

Walter H. Robinson,
Attorney at Law.

San Francisco, Cal.,

November 15th, 1906.

Robert T. Devlin, Esq.,

U. S. Attorney,

Post Office Bldg, City.

Dear Sir:

I regret not having seen Mr. Metcalf when he was here on his mission regarding the Japanese question, but I will state briefly the views of the property owners of the Western Addition, thinking that the same may be of some value, particularly as they are from an entirely different source than those of representatives of labor and stand on a different footing.

As you know, the residents of this section have held numerous mass meetings with a view of checking the invasion of the residential part of the city by Japanese, and they have honored me with the presidency of their organization.

At the meetings a large number incensed at the conditions have openly advocated violence, but I and the other members of the committee have steadfastly insisted that nothing should be done in violation of the law. All that we have deemed it wise to do has been confined in persuading property owners from permitting their property to be given over to undesirable element. This course has met with only partial success, as the herding of from 25 to 100 Japanese in one house makes it possible for them to pay double the usual rentals.

Our recent calamity has caused the former Japanese quarters to

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to be deserted with the result that they have scattered throughout the unburnt section and particularly that portion bounded by California, Franklin, Ellis, and Fillmore Streets. If they had located in any one particular quarter, the feeling would not have become general as it has. We would then only have the complaint of owners immediately adjacent.

As to the precise object of Mr. Metcalf's visit, viz; the investigation of the exclusion of Japanese children from the public schools generally, the scattering of the Japanese population is the reason for their finding themselves at a distance from the established school, which they attended without question, before the fire. This is also the main reason for the objection to their attendance on the part of the parents of the children who before were not exposed to the disagreeable and undesirable association.

The Japanese themselves are to blame, having invaded territory formerly exclusively used by the white residents. If this were temporary no one would complain against housing them until they could return to their old section, but the making of long leases, the purchase of property etc., indicates that they have no intention of re-establishing themselves in a quarter by themselves, as the Chinese do. This is the main cause of trouble, both in the objection of the white residents to having them as neighbors and in many cases associates under which the same roof, and of the Japanese to being excluded from schools to which they formerly did not even apply for admission.

The thousands of residents with whom I am in touch, feel that the Japenes should not be favored in any particular as such action can have but one result, the instigation of violence and the abandonment by white children of the schools thus invaded. The action of the Board of Education in enforcing the state law which has never heretofore, to my knowledge, been objected to, although enforced, has the approval of all our citizens and is concede here, where the conditions are fully understood, to be the only proper course to safeguard the moral welfare of our school children.

That a number of worthy citizens of Japan are here is not denied, but the inconvenience of their children going a few blocks further to school is a trifle compared with the evil results which are certain to ensue if they are not kept apart. The remedy lies with themselves by seeking to locate in one section, and if the present school is too far from such location, the school board can and without question will move it to suit their convenience.

With our present limited school space owing to the destruction of over half the school buildings and the crowding into poor temporary shacks made necessary by circumstances our school conditions are bad enough without adding the untenable presence of contaminating Oriental influence.

I am satisfied that I am right when I make the assertion that this school question is, ^{as} to the Japanese, considered an unimportant question but is merely being used as a "machine de guerre" as an entering wedge leading to social and economic questions of great and far reaching importance.

The evil effects of their presence is not alone in the schools but the whole district referred to is seriously affected by the presence of thousands of disreputable Japanese as is evidenced by the reestablishing throughout this section mentioned of gambling houses, houses of ill fame and other undesirable conditions which formerly were kept within their special district.

Trusting that the views of myself and those I speak for may be of some value in the matter, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

W. H. Robinson.