

"Japan Times,"
July 9, 1907.

U.S. AND JAPAN.

THE PHANTOM FLEET.

It is reported from Washington that the U.S. Fleet will probably sail early in the autumn on a voyage to occupy sixty days.

It is believed that after reaching Peru the Fleet will sail more deliberately than before, apparently because it could in case of emergency then reach San Francisco before any other fleet. Three additional battleships and several cruisers will join the Fleet in the Pacific. Rear-Admiral Rob Evans will command.

(FROM THE "TOKYO ASAHI")

THE AMERICAN NAVAL MOVEMENT.

San Francisco, July 5.—The President and Mr. Metcalf, the Secretary of the Navy, formally declare that a squadron consisting of 18 battleships will be dispatched to the Pacific in the coming winter. The object is merely for practice. The President at the same time, states that the relations between America and other Powers are most cordial and that the squadron will leave the Pacific in three or four months.

London, July 6.—From New York it is reported that the Secretary of the Navy declares unreservedly that if the battleship fleet is bound for the Pacific the movement has no significance from a military standpoint, having been planned for practice purposes. It is understood that the ships will start early in the autumn and arrive at San Francisco in the winter. The *Evening Post* protests against the despatch of the ships, declaring that it will everywhere be regarded as a threat against the Japanese.

San Francisco, July 7.—The dispatch of the main squadron to the Pacific is regarded as the first step for maintaining a strong naval force on these coasts.

The American Government will introduce in Congress in next session a Bill for the construction of a large dock-yard on the Pacific coast.

The *London Morning Post* also states that the real object of the dispatch of the American squadron to the Pacific is to obtain the consent of Congress to a naval expansion scheme.

U.S. AND JAPAN.

New York, July 6.—The controversy with reference to the strengthening of the Far Eastern squadron continues to monopolize space in the press in view of the reiteration of the *Morning Post's* New York correspondent that several battleships are destined for the Pacific. The President's explanation is regarded as satisfactory as far as it goes, but details are officially lacking regarding the actual number of vessels to be placed in commission. The public generally seem more amused than concerned over the muddle as a whole. Viscount Aoki remains entirely unmoved by the announcement that, in accordance with previous arrangements, certain changes are to be made in the formation of the Far Eastern fleet, and has assured an interviewer that the matter is of no importance whatever.

COUNT ITAGAKI ON THE AMERICAN AFFAIR.

In reply to a telegram from the New York *World* requesting him to express his views on the American affair, Count Itagaki sent a dispatch to the following effect:—

"At a time of armed peace, any nation can as a matter of course strengthen its defence. Both countries are perfectly aware of the disastrous effect of war and if they are fully convinced of it, it would not be difficult for them to avoid any action likely to lead to war. I therefore believe that the sentiment of Japanese is for peace."