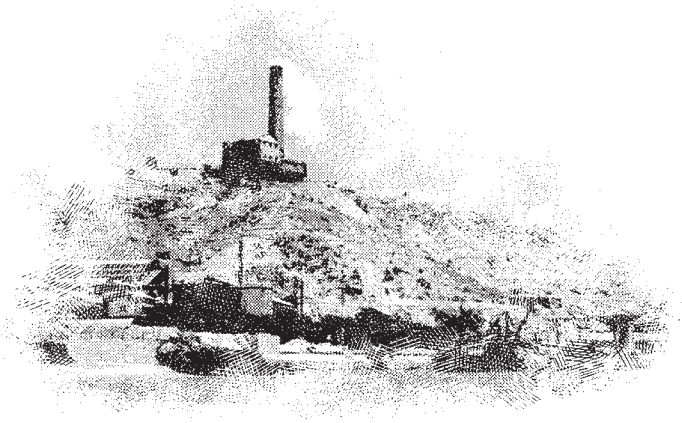
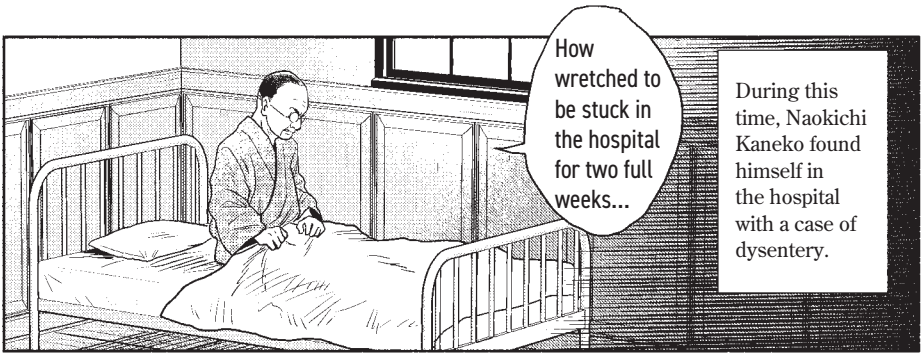
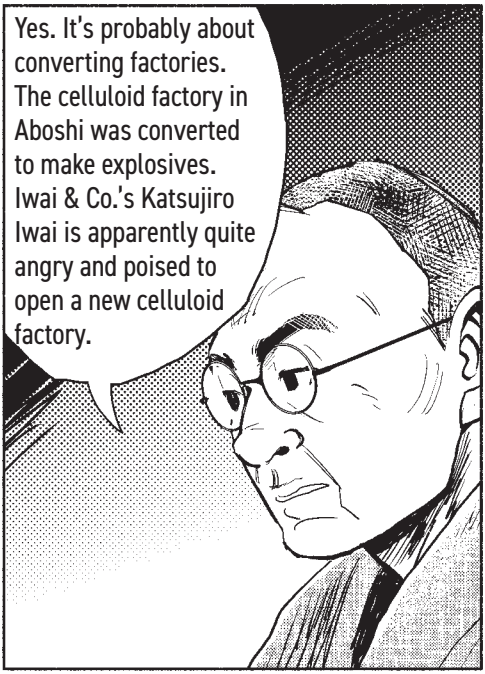
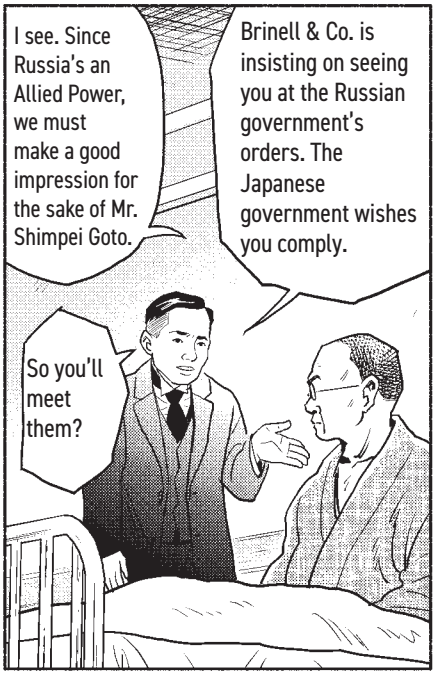
Chapter 2

Suzuki & Co. Ltd.
Entering the non-ferrous metal field and five million rounds of artillery




How wretched to be stuck in the hospital for two full weeks...
During this time, Naokichi Kaneko found himself in the hospital with a case of dysentery.

