

better of him even for that. He had telephoned Mary, and after a half-hour's talk and an interview later that afternoon, they had decided to postpone the wedding.

It was wonderful, Miss Schroeder thought, that the news, when she heard it, did not appear to effect Mother Tanner in any way for the worse.

Deserted Sheep Pasture

BY FRANCES FROST

Now a red fox runs where sheep
Were wont to pasture years ago,
And everlasting climbs the steep
Hillside where the slow winds go
That once were musical with bells
Hung from wandering woolly throats.
Now within the cobalt wells
Of morning, death, the lean hawk, floats
And falls upon the shivering mouse
And haunts the grass-nest of the hare,
Or swoops on jewel-weeds to rouse
The huddled chipmunk quaking there.
The seed-pods of the thistles break
Where once the plaintive bleating blew
Among the junipers that shake
In silence now. The meadow-rue
Stirs softly, and the ghosts of sheep
Lie down in the lonely sun to sleep.

Oriental Tom-Toms

BY H. B. ELLISTON

Japan enjoys a victory, both military and diplomatic, for the first time

LORD CROMER, the great British pro-consul, once said that in a complex political problem there is always a key-point, if you can find it. Japan is becoming a complex political problem. All the world this winter will be waiting anxiously for the first sign of her retreat from the extreme position which she has assumed in Manchuria in defiance of the world's collective system, as reflected in the League of Nations and the Kellogg Pact, whose implied condemnation of Japan's conduct has now been affirmed by the League Commission of Inquiry under Lord Lytton. Let us, then, follow Lord Cromer's advice, and, in the hope of finding the key-point in the Japanese attitude, select a starting point that gives promise of leading to the required goal.

One which, I think, will make many dark places clear is seemingly irrelevant. It is the Japanese partiality for assassinating their leaders. The record since the start of the Manchurian adventure on September 18, 1931, is startling. Two premiers, a senior general, the leading industrialist, the foremost financier — such is the year's toll of life. Many

others, including the Mikado himself, have also been the target for either knife or bomb, with more or less serious results in every case except the Mikado's. As French government used to be described as tempered by songs, so government and public life in general in the land of the cherry blossom may be said to be tempered by assassination.

Leaders in all countries expose themselves to the fanatic, the crazy, or the super-patriot. But in Japan assassination is almost respectable. Deep down in the national make-up the feeling exists that there must be something praiseworthy in such an excess of *esprit* as impels a person to despatch a leader. Sweet and honorable it may be for a Japanese to kill a compatriot for his own country. The people admit that the death penalty is necessary for the safety of the State, and in general impose it; but an assassin "whose heart within him burns" may none the less be acclaimed a hero as his remains are borne to their last resting place. Even if the act reveals a giddy head rather than a burning heart, there is bound to be some attempt to establish in favor of the perpetra-