

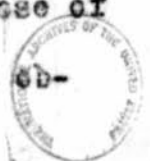
Newspaper reports indicate that the Chambers of Commerce of Japan have prepared and sent by mail to the principal Chambers of Commerce of the United States a representation complaining of the treatment of Japanese in San Francisco and calling upon the American Chambers of Commerce to use their influence to eliminate the causes of complaint and thus to safeguard the commercial relations between the two countries.

It is believed that the reply of the New York Chamber of Commerce will afford a unique opportunity to place the subject in question before an influential section of the Japanese public and indeed before the Japanese public in general in the light in which it is advisable that it should be seen. For this purpose it is suggested that the Secretary of State might dictate the reply of the New York Chamber of Commerce, - the fact that he had done so remaining unknown. To give ample time for the preparation of such a reply, the Department might telegraph the Embassy at Tokio quietly to obtain and transmit by cable the text of the representation.

Last night the Japanese Ambassador showed the undersigned a paraphrase of a telegram from the Consul in San Francisco to the effect that the police author-

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ities had refused licenses to Japanese second hand clothes dealers and that there were indications that they would also refuse licenses to Japanese peddlers. Press reports have hitherto mentioned the withholding of licenses from intelligence offices. Viscount Aoki said licenses to engage in four or five trades had been withheld from Japanese on the ground that they were not American citizens. He referred to the suddenness of this policy as showing that it was part of the anti-Japanese movement, being intended to deprive Japanese of the means of living. He implied that this was the objectionable phase of the matter.



Both the Ambassador and the Counselor of the Embassy, who talked with the undersigned frankly and personally (being old friends) referred with bitterness to the insulting articles frequently appearing in the San Francisco "Chronicle" and "Call". The general tone of these gentlemen's conversation was one of sorrow and helplessness. It is pretty evident that they realize that the United States is technically correct and is violating no treaty and they therefore prefer to look at the pending questions from the point of view which is broad and sentimental rather than practical.

Simply for the information of the Depart

it is suggested that District Attorney Devlin be instructed to report upon the withholding of licenses from Japanese, the regulations under which this is done, and the cause of this action, without, of course, showing the least concern.



It is understood that Mr. de Young, the owner of the "Chronicle" has been for years a staunch exclusionist. Would it not be possible to have Secretary Metcalf or some other discreet agent bring pressure upon the "Chronicle" and the "Call", and thus indirectly upon the Japanese-Korean Exclusion League, to cease writing contemptuous and insulting articles about the Japanese. Surely this could be done if those who control these newspapers were given to understand that the Government realizes the necessity of stopping the immigration of Japanese laborers and petty tradesmen and that this is being brought about and can be brought about if we have their cooperation without the wanton injury of the friendship and commerce between the United States and Japan.

May 6, 1907.

Since Mr. Powderly, Chief of the Division of Information, Bureau of Immigration, Department of Com-

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merce and labor, has addressed the heads of the labor unions to solicit their cooperation in giving information and advice to guide the authorities in the distribution of arriving immigrants, while Mr. McNeil, the Commissioner of Labor, intervenes between labor unions and employers in the case of strikes, may not some of these officials be in a position sufficiently discreetly to bring pressure to bear upon the labor unions to be reasonable in their attitude towards the Japanese? It is believed that Japanese are not admitted to the labor unions. Inquiry on this point might be made. If the increase in the number of Japanese in the United States is to be successfully curbed then the labor unions might be willing to admit Japanese into their ranks and to cease to persecute them.



July 6, 1907.

Huntington Wilson.