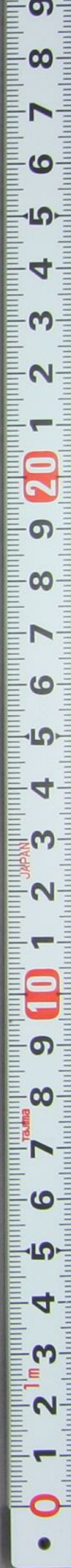
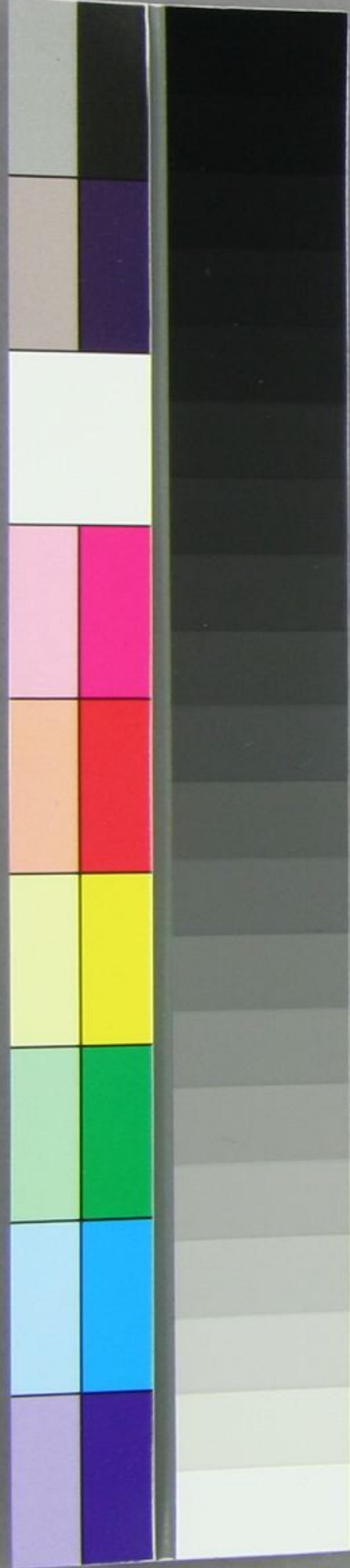


TORAJIRO SATOW,
MERCHANT.

Thursday Island, 十月八日 1891

拜啓日本人問題ニ付形勢一變致セシ事ニ前便
 ニテ申上置候事、首符、フリス、バシヤ、
 ガ正義ヲ唱ヘテ日本人ノ所有格、
 先宜ク加ントスル、ク、
 皆載スル、心、不、社、
 何、
 及、
 所、
 モ、
 安、
 小、
 二、
 業、



相除致シドニ本店、同會社社長ジエリス
 大ニ氏、問合セ致シ候事同氏ヨリブルバシンの
 支店長、首存ニシテ全体ノ形勢ヲ探知
 シ直接ニ当地ニ暗号電信ヲ以テ報知スベシ
 トイフヤ命令致セブルバシ支店長下ニ氏、
 其命ヲ後ヒ各油ノ同會社ノ意向ヲ探り
 現政府ノ方針ヲ探知シ同會社副社長ニシテ
 クイマドニシテ同會社ノデレクターニ至ルニ
 現内閣工部大臣ヒリスフニ依リ確カメ上告
 十月四日木曜島採貝事業ニ付テ日本人ノ所有權
 營業權或ハ借リ船トモ現況ヲ維持ス外何
 等ノ異状ヲ加ル事ナク事ヲ報知致シ
 来リ申候又当地ニテ前便申上候クリマー氏ノラリ
 一派政變ノ書曰ハバインド於テククリマー氏ノ所有ニ
 関リ候エ故斯迄共掲載ヲ拒絶致シ候處

十月三十日
トレスコ
ハイロフト

BER 30, 1897.

...pares wonderfully with the nonsuccess of the pioneers of compulsory education.

Mr. Cremer gives Mr. Clark advice. I give Mr. Cremer advice. "actions don't suit your high ideas," gangawo to your ain folk abandon your trip to South Africa get.

It has been conclusively proved that small owners can make a profit out of their boats. Does not Captain Pearson claim that his boats get more shell than any others--and is he, a shrewd man of business, working them year after year at a loss?

Do not our white friends on Prince of Wales Island support themselves in comfort by engaging in the industry? Are not Messrs. Parke and Martin and likewise Captain Beebrouth and Mr. G. Cockburn making a fair thing with their respective boats? Why then do away with coloured labour to suit a Bird of Passage! I say no, and nearly twenty years experience in North Queensland has in no way caused me to think otherwise, than that in many of our industries coloured labour is imperative.

The whole question as to whether the Jap shall in future be licensed has long since past from our local decision; it is now a national affair and I feel confident that the Royal Commission will recommend that such shall be deemed illegal; and in conclusion I ask all fair thinkers this, if it is just to exclude for a further term Chinamen from mining on Horn Island, a place that has only been the cemetery of a vast amount of Thursday Island money, is it not just and right to ourselves and children that another equally obnoxious alien race should be excluded from monopolising an industry on which the very existence of this Island depends? In all these matters let our motto be "Pro Patria." Mr. Cremer mentions *our* extra Jubilee medals. Mr. Cremer's name did not appear on the first list of subscribers, and at time of writing it has not appeared on the second list, so where does the *our* come in? No doubt at Mr. Clark's expense.

I am, sir, &c.,
D. A. MENZIES.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,— Kindly grant me space to reply to Mr. Zarcal's letter in your last issue. Mr. Zarcal called on me in Brisbane with a parcel of pearls for which he asked £3000. I went carefully through them and offered £200. He said he considered it a fair offer but as the pearls cost him £3000, he must try for a better price. As we had been losing money buying pearls I suggested the formation of a combination of pearl buyers to give prices, leaving a margin of profit. This did not meet with his approval and the matter ended.

