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# HIGHER STANDARD OF IMMIGRANTS

G. W. WHITMAN, Secretary  
PEOPLES LEAGUE OF JUSTICE

Washington, D. C.

Los Angeles, Calif.

## EXCLUDE NON-AMERICAN ELEMENTS

One imperfection in the creed of Americans is the inability to accept in their own country the predominance of non-American elements. "That all immigration from any country be properly restricted into the United States." Let all immigrants from Europe and Asia be subjected to a test. Asiatics who are already in this country should be eligible to citizenship just the same as Europeans, provided they stand the test. Educational requirements should be the same in both cases. They should be able to speak English, also to read and write it. It is desirable that they be well grounded in American history and civics, also have some familiarity with the lives and writings of Washington and Lincoln. The alien who wishes to participate in political affairs in the United States should be a man of good moral character.

## TRUE-AMERICAN SPIRIT FOR NEWCOMERS

There are diverse elements in America, ethnically speaking, but the idea of the equality of men, as set forth in the Declaration of Independence, is manifestly the goal for all newcomers, whether they hail from Europe or the Far East.

The principle of self-rule, the government based upon "the consent of the governed," is the cardinal doctrine of American political philosophy. Any alien settling in this country should fall in with American practices and contribute to the success of democratic rule. They

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should realize that they are units, or may become such, in advancing civilization in America, if they "love this land with love far-brought." This is the right spirit, and aliens coming to the United States should feel it a privilege to live in this country.

In depriving Japanese residents of the right to own or lease land, the Californians violate the principle of the equality of men. This is discrimination that they do not show some other aliens. It is undoubtedly of great annoyance to national politics. Americanization results more satisfactorily when Orientals are given the same rights and privileges in their homes and property and in the pursuits of happiness as Europeans now enjoy, than otherwise.

### ARE JAPANESE ASSIMILABLE?

In one of his campaign speeches Senator Harding urged upon aliens the importance of adopting "American standards, economic and otherwise." It is generally believed that "Europeans of whatever race, can ultimately be assimilated to the same American type as themselves," but Asiatics are in a different category. This is a hasty judgment. They have much in common, and will have more in common in the future. Says Enos Mills: "Nature is universal \* \* \* Kinship is the spirit of nature." The Japanese who have settled down in a town or a neighborhood in the United States become attached to the place, they become acclimated, they adopt American standards of living. They invest their savings in enterprises that will make for the prosperity of their home town. Their attachment for the commonwealth is strengthened not only by their economic relations to it, but also through the children born to them in their new home. Not a few of them who have lived long in this country are bound to the soil by an additional link, the grave of a child or

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some aged relative who died here, and they themselves expect to be buried in this land. These aliens have to a large extent Americanized themselves; they have become imbued with the American ideal. Those who have their homes in California yield loving homage to this "Golden State." As time passes, the American-born children become indifferent to the land in which their parents were born. These native sons and daughters love America. They are completely assimilated.

## **JAPANESE POPULATION IN CALIFORNIA AND THEIR FARM PRODUCTS**

True, the Japanese question is a national and international issue, and yet it is of tremendous interest to only a small number of Americans, perhaps four or five millions, all told. The "peaceful penetration" of the Golden State by the Japanese has been greatly magnified. Of California's total population, about 2 per cent are Japanese. Total Japanese births during the years from 1910 to 1919 is much less than American births of a single year of 1919. The Japanese own or lease 1.6 per cent of farm land. Upon this 1.6 per cent they produce 13 per cent of California's total food output, that is estimated at about \$67,000,000.

### **JAPANESE AS FOOD PRODUCERS**

Is not the cultivation of agricultural land to be encouraged? Among Japanese here the trend toward rural regions is pronounced, but among Americans there is a trend toward towns and cities. According to the census of 1920, more than half of the people in the United States live in urban territory. Agriculture is "the one industry most indispensable to our existence," is the opinion of Senator Arthur Capper. A policy that will insure justice to the Japanese farms will make for the solution of

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the land problem, which involves the increased production of foodstuffs necessary to feed the growing urban population. It is desirable to instill the love of agriculture. To be farmers working their own land and making it yield abundantly—this is the mission of the immigrants in America. If they be excluded, their loss will be felt in a decreased output of the products of the soil. This would not be advantageous to the United States. Look the facts in the face. Nothing is to be gained by ignoring them.

### NATION'S SENSE OF JUSTICE .

Racial prejudice should not blind Americans to the fact that the Japanese are friends of progress. The Japanese population in the United States is a power for good. The hundred thousand or more of the men and women who hail from Japan and their children born in this country have added to the material wealth and prosperity of the Republic, and they have made, a contribution to the spiritual life of America.

Racial feeling should not warp a nation's sense of justice. The conviction is growing that justice impartially administered to all classes is the goal. The Japanese question in California will remain a smouldering issue until this shall have been attained.

A hasty, ill-considered act of a janitor or a policeman, dressed in a little brief authority, may precipitate an international disturbance. Arbitrary action on the part of Californians, regardless of the principles of righteousness and justice, is to be deplored. They should keep in mind "the greatest good of the greatest number." Good Americans should not be blinded by immediate results, but should be guided by the dictates of far-sighted statesmanship.

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