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"Japan Times"  
June 20, 1907.

Ridiculous. Hearer and other press  
Rumour. dispatches speak of the  
recall of Viscount Aoki, indicating  
apparently that a rumour of that na-  
ture is gaining circulation in Ame-  
rica. Some of the telegrams even cite  
the interpretation given it there, to  
the effect that the recall means the  
change of Japan's attitude toward  
America as the result of the San  
Francisco affair. Japan's foreign  
policy is guided by a definite principle  
to which she has consistently adhered  
for several decades past and is not to  
be influenced by this or that local  
event. Nor do we keep a repertoire  
of attitudes to be used towards dif-  
ferent countries for different occa-  
sions. It is true that we entertain  
and cherish exceptionally cordial feel-  
ings of friendship toward America;  
but that is one thing and does in no  
way interfere with our remaining  
strictly loyal to the national policy of  
international justice, uprightness and  
integrity, which we pursue in our all  
relations with foreign Powers, includ-  
ing the United States. So long as  
there is no change in that policy  
there will be no change of attitude,  
and none of these changes will take  
place so long as we remain a civilized  
Power. It is only the suspicions con-  
jured up by misinformed Americans  
themselves that can admit of the kind  
of interpretation referred to above.  
Then it requires but little sober in-  
telligence to see the word "ground-  
less" written on the rumour itself.  
The recall in the present circumstance  
will necessarily mean chastisement to  
Ambassador Aoki. But it is plain  
that the Viscount cannot be held re-  
sponsible for the turn of affairs in  
dark San Francisco, or for the line  
of action Japan is following in rela-  
tion to it; for whatever steps he may  
have taken so far, he is simply obey-  
ing the orders of the Tokyo Govern-  
ment, and there is not a shadow of  
reason that he should be singled  
to bear the blame, even if there  
is anything to be condemned. The  
whole thing is therefore simply  
ridiculous. We are getting rather  
tired of the way in which all sorts of  
wild insinuations and guessings about  
this country are being given credence  
to in America.