About a month afterwards a clerk from Messrs. Chambers Bruce and M'Nab called on me for my signature to Mr. Zarcal's naturalisation paper which already bore the signature of Mr. Love. The clerk explained that Mr. Zarcal was not in Brisbane and had asked his firm to apply to Mr. Love and myself for our signatures as we were the persons who knew him best. Thinking my signature was a matter of form and that Mr. Zarcal had complied with the law I gave it. After my arrival here I found there was a strong feeling against him getting naturalisation papers to which it appears he is not entitled and I was sorry I had helped him to get them. Since I

I bought £1600 worth of pearls from him and later on attempted to buy a second lot, but on account of the extremely high price he said he had paid for them I did not succeed. On this occasion I suggested the combination again to prevent losses and Mr. Zarcal refused, but offered to sell out to me. On no occasion whatever did Mr. Zarcal ask me to sign his naturalisation paper and his solicitors can testify to the truthfulness of my explanation.

At the present time there exists here a combination of pearl buyers who have agreed to give a certain price for shell. In this connection no one can say they are partners and the same would be the case if the pearl dealers had combined. I merely tried to renew a former arrangement that existed between Mr. Zarcal and other pearl dealers on the island with whom I am connected.



SHELLING COMMISSION.

FORECAST OF THE REPORT.

BRISBANE, November 12.

The Mining Commission have finished their report on the pearlshelling industry at Thursday Island.

The report recommends the appointment of Mr. F. L. Jardine, of Somerset, as general inspector of the Torres Straits Fisheries, the closing for a time of certain fishing beds, and the adoption of stringent regulations regarding Japanese in the industry.

The report is not yet published, but there is every reason to believe that the above are the chief recommendations.

Island goldfield, speak for themselves:—
From Mr. Gummow to Mr. J. Hamilton, M.L.A., Brisbane, dated 19th October:

"Kindly get Minister for Mines to extend restriction clauses with reference Chinamen applied Horn Island goldfield for a further period. If necessary, will get petition forwarded. Please reply early. Time expires 26th instant."

From Mr. J. Hamilton to Mr. George Gummow, dated 20th October:—

"Have interviewed Minister, who has promised to extend restriction for two years."

CORRESPONDENCE

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—The irrepressible Mr. James Clark once more proves the adage, "A little learning is a dangerous thing," and having rushed headlong in print with figures and statistics, finds that he is lost in a labyrinth without being able to extricate himself. Trying to do this he is not overscrupulous to make misstatements. His first sentence in reply is "Mr. Cremer goes into figures to prove that we do not pay our men as much money as the Island boatowners do." This is false. I said and proved clearly enough in plain English for any person possessed of ordinary intellect, that money disbursed by Clark and Co. for circulation on the Island, forms only a paltry part per boat compared with the local workers. For this I take only payments and advances made to men in the Shipping Office, and certainly do not include advances made in goods received from the slopchest, etc. Surely Mr. Clark does not insinuate that they also circulate on the Island. Mr. Clark according to his own figures paid in eight and a half months only a total of £6719 through the Shipping Office and says in his last letter that his men earned during the last six months 28077; that would be £11331 for eight and a half months, and the difference between the first and last mentioned sum is certainly one item in the amount less circulated on the Island for wages without going into anything else.

Again Mr. Clark said my figures are valueless as they own only sixty boats and schooners instead of seventy, and although he has the exact number of boats on his finger ends, which I did not possess at the time he shirks them. I beg to apologize to the intelligent reader, who no doubt has formed his opinion before now, for repeating figures, but as they are for the edification of Mr. Clark let us proceed and see who is most correct. I without the exact number of boats on my figures ends or Mr. Clark with them Messrs. Clark and Co. are at present registered in the Shipping Office for fifty-seven diving boats, one tender, the Admiral, and four schooners which at least can be estimated at the cost of two diving boats, the Admiral put down as one, makes a total of expenditure equal to sixty-six diving boats this divided in £6719 gives the result at £101 16s. In my previous letter I quoted them at a little less than £100 per boat but as Mr. Clark also credits the local boatowners with the average of 9 tons of shell per annum amounting to about 94 tons for the eight months and a half, and I quoted them only a 5 tons for the time we add the payment of 14 of diver, amounting to about £30 more also to the credit of the local boatowners and this makes the figures more glaring to the disadvantage of the floating stations. In the number of boats quoted are not included the Hercules hired by the Jap. Tanikawa, since March at £10 per month, or the F. L. J. purchased by the Japanese, Ozaki and Co. (Ozaki, Mori, and Okamoto), on the time payment system until 1st December, 1897, both from Clark and Co. That their shell is obtained without the loss of life has no significant value. Their men working only for wages are not likely to risk their existence, and no one can compel them to work in deep dangerous waters. I know several divers in their fleet, who would point blank refuse duty if such was demanded from them and certainly with justice on their side, also the difficulty of keeping good divers or replacing them with the keen local competition may be accountable for something.

Further, his sincere assertion that he never advocated manning his boats with whites is totally superfluous. The present writer, or anybody else who knows Mr. James Clark, never did and never would accuse him of such criminal intentions, and it was merely

suggested to him to be consistent in his effusions. That we have to compete in shelling against cheap coloured labour in other parts of the world is a claptrap statement. Our shelling grounds are no Queensland sugar plantations with a limit of production per acre that can be ascertained to a nicety, and sugar producing countries, in competition alongside of which Queensland is only a pigmy, and who regulate the markets that the Queensland sugar planter has to follow. The shelling industry of Thursday Island is the most important factor on its London market, and our Government demanding by Act of Parliament that none but white men shall be employed, would reduce the present fleets very soon to such dimensions that would give the shelling grounds now denuded the necessary rest and time to recuperate, and in a few years the land for such boat would be so much heavier than at present to bear the necessary extra expenditure for white labour, and 100 or 150 boats, or about half the present number could be kept working our extensive grounds permanently, with the result that between 600 to 900 white men could be employed with a certain percentage of families, and not the few only under Mr. Clark's system, while at present the number of boats worked with cheap coloured labour cleaning our shelling grounds make this impossible. Very few, if any, white men will buy boats now, with the present number of them in competition, and I see in the "North Queensland Herald," arrived by last mail, confirmed what I have always suspected; the ubiquitous gallant Mr. Clark, presumably knowing this, in a letter to the press is coming already to the rescue as usual, coolly informing the Government that his firm do not want any of these boats, but have enough confidence in the industry to buy the boats should they be left on the hands of the Government. "Again for his country's good." Mr. James Clark's commission to me to procure him 50 of my countrymen at £2 and rations, I presume he means the country of my birth and not that of my adoption. Had he been less ignorant of history, he would have never made that demand. Being a Prussian by birth, the first country in the world that adopted and enforced compulsory education, I may inform him that there are no 50 Prussians in existence as likely looking as myself that cannot read a letter with better understanding and write one with sounder logic than Mr. Clark, and as reading and writing are the preponderant factors in civilization, and civilized races proved themselves complete failures on floating stations, the experiment would be doomed beforehand.

