

TOKYO, TUESDAY, OCT. 23, 1906.

# ANTI-JAPANESE FEELING IN AMERICA.

## AN AMERICAN VIEW OF THE SITUATION.

The *Jiyu Tsushin* has sent us the following version of the anti-Japanese manifestation in America, which it ascribes to "one who is well versed in American politics." As we have a reason to believe that the remarks contained therein may be regarded to substantially represent the official American view of the situation, we reproduce them in full. As may be seen considerable pains are taken to show that the hostile movements against the Japanese in America are either local in origin and nature or arise from motives to serve some special interests. We (*Japan Times*) believe that our public is pretty well agreed in viewing the points as they are presented in those remarks and would not hesitate to declare in all sincerity that Japan's faith in and good-will towards the United States is as unchanged and unshakeable as ever. But that faith and good-will come from our deeply ingrained conviction that justice may always be expected from the Americans. The report reads:

"Of course in America, being noted as 'being the most cosmopolitan country in the world, anyone has the right to express his opinion from the political platform. Nevertheless the cables that have been sent out here during the last few days could not possibly represent public opinion in America. Take for instance the so-called opinion of Mr. Rockefeller. He is certainly a very rich man, and he handles the Standard Oil Co.; which, fortunately or unfortunately, is now under indictment, and Mr. Moody, the Attorney General, himself is taking the case under his personal charge; so much so that Mr. Rockefeller's opinion in the telegram of Oct. 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 utilizing his remark toward Japan to influence public opinion for the defence of his business interest. At any rate, the opinion of one man who is under a cloud connected with a State prosecution, cannot have the slightest weight as representing the public opinion of that country.

"Regarding some resolution taken to exclude Japanese and Koreans from the United States, as seen in the telegrams of Oct. 13th, I think it is only a cry raised in one corner of the vast extent of America and will not be brought out as law.

"As you know, there are labour unions in all places in the States. Now, the labour unions of San Francisco have such political power as to elect the Mayor, and non-union labourers are excluded from work even among Americans themselves. Now 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, and labour is needed. There is no wonder that cheap labourers find more work under the circumstances. Consequently the labour unions might have considered it to their advantage to exclude cheap labour in order to secure the work all for themselves, whereas on the side of employers, cheap labourers such as Japanese and other oriental workmen would have answered their object as well. At this moment, naturally, it might have been well for the politicians of the district to utilize the votes of the labourers for their electioneering purposes. Yet, I do not think it will become the universal permanent popular American opinion. As to the matter, we have been informed from reliable sources that Japanese people after the destruction of San Francisco, gathered themselves together in the western part of the City so that it is coming to be looked upon as a pure Japanese colony and have even been obliged to leave the place owing to the same aversion as towards Chinese colonists.

"Next as to the so-called report about Japanese emigration to Hawaii, I have been informed from several sources that American planters whose interests practically govern Hawaii consider that Japanese immigrants are useful to the sugar plantations there and there is no reason to believe that these peaceful Japanese will be injurious to the future of Hawaii.

"Regarding the rejection of Japanese children from the schools, there are opinions that Japanese and other oriental children ought to have schools of their own, in consequence of the few schools there are now in San Francisco for the entrance of American children. This opinion may have come to be carried into effect by the mixed sentiment of labour unions against cheap Japanese labour.

"In another cable to the *Nichi Nichi* concerning the American navy in the Far East, it is no new report. They had three battle-ships, and two cruisers here which they are now replacing with what is said to be new warships but which in reality are only four cruisers inferior in fighting capacity to the former ones.

"In a word," he said in conclusion, "the friendly relations between Japan and America are as strong as ever, and the enlightened Japanese must discriminate concerning cables 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 someone 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 anyone else."

We (*the Tsushin*) have inquired at the Foreign Office about the telegram on the rejection of Japanese children from school, and were told that no minute report had yet been received and they are now making inquiries about it.