

News Letter

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AMERICANISM -- AS TAUGHT IN JAPANESE-AMERICAN SCHOOLS

Teachings, perpetrated in the name of "Americanism", are various and sundry -- but too many of them are of malicious nature, designed deliberately to undermine American unity. "Japanese Schools in West to Stress Americanism" -- thus read the caption of a story, dispatched from Los Angeles, printed in a recent issue of "The Japanese American Review" (illustration on this page). Other articles in the paper were laudatory of all efforts of the totalitarian powers and of men like Ralph E. Townsend, exposed in NEWS LETTER #109, author of many pro-Axis books. Investigation by NRS of the "Americanism", allegedly "stressed in Japanese schools in the West", revealed the exact opposite to be the case.

Japanese Schools In West to Stress Americanism

LOS ANGELES—The Japanese language schools of Southern California will redouble the emphasis upon Americanism in their teaching methods and concentrate upon the teaching of the language with a view toward practical application in the local business world.

This was the gist of reports issued here following the adoption of resolutions at the annual meeting of the Gakuen Federation.

Attention was given to widely circulated reports that the gakuens have been the source of un-American teachings. "These reports are entirely untrue," it was asserted.

Recent item from
"The Japanese American Review".

Painstaking examination of the facts revealed that there are 248 Japanese language schools in California, with 454 teachers and 19,310 pupils. It is estimated that there are approximately 90,000 *Nisei* -- American citizens of Japanese ancestry -- on the West Coast, two-thirds of whom possess dual citizenship, according to qualified observers.

"To the Left We Have...."

Investigation disclosed the amazing fact that two sets of textbooks exist for the schools. One set, usually shown to curious Occidentals, contains no objectionable text whatsoever. It was approved several years ago by the Department for Public Instruction. However, practically every page of the other set preaches loyalty to Japan and treason against the American government. NRS tried for a long time to obtain both sets (illustration on page 2), and finally succeeded. Reproduced on page 3 is a facsimile of receipt issued by the Goshu-Do Company, 1698 Post Street, San Francisco, Calif., for a complete set of those textbooks which are available only to "trusted" Japanese.

Random excerpts from textbooks which are for the exclusive use of Japanese, are unmistakable in purpose as they are flowery in wordage. National language and patriotism are stressed almost to the point of exaggeration:

Reader IV
Junior High School
Lesson #30

In the unification of the Japanese people who possess the proud and noble Yamato spirit, the genuine Japanese language has always been the most important instrument. The Japanese language is the spiritual blood that circulates in all Japanese. Through it, they are unified.

This bond is so strong that it perpetuates an unbreakable chain. If a great crisis should arise in the nation, the people would gladly combine their energy for the country's best, despite hardship and even death. And, if there is good news for us, the Japanese people from the south and the north will sing the national anthem, "Kimigayowa", and bless the nation for its fortune.

The Japanese language is like a lovely mother to all our people. From our birth, this mother has held us on her lap and taught us nationalism and appreciation of country. Passionate love of this mother is like the sun in the sky. As citizens of this country (Japan) and offsprings of this (Japanese) nation, we admire its brilliance.

Our national language cannot be forgotten in our hearts, not even for a single day, especially if we remember that we are children of Gods.

The objective of Japanese education, no matter in what country it may be, is to teach the people never to be ashamed of their Japanese citizenship. First comes language, and then history. We must never forget -- not even for a moment -- that we are Japanese citizens.

Loyalty to the Emperor is indeed next to Godliness, if not Godliness itself, according to the teachings of the textbooks:

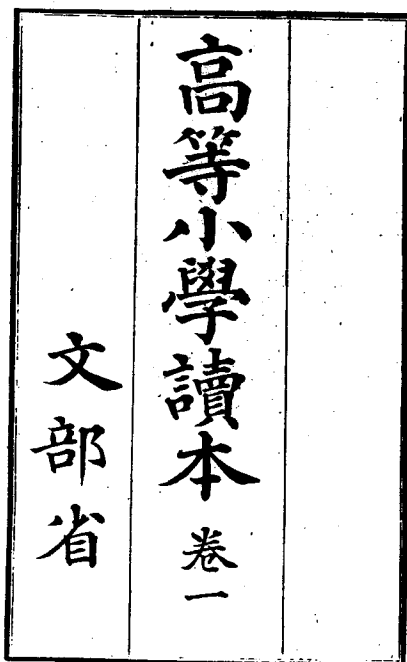
Reader V
5th Grade
Lesson #1

Our heavenly ruler has governed our Empire for ages past and we are his subjects. The Emperor's great predecessor, the Sun Goddess, in ancient times went to her descendant Nipigi No Mikoto and issued a divine command, telling him to go forth and found an empire upon the islands of Japan....The Imperial House is the center of our country and our nation.With unified hearts let us pursue the path of loyalty and patriotism. There is no other country with such a royal lineage. Be thankful you are a Japanese, and worship the Imperial family.