Also, I have too much regard for the health of my countrymen's stomachs, who, although they are used to salt pork, I am afraid they would be in a very short time a lot of dyspeptic maniacs, caused by the over-abundant supply of Clark and Co.'s rations.

En passant, the meeting for the appointment of a deputation suggested in my last letter has not taken place, and the north-west fleet has not yet made their departure for fields and pastures new. I presume Mr. Clark has reconsidered, without the deputation, this calamity, and goes so far now and returns good for evil by offering the white men on the island £100 each. I may mention that one of our extra Jubilee medals, to the funds of which he made such a magnificent donation of £10 just before the present agitation, would certainly not be an adequate recompensation for Mr. Clark's services to his country, the least that can be done now, and humbly show him our appreciation is to hold him in reserve for the next Parliamentary election, as no other such rare avis and doughty champion for the welfare of Thursday Island can be found.

I am, sir, &c.
ROBERT CREMER.

Mr. H. Zared writes as bearing on Mr. Clark's consistency in the present Japanese discussion:—"Mr. James Clark on several occasions, made overtures to me to become my partner in my business under pretensions of friendship, and on one such occasion assisted me in procuring my naturalization papers in Brisbane acting as my witness for the purpose and although I refused his overtures, I would not believe that he was agitating against me and the other coloured boatowners until I read his letters in your paper, his pretensions of friendship were so emphatic."

It is reported that the town of Windsor, Nova Scotia, has been burned down, and 3000 families are rendered homeless.

The British forces have occupied several posts in the Lagos hinterland.



JAPANESE AND THE PEARL-SHELL FISHERY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—It is generally agreed that some stringent measures must be adopted against the Japanese, and in my opinion the Government should begin with those engaged in the pearlshell fishery. A few years ago quite a number of white divers and men owning one or two boats got a living for themselves and families out of the fishing, but owing principally to low prices and, perhaps, bad management, nearly all of them dropped out of it. At the present time good prices rule for shell, and at a low estimate £200 can easily be earned by one boat, and this sum would support a white family. Unfortunately we have only some six men of this class, but instead we have probably some eighty boats owned or hired by Japanese or coloured men, who make so much money working on their own account that all their countrymen employed by us are anxious to own or hire boats as soon as their engagements are finished.

We own about sixty boats (the best in the fishery), and it would be an easy matter for us to fall in with the wishes of the Japs and coloured men by renting our boats to them at £12 per month—£360 per annum; and by buying the product of these boats at £100 per ton we could clear another £3000 per annum with no risk to ourselves. So this system would pay us splendidly. It is my opinion, if we adopted this system, the pearlshell fishing of Torres Straits would pass into the Jap's hands, and Thursday Island would become more a Japanese settlement than it is at present. It would also become the centre for the distribution of Japanese women and men to all our Northern towns, there to supplant people of our own colour.

It is everywhere conceded that no foreign people can engage in any country's fishery, and we must not let the Japs or any coloured people own or hire boats on our coasts, and the sooner this is made illegal the better it will be for the present and future generations.

I would suggest that the Government, in dealing with this question, should do it thoroughly. The boats owned by these aliens must be bought from them by the Government at a fair valuation, and sold to whites, on time-payment if necessary, the same as has been done with land to the farmers on the Downs. Let me state here that my firm does not want any of these boats; we want to see the small man back again; but at the same time we have enough confidence in the industry to buy the boats should any be left on the hands of the Government. The hiring of boats too, must be made illegal; the boats must be owned by whites, worked at their risk, and for their benefit.

Japanese labour could be restricted the same as is done with Kanaka labour. Men could be indentured for stated periods, and returned at the expiration of their engagements. All this could be done without giving offence to Japan. We could make those things reciprocal. I am sure none of us want to go to Japan to engage in their fisheries or other industries.

The Government would have a precedent for their action if they buy those aliens' boats. Some ten years ago, when West Australia was a Crown colony, the same difficulty arose, and the Government promptly bought the boats belonging to Asiatics and sold them to white men. This was in the Sharks' Bay fishery.

It is rather unpleasant to dictate to any man as to how he shall conduct his business, but if it can be shown the business can be conducted in a different way, and quite as profitably, without sacrificing any of the white man's interest, I think the change could be insisted upon. To bring about this change, my firm are prepared to work in with those at present interested, so that the business will go on profitably, and in every way help with money, advice, and service to conserve the interests of the whites.

Naturalisation of the coloured races should be stopped, and those papers issued should be rescinded. In their case, it gives them double chances. They have all the privileges of whites here, and when they have accumulated all the money they want they go to their own country and there enjoy all the privileges of their own people. I cannot go and fish in Dutch, Spanish, French, or Japanese waters; therefore, why should I stand by and see Japs and Manila men enjoying the same rights that I do, more especially when each boat owned or hired by them would support a white family, of whom there are many fitted for this life doing nothing at the present time?

It is well known that pearlshell exists in the Philippine Islands, so, if Manila men are not content to work for us at good wages, let them go home and develop their fishery, and the same with the Japs. Were they stopped from competing as owners against whites, I am certain our fisheries are capable of great expansion; but what is the use of starting anything now when they are about to eat up the cream?

There are many other features in connection with this question that might be touched upon. For instance, we have their prostitutes in some of our towns to poison the minds of our children growing up in their midst. The men, too, working for themselves in the shelling-boats, work on Sundays, and we are thus handicapped. We don't want our men to work on Sunday, nor would they if we did.

Apologising for the length of this letter, but the importance of the subject justifies one much longer, and hoping to have your support in checking the growing power of the Japanese,—I am, sir, &c.,

JAMES CLARK.
Thursday Island, 16th September.

Denmark has the greatest average amount to the inhabitant in the savings bank, being about £10 each.

A STIMULATING CUP.

