

Translation.

Kokumin Shimbun, July 23, 1907.

**FAILURE OF THE JOINT MEETING OF ORGANIZATIONS INTEREST-  
ED IN THE AMERICAN AFFAIR.**

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**Meeting Inharmonious.**

While the joint meeting was held under the auspices of various similar organizations, it seemed as if it had been promoted by the Progressives. Those present at the meeting were chiefly Progressives and speech-making was monopolized by Count Okuma. At any rate, some of them appeared to be feeling somewhat out of place. The Daido Party, which had formerly endorsed the idea in response to the invitation to be promoters, was not represented by any of its members. Viscount Watanabe, who had promised to be present at the meeting, did not come, simply stating that he was prevented therefrom. As to the principal business men, such as Mr. Nakano, President of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce, they refrained from attending the meeting. Mr. Magoshi, President of the Japan Beer Company, cleverly excused himself by sending some beer to the meeting. The gathering was known as a "joint meeting," but arrangements were not satisfactorily made between the respective organizations. The nature of the so-called joint meeting was so undefined that it can hardly be said to have been qualified to start any national movement.

movement.

Count Okuma's Explanatory Speech.

The lack of understanding among the various organizations which took part in the joint meeting was responsible for the conflict of views in regard to the resolution which was to be announced by the promoters. Some insisted on adopting it in the name of the joint meeting, while others did not see the necessity of doing so. Nothing was done with the resolution, and those present were treated to Count Okuma's speech only. They were therefore greatly disappointed at the insignificant way in which the meeting was closed. As to Count Okuma's speech, it may be noted that he endeavored merely to remove the misunderstanding of the public concerning his views already expressed, although it was the first opportunity for the Count to express his views in public. The speech referred to was too tame for "Count Big Talk." If the Count never made any wild statement, and if those wild statements ascribed to him were nothing but irresponsible misrepresentations with political or commercial purposes, then it would be all right, while the Count ought to be congratulated. However, his sarcastic reference to the American trip of Baron Yamamoto, which has had a salutary effect upon the relations between Japan and the United States, is so unbecoming to a man of Count Okuma's personality that we venture to question his reputation for broad-mindedness. After all, the gathering had no significance whatever as a joint meeting. Instead of voicing the national sentiment, the meeting amounted to a  
lecture

lecture meeting at which Count Okuma, who tried to  
vindicate his position, was the only speaker.