

# The Japan Daily Mail.

YOKOHAMA SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1907.

## AMERICA AND JAPAN.

Thursday, July 4.

It appears that the alarm into which the people of the United States were thrown by the circular letter of the five Japanese Chambers of Commerce had its origin in a telegram sent from Japan, in which telegram it was stated that the circular should be read as threatening a boycott of American goods. Such an impression would have been so mischievous if left uncorrected that the Secretary of State in Washington wired to the United States Consul-General in Yokohama and asked him to ascertain the truth. Tokyo journals state that the Consul-General's answer was telegraphed to Washington on the 3rd inst. He declared that he had received assurances in the sense that the circular was not in the smallest degree dictated by such an idea. To anybody at all familiar with the situation such a contradiction ought not to have been necessary. But the telegraph is a dangerous instrument. And who, we wonder, is the person in Japan who sent this false message across the wires. It is not the first gross misrepresentation that has emanated from this country in connection with the present trouble, and we strongly suspect that the same man is responsible for all the canards.

Meanwhile the San Francisco Municipal authorities seem to be extending the scope of their anti-Japanese measures. Dealers in second-hand clothes have been refused renewal of their half-yearly licences on the same ground as that given for the refusal in the case of the intelligence offices, namely that the applicants, not being American citizens, are not entitled to conduct specially sanctioned enterprises. This decision will affect the keepers of pawn-shops also as well as those engaged in four other kinds of occupation which however the telegraph does not specify. On the 3rd inst. the Japanese appeal to the law courts in the matter of the intelligence-office licences was to be duly formulated.

The Secretary of the United States Navy, who is now in San Francisco, is said (*Asahi Shimbun's* telegrams) to have absolutely contradicted the rumour that his visit to San Francisco was connected with the anti-Japanese trouble. He affirms that there is not the slightest connection between the two things and he characterises the talk of war between America and Japan as quite laughable.

According to a telegram to the *Jiji Shimpō* from Washington it turns out that very small dimensions are to be assigned to the proverbial grain of truth in the recent rumour that the United States Government was about to despatch a large fleet of iron-clads and cruisers to the Pacific. The acting Secretary of the Navy, while emphatically denying that there is any such intention, says that the story is probably to be referred to the fact that the two cruisers *Tennessee*

and *Washington*, now in French waters, have been ordered to proceed to the Pacific via the Suez Canal. But these vessels are not a reinforcement. On the contrary their arrival on the Pacific station will be the signal for the withdrawal of four cruisers in Far Eastern seas.

News received by the *Asahi Shimbun* confirms the rumour that the authorities of San Francisco are extending their restrictions on Japanese business. They have declined to renew the licenses hitherto granted to peddlers, their contention being that so long as Japanese subjects are allowed to carry on operations of commerce in shops or stores, their treaty rights are not infringed. References are made to the 2nd Article of the Treaty between Japan and the United States, but whether this will bear such interpretation is a question for diplomatic discussion. As for the spirit of anti-Japanese discrimination shown by such restrictions there can be no discussion. Meanwhile the actions at law with reference to the recent outrages against a Japanese restaurant and a Japanese bath-house have probably commenced ere this. The sums involved are comparatively trifling, namely \$500 for direct damages and \$1000 for indirect in the case of the restaurant, and \$75 for direct damages and \$1000 for indirect in the case of the bath house.

Another telegram has reached Count Okuma from America but on this occasion the signature of the sender is not added. The telegram asks Count Okuma to state what view the Japanese people take of America's intention to concentrate a large fleet in the Pacific. The sender of the message is careful to add that official denials of this intention must not be credited. It is stated that Count Okuma, if he fails to discover the origin of the telegram, will limit himself to replying in the columns of the home press. We greatly question the accuracy of that forecast. Why should Count Okuma take any notice of an anonymous telegram? He is much too great a man to allow himself to be made a cat's paw by people who, for aught he knows to the contrary, may be speculators on 'Change. Quite sufficient harm has already been done through the agency of the *World* newspaper, and we are persuaded that Count Okuma will consult his own dignity before allowing himself to be exploited by any correspondent.