A small spoonful of Cadbury's Cocoa, with boiling water or milk, will make instantly a stimulating and sustaining cup of the most delicious and digestible cocoa.—(Advt.)

Handwritten Japanese characters: 十月 (October), 十日 (10th), 日 (day), 月 (month), 十 (10), 日 (day).



十月十八日
OCTOBER 18, 1897.

THE JAPANESE QUESTION.

It will be seen from recent letters that our correspondents are not at one as to the principle on which the Japanese shall be extruded. Mr. Hodel has "for years opposed the capitalistic developments" of the pearlshell industry; he will not be satisfied with the relegation of the Japs to the position of labourers; he wants restriction in the interests of the labourer; he wants it because the aggressive developments of the Japanese race promise to sweep away our hope of seeing the industry either owned or manned by white men. Unquestionably Mr. Hodel is right. Any restriction to be applied here must cover master and men. We are little concerned in seeing a few families grow rich on the labour of aliens; that is not our idea of Queensland settlement. The justification of black labour in the sugar industry is not only that it is necessary, but that it furnishes employment for a very large number of whites. It is very doubtful whether, especially after the negotiations between the two Governments, Japanese labour could be had on the terms suggested; it is very certain that the people of Queensland would not accept it.

Assuming then that what we have to do is to shut up the Japs both from the ownership and the working of the boats, how are we to go about it? There are two things to be looked to here. On the one hand there is the effectiveness of the exclusion—we are all concerned about that. On the other hand there is the justice of it; or if abstract terms be disliked, say, its acceptability to the Japanese Government. We are bound to concern ourselves with that. It is a matter that we cannot ignore, and that it were alike wrong and foolish to attempt ignoring. The very arguments used by Mr. Clark and our other correspondents touching ordinary international limitations, or limitations imposed in Japan itself, show that we must make out a case which shall justify us before the world and even before Japan. Now this, it will be admitted, is what our Government are seeking to do in the matter of Japanese immigration. Let it be once decided, by agreement between the two Governments, that the labourer and artisan class from either country are not to be permitted to land in the other, and a complete arrest is put on further influx of the kind which will compete with our working population. Such an agreement should and surely could be put in a form to meet the by-paths of immigration complained of by Mr. Hodel. This is a far more important matter than the laying of disabilities on the Japs already here. Arrest the inflow, and aliens who do not bring wives and settle down will soon disappear even when they do not return to their own country. The really great question therefore is, what stage have the negotiations reached between the two Governments?

It is curious that our correspondents generally are more exercised over the crippling of the Japs already here than the prevention of future immigration. This is due to the special irritation caused by the visible presence and success of the alien. But this very irritation unfits for the judicious discussion of the subject. Has any fair case been made out for the drastic measure of the compulsory sale of boats owned by Japanese, and their enforced reduction to the place of labourers or return to their own country? Is it conceivable that such a measure would be other than most offensive to the Government of Japan? Imagine that, at the very moment our Government are negotiating for the exclusion of labourers only, they should reduce owners to the position of labourers and then propose to keep them! Yet that is Mr. Clark's plan. Very curious are the arguments used to justify harsh treatment of the Japanese. Mr. Rogers is pleased that we pass without comment a "very significant fact" mentioned by Mr. Clark—namely, that "no foreign boats are permitted to engage in any country's fishery." Mr. Clark cannot go and fish in Dutch, Spanish, French, or Japanese waters. We passed the "fact" because it has no significance whatever; it is totally irrelevant. If Mr. Clark or Mr. Rogers chooses to go and reside in Holland, Spain, France, or Japan, as the Japs do in Queensland, he can work or own fishing boats as he pleases; and none of these countries will trouble to inquire what he does with his money.

Another disability of which Mr. Clark and others complained as suffered by themselves in Japan, and which they regarded as a set-off to any action that might be taken here, has received a startling explanation from a Japanese writer to the "Torres Straits Pilot." Mr. Torajiro Satow shows that the Japanese system of passports and policemen for the whites was adopted under treaty with Britain for the special protection of British subjects. By treaties signed in 1858 and ratified 1859 it was provided that British offenders in Japan should be tried according to British law by the Consul or other authorised public functionary. This was done because Japan was then just emerging from "a hermit condition of isolation"—roughly we would say barbarism—and that life and property were not safe under her laws. So the travelling British subject gets from his Consul a passport to secure his safety, and a policeman or soldier is in

attendance for his protection. "Especially," writes our author with some humour, "to millionaires like Mr. Clark, with plenty of money in his pocket to travel outside of ports, his person is supposed to be in appalling danger which require Japanese authorities to watch his movements, and require him to produce his passport whenever he puts up at a hotel to enable the Japanese authorities to trace his whereabouts." In short, in place of restriction, we have here an exceptional privilege, the proposed reciprocation of which to Japs in Australia would be received with roars of laughter. The treaty of 1894, which comes into force in 1899, abolishes this special legislation, and puts the two countries on equality. "Mr. Clark may be assured that if he will go to Japan with his other newly acquired fortune in 1899, the Japanese authorities will not trouble him in any way, and he will be as free as 'the Jap' is at present here." Seriously this British treaty of 1894, adopted or unadopted by Queensland, is a factor which we cannot overlook, and that not alone because it is British, but because it has behind it the comity of nations. The worst remedy we can adopt in the emergency, because the most futile and harmful in the end, is the "rough and ready" which suggests itself so easily to the irritated mind.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62

SHELL FISHERY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—I was exceedingly pleased to see Mr. Clark's letter on the above subject in your issue of Friday last, and hope, now that public attention is drawn to this growing evil, that rigorous and early steps will be taken to conserve the interests of the people who colonised and are now developing the natural resources of what we are pleased to term our colony.

Thursday Island, at the time the pearling boats were worked by white owners, was an El Dorado for commercial travellers. What is it to-day? I venture to say that not more than one commercial in ten calls there on circuit except out of compulsion. The influx of Japanese, both capitalist and labourer, is simply the thin end of the wedge, which will make itself felt throughout the length and breadth of our land, unless effective and immediate steps are taken to put a stop to it.

