

Enclosure with Mr. Wright's No. 98 of November 9, 1906.

Translation.

JAPANESE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

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THE EXPULSION OF THE JAPANESE SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Over 200 Japanese Children Expelled from the Public Schools in San Francisco.

San Francisco, October 20, 1906.

Revival of the Anti-Japanese Agitation.

In view of the approaching election of the Governor of this State, the Republican Party of California has included in its platform a clause to the effect that, like the Chinese, both the Japanese and Koreans should be excluded, which is a long cherished hope of the labor unions. At the same time a violent form of anti-Japanese agitation has arisen in San Francisco. In the new Japanese town now rising between Van Ness and Filmore Avenues, the Japanese have been refused houses to rent for their stores and residences, and some have been forced out of houses they had already rented. Some twenty European restaurants started by the Japanese in important places in the city directly after the great fire have suffered great damage at the hands of rioters who started a boycott. Mischievous children appear at night in various places and take advantage of darkness to attack our countrymen who happen to pass by. Robbers and thieves with deadly weapons appear in broad daylight and the Japanese fall victims like the rest of the citizens. The spirit of murder prevades the air and the maintenance of peace and order is almost impossible. In addition to all this, over 200 Japanese children have suddenly been expelled from the public schools.

A Sudden Order to Change Schools.

The various public schools temporarily closed at the time of the disastrous fire of April were soon re-opened in tents pitched in various parts of the city. Suitable houses have since been provided and all the tent-schools have removed to buildings. There are now tens of schools within the area of the ten square miles comprising the burnt district. The Japanese children, whether those entitled to American citizenship by virtue of having been born in the United States, or those who have come to this country with their parents, returned and were attending these schools. The Board of Education of San Francisco, however, adopted on October 11 a resolution to segregate the Japanese children from all the public schools in San Francisco. The order was immediately given to the various principals and was to be enforced from the following morning.

Conditions at the Segregation School.

The segregation School, which was originally established in for the Chinese children, is situated ~~near~~ the China town near the centre of the burnt district. All around the place we see nothing but piles of fallen pillars, collapsed walls, broken tubes and bricks. The gloomy and desolate sight of the place can hardly be described, while robbers and thieves appear both day and night. Our children are unable to attend this school, for they have to walk from two to five miles from their homes. The fact that not many street car lines are being operated will give an idea of the condition.

As to the accommodation in the Segregation School, it may be stated that the former school building exclusively used for the Chinese children was burnt, and the present school is a temporary shed set up close to the site of the former one. The Segregation School consists of a board enclosure

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and floors, but no roof or ceiling. It is said that ~~at~~ about 300 children can be accommodated, but there are only four rooms, with less than 100 benches. There are very few black-boards, tables and desks, and only four teachers.

Tens of thousand of the Chinese who had formerly lived in the old China town moved after the earthquake to Oakland on the other side of the bay, and the majority of them still live there. For this reason, very few Chinese remain in San Francisco, and only about seven or eight Chinese children are now attending this school. It is in this very temporary shed that the municipal authorities of San Francisco are trying to put all our school children.

The Legal Ground for Expulsion.

In doing the Japanese school children such injustice, the municipal authorities of San Francisco refer for their legal ground to the following provision in Article 1662 of the Political Code (Statutes?) of the State of California.

"The Board of Education is authorized to establish segregation schools for the children of Indians, Mongolians, or (that is) of Chinese extraction. When such schools are established, the children of Indians, Chinese or Mongolians shall not be admitted to any other school whatever."

For several years past they have often attempted to exclude the Japanese children in San Francisco from the ~~the~~ public schools on the strength of the provision just cited. Though they do not openly contend that the Japanese belong to the so-called Mongolian stock, yet in fact they have only postponed the execution of their plan pending the establishment of the segregation schools. On account of the great fire, the majority of the Chinese have left San Francisco, and the city authorities, becoming aware of the temporary vacancy of the Segregation School conducted under the Chinese Exclusion Law, are now attempting to expel the Japanese children from the public schools where there are actually many vacant seats and put them in the segregation school.

Doubtful

Doubtful Points in the Application of the Law.

