

Translation.

SETTLE THE SAN FRANCISCO AFFAIR QUICKLY.

("Jiji Shimpō", November 18, 1906.)

We have recognized from the beginning the fact that the anti-Japanese agitation in San Francisco is a local affair, and that it does not represent the will of the Government or of the people of the United States. We have also believed that it will not be very difficult to settle the affair. President Roosevelt has given assurances that the anti-Japanese agitation does not represent the will of the United States as a nation, and has declared that the expulsion of the Japanese school children without cause and any violence done to Japanese shop-keepers would be regarded as a breach of the Treaty. The fair and prompt action taken by President Roosevelt in despatching Mr. Metcalf to San Francisco in order to investigate the real nature of the trouble is in keeping with the President's characteristic way of doing things. It also shows how seriously he regards the question, and the whole Japanese nation appreciates his sincerity and good-will. Though the extremely calm attitude of our nation toward the present question is largely due to the desire not to injure the unique friendship existing between the two countries on account of a local affair, yet it is mainly due to our nation's confidence that the powerful personality of President Roosevelt and the good-will of the American people in general will be strong enough to bring about a satisfactory settlement of the affair. Mr. Metcalf is now back in Washington, having finished his work at San Francisco, and we believe that President Roosevelt will become familiar with the facts of the case when Mr. Metcalf reports on his mission, and his just decision will soon settle the trouble.

Though this affair has arisen under circumstances

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peculiar to the locality concerned, and though the causes are well known to us, yet it should be remembered that from the standpoint of this country it is a highly important question relating to the rights stipulated in the Treaty. The very nature of the case demands that it should be settled by the American Government regardless of the circumstances under which the trouble has arisen. Our Government has recently instructed Ambassador Aoki again by telegraph to represent to the American Government that the present affair is a breach of the Treaty, and that for this reason it should be settled by the two Governments without waiting for the decision of the United States court. We are pleased with this step taken by our Government, for it is an appropriate thing to do. We are confident that the American Government will settle the trouble satisfactorily upon receipt of Secretary Metcalf's report and of our Ambassador's second representation. We also believe that some arrangement will be made between the two countries in order to prevent the occurrence of any further unfortunate complications of a similar nature. We are aware of the fact that diverse legal interpretations by the Federal and State Governments concerning questions of local government in America often lead to disputes about authority. Though it is not yet certain how the local government will interpret the present affair, yet the right that concerning persons, property, business, residence etc., the Japanese in the United States are entitled to the treatment accorded American citizens and citizens or subjects of the most favored nation is confirmed by the Treaty concluded between the chief rulers of Japan and of the United States. No matter what interpretation the local government may put on the present question, the right guaranteed in the Treaty must be respected throughout the length and breadth of the territory of the United States. The Federal Government should not on account of any

any unsettled internal legal dispute neglect even for a single day the decision of a question bearing on the rights stipulated in the Treaty. Should it however be delayed, the sentiments of the two nations might naturally be affected. A recent London telegram, for instance, tells us that the manufacturers of New York fear that an unsatisfactory settlement of the present trouble may bring about a boycott of American goods in the Far East. The Japanese do not forget the good-will of the United States shown to them for many years in the past, and they are confident that the President of that country will settle the trouble satisfactorily. They therefore wait for the settlement calmly and confidently. Though at present we do not dream of boycotting American goods, yet a longer delay of settlement may affect the public sentiment. It is reasonable that the New York manufacturers should entertain such fears, since the people of both countries are anxious not to allow the present affair to affect the future relations between them. We therefore sincerely hope that the American Government will settle the question soon by acting promptly and honorably.