



TOWARD FRIENDSHIP WITH JAPAN

Early Immigration from Japan and Immigration from Europe had equal status under our laws.

After 1894 special treaties between Japan and the United States provided for mutual regulation of immigration.

In 1907 the "Gentleman's Agreement" effectively controlled the influx of Japanese laborers into the United States.

In 1924 the Exclusion Clause of the Immigration Act suddenly abrogated the Gentleman's Agreement and changed the whole situation by denying admission to aliens, including all Japanese, classed as ineligible to citizenship. By this law only certain "non-quota" immigrants of these nationalities, such as government officials and students, are now admitted to this country for limited periods.

If Japan were accorded the same treatment as the nations of Europe she would be permitted to send each year to the United States not more than 150 immigrants.

Can we wonder that when Japan suddenly found her citizens shut out much of the spirit of goodwill which had existed toward the United States was destroyed or that the effort of those years in which she had scrupulously lived up to her pledged word to check all undesired immigration seemed to her lost?

A Plan for Immediate Action

In order to aid in re-establishing a friendship essential to the happiness and prosperity of both nations alike, the American Friends Service Committee proposes to solicit funds and the cooperation of schools and colleges so that Japanese students can be invited to study in America. By its efforts it is hoped that 150 of these students may begin the school year in September, 1926. Their coming will not only offer to them an opportunity for a broader education, but an even more valuable result will be the bringing of these young Japanese and American men and women into personal relationship with one another. Will not the contacts made in this way lead to better mutual understanding and friendship?

The carrying out of this plan will give expression to the goodwill of millions of Americans who are opposed to the policy of racial exclusion now pursued by our government. It also offers an opportunity to all who wish to aid in enabling the youth of today to prepare for their great task of achieving international cooperation.

The immediate need for such action on our part is keenly felt when one reads the comments of well-known Japanese who have spoken frankly of the present situation. Viscount Kaneko, a graduate of Harvard and member of the Privy Council in Japan, says, "I feel more pained than you can ever know over the action of your Congress. We can bear an attack by an enemy, but it is hard to endure when betrayed by one whom we have always thought of as our sincere friend."

The opinion of Christians in Japan is well expressed by the National Secretary of the Japanese Young Women's Christian Association, Miss Kawai. She says, "What appears to me most serious is that this issue jeopardizes the very principles of daily Christian living. This universe is founded on love. Love is the keynote of human brotherhood. This is the cry of the missionaries of Japan. Yet it seems that now a strong nation like America, consciously or unconsciously, would crush Japan in her hour of weakness, not with physical force, but with her material prosperity and her pride of race."

And Dr. Inazo Nitobe, one of the two Under-secretaries of the Secretariat of the League of Nations, said last summer, "When I went back to Japan I found the older men almost heart-broken. I have been a Christian for 50 years and after preaching brotherhood for all these years to have our whole nation branded as inferior * * * * *. The earthquake was terrible, but the spiritual devastation caused in Japan by the 'Immigration Act' was far worse."

In justification of our action we Americans put forward two main arguments:

First, we say: "This is a white man's country." Yet are we not ourselves late comers on this continent and do

we not today freely grant naturalization to others than members of the white race?

Second, we say: "We disapprove of a low standard of living for the 'working class'." Yet by this we mean apparently only the standard of living of the American working class. We do not scruple to reap the benefit of the products of cheap labor by importing low-price Japanese goods, taking the difference in price, on the American market, through the imposition on them of a high tariff!

Confused even by such frail arguments as these, are we not allowing ourselves to drift blindly on into an uncertain future?

Each one of us bears a share in the national responsibility for this deplorable situation and its far-reaching consequences and we believe that there will be many who will welcome an opportunity to join the American Friends Service Committee in this plan to give to Japan a concrete proof of continued friendship. Millions of American citizens are not represented by their country's official attitude, and are determined to secure fair dealing for the peoples of other races.

At the time of the great earthquake two years ago the immediate response of America to the need of the people of Japan left no doubt of our vital, though often unconscious, sense of common brotherhood. In the face of a terrible natural catastrophe this sense of brotherhood broke into spontaneous and generous expression.

The need today, though less dramatic, is far deeper. The youth of Japan and America are growing up in an atmosphere of mutual bitterness and suspicion created by our generation. The happiness of both nations is involved. These young people are the Japan and the United States of tomorrow. Not only the present, but through them, the future lies in our hands. Shall we not do our utmost to give them a better heritage?

SELECTION OF STUDENTS

The students will be selected by the Japanese Friends Service Committee, composed of Japanese Quakers, in Tokio, and they will in no way represent official or other special interests. All may apply who wish to study in America, and only individual aims and capacity will decide the choice.

COOPERATION

The Committee invites the cooperation of Colleges and Universities interested in taking an active part in laying a foundation for International Friendship and Peace, as well as in widening their own horizons through welcoming Japanese among their student body.

FINANCING

An appeal for contributions to a **Japanese Student Fund** is made to all who are interested in protesting against the un-American spirit of race discrimination and in cultivating friendship with Japan.

Address the American Friends Service Committee, 20 So. 12th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Rufus M. Jones, Wilbur K. Thomas, Charles F. Jenkins,
Chairman. Secretary. Treasurer.

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