

DEPT. OF STATE
JAN 8 1797/95
INDEX BUREAU
1907

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, THURSDAY, DEC 6, 1906.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ON THE ANTI-JAPANESE MOVEMENT.

As may be seen elsewhere we are in receipt of Reuter's summaries of President Roosevelt's Message to Congress. Destined to this country, they naturally refer largely to that portion of the Message dealing with the affair which has occupied our attention for six or seven weeks past, and enable us to form a fair idea of the American Executive's attitude *vis-a-vis* the anti-Japanese movement in San Francisco in its latest phase, expressed in the most authoritative and public manner. The President, we are told, "reproves severely the Americans for behaving badly toward the Japanese," and that he "urges the amendment of the Constitution enabling the President to enforce the treaty rights of aliens against individual States." He furthermore declares that "he will employ permissible forces, civil and military, on this Japanese question."

From the first statement quoted it may be most fairly inferred and concluded that the American nation through its highest officer acknowledges that the Japanese in San Francisco have been given unmerited treatment which deserves severe denunciation. We cannot but receive this announcement with a most deeply felt sense of sympathy and appreciation. Sympathy, we say, but not gratitude, because the latter would sound as if we were merely bent on being vindicated, whereas our only desire is to have causes for misunderstanding removed, and because, also, we are in full accord with the view of the matter taken by the President. Again, appreciation we say, for we cannot but admire the strong spirit of justice and fairness which has moved the President to speak for this country in the manner he has chosen. Just as highly we esteem the stand taken by the President, we deplore profoundly the attitude of the San Francisco and Californian authorities, which in view of the declared opinion of the American nation, cannot but be regarded as the result of narrow-minded prejudice and uncultured conceit.

The second of the statements, while indirectly supporting a view that the American Constitution gives no power to the Federal Government to deal summarily with individual States violating international treaties under given circumstances, would, at the same time, leave no doubt as to the point that in the President's opinion the action of the San Francisco authorities clearly infringes the treaty rights of the Japanese. And, by the way, it is to be hoped that the *Japan Advertiser*, which in its latest editorial, persists in taking an adverse view of the matter, will perceive that it altogether fails to read aright the President's mind. In any case, if there has been any doubt it has now vanished and the President's Message clearly indicates that a provision or provisions of our Treaty with the United States has been set at defiance wilfully by a State of the Union. In other words Viscount Aoki was perfectly justified in making his representation to the Washington Government and America owes it to Japan to redress wrongs done to our nationals in San Francisco. That it is the President's intention and determination to have this done, is again clear from his reference to the employment of "permissible forces civil and military" in the third passage we have quoted. We can quite well see the position of the Washington Government, and feel that our own is one not without pain, most friendly and obligingly disposed as we are toward the Republic and its people in general, while we cannot be free from the idea, that the San Francisco situation, if left to half measures or an unwise compromise, would always remain a plentiful source of hindrance to good relations between this country and America. The whole thing will of course be settled at once if only the Californian authorities yield their contention, which in the consensus of American opinion is regarded as both absurd and childish. This we earnestly hope will be the solution of the difficulty.

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, FRIDAY, DEC 7, 1906.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE.

IN our last issue we referred to the just and lofty stand President Roosevelt takes in his Message to Congress, respecting the anti-Japanese movement in San Francisco. Our present purpose is to submit our views on the other topics the Message deals with as relating to this country. In the first place, the President presents the question of the right of the Japanese to become naturalised in the United States in a manner which cannot but arouse a profound sense of satisfaction in this land. We say this not necessarily because the matter bears directly on the interests of our race, but principally because Mr. Roosevelt, therein, gives proof of that model spirit of equity and respect of man's rights on which must ultimately depend all amicable relationship between nations, and which it is, as we believe, the aspiration of all true Americans to promote and realize in the highest degree.

