

H. D. Pottenger, Secretary of the Torrance C. Japanese In California Grow Apace In Population and In Wealth

of C. Would Eliminate Japanese

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(From Roseville Register of April
1921)

Placer county has launched the first practical movement in California as far as known to its backers to eliminate the Japanese as a factor in the local horticultural industry of the county.

The movement, details of which now are being worked out, has as its aim the elimination of the Japanese leaseholder in the substitution thereof of the white farmer, with ex-service men being given first consideration.

A coincident feature of the plan is the enlargement of the orchard area of the country, which now boasts the largest deciduous fruit belt in California.

The plan also offers a peaceful solution locally of an economic problem features of which are now attracting National interest.

The Placer county plan developed following the publication in the April 2nd issue of the "Country Gentleman" of a story entitled "In the Mountain Fruit Country," by Richard Wells, which dealt with the labor situation and its relation to the fruit industry in Placer county.

White Labor Held Insufficient

In this article the writer stated that the reason for the Japanese getting such a tremendous foothold in this county was because of the inefficiency of white labor. The names of some of our prominent fruit shippers and growers, the Farm Advisor, County horticulturist and one of the leading bankers was mentioned, and as if in refutation of the statement made relative to inefficient white help, the men whose names appeared in the article were deluged with letters from every state in the Union and several foreign countries asking for a confirmation of the statements in the article above mentioned and stating that the writers were reliable hard working farmers and would be glad to come to California and show what white people could do in the fruit industry if given an opportunity.

It occurred to us that with this class of people available, which is

the very class that we have been endeavoring to induce to come to Placer county, that we could perhaps solve three or four problems at once and that if the rest of California, as well as the other Western states, would adopt the Placer county plan of procedure, it would mean the solution of the problems on a much larger scale.

The Plan

The plan is a simple one but requires the concerted effort of all the land owners in each vicinity and it is this:

To place a white man or woman always giving preference to the ex-service man, in every position now held by Japanese, or on every acre of land now occupied by Japanese. This could be done at the expiration of present leases or contracts and with the land leased to white folks there would be no room in California for Japanese.

A meeting was arranged and about fifty of the prominent fruit growers of Placer county were present, Ellis Franklin, president of the Placer County Chamber of Commerce, acting as chairman. He read extracts from the above mentioned article and exhibited the great stack of letters which had been received, reading a few of them to show the tenor of the inquiries, and then asked those present to state whether or not they would be willing to put white folks on their places as soon as their present leases or contracts with the Japanese expired. In every instance the response was in the affirmative and two of the big growers stated that they would make places, between them, for about seven families right away.

If this meeting is an indication of the general thought throughout the State, we are thoroughly convinced that this problem can be solved in this manner.

Unskilled Labor Not Considered

It was not the sense of the meeting to bring into California a flood of unskilled labor, as we felt there was enough of that kind here now, but to get those who would make good, substantial citizens.

The educational condition whereby the white children and Japanese children are occupying the same

school rooms and being taught the same subjects by white teachers, who are paid with our tax money, was the subject of some very bitter attacks, as was the fact that most of the money earned by the Japanese was not spent or invested in this country, but was sent to Japan, which conditions would be changed were white folks working and residing here.

A committee was appointed to make a thorough canvass of the county and ascertain just how many white folks could be used and when. This committee is now entirely engaged in getting this data.

Incidental to this meeting the fact was brought out that this would be a good time to enlarge the existing area devoted to the raising of fruit, and a committee was named to determine how much water is available for irrigation in that section and how much acreage could be brought under cultivation, with a view of securing the co-operation of the large fruit companies to develop them for white folks.

One plan suggested is to pay a man a wage while he is clearing the land and bringing it to full bearing and then lease or sell it to him. There are only about 22,000 acres under cultivation now but there is a possible development of some 300,000 acres.

Would Eliminate Japanese

It is the consensus of opinion in this county that with an ex-service man and his family of a good reliable white man and his family on each ten, twenty or forty acres of agricultural land in this and the other western states, there would be no fear of a Japanese invasion, peaceful or otherwise.

To sum up, the Placer county plan covers five points, all of national as well as social interest.

First: It provides work and a home for the ex-service people.

Second: It eliminates the Japanese.

Third: It enlarges the agricultural area.

Fourth: It promotes the "back-to-the-farm" movement.

And last but not least it affords our coast protection from invasion. The Placer County Chamber of Commerce says "It Can Be Done."

Sacramento, Cal.

"The number of Japanese now in California who are of voting age and were born either in the United States or in Hawaii, and, therefore, are American citizens, is 49,000."

This statement, probably the most important, certainly the most startling which has been made concerning Oriental colonization in California within the past ten years, comes from J. H. MacLafferty, an attorney of Oakland, who has just completed a long and detailed survey of American born Japanese, both in California and in the Hawaiian Islands, from which Mr. MacLafferty has just returned. Figures collected by the Japanese Exclusion League of San Francisco and this city, indicate that Mr. MacLafferty's figures are conservative, in fact it is alleged by American investigators, and admitted as probably true by the officials of the Japanese associations of this part of California, that there are nearly 51,000 Japanese who exercise the right to vote in California, through the accident of their having been born in the United States, instead of in Japan.

