

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
TOKYO.

Despatch No. 445.

October 11th 1907.

Mr. DODGE to THE HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

SUBJECT:- Mr. Secretary Taft's visit to Japan
Diversion of Japanese emigration from America to Korea.- Newspaper comment.

Newspaper article predicting war
between Japan and the U.S.

Encl. 354. November 3, 1907.
Clipping from the New York American
of November 3, 1907, contain-
ing an article by Prince Hesper
Ookhtomsky, President of the Russo-
Chinese Bank and of the Russian
East and Central Asian Society,
predicting that war between the U.
S. and Japan is inevitable, and
giving reasons therefor.
L. (rec'd November 4, 1907)

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Secretary

*To Mr. Bacon for
Secretary of State.*

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AMERICAN EMBASSY,
TOKYO.

Despatch No. 445.

October 11th 1907.

To The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:-

Continuing the Ambassador's Despatch No.2 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to enclose to you herewith a number of clippings and translations from the newspapers in regard to Mr. Secretary Taft's recent visit to Japan, including a clipping from the "Japan Times" of the 2nd instant (page 9) giving the text of Baron Shibusawa's speech at the Tokyo Municipality dinner, given in honour of Mr. Taft, and of Mr. Taft's speech in reply. The gratification of the Japanese Ministers and officials who were present upon this occasion was very evident and the press comment in regard to it and to Mr. Taft's whole visit has been uniformly flattering and gratifying as will be noted from the enclosed clippings.

During Mr. Taft's visit certain telegrams appeared in the Japanese press, notably from the "New York Times" and the "New York Sun", the former in the brief telegraphic form in which it was cabled, apparently accusing the Japanese Government of a "hectoring policy" which necessitated the despatch of the "battle-ship squadron". The "Sun" telegrams taunted the Japanese Government with its silence and "acquiescence" so soon as it learned of the proposed cruise of these men-of-war. In view of Mr. Taft's utterances and the usually conservative tone of the "Times", these telegrams caused some perplexity at first. Mr. Taft's visit has now however completely overcome whatever surprise they may have occasioned. All the papers, even the "yellow" "Hochi",

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Visit of Secretary of War Taft to Japan.

Encl. 355-379. Japan, Oct. 11, 1907.

Am. Embassy (Dodge), #445.

Comments on the enclosed newspaper articles discussing the visit of Secretary Taft to Japan; the sending of the fleet of battle ships to the Pacific, and the broad question of the relations between the United States and Japan, and also on the giving the full text of Secretary Taft's speech.

Adverts to the moderate tone of the press in advising proper restrictions on emigration.

In connection with this despatch refers to the Ambassador's #2 of the 3rd instant.

(Rec'd Nov. 4, 1907.)

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Handwritten: 8.7.2
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Handwritten: To the Secretary
Nov 11 1907

are now endeavouring to show that the proposed cruise cannot possibly be directed against Japan but should rather be looked forward to with satisfaction as another opportunity for making the two countries better acquainted with one another.

I desire to invite especial attention to the enclosed clipping from the "Japan Daily Mail" of the 8th instant (page 27) entitled "Japan's Foreign Relations", citing with approval articles of similar tenor from the "Mainichi Dempo" and the "Nippon" and urging "an extremely circumspect policy on Japan's part towards foreign nations at present". Similar articles have recently appeared in other papers of which I enclose one from the "Kokumin" (page 30) and another from the "Japan Times" of the 9th instant (page 27a). The advice offered by these papers represents something which has not appeared before in the press and the fact that it is offered so soon after Mr. Taft's visit and his conversation with Count Hayashi, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Viscount Terauchi, Minister of War, as reported in the Ambassador's Despatch No. 2 of the 3rd instant, would seem to foreshadow that the policy outlined by Count Hayashi to the Ambassador and Secretary of War of further reducing emigration, is about to be put into effect. The recent Ordinance by which the obligatory deposit of emigration agencies is greatly increased (Despatch No 427 of the 30th ultimo) is a step in this policy and will have the effect of placing emigration in the hands of a higher and more responsible class and of largely doing away with the artificial and more or less underhanded methods now in use for stimulating emigration. A further step in the same direction is the recent creation of a large syndicate composed of prominent men such as Count Katsura and Baron Shibusawa, who are closely connected with the Government, for the purpose of developing Korea chiefly by encouraging Japanese emigration to that country and to Manchuria (Despatch No. 446).

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. Mervin Dodge
Chargé d'Affaires.