In your leader on the subject you say: "Nobody challenges the seriousness of the Japanese difficulty. The possibility of multitudinous immigration is a danger to our national life which it would be a folly to regard slightly. There is little difference of opinion in Queensland as to the desirability of making an end of Japanese immigration. Certainly an overwhelming majority of our people are strongly in favour of a policy of exclusion." Just so. Then why not exclude them at once, before the difficulty assumes more serious proportions? In combating Mr. Clark's suggestions for dealing with the subject you pass without comment one very significant fact mentioned by him—namely, "It is conceded that no foreign people can engage in any country's fishery. I cannot go and fish in Dutch, Spanish, French, or Japanese waters."

Then, if the Japanese will not allow the Britisher to fish in Japanese waters, is it fair and just to the Britisher that Japanese should be allowed to fish the waters of a British colony, and even to the extent of excluding the Britisher from his place and means of living? Under these circumstances, why should a veto against their fishing here be considered an affront by the Government or people of Japan? Mr. Clark's suggestion, as I take it, is not to compel the Japanese to part with their property, but to compel them to cease taking pearlshell from British waters and sending the pearls to Japan, to the detriment of British interests, trade, and commerce; and then (so as to do no injustice to those Japanese who have already become engaged in the industry), to purchase their boats and gear at a fair valuation.

Mr. Clark instances a case of a similar kind which occurred in the Shark's Bay fishery. These steps you argue could not be taken in so far as relates to Japanese now in the colony. Again quoting your article, you say: "Australia has put an end to Chinese immigration, but it has not imposed irritating disabilities on the Chinese already in the country. We have not compulsorily bought them out of industries in which they have honestly earned their livelihood. The politicians who were resolute in terminating Chinese immigration were just as resolute in maintaining that the Chinese now in Australia must not be disturbed in the enjoyment of rights and privileges. Is it reasonable to suppose that the Government of Japan would tolerate a treatment of Japanese in Australia which compared badly with the treatment of Chinese?"

In reply to the above I respectfully submit that were the Government of Queensland to carry out the suggestions of Mr. Clark in toto the treatment meted out to Japanese would compare very favourably with the treatment the Chinese receive. Had it not been for the hordes of Chinese who overran the Palmer goldfield, that field for years would have been a profitable alluvial one for European diggers. But the Chinese on our goldfields became such a menace to the well-being of Europeans that the Government passed the Goldfields Amendment Acts of 1878 and 1890, which conserves the rights of European diggers, and effectually debar, not only the Chinese who might arrive in the colony after the passing of the Act, but also those who were actually engaged in gold seeking.

If such an Act could be passed and rigorously enforced for the protection from aliens of the natural wealth of the colony in the shape of its gold, then why could not a similar Act be passed for the protection of our pearl fisheries, which I maintain are as much a portion of the natural wealth of the colony as our goldfields are? The comparison you draw between the Chinese engaged in banana culture at Cairns and Geraldton and the Japanese engaged in pearling at Thursday Island is, I maintain, not at all analogous. In the case of the Chinese they rent on clearing lease the primeval scrub lands from European owners, clear and cultivate it, plant bananas, use our shipping, supply our local markets with their produce, and at the termination of their leases hand the land back to the owner in its improved condition. In the case of the Japanese, they discover that certain Queensland waters contain valuable deposits of pearlshell. They swarm upon these spots in hundreds, build, purchase, or hire the necessary boats, displace and drive out of the industry the European shellers who are not individually strong enough to stand against them; deplete the Queensland waters of their valuable

spend their gains in their own country and amongst their own people. They do nothing to produce the wealth they seize upon and despoil the Britisher of, and in no other country in the world would they be allowed to do as they are doing here; and I think that by taking some such measures as Mr. Clark suggests we would be fully justified by the high court of reason. By turning up the Parliamentary debates on the bill which was introduced in June, 1877, to restrict Chinese immigration, and also the report which was presented at the time made by Mr. Selheim upon the Chinese on the Palmer and other goldfields, we simply find history repeating itself in the shape of the present Japanese difficulty at Thursday Island.

I am personally acquainted with a person who was experimenting with a product of our North Queensland waters at some expense to himself and considerable sacrifice of time. Samples of the article were sent to English importers and pronounced of excellent quality, with a market capable of considerable expansion at payable prices. However, he visited Thursday Island in 1894, and from what he saw there it became at once patent that the industry he contemplated would in a very short time be monopolised by Japanese and other aliens, and rather than put up with certain loss he abandoned the project.

It is to be fervently hoped that the Queensland Government will at an early date legislate with a view to effect an end once and for all to the wrongs being worked by Japanese and other aliens to our Queensland fisheries.—I am, sir, &c., 6th October. G. R. ROGERS.

spend their gains in their own country and amongst their own people. They do nothing to produce the wealth they seize upon and despoil the Britisher of, and in no other country in the world would they be allowed to do as they are doing here; and I think that by taking some such measures as Mr. Clark suggests we would be fully justified by the high court of reason. By turning up the Parliamentary debates on the bill which was introduced in June, 1877, to restrict Chinese immigration, and also the report which was presented at the time made by Mr. Selheim upon the Chinese on the Palmer and other goldfields, we simply find history repeating itself in the shape of the present Japanese difficulty at Thursday Island. I am personally acquainted with a person who was experimenting with a product of our North Queensland waters at some expense to himself and considerable sacrifice of time. Samples of the article were sent to English importers and pronounced of excellent quality, with a market capable of considerable expansion at payable prices. However, he visited Thursday Island in 1894, and from what he saw there it became at once patent that the industry he contemplated would in a very short time be monopolised by Japanese and other aliens, and rather than put up with certain loss he abandoned the project. It is to be fervently hoped that the Queensland Government will at an early date legislate with a view to effect an end once and for all to the wrongs being worked by Japanese and other aliens to our Queensland fisheries.—I am, sir, &c., 6th October. G. R. ROGERS.

十月十五日
ブリスベン
パーリー



it seems an imperative duty to do so before deciding on the proposed change. For do what we will, the best light—since it is always the best light we want—will triumph in the end.

THE JAPANESE DIFFICULTY.

