

The Japan Daily Mail.

YOKOHAMA, TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 1907.

THE SAN FRANCISCO AFFAIR.

The Progressists and their Manifesto succeeded in stirring up a temporary excitement but everything goes to show that they have made a failure. Much depended on the possibility of getting the Daido Club to join hands with them, but this the Daido Club is said to have definitely declined. Tokyo papers say that the Daido Club's real leader is Count Katsura. This statesman is very earnest in his endeavours to get the Government to render some assistance in the present economical depression, but as he himself belongs to the small clique of Elder Statesmen who counsel the Ministry in matters of foreign affairs, he cannot make the latter a basis for attacking the Cabinet even if he were disposed to do so. Moreover the Count wisely judges that this complication is not a suitable subject for party contention. All really level headed people will, we imagine, endorse the Daido Club's decision in this matter. It is said indeed that among the Progressists themselves there are not a few who disapprove the line taken by their leaders with regard to the San Francisco complication, but as the manifesto obtained the approval of a large majority of the Party, they are compelled to stand by it.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* quotes a person whom it describes as the leader of the Daido Club, and makes him express strong disapproval of the action of the Progressists. He says that the whole question is now under examination by a committee of the Club, and that doubtless some expression of views will be ultimately formulated, but will certainly take a line emphatically opposed to that of the Progressists' Manifesto.

Viscount Tani's name has been a good deal heard of in connection with this affair. He was brought upon the scene by the action of an American journal which, having been apparently informed that the Viscount's mood was bellicose, telegraphed to obtain a statement of his views. The Viscount has not replied, and in truth the only evidence of bellicosity that stands against him is the fact that an American journal chose to address him on such a subject. All the Tokyo papers now publish what purports to be a resumé of his opinions in his own words. He is made to say that the present Cabinet, enjoying the confidence of the Emperor, may be left to manage the country's foreign affairs without interference, and that to drag this international complication into the field of party-politics is, to say the least, premature. The tradal interests of the two Powers concerned are far too important to permit any precipitate action. Patience is essential. If indeed the United States Government proves itself practically incapable of preserving law and order and of protecting the persons and properties of Japanese subjects against violence and outrage within the territories of a Republic, then indeed it may be a case of the proverb which says that even the Buddha gets angry if his face be three times slapped. But it is quite plain that the Viscount does not foresee any such contingency. Meanwhile,

as we have said above, he has not sent any answer to the American journal's telegram and he is engaged in debating with his friends whether the best plan may not be to refrain altogether from answering it.

Mr. Kato Takaaki, whose utterances command universal attention in Japan and abroad, has allowed himself to be interviewed by a representative of the *Asahi Shimbun* on the subject of the San Francisco affair. He ridicules the idea, which found a place in the Progressists' Manifesto, that the United States must be pressed to permit the nationalization of Japanese subjects and that this permission must be embodied in a treaty. Mr. Kato says that there is no instance on record of such a compact. One Government does not approach another with a proposal that the latter should allow the former's subjects to expatriate themselves. Population is one of the main sources of national wealth, and no wise country deliberately opens a door for the exit of its own people and the permanent transfer of their wealth-earning capacities to an alien State. Japan has nothing to seek in this matter except due protection for her subjects in the prosecution of the lawful enterprises which are opened to them by treaty.

The *Fiji Shimpō* writes in much the same line. It reminds its countrymen that when a man becomes naturalized in a foreign state he has to forswear allegiance to his own fatherland and to become a loyal subject of the newly adopted country. That America should approach Japan seeking the latter's permission for the latter's subjects to transfer their allegiance to the United States would be in the reasonable order of things, but that Japan should carry such a request to Washington is an unthinkable course. No self-respecting government would adopt such a line. As to another important proposal put forward in the Progressists' Manifesto, namely that the American Government should be invited to expunge the last clause of the 2nd Article of the treaty, the *Fiji* justly observes that there can be no unilateral action in such a matter. The American Government has a perfect right to adhere to the treaty as it stands, and no rejection of such a proposal could be seriously resented on Japan's part.

The *Seiyunkai* held a meeting on the 17th inst, and adopted the following resolution:—

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.