

CANADA AND THE ORIENT.

Some Notes of an International Problem which has reached an Acute Stage.

REFLECTIONS ON THE SITUATION.

By Professor Goldwin Smith.

The Monetary Times had the pleasure of an interview yesterday on the Oriental question with Professor Goldwin Smith, who, in spite of his advanced years, still retains a remarkable grasp of the world's doings and present day developments. As to the suggestion that the Dominion Government should decide the Oriental labor problem without too serious regard for the Anglo-Japanese treaty, Professor Smith thought that such a course would be opposed to all diplomatic precedents.

"The best solution for the present difficulties," he continued, "is for the Japanese to forego, for the time being, its privilege of emigration to Canada." When reminded that this would settle the problem only a short period, he added that this was the first necessary step, as a crisis had been reached.

"If I were a diplomat," he proceeded, "that would be my course. As to the future, I cannot see one inch ahead, so far as the solution of this intricate problem is concerned."

Professor Smith thought that the Vancouver riots were not caused by the interference of United States labor unions. "British Columbia has its problem without any relations with the other side of the boarder."

He thought the employer's case should be heard. Nothing but the cry of, and for, the working man has arisen, he said. Households were without domestic help, railroad companies without construction labor, and agricultural lands without men to till, and sow, and reap.

He did not think that the Japanese, in spite of their remarkable progress, would ever become sufficiently "Westernized" as to mingle freely with the white races.

"Before very many years," he concluded, "there will be a great tussle between the white and Oriental races for supremacy on the Pacific coast of America."

A NEIGHBOR'S VIEW.

The United States are naturally interested in the recent trend of events in Canada's Pacific Coast country. For some thirty years the people over the border have been painfully familiar with anti-Asiatic incidents. The New York Journal of Commerce, in the course of a long article on the subject, says: "The anti-Japanese agitation on the Pacific Coast is but a few years old, but in all its phases it bears a striking resemblance to the anti-Chinese crusade of a generation ago."

It was preceded by lurid articles in the yellow press of San Francisco under such headings as these: "Crime and Poverty Go Hand in Hand With Asiatic Labor," "Japs Throttle Progress in the Rich Fruit Section," "Brown Asiatics Steal Brains of Whites." The employers of Asiatic labor were arraigned as public enemies and the boycott of Japanese places of business was advocated and begun.

The doctrine was proclaimed that it would be better to allow fruit to rot in the orchards and grain to remain unharvested in the fields than to employ Asiatic labor. They followed the organization of the Japanese and Korean Exclusion League; the attempt to deny Japanese children unrestricted admission to the public schools, and the somewhat

humiliating course of negotiations at Washington to ascertain how far the local authorities of San Francisco were willing to go in permitting the United States to enforce the provisions of a treaty with a friendly power.

Now that the anti-Asiatic outbreak of San Francisco has found its counterpart in Vancouver, some curiosity is said to be expressed in Washington as to how Japan will take the feeling manifested against her subjects by those of her closest ally.

Great Britain certainly cannot afford to maintain an alliance with Japan which presupposes the recognition of that power as in every way equal to any of the great powers of Europe, and at the same time permit Japanese subjects to be discriminated against in any of her possessions. The fact that the home Government is compelled to allow a certain latitude to the self-governing colonies in the conduct of their internal affairs is neither more nor less embarrassing when dealing with the plain provisions of a foreign treaty than a similar necessity of respecting the exercise, within certain definite limits, of the police power of an individual State.

There is every reason, therefore, why the treatment of the whole question of Asiatic immigration should be one calculated to enlist the sympathetic co-operation of the two powers of the world whom it most nearly affects."

ORIENTAL LABOR.

Some Comments Concerning the British Columbia Problem and the Vancouver Riots.

The following comments, relating to recent developments in British Columbia are culled from the Canadian, British and foreign press:—

This unfortunate outbreak puts us on our trial, and makes it incumbent on us to prove our worthiness.—Toronto Globe.

Canada is a white man's country, and every province in it must be kept a white man's province.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

The workingmen of British Columbia are perfectly in the right in demanding that their wages shall not be hammered down by Asiatic competition to anything like the Asiatic level.—Montreal Star.

We must be free to force a denunciation in so far as Canada is concerned, of treaties that involve the very existence of ourselves as a pure white race. When we have done this we have begun to deal with the problem.—Toronto World.

The trouble in Vancouver, which appears to be over, was confined to one city. Japan can safely leave her interests in the hands of Premier Laurier, who has always been friendly. There is no reason why the people should feel uneasy over the outcome.—Tokio Hochi.

This shameful riot upon British soil was gotten up by officials of American labor organizations for the purpose of conveying to M. Ishii, the distinguished member of the Commercial Department of the Japanese Foreign Office, who is now at Vancouver, the feelings of the labor element of the Pacific coast.—London Times.

SUGGESTIVE, REFLECTIVE AND PREDICTIVE.

The Monetary Times has obtained the following special messages regarding the British Columbia situation.

Professor Goldwin Smith's suggestion deserves more than passing thought.

The Hon. T. Nosse hesitated to express any opinion to The Monetary Times. But his utterances have and will always command the respect of Canadian citizens.

Professor Goldwin Smith:—This, I think, is the best solution of the immediate difficulties. The Japanese Government should consent to waive their privilege of emigration to Canada until the other Governments concerned have considered the subject.

Hon. T. Nosse, Japanese Consul General for Canada:—You have got a great deal to say for the sake of

your nation and your commerce. This question of alien labor must be fully enquired into. It is not a question to be readily handled, especially the one concerning the Japanese, as there is a treaty between Canada and Japan, by which Canada binds herself to allow the Japanese freely into the Dominion. The treaty was ratified in July of last year, and passed both Houses of Parliament in January last, almost unanimously.

Mr. R. C. Macpherson, M.P.—The Japanese, if not checked, either by treaty or otherwise, will, inside of two years, number in our population 25,000 to 30,000 able-bodied males. To offset that number we will have less than 80,000 males, that is one man in every four would be a Japanese. To-day, we have nearly 20,000 Chinese, 8,000 Japanese, and 2,000 Hindoos.