

The Japan Times.

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JAPANESE PRESS.

Japanese Opinion on the San Francisco Affair. — The *Jiji* deplores the strong sentiment ruling a section of the public opinion of this country in connection with the San Francisco affair. Those who are inclined to make the matter a subject of international dispute should note with regret the general disorder and confusion of affairs in San Francisco, as revealed by the official corruption recently come to light, and the necessary limitation of the police force. The Washington authorities have expressed their sincere regret for the general disorder and the inefficient police control and have promised their utmost efforts for readjusting the matter and improving the situation. In the matter of the school children exclusion, Japan had a right to make official protest because the question involved her treaty rights, but, in the present affair, the exclusively local nature of the trouble and in view of the sincere regret of the U. S. authorities for the acknowledged failure of the police, to whom would the susceptible gentlemen address themselves for redress? Consider what would have been the state of public sentiment here, had the U. S. taken as a matter of diplomatic protest the burning of the American mission buildings in Tokyo in the course of the Hibiya riot the year before last? The San Francisco rioting is no more worthy of diplomatic importance than the Tokyo mob. Granting that anti-Japanese sentiment is rather deeply rooted in a certain section of the American public and that it requires strong representation from us, so as to secure ourselves from any further indignity, the paper is certain that the very attitude of hostility advocated by certain leaders and the press would defeat their very object. As the actual matter stands, the American authorities and the intelligent majority of the American people are at one with ourselves in their regrets and in

their desire of removing any factor that would result in the discontinuation of the longstanding friendship between the two countries. Under the circumstance then the loyal and wise course for this people would be to support the Foreign Office in their endeavours to arrive at a happy understanding with the Washington authorities.

The self-restraint of the Japanese people was one of the remarkable virtues revealed to the world during the trying moments of the late war. The *Nichi Nichi* cautions the people of the arrival of the moment when another trial is to be given to this virtue, bred as it has been by the long apprenticeship of national life and commanding as it does the admiration of other peoples. It should be, as it is not in this instance, only when they see the final means of reconciliation exhausted and are fully prepared for the consequences that restraint should be removed. Such certainly is not the San Francisco affair. The sincere regret for the rioting and promise by the U. S. authorities of helping the acquisition of redress for our Pacific Coast compatriots should satisfy them for the present, and make them await the further development in patience. The paper therefore denounces the actions of certain sections of our public that tend to agitate and infuriate the people. For one thing the dread of further indignities resulting to our compatriots from the strong anti-Japanese sentiment in California is at the root of the deplorable excitement. Then the Foreign Office is doing incalculable mischief by holding back the real facts of the situation and leading the people to unnecessary misunderstanding.