

## THE JAPANESE MENACE NOW WAGING IN SAN FRANCISCO.

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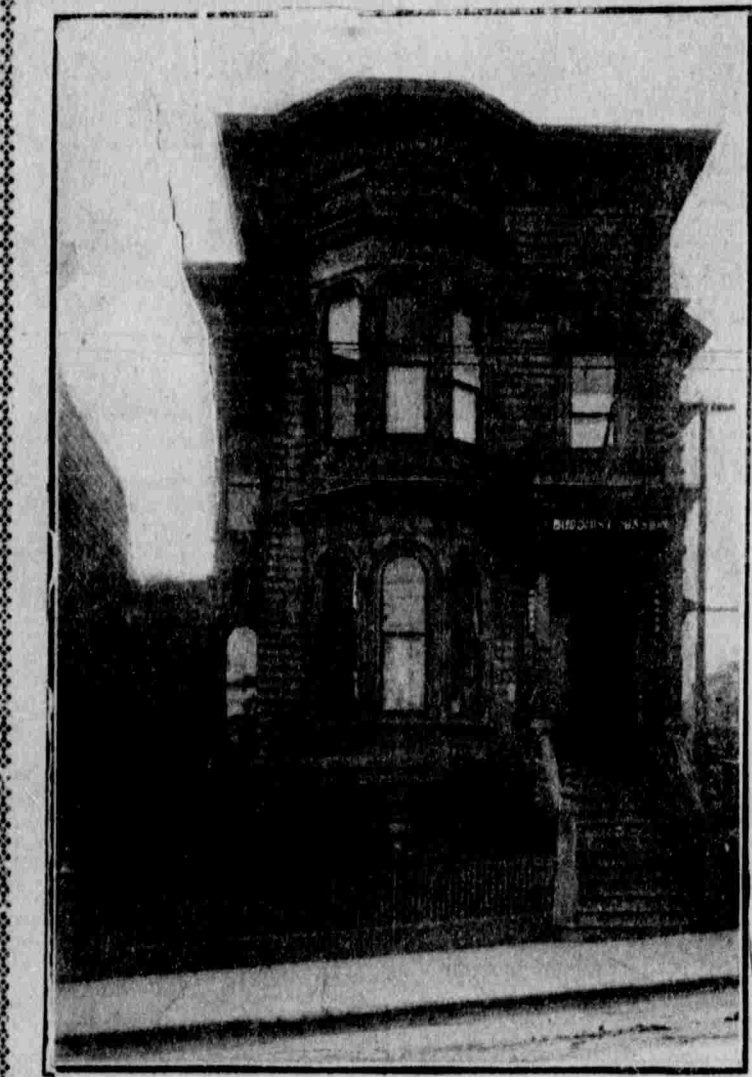
SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 27.—There can be no doubt that Secretary Victor H. Metcalf's visit to this city indicates much excitement in the east, and particularly at Washington, over the alleged exclusion of Japanese children from the San Francisco schools. There is likewise no doubt that California is equally exercised over the same question, though from a different point of view.

It would not be safe to say that the west is generally opposed to the Japanese or even Japanese immigration into California, but there is certainly a rapidly developing irritation which, among the laboring classes, amounts to a propaganda. It is by no means impossible that this sentiment will reach the proportions of the famous anti-Chinese movement which Dennis

of an idea developed by the State Building Trades Council and its membership is made up very largely of union workmen who feel a genuine alarm at what they consider the Japanese menace. Through California there are now 78,000 names on the roll and the work of further organization is pursued with great activity. Secretary Yonoh of the society states that the object in view is "to educate the people on the menace of Japanese immigration and to create a healthy public sentiment in order that the present Chinese exclusion laws be broadened to embrace all Asiatics." So far the movement has been carried forward in a sane and conservative manner with no indication of the violence which characterized the old sand-lot agitation against the Chinese.

