

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1907.

SEIYU-KAI'S RESOLUTION.

WE are opposed to politicians making party questions of foreign affairs, and it is with strong disapproval that we have viewed the recent action of the Progressives in voting a resolution on the San Francisco affair. The worst of it was the resolution was not only misleading in its statements, but contained hasty conclusions, totally at variance with the cordial relations existing between America and this country. It spoke of the persecution to which our nationals were subjected in America, instead of saying "in San Francisco." Again it said "that they (outrages) are not suppressed is due to the negligence of the central and local authorities of the United States,"—a charge indiscreet in the extreme, especially as coming from a body of men claiming political influence. The whole thing was a mistake and it arose from having made political stock of matters that should have never been dragged into party manoeuvring and turned into a weapon of attack on the Government. The Progressives who made such a poor show of themselves in the session of the Diet, have by that action brought themselves down to the low level of uncultured demagogues. Unfortunately the evil does not end there; for the resolution represents the attitude of the nation in an utterly false light.

It has thus become necessary that a declaration correctly reflecting the public opinion of the country *vis-a-vis* America should be made, and owing to this exceptional reason, we welcome the carefully drawn up resolution of the *Seiyu-Kai*, an authorised translation of which we publish elsewhere. After recounting the close relationship existing between Japan and America and the feasibility of amicably settling the present difficulties it goes on to say: "To lack sober reflection and become excited over the unlawful conduct of part of a people and therefore injure the national cause is what we should refrain from." This is precise-

ly what we have all along endeavoured to explain and we are pleased that the point has been brought out in this clear manner in a dispassionate declaration of a party commanding a strong majority in the National Tribunal and in coalition with the statesmen in power. It is to be hoped that the American public is not misled into mistaking the grumbling of politicians in the cold for the voice of the nation.

SEIYUKAI AND THE SAN FRANCISCO AFFAIR.

Yesterday the *Seiyukai* or Government party passed a moderate and statesmanlike resolution on the San Francisco affair, which in view of the position of the *Seiyukai* may be regarded as the Government attitude in the matter. The resolution is as follows:—

While we deeply regret for the sake of Japan and America the recent incident connected with persecutions to which our countrymen were subjected in San Francisco, we can not forget that Japan and the United States of America enjoy friendship of the closest nature, which has lasted since the coming of Commodore Perry over half a century ago—a friendship which might be called an alliance—and that incidents such as that which occurred recently must not be taken, in face of the professions of the U.S. Government and people, as expressions of their will. We believe, therefore, that in view of the close relationship existing between the two countries, the present difficulties if properly handled are capable of a just and intelligent solution. To lack sober reflection and become excited over the unlawful conduct of part of a people and therefore injure the national cause is what we should refrain from. In view of these things we expect that through peaceful diplomacy the present incident will soon reach a proper settlement.

The Times is of course under the influence of the Seiyukai & the Government.