

JUL 19
INDEX BUREAU
DEPT OF STATE
262

TRANSLATION

Hochi Shimbun,

June 13, 1907.

Diplomacy in the People's Hands.

A Suggestion for Settling the
American Affair.

In the pending American question the period of discussion has almost come to an end. We have studied the grounds and theories for asserting our rights. We have now entered upon a lamentable period in which an appeal is to be made to the people's patriotism in deciding what measures to take for asserting our rights.

The report of the American authorities on the recent outrages in San Francisco points out that the whole affair is due not to any race prejudice, but to the strike of union men which prevented the police forces from giving adequate protection. The report also contains a statement that the police forces will henceforth be rendered more efficient and that similar outrages will not be repeated. It should be remembered that this nation is not concerned with ascertaining whether ^{or not} any race prejudice exists. We are anxious to call the attention of the American Government to the fact that our compatriots in California are unable to engage peacefully in their occupations. Our own authorities concerned are so incompetent that they are at a loss how to take the courteous assurances of the American Government. Nor do they seem to be inclined to stand up and assert the nation's rights. Their utter indifference to the vital question involving the destiny of tens of thousands of our country people is responsible for the situation which is growing more serious. Our authorities concerned have accepted the assurances of the American authorities that similar outrages will not be repeated. But in the meantime have not our compatriots

at Berkeley across the Bay of San Francisco been attacked by some thirty rioters? Have not their shops been seriously damaged thereby? This is the reason we say that the period of discussion has ended ushering in the period of action. We can no longer place any confidence either in the assurances of the American Government or in the diplomatic ability of our own authorities. We are henceforth going to count on the patriotism of our nation and venture to propose a measure of retaliation upon the people of San Francisco.

Needless to say, the American Government is responsible for the present affair, which is due to its negligence. It is however, from among the Californians or more especially the San Franciscans that the promoters of the affair have come. It is also these people that have endeavored to justify these promoters' wrong doings. Though the people of San Francisco may be brought to their senses by baptizing them with steel and fire, yet this will change the San Francisco affair into a war against the United States. A nation should be as cautious as possible about declaring war. Before resorting to arms we propose to give a severe blow to San Francisco by exercising our right as a nation. We mean to cripple the prosperity of San Francisco by means of an economic measure.

San Francisco, which is the base of America's Pacific commerce, is the only gateway for the exchange of the inexhaustible resources of America and of Japan and of China. The prosperity of San Francisco is due solely to this one fact. Without the Orient there would be no San Francisco. Without her Pacific commerce, San Francisco would be no more than an insignificant Californian port. No blow on San Francisco will be more effective than the destruction of San Francisco as a trading port or the weakening of her power as such. When the Chinese exclusion

question was started afresh a few years ago in the United States, the cooperation of the Shanghai Chinese in the boycott against the United States was so effective that the United States was all but forced to yield. Yet the patriotism of the Chinese people and the power of their Government were so weak that the Exclusion Act was at length enacted and the affair ended in America's triumph. It is however said that the attitude of the American people toward the Chinese has since undergone a remarkable change. The returns of the trade between the United States and China contain the following statistics:

American goods imported to China

1905 -----	\$ 28,113,820.
1906 -----	30,775,557.

Chinese goods exported to the United States

1905 -----	\$ 58,574,793.
1906 -----	29,934,015.

Turning to our trade with the United States, we find that our exports for 1906 amounted to \$ 125,964,408 , while the American goods imported for the same year amounted to \$ 69,948,681., It will thus be seen that China's trade with the United States can not be compared with our trade with the same country. It may also be noted that a greater part of Japanese-American trade is carried on via San Francisco. We admit that there are some articles which have to be carried to either destination via San Francisco. We are however sure that there will be no considerable difference in the freight charges between the Japan-San Francisco and the Japan-Seattle lines. We therefore urge that all goods hitherto shipped via San Francisco merely for tradition's sake be hereafter shipped via Seattle. Then the prosperity of San Francisco will be ruined, and her people will understand the strong spirit of our nation. Seattle with her Great Northern Railway favorably compares with San Francisco with regard to facilities, and the

(4)

united effort of our merchants will be highly effective. Is there any necessity of depending any longer upon that inconvenient San Francisco which has committed acts of violence against us and has persecuted us? Our Government will at any rate be found to be more powerful than the Chinese Government.

The period of discussion has ended. Let us therefore be resolute and rescue our suffering compatriots by turning diplomacy over to the nation. Let us wipe away our national disgrace. Our nation's patriotism is now just as intense as at the time of the Mongolian invasion or at the time of the war with Russia. Let the whole nation take this question to heart.