

Port of San Francisco

NOV 12 1966

Washington, D. C.

San Francisco newspapers this morning are full of the controversy that has risen over the exclusion of Asiatic, and especially of Japanese, children from the schools of this city. The School Board which has done this is a branch of the excessively corrupt government of San Francisco. That government is by officers elected by the Labor Union Party, and the exclusion from the schools of Asiatic children is a part of its policy to make itself solid with the vote which put it in power. The newspapers with characteristic cowardice support this action of the School Board. It is published by some of them that the Asiatic children have no right to education here any way, because the thousands of Asiatics amongst us do not pay taxes. This statement of course is untrue. All Asiatics here pay taxes; their assessments are liable to be excessive when compared with assessments of white property owners, because the Asiatics do not vote and politicians are not afraid of their protests.

The School Board, in its correspondence with the Japanese Consul General, falls back upon the State statute with the unwarrantable assumption that that statute is mandatory, but the statute itself says, "that school boards shall have the power to exclude Asiatic children." You will see at once that this is not mandatory but leaves the discretion with the school board to exclude or not.

I have not had time to examine our Treaty with Japan of 1894. That treaty under the Constitution is the supreme law of the land. If its terms cover this case, or ^{if} it contain the favored nation clause, Japan may be able to attach responsibility to the Federal government. In any event, the reckless policy of the labor unions of San Francisco, some of them led by unnaturalized foreigners, does not represent the sentiment of the people of California towards Japanese and other Eastern Asiatics. The Japanese and Chinese in California are a quite necessary element in our population. It is not true that they compete injuriously with white labor, since, as a rule, they toil in lines that white labor will not take. A large list of our rural industries would remain entirely undeveloped if it were not for this Asiatic labor. The State Grange of California at its last session demanded, by resolution, that the United States in its immigration policy shall treat all races and nations alike, making no discrimination against one that is not made against all, and giving no privileges to

Office of Naval Officer of Customs,

PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,

, 189 .

Naval Officer.

SUBJECT:

No. of Inclosures,

Office of Naval Officer of Customs,
PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,

....., 189 .

Naval Officer.

SUBJECT:

No. of Inclosures,

3

one that are not given to all. This action of the State Grange is significant of the vast change of sentiment in this State, and when the representatives of the rural industries speak again on this subject, it will be seen that they stand in still more pointed opposition to the policies of the foreign-led labor unions of San Francisco.

Believing that the foregoing information may be of some use to your Department in its negotiations upon the subject, I venture to offer it.

Very truly,

J. P. Irish