

With Mr. Wright's No. 121 of Dec. 11, 1906.

Translation.

THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
UNITED STATES.

(Editorial; Tokyo Asahi, December 7, 1906.)

President Roosevelt's Message to Congress has been published and his attitude towards the San Francisco affair has become more clearly defined. Though the attitude taken by President Roosevelt is that which we have been led to expect, yet, on reading the summary of his Message, we cannot but express on behalf of the Japanese people our satisfaction and admiration. We regret that the San Francisco affair has incidentally raised a problem touching the Constitution of the United States; but it cannot be helped because the present Constitution of the United States is not in keeping with the universal principles of modern international intercourse. Especially has the obstinacy of the Californian authorities in refusing to withdraw their unjust and illegal measures led to this further development of the situation. It is, however, a matter for congratulation from the standpoint of the future international relations of the United States that the President of that country was compelled to say what he has said in his Message to Congress. His advocacy of amending the Naturalization Law in favor of the Japanese people shows how profound is his good-will toward Japan. Up to the present day the Japanese have not been treated as the equals of Europeans in respect to naturalization. The Japanese cannot become naturalized in the United States on the ground that they belong to the Mongolian race

which is excluded by the Law. We shall not discuss whether or not the Japanese belong to the Mongolian race spoken of in the Naturalization Law, but the fact that only in regard to naturalization the Japanese are discriminated against cannot be considered fair treatment. It is on account of the presence of such a provision that the strange institution known as the Oriental Segregation School has come into existence and that the present affair has arisen. President Roosevelt's recommendation to amend the Naturalization Law in favor of the Japanese is no doubt due to his intention to treat them ^{the} as/equals of Europeans. It will therefore be seen that the San Francisco affair will incidentally confer various benefits upon both Japan and the United States; President Roosevelt's declaration that, in so far as permissible, he will use all civil and military power to protect the rights of the Japanese demonstrates the firmness of his determination; while it convinces us of the wisdom of placing absolute confidence in the President and in leaving everything to him. The whole world admires President Roosevelt's lofty ideas and courageous spirit, and those noble passages in his Message which bear on the San Francisco affair make his great personality still more apparent. It is, indeed, due to the presence of such a man that the spirit of America ("America Damashii"), the legacy of the founders of the Republic, still remains unextinguished. We cannot help hoping that, with reference to the present question, the American people in general will agree with the will of their President.

In his Message the President also discusses the question of seal-poachers in the northern seas. The United States has been paying much attention to the

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protection of seals in those waters; and, as a result of the Anglo-American Arbitration of 1893, sealing on the high seas is prohibited during a certain time of the year. Since, however, there is no such provision in the Treaty between Japan and the United States, the said restriction on the high seas is not very effective. The American Government has had reason to regret for a long time the unscrupulous intrusion of poachers into the territorial waters of a friendly power, and their reckless slaughter of seals, of which the poaching of the Japanese sealers on the Pribyloff Islands is a recent instance. From the standpoint of Japan there would be no gain but loss in joining the agreement for prohibiting sealing on the high seas during a fixed portion of the year; but the reckless slaughter of seals, which will eventually exterminate the animal, is not to the permanent interest of this country. Furthermore, President Roosevelt's views on the sealing question are in accord with humane principles. He suggests that if the hideous cruelty of pelagic sealing continues Americans should exterminate the entire herd in the most humane way possible. We note that only a man of President Roosevelt's stamp is able to make such a statement; but on the other hand it shows how earnest he is in the protection of seals. Japan should not be indifferent to the proposal of the United States in this matter. The President's attitude toward the San Francisco affair is such as we have represented; and it would be a matter of regret to Japan if he were to be disappointed in his earnest hope. We trust that the negotiations between Japan and the United States on this question will not come to an unsatisfactory conclusion.