

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, MONDAY, OCT. 29, 1906.

ALLEGED U.S. DEMAND.

A VERY extraordinary piece of news is that which has reached us through Reuter to the effect that Mr. Root, the United States Secretary of State, has demanded of Japan the capture and punishment of those Japanese poachers who attempted to land in Alaska and then escaped. We should perhaps say an extraordinary telegram rather than a piece of news; because the despatch is so indefinite in the information it pretends to convey as to defy all reasonable interpretation. Brevity is a characteristic of all wire messages and everybody understands that much has to be read into them in order to derive anything intelligible from them; but in the case we here refer to the jumbling is so unaccountable that one can only say it is very extraordinary. The despatch presumably intimates that an official, only next to the President himself in the United States in authority and responsibility, has chosen to take a diplomatic action, making a demand on Japan. In other words a weighty international event is alleged to have occurred; but the conveyor of this intimation totally fails to tell how or through what means it has become real. The omission cannot but be extraordinary. That is not the only omission. The telegram speaks of Japanese poachers and their capture and punishment; but leaves everything to imagination as to the personality of the offenders themselves. Who are those offenders? Are they really Japanese? Can the United States Government identify them? Does the U.S. Government mean to

imply that the Japanese Government knows them and yet are criminally abetting them? It is most extraordinary that Reuter should have worded its advice in so vague a style as to cause these misgivings.

The very extraordinariness would suggest various conjectures, supposing Reuter is innocent of any ulterior motive. One may take the telegram, for instance, as an attempt to cause coolness between Japan and the United States, taking advantage of the San Francisco affair and sealing situation. Or, improbable as it seems, it may be that the U.S. Government has the intention of calling check by the alleged demand in reply to Japan's complaint in reference to the San Francisco grievance. Such conjecture is wholly unwarrantable in the face of America's official protestations which have been made public lately, whatever may be said of the "demand" itself. In any case the phrasing of the despatch under consideration is mischievously vague, and precisely for that reason there is a danger of its becoming a source of misgiving in this country.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE

(REUTER'S SERVICE TO THE
"JAPAN TIMES.")

SEAL POACHING.

The U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Root, has requested the Japanese Government to punish the Japanese poachers who escaped after an attempted landing in Alaska.

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, TUESDAY, OCT. 30, 1906.

SAN FRANCISCO.

AMERICAN PRESS COMMENT.

The New York Tribune on the 27th inst. published an article which can be considered as setting forth the opinion of the United States Government with regard to the San Francisco affair. According to a telegram received in a certain reliable quarter, the article states in substance as follows:—

Article IV. of the United States Constitution has promoted the idea for the so-called independence of the States, which precludes the intervention of the Central Government in the administration of the respective States. This idea has often since the Civil War prevented the Central Government from enforcing its authority over the States in matters relating to its Treaties with foreign countries, as witness, (1) the affair of lynching an Italian at New Orleans in 1891; (2) the murder of the Chinese at the Rock Spring Mine; and (3) the forcible arrest of a naval officer protected by the German flag at Charleston. All these affairs were settled only after the Central Government had paid indemnities, but the States responsible for the trouble did not take the responsibility upon themselves. The circumstance should be considered an evil resulting from the idea of the independence of State rights. It is, however, beyond question that the Central Government has the right to control and supervise the so-called State rights in matters relating to its treaty obligations. In reference to the present San Francisco affair, it should be remarked that the privileges that the Japanese should enjoy in accordance with Article I. of the American-Japanese Treaty concluded in 1894 must be recognized throughout the United States. The American Government proposes to assist the Japanese children expelled from public schools in San Francisco to file a suit in the Circuit Court and, if necessary, to demand judgment of the U.S.

Supreme Court. The latter not only decides constitutional questions, but delivers a final judgment above the laws of various States. The rights and interests of the Japanese in San Francisco will therefore be fully protected by decision of that Court. Suppose that Americans in Japan received treatment similar to that given the Japanese in San Francisco and that the Japanese Government declared to the American Government that it had no right to intervene in affairs occurring in the provinces, imagine how the Americans would despise the Japanese Government! The same logic defines the line of policy the Americans ought to take in connection with the present affair. More so because of Article VI. of the Constitution, by which the Treaties must be considered above the rights of the State. The affair must be quickly solved as justice dictates.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

Anti-Japanese Movement Once More.—The Japanese Press is on the whole contented with the tone and substance of the recent Reply of the Washington Government to the Foreign Office, as indeed they expected nothing less. The *Nichi Nichi*, however, together with others, questions the value in the eyes of foreign peoples of the excuse given by the Washington authorities that the affair was a local one. To America, with her peculiar constitutional provisions the authority of the Central Government may certainly be limited in regard to interference. But from our standpoint, we may feel justified to desire, whether the affair be of local nature or not, that decisive measures be taken by the U.S. Government which would ease both Government and people. On the part of our own authorities, they should not hesitate in seeking a speedy solution, and not only that but they should publish the negotiations between the two Governments step by step. The paper is confident that our people will maintain a quiet and sane frame of mind until the solution is attained, but they would be more satisfied with a knowledge of the negotiations as they proceed.