

Prospects For a New Treaty.

The following is a free translation of an editorial in Japanese which was published in The Japanese American News last Saturday:

IT IS reported that diplomatic negotiations between Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby and Ambassador Shidzehara are to be stopped for some time and will not be continued until after the general election.

State Department officials as well as the members of the Japanese Embassy in Washington are quite optimistic as to the outlook. It is reported that some satisfactory new agreement or treaty has been reached and that this document will be presented for ratification to the Senate in December.

We are not at all certain how much dependence is to be placed upon this reported new treaty. However, if negotiations have reached the point of drafting a new agreement, we feel it is advisable that such negotiations should be discontinued for the present. This is a political season and everything is being turned to political ends. Should the opposition party seize upon this circumstance the government's activities certainly would be restricted. By keeping up negotiations the government naturally is causing some dissatisfaction.

The question is, what sort of new treaty is to be signed in the near future? On this point the press dispatches state the rights of Japanese in America are to be clearly defined and strict restriction of Japanese immigration is to be insisted upon. Further restriction of immigration means more restrictions to bind the gentlemen's agreement. How far the Japanese government will acquiesce in such an arrangement is not yet clear.

As we have pointed out again and again, the right of Japanese residing in America to return to their own country and then to be readmitted into this country and to bring their wives and children, or to send for them, is clearly defined. In addition, students, business men, travelers and others who always have been accepted have a perfect right to come and go and this recognized right must be retained.

If the government of the United States means to put restrictions on the reservations already agreed upon by the Japanese government, the result to the Japanese resident here will be worse than the result of the impending California referendum. We are strongly opposed to any such concession being made by the Japanese government.

To substitute for the gentlemen's agreement a new treaty would mean that the United States government would place restrictions on immigration instead of the Japanese government, which, on its own initiative, has been exercising control in the issuance of passports to its subjects in accordance with the gentlemen's agreement. To abrogate this agreement would be an affront to the dignity of the Japanese nation and the people of Japan might oppose such national dishonor. If, however, by submitting to such an arrangement, as compensation for their loss the Japanese should obtain other rights, then the indignity would have to be submitted to.

Clarification of the rights of the Japanese in America is the crux of this entire problem. Our main problem at present is whether the United States shall assure the same rights to Japanese in America in regard to owning and leasing land as are accorded immigrants from Europe.

Assurance of these rights would spell the solution of the problem, together with, to a certain extent, the California land law of 1913. Having accorded certain rights to all Japanese in the United States, exception could not be made as regards Japanese residing in California. Japanese should be accorded equal rights with the most favored nations as regards agriculture, commerce, industry, the fishing industry and the like. If these principles shall be incorporated in a new treaty it will be a triumph for the present diplomacy.

We anticipate that when the draft of such a treaty shall be presented in the Senate it will be opposed by the Senators from California and all other Western Slope states, as Californians would feel they were being greatly humiliated by their own government. The states of Washington and Oregon at least may be expected to show a sympathetic attitude toward California. Also, the American Legion and all anti-Japanese organizations, which always are advocating all manner of exclusions, might be expected to launch a movement against ratification by the Senate.

Then we would learn what is the attitude of America as a whole toward the Japanese problem. We would know whether solution was to be worked out in a just manner or unjustly. For ratification, a two-thirds vote by the Senate is necessary.

In carrying on its negotiations with the Japanese Ambassador the State Department is said always to have kept in touch with the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. It may be that party politics will not count for much. To complete the negotiation the government needs sixty-four votes out of ninety-six in the Senate. Perhaps it would not be too much to say that the government's is no easy task.

Notwithstanding all these supposed difficulties we feel that the negotiations have reached the point where an extraordinary success for both governments seems impending.

No Room For Further Concessions.

The negotiations between the two governments were further discussed last Monday. Following is a liberal translation of what was said in Japanese:

WE MAINTAIN that the Japanese government in its negotiations with the United States on the Californian issues, must be firm, and in Japan the opposition party must maintain a like attitude and keep a close watch of the actions of the government.

