

Despatch No. 23

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
TOKYO.

October 25, 1907.

To the Honorable the
Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:-

Perhaps it will be worth while to advise you that my wife and I attended at luncheon at the Imperial Palace on the 23rd inst. Besides ourselves, those present were all Japanese,--mostly members of the Imperial Household, the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, certain Royal Princes and Princesses, and others conspicuous at Court.

Soon after arriving I was told that the Emperor wished to give me a short audience before proceeding to luncheon. This was quite formal. His Majesty expressed pleasure at seeing me again, and inquired whether we had yet become settled at the Embassy, whether it was comfortable, and as to whether we had continued well.

Later and in the audience hall adjoining the dining saloon he received my wife, the Empress being then also present. We were seated at the table next to the Royal guests on either side of Their Majesties. After leaving the room His Majesty paused in the audience chamber, and I was told that he wished to speak further with me.

He made some inquiries of an ordinary character, and then asked if Mr. Secretary Taft was still in the Philippines. In answering that he was, I took occasion to state the high regard which Secretary Taft had for both the Japanese people and for His Imperial Majesty, and that I entertained the same sentiments. This gave me an

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opportunity to add some assurances of the desire on the part of the American Government to be on the highest terms of friendship with Japan, and that it would be my purpose to further, so far as it lay in my power, a condition so greatly to the advantage of the people of both nations.

Upon these assurances being translated to him he seemed to be highly pleased and gave greater expression to his feelings of approval than I had before observed or had thought possible. The Interpreter afterwards told my wife that it was unusual for His Majesty to converse to such an extent with anyone outside of his own people.

As near as I can judge, the Japanese Government would be found very reluctant to have difficulty with the United States, and the tone of the Press seems to bear out this view. They would like to believe that our intentions are equally pacific, and for the most part they do believe it, and yet they are some times in doubt as to our real intentions.

The signed statement lately put out by Mr. Hearst and the articles appearing in the New York Sun, all promptly reprinted here, the sending of a war fleet to the Pacific, along with rumors that they receive from time to time, give them concern. Some of them perhaps realize that these rumors and these activities are the result of their own ill considered actions concerning matters quite unworthy of Governmental notice.

Apart from the foregoing, there is a feeling that our good intentions in connection with the Treaty of Peace with Russia resulted in a distinct damage to Japan. The people of all classes expected a large indemnity as a result of the war, and still believe that but for the activity of the President in the matter of an early peace, better terms would have been obtained. No doubt those high in authority

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do not share these views,--indeed, I presume that they were highly pleased with the result.

What seems to be settled is that while the Government will in every way and in good faith prevent the emigration of Japanese laborers to the United States, or to points from which they may cross to that territory, yet they will not embody this policy in the form of a treaty,--certainly not while our Emigration Laws effecting the people of other nations remain unchanged.

The ill-treatment of Japanese subjects in the Dominion of Canada has worked to our advantage no doubt, and in order to avoid friction with Canada emigration to that territory will be restricted to the lowest limit.

It is fair to assume that the agitation in the United States, in the Press and outside of it, along with the prompt disposition of our Government to make ready for contingencies, has had a salutary effect upon public sentiment here. This along with the weak financial condition of the country has brought to the people a realizing sense that war with our country would be most undesirable.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. Olin
Ambassador.