia is a country that is peculiar in its geographical and geological conditions. The center of Australia is below sea level. As a matter of fact, lots of the rivers in Australia do not run into the sea. They run into salt lakes in the interior. There are lots of other differences. The swans aren't white in Australia. They are black. The birds don't sing in Australia. They laugh. The dogs don't bark. They bite. As a matter of fact, the gooseberries are smooth in Australia, and the cherries have stones on the outside. So much for the geographical features of Australia.

But in that broad expanse of country, we haven't the population equal to that of New York City. Five millions of people in a territory of three million square miles. Practically all the wealth of Australia comes from wool and wheat and meat and dairy product. Australia is the greatest wool country in the world. A hundred million sheep roam on its grassy plains. We call it the land of the golden fleece and the golden grain.

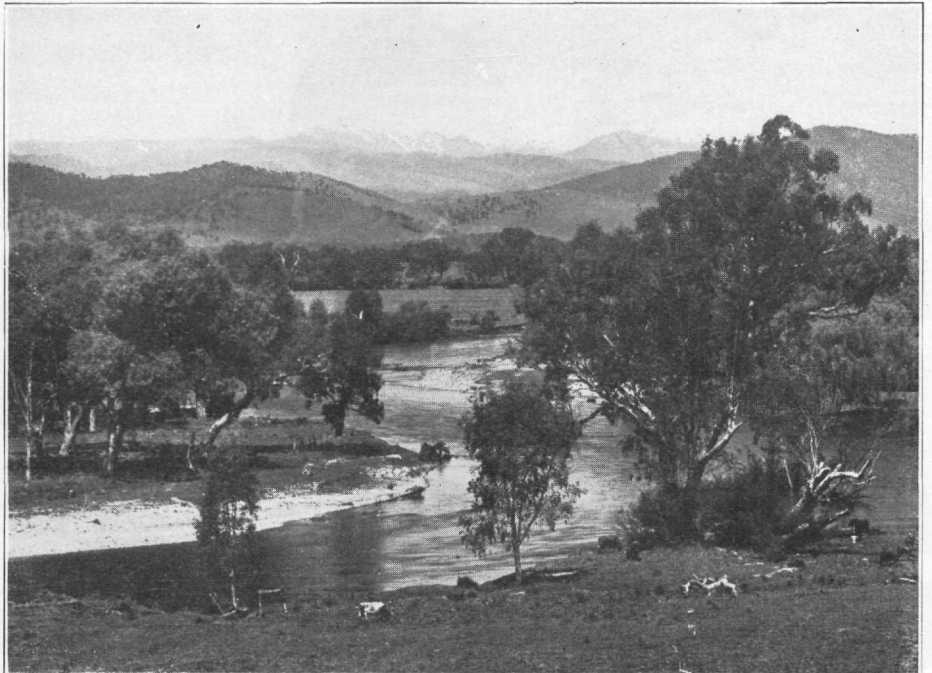
You remember the story of the great wagons that went across America in 1849 to the California gold rush. Seven years after,

all the adventurous spirits—I will call them by that noble name—went to Australia in the gold rush of Victoria. We didn't call it placer mining. We called it alluvial mining. Just with a pan, a shovel and a spade nuggets of gold in immense quantities were dug up in Victoria. And the settlement of the 50's and 60's in Australia was due to the gold rush in the southern State of Victoria.

Today one of the greatest silver mines in the world is in Australia, the "Broken Hill." Australia is rich in copper, rich in silver, rich in gold, but comparatively poor in population. Its geological features are so vast, the population in the interior is so sparse. We built a railway line from the east to the west. That railway line extends for 500 miles without a curve. It is a paying concern. You know, gentlemen, we have three trains a week both ways on that transcontinental line, because the population is so sparse between the two.

But the population is perfectly homogeneous. We haven't the problem of mixture of races that there is in Canada or South Africa or the United States. 98 per cent of them come from the British Isles, and so there is a homogeneous population, with a great opportunity for the mining engineer and the civil engineer. Not so much for the hydraulic engineer, because the water supply of Australia is extraordinarily limited, excepting for artesian wells. We have gushers of water as you have gushers of oil.