### NOT LABOR ALONE.

Yet opposition to the Japanese is not confined to the laboring classes as was clearly demonstrated a few months after the earthquake when the immigrants from Nippon, driven by



BUDDHIST MISSION,

At 1687 Gough Street, San Francisco, Where There is a Following of 1,500 Japanese.

Kearney led 29 years ago. Californians are willing to consider the grave international complications which might result from such a movement but naturally look more closely at the local conditions with which they are brought face to face.

### RAPIDLY CHANGING SENTIMENT.

It has been a curious thing in this state to observe the changing attitude toward the Japanese. Before the Russo-Japanese war Japan was looked upon as the land of poetry and flowers and the Japanese who established colonies here were welcomed as the exponents of a new and delightful oriental culture. When the conclusion of the war demonstrated that the Japanese were such a superior military people, Californians, as inhabitants of the most exposed portions of the United States, experienced a certain sense of unrest at the possibilities which seemed to be implied. Since then Japanese immigration has increased to such an extent that it has become a state economic problem and in San Francisco, at any rate, there is a wide-spread dissatisfaction at the incursions and encroachments of the little brown men. The excellent qualities which westerners are no slower than others to attribute to their industry, their high sense of national honor, their poetic outlook on life and their individual self-respect, are all somewhat lost sight of in the purely business considerations which their advent has forced on the community.

### SOURCE OF OPPOSITION.

Opposition to the Japanese is centered principally in the Japanese and Korean Exclusion league which was organized May 7, 1905. This league is the result

fire from their former homes on the southern border of the old Chinatown, established themselves in one of the best residence sections of San Francisco; that is, along Pine, Bush, Sutter, and Post, between Fillmore and Van Ness avenue. The agitation, in this instance, developed from purely business motives, but was long continued and intense, though it resulted in little more than largely attended mass meetings, at which there was much fiery declamation.

### FORCED OUT BY JAPS.

The residents of this section were practically forced out of their homes by what they described as the greediness of the landlords, who very generally raised the rent after the April disaster. The Japanese offered rentals which the Americans could not afford to pay, and were able to do so on account of the large number of occupants they would crowd into a single house. Homes which were formerly occupied by American families are now given over to Japanese who frequently crowd as many as eight or ten persons in a single room. In almost every case the landlords accepted the Japanese tenants despite the violent agitation of the American residents, and the section is now quite oriental. Japanese banks and stores are scattered along with missions and even Buddhist temples. Where Americans remain the Stars and Stripes are hung from windows or fly from poles as a distinguishing mark.

### ARE VERY PERSISTENT.

The Japanese are very persistent, and naturally so, in their efforts to secure work and extend any business in which they may be engaged. In the cities they are usually of the better class—artisans, merchants, house servants, printers, and even professional men. They have their own newspapers, their own banks and their own insurance companies though they make no attempt to reproduce the actual conditions of the orient as the Chinese do, being content to adopt western business methods, customs and dress. In the country, however, there is a constantly growing army of Japanese laborers, which Dennis Kearney recently described as "coolies dressed to offset our western prejudices," who are employed on the extensive fruit ranches of the state and in railroad improvement. This class reflects many of the conditions of Chinese cheap labor and even in more thickly settled communities the Japanese sell their labor and brains at a rate with which Americans can scarcely compete.

### 40,000 IN CALIFORNIA.

There is no means by which the precise number of Japanese in California can be determined. Statistics compiled by the Japanese association of America, and given out at the office of Consul Uyeno, place the figure at a little above 40,000 for the year ending December, 1905. From the same source it is learned that there were about 12,000 Japanese in San Francisco before the fire, 6,000 remaining after the catastrophe while the rest scattered to neighboring cities. The Japanese and Korean Exclusion league, however, places the figure at fully 60,000, and the probabilities are that the real number is somewhere between the two estimates. There is no way of tracing the large number of Japanese who gain entrance into California by way of Seattle, Victoria and some of the Mexican coast cities.

