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FOREWORD

THIS book has been written with the object of throwing light on the situation in the Far East and at the same time righting a wrong that has been done one of the nations in that part of the world. Events in China before and during the war with Japan have been clouded by propaganda until particularly in the United States our people have no conception of what is going on there. The fact that the American people have gained an erroneous impression of events in the Orient is not due entirely to the newspaper correspondents for their work has been greatly impeded by the enforcement of rigid rules of censorship. I first traveled through China before the outbreak of hostilities in 1937, interviewed high officials of the Chiang Kai-shek government at Shanghai and Nanking and then went on to Peking and the Siberian border and down through Manchoukuo and Korea and on to Japan. Again I traveled over China during the war. At first I had been with the Chinese armies. Now I was with the Japanese. I saw both sides. With years of newspaper experience in different parts of the world behind me I was able to judge for myself

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what was going on. I left the beaten trail. I learned many things. And these I have endeavored to give you in this work. It is my hope that those who read this book may judge more clearly the actors in the great drama in The Far East now unfolding and that "Behind the News in China" will not only right a great wrong, but serve to bring America in closer and more friendly understanding with the powers and the people of the Orient.

Nearly everything that has been written of the crisis in The Far East has been on the whole one sided. It has told only one side of the story. There are two sides to every question. A reader cannot judge a situation fairly if he or she hears only one side. It is better that we Americans know both sides. Many who read this work at the start will declare it is pro-Japanese. But how many who have read books and articles in favor of China and against Japan have said—"this is pro-Chinese." We are prone to accept anything we read or hear in favor of the Chinese as fact and to doubt as propaganda anything we hear that is in favor of Japan. As a matter of fact this country has been deluged with Chinese propaganda. And we have seen little or nothing in defense of Japan.

America stands at the cross-roads of a great decision. She can blindly follow in the direction she is going so far as judgment of her people on The Orient is concerned or she can awaken to the fact that something has "been put over on

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her” and take advantage of trade and commerce in that vast empire across the Pacific which otherwise will be denied her and given to others.

I have not “pulled my punches” in the telling of this story. I have held nothing back. I have spoken freely and directly and with the idea in mind that it is better we know the truth than to continue to kid ourselves along.

The history of the world is being shaped in Asia. It is time we know what is going on behind the scenes.

THE AUTHOR