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Translation.

OUR COUNTRYMEN LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES.

("Asahi Shimbun", October 17, 1906.)

Though during the late war the United States lavished her sympathy on this country, yet she does not seem to be entirely ^{free} from the influence of the prejudices and misunderstanding prevailing after the war among the other Powers. When the opening of Manchuria was a little delayed, Japan was charged with the intention of occupying Manchuria permanently. Concerning the revision of our customs tariff law, a theory was advanced that Japan meant to exclude American goods by adopting the principle of protection in foreign trade. When it was realized that her Chinese trade was less active, the United States began to blame Japan for the Chinese boycott of American goods. Mr. Rockefeller's strange utterances made recently are to the same effect. We can not help being concerned with the growing intensity of the anti-Japanese agitation in California. At the time of elections the politicians of that State advocate almost as a rule the exclusion of the Japanese in order to gain the good-will of the laboring class and their political parties. Their charges may be summarized as follows. The Japanese work for cheaper wages and deprive the white people of their work. The Japanese are a people of different customs and manners, and are incapable of assimilating with the American people. The Japanese are closely related to the Chinese. If the latter are to be excluded, why should the former not be excluded? True, the Japanese work for cheaper wages than the white people, while their customs and manners are different from those of white people, but the benefit of the cheap Japanese labor for the American people

people in general is enough to compensate the laborers' loss. Though our customs and manners are different from theirs, the attempt to exclude Japanese when they do nothing to disturb peace and good order in America can not be anything else than an expression of race prejudice. It is for this reason that the argument does not gain much ground in spite of the agitation of labor politicians. Even those agitators are not unaware of the significance ~~of the significance~~ of the exclusion of the Japanese, for it would be equivalent to regarding them as an inferior race, -- ^{the most} ~~a highly~~ unfriendly act that can be done to Japan. On the other hand, the Japanese Government has been considering the origin of the anti-Japanese agitation in America. The result has been severe restrictions by the Government on the granting of passports to those who wish to go to America, and the people are growing rather weary of the inconvenience and difficulty of obtaining passports. But these measures taken by our Government can not be allowed to become fruitless. Though we were not greatly concerned with the insincere anti-Japanese agitation advocated by the laboring classes, socialists and those politicians who are seeking their favors, the report of the recent decision in San Francisco not to admit any Japanese children to the public schools of that city is a matter of serious concern. We however fail to see why our children should thus be discriminated against. In the time of the San Francisco earthquake a set of mischievous children insulted our Professor Omori. We have published in these columns a report from San Francisco to the effect that the families of the Japanese residents in that city are annoyed with the same mischievous children. Though we are not justified in complaining of children's mischief which might be expected in any other country, yet we shall not be able to endure the injustice, if the San Francisco public schools side with the mischievous

mischievous children and persecute the Japanese children. After the earthquake there was something in the conduct of the Japanese merchants there that surprised the citizens a little, and we have heard of the ill feelings existing since then between the Japanese and the American people. Though there is nothing serious in any ill feelings or misunderstanding when they become known that they are such, their repetition may finally bring about serious consequences.

There is a piece of advice which we venture to offer at this time to our countrymen residing in California. The exclusion of the Japanese children from the public schools of San Francisco should be left to our own Consul there, and we hope that the question will shortly be settled in one way or another. We are anxious to maintain undisturbed the friendly relations between the Governments of Japan and the United States. Our people there should endeavor to assimilate with the American people, and adopt the American customs and manners. They should sit when the Americans sit; they should walk, work, play or quarrel when the Americans do so. In short, our people should try not to bother the Government too much. Though this is a suggestion difficult to carry out, we are convinced of its necessity.