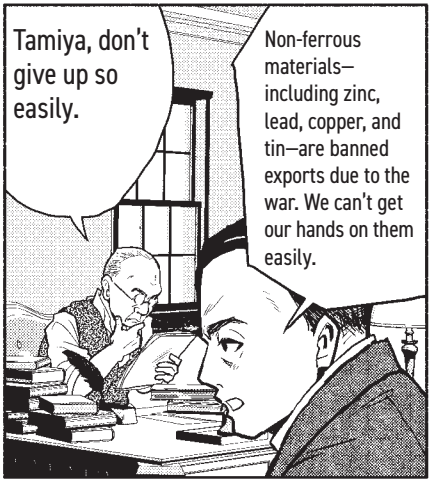

Yes. It's probably about converting factories. The celluloid factory in Aboshi was converted to make explosives. Iwai & Co.'s Katsujiro Iwai is apparently quite angry and poised to open a new celluloid factory.


I see. Since Russia's an Allied Power, we must make a good impression for the sake of Mr. Shimpei Goto.
Brinell & Co. is insisting on seeing you at the Russian government's orders. The Japanese government wishes you comply.
So you'll meet them?

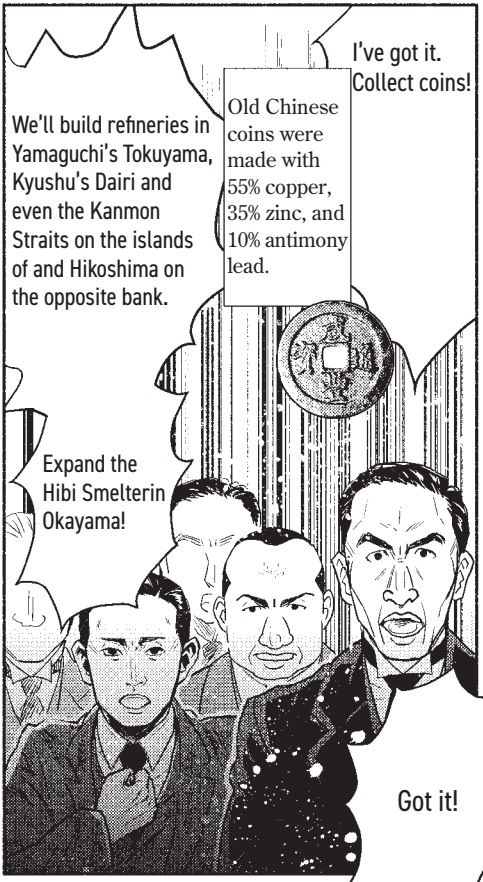

Can you manufacture 5 million rounds of artillery shells?
As Naokichi Kaneko predicted, Brinell & Co. wanted to order military supplies.


OK. Time to head back to Kobe.
No, Mr. Kaneko! You can't be discharged yet!
がばっ
You calculate with such speed! I've asked around, but nobody else has quoted me a price and delivery date like you just did Mr. Kaneko. So you'll take the order?
The raw materials required are zinc, copper, lead...that will cost 18 yen for the ammunition. Let's see...delivery will take around 18 months.
That's not what I was saying...
Don't get the wrong impression. Look at Katsujiro Iwai and his commitment to celluloid. I'm always looking ahead to the post-war world. In the future, Japan will develop advanced industries that require more refined technologies, which is Japan's area of expertise. To reach that point, we must develop non-ferrous fields such as zinc, copper, lead, and aluminum. We're not looking to merely make a quick profit.
What an eccentric patient...
Apologies, Doctor. Well, that's the story so...
Katsujiro Iwai is also building a galvanized steel sheet factory in Yamaguchi prefecture's Tokuyama. Quick—we must return to Kobe.


With these export restrictions, a straightforward approach won't work. We need a new approach.

