

OFFICE OF THE
THIRD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

July 8.

Dear Mr. Bacon.

There is some interesting
correspondence from Japan
which you said you wished
to read on your return.

It might possibly in-
terest the Secretary.

W.H.

[Signature]

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U. S.

Enc. 246.
Newspaper clippings from Cali-
fornia papers; one an article on
the Japanese Ambassador to the U.S.,
the other a brief editorial.
H. (Rec'd June 25, 1907)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY,

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[Signature]

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Encl. 246.
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AMERICAN EMBASSY,
TOKYO.

No. 275.

June 12, 1907.

To the Honorable Elihu Root,
Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

In continuation of my despatch No. 270 of the 28th ultimo, on the subject of the recent disturbances in San Francisco, I have the honor to enclose herewith extensive translations and clippings from the press in order that the Department may be informed as to how the facts have been reported here and how they have been received. It will be observed that, in spite of the statements and explanations given out by the embassy in accordance with the Department's telegraphic instruction of May 30 (herewith confirmed), and by the Japanese Foreign Office, the agitation has continued to grow until of all the newspapers of the capital the "Jiji" is the only one that has retained an attitude of entire moderation. All the other leading papers have expressed surprise, dissatisfaction, annoyance or apprehension, while journals of the second and lower ranks have gone to absurd extremes. Of these latter the "Toyo Keizai" (Oriental Economist) and the "Hochi" (organ of the Progressive Party) have been the most virulent.

There are certain things, however, that must be considered in connection with this apparently unreasonable display of public temper. The first is that the recent incidents have been regarded as a continuation of the school question in spite of all official assurances to the contrary. The people of Japan as a whole are undoubtedly dissatisfied with the solution of that question, involving as it did new restrictions upon Japanese immigration

tion to the United States. Some are influenced by considerations of national pride, others by pecuniary interests and still others by political motives, but all unite to add strength to the present agitation.

Confidential
I think it cannot be doubted that there is a strong effort being made to discredit the present Minister for Foreign Affairs and Viscount Aoki, as part of a larger scheme to unseat the present cabinet. This would largely account for the animus of the "Hochi" and other opposition organs on the one hand, and of the "Kokumin" and others interested in the return to power of the Katsura faction. ^{Whuma} Count has privately admitted that his recent utterances on the subject were for political effect and in this connection it should be noted that the editor of the "Toyo Keizai" referred to above is a professor at Waseda University which is controlled by the Count.)

It is further to be remembered that those who are interested in the business of promoting emigration, including several members of the Dist, are openly committed to a program of agitation against the new immigration restrictions by means of the press and public meetings. Moreover, the Japanese on the Pacific Slope have sent delegates to Japan to represent their interests, which are largely those of immigration companies. One of these who has already arrived, Mr. Yamaoka of Seattle, is reported to have been present at the meeting of the Progressive Party on the 10th instant at which the party manifesto, herewith enclosed, was adopted.

In fact, the motives of party politics and self interest play so large a part in the present popular agitation that it might well be ignored were it not for the unpleasant effect that it may have upon the friendly sentiments now entertained by the two peoples.

In

In confirmation of this view, I have just had a conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs who stated that about 70 per cent. of the feeling displayed by the newspapers and public men was for political effect and that the remainder was probably genuine resentment on the part of people who did not understand why such a prolonged state of disorder should be allowed by the authorities to continue in San Francisco. In reply I explained that the present mayor, who was now under indictment for various crimes, was himself elected by the labor party and was in sympathy with the strikers; that under the laws of the State of California there was no provision, so far as I knew, for the suspension or removal of a public official until he was actually convicted; that the police were the mayor's appointees and therefore either in sympathy with the labor element or inefficient, but that from a perusal of the latest San Francisco papers I could say that there was no disposition, so far as I could see, to attack Japanese as such since there were a great many instances of disorder directed against inoffensive Americans as well.

As appertaining to the subject under discussion I called the Minister's attention to the enclosed ordinance and regulations, promulgated in August 1899, by means of which the Japanese Government had immediately availed itself of the right reserved to it under paragraph 4 of Article II of the revised treaty with the United States to place restrictions upon the residence of foreign laborers in the interior of Japan by requiring special permission for such laborers, which permission might be cancelled by a local Governor whenever he deemed it necessary to do so. I pointed out how absurd, in the light of such provisions, was the contention of Count Okuma and others that the recent

cent legislation enacted by the United States should be considered unfriendly to Japan and that the Government should insist upon its immediate repeal.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Wm. E. Wright

Enclosures:

Extracts from the press.

Translation of ordinance of 1899.

Reading of Department's telegram of May 30.

*Incomplete when bound. Balance could
not be located. HCH 11/28/22*