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The Japan Times.

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San Francisco Affair.—With Count Okuma, its *de facto* leader, sounding the alarm over the American question, the Progressists have come to stir themselves to the active study of the question. The *Yorodzu* sees in this hope of serious treatment of the subject and the beginning of a rational solution. The resolution passed by their party council should be viewed, unlike the Counts' personal opinion, as a representation made to the American authorities by a public party of Japan expressing the public opinion at least of a section of the country. As such, the resolution will produce a greater disturbance in the American mind than the telegraphic dispatch of the single public leader. It may be suspected that the party took up the question a means of winning popular favour, but such a reason, if it were real, can not make us overlook the indignity and oppression suffered by our compatriots in America. Viscount Hayashi himself is reported to have requested the Progressive leaders at their recent interview on the question, to work for popular support of the Government's efforts at adjustment. The Minister may be the first person to be astonished at the unexpected effect of his own diplomatic address. It certainly looks rather odd that the popular party should have remained quiet over the School Children question and raise its voice only over the recent rioting. However that may be, the paper would be delighted to see their efforts serving the purpose of awakening the U.S. authorities as well as our own to their true functions. The *Seiyukai's* indifference to the matter, undoubtedly from the consideration of party interests makes this party a popular enemy. The paper questions whether the Progressists have enterprise and courage enough to justify the American report that they would make use of the San Francisco riots as a lever for overturning the present Government, but at the same time it would see its downfall much sooner than the continuation of the weak policy now pursued for guarding the national rights on the Pacific Coast.

The reports coming from abroad of varied degree of certainty throw the *Nichi Nichi* into ever-increasing doubt as to the real state of the matter. The paper deprecates the silence of our Foreign Department. From the official declaration in America, the paper would infer that there are public documents that bear being made public, and would go at once toward dispersing all popular doubts in the country. In their absence, at least the progress of negotiations may be made public. The subject can not be taken as a case requiring strict diplomatic secrecy.

The *Hochi* traces all the causes of anti-Japanese agitation to the denial to the Japanese of the right of naturalization in America. This unequal treatment of the race compared with the European furnishes the basis of contempt toward our nationals in the popular American mind. It is not a matter of favour, but just claim of a self-respecting Power entitled to equal respect with the other treaty Powers. The paper does not favour the argument that it is injurious to the very self-respect of the Japanese to ask for naturalization in another country. It is a matter of choice for the people to go and settle in America when the right to do so is obtained but the right itself must be obtained at all events—placing the Japanese on the same footing with other nations.

The *Yomiuri* denounces all current opinions on the American affair that pass for popular opinion as being extremely misleading and disturbing to the sober attitude of the country on the matter. The publicists that attempt to stir up the memory of the Shimonoseki bombardment as a just ground for our assuming bellicose attitude toward the Californians are pitiable for short sight and narrow compass of view. That deplorable affair, unjustifiable either from the point of view of diplomacy or humanity, has since been acknowledged as such by the Americans themselves, who therefore went to the pains of rectifying their error by refunding to this country their share of the indemnity then paid. Is it wise or moral for Japan to copy the blunder in this instance? The publicists commit a puerile offence when they indulge in the mischievous freak of surprising others with their bragging. The nation already suffers from the sensitive suspicions of the Powers and the fact is utilized by her foes for circulating harmful rumours. The people, and most of all, their advertised leaders should at this juncture be extremely circumspect in utterance. The American-Japanese amity must be maintained at all costs and for all time.