A phase of the Japanese difficulty is described in this issue by Mr. James Clark. Writing from Thursday Island, our correspondent urges the adoption of stringent measures against Japanese capitalists or boat-owners in the pearl-shell fishery. A few years ago a number of white divers and men owning one or two boats got a living out of the industry. Low prices and bad management proved disastrous to many of them. "Unfortunately," says Mr. Clark, "we have only six men of this class, but instead we have probably eighty boats owned or hired by Japanese or other coloured men, who make so much money working on their own account that all their countrymen employed by us are anxious to own or hire boats as soon as their engagements are finished." There is a good market for shell, and at a low estimate £300 can easily be earned by one boat. Such earning opportunity is an irresistible temptation to the shrewd and energetic Japanese. They succumb as easily to it as did Mr. Clark himself. What Mr. Clark desires—and we suppose he may be accepted as a representative of the white capitalists or boat-owners—is that it shall be made illegal for coloured people to own or hire boats on the coast of Queensland. He suggests that the Government should deal with this question thoroughly. "The boats owned by these aliens must be bought from them by the Government at a fair valuation, and sold to whites, on time-payment if necessary, the same as has been done with land to the farmers on the Downs." Mr. Clark's firm wish to see the small white owner back again, but are willing to purchase any boats which may be left on the hands of the Government. "The boats must be owned by whites, and worked at their risk and for their benefit." No coloured competition whatever on the capitalist side of the industry. Also, our correspondent recommends that naturalisation of coloured aliens be stopped, and that the papers already issued be rescinded.

There is little difference of opinion in Queensland as to the desirability of making an end of Japanese immigration. Certainly an overwhelming majority of our people are strongly in favour of a policy of exclusion, if such be practicable. It must be admitted, however, that there is a small minority of white capitalists who do not ask for absolute exclusion, but for limited and severely regulated immigration. Mr. Clark is one of them. Thursday Island would not now be spoken of unflatteringly as a Japanese settlement if the white capitalists had not been willing to engage Japanese as labourers in the pearl-shell industry. Protest from the white capitalists originated in the unanticipated appearance of coloured capitalists in the field of competition. Mr. Clark wishes to keep the coloured men in the industry, only they must remain there in the inferior position. "Those 'employed by us,'" he says, "are anxious to own and hire boats as soon as their engagements are finished." He does not want to get rid of them altogether, but to clip their natural ambition to own or hire boats. "Japanese labour could be restricted," he suggests, "the same as is done with Kanaka labour. Men could be indentured for stated periods, and returned at the expiration of their engagements." Now this is not in accord with the view held by the general community. What the general community objects to is the free admission of the Japanese, because they are a race differing so widely from ourselves that if they should become numerous they would inevitably become a social and political danger. It is the Japanese labourer rather than the Japanese capitalist that we most wish to exclude, for the simple reason that it is the labourer, not the capitalist, who threatens to come in thousands. Under the system proposed by Mr. Clark Thursday Island would continue to be a coloured settlement. The pearl-shell fishery, though owned and controlled by Europeans, would be chiefly manned by coloured aliens. It may be that we must make choice between working the industry by such aid, or abandoning it. The aliens are efficient and cheap labourers. Can the industry afford to pay white wages? Apparently so we read Mr. Clark's letter—it can do so at the present time. Are white men able and willing to do what is required? That is a question which must be answered by authoritative testimony. But if white men can perform all the work, and if the now flourishing industry can pay wages which will allow the labourers to live the life of European civilisation, why not apply the prohibition all round? Why deliver the white employers only from coloured competition? Why not also deliver the white labourers, or make opportunity for them? If, however, the industry cannot be carried on by white labour, if white men are unwilling or unable to engage in it, then, as we have said, the community must decide whether it is better to abandon the industry, or go on with it under a restricted and regulated coloured labour system.

Government and Parliament will hesitate before dealing with Japanese now fishing in Queensland waters in the manner recommended by our correspondent. Such measures as he would like to see adopted would probably be taken as an affront by the Government and people of Japan. It is one thing to say to Japanese in Japan who may be thinking of emigrating to Queens-

land, "You shall not land here," or, "If you come here it can only be on such and such conditions. We will not have you as capitalists. You shall not own or hire boats in the pearl-shell fishery. You may only enter the employment of white capitalists for so many years at wages that may be agreed upon, and then return to your own country." It is quite another thing to turn upon the Japanese now in the country, and impose disabilities upon them, even to taking the ownership of properties out of their hands. Australia has put an end to Chinese immigration, but it has not imposed irritating disabilities on the Chinese already in the country. We have not rescinded their naturalisation papers, or compulsorily bought them out of industries in which they have honestly earned their livelihood. The politicians who were resolute in terminating Chinese immigration were just as resolute in maintaining that the Chinese now in Australia must not be disturbed in the enjoyment of rights and privileges. Is it reasonable to expect that the Government of Japan would tolerate a treatment of Japanese in Australia which compared badly with the treatment of Chinese? If the Government of Japan were willing to agree to such stringent measures as Mr. Clark thinks ought to be adopted, we should soon have other interested white capitalists clamouring for the Government to similarly run the Chinese and other coloured aliens out of ownership in other industries. If the Japanese now in Queensland ought not to be permitted to compete with Mr. Clark and other white boat-owners in the pearl-shell industry at Thursday Island, ought the Chinese growers of bananas at Cairns and Geraldton to be permitted to compete with the European growers of bananas there and elsewhere in Queensland? Where could this thing stop, short of excluding coloured persons now amongst us from all ownership and control in the industries? And would that policy of harsh disability to the stranger within our boundaries, who came here when disability did not exist, be a policy that Britons could be proud of? Would it be a policy consistent with the British habit of engaging in a capitalistic capacity in the industries of other countries?

Nobody challenges the seriousness of the Japanese difficulty. The possibility of a multitudinous immigration is a danger to our national life which it would be a folly to regard slightingly. The almost universal desire is to jealously safeguard European civilisation on this continent. But so far as the Japanese are concerned it is an imperative necessity to adopt only such measures as can be justified in the high court of reason.

