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THE JAPANESE QUESTION.
San Francisco Chronicle 10/29/06
 Our State School Law Brought Into Formal
 Diplomatic Discussion.

THE Japanese Ambassador has formally brought the attention of the Federal Government to the law of this State providing separate schools for children of Oriental parentage with the request that the President see to it that "Japanese subjects in California are accorded their full rights under the treaty of 1894." We are greatly pleased that Viscount Aoki has taken this course. The more frequently and the more thoroughly the status of the Japanese in this country is diplomatically discussed the better for everybody. We have not succeeded, since the fire, in securing a copy of our treaty with Japan, and cannot therefore say positively what language it contains which suggests to Viscount Aoki that Japanese have any "rights" whatever to attend schools in this country maintained at public expense, but we will venture to believe that there is nothing whatever on which to found such claim. But whether there is or not, of one thing we are sure: The United States Constitution is superior to all treaties and the wildest advocate of centralization will not pretend that the Government of the United States has any jurisdiction whatever over the schools of California or any other State. Even if it had, and if the treaty with Japan provided explicitly that Japanese should be allowed to attend all public schools, any attempt to enforce it against universal public sentiment would involve responsibilities from which all prudent statesmen would shrink.

The more this subject is temperately discussed the better. The people of California have as friendly a feeling for Japan as for any other nation in the world. They confess that we grossly abused Japan in forcing an entrance into that country, although in the end Japan has greatly profited thereby. But while Japan has doubtless profited by the forcible introduction of Western civilization, we in California are of the opinion that we shall not profit by the introduction of Oriental civilization. We are not opposed to Japanese labor because it is Japanese, or Buddhist, or yellow, but because our own people cannot maintain their own civilization and standard of comfort in contact with it. It is the fashion in some quarters to speak of the antagonism to Japanese coolies as "a mere labor agitation." To say that a proposition is bad "because" labor favors it is not a tenable proposition. To say that a question shall not be discussed "because" labor is concerned with it, is by no means the best way to stop discussion, or to give it that temperate character which is, in this case, so extremely desirable. But, while it is true that the workingmen of the United States are a unit in favor of the exclusion of all Oriental coolies, the measure has the most earnest support of all the more thoughtful men who know by observation what Oriental immigration and competition mean. And those who have most respect for Japan and the most admiration of her wonderful progress, and who have also noted the results of the contact of the two races, are the most sincere and earnest in their profound conviction that the only way to maintain a permanent friendship between Japan and America is to keep the two races apart.

The young of
 the San Francisco
 Chronicle is
 responsible for
 most of our
 troubles with
 Japan & China.
 It means a
 loss of hundreds
 of millions of
 trade and a
 hatred which
 may lead to
 a long war
 if not checked.
 Our trade with
 the Orient is
 being ruined
 in account of
 this continual
 selfish, political,
 labor agitation.
 E. D. Deming

Even editorialists will rarely lead by some
 through serious. If the young in an American
 as to think the American people can be mis-
 led by him, we the press & the public must
 be careful to keep the press & the public.