

DEPT OF COMMERCE
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Translation.

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE SAN FRANCISCO AFFAIR?

("Tokyo Asahi Shimbun", Nov., 14, 1906.)

What has become of the affair relating to the exclusion of the Japanese children from the public schools of San Francisco? Mr. Metcalf, Secretary of Commerce and Labor, has had several conferences with the Japanese consul and residents of San Francisco on the one hand and with the municipal authorities on the other. He has also made a thoroughgoing study of the arguments of the respective sides ^{and} is shortly to leave San Francisco for Washington. It is needless to say that, as a result of his investigations, Mr. Metcalf has come fully to recognize the reasonableness of the Japanese arguments. Since, however, the municipal authorities of San Francisco have not yet changed their attitude, we presume that further measures will be tried to move them. The President and the general public of the United States have long regarded as unfair the steps taken by the San Francisco authorities. No matter how much they have justified themselves in explaining the matter to Mr. Metcalf, we are confident that the result of his investigations will not disappoint the hope entertained by this country. The fact that President Roosevelt is absent from Washington on account of his trip to Panama may possibly delay the settlement of the present affair. We are, however, not much concerned with the President's temporary absence, for he is not a man to procrastinate in such an important matter. Setting aside the relations between the Constitution of the United States and the statutes of the State of California, there is no reason why the affair that has arisen in connection with elections should remain unsettled after the close of the election season. Though we may confess that we expected that Mr. Metcalf's recent trip to San Francisco would be a little more effective in influencing the municipal authorities

ties of San Francisco, yet we are not at all disappointed, for our confidence placed in the American Government remains unshaken.

There is, however, one thing to which we wish to call the attention of the public. We refer to the appreciable effect of the delay of the settlement of the present trouble upon the friendship existing between Japan and the United States. We shall not refer to the strong indignation of the Japanese in San Francisco concerning the present trouble. But the fact that 200 Japanese children are now without the means of getting an education, and that 50,000 of our countrymen are subjected to treatment unfitting people of a treaty nation, will make the Japanese people more irritated, if the trouble be left unsettled any longer. Though the friendship between Japan and the United States is historic and deep, the presence of so many Japanese in San Francisco and vicinity has also been instrumental in cementing the friendship. On the part of the United States, the greater or smaller number of our people living in that country may be a matter of little concern, but such profound pro-American feelings as we witness in Japan to-day are in no small degree due to the fact just referred to. How could the Japanese people long endure ^{the} humiliation their compatriots are subjected to at San Francisco? There is another thing of great concern to our nation. Since the earliest stage of the San Francisco affair, anti-Japanese cries have often been raised in the United States. It has been alleged for instance that some Japanese military spies were arrested in the act of spying in the Philippines. It has also been reported that the San Francisco affair has shaken the English people's confidence in the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. Though, prior to the San Francisco affair, various rumors were circulated for the purpose of misrepresenting Japan, we expect ~~at~~ that, so long as this affair remains unsettled, some treacherous persons will still more endeavor to circulate such

such unfounded rumors to the disadvantage of Japan. Though of course it is clear that no false report or unfounded rumor is strong enough to injure the friendship existing between Japan and the United States, we should not remain unconcerned with what the world says about us. Concerning the present trouble in San Francisco, a German newspaper says that it has put a wedge in the relations between England and the United States. Should some day a new combination of the Powers be organized in the Far East, it is the German paper's opinion that the United States would naturally enter into an alliance with Germany. These are of course irresponsible utterances unworthy of any serious attention, but the very wildness of the statement may show how the delayed settlement of any affair may unexpectedly affect international relations. The San Francisco affair should speedily be settled. Both the Japanese and the American Governments should act upon this principle only. One of the reasons for filing the suit by the Japanese residents of San Francisco against the municipal authorities of that city is said to be that a year or two will elapse pending the decision of the case, or that the municipal authorities may in the meantime undergo a change in personnel. We can however not remain so free from anxiety, because in fact our children are still forbidden to attend their schools.

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Translation.

THE SEIYU-KAI AND THE ANTI-JAPANESE AGITATION
IN SAN FRANCISCO.

("Tokyo Asahi Shimbun", November 17, 1906.)

A committee of four has recently been appointed in the Seiyu-kai (Constitutionalists) for the purpose of investigating the real nature of the agitation in San Francisco. The committee consists of Kurizuka, Nemoto, Hinata and Matsumoto. The consensus of their opinions is that the best way to prevent any further trouble of a similar nature is to revise the naturalization law of the United States with reference to Japanese. In the United States white people and negroes only can become naturalized, but this is a law enacted 100 years ago, when America did not attach any importance to Japan and her people. The committee is however of opinion that an agreement can be reached by which the Japanese will be distinguished from the other Mongolian races. An interview on this subject with Viscount Hayashi has been arranged for 10 o'clock this morning.

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A committee of five has been appointed in the Shimpoto (Progressives) for investigating the San Francisco affair. They are to have an interview with Viscount Hayashi at the same hour.