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Translation.

"Jiji Shimpō", June 18, 1907.

THE TOKYO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

AND

THE AMERICAN AFFAIR.

The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce invited Mr. Ototaka Yamaoka to attend its meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 17th instant and to address them on the American Affair. The following is the gist of his remarks.

Though it is difficult to determine offhand the causes of the exclusion of Japanese immigrants at San Francisco, yet we must consider that, speaking of them as a whole, the lives of the San Franciscans have undergone a great change since the disastrous earthquake, which has been a great blow to the employed, whether they be whites or Japanese. Our people there have promptly taken up various trades and occupations, regardless of low wages. Similarly, they have laid down plans for the future, promptly opening ^{shops} where are sold provisions and other articles of daily need. They have for this reason been charged with having deprived white laborers of their employment and of having interfered with the business of white shop-keepers. This state of things has intensified the anti-Japanese feeling; but it is needless to say that the agitation does not represent the will of the general public. The movement has been carried on by a section of the people only or, properly speaking, by the laboring classes and small shop-keepers of San Francisco. It is also ob-

vious that the recent riots are not wholly due to the anti-Japanese feelings. Politics are in a confused state; the city administration is a veritable chaos. The police system especially has proved so utterly inefficient that all respect for and confidence in it have been entirely lost. In the eyes of the lower classes law is nearly dead and the general tendency is towards lawlessness and riot. The Japanese laborers, already in unpleasant relations with the whites, have furnished a ready outlet for the spleen of the dissatisfied, and "persecution" has followed. Though the present affair should not be left to take its own course, yet it will be well to leave everything to our diplomatic authorities. But we are anxious to prevent the enactment of a Japanese Exclusion Bill and a Treaty for reciprocal prohibition of immigration. Since the enforcement of the Chinese Exclusion Act the Chinese in San Francisco have been so handicapped that many of them are now running their establishments under Japanese names. Our compatriots in San Francisco, to whom this fact is familiar, fear that the enforcement of such a bill or treaty as we desire to prevent will eventually put them in a similar plight. Such enactments would also seriously affect the trade relations between Japan and America. I therefore hope that this Chamber of Commerce will not only do its best to prevent the passage of such laws but will also send its exports via Seattle instead of San Francisco, as formerly. The idea is to provide security for the future as well as to bring the commercial men in San Francisco to a realization of

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the seriousness of the situation. I take this occasion to express my sincere disapproval of the war talk which emanates from those who fail to understand the nature of the outrages committed in what is but a section of the friendly United States.