

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1907.

NEW PHASE OF THE ANTI-JAPANESE MOVEMENT.

EVER since the school question in San Francisco assumed an international aspect last year, the more sensationally inclined newspapers in that port have made no secret of telling us bluntly that Japanese are not wanted in the United States and that if they are not satisfied with the treatment accorded them they may well keep out of America. On the other hand, the same journals have not been less active in their efforts to convert the eastern public of their country to their way of viewing the question. It is needless to say that the language used by them has been beneath contempt and taken no notice of by men guiding the public opinion in this country and America. Theirs has been understood here as there as a voice catering to the rude taste of the labour elements, now domineering the Pacific coast, and so far there has been a hope that the sane and just spirit of the American nation would sooner or later prevail over the local and prejudiced views of San Francisco people. Unfortunately, however, the latest form in which the anti-Japanese aversion has manifested itself among them would hold out but little ground for this hope. For the movement against our race there seems now to have entered on a new phase of active politics. This is particularly regrettable, for it comes at a time when there are indications that our party politicians have begun to see the mistake they have made in prematurely meddling with international questions. Note the attitude of the Progressives and others of their persuasion, who were the first to speak out indiscreetly on the San Francisco incidents. Their leaders are counselling forbearance and a policy of waiting for developments.

The same may be said of the *Daido* Club with equal truth. As for the intelligent public at large this has been its attitude unchangedly from the beginning. So far as this country is concerned, therefore, even the little storms that arose over the San Francisco occurrences have subsided, and the situation has so far improved that such talk as of the United States concentrating her fleet in the Pacific could cause but a smile. But the new piece of intelligence charging San Francisco with an act officially aimed against Japanese throws the favourable turn of affairs to the winds.

Whether the particular measure taken by the San Francisco police in refusing some Japanese permits to carry on employment offices constitutes a violation of our treaty with the United States or not is a question that still wants to be settled. But inasmuch as these permits have hitherto been enjoyed by the Japanese, there is no denying that the present refusal is an act manifestly anti-Japanese. It is not impossible the San Francisco police are in possession of reasons for their action against individual applicants. But the behaviour of San Francisco officials and people so far precludes this supposition, and the impression the new incident leaves in our mind cannot but be that, instead of sporadic manifestations of violence, the municipality has now resolved on a systematic policy of persecution against Japanese. "By all means, legal and illegal, make things unpleasant and unprofitable for Japanese and they will go away of their own accord" are the words that not infrequently before now have reached us as coming from San Franciscans. It would appear they have now decided to act up to them and if so the situation has become very grave indeed. Illegal acts have of course their own remedy, but in the face of the ponderous weight of the complicated dual machinery of justice in the United States, such acts may be multiplied to an unbearable extent even before a single

case is settled. Besides when the predominant section of the local people is determined on persecution they will find means to accomplish their end in the evasion of the law. The result will be our compatriots in San Francisco will simply be placed at the mercy of tyrannous prejudice.

If we are correct in the above observations, it would seem that in virtue of the existing treaty of friendly intercourse with the U.S., by which we enjoy the most-favoured-nation clause, the Federal Government is called upon to interfere actively with the state police of California in order to protect the rights and interests of our nationals in San Francisco. Naturally the eastern public of America and the Government at Washington would minimize the significance of the anti-Japanese occurrences at San Francisco. But if the situation at the port has really entered on a persecution stage, as the tendency has been, there is a danger of the policy of minimising ending in a serious conflict of view between the two nations.