"There are more than 100,000 Japanese in California," said Mr. MacLafferty, and there were born to them 5304 children in 1921, or 334 to every 1000 Japanese married women. There is a bout one Japanese woman to every two Japanese men; that is to say if there are 120,000 of these Asiatics in this, there are 40,000 women and 80,000 men. Their birth rate compares startlingly with that of the white married women of California, which is a bout 125 to every 1000. There are now 49,000 voting Japanese in California, men and women. In 25 years there will be 200,000, if the present birth rate keeps up, and there is every reason to believe that it will increase. The most dangerous factor in the situation is that the Japanese are using Hawaii as an open door to American citizenship. Japanese children born in the Hawaiian Islands, of course are American citizens. As soon as they are recorded as such, numbers of these potential American electors are taken back to Japan and given the regular Japanese schooling and military training, and then returned to Hawaii to resume their citizenship, whence they come freely to the United States."

The Kankadon System

Mr. MacLafferty's estimate of an increasing birth rate is based on the steadily increasing number of Japanese women who are being brought to the United States, largely through Pacific coast ports, under the new Kankadon system, which has been put in use by the Japanese Government, to replace to some extent the picture bride system and to increase the number of women of marriageable age entering the United States. By this system any Japanese resident in any foreign country may return to Japan for 90 days without being subject to military service, provided he marries while in Japan, and takes his bride with him to his home in the foreign country. Last year approximately 1250 picture brides came to California. Present indication are that more than 2000 Japanese brides will come in this year under the Kankadon system.

Not only does the Japanese population of California show a great increase, however, but its holdings are the best irrigated lands in the state and are increasing by leaps and bounds. While the Japanese subject cannot hold land in his own name in California he can hold it in the names of his American born children, as their guardian, according to a recent decision of the California State Supreme Court. In addition to this several Japanese lubbed together and organized into a corporation, can buy and sell and lease and transfer land, so long as the transactions are conducted in the name of the corporation. Statistics compiled recently show that of approximately 4,000,000 acres of irrigated agricultural lands in California, the Japanese occupy about 700,000 acres, or approximately 20 per cent. The Japanese themselves number about 2 per cent of the population of the State; thus one-fiftieth of the population controls one-fifth of the best lands in the State.

Toyoji Chiba, managing editor of the Japanese Agricultural Association of California, said in a public utterance three years ago:

"Ten per cent of the total farm output of California was produced by Japanese in 1918. Of this percentage, those with which the Japanese have most to do are the truck crops, such as strawberries, asparagus, celery and tomatoes. From 80 to 90 per cent of the

entire output of these crops in the State is produced by Japanese. These crops all require a stooping position, great manual dexterity, and painstaking methods of work, which laborers of other races, with long legs unsuited for stooping, cannot endure."

Steady Growth of Production

This was the last public utterance of any official of any of the Japanese associations on the subject, and it is now virtually impossible to get a statement from any of the associations as to the number of Japanese in California or the amount of land they occupy. With the steady increase in the number of Japanese going into the truck-gardening industry, it is Exclusion League and by other persons closely interested in the problem, that at least 20 per cent of the total farm output of California comes from Japanese producers today. The Japanese invasion of California's agricultural lands is divided into five groups, the rice districts of Glenn, Colusa and Butte counties, the asparagus, berry, vegetable, fruit and vineyard sections of San Joaquin, Sacramento, Solano, Yolo, Sutter, and Placer counties; the fruit and Vineyard districts of Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties, the fruit and vegetable districts of Los Angeles and Orange counties, and the canteloupe and vegetable districts of Imperial county.

The report states that in some of the richest counties in the state, Orientals—largely Japanese—occupy a total acreage ranging from 50 to 75 per cent of the total irrigated area. This is notable in San Joaquin county where of a total of 130,000 irrigated acres, the Orientals occupy 95,829 acres; Colusa county, where the Orientals cultivate 51,105 of the 70,000 irrigated acres; Placer county with 19,000 acres under cultivation, and the Orientals controlling 16,321 acres, and Sacramento county in which is located the capital of the State, with the Orientals cultivating 64,860 of the 80,000 acres under irrigation. Because of the character of the crops favored by the Japanese, their agricultural activities so far are confined to 29 counties in the state of California, all of these being in the most highly developed sections. So far as can be learned, no Japanese ever has taken "raw" land and brought it under irrigation, developed wells on it, or done anything to make the soil productive.

How They Got the Land

All Japanese engaged in agriculture in California have gained the foothold by going as laborers into sections which have been reclaimed from the wild, put under irrigation and highly developed, and there working for the first year at wages from one-fifth to one-half those at which white laborers could work and support their families and themselves. Thus gradually but surely the Orientals drove out the white workers, and then no sooner did they get the field to themselves, than they raised wages, sometimes to a point higher than the scale formerly paid to white labor. This has happened, according to official reports, in every one of the 29 counties where Japanese were settled. As the white laborers left, the Japanese began to introduce their cropping contracts, preferring to work thus with the white owners of the land than on a wage basis. Eventually the Orientals came to control the lands, until the California Alien Land Law forbade the ownership of land within the State by persons ineligible to citizenship in the United States.

