

1797
1907
RECEIVED
DEPT. OF STATE

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, TUESDAY, FEB. 26, 1907.

Labour Emigrants.—Leaving behind as a settled matter the San Francisco affair and its development, the exclusion of Japanese labour, the *Kokumin* takes the opportunity for expressing its deep appreciation of President Roosevelt's just and impartial attitude in the matter. The whole affair was a matter of undisciplined feeling, and as such, the vigorous residential attitude, much less the passive attitude of our authorities effected a happier end by appealing to the sterner court of reason. But just as it was a matter in which feeling was all-pervading, it can now be left to run out its own course with the certainty of a return of a kindlier opinion toward us when the narrow feeling aroused has spent itself. Meanwhile the paper would study the conditions which in future will free our labour from the like indignity at the hands of foreign communities. To be candid, the paper does not favour the exodus of the young, vigorous elements of the people to pass their most efficient years on foreign soil. They can be more profitably employed in developing our own resources at home and in our new Asiatic fields of activity, for which they are far from being sufficient in number and may necessitate in future days some supplement with foreign labour. At present they go abroad in response to invitation where native labour is scanty. The Californians charged our labourers with a low standard of living and want of education. Let us educate and train them, then, to a higher degree of efficiency. It is on the other hand a way to elevating their position to make them demand higher wages from their foreign employers. The home industry will only gain by taking the foreign comments on their status in earnest and working for their improvement.

The *Nichi Nichi* would take this opportunity for proposing to both the authorities and the people a change in their policy of outward expansion, benefiting by the better experience in California. To make home wherever fortune invites is the spirit that should actuate a progressive people like us, but practically there are two ways of this out-going activity,—colonization and contract labour. At present the latter class occupies a far greater percentage. The paper, however, is in favour of permanent settlement to temporary emigration for labour, of whole families emigrating than single parties going, and of engaging in their own enterprises rather than selling their labour to foreign employers. The method at present obtaining in the matter is the best neither for individual nor for the country, while this other, colonization, would present waste of both energy and the experience of labour. This general principle when tested in actual practice is found sadly neglected. Our Peninsular Protectorate and Manchuria do not yet make sufficient draft upon our population, nor does the Government show any sign of encouraging it. The present occasion should be utilized for introducing a change.