Various reports are current concerning the negotiations. Two which we have noticed recently are hardly to be dismissed without comment. The first has it that Japan, by making concessions in the immigration negotiations, will solve this problem in the future. The other has it that plans are afoot to make concessions to California as regards immigration, in exchange for which Japan's claim to the northern half of Saghalien Island and its claims in Siberia are to be recognized.

We cannot accept these reports as authentic. However, as they emanate from sources in close touch with the government, we cannot pass them without comment. And, in passing, we feel that we must point out some mistakes.

As everyone knows, the Japanese problem in the United States grows out of the action of the State of California in circumscribing the rights accorded to resident Japanese. This action on the part of California has been protested by the Japanese government to the government of Washington. It was requested that the gentlemen's agreement be amended, and this led to the present negotiations.

The Japanese government demanded just treatment of its subjects in California and all other states; and in order to obtain this recognition of its rights in this regard, has shown a willingness to make concessions as regards immigration. But unless the United States government is willing to meet the demands of the Japanese government, there is no reason why the Japanese government should make concessions to the United States.

This is a plain statement, but it is liable to be misconstrued. California may push her anti-Japanese laws as far as she likes, but the Japanese government can hardly be expected to sit idly by and do nothing for the Japanese resident in California. Japan must, somehow or other, counteract such gestures on the part of California, appealing, if necessary, to the United States government.

If the Japanese government cannot accomplish anything, then there is no meaning to the diplomatic negotiations between the two governments and they should be dropped at once. As far as the government of Japan is concerned, there is no need for any amendment of the gentlemen's agreement, as this would be but an exchange for just treatment of the Japanese.

The opinion is expressed that many Americans are opposed to the anti-Japanese attitude of their countrymen, holding it to be unjust and inhuman. Japan must place her trust in these factors. For the time being Japan must bow to the demands of California, some argue. Laws which are made now can be changed later on. We must make as great a concession as possible in this immigration question and thus try to create a kindler feeling in America toward Japan.

This is a fallacious argument and The Japanese American News does not subscribe to it. Were we to take such a mistaken attitude in these negotiations we would gain exactly nothing at all. Instead, we would lose all we now have. We cannot tell whether the time would come when changes could be made in anti-Japanese legislation. Supposing the United States government should give assurance to the Japanese government that it would lend its support to the demands of the latter when new negotiations were begun—that would be a problem of the future and none can say how it would turn out.

No one can be expected to make concessions in return for such uncertain, chimerical propositions unless he is mentally defective.

BEWARE BOILING WATER.



If you had a beautiful bottle would you run the risk of breaking it by pouring hot water into it?

The bottle in this picture represents American history.

The individual who is pouring hot water into the bottle is the Californian Japaphobe.

The boiling water is the anti-Japanese agitation in California.

WHEN THIS OLD WORLD WAS YOUNG.

(Continued from last Saturday.)

THE Princess Otootachibana, wife of Yamato, had followed her husband in all his adventures. But while the Prince was blameless in battle, he was no great hero as a husband. He looked down on his wife and treated her with indifference. She, loyal to the core, lost her beauty in the service of her husband. Her skin became blackened by the sun, her garments soiled and faded. Yet she had uttered a word of complaint, and while her face grew sad and pinched she made a brave effort to maintain her customary sweetness of manner.

About this time Prince Yamato chance to meet Princess Miyadzu, whom he found altogether lovely, her robes charming, her skin soft as the petals of the peach blossom. Before long he awoke to the fact that he was head over heels in love with her. When it was time for her to return home, he swore he would call again and make the wonderful Princess Miyadzu his wife. Scarcely had he uttered these words when, looking up, he beheld Otootachibana, a look of intense pain and sadness on her face. But the Prince hardened his heart and rode away, determined to keep his pledge.