In the second place, President Roosevelt's reference to the subject of pelagic sealing seems to call for an attitude on our part that should be free of all taint of pre-judgment and selfish interest, and guided by the noble spirit of international justice and humanity, especially in view of the laudable example the President sets before us in his treatment of the San Francisco affair. We are not a party to the Anglo-American arrangement for the protection of seals. In so far as we do not infringe upon the

territorial rights of America, we are at liberty to hunt seals on the high seas and no season limits bind us in carrying on the operation. And consulting our own pockets it is decidedly disadvantageous to join any compact that would tend to restrict us in the exercise of this liberty. This does not prevent us, however, from admitting that pelagic sealing is a practice most revolting to all sense of humanity and civilization. Considered from a purely economic standpoint too, the practice is a short-sighted one, that in the end will rob our sealers of the main part of their occupation, as the killing of the animals in their breeding period cannot but bring about their ultimate extermination. These are the aspects of the question that must not be lost sight of and should carry weight in determining our position in the pending negotiations with England.

There is at present much talk of fostering Japan's incipient deep sea industry, in which pelagic sealing figures largely. The voluntary surrender of the latter practice will no doubt be a sacrifice on our part. But if we are to enjoy the esteem of other nations it behoves us to endeavour to be in consonance with the best humanitarian principles in our own action. Even this way of looking at things in being guided in our doings is, however, a base one, in comparison with another which is to promote humanity and civilization for their own sake, but the nation's aspiration is that Japan be a power in that nobler work. We believe that the nation will not demur at little sacrifices in the cause of this aspiration, and should hope that it is prepared to be unassailably consistent in the solution of the sealing problem.

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, SATURDAY, DEC. 8, 1906.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE.

We have received from an official source the following:—

The President sent his Message to Congress on December 4th. Referring to the situation, which he describes as an "attitude of hostility here and there assumed toward Japanese in this country," he says that such situation is most discreditable to Americans as a people and it may be fraught with the gravest consequences. He refers in terms of enthusiastic admiration to the high and ancient civilization of Japan, marvellous progress within the last fifty years, noble and beautiful traits of the Japanese character, courtesy of the Japanese, nationally and individually, which has become proverbial, and spontaneous gift of the Japanese people to the sufferers of San Francisco, which was accepted with gratitude; and says that Japanese have won on their own merits the right to treatment on a basis of full and frank equality. To shut them out from public schools is a wicked absurdity. Throughout Japan Americans are well treated, and in his estimation, any failure in this country to treat Japanese with like courtesy is by so much a confession of the inferiority of American civilization. American citizens that act badly.

great commercial development in their dealings with Asia, but such development can not be obtained without extending to other nations the same measure of justice and good treatment, which Americans themselves expect to receive. It is a very small body of American citizens that act badly. Where the Federal Government has power, it will deal summarily with wrongdoers. Where several states have power, he earnestly asks them to deal promptly. The President categorically recommends the passage of an act specifically providing for the naturalization of Japanese. He also recommends that the criminal and civil statutes of the United States be so amended and added to as to enable the President acting for the United States Government to enforce the rights of aliens under treaty. Even as the law now stands, the President will do everything in his power in the matter now affecting Japanese, but in order leave no particle of doubt as to the power of the national Government to completely perform and enforce its own obligations to other nations, he recommends legislative action.

The Message as usual covers a wide range of subjects. He again recommends an enactment encouraging general shipping, laying particular stress upon better communication with South America. Regarding the protection of seals, he says that the Government has not relaxed its efforts to secure agreement with Great Britain. He adds that negotiations with Japan for a similar purpose are in progress.

1797
98
1007
DEPT OF STATE

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, MONDAY, DEC. 10, 1906.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE AND AMERI- CAN AMBASSADOR.

With regard to the Message of President Roosevelt, a representative of the *Jiyu Tsushin* called on his Excellency Mr. Wright, the American Ambassador, to ascertain his views on the subject by a personal interview. His Excellency expressed himself frankly, saying, "American principles of justice and humanity are upheld by our President and our public opinion will do justice to Japan and the Japanese. The affair is being settled, as the Message of the President shows to be the case and I sincerely hope and trust that all men in Japan will understand thoroughly the best wishes of our Government towards your country for the ever increasing friendly relations between the two countries."