

Translation.

Tokyo Asahi Shimbun,

July 2, 1907.

BUSINESS OF JAPANESE OBSTRUCTED/

VIOLATION OF JAPANESE-AMERICAN TREATY.

Our Government has not yet received any report concerning the press telegram that the San Francisco Municipality has rejected the applications of Japanese employment agents for licences. But the affair is not a new one, for it has been a question pending since last month. According to Consul Matsubara's recent despatch received by the Foreign Office, the San Francisco Municipality rejected during the month of May all applications of Japanese for new licences, but granted those for the renewal of old ones. The authorities concerned are studying the question to determine whether or not the measure taken by the Municipality is a violation of the principles of freedom of trade provided for in the Treaty between Japan and the United States. According to the proviso to Article 2 of the Treaty, the stipulations contained in the said Article "do not in any way affect the laws, ordinances and regulations with regard to trade, the immigration of laborers, police and public security, which are in force or may hereafter be enacted in either of the two countries." Article 14 however, provides that in all that concerns commerce and navigation the two contracting countries shall treat each other as well as the most favored nation. The term

(2)

"commerce" in the Treaty is used somewhat indefinitely.

Interpreting the Treaty as a whole, it will be all right if the trade of Japanese is subject to such restrictions as do not discriminate against the Japanese.

If the rejection of applications referred to is directed against the Japanese only, it will of course be a violation of the Treaty.