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Enclosure with Mr. Wright's No. 121 of December 11, 1906

Translation.

NATURALIZATION OF FOREIGNERS
IN THE
UNITED STATES.

Throw Away Narrow Patriotism.

(Tokyo Mainichi, Nov. 30, '06.)

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Thanks to the sincere efforts of President Roosevelt and of other prominent men in the Central Government to maintain the friendly relations between Japan and the United States, the anti-Japanese agitation prevailing in California and San Francisco remains a purely local affair. Even if it should not be settled at a definite date in the near future, the international friendship between the two countries would never be affected. If, however, the number of our laborers increases in the United States and eventually brings about labor competition in many other places, the result may be a state of things similar to that which now exists in California. If the number of those Americans who are antagonistic to the Japanese thus gradually increases, the Governments of various States will find it difficult to control them, and a majority vote of the laborers might upset the plans of the Central Government. Then the American Government would be placed in a very difficult position, and nothing would be more unfortunate should it each time give rise to unpleasant feelings between the two peoples. The American laborers can vote, and they

can protect themselves, while the Japanese immigrants can not vote, and therefore have no way of protecting themselves politically. This was Japan's great drawback in the recent anti-Japanese agitation. The persecution of the Jewish people in Europe, especially their greater persecution in the form of massacre and plunder in Russia, is due to the fact that they have no political rights, hence the lack of means to protect themselves. On the contrary, they are not persecuted in England and America, and the chief cause is that they have equal political rights with other races. The fact that the Orientals are subjected to unfair treatment is also due to the same cause. Though the Chinese people in the United States are far more disliked than the Japanese, they have remarkable influence in Portland and vicinity, and they are engaged in various occupations without being insulted. This state of things is due to the fact that they have been there for quite a long time, and a considerable number of them can vote, having been born in the United States. The legislators are of course after their votes and cannot afford to offend them. This object lesson teaches us that we must obtain the right of self-protection for the Japanese in the United States in order to secure the permanent interests of the Japanese people and to strengthen the cordial friendship existing between Japan and the United States.

We therefore hold it to be highly important that we obtain the right of naturalization for Japanese subjects in the United States by means of an extension of the application of the Naturalization Law of the United States. No provision for or against the naturalization of Japanese is found in the law now in force.

It is provided that free white people, Africans and people of African descent only have the right to become naturalized. But in fact Mexicans are naturalized, and some Turks have become naturalized. There is therefore no special reason why the Japanese should be discriminated against. We have heard however that the application for naturalization of a Japanese residing in a certain State was some time ago rejected by the local authorities. The matter was brought by the applicant to the notice of Ambassador Aoki in order to enlist his official assistance, but the Ambassador is said to have expressed his unwillingness to assist any Japanese who was as unpatriotic as to wish to transfer his nationality to another country. Though we are not certain as to this statement ascribed to our Ambassador to the United States, it is a fact that some people have a similar prejudice about the question of naturalization. This is indeed a great prejudice. It bears on the question whether or not the Japanese people can have the right to become naturalized like the people of any other nationality. The prejudice is also a negative form of insult to the Japanese. We hope that in all respects our people will enjoy the same rights as peoples of other nations and uphold the honor of the Japanese Empire. The transfer of one's nationality for the purpose of improving one's condition, is a part of our personal right, and this freedom ought not to be restricted by what some people call patriotic reasons. It is essential to leave to each individual the freedom of opening for himself his own path to progress and prosperity. Mr. Carnegie has become naturalized in America, and he is an American millionaire, but does he not still maintain unique friendship with his old friends in his native land, Scotland? The cordial international friendship existing

between England and America is mainly due to the abundance of immigrants of this type in America. The number of German and Italian immigrants in the United States has increased to such an extent as to give rise, as it were, to little Germanies and little Italies in various parts of that country. These racial relations are instrumental in no small degreeⁱⁿ encouraging the sale of German and Italian goods in the United States, while on the other hand American money improves the economic conditions of the other two countries. Moreover, on this account, there exist peculiar international relations between those countries. We do not agree with those who, in the name of patriotism, would restrict people's personal liberty and retain them in the home land. We hope that the application of the Naturalization Law of the United States will be extended, and that the present question will thereby be fairly settled. According to a recent telegram, President Roosevelt is said to be intending to suggest in his message for the coming year that the Japanese be given the right to vote, by means of a revision of the Naturalization Law. If that purpose can be carried into effect, it will prove a powerful means of solving various international complications that may arise in future between Japan and the United States.