

ANTI-JAPANESE MOVEMENT IN CALIFORNIA.

AMERICAN OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

It is understood that regarding the anti-Japanese agitation in San Francisco the American Ambassador here received on the 24th a despatch from his Government and communicated the substance of it to our Foreign Office as follows:—

The trouble at San Francisco is limited to that port and entirely local in its nature. In consequence of this the American Government were not at first in possession of all the particulars, but they have since made every endeavour to obtain full information thereon and as the result found out that the affair is the outcome of the local labour question that has come to the front, ushered by the extraordinary state of things following the late earthquake and conflagration disasters. As for the school question the Government enquiries tend to show it to have arisen from the circumstance that the schools in which the Japanese had attended were destroyed during the earthquake and there has not been sufficient time since to build structures to take their place. The U.S. Government has never for a moment entertained an intention of introducing any discrimination in the treatment accorded to the Japanese as compared with that extended to the people of the most friendly European countries. Nor have the people of America any desire that their Government act differently. The American Government are prepared to give the most definite guarantee in this regard. Further the President has issued an

instruction to the Department of Justice to take prompt and adequate steps to meet requirements according to the course events may take, with a view to protecting all the rights the Japanese subjects are entitled to by virtue of the Treaty, and in consonance with the spirit of friendship and respect that the Americans have all along cherished toward Japan. It is not to be doubted that in view of the fact that Japanese students are being received with cordiality in hundreds of common schools and special institutions of education throughout America the Japanese people will perceive that the San Francisco school question is entirely local in nature and spontaneous in origin.

THE AMERICA'S FRIENDS ASSOCIATION.

The officers of the America's Friends Association held a meeting at the Engineering Association in Yamashita-cho, Kyobashi-ku, on Thursday afternoon. There were present Baron Kaneko, President, Mr. S. Chinda, Mr. I. O-oka, Mr. Sugawara, Mr. Y. Yamaguchi and others. At the instance of Mr. O-oka, a resolution to send the following telegram to President Roosevelt in the name of Baron Kaneko was adopted:—

"President Roosevelt, Washington.

"Our nation painfully regrets the action taken by the educational authorities in San Francisco in expelling the Japanese students from school. The America's Friends Association, which is consistently the firm friend of your country, can not remain silent and unconcerned, and earnestly asks you to take the necessary measures at once for the sake of justice and humanity."

The above telegram was sent to America this morning.

COUNT OKUMA'S OPINIONS.

To a representative of the *Jiyu Tenshin*, Count Okuma is stated to have made the following statement regarding the anti-Japanese agitation in America:—

(See next page)

"This is most unpleasant news, and particularly if any member of Congress or the Senate has taken any part in it we must feel it the more unpleasantly. For our part, we are controlling our feeling of indignation simply for the reason that America has been the most friendly nation to us during the last fifty years, and therefore the self-controlling spirit of the Japanese prevents us from expressing our unpleasant sentiments. Again, I as an individual consider this is a mere temporary disturbance, and I believe my nation will agree that after all the righteousness of America as a whole will render justice to us. Such an expectation in fact consoles us at present. For take an opposite example: supposing that in Japan, Nagasaki for instance, an American banker were murdered in broad daylight and the money of the bank carried away, or that we had an earthquake at the same place and sympathetic American Professors came to investigate the future build-of houses coupled with a mission of consolation, and some of our rough people stoned them, what would Americans, nay, all European people, say against the Japanese? If the present questions in San Francisco were simply started by selfish labourers it would be quite a light matter; but if the educated classes have endorsed that movement, we must appeal to the righteous spirit of the American people; for the greatness of America in the eyes of humanity and civilization lies in her justice and righteousness. On the contrary if they regard our people—who are contributing to the peace of the Far East allied with our American cousins and by the very Americans who are said to appreciate our alliance with England—to be the same as the Chinese, the thing is too incredible to be taken into serious contemplation. In my opinion, President Roosevelt and his Cabinet will surely render justice towards our honour, and I hope before long the friendly relations of the two countries will be established. If not, I must say to the Japanese as a nation we can not bear injustice from any nation whatever."