

LITERARY DIGEST

January 5, 1935

Japan Denounces Treaty

The first successful attempt in world history to limit armaments was marked for the scrap-heap on December 31, 1936, when Hiroshi Saito, the slim and smiling Japanese Ambassador to the United States, bowed himself into the State Department building in Washington last Saturday and handed to Secretary Cordell Hull a document that the world has been expecting for many months—Japan's formal denunciation of the Washington Naval Treaty.

On the same day, the Japanese Foreign Office at Tokyo issued a statement declaring that Japan's action was motivated by a desire to promote peace and disarmament. Japan, it was said, had not "the slightest wish to enlarge her armaments."

Also, the hope was expressed that another pact might be concluded, but the statement made clear that it must conform to Japan's "basic principles."

Japan's action followed her unsuccessful efforts at the recent London naval parley to get Great Britain and the United States to grant her "equality of armaments," thus abandoning the 5-5-3 ratio, established in 1922.

Spokesmen for the British Government considered the clock had been turned back twelve years by Japan's move, but expressed a sense of relief that definite action had finally dispelled "uncertainty and doubts."

Unofficially it was understood in Paris that France welcomed Japan's action since the whole idea of French parity with Italy was believed to be distasteful to the French and renewal of the treaty along its original lines would have met with powerful opposition in Paris.