Handwritten Japanese characters: チヤウザイランド



アリアンバスリブ 廿月

exists for a more drastic course than we feel able to recommend. Still they differ in their measure of severity; and the principles on which they differ lead easily to our position. Mr. Outridge describes our reluctance to give offence to Japan as hypersensitiveness, and declares it to be absurd. Mr. Hodel sees that the strongest principles of justice lie behind it. "I cannot for a moment hold with Mr. Clark when he advocates the rescindment of nationalisation papers. A law of repudiation with aliens under the British flag would never be sanctioned by the Imperial Government, even if blindly passed by a colonial Parliament." It would be bad enough to earn the hostility of Japan; it might be worse to earn her contempt. For the most part, however, our correspondents are at one in placing justice on the low level of the lex talionis. They bring a set of accusations against Japan as to her treatment of British subjects, and regard these as sufficient justification of reprisal. This is an argument which might lead up to any atrocity, and which we should be ashamed to use against a people only emerging from barbarism. But taking it as a sound argument, it behoves us at least to see that the accusations are well founded. To calumniate the Japs in Japan for the sake of oppressing them in Australia were a policy unworthy of men and Britons. We are pained to see that Mr. Hodel, with the reputation before him, permits himself to repeat and emphasise the complaint of Mr. Clark touching his treatment in Japan. As pointed out in our last article, Mr. Satow of Thursday Island has shown that the treatment complained of was in fact a special privilege accorded under treaty to British subjects, who in Japan are amenable to British law only, and are watched for their protection. Mr. Hodel actually makes it a charge against Japan that she protects her visitors according to treaty. He is disingenuous enough, too, to seek capital out of the danger to the foreigner in Japan, though Mr. Satow shows that because of the disappearance of that danger the old treaty provision of protection is abolished in the new treaty. And at the moment he maligns the foreigner in this way he is not ashamed to hint at what "loyal British tars" (had there been enough of them) might have inflicted on the Japs in Port Kennedy. These are the straits to which the retaliatory spirit reduces an honourable man. To "deal in a similar manner" with the Japs as they have dealt with Britons would be to place their persons in Australia under Japanese law only, and furnish them with a guard of protection against such "loyal British tars" as happen to be after Mr. Hodel's heart.

Another big charge—the only charge distinctly made in a vague generality of accusation—touches the restriction of the British Press in Japan. Says Mr. Hodel: "The restrictions placed upon Britishers becoming proprietors of the public Press are so great as to spell almost prohibition." Says Mr. Outridge: "Even the newspapers, a number of which are at present being carried on by Europeans, are being restricted, and the present owners (if aliens) are debarred by regulation coming into force in July, 1900, from carrying on." Now this is totally misleading as a presentment of the truth. There lies before us as we write a letter addressed to the "Times" on this subject by Mr. H. Tennant, editor of the "Japan Gazette" (the well-known British-owned newspaper in Japan). Better witness there could not be. Well, Mr. Tennant admits and deplores the danger (the danger, observe, not the certainty) of alien newspapers being extinguished after 1899. But what is his explanation? "The danger is due to a defect in the drafting of the treaty, which has not expressly provided that all occupations and professions which the Japanese may follow in England may be followed by Englishmen in Japan." Owing to this defect "our own Judge, Mr. Justice Mowat," (think of the Japs having their own Judge in Australia!) "expressed the opinion that there was nothing in the new treaty to prevent the Japanese dooming the English papers in Japan to extinction." Still, says Mr. Tennant, "the treaty was intended to place the subjects of the two Powers on an equal footing in either country." So he asks for "reciprocity" in the matter of newspapers. He asks that "the British Foreign Office, before the treaty comes into operation, shall have a distinct understanding with the Japanese authorities that the clause which permits Englishmen to rent houses and to carry on any business that a Japanese subject may conduct shall be understood to include a newspaper and printing business." Some Japs are said to be "desirous of evading this clause"—naturally enough; but it is scarcely conceivable that it should not be fairly met on fitting presentation.

Reference has frequently been made to the restrictions placed on the Chinese on our goldfields. But two things are overlooked: the first, that we are scarcely at liberty to deal with the Japs as with the Chinese—Japan kicks at being classed as Mongolian; and the second, that we do not treat even the Chinese as it is now proposed to treat the Japs. It has never been proposed to rescind Chinese letters of naturalisation, though these enable a Chinaman to mine for gold as a white man does. Nor has it been proposed to exclude Chinamen from our goldfields to all time as it is now proposed to exclude the Japanese from our pearling grounds. The Chinaman is entitled on application to a miner's right, with the proviso that he cannot enter on any particular goldfield within three years of its first proclamation. It is idle to argue from that restriction, which is

both partial and temporary, to another which would be universal and everlasting. By every just and manly method open to us let us protect our working classes from alien competition; but let us shun courses which would rouse us to white heat of indignation if used in other countries against ourselves. And do not let us be charmed by the interested cry of the monopolist owner even when it offers seeming alliance. His is the cry of gain and not of distress. The capitalistic pearler has had one of his best years; and he wants still better by reducing all Japs to the place of servants. Run the anti-Japanese movement in the interests of the general white population, or let it alone.

THE JAPANESE PEARLSHELLERS.

This morning we publish other two letters on this subject. It were well if the question in debate was narrowed to the disposal of the Japanese at present in Queensland. We have already pointed out that by far the more important question is the prevention of further influx. The first necessity of the case is that Queenslanders should agree upon that. Unfortunately our correspondents are not agreed about it. Some who assume a tone of superiority to this journal in their fidelity to the interests of the white man are nevertheless prepared to supplant the white man with the alien, if the alien will confine himself to labour. That is Mr. Clark's position. It is also, if we understand him rightly, the position of Mr. Outridge. Suggesting that a clause be inserted in the new Fishery Bill confining license to a British-born or naturalised subject, he adds, "I do not suggest that divers' licenses should be restricted." Now on this head our position is anti-Japanese as that of our correspondents is not. They want to stop the Jap's competition with the few—the boat-owners; we want to stop his competition with the many—the boat-workers. Not only so, but the position taken by these gentlemen runs directly counter to the effort of the Government to exclude the Japanese. Our Ministers seek to arrange with the Japanese Government for the reciprocal exclusion from each country of the laboring and artisan class—the class whose numbers are to be feared—while other classes and professions are free to come and go. Mr. Clark and his following would exclude the Japanese capitalist, but would welcome the Japanese labourer. Is that the position that is to save Queensland? It is preposterous to make such a proposal, and then pose as special advocates of a white Australia. The object aimed at by the Government is a thousand times more patriotic. And Mr. Hodel must see that the prohibitive action he proposes (similar to that in force with Chinamen) could be taken only on the failure of the international negotiations now in process, and which were not attempted with China.

