

Internat'l. association of Japan

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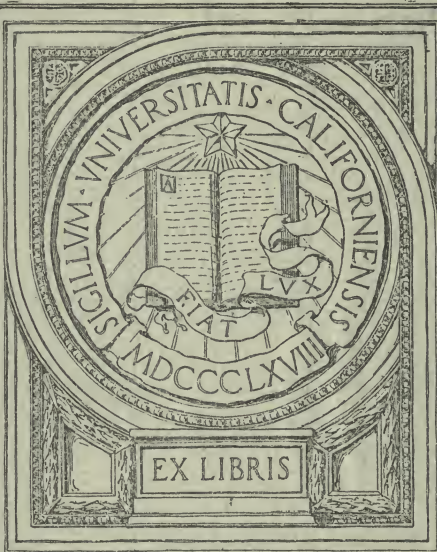
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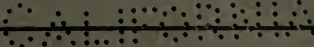
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# LEAGUE OF NATIONS MOVEMENT IN JAPAN

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Published by the League of Nations Association of Japan,  
Uchiyamashita-cho, 1-1, Kojimachi, Tokyo.

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Prince Tokugawa.



Viscount Shibusawa.



Baron Sakatani.



Dr. J. Soyeda.

# League of Nations Association of Japan.

**T**O the cause of peace and justice and humanity is devoted the greatest movement of international import ever undertaken by the Japanese people. It has taken shape in the League of Nations Association of Japan. This body is representative of the people in every walk of life that counts, its sponsors including a number of comparatively young scholars and publicists who command a large following among the rising generation of the country as well as eminent private individuals of established fame, national and international, such as Prince Tokugawa and Viscount Shibusawa. In a word, the Association is a crystallisation of popular aspirations for the ideal of the League of Nations. It is as yet a young organisation, but with solid backing behind it, moral and material, it is growing, perhaps slowly but steadily.

## Advent of Association.

When the Peace Treaty, with the Covenant of the League of Nations incorporated, was concluded, the opinion gained ground among the statesmen, scholars, business men, and other influential persons of Japan that no stone should be left unturned in an effort to carry the spirit of the League of Nations into practical effect. To this end they proceeded to work in their private capacity. At the same time, several associations such as the International Law Association of Japan, the Japan Peace Society, and

the "Concordia," proposed to start movements with similar objects. Representatives of these associations met and agreed to combine their proposed movements with those of the individual protagonists of the League of Nations. It was eventually decided to organise a League of Nations movement of the people and by the people on the largest possible scale. Thus a meeting of the promoters of the Association was held in Tokyo on April 23, 1920, 50 prominent men representing various spheres of human activity in the country being present. At this meeting Rules of the Association were adopted and officers elected. The principal Articles of the Rules follow :

Article 3. The Association shall have for its object the carrying into practical effect of the spirit of the League of Nations.

Article 4. The Association shall undertake the following activities with a view to the realization of its object :

(a) The organization of research and discussion upon matters relating to the League of Nations.

(b) The holding of public meetings and the publication of literature.

(c) The maintenance of relations with other organizations, whether foreign or Japanese, having a similar object to that of this Association.

(d) The sending of delegates to the International Congress of the League of Nations Associations.

(e) Any other work deemed proper by the Executive Committee.

Article 5. Members shall all be Japanese subjects who, in general acceptance of the aims and purposes of



the Association, signify their desire to join it on the recommendation of two or more members.

Article 15. The expenses of the Association shall be met by the annual subscriptions of members and by voluntary contributions.

Article 16. Members shall pay an annual subscription of three yen, but those who pay a sum of fifty yen or more at one time shall thereafter be exempt from paying any annual subscription.

The officers elected for the first term are :

President : Prince Tokugawa, President of the House of Peers.

Chairman of the Executive Committee : Viscount Shibusawa.

Vice-Chairmen : Baron Sakatani, ex-Minister of Finance, member of the House of Peers.

Dr. J. Soyeda, ex-President of the Japan Industrial Bank and of the Imperial Railway Board.

Treasurer : Mr. J. Inouye, Governor of the Bank of Japan.

Secretary-General : Mr. S. Sawada.

Members of the Executive Committee :

Count Yoshii, Member of the House of Peers, Vice-President of the League of Nation Union.

Dr. K. Hayashi, M. P., Professor of History of Diplomacy at the Keio University.

Dr. S. Hozumi, Professor of Jurisprudence at the Imperial University.

Dr. M. Oka, ex-Director of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

Dr. M. Yamakawa, Director of the Bureau of Treaties in the Foreign Office.

Dr. M. Anesaki, Professor of Philosophy at the Imperial University. Mr. D. Tagawa, M. P. Mr. S. Akizuki, ex-Ambassador. Mr. T. Miyaoka, Barristor.

It may be added that all these persons, in their relation to the Association, have no connection with any political parties or any other particular factions; they simply represent the people. The intimate and important part taken by Viscount Shibusawa, admittedly the greatest of all financial magnates in Japan, and by Mr. Inouye, Governor of the Bank of Japan, imparts special stability to the financial foundation of the Association. Its offices will be maintained for the time being on the premises of the Chamber of Commence in Tokyo.