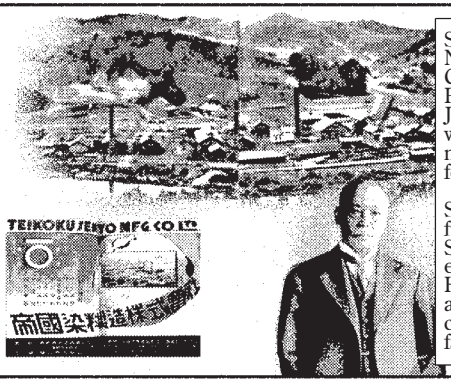

Tamiya, don't give up so easily.
Non-ferrous materials—including zinc, lead, copper, and tin—are banned exports due to the war. We can't get our hands on them easily.


The name of the company will be... hmmm...Japan's metals...Nippon Kinzoku!
Hikoshima (today's Hikoshima Smelting Co., Ltd.)
Dairi
Tokuyama
Hibi (today's Hibi Smelting Co., Ltd.)


I've got it. Collect coins!
We'll build refineries in Yamaguchi's Tokuyama, Kyushu's Dairi and even the Kanmon Straits on the islands of and Hikoshima on the opposite bank.
Old Chinese coins were made with 55% copper, 35% zinc, and 10% antimony lead.
Expand the Hibi Smelterin Okayama!
Got it!

In this fashion, Nippon Kinzoku Co., Ltd. was established to handle a wide range of non-ferrous metals.

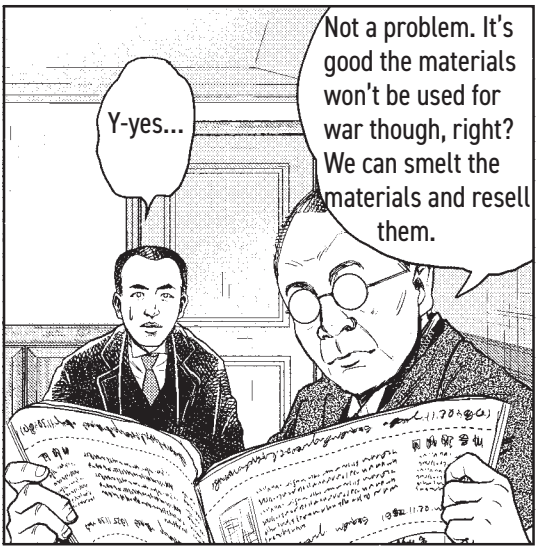
This is the origin story of today's Nippon Kayaku Co., Ltd.

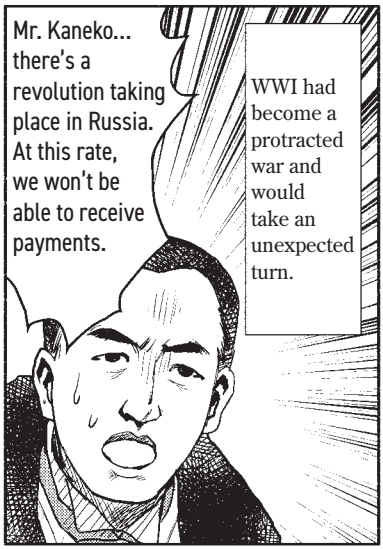


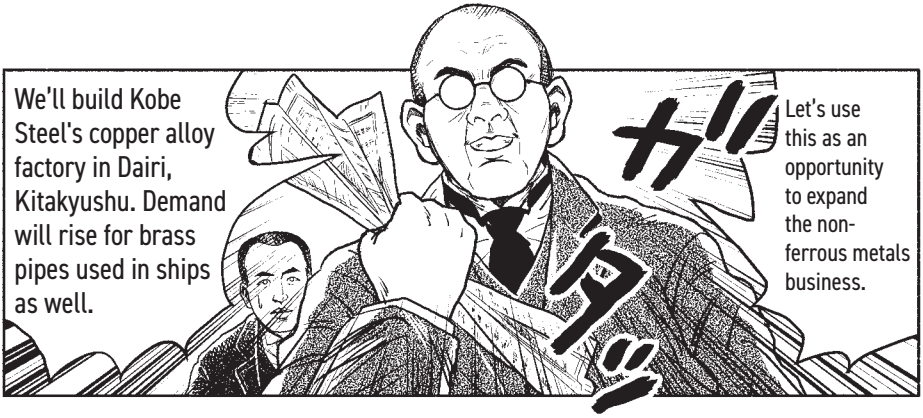
Suzuki & Co. established Nippon Kayaku Seizo Co., Ltd. in Yamaguchi Prefecture's Asa with Jotaro Yamamoto, where dynamite was manufactured in Japan for the first time.

