

V - Statistical: General

THE Japanese use the Gregorian Calendar, their system being essentially the same as that in use by western nations, the years, months and weeks being of the same length and beginning on the same days as those of the western calendar.

There the similarity ends, for the nomenclature of years under the Japanese style is based on a system of epochs or periods, each of which begins at the accession of an Emperor or other important occurrence, with each year of a period closing on December 31. The Japanese scheme begins about A. D. 650, and the three latest epochs are defined by the reigns of Emperors, whose actual names are not necessarily used. They are:—

Epoch	From	To
Meiji	Oct. 13, 1868	July 31, 1912
Taisho	Aug. 1, 1912	Dec. 25, 1926
Showa	Dec. 26, 1926	—

Hence January 1, 1946, will mark the beginning of Showa 21, "Showa" being the name of the reign of the Emperor Hirohito.

The months are not named, and are merely known as First Month (January), Second Month (February), Third Month, and so on.

The seven days of the week are:—

<i>Nichiyobi</i>	(Sun-day)	Sunday
<i>Getsuyobi</i>	(Moon-day)	Monday
<i>Kwayobi</i>	(Fire-day)	Tuesday
<i>Suiyobi</i>	(Water-day)	Wednesday
<i>Mokuyobi</i>	(Wood-day)	Thursday
<i>Kinyobi</i>	(Metal-day)	Friday
<i>Doyobi</i>	(Earth-day)	Saturday

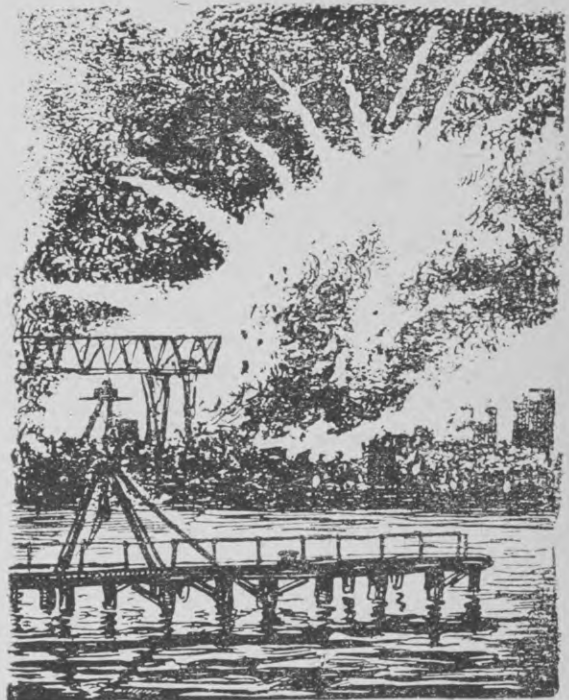
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New Zealand before the war carried on a fairly considerable trade with

Japan. In 1938, for instance, exports of New Zealand goods to Japan were valued at L592,689, while Japan sold New Zealand goods to the value of L1,208,594, but there was a sharp falling-away on both sides of the balance sheet in succeeding years. Comparative figures of New Zealand's trade with Japan before the war are:—

	Exports	Imports
	L	L
1938	592,689	1,208,594
1939	390,783	1,038,584
1940	81,457	809,165
1941	44,884	215,728

Japan was a customer for New Zealand wool, frozen and chilled meat, dried milk, tallow, hides, sheep-skins, and other miscellaneous goods (including scrap-iron), while goods bought from her by New Zealand included tea,



Pearl Harbour, 1941.