

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, TUESDAY, NOV. 6, 1906.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

The San Francisco Affair.—The *Tokyo Asahi* considers it an erroneous conception to regard the exclusion of the Japanese children merely as a question that pertains to the interpretation of the Japan-American Treaty. The paper itself would base our demand for the adjustment on the broad principle of international relations which demands equal treatment of all nationals. It is not politic to press for the recognition of education as a part of the residential rights.

The judicial feature of the question admits of many arguments on the other side, and the court may see more in the argument of the defendants against the complaints filed by our compatriots before a California Court. President Roosevelt himself bases his procedure against the San Francisco authorities on the *datum* that their action has violated the treaty rights of the Japanese. He is evidently determined to enlarge the power of the Central Government, enforcing the treaty obligations upon the individual states. The paper appreciates the President's keen insight into the great governmental necessity for his country. But should the court give a narrow interpretation of the treaty terms his *datum* would fall through, and the whole affair would take an awkward turn. It is far more desirable for the good feelings of the two nations in the future that the broader principle of humanitarian significance should have been adopted.

The *Jiji* regards the present situation as the opportunity that must sooner or later come for revising the U.S. Constitution to meet the unparalleled national growth of the country. So long as America retained its isolated position under the Monroe Doctrine, the original provisions of the Constitution against the undesirable predominance of a single person, of a single state, or of a single governmental organ answered admirably the purposes of its makers. But with the imperial expansion of the country, the very decentralizing provisions are coming to hamper the free and efficient movements of the United States as a whole under the Washington authorities. The present event is only one of the many international troubles that will arise to prove the inadequacy of the power vested in the Central authorities for holding up the national interests and prestige abroad. The affair is now understood as the consequence of the cumulative efforts of the labour elements to reject the Japanese from the field of competition, even in disregard of the treaty provisions, but that would be far from excusing the Washington Government from their obligations to a treaty nation. To plead its impotence over the local disregard of the treaty obligations would be to invite the loss of confidence in themselves. The paper fully sympathizes with the administration that exerts itself to put effective control over a determined State, in spite of the insufficient constitutional provisions. The slow process, however, of carrying the matter through all the grades of legal courts, while it may be the only means open to them, may end in fostering and deepening the hatred of the California population against the Japanese, whose interests meanwhile can not be said to be under sufficient protection. The journal prays not only for the speedy settlement of the affair, but advises the Republican Party, which has a powerful foothold under President Roosevelt, to effect a constitutional revision so as to make its provisions respond to the high international position the nation aspires to occupy.