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Reported despatch of war ships to Pacific causing comment in Japan.

Encl. 249.

Japan, July 8, 1907.

Embassy (Bright)

TEL.

Telegraphic reports that the American Govt. is about to despatch 16 war ships to the Pacific are causing wide newspaper and general comment here. If untrue I have to suggest that I be authorized to contradict.

Ro. (Recd. July 8, 1907) 10:30

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To the Consul 7/8/07

Recd July 24



Kansas City Star. July 1st, 1907.

New Year. June 30. "Japan would not be a United States at the drop of the flag. The occasion would be too grave. It is from me that Uncle Sam would know it was more than a whim tickling at the ribs before he got through with the trouble."

This statement was made by G. W. Carter, governor of Hawaii. Governor Carter had been asked particularly about the Japanese situation in so far as it was felt in the Hawaiian islands. He responded by saying that he did not consider that they had any Japanese "situation" in the group where he has presided for the last three years.

"Fifty per cent of the population of the island and we have, so far, never had the slightest trouble with them. They are treated the same as other people, and that is practically all there is to it. Many of the Japanese have intermarried with the Hawaiians and have families. They make good citizens, are unobtrusive, and never bother anybody who does not bother them. They never seek trouble, but they never cease to defend themselves in case of trouble."

DIFFERENT IN CALIFORNIA.

"On the Pacific coast of the United States the situation is entirely different. There the people dislike a Japanese as they do a Chinaman."

"Do you mean that the Japanese are attacked just because of their race?"

"I surely do. I was in San Francisco not long ago when I saw a Jap walking along the street not bothering anybody. Suddenly the driver of a wagon hit him with a stick. The Jap then, to defend himself, jumped in and took the stick away from the driver and rubbed the man's head in the sand. When questioned about the cause of the trouble the Jap said:

"That man hit me, me no bother him. And that was the truth, for I saw it. This is only one example out of many."

"Do you think that in case of the trouble with the Japanese becoming serious they would attack the United States?"

"There is not the slightest doubt about it. They are about as game a race of people as ever seen. They are thoroughly equipped as to both navy and army and have demonstrated that they are ready for instant action. Why, but a few months ago they mobilized an army of 200,000 men in quick order just to show that it could be done. Whether or not they had some ulterior reason for so doing I do not know."

JAPS WOULD WIN EASILY.

"What would happen to Hawaii in case of war with Japan?"

"They would take the islands, hands down."

"What have you in the way of defenses?"

"One hundred and twenty-five soldiers provided by a generous government at home. We have hopes of bettering ourselves soon, however, for Uncle Sam has promised to double the number."

"What about defense by the navy?"

"O, we have a revenue cutter and the frequent cruiser around us at stated intervals. Yes, our people have seen enough of our warships to be able to recognize one should it steam into the harbor."

"Any forts that would be effective to prevent a bombardment?"

"Nothing of a modern nature that you could notice. You see, Uncle Sam is a little lax in these matters, and does not provide defenses until he thinks they are likely to be needed."