

CHAPTER XXIV

NEWSPAPERS IN THE PROVINCES AND IN THE EMPIRE

One of the important tendencies of the press of this country is that the development of the provinces is against some big papers being national papers. By means of wires and telephones, the most notable things are flashed to the provinces from the news centre, which is mostly in Tokyo, and therefore the people in the provinces can learn events immediately, quicker than by papers from Tokyo, or from Osaka, another news centre. Not only that but the local interest has often more value than State affairs. In respect to political influence, provincial papers have the advantage over their metropolitan contemporaries, because there is so much give and take in the Tokyo press that both sides of a question are heard. On the other hand, provincial papers centre their energy in the cause of one party, to which they belong, and concentrate their efforts to extinguish the papers of the other party. As a rule every large city or prefecture has two important dailies representing each side of politics. Generally there is one presiding genius of journalism and the local political influence always at his beck and call.

The most prominent instance of party papers in the provinces representing two large political parties is the existence of the Nagoya Shimbun and the Shin Aichi in Aichi Prefecture, the native place of Viscount Kato, President of the Kenseikai Party and present Premier. The Nagoya Shimbun is a Kenseikai organ, while the Shin Aichi is subsidized by the Seiyu Honto, the opposition. Another similar case is in Hokkaido where the Hokkai

Times, a Seiyukai paper, and the Otaru Shimbun, of the Seiyu Honto, stand against each other. However, there are some exceptions, for instance, in Morioka where are none but Seiyukai papers. The Iwate Mainichi and the Iwate Nippo are both Seiyukai organs. These two papers gave whole-hearted support to Mr. Korekiyo Takahashi, former Viscount, in the recent general election, from which he emerged successful with a narrow margin against Mr. Tago, ex-Governor of the Seiyu Honto. Fukuoka also has only Seiyukai papers. The Fukuoka Nichi-Nichi which dominates all Kyushu is the most powerful Seiyukai organ. Kagoshima is the established base for the Seiyu Honto, which separated from the Seiyukai Party early this year and is the opposition, and the Kagoshima Nichi-Nichi is its strongest supporter.

The Fukuoka Nichi-Nichi is a large paper with financial backing from mine owners in Kyushu and courageously competes with the large Osaka papers. The issue of a large size Kyushu supplement by the Osaka Mainichi and the Osaka Asahi from their new branch buildings with up-to-date equipment has not yet dealt any blow to the Fukuoka Nichi-Nichi. The paper publishes several papers in various districts of Kyushu, namely the Kumamoto Nichi-Nichi, the Kyo Nichi-Nichi, the Saga Nichi-Nichi and the Sasebo Nichi-Nichi.

The Kahoku Shimpo in Sendai is the largest paper in eastern Japan. The paper always stands as a critic of the Government in power but it has the colour of the Kenseikai

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Party. Of the total of 20,000 houses in the City of Sendai, 15,000 are subscribers to the Kahoku Shimpō. It has about 60 telephone services with its Tokyo news bureau. Other small papers in the eastern Japan, such as the Sendai Nichi-Nichi of Sendai, the Iwate Nippo of Morioka and the Fukushima Minpo of Fukushima, are no enemies to the paper.

In Kobe there are two representative papers, the Kobe Yushin and the Kobe Shimbun. These two papers are strong rivals to each other.

The Sanyo Shimpō is one of the largest papers in the Middle-West of Japan. Its influence covers all San-in and San-yo provinces. It was a Government supporter at the time of the Terauchi cabinet, but it is now an independent.

In Taiwan there are only three papers. After the occupation of the island by Japan many papers sprang up but, as a result of the Government interference, they were reduced to three and the Taiwan Government-General will not allow more papers to be issued. The three papers existing are the Taiwan Nichi-Nichi, the Taiwan Shimpō and the Taiwan Shimbun. The first of these is the organ of the Government-General and is issued by a fund under the supervision of the Government. The Tainan Shimpō represents sugar interests.

The Keiji Nippo is the organ of the Chosen Government-General. The Chosen Shimbun is the oldest paper in the peninsula.

The Manshu Nichi-Nichi is the organ of the South Manchuria Railway Company and is an eight page paper.

Concerning foreign language papers, the Japan Chronicle in Kobe

is one of the oldest and largest papers in the provinces. Its editor and proprietor, Mr. Robert Young, was known as an anti-Japanese editor and naturally its views and opinions were keenly watched by the authorities. It is the organ of the British interests in the Far East, as the Japan Advertiser in Tokyo represents the America interests in Japan and China. The Nagasaki Press in Nagasaki was first issued in 1870 and has had a special position as a provincial paper for a long years. The Japan Gazette in Yokohama which was established by J. R. Black, the originator of the Nisshin Shinjishi, in 1867, was discontinued since the quake disaster last year. The Seoul Press is a subsidized paper in Seoul and Mr. Isoh Yamagata was the editor of the paper until one or two years ago.

All the provincial papers can be classified by which of the two large news agencies, the Dempo Tsushin or the Teikoku Tsushin, supplies them with news. The Dempo Tsushin is under the Presidency of Mr. Mitsunaga, whose inclination is towards the Seiyukai, while the Teikoku Tsushin is owned and controlled by President Keikichi Tanomogi, a leader of the Kenseikai Party.

The following papers belong to the Dempo Tsushin system: the Hokkai Times, the Kobe Yushin, the Fukuoka Nichi-Nichi, the Taiwan Nichi-Nichi, the Taiwan Shimpō and the Manshu Nichi-Nichi.

The Teikoku Tsushin supplies news to the following papers: the Otaru Shimbun, the Kobe Yushin, the Chugoku Shimpō, and the Nagoya Shimbun.

Such big papers as the Kahoku Shimpō, the Shin Aichi, and the Sanyo Shimpō get supplies of news from both news agencies.