

The Japan Daily Mail.

YOKOHAMA. MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1906.

CALIFORNIA AND JAPAN.

It may well be supposed that the action of the Californian Educational Authorities in expelling all Japanese children from the public schools has created much excitement and indignation in Japan. The number of children thus deprived suddenly of educational facilities is said to be over two hundred, but if they were only a fraction of that total the display of racial prejudice would not be more marked or less resented. It is possible that public opinion in America may be gradually growing tainted through the medium of the disgruntled war-correspondents who went away in 1905 vowing, as they expressed it, to "get their knives into Japan" sooner or later. But although that explanation would be much more agreeable to the Japanese than to imagine that the friend whom they most loved and trusted is deliberately turning away from them, they can scarcely console themselves with the theory. For no such influence can have swayed the United States Minister in Peking when he reported to Washington that Japan was seeking to monopolise everything in Manchuria to the exclusion of all other nationals; no such influence can have swayed the United States Consul-General in Yokohama when he reported to Washington that Japan's changes in her statutory tariff were dictated by a desire to discriminate against the products of other nations; no such influence can have swayed the United States Consul who has just reported to Washington that the great decline in American trade with China is due to anti-American prejudice fostered by the Japanese; no such influence can have swayed the compilers of the American Trade Returns when they attributed the decrease of America's Far-Eastern trade to Japanese competition; and no such influence can have swayed the officials of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry in Washington when it attributed to the Japanese in Hawaii the design of supplanting the white man there. These five events are referred to by Japanese papers, and it is easy to see that there is growing up in this country a feeling of profound sorrow and astonishment. The *Chuo* speaks of America as Japan's parent and teacher; as her un-written ally; and as a friend upon whom her affections were firmly fixed. But now a sudden and most lamentable change appears to be taking place. It is true that only a small section of the country seemed formerly to be imbued with these strong racial prejudices, the Pacific Slope, which, much as it has benefited by Oriental labour, now declares, through the mouth of a member of its State Legislature, that it would rather see the fruits rotting in its garden than have them gathered by Japanese. But the instances quoted above are independent of California, and they may be supplemented by the utterances of Mr. Rockefeller, though these seem to have produced small effect in

Japan compared with the various evidences now forthcoming of anti-Japanese feeling in the ranks of men who had been supposed to be free from such prejudices. These evidences had not previously produced any strong rejoinder from the Japanese. It seemed that the people of this country were most reluctant to credit the reports reaching them or to admit the idea that America of all countries in the world had become blindly jealous of their expansion. But the incident of the expulsion of all Japanese children from Californian schools has made the already full cup flow over. The *Chuo* writes in a comparatively gentle tone, as though still willing to believe that it is all a transient misunderstanding, but the *Hochi* declares that the commercial relations between the United States and Japan are not by any means one-sided; if Japan benefits by them, so does America. Therefore there must be no talk of appealing to America's charitable feelings or relying on her clemency. If she expels Japanese children from her schools and takes steps to discriminate against Japanese subjects, Japan must protect herself by suitable measures of retaliation. The *Jiji Shimpō* is astounded at this action on the part of the San Francisco authorities. It had not believed such a thing possible in America, the country which, above all others, prides itself on being guided by principles of freedom and benevolence. There have been of late many evidences of the growth of anti-Japanese feeling in the United States, but the *Jiji* has been restrained from commenting on them, remembering, as it always does, what Japan owes to America and with what feelings she has always regarded her great trans-Pacific neighbour. So long, too, as the action of individuals or their opinions were alone concerned, there was room to hope that this racial prejudice was confined to a narrow circle, but San Francisco's last act compels Japan to protest. The *Kokumin Shimbun*, however, is disposed to make light of the affair. It reminds its countrymen that this is not by any means the first instance of similar discrimination against the Japanese in America, but it also reminds them that the centre of discrimination is a narrow circle of western politicians who are governed almost entirely by the labouring class, and who now, since the general elections are drawing near, seek to win the plaudits and secure the votes of these workmen, the natural enemies of all competition in their own field. The Japanese must not be betrayed into the mischievous error of attributing San Francisco sentiments to the American nation at large. America is their historical friend, and it is not to be conceived that the bulk of a nation having such leaders as Roosevelt, Root and Taft, would allow itself to be swayed by narrow racial prejudice. That the close relations existing between the Great Republic and the Island Empire of the Far East, should be maintained and made even closer, is for the interests of Japan, for the interests of America and for the interests of the world. At the same time the hour has fully come when liberal-minded Americans should raise their voice against such doings as those of the San Francisco people who, after all, are a part of the American nation.