Down there in Australia there is a wonderful kinship with the people of the United States. I will speak of that a little later on. I wish I could tell you of what happened in France between the Australians and the Americans. I remember walking down the streets of Paris once, and seeing an American soldier in difficulty with the French language. I wonder if any of you have ever been in difficulties with the French language. He asked for the direction to the railway depot, and got a package of cigarettes. This American soldier was in difficulty and a number of French-



On the Upper Murray River



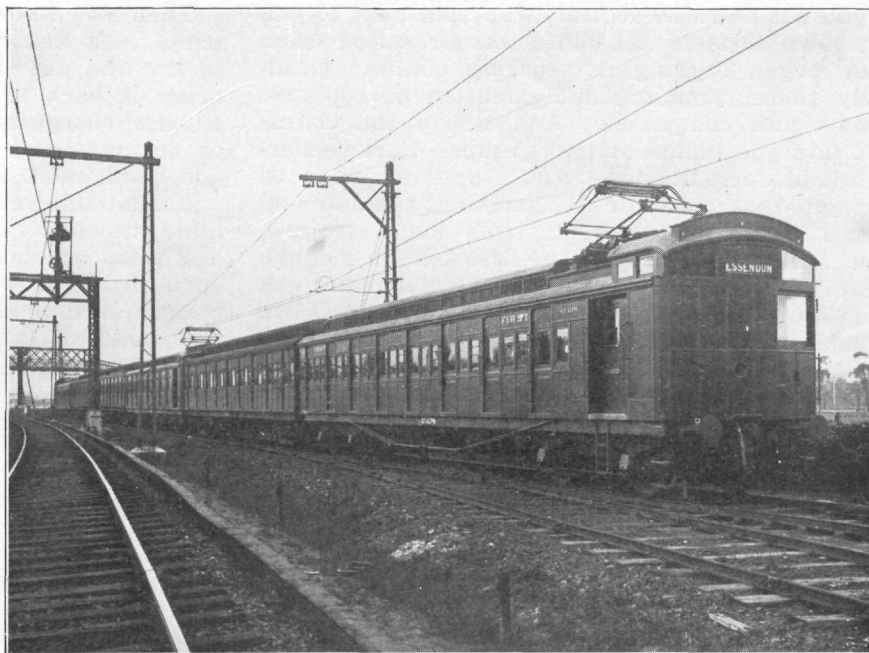
men were around him. He had only been in Paris two or three days. The Australian had been there four weeks, and he knew all about it. He walked up to the American—I shall never forget it—and said, "Look here, Sammy, whatever your trouble is, remember I'm with you." It seemed a wonderful thing to that American soldier to remember that the Australian was with him.

Recently the American fleet went down there and was received with overwhelming enthusiasm. Why? Because there is emerging a common economic and political outlook on the problem of the Pacific. The fleet went into New Zealand. New Zealand has a port called Wellington. There are 100,000 people in Wellington. 95,000 people welcomed the fleet. You can see that was fairly unanimous. A young lady who wrote to my wife said, "Mrs. Wholmes, we like your Americans immensely. But they are a little too frank. We had two out to afternoon tea last Sunday"—You know Englishmen can't get along without their afternoon tea, just like the American can't get along without his ice cream sodas—"These two said, 'We like your city, but it is too small.' 'Why,' they said, 'It's no bigger than a New York cemetery and just as dead.'"

Speaking for New Zealand, which is separated by 1200 miles of stormy sea from Australia, there is a country not nearly as big as the State of Ohio, but a country that is really a miniature Switzerland and Norway and New England, containing all the scenic beauty of the world, within a comparatively small geographical space. It has fjords like Norway, it has cold lakes like Italy, it has scenery like Switzerland. And I suppose that New Zealand is the most democratically advanced country in legislation in the whole world.

Every woman has had a vote in New Zealand for 25 years. I hesitate to mention all the things that are part of New Zealand life. Think of it, that we have old age pensions in New Zealand that come into operation when you are 65. The State operates coal mines, life insurance, savings banks. The telegraph and the telephone are owned by the State. The amount of money any laborer receives is adjudicated by a judge of the Supreme Court in both Australia and New Zealand. You can understand what sort of places we have got down there. But with all that I think we have more strikes than any other country in the world.

