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Translation.

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JOINT MEETING OF ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED
IN THE AMERICAN AFFAIR.

Various organizations interested in the American affair had a joint meeting at the San-yen-tei Restaurant, Shiba Park, at 6 P. M. yesterday. The meeting was attended by Count Okuma, Mr. Mogami, Member of the House of Peers, Representatives Minoura, Koizuka, Otsu, Oishi (Kumakichi), Tamura, Kinoshita, Yasuda, Awochi, Horikoshi, Goda, Eto, Saito, Takemura, Kase, Yoneda and others, as many as 100 men. The meeting was opened by Mr. Honda, whose introductory remarks were followed by Count Okuma's speech, the gist of which we give below.

Gentlemen:

I am very glad to have this opportunity to present my views on the American affair, which, much to my regret, has been misunderstood not only in Japan but also in Europe and America. Our most urgent duty is to remove this misunderstanding, and I presume I have the right to avail myself of this occasion to present to you the real nature of the affair.

I have hitherto been represented abroad as a wild agitator who indulges in irresponsible utterances in opposition to the Government. I hope you did not believe this. I have severed my connection with the

Shimpoto,

Shimpoto, but I remain interested in politics. I am free to make any statement, but I do not make any wild statements. The publicists of the present day Japan are too cool-headed and too reserved. This is the reason why those who endeavor to assert Japan's legitimate right in connection with the present affair and make fearless utterances are represented as wild agitators. As I have recently stated in an American magazine, we can never be satisfied with any unfair discrimination against the yellow race in the school question. The American people later irritated us to such a degree that the cordial friendship between Japan and the United States was in danger of being severed. In their acts and utterances towards the Japanese people they are indeed like the Boxers. Their disregard for the principles of fairness and justice, their anarchical administration, are not very different from the ways of the Boxers. I wish I could remind the Americans of the present day of what Washington said in his Farewell Address.

The United States is said to be despatching some battleships to the Pacific, but I do not believe that she means to intimidate Japan. There is no reason why she should intimidate us. Should she choose to do so, we would not hesitate to accept the challenge, for we cannot stand the downfall of the dignity and prestige of our nation. It is reported that President Roosevelt's luncheon in honor of Ambassador Aoki, and also his interview with Admiral Yamamoto, have had a salutary effect upon the relations between Japan and the United States. However, it is very strange that such
a report

a report should reach us. I wonder if indeed the relations between the two countries have been so seriously strained that they needed any pacifying influence. Of course, we do not know how our international relations are so long as our Foreign Office sticks to the time-honored policy of secrecy. The school question has been settled; the rioters are being prosecuted. Almost all the questions pending between this country and the United States have been settled. It is just such a report as the one I have just referred to that produces misunderstanding. The Japanese people demand that they be treated as the equals of the white race. Japan's position is to assert her rights, while it is for the United States to recognize Japan's rights. Should the United States resort to force in dealing with Japan, her act of logical contradiction may be likened to an act of violence done to a creditor by a debtor who refuses to pay his debts. War has not been advocated in Japan; while it has been advocated in the United States. Logically speaking, it should be just the other way. Japan has been anxious to keep the friendship between the two countries undisturbed. Our attitude has been that of submissiveness and self-humiliation, and any utterances a little more radical or unreserved are denounced as wild or indiscreet. The American press discusses on the war rumor; for America is a land of free speech; but in Japan even a just argument cannot be advanced.

Has

Has not the "extraterritoriality of speech" been abolished a long time?

Japan has no territorial ambition; she is after justice. The present question may be a trivial one for the United States; but it is a vital question for Japan. The question is a very simple one, for we merely want to have unjust and unfair discrimination removed. Japan stands for justice and fairness; so does the United States. These are the very principles she taught us fifty years ago by sending us Commodore Perry. Washington also stood for these principles. Does not President Roosevelt's Message given to Congress last year embody the principles of justice and fairness? The upper classes in the United States recognize these principles. So their principles are the same as ours. It may be that our Government has called the attention of the American Government to this fact. There is no reason why we should be so reserved. Read our Emperor's Inauguration Message and many other Edicts. Interpret our various laws and see Japan's position in the world. Are you satisfied to be treated as semi-civilized people along with the Koreans? Our Imperial Princes, Nobles, and the members of the Diet, are regarded as semi-civilized people. It is our just right to try to abolish this unjust racial discrimination. I presume that our Government has made representations on this basis. If so, it is our duty to back our Government and accomplish our ultimate object. Should, however, the United States refuse to recognize this demand of ours which is so obviously

obviously reasonable, then it will be our solemn duty to stand up and appeal to the American people in order to make them realize that they are wrong. I am confident that the President of the United States will not hesitate to give us justice. The first thing we have to do is to remove any misunderstanding in this country, thereby to bring about harmony in our public opinion. Then our duty is to help the outside world understand the real nature of the present affair.

Count Okuma's speech was followed by the announcement of two similar messages from Viscount Tani and Viscount Watanabe, who failed to be present at the meeting but expressed their sympathy in the work of the meeting. During the dinner two or three informal speeches were made. Mr. Sakurai's resolution relating to the Korean affair was finally adopted as a special resolution. The meeting was closed at about 9 o'clock with Mr. Yamacka's expression of thanks for having been invited as the representative of Japanese in the United States.