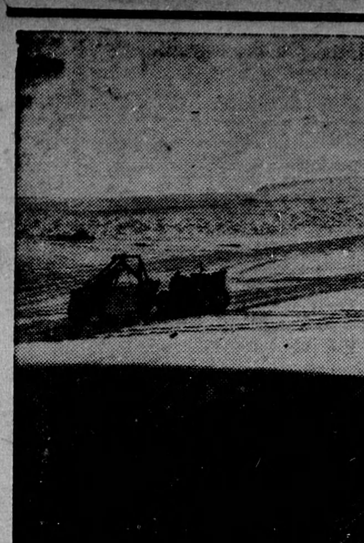
JULY

PAGE MISSING



Middle East Oil Development Th
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WHAT GO

Japan

For over a year rumors have been circulating in Japan to the effect that Emperor Hirohito was about to embrace Christianity— probably Roman Catholicism. These rumors were revived by the recent visit to Japan of Cardinal Spellman of New York, during which he paid a half-hour call on the Emperor.

Asked during the press conference which immediately followed his visit to the Imperial Palace whether Hirohito was considering adopting Christianity, Cardinal Spellman answered that the subject hadn't even been mentioned.

However, the more influential Japanese seem to think that it doesn't matter much what Hirohito does in this regard. The Japanese are not a really "religious" people in the sense that we of the Western world use that term. Most Japanese homes have shrines to both the Shinto and the Buddhist gods, and both receive practically equal attention. Besides which many of them, when dressed in European clothes, carry in their pockets Bibles or New Testaments. In other words, they believe in trying to propitiate as many deities as possible.

So if Hirohito should decide to become a Christian, most of his people would not feel it necessary for him to drop any of his former faiths; and while the Japanese mind is difficult to fathom, the chances are that most of the Niponese would have the idea that The Pope was recognizing the spiritual authority of The Emperor, rather than the reverse.

Paraguay

Most of the population of Paraguay lives to the east of the river of the same name, where the land is fertile and arable. West of the river is the Gran Chaco—100,000 square miles of wilderness, much of it swampy. The air is so thick with mosquitos that frequently the sun

Sour Note—Peter Piper, who used hand power to pick his peck of pickled peppers, should have lived in 1948. He would have had the benefit of the new electronic pickle sorter. Electric eyes sort the pickles according to size, but the big fellow Alice Gannon is holding stumps the machine.