Statistics gathered by the United States commissioner of immigration in San Francisco would indicate that Japanese immigration is on the increase, especially by way of Honolulu rather than from the orient direct. For the year beginning Oct. 1, 1905, and ending Sept. 30, 1906, the number of Japanese arrivals from Honolulu was 5,230; the next year it was 6,345, and last year it was 8,220. On the other hand, direct immigration from Japan appears to be decreasing. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, there were 2,655 male immigrants and 227 females; the succeeding year the number dropped to 1,800 males and 222 females; a year later it was 1,196 males and 215 females, and last year there were only 533 males and 198 females.

### THE BURNING PROBLEM.

However, by far the most burning question in connection with the Japanese problem at the present time is that of the oriental school children. There are distinctly two sides to the



Liberty Photo.

### A SWARMING JAPANESE CENTER.

Picture Taken From Trinity Church, The Most Fashionable Church in San Francisco, Region Now Overwhelmed With the Little Brown Men.

matter, but in support of the stand the San Francisco board of education has taken, President A. Altman says: "It does not seem to be generally

understood from the present discussion of the Japanese question, that the board of education of San Francisco has not excluded the Japanese from the

public schools. In fact, it will be found upon investigation that exactly the same facilities are provided for children of Mongolian descent as

are provided for our own white children. "Since the subject has become one for international discussion it is well for the people at large to understand the absolute facts in the case. Section 1662 of the state school laws of California as enacted in the year 1905, provides that children of Mongolian or Korean descent must attend a separate school wherever such schools have been established in their state, and the school trustees, or directors or superintendents as the case may be, have no option in the matter.

### ORIENTAL SCHOOL OVERFLOW.

In San Francisco an oriental school was established on Clay street several years ago. Prior to the calamity of April last there were so many children of Mongolian and Korean descent in this city that they could not by any means be accommodated at the Oriental school. When that school was crowded to its utmost capacity, the overflow had to be provided for, and as a proof of the disposition of the board of education to be entirely fair in the matter, the Mongolian children who could not get into the regularly established oriental school, were permitted to enter the classes in the various parts of the city.

The disaster of April changed all this, and it at last became possible to enforce the law—Section 1662 of the state school laws. The law has been in force all of this time, and was put into effect as far as was then possible, but no law is operative which cannot possibly be enforced, and that was the situation up to April 18.

When the work of rehabilitation was undertaken, the oriental school was reopened, and by this time it was found that the number of pupils had vastly decreased. The law was adhered to rigidly, and at the same time the oriental school was located so as to be most convenient to the greatest number of Japanese pupils.

The Japanese children of San Francisco are given the same educational advantages as the white children. They are provided with the same skilled and competent teachers, the same equipment and paraphernalia, and the opportunities are equal in every respect.

"When the Japanese protested against sending their very smallest children to the oriental school, the board of annex to the oriental school, at some agreeable location, but the offer was spurned. The parents of white children in San Francisco have vigorously protested against permitting Japanese youths of perhaps 15 or 16 years, occupying seats in classes with little girls of 8 or 7 years. But this contention could not be changed with the children, and the balance of Chinese opened to the Japanese. The Japanese children come here schooled in the primary lessons, and they naturally have an advantage over their own countrymen. They usually win class prizes because of this great advantage.

"Japan, to my mind, has no cause for complaint in as much as there is today in San Francisco a well equipped school for the education of all the Japanese children in this city and county. The mere fact that a separate school has been set aside for the Japanese children, and a certain name and location fixed upon for the school does not, in warrant the sweeping assertion that our public schools are being burdened by the state legislature and the people to decide, and so long as the law is upon the statute books and is susceptible to enforcement, it will be enforced to the letter."

This article presents the local side of the controversy, to a large extent. The arguments on the other side are more familiar in other sections and are more doubt weighty, though beyond a question the people of San Francisco in California have some cause for complaint. Yet the sentiment here is conservative in the main and not demagogic. Incidents, such as the stoning of Prof. Omori by street urchins, which have been sensational reported in certain quarters, have no real bearing on the case.

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- 114—Annie Laurie.
- 6078—Where Is My Boy Tonight?
- 2143—Hiawatha (band).
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