Upon arriving at the seashore of Idzu with his wife and cavalcade his followers asked leave to secure a number of boats in order to cross the Strait of Idzu.

"Boat!" the Prince cried haughtily, "this is but a brook! Why such a multitude of boats?"

No sooner had they embarked than a great storm arose. The waves ran mountain high, the wind whistled and howled, the lightning flashed in the dark heavens, the thunder roared. It looked as though the boat bearing the Prince and his wife must surely sink, for this storm had been conjured up by Rin-Jin, King of the Sea, who had been angered by the proud and foolish wife of Yamato.

The crew reefed sails in the hope of staying the vessel. But the storm only grew worse. Princess Otootachibana at length arose, forgave her lord all the sorrow and suffering he had caused her, and signified her intention to sacrifice her life in order to save the husband of her heart.

"Oh, Rin-Jin," she cried, "the Prince, my husband, has angered you with his thoughtlessness. O Tenno, forgive me, give you my poor life in exchange. O Tenno, give you my poor life in exchange. O Tenno, give you my poor life in exchange."

Princess Yamato reached his destination without further trouble and succeeded in quelling the sea uprising.

Too late he had learned of the true worth of his wife; but to his great credit, she remained a loving memory until his death. The Princess Miyadzu he forgot completely.

(Continued next Saturday.)

JAPANESE PROVERBS.

He that will not when he may, when he wills he has may.

He who does not rise early never does a good day's work.

He who would hang his dog gives out first that he is mad.

He who gives fair words feeds you with an empty spoon.

He who has not health has nothing.

He who has gold has fear, he who has none has sorrow.

Of course, it is necessary that a happier public opinion be cultivated for the sake of Japan. An enlightened public must be created in order to combat the ideas of the past ten years and the treatment accorded during that period to the Japanese. But this has no direct concern with present negotiations. And this is why we say that if there is no prospect of abrogating the anti-Japanese laws of the Californians it would be far better to call a halt to diplomatic negotiations and lend a deaf ear to the proposals of the United States as regards amending the gentlemen's agreement.

It is the opinion of the Sanbanen Island and Siberian problems are to be adjusted as compensation for concessions to the Californians. Surely the United States government realizes that the Californian problem and the Far Eastern problem have nothing in common. When it comes to carrying out her plans in the Far East Japan may be depended upon to do the directing of the Japanese government.

The Californian problem must be treated as such as she can. She must protest to the United States government for the just treatment of Japanese residents in California.

We trust the opponent parties in Japan will look after the government whenever it may show any hesitancy about maintaining a firm front toward the United States.

THE DUKE GAE asked, saying: "What should be done in order to secure the submission of the people?" Confucius replied: "Advance the upright and set aside the crooked, then the people will submit. Advance the crooked and set aside the upright, then the people will not submit."

KE KANG asked how to cause the people to reverence their ruler, to be faithful to him, and to urge themselves to virtue." The Master said: "Let him preside over them with gravity; then they will reverence him. Let him be filial and kind to all. Let him advance the good and teach the incompetent; then they will eagerly seek to be virtuous."

SOMEONE addressed Confucius, saying: "Sir, why are you not engaged in the government?" The Master said: "What does the Shoo-king say of filial piety? You are filial, you discharge your brotherly duties? These qualities are displayed in government. This then also constitutes the exercise of government. Why must there be THAT to make one be in the government?"

BUSHIDO.

By DR. INAZO NITOBE.

CHAPTER XV.

WHATEVER may be the error committed by individuals, there is little doubt that the fundamental principle of the religion they profess is a power which must be taken into account in reckoning the future of Bushido, whose days seem to be already numbered. Ominous signs are in the air, betokening its future. Not only signs, but redoubtable forces are at work to threaten it.

