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Please forward me the Farmers Calendar in all making a complete account

America and Britain In the Far East

(Continued from Page 6)

The British Labour Government is preventing Britain from doing her part to maintain peace in the Far East seems unavoidable.

All of this throws added pressure on the American position in the Philippines; for a dam is no stronger than its weakest part, and if the latter goes then the whole structure may be swept away.

But even though Britain had every desired base facility at Singapore, that would not mean that virtually the entire British fleet could be sent to the Far East.

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British Navy to Singapore." And he might have added that acute trouble in India is even more likely to occur if we break out in the Pacific. Indeed, a comprehensive political survey of the military commitments and contingencies that encompass the 8,000-mile line of communication from England, through the Mediterranean and across the Indian Ocean, to Singapore seems to force one to the conclusion that, in time of trouble, the British should not be expected to maintain more than ten capital ships and their auxiliaries at Singapore; that they might not be able to maintain six; and that it seems likely that they would not there maintain a fleet of more than seven or eight capital ships and their auxiliaries.

Such a conclusion brings us, in turn, to others that may seem surprising. If we eliminate the American fleet and consider only a British fleet, of say, eight capital ships, based on Singapore, at the end of a somewhat precarious 8,000-mile line of support from England, and opposite to such a British fleet the Japanese fleet of ten capital ships, based directly on their extensive home yards, less than 3,000 miles to the north-east of Singapore, it becomes evident that, say off Hongkong, about half way between Singapore and Japan proper, the British fleet would be under a very serious handicap. Nor would it seem safe to consider Hongkong as an advance British base in such an operation. For its defences, limited by the Naval Treaty, could not be expected to do more than hold off a cruiser raid; it could be taken quite easily by land operations, as was Tsingtao; and thus it might become an advanced Japanese position. But what would be more serious—if America were out of the entire situation—would be that the Japanese might secure an advance operating base either in the southern Philippines or in French Indo-China, which would enable their fleet to dominate any fleet it would be reasonable to expect that Britain could maintain at Singapore.

Consideration of the entire naval situation suggests, however, a deeper reason for the past outcry in the Japanese Press against the Singapore project. It will be recalled that during the twenty-four months following the close of the Washington Conference, the Japanese have authorized and started the building of 170,000 tons of post-conference cruisers and of over 80,000 tons of post-conference submarines, whereas, in that period, neither America nor Britain authorized any expansion of the "unlimited" classes of their fleets. Yet some seemingly plausible pretext had to be given to the Japanese public in order that it would give adequate support to the intensive fleet expansion the Japanese authorities were pushing in order to make American and British opposition to the Maritime Plan probably



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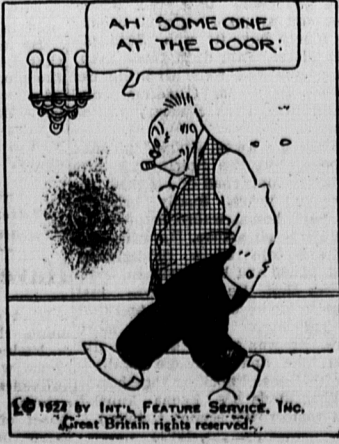
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—By GEO. McMANUS