

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, SATURDAY, OCT. 20, 1906.

ANTI-JAPANESE MOVEMENT IN CALIFORNIA.

OF late each mail coming from the United States seems to grow more serious in the character of reports it brings of the situation of the Japanese community in San Francisco. For many years back we have been aware of the existence of an anti-Japanese tendency in the cities of the Pacific States, particularly in the port of San Francisco. To us, however, the tendency has always appeared to form a part of the local labour politics, and the public opinion of this country has always shown itself disinclined to take any serious notice of it. But the San Francisco papers would now indicate that it has grown into a regular movement of a demagogic nature with no little element of racial violence, and with the support not only of the clergy but a large section of the local public. Had it been otherwise we would have considered ourselves too credulous if we attached any significance to such reports as conveyed by a San Francisco despatch which we reproduce in another column reporting the expulsion of Japanese children from the public schools there. As it is, there seems unfortunately to be good reason to believe in their substantial accuracy.

If needed, much might be written on the questions of racial discrimination in matters of education and other cognate human endeavours; but in view of the unique development that characterises the relationship between the United States and Japan, we feel the delicacy of discussing them as applied to the turn affairs are taking in San Francisco. We certainly regret very keenly the trend of events there; but we feel assured that the anti-Japanese movement is after all a local phenomenon, which if broadly viewed should cause nothing like alarm to us, and which if wisely dealt with would soon become a thing of the past. Besides our own ally there is no other Power towards which we turn with more implicit faith for friendly support and guidance in the solution of many problems that beset the future of the Far East than the United States,

and there are none who know and understand so well Japan's aspirations as the people of the United States. Let nothing be said of the past; we only desire in all sincerity that our relations with the United States shall in the future be as in the past. We must have the largeness of heart to leave it to our friends in America to have justice done to our compatriots in San Francisco, instead of playing into the hands of our enemies there.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

Anti-Japanese Movement in America.—It is not only the Yellow Press that is indignant over the growth of the anti-Japanese movement in America. The *Tokyo Asahi* deeply deplores that even our most intimate friend America can not escape the contagion of bias and misunderstanding prevalent among the foreign Powers since our success in the last war. When inevitable delay was caused in the opening of Manchuria, it was the Americans who complained of Japan having designs of occupying Manchuria in place of Russia. In regard to the recent tariff reform, they suspected Japan of protecting her own products against their own articles. Even when America's Chinese trade suffered a check, it was again Japan that instigated the Chinese boycott. Mr. Rockefeller's distorted report found a fertile field for the dissemination of anti-Japanese sentiment. After all these unpleasant versions of our intentions comes the report of a resolution at a mass meeting of California politicians proposing that in the next session of the U.S. Congress legislation be enacted for the exclusion of the Japanese and Koreans from American territory. When American antipathy comes to assume such a material form, the *Asahi* for one can not refrain from expressing its anxiety. There have been in the past various grounds advanced by the exclusivists against the Japanese. It is true that we are, as they say, of a different race, and our labourers work for cheaper wages. But the cheap labour of the Japanese has benefitted American industry so much that the national gain would more than make up for the loss suffered by white labour; and if we are of a different race there can be no objection to the colour of our skin, so long as we are peaceful and law-abiding. The whole thing is due to racial prejudice. Hence, the journal finds in the past educated leaders of public opinion in that

country do not countenance the movement which, if soberly considered, will tend to the violation of harmonious relations between the two nations.

On the part of our authorities, they have adopted the policy of so extremely severe an examination of applicants for passports that they have become objects of reproach and complaint because of their strictness. The *Asahi* is still confident that the liberal sentiment in educated Americans and the painstaking caution of our authorities for keeping up the moral personnel of our immigrants will stand the trial and save us from total rupture.

But what the *Asahi* can not overlook is the report that the San Francisco schools have sided with the "bad boys" that insulted our Prof. Omori and have robbed and tormented our settlers and now forbidden the Japanese children from attending their schools. The street ruffians' conduct in the topsy-turvy days after the earthquake catastrophe may be ignored as an unfortunate episode of the general disorder. But when the spirit of retaliation against the Japanese merchants, whose conduct appears not quite free from reproach, is carried so far as to forbid Japanese children from obtaining an elementary education it becomes inhumane and a great blunder committed by a civilized community.

The paper's advice to our compatriots is to restrain their indignation over this matter of making children sufferers for their elders' faults, and await Consular interference for bringing about a happy issue. In their daily life, let them assimilate American ways as fast as possible. "Let them sit when the Americans sit, walk when they walk, work when they work, play when they play, quarrel when they quarrel." A rather hard programme to carry out, but the Americans would demand of them no less.