In applying the legal provision cited above to the expulsion of the Japanese school children, there are two or three doubtful points to be settled. In the first place, the "or" in the clause "Mongolians or Chinese" should be construed "that is". It was in 1882 that the Chinese Exclusion Law passed Congress, and the clause cited above was inserted in the Political Code (Statutes?) of the State of California in 1885. It will therefore be seen that the idea of the legislature was then to exclude only the Chinese people belonging to the Mongolian race. Our statement is supported by the fact that this interpretation has been accepted and carried into effect for the past twenty years. In the second place, the question whether or not the Japanese are pure Mongolians remains unsettled among scholars. In the third place, we refer to the question of acts contrary to the Constitution. The Constitution of the United States is founded on the principles of universal brotherhood and equality. For instance, the first paragraph of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution provides for the absolute protection of naturalized, or native born Americans. The majority of the 200 or more Japanese children recently expelled from the public schools were born in the United States, and they thereby acquire American citizenship and are entitled to the absolute equality of protection referred to without regard to the color of their skin. On account of the discriminating law in force in a section of the country, our children are deprived of this privilege because of their being Japanese. Is not this indeed an act contrary to the Constitution?

The Segregation School and Other States.

In some states of the United States the segregation of school children is prohibited, the State of Washington being
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an instance of this. Oregon is one those states where there is no provision either for segregation or non-segregation. In the eastern or southern states we find provisions for establishing segregation schools. The purpose of these schools is to enable the children of Indians and negroes to attend schools in the vicinity of their residences, and we find that they are meant to protect those children. In no other state except California are we insulted so much for being Orientals.

Reviewing the history of the segregation schools in California, we find that the segregation of negroes and Indians was abolished in 1880. The Chinese have been segregated since 1885, while some people now give a false interpretation to the law and attempt to segregate the Japanese children. The result would be that the Japanese children, even though they have American citizenship, are prevented from enjoying those private rights which the children of destitute naturalized Europeans and even negroes can enjoy. Could this indeed be endured by the subjects and people of friendly nations on equal terms?

The Motives for Excluding the Japanese.

There are now about 8,000 Japanese in San Francisco, and it is expected that within this year the population will reach 12,000, which was the total prior to the fire. There are about 50,000 Japanese scattered throughout California including those in San Francisco. During the war between Japan and Russia their contributions to the war fund and their subscriptions for our war bonds amounted to some one million Yen. With reference both to the number of the Japanese and their resourcefulness, the Californian Japanese are far above those in other foreign lands; but it is to be regretted that they are always misunderstood by those who live in distant lands. The fact that, at the time of the disastrous earthquake of April last, Consul Uyeno's official telegram

telegram reading "10,000 Japanese are starving" was construed as "500 Japanese" by some newspapers in Tokyo and elsewhere will give an idea of how little the people at home know of the conditions in San Francisco. It is quite natural that those who are not acquainted with the number and resources of the Japanese in San Francisco should fail to discern the motive of the agitation for excluding the Japanese. Some of those who are not familiar with the conditions here, hold that the agitation is due to the fact that the Japanese laborers deprive the white laborers of their work. But this is nothing but an unfounded conjecture, as will ^{be} endorsed by all those who are familiar with the labor situation of this place. The explanation ^{offered} by another set of people that the agitation is due to the inferiority of the Japanese in San Francisco is nothing more than a phantom of their own imagination. Ask those who have been here, and they will tell you how different the Californian Japanese are from their compatriots emigrating to the Hawaiian Islands or South America.

What then are the real motives for excluding the Japanese? In the first place, in this land of universal suffrage, the Japanese alone have no vote, and they are therefore trampled down. In the second place, there are many destitute Italians and Irish who have become American citizens. They all have votes and hate the Japanese. Those who run for public offices or seats in the Legislature especially advocate the exclusion of the Japanese to court the popularity of these naturalized foreigners in order to get their votes. The election of the Governor of California and the judges of San Francisco is at hand, and the present agitation is due to the desire of the candidates to get as many votes as they can.

They Japanese people in San Francisco, who belong to one of the first class nations of the world, are being subjected to

to such insult as no other nation except the Chinese has been subjected to since the founding of the United States. Should we remain humiliated in the question of the Segregation School, we would be insulted in the future in great many different ways. The prestige of a country having a treaty guaranteeing equal rights and privileges will thus be lost forever. Who could regard this as a small school question in a foreign settlement?