

Brink of War



(color added)

Rising Sun—Or Setting?

THAT veteran columnist of the Hearst papers, Arthur Brisbane, chimes in with the isolationist warning that, "the good old days of shipping billions of American money and millions of men to take part in somebody else's fight have gone by." Similarly, M. E. Tracy, sage of the Scripps-Howard group, sniffs distrustfully at the League's invitation to Russia and America to co-operate—which means, asserts the wary Mr. Tracy, that, "if things come to a showdown, those two countries can have the glorious privilege of enforcing the League's mandate."



Walter Lippmann observes in the *New York Herald Tribune*: "The Army has placed Japan on a slippery incline which leads down to disaster, and the time may come when only the friendly assistance of the Powers that have delivered this verdict can save Japan."

Writing from Geneva to the *Baltimore Sun*, Robert Dell expresses his firm conviction that Japan can not long hold out against the verdict of the world despite her braggadoccio:

"The consequences of giving Japan a free hand in Asia are incalculable, but they may not ultimately be satisfactory to Japan herself, for she is like the frog in the fable trying to expand itself into a bull, and the result is likely to be similar.

"Japan is trying to play the part of a great Power without the necessary resources. With a population of about 65,000,000 and an area two-thirds as large again as that of Great Britain, she has extremely small natural resources and a national revenue about 25 per cent. larger than that of Switzerland, which has a population of 4,000,000 and an area half the size of Ireland.

"How can Japan, with a revenue of about \$270,000,000 at the present rate of exchange and a falling currency, go on indefinitely spending about \$220,000,000 on her Army and Navy?

"How can she hope to imitate successfully the imperialist exploits of wealthy countries like England and France?

"She seems bound to come to grief soon or late, but before that happens she may have done great mischief to the rest of the world which could have been avoided had the Council of the League of Nations taken a firm stand in September, 1931."