

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, SATURDAY, OCT. 5, 1907.

JAPANESE PRESS.

The Americo-Japanese Relations.

—Attributing the warm reception extended to U.S. Secretary of War Taft by the Japanese as well to the irrepressible outburst of tender sentiment toward the Americans as to the deep admiration entertained for the Secretary's personal qualities, as representing the flower of American manhood, the *Kokumin* deplores the persistent survival of misunderstanding over Japan's intentions among the public men and people of America. The paper advises the Japanese to maintain their usual sound judgment and courtesy toward the misguided portion of the Americans and endeavour to remove as much cause of wrong impressions as possible. For, it argues, the deplorable matter is all due to ignorance of the Japanese life and conditions. Secretary Taft's visit may bear timely influence in a clear understanding being established between the two peoples. Though the paper would not join its voice in the general blame of the Foreign Office authorities for making the matter from bad to worse by their maladroit activities, it has one thing to urge upon the Japanese public men as practicable measure of relief for the situation. It is no other than to copy the examples of the publicists, journalists, chambers of commerce and most notably of the members of parliament of Germany, England and France in their rôles of peace-makers, by their exchange of visits and courteous personal intercourse in one another's country. The members of the Japanese Diet would find it an easy and happy occasion to indulge their travelling propensity by visiting the Pacific Coast and other parts of America in a company. The Americo-Japanese friendship is too deeply rooted to be disturbed by the few misguided jingoists in either country, and, while the rational majorities in both countries are convinced of the inviolability of this ancient amity, it should be an easy task to eradicate altogether the causes of misunderstanding and ill-feeling.

The *Chuo* is highly gratified with the sincerity and rationality of Secretary Taft's utterances during his stay in Japan. He has shown the Japanese that the San Francisco affair has been conceived by the Washington authorities as a speck of cloud upon the sunny relations of America and Japan lasting for the last 50 years; that they are convinced of the possibility of diplomatic solution being given to the affair which their impartial judgment denounces as injustice; that the Secretary holds the yellow press of both countries responsible for setting afloat the war talk, and denounces it as a great crime against modern civilization; and lastly he has guaranteed unchanged warmth of the American feeling for the Japanese. The paper would not ask more candid expressions of his opinions, as a member of the Washington Cabinet, but it would remind him that the fissures produced in the Americo-Japanese relations must be somehow mended. The paper fully concurs with the Secretary that the repairs can be diplomatically effected. The question is whether both parties concerned are to be blamed for the disagreeable issue or whether only one of them be responsible. If the latter be the right view, the paper expects ready solution by the suspension of the conduct which the Secretary himself denounces as injustice, by simple measures of domestic administration. Baron Shibuzawa has given utterance to a worthy sentiment to which the paper can give full indorsement, when he expressed his wish that the Americans would look upon the Japanese as their own compatriots, as the Japanese so regard the Americans. The sentiment is Christian and is the marrow of modern civilization, which should commend itself to Mr. Taft's consideration in his devising measures of readjustment.

In contrast with the rather cool reception offered the Secretary on his last visit to these shores at the moment when the popular indignation at the results of the Portsmouth negotiations was inclined to include President Roosevelt the peace-maker among the objects of chagrin, the welcome this time gratifies the *Yorodzu* with its openness, as evincing the cordiality and generosity of the people, conscious of their greater status. The reception was indeed intended in a measure as a return to the royal treatment of General Kuroki and Admiral Yamamoto by the Americans, but behind all the endeavours to please the distinguish-

ed visitor, the paper discovers a deep sense of reliance on the Secretary's impartial judgment and high statesmanship for effecting entire adjustment of the pending difficulties between the two nations. The paper sharing this popular confidence in his personal character, fails to harmonize the sentiment with the growing indulgence of the American press in stirring up the anti-Japanese feeling. Even the *New York Times* the most conservative and freest from jingoistic tendencies shocks the Japanese *confrere* by referring to "diplomatic hectoring" which has served as a motive for the dispatch of the Pacific Squadron. The Secretary must have obtained full knowledge of the Japanese feeling even by his short stay in the country, but how he would explain the growth of unkind feeling at home toward the Japanese remains a question.

