

translation.

THE ANTI-JAPANESE AGITATION IN AMERICA.

(Editorial Notes, the "Jiji Shimpō" Oct. 17, 1906)

It appears that for several reasons the anti-Japanese agitation in the United States has lately grown more intense. At a mass meeting held sometime ago at San Francisco a resolution for taking steps to pass in the next session of Congress a law for excluding all Japanese and Koreans from the United States was adopted without a single dissenting vote. The Department of Commerce and Labor has suggested that some measures be taken to protect the white laborers in the Hawaiian Islands, as otherwise they are likely to be beaten in the competition with the Asiatics in the Islands. According to another report, it has been proposed not to admit Japanese children to the public schools in various places in the United States. There is nothing particularly new in the cry for excluding the Japanese in the eastern (western?) parts of the United States, so long as the agitation does not spread to other parts of the country, and the proposals remain to be carried out; yet it is a matter of profound regret that for so many years this agitation should have been continued among the American people, who stand for humanity and philanthropy, and are noted for cosmopolitan generosity and chivalry.

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THE CAUSES OF THE ANTI-JAPANESE AGITATION.

Though in that land of universal suffrage the exclusion of the Japanese people is often advocated as a means of gaining the good-will of the laborers at the election of congressmen or local public officials, yet it appears that

that the recent anti-Japanese agitation in America is primarily due to the overestimation of Japan's national strength and of her people's energy, while there are some other minor causes tending more or less to intensify the movement. We may refer, as an instance of the minor causes, to the utterances of Mr. Rockefeller who calls the attention of his countrymen to Japan's recent activity in order to divert the force of the anti-millionaire crusade to some other direction. The fact that, in spite of the unprecedented increase of the American foreign trade in recent years, the trade with the Asiatic countries and Japan has respectively shown a decrease of Yen 74,000,000 and Yen 26,000,000 is attributed to the active competition of the Japanese; while it may be presumed that Mr. Rockefeller's utterances have naturally been confirmed and reenforced thereby. The standpoint of the commercial and industrial arguments is different from that of the laborers' agitation, and indeed the two often conflict with each other. We can however see how all these together have vaguely affected the feelings of a section of the American people toward Japan and the Japanese.

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NO CHANGE IN OUR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP.

The traditional friendship existing between Japan and the United States can never be wiped out in a single day. The motive power that binds together the two countries and the two nations comes from a source far more profound than might be imagined, and there is absolutely no fear that any little complication should cut this strong cord of friendship asunder. Though the sincere respect and love of the Japanese people toward the American people can not in the least be weakened by the anti-Japanese agitation prevailing in one part of the United States, yet we believe
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in the great benefit of the harmonious cooperation of Japan and the United States in their relations to the world's politics, and our sincere hope is that the harmonious relations now existing between the two countries ^{may} be forever free from any single flaw. We therefore hope that the anti-Japanese utterances and acts coming under our notice from time to time may permanently disappear without arousing a powerful national agitation. We are confident ~~tant~~ that the American authorities concerned as well as Congress, noted as they are for respecting the dictates of justice and for discerning what is to their best interests, will never be moved by these anti-Japanese utterances and acts.

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A POINT TO BE BORNE IN MIND.

From the standpoint either of the laborers or those who are engaged in commerce and industry, it is evident that the ground for the anti-Japanese agitation by a section of the American people is very poorly supported. The comparative dullness of America's trade with the Asiatic countries since last year is due to the Chinese boycott of American goods and the falling off from the second half of last year of the importation of war supplies which had previously been imported in enormous amounts. The state of things referred to is not necessarily due to the active competition of the Japanese. Were this due, as is alleged, to the active competition of the Japanese, we fail to see why a commercial nation like the United States should complain of the existence of a competitor; for commerce is an honorable contest in which one must either gain or lose. Should this country, which, since the time of her opening, has constantly been beaten in the commercial and industrial competition with the more resourceful countries of the world, choose to maintain such an unacceptable argument as the one
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noted above, we would be compelled on those grounds to exclude the people of all the friendly nations including the United States. We therefore venture to call on the American people to bear in mind that, in spite of the severe commercial and industrial competition, our nation's cordial friendship with the United States and other countries has never undergone any change.