
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HAWAII

AND ITS
RACE PROBLEM

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portant place in the community. Members of it, like others emerging from the cane fields, have no social pretensions out of which strife might arise.

JAPANESE

Then came the deluge which was Japanese. Between the years 1885 and 1900 approximately 70,000 Japanese were brought to Hawaii as contract laborers. Wages paid them in the beginning were \$9 a month with food or \$15 a month if they kept themselves. These wages sound low to us, but remember that with housing furnished free, medical attention with hospitalization free, fuel furnished by employers without cost, and with plots of land made available for home gardens, there are possibilities for a frugal people.

a gross understatement!

As contract laborers, many of these Japanese worked assiduously for a while, saved their money, and returned to the fatherland. During the decade that followed the annexation of Hawaii by the United States, some 40,000 additional Japanese were brought in to work on the plantations. It was these chiefly who remained and formed the nucleus of the present Nipponese population of the islands, which amounts to 146,000, or 40 per cent of the population.

Most of the Japanese who elected permanently to remain in Hawaii came from the neighborhood of Hiroshima, which is in the western part of Honshu, the biggest of the islands that constitute Japan. This is an area which is very greatly overpopulated, in which a typical homestead consists of not more than one-fourth of an acre of land, and in which the struggle for existence is most intense. To these Japanese the low wage paid in the Hawaiian cane fields was most alluring. It offered an escape from the poverty which had been theirs through the generations.



A Coffee Picker of the Kona Coast

RACES IN HAWAII

And above all it offered education, with accompanying opportunities, to their sons and daughters.

When the Japanese had settled themselves into this plantation work, it began to be discovered that their psychology was very different from that of the Chinese who had preceded them. Chinese civilization is very old, and

so is Japanese



On the Plantations Children Born of Japanese Coolie Laborers Are Making Their First Step Toward Becoming Americans

those who are a part of it have no desire to change their manner of life. The Chinese in lands other than their own tend strongly to remain Chinese. They continue to wear Chinese dress and live in Chinese rookeries. They are dominated by a single purpose, which is that of accumulating wealth. This they do, however, harmoniously and agreeably with their associates, and almost never arouse

any racial strife or antagonism. Further, they are much inclined to intermarry where possible with the peoples among whom they are thrust, and have reputations for making good husbands. In Hawaii the Chinese men have always been looked upon with favor as husbands by native Hawaiian women. The stability of the homes provided by these husbands has tended to develop acceptable family life. Children resulting from the intermarriages have grown up under favorable circumstances and have become a heritage of value to the community.

The psychology of the Japanese in Hawaii was altogether different. The Japanese, in the first place, were enthusiastic about the acceptance of things which to them were new. As rapidly as possible they discarded Japanese clothes, the Japanese manner of living, and gave themselves the appearance of Americans and participated actively in the most up-to-date phases of American living. The Japanese proved himself ambitious, aggressive, self-assertive, and ready to demand every advantage possible. This tendency resulted in his forming associations to take group action in his interest. The Japanese also failed actively to intermarry with other races of people. They have a definite race pride and an insistence upon maintaining its purity. They are comparatively new in the islands, and the group is so large as to be quite self-sufficient. Further than this, they had their own method for procuring wives—the picture-bride system, under which they freely brought out from Japan girls whom they had never seen, and married them.

These Japanese in their native land, like other introductions, were the lowliest of the low in the social scale. Their status was known to all the world, and they accepted the

fact and so were without any pretensions. Like the others of that great mass of 300,000 people in and from the cane fields, they went placidly about their business, realizing their improved condition and happy in it. But the Japanese were a bit more aggressive than the Chinese in taking advantage of every opportunity for further betterment, had less suavity, less of the knack of making themselves personally liked. ✓



A Honolulu Girl of Japanese Parentage

The gentlemen's agreement between Japan and the United States in 1908 stopped the introduction of Japanese labor into the islands. The Japanese already settled there, however, were permitted, until 1924, to continue the practice of introducing picture brides. Thus it worked out that a normal family condition was possible of development among most of the residents of the islands of Japanese origin. ✓

An outstanding quality of the members of both the Chinese and Japanese groups was their habit of long hours of grueling work. They had been accustomed to work 12, 15, 18 hours a day, and could stand it. It was the gait that had become normal to them. It contrasted greatly,

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of course, with the easy-going life to which native Hawaiians had been accustomed, and it created in Hawaii a labor market in which white Americans would not care to compete.



The Sampan Fishing Fleets Belong Mostly to the Japanese

FILIPINOS

Since 1908 the plantation people, when they have needed labor, have looked toward the Philippines, citizens of which community, as a dependency of the United States, might be freely introduced. The first Filipinos brought in were recruited in the vicinity of Manila and turned out to be quite unsatisfactory workers. They were of Tagalog stock, which is not fundamentally strong. Instead of working steadily, they tended to devote only enough time to