

DEPT. OF STATE
JUL 19 1907
INDEX BUREAU

Translation.

9.
"Chuwu Shimbun", June 21, 07.

POLICY IN RELATION TO AMERICA.

(Statement of Our Diplomatic Authorities.)

Some people have been urging the Government to adopt a strong policy in connection with the persecution of the Japanese in San Francisco. It may however be stated that the American Government, with which we have been in communication through Ambassador Aoki, has expressed its sincere regret for the persecution of the Japanese by rioters, due to the general confusion prevailing in the city. In fact, the police force there is insufficient. The American Government has assured us that the persons and property of the Japanese in San Francisco will hereafter be given satisfactory protection. The Governor of California has adopted various measures to that end. What kind of strong measures can we adopt against one who says, "I have been in the wrong and will adopt measures of protection"? It is only when the other party concerned maintains a position at variance with ours that we are warranted in adopting any strong foreign policy. In regard to the present affair, the American Government has expressed its regret that such a thing should have occurred and has pledged itself that appropriate measures will be taken. The American Government has already assured Ambassador Aoki that the damages will be paid in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes of the State of California. This being the case, communications on the present affair between the two Governments are regarded as having been closed.

When some Italians were lynched, some years ago, the Italian Government demanded of the American Government an indemnity. It should, however, be remembered that the trouble was due to the fact that the Italians in question, who were entitled to a regular trial by court, were dealt with by mob violence instead. The persecution of our people in San Francisco is such as might happen in any other country. In San Francisco some rioters have taken advantage of the general confusion prevailing in the city. There is no ground for demanding an indemnity for this as being an international affair. As for damages, the victims can file their claims in accordance with the State laws. Ambassador Aoki has been assured that the Attorney-General will afford all possible aid. It will thus be seen that nothing remains to be done in this question. As for the school question, the municipality reinstated the children and the question was permanently settled.

The immigration problem, which has been pending since 1900, has been dealt with by the several successive Ministers for Foreign Affairs. In deed, Count Okuma, an able and experienced diplomat, has also, tried his hand at it. Yet the difficult problem still remains unsettled. The question is not now whether it is right or wrong but how to settle it. Some people have suggested the revision of the existing treaty, but such a proposal would be of no avail if the other party concerned has no desire for revision. While the American Government has profound sympathy for us, yet the conditions in the United States are such that the problem is not likely to be settled very soon.

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According to what has been given in the Press as the views of Count Okuma, he suggests the despatch of warships to San Francisco for the purpose of exchanging courtesies with the San Franciscans. But the advisability of despatching warships for such a purpose is open to question. Japan, as a victorious nation, has sent to the Jamestown Celebration her great Generals and Admirals, as well as some warships. Wherein would lie the benefit of despatching any more warships? When the delegates of a political party called on us the other day, we asked them what their suggestion was. We are sorry that we received no answer except that they would leave everything to the authorities concerned. We have been doing our best in studying how to settle the affair, and have always been careful not to lose any opportunity. It has been privately decided to send an official to investigate the actual conditions. At this juncture we are not likely to gain anything by publishing wild utterances which would merely arouse the hostile feelings of the American people.