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YOKOHAMA, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1906.

JAPAN AND AMERICA.

In view of recent unpleasant cables from America, to which have been given such headings as "Mr. Rockefeller on Government interference," "Japanese workmen in Hawaii," "Japanese scholars in San Francisco," "Anti-foreign feeling in China," "The American Navy in the Far East," and as some Japanese papers seem to take the matter quite seriously, the *Jiyu Tsushinsha* issues for publication the following conversation with a person well versed in American politics. "Of course in America, the most cosmopolitan country in the world, any one has the right to express his opinions from the political platform. The cables that have been sent out here during the last few days can not possibly represent public opinion in America. Take, for instance, Mr. Rockefeller's utterances. He is certainly a very rich man, and in his hand he holds the Standard Oil Co., which fortunately or unfortunately, is now under indictment, Mr. Moody, the Attorney-General, taking the case in his own personal charge. Consequently Mr. Rockefeller's opinion as reported in the telegram of October 5th, that "Government interference with corporations would curb the development of the nation and Japanese hostility to foreign nations would consequently prove a detriment to American business interest," might have been expressed with the purpose of influencing public opinion in defence of his business interests. At any rate, the views of one man who is under indictment connected with a state prosecution, will not have the slightest weight as representing the public opinion of the United States. Regarding the resolution to expel Japanese and Koreans from the United States as reported in the telegrams of Oct. 13th, I think it is only a cry raised in one corner of the vast territory of America and that it will not find form as a law.

"As you know, there are labour unions in all places in the States. The labour unions of San Francisco have such political power as to decide the elections of mayors, and non-union labourers are excluded from work even among Americans themselves. For the re-building of the city of San Francisco the people have money. The sum which has been paid by the insurance companies alone, reaches 300,000,000 yen. Money is abundant, labor is needed, and it is no wonder that cheap labourers will find plenty of work. The labour unions may have considered it to their advantage to exclude cheap labor in order to keep the work in their own hands, whereas from the standpoint of employers, cheap labourers such as Japanese and other oriental workmen would have answered their purpose as well. At such a moment, naturally, it may have been well for the politicians of the district to utilize the votes of the labourers for electioneering purposes. Yet I do not think their contention will become the universal and permanent popular American opinion. We have been informed from good sources that the Japanese people after the destruction of San Francisco, gathered themselves together in the western part of the city which is coming to be looked upon as a pure Japanese colony.

"Next as to the report about Japanese immigration in Hawaii. I have learned from several sources that American planters whose interests practically govern Hawaii, consider that Japanese immigrants are useful to the sugar plantations there and that there is no reason why these peaceful Japanese should be injurious to the future of Hawaii."

Regarding the rejection of Japanese children from the San Francisco school, it is thought, he said, that Japanese and oriental children ought to have different schools because there are too few schools in San Francisco for the reception of American children. This opinion may have arisen from the sentiments of the labour unions against cheap Japanese labour. The telegram as to the anti-foreign feeling in China is said to have originated with an American Consul in China; if so it might find its way to his Government first, and not to the press. In another cable of the *Nichi Nichi*, concerning the American navy in the Far East, there is nothing new. They had three battleships and two cruisers which they are now replacing with what are said to be new warships but in reality these are only four cruisers inferior in fighting capacity to the former vessels.

In conclusion he said, "The friendly relations between Japan and America are as strong as ever, and enlightened Japanese must discriminate concerning the nature of the reports, which I am sorry to say are often not founded on the best information. If both the Japanese and American people take them too seriously, there may be some one who will smile at us 'behind the screen.' At any rate neither of the two nations must be used as a cat's paw by any one else."