

Mainichi Dempo,

October 12-16, 1907.

Mr. Yano Fumio on the Importation of Alien Labor.

The Chinese and Korean coolies imported some time ago have recently been deported, but Mr. Yano proposes to consider the advantages and disadvantages of their influx from the standpoints of both the capitalists and the laborers.

So far as the capitalists are concerned, the writer does not doubt the advantages of employing cheap labor. Cheap labor enriches them, but is the wealth of capitalists identical with that of the nation? Is it right, asks the writer, to enrich the State at the cost of the welfare of the masses? It may also be asked if the comfort of the masses would be promoted even by decreasing the wealth of the State.

Now what is a State? Is it not composed of a multitude of people? Estimating the annual profit of employing cheap alien labor at two million yen which enriches the State, Mr. Yano discourages it if thereby ten thousand native laborers suffer. After all, cheap labor is not profitable to the State, for whereas all the wages paid to the natives remain here, those paid to alien laborers go abroad. True, the margin between the wages for the natives and alien laborers is the capitalists' profit, but they are few in number. Moreover it is clear, says Mr. Yano, that the money paid to the alien laborers is the loss of the State.

It is natural that the Chinese and Korean coolies should come to Japan where higher wages are offered. Their continued influx will deprive the native laborers of their employment. They will in their turn be induced to go somewhere, seeking still higher wages, and the laborers in a third country will be similarly embarrassed.

Thus each country is compelled to find the means of protecting her own interests, although all our treaties guarantee the freedom of trade. If it is proper to protect domestic industries by means of a tariff wall or bounty, it is equally proper to protect the native

laborers against the influx of cheap alien labor.

Looking at the question from the standpoint of socialism, Mr. Yano points out that the unchecked importation of cheap alien labor will profit the capitalists only so long as the modern state organizations remain as they are. The writer, however, does not mean to say that alien labor is not welcome in any part of the world. In some countries of South America and Africa, where the development of resources is impossible without alien labor, there will be no objection from any class of people to the influx of alien laborers.

In conclusion Mr. Yano advises the capitalists to consider their moral responsibilities and refrain from importing the cheap labor from China and Korea. He has sympathy for the native laborers who object to the importation of their competitors, and endorses the recent steps taken by the Government for deporting the Chinese and Korean coolies.