I wonder if I can introduce you to the human things of South Africa. I lived in that country for three or four years prior to the war, and went on a campaign with General Botha. We had to march over sand dunes for 100 miles, where water



Standard Electric Suburban Train

was \$2.50 a glass, and a biscuit cost you a dollar and a half. Do you know what the chaplains called that country? They called it the land of blazing sun and scorching sun and oppressive silences. But the soldiers never used those words. They called it the land of sin, sand, sorrow and sore eyes. I want to tell you that their language was infinitely more expressive of the country.

But out there is a great big country with all the human problems of this old world. You have a white population of a million. You have a native population of seven millions. And the white population are divided in racial antagonism between the English and the Dutch. The English are in 20 churches. The Dutch belong to one great Dutch Reformed Church. And added to that racial problem you have 100,000 in the town, and a mixed colored population in Capetown. That is the human personal problem in South Africa.

We had one great personality there that every engineer is interested in, the second greatest personality that ever went to Africa. You know his name. I hope the Ohio State University has captured one of his scholarships. He was one of the biggest hearted, finest minded men that ever left an English university to carve a future for himself in a new country. I refer to Cecil John Rhodes, who left enormous millions of money for the establishment of the Rhodes scholarships. Cecil Rhodes at 22 years of age was suffering from a lung complaint. His health came to him, and then he heard in '71 that they had discovered diamonds in the veldt. If you were within 500 miles of a rich diamond rush, wouldn't you want to go too? Cecil Rhodes harnessed up his horse and wagon and treaked across the veldt, And he found diamonds at Kimberly. A diamond claim in the first instance was 30 square feet that a man could get claim to. Every man had a separate claim. It was alright until you got down 10 feet. You can see what would happen

if you got down 30 feet and the man next to you got down 40 feet. Absolute chaos resulted when they began digging in separate claims. Gradually there came an amalgamation of separate claims into companies. And slowly the claims got into the hands of two groups—Barney Barnato and Cecil Rhodes. And a dynamic financial struggle took place for the control of the diamond mines of South Africa. It was some struggle, and in all probability for the first time in English history, it happened that the Englishman beat the Jew. Barney Barnato was beaten. Cecil Rhodes controlled the mines, and paid \$30,000,000 for Mr. Barney Barnato's claim. Today in Kimberley the diamond mines are owned by one firm, and 80 per cent of the world's diamonds come from that town. 75 per cent of the best diamonds are sold in the United States.

The diamond mines—you may be interested in this—go down in 5 tubes. There are five mines. You know a diamond mine is an old volcanic crater. I won't discuss it technically in the presence of engineers. You have a hole a quarter of a mile in diameter going down goodness knows now far. That crater is filled with blue ground. That blue ground contains the diamonds. They pick every cubic foot of that blue ground out of the pipe and they throw it out on the ground in huge fields, enclosed by barbed wire fences. They just let that blue ground disintegrate by the sun and the rain and the storms just to loosen up the soil. You can't see the diamonds if you were to walk over it. They are not the polished thing you see in a ring or in some man's tie pin.

But they take that blue ground up to the blaster. You may be interested in this. They used to wash every bit of that dirt to find the diamonds. Suddenly one man in South Africa one day discovered that the diamond had a peculiar affinity for a certain kind of fat. If you put stones and dirt and diamonds in their original condition on that fat in water, the diamonds will stick to the fat. The stones and the dirt wash to the bottom. This man constructed a series of great belts, 20 feet high, running along a great house—20 of them—and at the top all this blue ground comes in a trough filled with water and tumbles on the top of that shaking plate, and instantly the diamond hits that grease at the top, it sticks, and the dirt and the rubble are washed to the trough at the bottom. At the end of the day's work all they do in Kimberley is to take the grease off the plate, pour off the liquid, and there are the diamonds in your hand. That is how the diamonds in Kimberley are extracted from the blue ground. You should see a whole find of diamonds. You can put them into your two hands and see those glittering stones on fire.

Cecil Rhodes not only used the wealth of these diamond mines for his own personal aggrandizement. Do you know what he did? He did something that no great man I know of has ever done in previous history. He pledges the wealth of his diamond mines, and he mortgaged the diamond mines to build up Rhodesia. Today there is a territory in South Africa called after Cecil Rhodes—Rhodesia—many times larger than the State of Ohio, which he developed by using the funds of the diamond mines, and then when he died he left his wealth to establish the foundation at Oxford University.

