

JAPANESE IN SCHOOLS.

Reasons Why They Are Objectionable to Our People.

THE most prominent objection to the presence of Japanese in our public schools is their habit of sending young men to the primary grades, where they sit side by side with very young children, because in those grades only are the beginnings of English taught. That creates situations which often become painfully embarrassing. They are, in fact, unendurable.

There is also the objection to taking the time of the teachers to teach the English language to pupils, old or young, who do not understand it. It is a reasonable requirement that all pupils entering the schools shall be familiar with the language in which instruction is conducted. We deny either the legal or moral obligation to teach any foreigner to read or speak the English language. And if we choose to do that for one nationality, as a matter of grace, and not to do the same for another nationality, that is our privilege.

We do not know that the Japanese children are personally objectionable in grades composed of pupils of their own age. We do not know whether they are or not. There is, however, a deep and settled conviction among our people that the only hope of maintaining peace between Japan and the United States is to keep the two races apart. Whatever the status of the Japanese children while still young and uncontaminated, as they grow older they acquire the distinctive character, habits and moral standards of their race, which are abhorrent to our people. We object to them in the familiar intercourse of common school life as we would object to any other moral poison.

While we deny any moral or legal obligation to give, at public expense, any education whatever to any alien, and consequently, if we choose, to give, as a matter of grace, to one, and deny it to another, we have, also as a matter of grace, provided separate schools for the Japanese. In all the Southern States separate schools are provided for white and colored children. To say that we may exclude our own colored citizens from the schools attended by white children, but shall not exclude the children of aliens from such schools, is not only absurd, but monstrous.

We deny that the Federal Government has any control whatever over the schools of this State, or any authority whatever to officially deal with them. The tenth amendment to the Constitution declares that "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states, respectively, or to the people." If the control of public education is not one of the powers by that clause expressly withheld from the Federal jurisdiction, then there is no such power thus withheld, and there is nothing in which the jurisdiction of Congress is not supreme. Secretary Metcalf, now here, is not, as a United States official, entitled to any information whatever in regard to our schools. What is given is given as a matter of courtesy.

Section 2 of article VI of the Constitution of the United States says: "This Constitution, and the laws of the United States made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land." Obviously no treaty can be made by the United States except under its "authority." Any treaty made in excess of that authority is void in that particular. If the United States has no "authority" over the schools of California it cannot be clothed with such authority by any contract of its own with a foreign nation. To suppose otherwise would be to suppose that the President and Senate alone could, under guise of a treaty with a foreign nation, usurp every power now held by any state government, and even abolish those governments. If the power of the President and Senate to enact by treaty that which Congress and the President cannot enact by law exists, it has no limit. It does not exist. Therefore, whatever engagements the Federal Government may have made with Japan with respect to our schools—if it has made any—are utterly void.

You will escape a good deal of annoyance by going to the polls early. If you put off the duty the chances are that you will have to stand in line.

It will require a great deal of explaining to make San Franciscans believe that the Supervisors are not trying to put up a water job on them.

Go to the polls before you go to your work. Don't put off voting until the afternoon.