

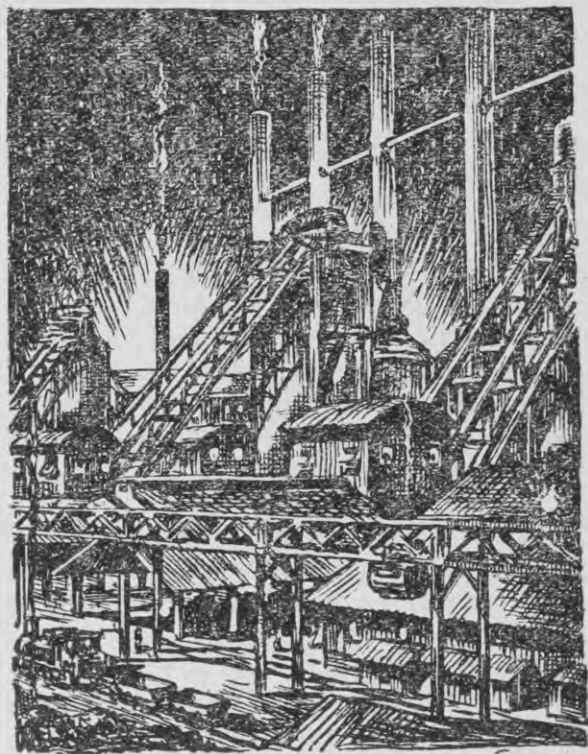
control will thus be confined to the main islands, or Japan Proper. It is within that small area—roughly one-fifth larger than that of the British Isles—that more than seventy million people will have to maintain themselves in the next few years, and their land is by no means rich in natural resources. The Japanese population is likely to grow steadily—one estimate, based on the known fact that a high proportion of the population is at present within the fertile age groups, places the probable annual expansion at a million.

Far-reaching adjustments will have to be effected in the Japanese economy to meet the new situation. To gauge the measure of these adjustments it is necessary to glance at the outstanding features of the economic system of the country as it has operated up to the present. Before the war with China, out of an occupied population of some thirty-four million about fourteen million were engaged in agriculture and about six hundred thousand in fishing, and from these two industries came the bulk of the foodstuffs which the people consumed. Far from being self-sufficient in her food supply, however, she derived large quantities from her empire. Ten years ago she was importing mostly from Korea and Formosa, a sixth of her consumption of the staple food, rice; while sugar came from Formosa and beans from Manchuria in extensive quantities. For obvious reasons it would be difficult for her to dispense with these imports.

Already the most intensive methods of cultivation are being used on the limited area of arable land available in Japan, and there is little or no fresh land to be brought under cereals. With a holding of less than two and a-half acres, the average Japanese farming family ekes out its livelihood by various subsidiary employments, such as the rearing of silkworms, which provide the chief industrial raw material produced in Japan. Reports

recently made available to Allied Headquarters in Tokio by the Japanese Ministries of Commerce and Agriculture showed that the growing of mulberry trees for the production of silk has been greatly reduced by the mulberry lands being used for rice production in order to offset the Allied blockade. Yet more mulberry-growing land is to be given over to rice growing this autumn and winter, so that silk production next year will be only one-ninth of what it was before the war. The conversion is to be temporary, the mulberry branches being cut back to prevent budding, but the plants left intact.

It was in the textile industries that Japan began her industrial career, and in 1929 her economy was highly specialised in two branches of that group, cotton goods and raw silk. Although raw silk production declined during the



next ten years, the cotton industry continued to expand and there was also a rapid development of new textile trades such as rayon. It was in the engineering and metal trades,