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THE REVISION OF THE NATURALIZATION LAW OF
THE UNITED STATES.

("Chuwo Shimbun", Nov., 13, 1906.)

Mr. Metcalf, Secretary of Commerce and Labor, who was despatched to San Francisco by the Washington Government to investigate the real nature of the anti-Japanese agitation there left San Francisco on the 11th instant, having finished his work, and we understand that he is now on his way back to Washington to report on his mission. We are not yet certain as to the steps to be taken hereafter by the Washington Government. We have learned that President Roosevelt started for Panama on the 10th to observe the construction of the canal. It does not seem therefore that the question relating to the anti-Japanese agitation can be settled immediately after Mr. Metcalf's return to Washington. We do not think that President Roosevelt now engaged in the anti-capitalist crusade and the satellites about him will be led blindly to espouse the cause of thoughtless laboring classes. For a time we shall restrain ourselves and wait to see what the American Government will do, without pressing the matter too much or getting excited.

To be frank, we expect of the American Government something more than a settlement in our favor of the question of the segregation of Japanese school children or other like question of a temporary nature. We expect a radical settlement of the anti-Japanese agitation in the western part of the United States. Such problems as the school affair and boycott may be likened to some physical diseases that break out in the rainy season in one part or another. ^{of the system} Those troubles are nothing but expressions of the anti-Japanese feelings prevailing in the western part. Even though they may fortunately be settled owing to the influence of the Central Government, we can not be sure, so long as anti-

Japanese

Japanese feelings exist, that the same old troubles relating to the school children and boycott will not take place again. The result would be that the Japanese in the western part of the United States will remain in the same unsettled condition. This is why we take this occasion to express our hope that the American Government will ~~not~~ take some decisive step that will prevent any further trouble of similar nature.

The best remedy for the anti-Japanese fever is to give the Japanese in America the right to take part in political affairs. But the exercise of this right presupposes the right of naturalization. If the Japanese have the right of naturalization as well as that of voting, they will be able to influence the legislators and local officials like the native born Americans and European immigrants. At the time of elections, the candidates would have to respect the wishes of the Japanese. According to the statutes of the United States, free white people, Africans and people of African descent only have the right to become naturalized. Though this provision is differently interpreted in different localities, yet, strictly speaking, the Japanese can neither become naturalized nor vote, so long as this law remains as it is. The need of the present day is to revise this law. Both the Japanese and American Governments should direct their attention to this point. We shall not indulge in any further discussion, but hope that the measure suggested by us will speedily be carried out.