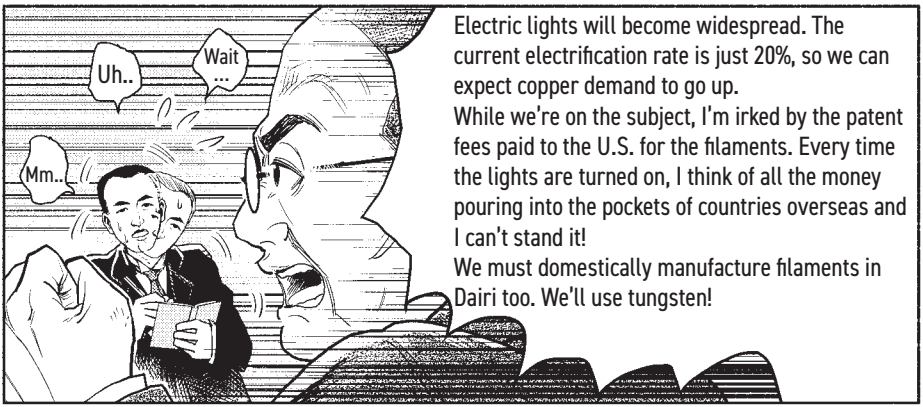
Suzuki also provided funding for Teikoku Senryo Seizo Co., Ltd. established in Fukuyama, Hiroshima with the aim of establishing a comprehensive chemical factory.

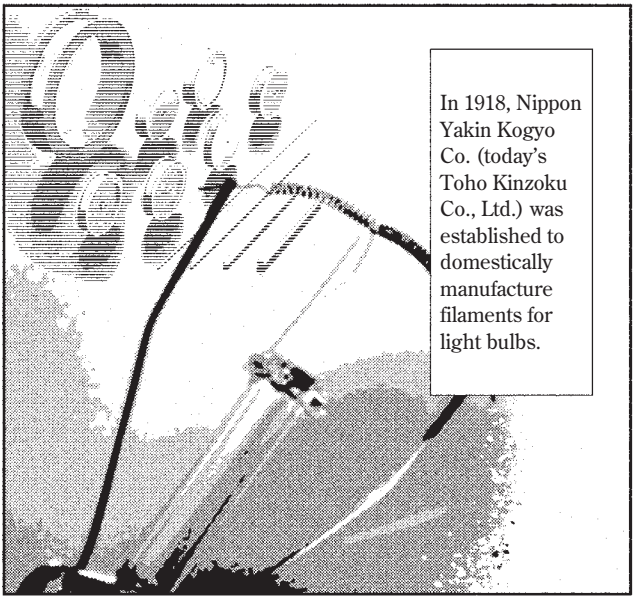
During this war period, gunpowder manufacturing by the private sector was permitted.






We'll build Kobe Steel's copper alloy factory in Dairi, Kitakyushu. Demand will rise for brass pipes used in ships as well.
Let's use this as an opportunity to expand the non-ferrous metals business.


Uh..
Wait ...
Mm...
Electric lights will become widespread. The current electrification rate is just 20%, so we can expect copper demand to go up.
While we're on the subject, I'm irked by the patent fees paid to the U.S. for the filaments. Every time the lights are turned on, I think of all the money pouring into the pockets of countries overseas and I can't stand it!
We must domestically manufacture filaments in Dairi too. We'll use tungsten!


In 1918, Nippon Yakin Kogyo Co. (today's Toho Kinzoku Co., Ltd.) was established to domestically manufacture filaments for light bulbs.


Please slow down! I can't keep up with your fast-paced stream of ideas ...