Few historical comparisons can be more strikingly made than between the Chivalry of Europe and the Bushido of Japan, and, if history repeats itself, certainly will do with the fate of the latter what it did with that of the former. The particular and local causes for the decay of chivalry which St. Palay gives, have, of course, little application to Japanese conditions; but the larger and more general causes that helped to undermine Knighthood and chivalry are as surely working for the decline of bushido.

One remarkable difference between the experience of Europe and of Japan is, that, whereas in Europe when Chivalry was weaned from Feudalism and was adopted by the Church, it obtained a fresh lease of life; in Japan no religion was large enough to nourish it; hence, when the mother institution, Feudalism, was gone, Bushido, left an orphan, had to shift for itself. The present elaborate military organization taken by the Japanese government is, no doubt, the best proof of this.

Principles and powers are arrayed against the Precepts of Knighthood. Already, as Veblen says, "the decay of the ceremonial code—or as it is otherwise called, the vulgarization of life—among the industrial classes, has become one of the chief enormities of latter-day civilization in the eyes of all persons who are of delicate sensibilities."

The irreconcilable tide of triumphant democracy, which can tolerate no form or shape of aristocracy, and Bushido was a trust organized by those who monopolized reserve capital of intellect and culture, fixing the grades and value of normal qualifications—is alone powerful enough to engulf the remnant of Bushido. The present society forces are antagonistic to petty class spirit, and Chivalry, as a Freeman severely criticizes, a class spirit.

Modern society, if it pretends to any unity, cannot afford "purely personal obligations devised in the interests of an exclusive class." Add to this the progress of popular instruction, of industrial arts and habits, of wealth and city life; then we can easily see that neither the keenest cuts of samurai's sword nor the sharpest shafts shot from Bushido's boldest bows can avail.

The state built upon the rock of Honor and fortified by the same shall we call it the Ehrenstaat or the Ehrenkasteel? The Ehrenstaat is fast falling into the hands of quibbling lawyers and gibbering politicians armed with logic-chopping engines of war.

The words which a great thinker used in speaking of Theresa and Antigone may aptly be repeated of the samurai, that "the medium in which their ardent deeds took shape is forever gone."

Alas for knightly virtues! Alas for samurai pride! Morality ushered into the world with the sound of bugles and drums, destined to fade away as fast as the career of the knight departs.

If heroes can teach us anything, the state built on knightly virtues—be it a city like Sparta or an empire like Rome—can never make on earth a "continuing city." Universal and natural as is the fighting instinct in men, fruitful as it has proved to be of noble sentiments and manly virtues, it does not comprehend the whole man. Beneath the instinct to fight there lurks a diviner instinct to love. We have seen that Shintoism, Mencius and Wan Yang Ming have all clearly taught the importance of love. Men and women, old and young, in all the other militant schools of ethics, encrossed, doubtless, with questions of immediate practical need, too often forgotten to emphasize this fact.

Life has grown larger in these latter times. Callings nobler and broader than a warrior's claim our attention today. With an enlarged view of life, with the growth of democracy, with better knowledge of other peoples and nations, the Confucian idea of Benevolence—dare I also add the Buddhist idea of Pity?—will expand our minds and deepen our conception of love.

Princess Yamato Take, I cast myself into your great surging kingdom. Do you in return con-

vey my lord safely to the shore?"

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(To be continued.)

CONFUCIANISMS.

THE MASTER said: "For a man to sacrifice to a spirit which does not belong to him is futility. To know what is right and not to do it is want of courage."

THE MASTER said: "Yew, shall I teach you what knowledge is? When you know a thing, to hold that you know it; and when you do not know a thing, to allow that you do not know it—that is knowledge."

TSZE-CHANG was learning with a view to official advancement. The Master said: "Hear much and put aside the points of which you stand in doubt, while you speak cautiously at the same time of the others; then you will afford few occasions for blame. See much and put aside the things which seem perilous, while you are cautious at the same time in carrying the others into practice; then you will have few occasions for repetition. When one gives few occasions for blame in his words, and few occasions for repetition in his conduct, he is in the way to get promotion."

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