The State Supreme Court has upheld this law with the exception of the clause which forbade Japanese parents to buy and sell and lease lands as guardians of their American-born children, who are American citizens, and therefore entitled to own and buy and sell lands when they reach their majority. In a decision just issued on the day that this correspondence was written, the California State Supreme Court especially declared that the alien land law could not be circumvented by Americans holding land for Japanese owners. The alien land law was adopted by the voters at the last general election, and the decision giving adult Japanese the right to act as guardians for their minor children leaves a large loophole for deception.

Substitute for "Guardianship Clause"

As a result of this decision Gov. William D. Stephens has asked the co-operation of leading attorneys of the state to draft a substitute for the "guardianship clause" which will stand the test of the courts. It is proposed to submit the substitute paragraph in the Californian Alien Land Law to the next

state Legislature, in an effort to prevent the Japanese becoming the principal landowners in California. It is believed by the Governor and by these attorneys that a clause making an alien ineligible to act as guardian for his or her minor children, would meet with the approval of the state Supreme Court, the clause which was declared unconstitutional having applied only to Japanese and having been considered class legislation.

Some very interesting phases are presented by the situation with respect to the ownership, leasing or control and operation of land in California by the Japanese. In the light of the often-expressed desire of Japan to maintain cordial relations with this country, it is difficult for the American to understand the attitude of Japanese residents here and of the Japanese Government, in regard to this very vital matter. Aside from the strictly legal aspect of the situation, it is a source of wonder that the Japanese insist on owning and controlling land in California, in the face of an apparent state-wide opposition. Even though they are within their technically legal rights, why do they persist in seeking to gain a foothold where it must be obvious, even to them, that they are not wanted?

Money Goes Back to Japan

Last year the Japanese Agriculturalist of California sent back to Japan between \$60,000,000 and \$61,000,000 which they had taken from the soil of California. It went back through Japanese merchants to Japanese bankers and thence to Japanese banks and individuals on the other side of the Pacific. This sum figures out the tremendous average of nearly \$200,000 for every working day in the year, and not a cent of it remained in California though all of it was produced by California soil. In the decade from 1909 to 1919, the latter being the latest year in which the Japanese would give out figures known to be accurate, the acreage occupied by Japanese in California increased 412.9 per cent. In the same period, the value of the aggregate crops produced by Japanese in California increased from \$6,235,856 in 1909 to \$67,147,730 in 1919, or 976.8 per cent gain.

Reports to the Japanese Exclusion League and to the state government from responsible sources in the Hawaiian Islands indicate the tremendous growth of a Japanese labor organization, known as the "United Workers of Hawaii." The association is reported to number 57,000 members, and according to its constitution, seeks to "unite in one body all the wage earners of Hawaii, without reference to race, sex, creed, craft or color." The new organization recognizes the American Federation of Labor, but acknowledges no authority of that federation over it, and admits of no restraint other than its own desires on its operations within Hawaii. It is the outgrowth of the Central Labor Council of Honolulu, which was a radical organization, controlled by Japanese. This labor council originated and directed the sugar plantation strikes of 1919-20, which finally came to an end, after a great deal of violence, sabotage and damage, without any of the original demands of the council or the strikers being granted. Americans in Hawaii seem to be generally alarmed over the growth of this radical organization, which they consider a powerful branch of the Industrial Workers of the World, introduced for the first time into the South Seas.

While the Japanese have never perfected a large labor organization in California, they are, however well organized throughout the state, in 55 associations, each a branch, or "local" of the Japanese Agricultural association, which again, is under the control and official direction of the Japanese Consul-General in San Francisco. Thus, these associations are in direct connection with the Government at Tokyo, and form, literally and truthfully, branches of the Japanese Empire within the United States. This is one of the phases of the situation to which the people of California most strongly object. With the shadows of 49,000 to 50,000 Japanese voters creeping down upon them, Californians are seeking through their representatives in Congress a law which shall make any immigrant to the United States, whose parents were or are ineligible to American citizenship, likewise ineligible to citizenship. Such a law, they believe, not only will help to stem the tide of immigration, but will prevent the control of the ballot in California from passing into the hands of Asiatics in the very near future.

They Overlooked the Diamonds

There is a modern flippancy to the effect that "What you don't know won't hurt you." It is also a fallacy. For instance:

The farmers of Kimberley were a disgusted, disheartened lot. They said the soil was too rocky to earn them a living. Some of them left. Others died in poverty.

And all the time their children were playing with diamonds.

But the farmers didn't know. They thought the priceless gems were pebbles.

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Don't seek opportunity in some distant place and overlook the diamonds that are daily within your grasp Know!

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