

JAPANESE PRESS.

A Mistaken Policy.—The *Nichi Nichi* takes exception to the policy of the Government which runs counter to the peaceful international relations of this country. There is not a single soul in this land who looks upon America's conduct toward Japan as of a nature calculated to disturb the old friendship between them. Nor would our contemporary be prepared for the disturbance of peace in the Far East from China's strong attitude toward this country, unless the former carry her obduracy too far and take the initiative in opening hostilities. Russia, a closer friend of Japan than ever, may increase and develop her military strength without arousing in Japan any suspicion of a disturbing nature. Then, the existence of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance and Franco-Japanese Agreement forms a solid guarantee of peace. Why, then, has not the Government taken advantage of this peaceful moment to improve domestic administration and introduce radical reforms in national finance? Instead, the paper finds the Ministry and its supporters bent on carrying through the measure of increased taxation on grounds that are vague and indefinite, and, still worse, pushing on the passage of the Budget with undue haste and inadequate consideration. The paper's only hope now centres in the Upper House, which it exhorts to resolute resistance to the pressure of the dominant party and to effect such amendment as is consistent with the popular interest.

The Japan Times,
Feb. 13, 1908.

