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RETALIATE ON AMERICA!

(From the "Hochi Shimbun" of October 20, 1906)

The recent San Francisco cablegrams relating to the exclusion of the Japanese people cannot be overlooked as unimportant by our nation. We especially refer to the following telegram: "At a mass-meeting held in San Francisco on the 12th instant a resolution was unanimously adopted to the effect that an effort be made at the next session of Congress to pass a law excluding all Japanese and Koreans from American territory". "The educationalists of San Francisco have decided to exclude the Japanese children from the public schools of this city from the 15th instant". "The Department of Labor and Commerce at Washington announces that Asiatic competition in the Hawaiian Islands is displacing the whites, and suggests that some steps be taken at once to protect the whites. President Roosevelt has held several conferences on the subject with the delegates from the Islands, and admits that although the situation is critical, he is powerless to do anything without the action of Congress".

From these messages we gather that the anti-Japanese agitation has grown to be very intense. We have learned that various organizations have joined the agitation, and that the league recently organized for the purpose of excluding Japanese and Koreans includes all the States on the Pacific Coast and has been joined by 217 political organizations.

At a meeting held last month in San Francisco, a United States senator dwelt upon the Japanese oppression of the white people and declared that their immigration must be stopped in order to save the American continent from danger. As the number of Japanese immigrants increases in America
year

year by year, their competition with the American laborers has increased and the anti-Japanese agitation has been going on for a number of years. It has now, however, become to be more than a labor problem, for the ascendancy of Japan seems to have called forth the jealousy and fear of American statesmen.

The following ~~extract~~ extract from the report recently published by the United States Government seems to indicate, when taken into consideration together with the proposal of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor just referred to, that the anti-Japanese agitation has become a political problem and is no longer a mere labor question. "The foreign commerce of the United States has reached the highest figure in the history of the country. Her Asiatic commerce has however presented an extremely poor showing, which fact is accounted for by the keen competition of the Japanese and the Chinese boycott of American goods".

Though it is not necessary that we pay much attention to the anti-Japanese agitation so long as it is carried on only by laborers, yet the Japanese must take the proper measures for retaliation so soon as Americans of the upper classes openly espouse the movement and endorse unjust resolutions. We would not call on the American people to reconsider the matter by appealing to their philanthropy and magnanimity. They who assume the attitude of petitioners disgrace Japan's honor. The intercourse between Japan and America is not the latter's gift alone. America has gained from the commerce and intercourse between the two countries as much as has Japan. Though it is a fact that the balance of trade has recently been against the United States, nevertheless the latter's profit since the beginning of their intercourse has been considerable. If, because of the recent tendency of her foreign trade, the United States now emphasizes her disadvantage as against Japan we cannot but call
such

such action a selfish and wilful policy.

The resolution adopted at the recent mass-meeting held in San Francisco for excluding Japanese and Koreans , and that for refusing admission of Japanese children to the public schools of San Francisco are resolutions contrary to the principles of civilization and betray ignorance of international usages. Though it is not worth while to question the fact that the American Government has not taken these resolutions into consideration, we cannot refrain from declaring our conviction that the Japanese authorities concerned who sit idly by and look at the affair like disinterested parties are incapable in the highest degree. If the United States does not put an end to the anti-Japanese agitation, this country must take some decisive measures for retaliation.

Domestic Politics