

The Japan Chronicle.

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JAPANESE IN AMERICA.

LATEST NEWS BY MAIL.

Papers received from the Pacific coast by the last Canadian and San Francisco mails contain many references to the Japanese question in the United States. For the first time since the anti-Asiatic riots in Vancouver Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, on the 26th ultimo delivered a speech on the subject at a meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at Toronto, reference to which has already been made in our telegraphic columns. He said in part:—

"Americans are our competitors in the Japanese market, as they are in other countries. They had the advantage of a treaty which gave them a very great hold on the markets of Japan. Our business men, the manufacturers and the producers of Canada, thought they should be placed on a footing of equality with our American competitors. Therefore we concluded the treaty which now exists. We did it specially at that moment because Japan had indicated her intention of restricting immigration to foreign shores, and especially to the shores of Canada. Since that treaty has been operating it has been of some advantage to the manufacturers of Canada. Our trade has increased and the farmers and manufacturers have got the benefit of it.

"But some difficulty has arisen on the shores of British Columbia. There has been a greater influx than before of Japanese immigrants. What are we going to do under such circumstances? A section of the people, recently gathered in Winnipeg, called upon the British Government to annul the treaty. The treaty has been in operation only two years. We are just commencing to reap the benefit, and to denounce it would be simply panic, and for my part I am not disposed, whether in this or any action, to act in a panic.

"To at once, without inquiry, denounce the treaty would in my humble judgement not be playing the part of a responsible person. It should be the policy of the Canadian Government under such circumstances to reflect, to inquire, and, if need be, to send a commission for more information and to form their conclusions upon the conditions which they find and be able to give a deliberate judgement."

Dr. Munro, Chief Dominion Government Immigration Inspector in Vancouver, announced on the 25th ultimo that the Government had instructed him to allow no more Japanese to land in Vancouver unless they had passports made out directly to Canada.

This is designed to cut off all immigration of Japanese by way of Honolulu. The announcement was made in order that steamship companies engaged in bringing Japanese from Hawaii should have ample warning that they would not be allowed to land at Vancouver.

The Dominion Government on the 25th decided that the immigration question was of sufficient importance to send a special envoy to Tokyo to treat with the Government and reach a final agreement. No official of the Immigration Department will be sent, but probably one of the Ministers of the Cabinet, who will be fully empowered to deal immediately with the Mikado's Government, will go to the Orient. [The names of those forming this mission have recently been announced by Reuter.] He will also be instructed to make a full report on Hindoo and Chinese immigration as well. So many conflicting reports have come that it has been impossible to do business by cable with the Government at Tokyo. The Canadian Government had a similar experience with Mr. Ishii.

Vice-Consul King of San Francisco, who was sent to Vancouver by the Chinese Legation at Washington to make an investigation of the damage by the riots, announced that the actual glass broken in the Chinese section is valued at \$4,500. With other damages the bill will run up to \$19,000. Mr. King has been making investigations and declares that the statement that the Chinese work for less wages than white men is a delusion. For instance, saw-mill men told him that they employed Chinese cutters at the rate of \$4 per day, and that the lowest wages paid to Chinese in the mills is \$1.50 per day. He was told that the majority earn \$2.50 per day.

What bears semblance to a Japanese labour trust has been organised in San Francisco, and articles for its incorporation, under the name of the United Industrial Company, were filed last month in the office of the County Clerk. The avowed purposes of the company are to take steps necessary "to keep fields and lands in good working condition"; to secure labourers, both skilled and unskilled; to contract to furnish labourers for the construction of railroads, both steam and electric, and, in general, to supply labour, obviously Japanese, for all desirous of securing it.

The capital stock is placed at \$200,000, in shares, of \$50 each, one share having already been subscribed by each of the seven directors—H. Senow, M. Akimoto, S. Miho, K. Iki, S. Kuroishi, Y. Maeda and B. Washizu.

A Vancouver message dated September 16th says:—"Thirty-eight thousand Japanese have been given permission by the Mikado's Government to come immediately to British Columbia. They will cross the Pacific just as rapidly as steamers can be secured to bring them. The news that Vancouver will see an immigration hitherto unprecedented was received here to-day by the steamer 'Woolwich,' which brought 230 of the Japanese. The steamer 'Indiana' is overdue now from Honolulu with 300. Best-informed circles declare that the Dominion Government will do nothing at all to prevent the further influx of Japanese, despite the protests of Vancouver. The demand for labour is so great in the interior of British Columbia and on the prairies of the North-West that as many Japanese as wish to come will be allowed to do so. On the other hand, official statements come from Ottawa that Premier Laurier and Delegate Ishii will confer to-morrow and arrange a nominal limit. Nobody in Vancouver believes that even if this limit is declared it will be adhered to. There was no demonstration to-day on the arrival of the Japanese on the steamer 'Woolwich.'"