### Activity of Association.

The following are the principal work done by the Association in 1920 :

1. June 11 the Association joined L'Union des Associations pour la Société des Nations.

2. September 13 Mr. Hara, the Premier, on behalf of the Association, invited prominent men, both in and outside the Government, to his official residence to make arrangements for contribution to the funds of the Association, those present numbering 117. Prince Tokugawa, President of the Association; Viscount Shibusawa, the Chairman; Mr. Hara, the Premier; and Count Uchida, the Foreign Minister addressed the meeting in turn, all emphasising the supreme necessity of the League of Nations

as well as the usefulness of the work undertaken by the Association. Baron Okura, President of the Okura Company, replied on behalf of those present, earnestly urging that nothing should be spared to further the cause of the Association.

3. September 15 the Association invited Baron Megata, who had been appointed one of the Japanese delegates to the first meeting of the League of Nations Assembly, and asked him (1) to propagatethe aims and purposes of the Association among the peoples of European countries and (2) to gather information regarding peace movements in Europe.

4. September 21 the Association conferred with the Ladies' Patriotic Society and with the Red Cross Society, both of Japan, with regard to the steps to be taken to send relief to the stricken people of Austria.

5. October 1 the Association represented to the League of Nations Union and also to Count Uchida, the Foreign Minister, that the distribution of mandates should be determined with the least possible delay, that the determination of mandatory rule should be based on the principle of the "open door" and equal opportunity, and that the race equality proposal should be realised by all means in the interest of the world's peace and international justice.

6. October 13-15 the Association was represented at the fourth meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the League of Nations Associations at Milan by ten delegates, including Dr. Tanakadate, Mr. Miura, and Viscount Hotta, Member of the House of Peers.

7. November 12 a public meeting was held in Tokyo in formal celebration of the advent of the Association and

to propagate its aims and purposes, the principal speakers being Dr. S. Yamada, Dr. Hayashi, Baron Sakatani, and Mr. Ozaki, all prominent public men. The audience numbered 2,000, an immense success as public meetings of the sort go in Japan. The meeting continued late into the night with the hall filled to overflowing; the audience listened attentively to the outpourings of eloquence on the mission of the League of Nations. The management of the Association was highly satisfied with the unmistakable success of the first public event under its auspices. Mr. Ozaki is, it need scarcely be added, one of the greatest Japanese statesmen of the day, being formerly Minister of Education and also Minister of Justice. He is as much noted for his powerful command of language as for his political eminence and for the high esteem in which he is held by the younger generation on whose shoulders rests the future destiny of the country.

8. November 11 to December 3 a dozen public meetings were held to propagate the idea of the League of Nations at :

- (a) Osaka, speakers Dr. Soyeda and Dr. Anesaki.
- (b) Hongo, Tokyo, speakers Mr. Y. Sugimura, a popular diplomatist and writer, and Mr. Tagawa, M. P.,
- (c) Hibiya, Tokyo, speakers Dr. Soyeda and Dr. Oka.
- (d) Imperial University, Tokyo, speakers Dr. Anesaki, Dr. Tachi, and Viscount Okochi,
- (e) Hakodate, Hokkaido.
- (f) Otaru, Hokkaido.
- (g) Medical College, Chiba.

(h) Japan University, Tokyo, a series of lectures on the League of Nations by Mr. Sugimura.

9. Publication of Literature: The first number of a "Journal of the League of Nations Association of Japan," a quarterly devoted to the cause of the League of Nations, consisting of 260 pages. Two booklets, one entitled "Outline of the League of Nations" written by Mr. Sugimura who presents the League of Nations idea concisely and in a manner easy for the lay mind to grasp; the other contains the text of the League of Nations Covenant in Japanese, English, and French; both for distribution among the people.

10. December 14 the Association invited to a reception Count Chinda, Baron Matsui, and Baron Ijuin, all of whom had represented Japan at the Peace Conference and on the League Council, and asked for their views regarding the League of Nations.

Count Chinda expressed himself jubilant over the appearance of the League of Nations Association of Japan which, he said, left nothing to be desired as a League of Nations organ of the people, enlisting, as it did, the best and most comprehensive support and influence obtainable in the country. He was the more pleased with the Association the more he thought of the sublime potentialities of the League of Nations. It was his conviction that the Association would not fail to be the pivot of all future peace movements of the people in Japan.

Baron Matsui said that to those awakened by the world war, the League of Nations, however imperfect it might be, indicated the only path along which mankind could proceed. Every ounce of energy should, therefore, be thrown into the scale so that the League could prepon-

derate in all important affairs of the world. The Baron added that in view of the unprecedented nature of the task before the League of Nations Council, its members naturally assumed a very cautious attitude with the result that its operations had not been very spectacular, but he was persuaded that in future the Council would show appreciable results.

11. The committee is divided into (1) Research, (2) Propaganda, and (3) Finance.

12. Contributions to Association's Funds. There has been a ready response to the call for subscriptions to the funds of the Association, the donors registered prior to February 20, 1921, including, among others:—Prince Tokugawa, Baron Mitsui, Baron Iwasaki, Baron Okura, Baron Furukawa, Viscount Shibusawa, Baron Morimura, Messrs. Z. Yasuda, T. Hara, J. Inoue, S. Kimura, F. Watanabe, K. Koike, K. Nezu, T. Arai, D. Suenobu, T. Ogura, S. Nishiwaki, I. Matsukata, Y. Sasaki, K. Hijikata, S. Minobe, K. Nakagawa, K. Ogata, S. Naruse, A. Fukuhara, S. Akizuki, South Manchuria Railway Company, Yokohama Specie Bank, Japan Industrial Bank, Bank of Formosa, Daiichi Bank, Jugo Bank, Daihyaku Bank.





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