

(Jiji Shimpō, January 16, 1907.)

THE RUMOR OF WAR BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

In a section of the western part of the United States an intense agitation is now being stirred up against the Japanese people, while the possibility of a war between Japan and the United States is being discussed by certain classes of the American people. It has been reported that Japan desires the Philippines and the Hawaiian Islands. Some people hold that a war between Japan and the United States must inevitably arise out of the contest for the supremacy of the Pacific; others are bold enough to circulate the rumor that Japan has sent a number of retired soldiers to Hawaii and that America is now preparing for Japan's attack -- intimating that the outbreak of hostilities is imminent. But it is only the smaller newspapers that publish these rumors and indulge in a discussion of the possibilities of war: as for the larger and more influential ones, some write articles endorsing Japan's position, of which an article from the New York Tribune, translated by us a few days ago, is an instance. It should, however, be remembered that rumors of a war between Japan and the United States are not confined to the latter country. The excitement caused by them has affected Europe, where some people seem to be seriously concerned about the situation.

Turning now to our own country, we find that our national good-will towards America remains unshaken; though, with reference to the present trouble in San Francisco, Japan will keep insisting on the maintenance of her rights, she will do so by means of peaceful diplomatic

negotiations only. The press of this country is confident that, in view of the cordial friendship of so long standing between the two countries, the present trouble will be satisfactorily settled. No newspaper in this country indulges in frantic or indiscreet utterances on the subject. It is a notable fact that both the Government and the people of Japan are extremely calm. In the United States, President Roosevelt, who attaches great importance to the friendship existing between the two countries, maintains a dignified attitude in his effort to settle the present question; while the large majority of the American people is in sympathy with the President and in hopes that the amicable relations of the two countries will not be disturbed. Thus it will be seen that the attitude of both nations as a whole is calm and remains unchanged from that of the past. It is therefore evident that those papers which indulge in a discussion of war possibilities do so for their own selfish purposes.

No ordinary observer can fail to see the impossibility of a war between Japan and the United States. An international war is due to a conflict of interest and of feelings; and it is only after a series of such clashes, leaving no room for amicable arrangement, that war is finally declared and an appeal made to arms. America's war with Great Britain and that of Japan with Russia were alike unavoidable. Let us then see if there really exists any conflict between Japan and the United States. So far as sentiment is concerned, this nation appreciates America's good-will, displayed for many years, and regards her people as benevolent teachers; while the American people in general remain friendly to the Japanese. The public sentiment of both countries remains the same as it has been for half a century, and we fail to discover any change whatever. So far as interests are concerned, it has been reported that

Japan desires to possess the Philippines and the Hawaiian Islands. But is it not a plain fact that these two groups of islands are territories of the United States, and that no nation in the world, however frenzied, would be foolish enough to covet the possessions of such a powerful country as the United States? Those who have any claim to common sense will therefore see the absurdity of the talk about Japan's territorial ambition. The great Pacific problem of the present day is the opening of China and the preservation of her territorial integrity. No world-power raises any objection to this policy. The United States is its most enthusiastic advocate and has always exerted its influence along those lines. It was primarily for the very purpose of maintaining this principle that Japan went to war with Russia, as a result of which war China's integrity is now guaranteed and her doors opened to the world. Japan is doing her best to share with the Powers the benefits of that opening.

We do not think that anyone really believes in the possibility of a conflict between Japan and the United States. The rumor of a Japanese-American war is nothing but a temporary agitation prevailing in one locality, having no real grounds. Though a temporary agitation is bound to subside sooner or later and we are therefore not much concerned about it, yet we know that a fever -- for the present agitation is in a sense a fever -- has to be cautiously treated. Any rash attempt to cure it might develop worse symptoms, and the best way is to follow Nature's course. In spite of the sensation caused by the war rumor, the Japanese nation is aware that it is merely a temporary frenzy prevailing in a section of the United States, and she recognizes that the public sentiment in

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both countries remains wholly unchanged. with respect to their traditional friendship. The nation therefore turns a deaf ear to the war rumor and calmly waits for the fever to subside.