

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, TUESDAY, JULY 9, 1907.

JAPANESE PRESS.

American Pacific Squadron.—The *Tokyo Asahi* views the dispatch of 18 U.S. warships to the East as a necessary step consequent on the expanded application of the Monroe Doctrine to the American island dominions on the Pacific. The late President McKinley's imperialistic policy had already foreshadowed the enlargement of the U.S. Pacific Squadron. The paper is therefore inclined to think the cruise of the warships now rather delayed. The reason that they do not stay permanently in the East, but are to be recalled to the Atlantic after a few months is found in the absence of an adequate point of concentration in the East. Besides, so long as America finds no reason to doubt Japan's sincere respect for her territorial rights, she has no necessity of increasing her fleet in the East beyond a few cruisers. The paper regrets that the schedule for the coming squadron does not give Japan an opportunity of repaying the welcome accorded to Admiral Ijuin's squadron at Jamestown. It avails, however, of this opportunity to add a word upon the San Francisco affair. The naked truth of that matter is that it is a collision between the San Francisco labourers and the Japanese immigrants, rather than between that city and Japan. It is certainly not a quarrel between the two nations. Why is it then that the affair casts a cloud on the relations of the two nations? It is simply because of the existence of the last clause of the Art. II of the Trade and Navigation Treaty between the two countries. The very tendency of giving unfriendly control over the business enterprise of the Japanese at the hands of the police authorities is an outcome of the existence of that provision. It is the necessity of the removal of this clause then that the paper urges upon the U.S. Government as a matter that should be attended to at least at the time of the coming treaty revision.

The *Hochi* can not tell from the information at hand whether the warships come to relieve the squadron in the East or are added to it to constitute a balance with the Atlantic Squadron, but it feels certain that the object of their dispatch can not be limited to the Far East. In spite of the serious tone assumed by American contemporaries over the affair, the paper can not view the matter as President Roosevelt's attempt at chastising Japan for her offensive conduct; for it is Japan that should lodge a number of complaints with his countrymen, who add fresh causes of complaint in rapid succession. But our authorities have not only refrained from making just complaints, but have strenuously suppressed the free expression of opinion by the paper and its confrères. The paper therefore would heartily endorse Count Okuma's kindly view, that by the time the brave Americans are at our shores, we will be just in time to welcome them to our chrysanthemum parties. At any rate the Japanese people are perfectly undisturbed at the news. Supposing, however, that these warships have a demonstrative object, then the paper must deplore the adoption of such an impolitic measure for advancing the friendly feeling between the two nations. The Americans will be forced to observe ordinary courtesy between nations, when they recall that Japan refrained on purpose from letting even the three old warships of the *Matsushima* class touch San Francisco just out of fear of creating an erroneous impression in the biased hearts of the people at an unfortunate moment of anti-Japanese agitation. Wisdom should counsel the Washington authorities against thoughtless measure at this moment.

The *Nichi Nichi* is impressed by the high nervous tension which the Americans are working themselves into over phantoms of their own creation. The advice of the Japanese Chambers of Commerce is at once taken as a notice of the intention of boycott American goods. Their Government measure of dispatching warships must needs be seized by an enterprising newspaper as a subject upon which the leaders of the Japanese public must be appealed to for opinions. All these are signs of excessive nervousness. The paper takes this as a convincing proof that the solutions so far effected or proposed have all proved unsatisfactory to the governments and peoples of the two countries. Such an excitable frame of mind can cease only by a radical solution of the question, which can be none other than the removal of discrimination in the treatment of the Japanese.