

TRANSLATION.

Mainichi Dempo,

October 4, 1907.

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The Coming of the American

Battleship Squadron.



For a long time the United States Navy Department has been contemplating the despatch of a squadron to the Pacific. According to the recent intelligence, the plan has been definitely adopted and the preparations are now going on. There is nothing strange in the plan of the American Government to transfer a squadron from one place to another in its dominions. The recent naval expansion program of the United States is evidently meant to strengthen the defenses of the Pacific. Is it not natural then for her to send her new war-ships as soon as possible to the waters for which they are destined? The visiting battleship squadron is said to be intending to cruise along the Pacific Coast, but the cruise may possibly be extended to Hawaii and the Philippines, America's new possessions in the Pacific.

While it can be seen that there is nothing strange in the whole affair, some people seem to be in a suspicious frame of mind. We fail to see why certain Americans should have queer notions about the battleship squadron. Nothing is more difficult to understand than the interpretation that the coming of the American battleships is a demonstration directed against Japan. Even between unfriendly nations the movements of troops or warships are not regarded necessarily as a cause of war. The friendship between Japan and the United States is such that no American would suspect the motives of Japan if her troops were sent to the Pacific Coast for purposes of practice, (sic.) while the presence of American battleships in the Pacific arouses no suspicion ^{among} the minds of the Japanese people.

There is only one pending question between Japan and the United States, and that is the question of immigration. The trouble is due to the attempt of American laborers to exclude Japanese laborers, in which movement a section of the American people has joined. Let us, however, see if exclusion is a new thing. Are there not some people in all countries who advocate the exclusion of aliens? We also note that labor conflicts are universal. The conflict between the Union-men and Non-union men in the United States has often resulted in dreadful struggles. No wonder then that the Non-union Japanese laborers should be excluded. The Irish, Italians, Russians etc. in the United States have at least once been subjected to humiliating discriminations. But the United States has never had any complications with those countries on that account. Nor have the friendly relations between them been disturbed thereby. It should also be remembered that while some Americans would exclude Japanese laborers, there are others who welcome them and wish more would come. In spite of the anti-Japanese agitation, Japanese commodities sell well in the United States. It will thus be seen that the relations between Japan and the United States remain as they always have been.

Moreover, the fact that the United States has adopted a policy of territorial expansion should not be lost sight of. Hawaii and the Philippines belong to her. She is interested in the Chinese as well as the Balkan problems. The United States has also despatched warships to the Moroccan Coast, thus taking her part in African diplomacy. We ought indeed to be pleased with the fact that our friendly neighbor can maintain a navy strong enough to protect her rights in these quarters. We should not be surprised if the visiting squadron came to the Philippines and China. Should it come to Japan, the nation will accord the guests a most cordial and enthusiastic reception.