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RUMOURS.

All kinds of rumours are telegraphed from America with regard to the San-Francisco question. The majority of them indicate that the Californian folk are not satisfied with the settlement and are concerting means of evading it. But the experience of the past few months has taught us that scarcely the proverbial grain of truth can be credited to the stories put into circulation by newspapers and their correspondents of a certain class in connexion with this matter. Lying, downright and wholesale lying, has been so common as to be almost describable as universal. For example, take the references made to a body of Japanese immigrants who recently landed at San Francisco from Honolulu. Journals whose sympathies are entirely with the exclusionists did not hesitate to allege that the new-comers were men largely affected with disgusting and contagious diseases, a palpable falsehood concerted by unscrupulous reporters. They well knew that no better method could be found for exciting a feeling of loathing against these unoffending Japanese, whose sole crime is that they want to be allowed to work for their livelihood and that they are prepared to work at comparatively low rates of wages, being content with frugal fare without comforts which their white competitors demand. It is a humiliating specimen of ignorance and medieval intolerance, but it has one very disquieting feature, namely, the profound passion that it evinces. Men, however small their respect for truth, could not be betrayed into such extreme violations of it were not their passions strongly excited. Meanwhile, it is just as well to turn a deaf ear to the greater part of the tales sent across the wires. The main fact is indisputable, namely, that the problem has been solved, for the time being at all events.

JAPANESE EMIGRATION.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, interviewed by a representative of the *Mainichi Dempo*, admits that the operation of the newly amended immigration law will probably affect the going of Japanese subjects to the United States, but his Excellency points out that there are other fields of the highest promise where Japanese labour is welcomed gladly. Mexico and South America generally are capable of large development and await the advent of a fertilizing stream of labour procurable at reasonable rates. Then there are Manchuria and Korea. To these regions the Japanese should earnestly turn their attention, for unquestionably the opportunity is great.

The *Mainichi's* correspondent seized the occasion to ask the Minister's opinion about the Kilin-Changchun Railway. Viscount Hayashi replied that in China's present rights-recovery mood it was not unnatural that some of her officials should seek to have this line exploited by their countrymen alone, but Japan had a clear understanding with Peking in the matter of the railway and thus no efforts made by a few local politicians could produce any sensible effect.

EMIGRATION.

The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* says that the number of Japanese who emigrated to Hawaii during the period from January to November 1906 was 16,000, out of which total no less than 11,000 proceeded to the United States, only 5,000 remaining in Hawaii. These are eloquent figures. They indicate the source of San Francisco's sudden access of excitement. Of course it may reasonably be assumed that a large part of the emigrants from Japan were led by the prospect of finding a keen demand for labour in connexion with the rebuilding of San Francisco, and by rumours of the immense wages ruling at that place—wages so great that one day's pay for an American workman represented a fair monthly stipend for a Japanese. It is not to be supposed that the statistics for 1906 may be taken as indicating a normal state of affairs.