

1797/123-124

Sir:

February 14, 1906.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant wherein you make some remarks in regard to the attendance of Japanese at American schools and with which you enclose a newspaper clipping containing a number of statements in regard to the position of Americans in Japan, as to the truth of which you desire information.

Having caused an investigation of the points specifically referred to in your communication I am enabled to inform you that of the items printed in the clipping you enclose under the heading of "Coercion of Americans" all are absolutely untrue or grossly misleading, with two exceptions.

It is true that individuals foreigners are not allowed to own land or mines. Japanese corporations, however, even if composed exclusively of foreigners, may own land or mines. (In this connection it may be noted that in several of our States foreigners are not allowed to own land).

There are some five or six semi-governmental or subsidized corporations in Japan, in which foreigners may not hold shares, but such cases are exceptional. As to mortgages, the position of individual foreigners toward them would perhaps be affected by the fact that they may not, as individuals, own land.

It may be remarked that individual foreigners can hold land under exceedingly long leases; and also that many lots are, in fact, held by them under perpetual leases. There are many foreigners residing and doing business in Japan and

nothing

nothing is heard of any discrimination against them by the courts, or of any serious embarrassment to them in matters of real estate or securities.

No objection to the attendance of foreigners at Japanese schools has been heard of. As a matter of fact most foreigners in Japan wish their children educated in their own language, and therefore, make separate provision for their education.

Foreigners are permitted to reside and travel freely throughout the Japanese empire.

There are no serious restrictions upon yachting. Indeed this pastime is very popular among the foreign residents.

Since the abolition of treaty rights and extraterritoriality by the treaty of 1894 there is no such thing as a permit to leave a treaty port, and as said above, foreigners go freely every where.

There are no excessive charges to foreigners at Japanese theatres and hotels, unless they ask for different and exceptional accommodations, when, of course, they would naturally pay more.

The allegation of discrimination against foreigners by the courts of justice is quite unfair.

From the above^v you will see how utterly misleading are the rash generalities contained in the clipping as to which

you

you have asked information.

In further reference to this subject I enclose a clipping from the Washington Star of the 16th ultimo which purports to contain an official contradiction of allegations similar to those transmitted by you.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ELIHU ROOT,

Enclosure.

George B. McLaughlin Esq.,

433 Huntington Building,

Los Angeles, Cal.

A true copy of
the signed original
enclosed.
B.A.