

## Meiji Emperor and Meiji Era

When we arrived in Tokyo in September 1910 the Meiji Emperor had been on the Throne 42 years and it had been that long since the Tokugawa Shogunate had taken its place along with the other subjects of the Emperor.

The Emperor had been only about 16 years of age when he took over the palace in Tokyo. He was an extraordinary man and had come to the throne at an extraordinary time.

He said something like this— We will learn every thing the other nations will teach us. We will make up for what is short in us by getting what is long in others.

There began about 1872 the construction of the nationwide system of Education. It was such an undertaking as would have to be called great in any country and at any time.

It contributed greatly to the growth of Tokyo, just how greatly it would be hard to say.

Very soon there were more than 10,000,000 children studying text books printed in Tokyo, That would be only a small beginning of what has been printed and published in Tokyo.

The governments of the world all began to open Embassies in Tokyo, and how that has helped the city to grow! It became truly an international city.

About 1899 treaties between Japan and other nations of the world were generally revised and what was commonly called Extraterritoriality ceased as far as Japan was concerned. We lived in Japan under the laws of Japan and traveled freely wherever we wished to go without any passports or anything of the sort.