

INDEX BUREAU
1797
MAR 27 1907
DEPT OF STATE

The Japan Daily Mail.

YOKOHAMA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1907.

THE GERMAN PRESS.

A telegram from London says that a section of the German press insists on the certainty of war between Japan and the United States and considers the outbreak to be a question of time only, a speedy unsheathing of swords being in Japan's interests whereas the deferring of that event would be to America's advantage. It is curious how readily some newspapers assume the imminence of war whenever an international complication occurs. No one can foretell with any confidence what may be the final issue of the racial struggle which has now been accentuated by a small section of the people of the United States. It may eventuate in serious trouble at some distant date. But to talk of war appears to us to be extremely precipitate. The Governments of Tokyo and of Washington are understood to be in full accord with reference to the recent complication, and the step taken by President Roosevelt and Congress is absolutely within America's treaty rights. The *Vossische Zeitung*, which appears to be the leader of the war cry, ought to be better informed and more judicious. Evidently, too, the rumours of trouble are not limited to the San Francisco affair. These journals find in Germany's possession of the Caroline and Mariana groups another cause for collision. They seem to have discovered evidence that Japan's direction of expansion is southward and that Germany will be found to be in the way. But we who live within sight of the events viewed by the German press from a distance of ten thousand miles, can not discover any evidence of this southward expansion on Japan's part. There is no saying, of course, what change of conditions might be produced were Japanese emigration checked completely in an easterly direction, but at present the main tendency of expansion is northward, to Manchuria, Korea, Hokkaido and Saghalien, with an evident disposition to seek new fields in South America. Fifty years hence the situation may be changed, but for the moment these predictions of certain German newspapers excite more surprise than alarm.