

1797/209

Wednesday Morning

May 30, 1907

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

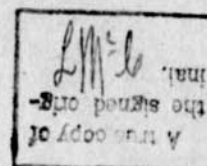
Herewith I beg to send you informally an account
of the telegraphic report made the Department of Justice by
the United States Attorney at San Francisco of which
I told your Excellency last evening.

Yours very sincerely,

HUNTINGTON WILSON

His Excellency

The Viscount Aoki,



The telegraphic report received today from the United States Attorney at San Francisco is to the effect that after full consultation with the Japanese Consul he has with the police authorities and the United States Marshal made a careful examination on the scene of the attack on a Japanese restaurant and a bathing establishment which occurred on the twentieth instant.

There appears to be much difference of opinion as to the cause of the incident. The Japanese Consul seems to be of opinion that it was deliberate, but offers no evidence as a ground for this belief.

The police authorities of San Francisco, on the other hand, state the facts to be that two lathers entered the restaurant and ordered a teamster to take off his union badge, which he refused to do, and a fight then started; that the Japanese cook ran from the kitchen with a carving knife and threw it at the men, who left the restaurant and were on the street; and that a crowd of boys had congregated by this time and smashed the windows with rocks.

Continuing, the report refers to the fact that the street car men of San Francisco are on strike and that cars are being run under police protection, and that owing to the necessary detail of policemen for this work there were only five officers available after six p. m. to patrol the territory in which the trouble in question occurred, while usually forty policemen were on duty in that district. The property injured is situated in the burned district,

evidently

evidently in a rough neighborhood where drinking places are numerous.

The Captain of Police has now detailed an active officer in civilian dress for the purpose of protecting the business houses conducted by Japanese.

The Japanese Consul says that no attack has been made upon the Japanese in any other parts of the city, and the report states that everything is quiet at present, and that the Japanese restaurant keepers assured the Marshal that they expect no further trouble.

The Marshal reports that he is convinced that the whole matter was the result of riot among laborers without any demonstration towards the Japanese as such, the injury to their restaurant and bath house being merely incidental.

The District Attorney adds that he has requested the Japanese Consul to bring the Japanese and other witnesses to his office and that he will take down their statements.

Such is the gist of the preliminary report of the District Attorney upon the investigation which he is making by direction of the Department of Justice. Until now none of the persons who participated in the trouble has been identified.

May 29, 1907.

A true copy of
the signed original.
CME