

INDEX BUREAU

FEB 7

1797/208

DEPT. OF STATE

O. G. S.

FILED

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.

DEPT OF STATE
FEB
7
1907
2ND ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Ask & file

RECEIVED
FEB
8
1907

*John Feb. 11/07
D. J. S.*

FILE-S. Y. S.

Japanese School Question in Calif.

Encl. 117-118. Feb. 6, 1907.

The President (Loeb, Sec'y.)

Transmits copy of a tel. from the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, in which it is stated that the sentiment of the whole State is unanimously against the mingling, in the primary grades of their schools, of adults or adolescents of whatever race or nationality with the younger children, but that the general trend of public opinion is decidedly adverse to any discrimination against the Japanese as a people in matters of public school privileges, and that this opinion is held independently of any attitude which the Jap. Gov't. has assumed or may assume in regard to the question.

G (Received 2/6/07.)

Copy.

TELEGRAM.

Los Angeles, California,
February 5, 1907.

The President.

The Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce today unanimously passed the following resolution and directed that it be forwarded to you to be used at your discretion:

RESOLVED, That the board of Directors of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce believes that the public sentiment of the State of California, and especially of southern California, upon the question of the exclusion of the Japanese from the general public school system of the state, has been to some extent misrepresented and is largely misunderstood, and as representing the commercial and business interests of the second city of the state and in view of the national importance which the question has assumed, the Board feels impelled to correct such misapprehension so far as it is its power to do.

In the first place it would seem that the question is one of principle, or of sentiment, or of practical politics, rather than of immediate vital importance, so far as it affects the welfare of the children in our public schools. The Board is reliably informed that, when the question was first agitated, the total number of Japanese in the public schools of San Francisco was ninety-three, of which twenty-eight were girls and sixty-five boys. Thirty-four of the boys were under sixteen years of age; of the thirty-one who were sixteen years and older, only six were in the primary schools, the oldest being nineteen years old. There are about the same number of Japanese in the public schools of Los Angeles, and it is reported on good authority, both from San Francisco and Los Angeles, that no complaint of bad conduct on the part of Japanese scholars has ever come to the knowledge of the school superintendent of either of these cities. This Board is convinced that the sentiment of the whole state is unanimously against the mingling, in the primary grades of our schools, of adults or adolescents of whatever race or nationality with the younger children. Upon the main question, whatever may be the diversity of opinion upon the constitutional and legal phases, this Board is assured that the general trend

Copy.

TELEGRAM.

Los Angeles, California,
February 2, 1907.

The President.

The Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce today unanimously passed the following resolution and directed that it be forwarded to you for your consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce believes that the public sentiment of the State of California, and especially of southern California, upon the question of the exclusion of the Japanese from the general public school system of the state, has been to some extent misrepresented and is largely misunderstood, and as representing the commercial and business interests of the second city of the state and in view of the national importance which the question has assumed, the Board feels impelled to correct such misapprehension so far as it is in its power to do.

In the first place it would seem that the question is one of principle, or of sentiment, or of practical politics, rather than of immediate vital importance, so far as it affects the welfare of the children in our public schools. The Board is reliably informed that, when the question was first agitated, the total number of Japanese in the public schools of San Francisco was ninety-three, of which twenty-eight were girls and sixty-five boys. Thirty-four of the boys were under sixteen years of age; of the thirty-one who were sixteen years and older, only six were in the primary schools, the oldest being nineteen years old. There are about the same number of Japanese in the public schools of Los Angeles, and it is reported on good authority, both from San Francisco and Los Angeles, that no complaint of bad conduct on the part of Japanese scholars has ever come to the knowledge of the school superintendent of either of these cities. This Board is convinced that the sentiment of the whole state is unanimously against the mingling, in the primary grades of our schools, of adults or adolescents of whatever race or nationality with the younger children. Upon the main question, whatever may be the diversity of opinion upon the constitutional and legal phases, this Board is assured that the general trend

-2-

of public opinion in southern California is decidedly adverse to any discrimination against the Japanese as a people in matters of public school privileges, and they believe that this opinion is based upon consideration of equity and justice and is held altogether independently of any attitude which the Japanese government has assumed or may assume in regard to the question.

W. J. Washburn,
President,

Frank Wiggins,
Secretary.