



(Gazette Photo Service.)

Lord Abbot Kosho Ohtani and His Lady

Japanese Lady Goes Western For Her First Visit to Canada

By OLIVE DICKASON

Lady Yoshiko Ohtani adopted some western customs for the occasion when her husband, Lord Abbott Kosho Ohtani, head of the Buddhist Shin religion, decided on a tour of Canada.

First of all, Lady Ohtani accompanied her husband . . . which she doesn't do on public tours in her native Japan. And secondly, she wore western dress.

She wore western clothes with an undeniable air during a press conference at the Windsor Hotel yesterday. Shy and charming, she appeared in a dark green suit and little black hat. And although she couldn't speak much English, she admitted through an interpreter that western clothes are so comfortable that they are replacing traditional costumes in Japan.

"Our costumes restrict movement," she smiled. "It is much easier in a suit."

First Visit

This is the first visit to Canada for both herself and Lord Ohtani. "We wanted to thank the Canadians and Americans for their help in rebuilding Japan," they said.

As wife of the head of the Bud-

dhist Shin religion, Lady Ohtani is head of the Women's Buddhist Federation of the Nishi Hongwanji Temple at Kyoto, Japan. That means that she is the first lady of her religion in fact as well as in title.

The youthful Japanese lady has four children, a son and three daughters. The son is destined to inherit his father's title, which has been handed down in the same family for over 700 years.

Family History

The Lord Abbot, said Lady Ohtani, is a direct descendant of St. Shinran who founded the Buddhist Shin sect. Although her daughters will have no official place in the religion's hierarchy, they could marry the abbots of other temples when they grow up.

Although Japanese women are becoming more politically active all the time, they still have a long way to go, Lady Ohtani said. In Japan, the woman's place is still largely in the home.

Lady Ohtani said that she and the Lord Abbot were exceedingly pleased when on visiting Archbishop Paul-Emile Leger, the Montrealer had a few words in Japanese to say to them. The Lord Abbot returned the courtesy with a bit of French . . . and later produced some English when the occasion called for it.

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