

Sirs:

The New York Chamber of Commerce has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of June 29th addressed to it by the Presidents of the Tokio, Osaka, Kobe, Kyoto, and Yokohama Chambers of Commerce, representing those organizations.

The New York Chamber of Commerce sincerely joins with the Chambers of Commerce of Japan in attaching the greatest value to the friendship and mutual esteem which have since the days of Commodore Perry so peculiarly characterized the relations of the United States and Japan and which have made of America Japan's oldest friend among Western nations. The New York Chamber of Commerce will at all times stand ready to use its influence for the removal of any just and reasonable cause of complaint which might fairly tend to mar these valued relations.

Sincerity compels us to add our frank conviction that the Japanese people and press have been lead to take an exaggerated view of certain unfortunate incidents at San Francisco, which have been deeply deplored by all good Americans. The San Francisco school question which arose when the schools were crowded after the earthquake was settled to the satisfaction of the Japanese in deference to their wishes and without recourse to diplomacy. At a time of strikes and riots a few Japanese, like many Americans, have been roughly handled and a certain relatively insignificant amount of damage has been done their property. Like Americans, they have their redress through the Courts. Now we hear of grievances because a few Japanese are denied licenses to carry on certain petty trades in San Francisco, - licenses which have been equally withheld at the will of the local

authorities from other foreigners and from American citizens. There is also evidence of annoyance at the restriction of the immigration of Japanese labor.

Is it not understood that these things are economic, not racial? If thousands of Americans went to Japan as laborers and petty tradesmen and undersold the Japanese laborer and petty tradesman, through superior thrift, would not the restriction of American immigration of this kind be sought? And in this connection it ought to be generally understood that under the Treaty there is in both countries reciprocal full liberty in the regulation of matters of trade, the immigration of laborers, and police and public security,- a liberty which each Government may avail of at any time.

Such is the view of this Chamber of Commerce, and we are unaware of a single instance of the denial of a treaty right to a Japanese in the United States.

The New York Chamber of Commerce therefore calls upon the Japanese Chambers of Commerce to join with it in dispelling distorted, exaggerated, and sensational views in either country in order that the American and Japanese Governments and peoples may continue in the future as in the past to work together in the peaceful ways of commerce and good understanding, laying aside excessive sensitiveness and conceding each to the other the duty of safe-guarding its own peculiar economic interests without suspicion of intended indignity.

Aside from the higher considerations involved, we quite agree with you that it is eminently proper that the Chambers of Commerce of the two countries should exert themselves to dispel any irritation or misunderstanding which might unfortunately exist. This material aspect of the matter is emphasized by reference to the fact that in 1906 the value of Japan's exports to the

United States amounted to \$52,551, 520., while the value of America's exports to Japan during the same year amounted to \$38,464,952.

In conclusion we beg to thank you for your letter, to assure you of our cooperation, and to express our sincere wish for the welfare and prosperity of the members of the Chambers of Commerce of Japan and of the Japanese people.

I have the honor to be, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

President of the New York
Chamber of Commerce.

Note:-

In giving their reply to the press the New York Chamber of Commerce might mention the fact that Japan's export to the United States represents in value 24.9 per cent. of her total exports, while the value of American exports to Japan represents 2.08 per cent. of the total exports of the United States.