To become a good Japanese, it seems, one must set Japan and its rulers above all else in the world:

Reader V Our great
5th Grade Japanese Empire
Lesson #27 has been ruled
for thousands
of years by our Heavenly
Prince. Being his subjects,
we all must continue steadily
on the road of our
predecessors. No other
country in the world can
compare with ours. It is
our duty to carry on the
great spirit of loyalty to
the Emperor and the Empress,

Front covers of Japanese textbooks. Book at left was approved by Department for Public Instruction. Book at right is available only to "trusted" Japanese.



and to achieve their aims. We must also try to understand the government of our nation and the problems confronting it. We must really try our utmost in this, at all times, for it is our duty and our job. We must do it with a big heart. We must love our country and our Emperor. We must strengthen our body. We must study everything and be diligent. We must never forget what we learn. If we do all this, we will become good Japanese.

The eighth grade pupils are given to understand that although Hawaii belongs to the United States in body, the spirit and living habits are Japanese:

Reader VIII
8th Grade
Lesson #21

Hawaii is known as a possession of the United States of America, but here the Japanese language is spoken just as you hear it in Yokohama. Besides this, you see that about half of the entire crowd, welcoming you, are Japanese. Also, you see among them many women in the Japanese kimono and with the obi tied around their waists.

In the hotel, after you take a Japanese bath and get dressed, you

can hardly believe you are in a foreign country. Of Hawaii's 380,000 population, 150,000 are Japanese. They are engaged in farming, fishing, commerce, and all sorts of business ventures. Hawaii's development to its present stage is due to the Japanese. The fish this hotel serves is caught by Japanese fishermen....Coffee, sugar, pineapple and all other fruits are produced by the hands of the Japanese.

The power of the Japanese language is stressed as extending in its far-reaching importance even to North and South America:

Reader IX
9th Grade
Lesson #28

The Japanese residing in the United States of America and Brazil have established Japanese language schools to teach their children the Japanese language.

Under a God-Emperor of unbroken lineage, our nation became matchless in the world, and it continues to move forward....The Japanese language is a ring of wedlock between the feelings and spirits of our forefathers and ourselves, thus tying us together, today,

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Receipt issued by Gosha-Do Company for set of Japanese language textbooks, available only to "trusted" Japanese.

as one community of citizens. Had it not been for our Japanese language, our ideals would by now have been scattered from place to place. Thus, as we march forward in the time of national difficulty, we shout "banzai" to cheer our Emperor, proud of our Japanese language and heritage....And so the Japanese language holds together all its citizens, no matter where they may reside.

Those who forget the Japanese language are no longer Japanese. Respect the Japanese language. Love the Japanese language. The national language is the place where the spirits of citizens reside.

Post-Graduate Course

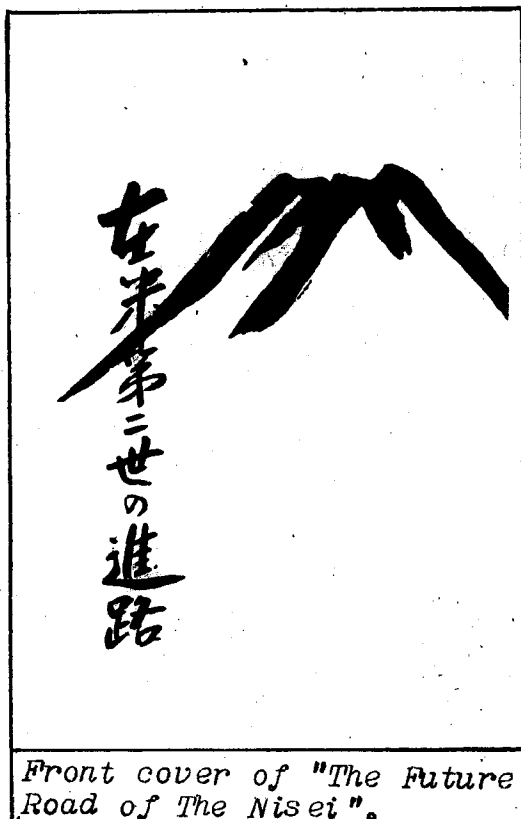
Once the Japanese-American leaves the Japanese language school, contact with him is maintained through an unending flow of pro-Japanese and anti-American literature, and through lectures from Nipponese government officials who travel in this country as private citizens. Typical of the many books placed at the disposal of Japanese-Americans is "The Future Road of the Nisei" (illustration on this page), edited by Tsunegoro Horota, endorsed by General Sugiyama, Chief of Staff, Japanese Army; and by Takashi Zuzuki, Director of Kinmon Gakuin, leading Japanese language school of San Francisco. On pages 155 to 157, under the caption "Activities of Nisei for Japan", appears:

According to recent reports, several hundred lectures have been delivered on the China incident by Nisei in America. Many Nisei also returned to Japan with a mass of material, collected in California.