Then you know the boys got over from Australia, New Zealand, Africa, America and Canada to try and get the best of the old country and bring it back to the new countries. That was Rhodes' conception. But you know that some of us colonials and Americans go over to England and think there is nothing like our own country.

I must tell you this story. It comes into my mind in connection with this. The story is that a Rhodes scholar, I don't know which state he came from; I will say he came from Dayton, because that is my home town in America. This boy went to Oxford. They said to him, "What do you think of old Hyde in Oxford?" That is the great street. He said, "Fine, but you should see Ludlow Street in Dayton." And they took him to the church where Cardinal Newman preached. He said, "But you should see the First Presbyterian Church, Dayton." Then they took him to St. Paul's. "Fine," he said, "But you should see the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City." America was first with him every time. Then they went with him on a trip to Rome. As usual, everything in America appealed to him more. So they decided to get the best of him. They took him to the Catacombs and tied him up in a sheet and left him. When he recovered from the anesthetic which they had

You say, "What has that to do with the United administered to him, it was rather dim down there. He broke away from the sheet, blinked his eyes and said, "The Judgment Day. Thank God, America is still first."

So much for Cecil Rhodes. What a personality he was! He died Prime Minister of South Africa in a little place at Muselberg. When he died, the last sentence he used was this one. "So much to do. So little done." Very different from the thoughts of another South African millionaire, "So many people done. So few still to do."

Gentlemen, may I take the opportunity to speak briefly on what I think is in all probability the most interesting human problem before the next generation? That is the problem of the Pacific Ocean. You know this, that away back in history the deepest cleavage in human affairs has always been between the East and West. Living in Columbus, Ohio, you might say, "Why, those countries are geographically too distant for me to be interested in, too far away." As a matter of fact, there is no country far away from you today. Tokyo is closer to Columbus than Boston was to Richmond 100 years ago. What happens in Peking today you read at the breakfast table tomorrow morning. The conquests of science are driving the world together with an irresistible momentum which we only faintly comprehend at the present time.

Take the East and the West. You remember when the Greeks kept the Persian hordes at bay, and when the Romans held the East in fee, and in the seventh century a little band of Arabs with the sword in one hand and the Koran in the other built up an empire which stretched from India to the gates of Vienna, and that seven centuries after that a little band of natives left their homes in the desert, stout soldiers of fortune, and built up the Ottoman Empire and Mohammed marched into Constantinople. Europe was in the Dark Ages and Christianity was on the decline.

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### THE PACIFIC PROBLEM

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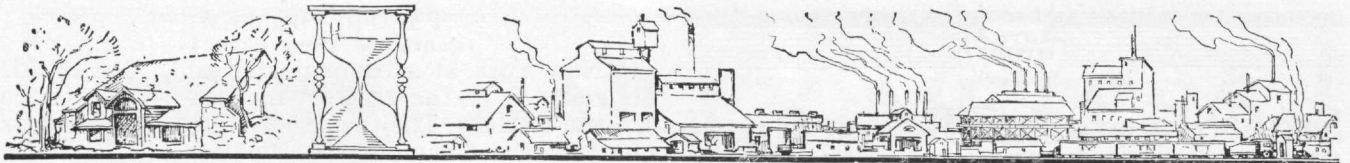
States and Ohio? It precipitated the most important event in American history. The trade routes to the East were closed by the Ottoman Empire, and the Portuguese, the Spaniards and the Englishmen looked across the Atlantic, and said, "Can we get to the East without going through the Ottoman Empire? They launched their little frail barques on the Atlantic Ocean, and Columbus stumbled upon this country. It was precipitated by the desire to get to the East. And you perpetuate that legend in the "Red Indian and the "West Indies." Newfoundland was discovered by Cabot trying to get to India.

Do you know what happened with the discovery of Columbus? The Era of a Mediterranean domination was over. And the Era of the Atlantic began. And for 300 years the story of human progress has been the story of the Atlantic. And Theodore Roosevelt said, "The discovery of Columbus ended the era of the Mediterranean. It ushered in the Era of the Atlantic, which is now at its height, and the Era of the Pacific is just beginning." And he said, "Our destiny in America is more dependent on the fact that we face the Pacific than that we face the Atlantic."

