

Historia Immigrantis

A Reply to Hon. JOHN S. CHAMBERS

By COLONEL JOHN P. IRISH



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HON. JNO. S. CHAMBERS,

State Controller.

Dear Mr. Chambers:

Your article, published in the "Examiner" of January 25th, on the Japanese question, makes certain specific statements, statistical and otherwise, on which you base arguments and conclusions intended to aid the present anti-Japanese pogrom in this state.

You first give the prophetic figures showing that at what you call the present rate of increase, even with half of it amputated, our Japanese population in the year 2063 will be 100,000,000. This forecast you say is carefully figured out by Mr. V. S. McClatchy of the Sacramento "Bee." Now I like all of the McClatchys. I knew their father well, and he was an estimable citizen, and the two succeeding generations are worthy of him. I do not wish to stir the state to mutiny and rage against that family. But applying the same mathematics used by Mr. V. S. McClatchy against the Japanese, I find that taking the property brought here by the original McClatchy, and figuring on the percentage of its increase in his hands and those of his family, that by the year 2063 the McClatchys will own all of California, banks, buildings, bag, baggage and land! This calls for immediate action. The progenitor of this family came here from the north of Ireland, an alien immigrant, and planted a maw so to speak and a gullet down which this state is to be swallowed for digestion.

Now for your specific statements.

First: You say that the Japanese population of this state "runs" from 100,000 to 150,000. Quite a run is it not?

The report of the Commissioner General of Immigration for 1919, shows the total immigration of Japanese to this country, from the beginning, to be 229,030. The departures for only a part of that period are 80,448, leaving a balance of 148,582. From this should be subtracted the Japanese deaths, for the menace and malignity of that race have not yet led them to refuse to die, and out of the total remainder you have to find your 100,000 to 150,000 Japanese in California alone.

With that charming inattention to useful details which is an attribute of the Commissioner General, he omits to specify whether his total of 229,030 Japanese immigrants includes those to Hawaii. If it do you must exert yourself to find that 100,000 to 150,000 in California alone, since the figures to which you run already outrun the U. S. official count by 1,418!

The Board of Health reports from 1908 to 1917, 5,860 Japanese deaths in this state, which will compel further exertion on your part. For official count of the number of Japanese in California we must wait for the census. The figures of the Japanese Association are, to September, 1918, 68,982.

Going again to the official figures the Japanese arrivals in the last twelve years were 89,376 and the departures were 73,308, leaving a balance of only 16,308, out of which you conjure 50,000 increase in our Japanese population in that time, which you say is "in keeping with national figures."

Secondly: You are alarmed by the fecundity of the picture brides, and say that "during the last five years 4,000 of these brides have come in annually."

The records of the U. S. immigration office show that from 1912 to 1919, both years inclusive, a total of 5,070 picture brides came here, for the whole period of eight years; but you say that in five years of that period 20,000 came in!

You say the Japanese birth rate is 62 per 1,000. Now please multiply the 150,000 Japanese you say are in this state by 62, and you are mathematical accoucheur to just 9,300 Japanese babies here every year. As you are so deeply interested in this delicate subject, let us take an excursion into the official statistics of the Board of Health. You say the Japanese births in Los Angeles County are one-third as many as the white births. The Board of Health reports for 1917, in that county, 11,249 white and 1,265 Japanese births, or lacking 2,484 of your one-third. In the same year in the eight counties of Southern California including Los Angeles, there were 19,182 white and 1,642 Japanese births, by the Board of Health records. Now in my arithmetic one-third of 19,182 is 6,394, but you say that it is 1,642!

Remember it was getting muddled in his arithmetic that caused the undoing of Ananias.

You say that "the picture bride is taught before she leaves Japan

that her greatest duty to the Mikado is to bear children." How do you know that? Remember you state it as a fact. Who told you so? Your mature age lines you up with Caesar's wife, else you might be suspected of seeking very confidential and contraband information from some of these Japanese maids.

I need not go to the local records to refute what is left of your midwife fabricated statistics, as the whole body of your false statement is covered by the official records of the State Board of Health for the year 1919, furnished to me under official seal of Mr. L. E. Ross, Registrar of that Board, as follows:

White births in 1919 50,898
Japanese births in 1919 4,378

As your statement requires 9,300 Japanese births for 1919, what have you done with the 4,922 Japanese babies that you did not have born?

Please comfort Mr. V. S. McClatchy with the fact that if the birth rate of 1919 is sustained for the next ten years there will be 508,980 white children born in the state to 43,780 Japanese, and in 100 years, the white births will have been 5,089,800 and the Japanese only 437,800. As that brings him within 43 years of his fatal date of 2063 A. D. when he says we will have 100,000,000 of Japanese here descended from those now domiciled in the state, where will he find the 99,562,200 needed to make up his 100,000,000? He ought to be ashamed of his Ouija board arithmetic.

The invective and epithet you employ are evidence of a spirit of hatred. You repeat the weather-beaten expression against admitting Orientals because we cannot assimilate them. What do you mean by that? The Jews are a more pronounced Oriental race than the Japanese, for they have no Aryan blood while the Japanese have. We have assimilated the Jews, industrially, financially and socially, and blood assimilation is not infrequent, though it is canonized against by their religion.

The Japanese, with a background of less than a century, have assimilated western civilization, and have improved upon western art and science. A Japanese bacteriologist discovered the source of the bubonic plague; another, a colleague of Flexner, has discovered the remedy for devastating eruptive fevers. Japanese ladies are stars on the occidental lyric stage and Japanese actors charm in sock and buskin on occidental boards. When the people of San Francisco were shaken out of bed by earthquake and that city was leveled by

fire, a quarter of a million in gold was sent by Japan to feed and shelter them.

While there may be a governorship in abusing them, it will carry the taint that stains all honors won by lying.

We should be more mindful of the truth. One of your colleagues in this anti-Japanese pogrom has published that Japanese have leased 10,000,000 acres in the Sutter basin. People read that, believe it and go forth to persecute the Japanese, not knowing that there are only 60,000 acres in the whole Sutter basin.

The Japanese have redeemed more bad land here than they have acquired of good land. They subscribed \$2,648,800 to our war loans and tens of thousands to the Red Cross, during the war.

You want to outlaw them, to deny to their children their birth-right. You say you will not meet the Japanese socially. It is unthinkable that they should want to meet you.

There are no I. W. Ws., no anarchists, no bomb throwers, no plotters to destroy our government amongst the Japanese. There are no Japanese in our almshouses, and infrequently any in our jails. Their standard of living is far higher than that of Southern European immigrants. They are paid and earn the highest wages paid for farm labor, and do not underbid white labor, but excel it in skill and efficiency. It is not true that white people retreat from a region settled by Japanese. The Japanese conquered the refractory soil of Livingston, after a white colony had starved out and retreated. But when the Japanese pioneers showed how to make the soil fertile, white people flocked there and now outnumber the Japanese 8 to 1.

Now what is left of the foundation of your argument when the light of truth is turned upon it?

As a taxpayer I have been interested in your publication of the taxation and revenues of this state, but I regret to say that your gross inaccuracies, in your article promoting the Japanese pogrom, weaken my confidence in your revenue statistics.

Your proposed legislative attack upon the Japanese violates our treaty with their country and the constitution of ours.

The pogrom against them is urged by the Hearst and Scripps papers, and the United States secret service may be able to reveal it as a German and Bolshevik propaganda.

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