

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, THURSDAY, OCT. 10, 1907.

JAPANESE PRESS.

The American Squadron.—The *Hochi* congratulates America on having been given a final word by President Roosevelt to the long wrangled question of the dispatch of the Atlantic Squadron to the Pacific, in his recent speech in Illinois. As a measure adopted by the most enlightened statesman, the guarding of the Pacific should be viewed as a perfectly justifiable step as the guarding of the Atlantic. Japan can but congratulate America on the completion of the latter's naval armament that places her in the foremost rank among the naval Powers. One point that the paper finds fault with, however, is that a reference to the "hastening of all preparations" by Japan, attributed to a retired rear-admiral and reported to have been embraced by the President as the reason for America's programme of expansion and dispatch of the Pacific Squadron. The Pacific President's present design is indeed a great guarantee for the peace of the world, and is a life insurance for America itself. But what preparation is Japan making? And for what end? If Japan were busying itself in peaceful preparations, the declaration that the concentration of a large squadron on the Pacific is the best policy for peace is meaningless. The adoption, however, of this view by the President, who was the active organizer of the U.S. Naval force on the eve of the Spanish-American War, should be given special significance at this juncture. If for no other reason, the paper would remember that history repeats itself in every case, but it would wait for further development for further discussion, as the last word to be uttered in diplomacy is war.

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The *Yorodzu* is delighted over the prospect of a grand wind-up being given in the coming spring to the comedy of the squadron dispatch, now assured by the open declaration of President Roosevelt. A trip for warships of enormous cost, it is indeed a feat that is only possible for rich America to perform, and as such is an object of the paper's admiration and envy. But the paper can not believe that even the *Croesus* of nations would squander the enormous sum of money for a holiday outing only. Nor can it believe that the usually weak diplomacy of Japan had evinced a hard back-bone sufficient to call forth this wasteful demonstration on the part of America. The paper can not altogether credit the New York *World's* comment upon the Presidential policy, attributing the whole matter to his desire of inspiring the nation with the grandeur of naval display and of plunging the nation into strained relations with Japan when popular admiration for his character and strong personality necessitate his nomination for the third presidential term; but there must be some grounds for this opinion. At least it fails to explain the President's motive in any other way.

Pacific Diplomacy.—The *Koku-min* reminds the Kasumigaseki authorities of the necessity of circumspection in their dealings with the Powers, so that they may not end in offending their friends and placing Japan in an isolated position. It is no longer necessary for Japan to convince others of its armed strength, but a comprehensive understanding of the general relations and a conciliatory attitude in harmony with the great national desideratum, peace that will enable the country to engage undisturbed in advancing her conditions. At present the Foreign Office is rather too nuchalant, some of the officials abroad even assuming an arrogant attitude that may create resentment in other parties. It is fundamentally due to want of established principle in the Japanese diplomacy. The English diplomacy which is the most pacific and most successful to-day should be taken as a model for Japan.