

Translation.

" Le Siècle" (Paris)

October 29th, 1906

For some weeks, serious difficulties have been springing up between Japan and the United States on account of protest from Washington for the manner in which Tokyo interprets the principal of the open door-and applies it-in Manchuria.....

On the ground of the killing of some Japanese fishermen and seal poachers; the assassination of a Japanese bank president at San Francisco; the extravagant opinion expressed by Mr. Rockefeller on the subject of Japanese commercial honesty-opinion, which Mr. Rockefeller, less than anyone, has right to express-and finally growing out of the policy of exclusion enforced in Hawaii, and especially of the exclusion of Japanese children from the public schools of San Francisco, all these factors combined give cause for coolness; not to use a stronger term, between the two countries. They might, all added, be attributed to one primal cause which is, the antipathy in the United States, principally in the Far West, for immigrants of the Yellow Race. In this attitude, there is certainly some race prejudice; there is however much more industrial and commercial selfishness, which struts under the name of patriotism.

Like the Chinese, the Japanese are hard workers, spend little, and can content themselves with comparatively low wages, considerations, which open to them doors which are closed at the same moment to American citizens. Hence a deep animosity against the foreigners who come in competition with Americans on their own ground and under the protection of the Laws of the country. Such are the reasons at bottom which we see manifesting themselves to-day.

A quarter of a century or at least half a century hence, this rivalry might take a dangerous form for both peoples, both of whom would like to be masters of the Pacific and who, with this view, will have developed their ocean-going marine on a large scale.

For the moment, resort to war is not to be feared. The events of the last few years have taught the world that the Japanese do not allow sentiment to control their policy. They look far into the future and carefully make their calculations and preparations for its developments. It is only when they are quite ready that they unveil their plans and ambitions. The New York and San Francisco papers loudly protest against the obstacles with which American commerce finds itself face to face in its relations with Manchuria. The Tokyo press has for some days been thundering against the exclusion of Japanese children from the Public Schools.

These are the two questions which are respectively filling the minds of the two parties to the controversy.

But the two Governments show much more calmness and self-control than the people. The Japanese colony at San Francisco has moreover given an example of this; first of all it has appealed to the Supreme Court against the decision of the Schoolboard at San Francisco which wished to establish its position on legal grounds and refuses to send its children to schools opened exclusively for the yellow race and refuses because it would create a precedent contrary to their first demands.

The colony wishes that the young Japanese be received in the public schools of the State on the same footing as American children. It supports its claim on the Treaty of 1894, of which, one clause stipulates the equality of treatment in each country for the citizen of the other. Unquestionably this clause must be construed to the profit of the children as well as the adults.

The Supreme Court of Washington will not fail to clearly declare this principal. The Schoolboards of San Francisco will have to submit and withdraw their Act of exclusion.

The conciliatory disposition of Mr. Roosevelt is not to be doubted; on the other hand, the Japanese Government takes into account that certain questions like that of Education are variously viewed by the different States and that it is difficult for the Federal Government to ^X mix in them; but it also knows that the States have not the power to run counter to the Supreme Courts, especially organized to enforce on all States, Governments and private individuals the respect for these same provisions.

The Japanese Ambassador at Washington has laid before Mr. Root, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, this grievance.

The New York Press have seized upon this incident, and have not failed to lurch out in the most sensational terms, as it is their habit when it suits their purpose. They declare, almost without exception, as does the "New York World", that the situation is very serious, indicating that the persistence of the anti-Japanese movement on the Pacific coast must compromise the good relations between the United States and Japan and cause loss of commerce to the two countries.

Already the commerce with China has been seriously affected by the boycotting of American merchandise in the Celestial Empire, in response to measures taken against Chinese immigration. If dealings with Japan are to suffer from a like measure against the subjects of the Mikado, it would mean little less than total paralysis of the export of Californian products towards the West. Looking at the question from a point of view of the World's politics, serious difficulties between the United States and Japan would place England in a very delicate pos-

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position as she is bound to Japan, as the world knows,
by a formal treaty. Happily, it has not yet come to this./