Things of this sort are typical of the work performed in the past by the Nisei for Japan. What they gain and what they do is by no means unimportant. The Nisei have made significant contributions to Japan, but in many cases these facts must remain hidden. For example, when the Seventh International Education Conference was held in Tokyo, the Nisei proved themselves most valuable in many respects.

When the China incident occurred, it became necessary to broadcast to the world the true news in the English language. At this most crucial moment, the Nisei did the work by assuming responsibility as is befitting great patriots.

In connection with the rapid growth of cultural societies in recent years, the Nisei have played an important part through their work as translators, lecturers, travelers, etc. The role of the Nisei, at the present moment, is of utmost importance, for it is up to him to introduce Japanese culture and Japanese propaganda abroad. Nisei always take the leadership. In the world where English language newspapers and magazines are most influential, the Nisei are in an excellent position to do their share. We have seen to it that they shall be well prepared for their task. (Under-scoring by NRS)



Front cover of "The Future Road of The Nisei".

The Nisei spirit is fostered in Los Angeles by the *Rafu Shimpo*, a weekly newspaper

also known as the "Los Angeles Japanese Daily News". This paper, printed in English and in Japanese, has a dual policy, similar in nature to that of the two different sets of textbooks. The English section reeks of patriotic sweetness, while the Japanese section shows the true spirit of the paper. Typical is the following article, printed in Japanese, captioned "Nisei Oversea Division":

We must help our oversea brethren to accomplish the aim of the Fatherland, the establishment of a Greater Asia. In the creation of an enlightened Asia, every Japanese, all over the world, must become a unit of one in the march forward.

Education of the Nisei, obviously enough, cannot be neglected. Therefore, the Imperial Education Association has appropriated 100,000 Yen for the purpose of positive Nisei education all over the world, beginning this year.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the Greater Asia Assisting Office, a committee has been formed whose program will be (1) to make a careful study of the present status of Nisei education and of the teaching staff abroad; (2) to build a firmer foundation for Nisei education; and (3) to send the most competent teaching staffs to all parts of the world.

Many presently engaged in Nisei education abroad, desire to return home. At the same time, a large number of teachers at home are anxious to go abroad. Well planned handling of this situation will be most advantageous. Everyone is anxiously awaiting the changes which have been announced.

Thus writes the *Rafu Shimpō* in its Japanese section. However, for the benefit of Americans who do not understand the Japanese language, the following is offered as "The Nisei Creed":

THE NISEI CREED

I am proud that I am an American citizen of Japanese ancestry for my very background makes me appreciate more fully the wonderful advantages of this nation.

I believe in her institutions, ideals and traditions; I glory in her heritage; I boast of her history; I trust in her future. She has granted me liberties and opportunities such as no individual enjoys in this world today. She has given me an education befitting kings. She has entrusted me with the responsibilities of the franchise. She has permitted me to build a home, to earn a livelihood, to worship, think, speak and act as I please—as a free man equal to every other man.

Although some individuals may discriminate against me, I shall never become bitter or lose faith for I know that such persons are not representative of the majority of the American people.

True, I shall do all in my power to discourage such practices, but I shall do it in the American way; aboveboard, in the open, through courts of law, by education, by proving myself to be worthy of equal treatment and consideration. I am firm in my belief that American sportsmanship and attitude of fair play will judge citizenship and patriotism on the basis of action and achievement, and not on the basis of physical characteristics.

Because I believe in America, and I trust she believes in me, and because I have received innumerable benefits from her, I pledge myself to do honor to her at all times and in all places; to support her constitution; to obey her laws; to respect her flag; to defend her against all her enemies, foreign and domestic; to actively assume my duties and obligations as a citizen, cheerfully and without any reservations whatsoever, in the hope that I may become a better American in a greater America.

In this issue, NRS has shown how American citizens of Japanese ancestry are taught to be loyal to the Land of the Rising Sun. In the next issue, NRS will report further on Japanese activities in America, and will reveal, among others, the contents of a highly significant Japanese publication put to practical use as textbook by Japanese spies in the United States.
