

MR. TAFT.

Saturday, September 28.

Tokyo papers on Saturday morning spoke in an almost unanimous tone of the visit of Mr. Taft to this country. They welcomed him most heartily as a powerful factor in dispelling the delusions under which several of his countrymen seem to labour with regard to Japan's attitude. As Admiral Count Yamamoto had contributed largely to reassure the American nation on the occasion of his recent visit to the States, and had truly affirmed that the warmth of Japan's friendship for America remained as strong as ever, so Mr. Taft from his third visit to Japan would be able to obtain new justification of the peace-making role that he had followed in his own country. Several of the Tokyo journals published photographs of the distinguished visitor, and altogether nothing could be more cordial than the attitude of the Japanese press in general.

Sunday, September 29.

Japanese newspapers continue to devote extraordinary space to the visit of Mr. Taft. They speak at great length of the purpose of his journey to the Philippines and they publish numerous pictures in all of which the portly figure of the great American statesman is prominent. We must say frankly that in all our long experience of the Japanese press we can not recall a single previous instance where the newspapers "spread themselves" so notably to hail the coming of a foreign friend however exalted his position. There is no mistaking the fact that this is a spontaneous and wholesale demonstration on the part of the Japanese people against the notion, to them intolerably repugnant, that there can ever be anything like an armed conflict between the United States and this Empire. The *Jiji Shimpō* goes so far as to affirm that neither in the present nor in the future can there be anything to disturb the relations of the two friends which have so long joined hands across the Pacific, and that whatever may be mischievously wrought by giddy or interested sensationalists among the great mass of the American people, Japan will look on with placid eyes, assured that the strength of her amity with America is proof against all shocks.

THE BATTLESHIPS' CRUISE.

It is reported from New York that the battleships will go to the Pacific in the winter. The Washington correspondent of the *New York Times*, on apparently unquestionable authority, declares that the cruise is the result of constant Japanese diplomatic hectoring. The American Government has practically exhausted all the resources of friendly diplomacy in trying to meet the captious Japanese. The *Times* correspondent says that Americans seem angry because Japanese has dared to stand up for her rights. The attitude of the press is distinctly provocative. Sneering references are made to Japanese quiescence since the movement of the battleships was announced.