

Translation.

Tokyo Asahi, June 23, 1907.

THE AMERICAN AFFAIR AND THE CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE.

President Nakano Interviewed.

Mr. Nakano, President of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, has made the following statement in regard to yesterday's joint meeting of the Chambers of Commerce of Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Yokohama and Kobe.

"Though the delegates from Kobe and Kyoto failed to arrive, we have decided upon a general policy. The recent persecution of Japanese in San Francisco is primarily due to the riots of a section of the laboring classes, and cannot be regarded as a outbreak of anti-Japanese feeling. It is however needless to point out that the school question was an attempt to discriminate against the Japanese, the spirit of which is similar to that of Chinese exclusion. Thanks to the efforts of the President and the United States authorities concerned, the school question was settled, but similar local persecutions if repeated hereafter will eventually tend to estrange one nation from the other. Since the estrangement of the two countries is sure to have an effect upon the commerce between them immediately, the Chambers of Commerce in Japan cannot remain silent. As a first step the principal Chambers of Commerce in this country, namely, Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe and Yokohama, were to hold a conference with a view to preventing serious consequences. A resolution embodying the sentiment I

have just expressed has been drawn up and is to be submitted at our meeting on the 24th. Upon adoption, each of the five Chambers of Commerce is to vote upon the question. Then the resolution will be signed by the presidents of the various respective Chambers of Commerce and copies will be sent to the President of the United States and also to the Chambers of Commerce of such principal cities as New York, Chicago and San Francisco. Our circular is not to contain any definite measure of solution for we merely mean to give warning so that any serious consequences may be prevented. Should similar incidents be repeated hereafter, the feelings of the Japanese people will be greatly hurt and they may resort to retaliatory measures in their excitement. Though we do not dream of the termination of intercourse between Japan and the United States, yet it is not a difficult work to organize a boycott in the Orient of American goods if initial steps be taken by the Japanese people. The league started in China for boycotting American goods was directed against the United States on account of the Chinese exclusion agitation. The United States will not be able to endure such retaliation, for commerce is her life, so to speak. If the Americans persistently exclude our people, we can resort to more than one measure of retaliation. In short, our idea is to express our hope that any incident likely to shake the longstanding friendship may not be repeated."