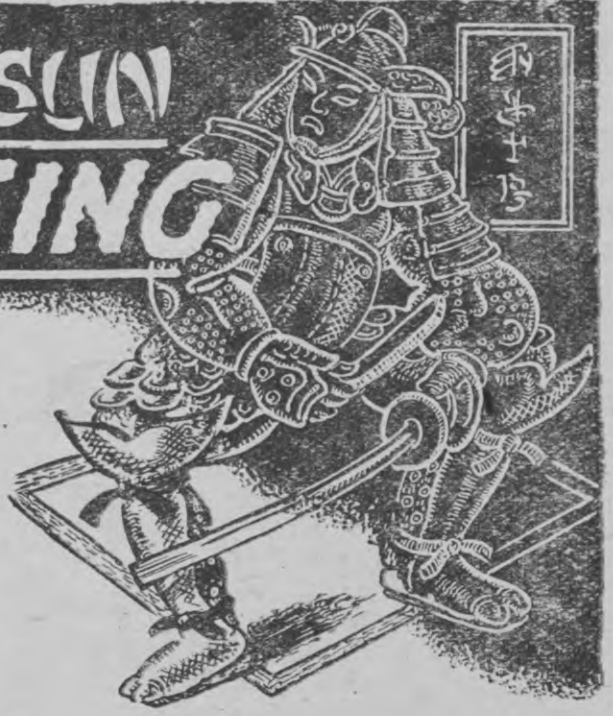


"THE RISING SUN IS SETTING



IT is four thousand miles in a straight line from the southern fringe of the Netherlands East Indies to the Russian border in the island of Sakhalin. Between those two points lies the solid bloc of continental and island territories which Japan held within her rapacious grasp sixteen months ago and which are now being torn piecemeal from her fingers. Japan had seized in a succession of lightning blows the greater part of East Asia, including the occupied territory of China, Burma, Malaya, the Philippines and a number of islands in the Pacific, and had thrust her armies as far south as New Guinea and the Solomons until even Australia and New Zealand were threatened with direct attack.

Japan's blitzkrieg of the East had reaped rich dividends. The policy of war and destruction, of bludgeoning down her weaker neighbours, and of striking at a time when Germany and Italy were drawing off the major weight of Allied resistance, had been amply justified. Or so it appeared at the time. Today, Allied forces stand within a few hundred miles of the Japanese mainland, large Japanese forces have been destroyed or immobilised in the outer ring of the enemy's sphere of conquest, and almost daily Allied naval and bomber fleets are cascading shells and bombs into the heart of the Empire. It is now beginning to dawn on the little yellow race of Nippon that perhaps, after all, they may have made a mistake

The age-old fairy story of Japan, the fairy story, still accepted by an indulgent world forty years ago, of a quaint race of little yellow people living in little paper houses and bowing odd little bows in odd little kimonos, has evaporated under the hard impact of war. The little land of pleasant make-believe has dropped its mask. No one in the outside world really knows when Japan ceased her window-dressing and reached for the sword of conquest and destruction, nor even when her dreams of dominating the Far East and the Pacific began to take shape, but the world does know today that long before the "China incident" brought the first rumblings of the storm she had been preparing for a war of expansion in which she planned to brush aside and, if need be, strike at her former friends and allies.

The world stared when Japan occupied eastern Siberia in the last war, but shrugged its shoulders and attached no particular significance to the suddenly militaristic tendencies of the "quaint" little Japanese. After all, without oil and iron and with practically no coal supplies they could not aspire to becoming a great industrial