In its paragraph articles the *Jiji* reviews the movements and says that the movement, which is nothing new, can very well be ignored so long as the spirit of the entire public opinion of America does not change in favour of the racial bias. It regrets, however, that talk of such a bigoted nature should continue to be heard among a people which stands for the cause of humanity and universal benevolence and is noted for generous sentiment and gallant feelings. As to the recent causes of such hatred toward us, they are traceable to their own over estimation of our national resources and popular enterprise after the successful war with Russia. The

Americans, as exemplified by Mr. Rockefeller, are perfectly misled in attributing the decrease of their Asiatic trade to Japanese competition. Such a misunderstanding, however, should not be allowed to cast any shadow upon the inherited amity of the two nations. We, the Japanese, do not lessen by a jot the sentiments of respect and admiration for America, in resentment of the misguided conduct of only a section of the country. But the complete harmony of the two peoples is a high *desideratum*, and the paper would not doubt but that the American authorities, and Congress will not be influenced by such distorted views. One thing that the paper would urge upon both the peoples to bear in mind is that the commercial and trade competition does not imply ill-will. It is the fairplay that should be carried on between self-respecting Powers. The losses of the American trade with China are the natural consequences of their exclusive movements against the Chinese. The decrease in their trade with us is simply due to the removal of the necessity for large importations from America with the closure of the war. We, who have always suffered from the trade superiority of other nations, America not excepted, have never been mean enough to entertain a feeling of enmity for them; and if at present, we really were capable of competing with the American trade, such a sentiment toward us would be unworthy of an enlightened people.

Anti-Japanese Movement in America (Continued from Saturday).—

The *Yorodzu* has been the foremost in sounding a note of warning against the dangerous tendency of the American sentiment. It now deplores the fact that its own prediction is too true. Not only have the Californians resolved on the exclusion of the Japanese, but the Bureau of Commerce and Labour at Washington is reported to have declared itself in favour of protective measures against Asiatic labour in Hawaii—which can mean nothing but the Japanese competition. There is no room for doubting the ultimate materialization of this sentiment in legislative measures. There is therefore only one step left for Japan to take. It is to persuade and convince the Americans, before the question comes up before Congress, of the folly of having this people their enemies. If they consider calmly, they will come to see that a greater loss will accrue to them by adopting an exclusive attitude toward Japa-

they will not succeed in checking the ingress of the costly labour from the Atlantic side. Is it not, the paper asks, highly inconsistent in them to demand of us to open our concessions in China and Manchuria to their own trade, and yet close against us? Moreover, Congressman Hays and Congressman Kahn's inciting words to the low-class labourers have produced the desired effect of setting them on the mad work of persecuting our compatriots, who in their turn are reported to have taken a resolution to defend themselves against the marauders. There is no longer any room for hesitancy on the part of our authorities for effecting a speedy solution of the trouble.

The *Osaka Mainichi* makes passing observations upon the motives of such a movement. In the first place, Asiatic exclusion has always been a favourite outlet for the low-class labourers' discontentment. Then it has been the Pacific coast demagogues' favourite theme for securing the sympathy of the white labour elements, in every political campaign. Only, though locally powerful, their influences have been checked by the more comprehensive views and better judgment of American statesmanship. Thirdly, the very confederate nature of the States gave each section freedom of developing local sentiment in keeping with the local interests; but, in national politics, the broad liberal spirit of the people exercised a rectifying influence over the local narrowness or misdirection, and saved the nation from coming into unpleasant relations with other peoples. In the present juncture, the *Mainichi's* counsel to our compatriots in that country is to rely on the strength of justice and keep their daily routine in the hope of a happy final outcome. On the other hand, our emigrants to that country should not be unnecessarily restrained, but rather encouraged in their worthy enterprise. The Government and people should unite in assuming a positive, strong attitude in the matter, and appeal to reason to decide. The *Mainichi* has attached very little weight to the exclusion

movement. It is the opinion of the *Mainichi* that a national voice, when the Bureau of Commerce and Labour and even the President are said to be inclined to favour the exclusion movement. They must remember that any other nation will feel as fully justified in adopting the attitude that China but recently assumed towards America, in retaliation for the exclusion measures which the latter, with all her boasting of humanity and civilization, thought worthy to adopt. Such a contingency would not only be a regrettable outcome to our relations, but would cast a blot on the glorious name of America.