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There is a remedy for the plague: Stop Asiatic immigration immediately. It is a harsh measure, but severe evils require severe remedies. In this crisis the Board of Health has a greater power than even Congress. It can do anything but rule the elements. It can remove a family from one quarter to another and burn their dwelling. A body that does this can stop a pest-ship from coming into the harbor.

The Board of Health is doing splendidly, but it can advance a step farther in exercising its functions. It should decree that all communication with Japan and China must cease until those countries shall make themselves clean. It should order Japanese immigrants, with their belongings, back to their homes before they touch foot on Hawaii. No term of quarantine detention is sufficient to protect us. The germs of the plague lurk in the baggage and clothing of the Japanese for weeks and months after the people leave quarantine. That has been proved to our sorrow. The bubonic plague is the worst in the category of zymotic diseases; yellow fever, cholera and smallpox are angelic visitations beside it, for these have been fought and conquered. The bubonic plague is a monster that rarely fails to kill when it strikes. Let the Board of Health stop Asiatic immigration and it will deal a more telling blow at the root of the contagion than a whole city full of fires.

With the now almost universally accepted prospects of a Russo-Japanese war before us, it is of no little interest to speculate on the probable influences of the victory of either side upon Pacific commerce. Should Russia win, little effect would probably be made on the Open Door policy, at least as far as the United States are concerned. It would probably lead to some friction with

Great Britain, as regards her commercial interests; France, and possibly Germany, might be favored with concessions detrimental to England's mercantile power in the Far East; yet little interference would hardly be made with the free importation into China of American products.

Russia, immediately after the close of what will certainly be a bloody war, will not be anxious to embroil herself with so powerful a country as America; neither will our Government be backward in demanding free access to the China trade. We are valuable to Russia, too, in many ways. The white Czar is a good customer in our shops for locomotives, bridges and machinery.

It must also be remembered that Russia is not a commercial nation. The dignity of the merchant is a very little thing in the Czar's dominions; the merchant is very necessary, very respectable, but his claims to social distinction are entirely overlooked.

If the Bear wars with the "little brown man" it will be for national aggrandisement, for lust of conquest and more important reason yet: the securing of important sea ports on the Pacific ocean that will, with the completion of her trans-Siberian railroad, allow the Czar to mass armies, to give harbor and egress to ironclads and transports sufficient, so the White Czar thinks and hopes and dreams, to crown him not only Czar of all the Russias, but Sovereign Power of the World by right of the might of his iron hand.

It is doubtful, even with the Czar's hopes fully realized, whether the greater naval powers—Great Britain, Germany or ourselves—would feel that the might of the Bear was any serious menace to their prosperity. The man behind the gun is, after all, the backbone of a country's defensive and offensive power, as is the farmer that of our commercial prosperity. The "spirit of the whole" of our fighting men, for example, is so far beyond the demoralized personality of the unpracticed Russian man-of-war's man that the preponderance of power in the Pacific could easily be equalized by the American navy if it came to a case of force and arms. This, however, is hardly likely to occur, the point gained being apparently the fact that Russian conquest of the Korea and victory over Japan would not seriously interfere with American commerce in the Pacific.

On the other hand. Should the Japanese win? As shown in the editorial column of THE WEEKLY's last issue the Jap must colonise. The growing population, with their rapid development along the line of modern idea and invention far outstrips the area and resources of her territory. She fights for the possession of Korea not only in the light of her old enmity against Russia, but as an absolute necessity for her overflow.

Provided she wins the war and gains the Korea, will she be satisfied? It is highly improbable. For years the statesmen of Japan have had their eyes on China, on the enormous possibilities of her teeming population, her latent resources when coupled with Japanese vigor and intellectuality.