Why? Because the trade routes are shifting, shifting. The War and the Panama Canal have shifted the chief center of human affairs. You ask me to support that by facts? Do you know the tonnage going through the Panama Canal last year was more than the tonnage that went through the Suez Canal. Captain Robert Dollar of the Dollar Steamship Line said, "I went

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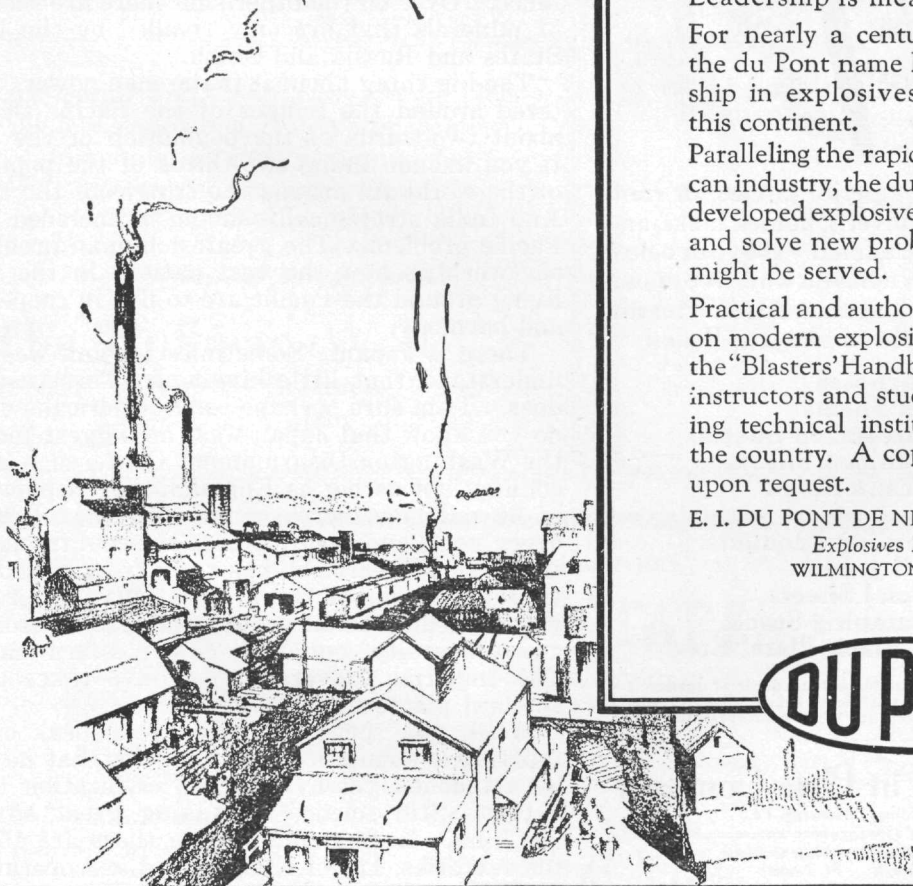




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## PACIFIC PROBLEM

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to New York at a banquet and said, 'The Pacific is going to be the greatest highway of commerce in the world.' They laughed at me." Last year he told the Chamber of Commerce of Honolulu that the Pacific Ocean in 25 years is going to be the chief highway of commerce in the world, because your biggest potential markets are in the East.

The first port in the world is New York, the second port, Shanghai, and the third, Hong-Kong. The Pacific Ocean has been so big that people have not been able to get across it. It is just as the scientific masters have come along with all the new applications of science that we have been able to bridge the Pacific. Do you know the Pacific Ocean is the biggest thing in the world? I don't know whether it appeals to an American. It always does to an Australian. We have one town in Australia that has only one big thing, the boast of every Australian in that town. We have got a big jail there. But the Pacific Ocean is the biggest thing in the world. You can put all the land in the world in the Pacific and have a strip around the edge. In fact, some scientists say—I don't know whether there are any astronomers here—that the cavity where the Pacific Ocean is is the place where the moon came from before the moon got into the skies.

Going down from San Francisco to Australia, as we got 3500 miles from the coast, we said, "We are away from civilization now." But the Pacific Ocean is no bigger than a white-washed fence. Over on the other side there are resources of minerals that are only rivalled by the United States and Russia and China.

