

North Andover, Mass.
December 4th 1907

Hon. Elihu Root:
Secty of State, Washington, D. C.

My Dear Sir—

May a very commonplace citizen offer a suggestion.

Why could not our Government, settle immediately, in money, the claims of Japan, growing out of the riots at San Francisco, then institute a suit against the city of S. F. for reimbursement? Such a method would seem to exhibit due interest in Japan's contention, relieve her embarrassment, seem friendly, and at the same time strengthen the standing and influence of the central Government at home and abroad.

It is true that we, the Public, may not know just what the present situation is, but from what the newspapers have informed us, it would seem that Japan has been obliged either to sue herself for compensation, or that she is waiting to know the result of some suit brought or to be brought by somebody, to determine who is responsible, if anybody. If this is so, it appears that Japan has been initiated, and has some cause for irritation.

We hear that Japan has already received damages for the loss to her subjects on account of the action of

the mob in British Columbia, which disturbance occurred much more recently than that at S. F.

The contrast between this prompt settlement, and our delay is very much to the credit of Canada.

Why not demonstrate to the world, that the United States can be dealt with, as readily and as promptly as any country.

The newspaper informed us last evening that the Japanese ambassador has been recalled, also that he has been a very satisfactory person to our authorities at Washington. Why not adjust this controversy with Mr Aoki, at once, before he starts for home, and thus allow him to have the credit of accomplishing something for his country before he leaves Washington? It would appear that such a result would be a very proper courtesy to one who has been so pleasing as a man and an official.

Do we not err in allowing Great Britain to negotiate herself in the good will of Japan, at our expense, usurping a place that belongs to us by reason of past history, and which we might perhaps continue to occupy by showing a just and conciliatory spirit.

With great respect,

J. H. Otton.

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J. H. Stone.

Makes some suggestions in regard to the settlement of the claims of Japan growing out of the riots at San Francisco, and refers to the prompt settlement by Canada of damages on account of the action of the mob in British Columbia.
H. (Rec'd Dec. 6, 1907)



*ack. with thanks
for his suggestions.*

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FILE-S. Y. S.