

C O P Y .

STATEMENT OF JAPANESE VIEW CONCERNING RECENT ASSAULTS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

In the first place the Japanese residents in San Francisco recognize the fact that present conditions in this city make it very difficult for the authorities to extend full protection. They understand that the strike upon the street railroads puts a heavy tax upon the police force and that it is impossible to guard all places at all times against the lawless elements of the community.

They are fully convinced, however, that much of the violence to which they have been subjected is due to racial prejudice, and that the attempts which are being made in certain quarters, to have it appear that the trouble is confined to quarrels between laboring men, incidentally involving the Japanese, are without foundation.

In support of this view they direct attention to the fact that the Japanese restaurants have been systematically annoyed and simultaneously attacked. Hardly a day goes by, in the territory south of Market Street, that some threatened demonstration is not made by roughs and hoodlums against Japanese places of business in that quarter.

On May 20th the Lion Restaurant at 124 Eighth Street was threatened and several persons assaulted.

On the same evening the Horse Shoe Restaurant, at 1213 Folsom Street was completely wrecked and the Folsom Street Bath House, at 1214 Folsom St. was attacked and its front windows broken in.

On May 21st, the Lion Restaurant was again besieged by a mob and its patrons assaulted.

On May 22nd the California Restaurant, at 1271 Howard Street was the scene of a demonstration.

On May 24th and 25th the White Star Restaurant, at 596 Third St. was threatened.

The uniformity of these expressions of hostility to Japanese enterprises precludes the idea that they are the accidental results of chance rows between white laboring men. They are entirely distinct in character from the act of violence growing out of the street car strike, where capital and labor are at war. They are clearly an expression of race prejudice, to which the people of no other nationality are at present subjected.

The Japanese residents of San Francisco further insist that no provocation has been given, for these outrages. They are peacefully engaged in lawful occupations, the right to which is guaranteed to them by treaty stipulations. They believe that they are fully justified in protesting against acts which place their property in jeopardy and their lives in peril, and they denounce as unjust such public criticism as attributes their claimants to mere "cockiness" and caprice.

#2.

COPY.

CONSULATE OF JAPAN,

They simply desire that the true facts of these assaults should be placed before the American people, believing implicitly in the fairness and sense of justice of that tribunal.

In the meantime they sincerely regret the necessity of calling for special police protection, but believe it wiser to make that demand now, rather than to wait until some overt action of the mob elements shall precipitate more serious trouble and possibly bloodshed.

Respectfully,
Hon. Robert T. Devlin,

United States Attorney,

San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 17th instant, informing me that you have been instructed by the Attorney General of the United States to report upon the status of the restaurant cases and, in the event that a suit is determined upon, to place your legal services at the disposal of the plaintiffs.

In addition to your expressed desire to confer with the legal representatives of the Japanese people, I beg to inform you that attorneys Carl E. Lindsay and Earl H. Webb have been designated by this Consulate and the Japanese Association of America to act in their behalf, and these gentlemen will call upon you for conference at an early date.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Yours very respectfully,

(Signed) K. Matsunaga,

Acting Consul of Japan.