

you are already aware, this violent earthquake, which was the severest experienced in Tokio since 1855, occurred at noon on September 1. The initial shock practically destroyed the whole city of Yokohama, rendering 90 per cent. of the population homeless and destitute. The damages sustained by Tokio and surrounding districts were also very serious. Thousands of lives were lost in both cities, and railways tramways, telephones, telegraph, electricity, water mains and all other public services were destroyed. Three million people were suddenly deprived of the

chaos, in the affected areas.

A COUNTRY WITHOUT A CABINET.

Firstly, I must tell you that when this terrible earthquake visited our capital, the present Cabinet was not yet installed. Viscount Kato, who held the portfolio of Premiership, passed away on August 24 and Count Yamamoto was summoned by the Prince Regent to the Imperial Palace to form a new Cabinet on August 28. While Count Yamamoto, the new Premier of Japan, was still consulting his confreres regarding the choice of his Cabinet Ministers, the



REMAINS OF THE 12-STOREY PAGODA AT
AKASUKA PARK, TOKIO.

RAPID RELIEF MEASURES

Japanese Consul-General's Recapitulation of Government Work

Mr. S. Yada, Japanese Consul-General in Shanghai, was a guest of honour to a tiffin on Thursday at the Astor House given by the Rotary Club. In the course of the tiffin, Mr. Yada delivered the following speech:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, —It is exceedingly gratifying for me to have the honour of addressing you to-day, and all the more so because I appreciate the ideals which your association represents. It is not my intention to-day to recapitulate all the harrowing details of the terrible calamity which has befallen my country, but really to try and convey some idea of the huge task confronting the Japanese Government and how it is endeavouring to surmount it. As

necessities of life and left homeless, to face nothing but thirst, hunger and darkness. Immediately following the severe shock, fires broke out in many places, which soon developed into a huge conflagration and wiped out the main part of the two cities in about 60 hours. The casualties in Tokio alone amounted to 500,000.

I must, however, return to the original purport of this address, namely to endeavour to describe how the Japanese Government is exerting every effort to cope with the situation, how it has restored peace and order out of utter

terrible earthquake occurred and he narrowly escaped with his life. On the same day as the earthquake, he was able to report the personnel of the new Cabinet to the Throne and the formal installation ceremony took place on the following Sunday in the garden of the Palace, it being extremely dangerous to meet indoors, owing to the frequent recurrence of shocks.

By the new Premier the following measures were taken at once:—

- 1.—Martial law was declared in the stricken areas at six o'clock on Saturday evening.

- 2.—Temporary orders for the commandeering of foodstuffs and other daily necessities were immediately issued.
- 3.—A temporary relief bureau was organized.
- 4.—Mobilization orders were issued to the to the army and navy. Several divisions which were stationed close to the devastated area responded and hurried to Tokio, carrying their own foodstuffs and equipment.

MILITARY AND NAVAL HELP.

The standing fleet of the Imperial Navy also hastened to Yokohama bay, carrying enormous quantities of foodstuffs.

Those soldiers who arrived at Tokio were organized into a corps, under the command of General Fukuda, and engineering, transportation, communication, and sanitary corps, as well as commissariat corps, were organized as sub-divisions attached to the main corps. On Sunday, only one day following the terrible earthquake, the soldiers were already feeding the refugees in the public gardens.

The following Monday morning an urgent Imperial Decree was issued announcing the organization of the temporary bureau for earthquake relief work. Count Yamamoto was appointed as the Chairman, and many other prominent people were also nominated as advisors or members of the Council. An appropriation of Y.9,600,000 for the expenses of relief work, together with Y.10,000,000, an Imperial gift, and Y.20,000,000, a donation by a few leading business men was announced. (This sum, of course, was by no means adequate, so another Y.10,000,000 were later appropriated to the Bureau by the Treasury.)

The next day (September 4), a Cabinet meeting was convened and passed the following measures:—

- 1.—Wounded shall be taken into the Army barracks.
- 2.—Tent barracks shall be put up by Army engineers in available open spaces.
- 3.—Temporary crematoriums shall be established.
- 4.—Banks shall be opened under Army protection.
- 5.—To ask permission to use the open space in front of the Imperial Palace and also to use lumber owned by the Imperial household.
- 6.—Adequate protection to be made for foreign residents, etc.

Thanks to the strenuous efforts of the authorities, repair work on water mains, electric wires, tramways, roads and bridges was effected satisfactorily, and, on the following Wednesday evening, electric lights appeared in the public parks after four nights of darkness and telephone communication was established between Tokio and Osaka, although it was only one line. On the following Friday, one section of the electric tramways of Tokio was opened for traffic.

As to provisions for sufferers, at least 800,000 "koku" (about 40,000,000 bushels) of rice was accumulated in Tokio and Yokohama by 33 warships of the standing squadron and other steamers within a week.

Up to the 15th, 100,000 "tsubo" (roughly 36,000,000 square feet) of temporary barracks were completed.

PLANS FOR RECONSTRUCTION.

Viscount Goto, Minister for Home Affairs, declared that the initial task of the Government was relief work, namely to aid the wounded and sick, and to provide shelter, supply food, clothes and other daily necessities to the sufferers. This emergency work was nearly completed on September 10. The next task confronting Viscount Goto is the reconstruction of the Metropolis, as well as Yokohama. The Government has lost no time in taking up the study of city-planning on a drastic scale. According to the latest information from Tokio, an initial draft, which was laid before the Committee of Reconstruction by the Mayor of Tokio, is as follows:—

- 1.—The property of the military arsenal, as well as the premises of the military cadet school and the military junior cadet school, will be converted into a public garden.
- 2.—Ten more public gardens shall be established throughout the city. (The sites and sizes of these parks mentioned in detail.)
- 3.—Elevated railways, big canals and main highways which can be, at the same time, useful barriers for preventing the spreading of fire, shall be built.
 - (a) The first-class highways should be 240 ft. in width and radiate from the Tokio Station, the centre of the city.
 - (b) Two big canals, 360 ft. in width, shall be built, radiating from the Tokio Station.
 - (c) The second-class highways shall be 120 ft. in width and radiate from the Tokio Station.
 - (d) Restrictions forbidding the erection of any permanent building in the devastated area in Tokio, until the city plan is definitely fixed.

You can easily imagine how appallingly hard is the task which is confronting our Government buildings. Nine were completely burned down, including the Metropolitan Police Headquarters and Government printing office, reducing the archives to ashes. The remaining Government buildings which escaped destruction by fire are also by no means available, as the damages are in most cases so severe that it is impossible to occupy them. For instance, the Foreign Office staff are at present gathered in a small building ridiculously inadequate, although many of the staff are un-

able to attend owing to their own personal losses, many being quite homeless.

SITUATION WELL IN HAND.

But it appears to me that the responsible officers have the situation well in hand and encouraged by the world-wide sympathy and assistance, so generously extended, they are striving bravely against this unprecedented calamity which has befallen our country.

We, the Japanese people, are determined to work to retrieve our fallen fate. Time will tell, more than I am able, what we will achieve by our determination in the next 10 years. I am sure that I am voicing the sentiment of every one of my countrymen when I say that Japan is profoundly touched by the wonderful outflow of generosity from the people of the United States of America, Great Britain and China, and Japan will strive with her utmost energy and resources to achieve all that is worthy and expected of her by all friendly nations.—Eastern News Agency