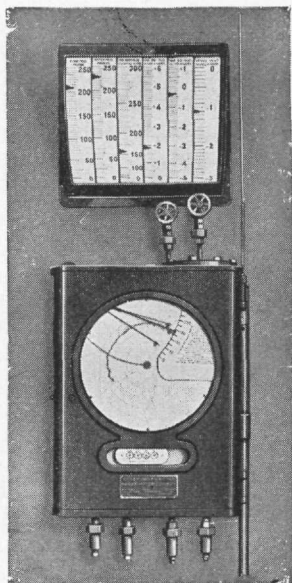
The big thing about it is the man power. Scattered around the fringes of the Pacific Ocean is about two-thirds of the population of the world. If you include India, two-thirds of the population of the world are around the fringes of the Pacific. And India strategically should be included in the Pacific problem. The greatest human problem of the world is how the vast nations in the future living around the Pacific are to live in cooperation and harmony.

There is Japan. Sometimes I think we fail to understand that little kingdom. The Australian does. I am sure perhaps some Americans do. But do you know that Japan was the biggest factor in the Washington Disarmament Conference, a little country not as big as England, with a population of 60 millions, increasing at the rate of 700,000 every year, and two-thirds of the country not fertile? In 25 years she has risen from a mediaeval kingdom to one of the first nations in the world, with an educational system, primary, secondary, and university, equal to any Western nation's. The Imperial University of Tokyo takes one of the first places in the world.

When you speak of China, you speak of one-fourth the population of the world, that have not been touched yet by Western civilization to any extent. Still science is making great advances in China. In Shanghai, China there are 159 cotton factories, 119 of them owned and operated by Chinese, and the majority of the China and Hong Kong Banking Corporation is dominated by Chinese people.

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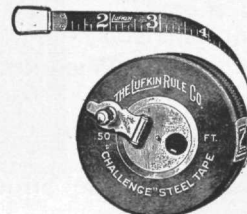
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### PACIFIC PROBLEM

(Continued from Page 46)

Then you think of Australia, New Zealand, United States and Canada. You know as well as I do that there is growing into this old world an alignment between these Western nations in the East. And I would say this morning that one of the greatest human problems, gentlemen of the coming generation, as we look out is this, to see how we can live close together in friendliness and justice and fair play, without plunging into another catastrophe.

But what is the human problem? Honolulu is the greatest experimental station racially in the world. What is the population? 125,000 Japanese, 45,000 Chinese, 40,000 Hawaiian and part Hawaiian, and 15,000 Caucasians. Some sort of a mixture. All living in friendly accord.

I had the privilege of addressing there one day the annual banquet of the college men of Honolulu, a great function, which was an alumni banquet. You don't know what alumni banquets are. But you will some day. But there were something like 180 men who had attended colleges in United States. I heard things that were tremendously interesting.

The men from Honolulu University met to choose the debating team against Oxford. Did Oxford come here? We traveled across the Pacific with them. They met to debate. The students of the university chose their debaters. Who do you think they chose? Two students of Japanese origin and one white boy. It was a remarkable thing. The oratorical contest was won by Japanese boys, brilliant speakers and honor students of the university.

If you are interested in the problem of the Pacific, you can understand it best by studying in Honolulu. It is the Pacific Ocean in cameo. It is the new thing.

Gentlemen, I have detained you long enough. It has been a real privilege to face you and to introduce you to some of these world problems. This is what I would like to say in conclusion: You will carry away, the fine ideals of this university, to which you will look back in after life. I am thinking now of an old school in Bristol in England. It sends 600 boys into the private life of England every year. It is Clifton College on the Bristol Downs. The most famous of the alumni of the last ten years has been General Sir Douglas Haig, commander of the British Armies. The President of Bristol College asked a great poet, also one of the alumni of this wonderful college, to read a verse of poetry that might be put over the chapel, and thereafter every man going into and leaving the chapel and leaving the university after getting his degree can catch the spirit of that verse, and this is the verse that those fellows that leave old Clifton College read—and who of you won't feel grateful in after life, not for the intellectual content and the knowledge that you have got from this university. You are going to be most grateful for the views and the ideals which will help you in after life. But this is the verse:

"Count the life of battle good  
 And dear the land that gave you birth,  
 And dearer yet the brotherhood  
 That binds the brave of all the earth."