Narrowing the matter to the disposal of the Japanese now with us, our correspondents agree that justification



JAPANESE IN THE PEARLSHELL INDUSTRY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Five hundred and eleven Japanese to fifty-one Europeans, or ten to one Japanese to Europeans, are the astounding odds which the Japanese have developed into recently in the pearlshell fishery of Torres Straits, as disclosed by the annual report of the Portmaster. Little wonder is it a writer, under the non-descriptive of "Pearler," should, in your columns a couple of weeks ago, again draw attention to the question, and that Mr. James Clark should "open the ball" from the Torres Straits end against this undesirable race. In criticising the latter writer's letter, you treat of his views as representing the capitalistic element in the controversy. Mr. Clark probably does, but he also expresses the following views:—"Were they stopped from competing as owners against whites, I am certain our fisheries are capable of great expansion; but what is the use of starting anything now when they are about to eat up the cream?" His forecast of future great expansion in the fishery favouring the white labourer will be accepted as a cheerful and honest opinion; and it is with the faint hope of encouraging developments on such lines that I feel impelled to give my views publicly, with your permission. The capitalistic developments of the industry, and more especially as represented by Mr. Clark and his co-workers, I have for years, while in the Straits, vigorously and determinedly opposed; and in now joining hands with the capitalists, I do so from probably entirely different motives; they to secure the limitation of Japanese as labourers because of their dangerous rivalry as owners, and I to secure this same limitation because its aggressive developments promise to sweep the white population completely from the industry, and as certainly sweep away the only hope now cherished of seeing the industry in the distant future owned and managed by white men. Drive out the few white capitalists from the industry by the expansion of the Japanese, and the barriers against white labouring men become a thousandfold more difficult to surmount. Hence I heartily join issue with those whom you are pleased to define as representing capitalists only in an effort to induce public opinion to force the hands of the Government to take protective measures.

The session is far advanced, and the Mining Commissioners have given no report to the public on the shelling industry; nor do the Ministry seem anxious for the report, for with its arrival would vanish all excuses to further delay the Consolidated Fisheries Act they for three years promised, and pledged themselves to last session.

The Government claim to have scored a great victory when they arranged with the Japanese Government to forbid all emigrants leaving for Australia without a passport, the assumption being the latter Government would not grant passports to any large number desiring to proceed to this continent. A very little reflection should convince anyone that the proposed passport system is only one shade removed from farcical.

Firstly, the emigration of a few dozen free subjects from Japan by every steamer bound for Australia would be deemed unnecessary or prohibitive by the Japanese Government, whereas time would develop it into a serious evil for Australia. I use the term free to distinguish her subjects of financial means from the indentured or exported labourers. It is reasonable to assume the Japanese Government only intend to apply the passport restriction against the men coming under the latter definition, and are not likely to forbid her subjects of means to leave at their leisure. Many of the Japanese who have in former times reached Torres Straits were passed along by an emigration society, to whom they repaid their passage money, with interest at the rate of 23 1/3 per centum, with wealth won from North Queensland fisheries, and which should have remained in this colony. It is this class whom I define as exported labourers. Now, however, the position is somewhat altered; for the Japanese in the Straits have done so well they send money home to pay the passages out of their friends or relatives. Many others have returned home with money; and it is assumed with some authority one man took with him to Japan 1000 sovereigns, and left behind a multitude of debts, to liquidate which he left his boats. With money to pay their way quietly, Japanese will certainly continue to emigrate unchecked by their Government, whose policy of recent years has been to encourage her sons to scatter themselves broadcast throughout the world to gain knowledge and its resultant power; and to enforce passports unrestrictedly would be to harass the actions and inquire too deeply into the motives of her more fortunate subjects, and in a secondary manner to check the gravitation of wealth to her own country.

There is another way in which the wily Japs may drive the proverbial coach and four through the passport system if they are not satisfied to go through it at the more tedious rate of a bullock team. The first order of "Produce your passports," uttered in this colony, has shown this broken link. If the Torres Straits pilot's report of the landing of seven Japanese (five women, he it noted) by the steamer Nanchang at Thursday Island is correct, six of the seven Japanese had looked at Hongkong! Every steamer from Japan to Australia is certain to call at Hongkong, and that city of many nationalities and more coloured races will require greater persuasion than Sir Horace's suave arguments to enforce passports against Japanese arriving at or leaving her shores. Hongkong possesses enough Japanese under the British flag to become, if they were transferred to this colony, as great a menace to the whole of North Queensland as the Japanese now in Torres Straits have too plainly proven in those waters. The Chinese soon discovered there were other steamer routes to Queensland than by those leaving their own ports, and many of them reached this colony via Batavia and the B.I. steamers when passages were not obtainable by direct route owing to the tonnage prohibition. What is to prevent the Japanese working on the same lines? Every one of the boats leaving Japan for Australia might carry a thousand Japs, booked to Hongkong, whence they might rebook to North Queensland without even leaving their vessel. And even if Hongkong failed them, other ports are open.

It is quite anticipated this development will meet with the Ministerial stereotyped rejoinder, "Further steps will be taken when such a course shows them to be necessary." The present feeble effort to close the door was only made after the pearlshell industry had been partially swallowed up by the

OCTOBER 16, 1897.

Japs" but it is hoped the door will be closed firmly at once before they are any further menace to a "white Australia," and not when they have arrived in swarms.—I am, sir, &c.
FRED. C. HODGE.
Daid Hills, 7th October.



day Island, since points out in a letter to the same paper that the policeman followed Mr. Clark, not to wash him, but for his protection. If a foreigner's life be in danger in Japan, is that not a greater barrier to the acquisition of her industries by foreigners than even the colonies can impose upon the Japanese in Australia? And does it not warrant us dealing in a similar manner with them?

History does not present a parallel equalising the rapidly with which the Japanese nation has become "modernised" during recent years; yet in their wonderful extension and insatiable greed for knowledge and its power, the rulers of that country are conservative enough not only to retain the barriers prohibitory of foreign progress in their country, but to actually add new impediments as rapidly as foreign enterprise reveals them to be possible. Can such a nation object to her subjects being as carefully checked in foreign countries? Can she dare claim more extended rights for her subjects in foreign countries than she concedes to foreigners in her country? Could the justice of such a claim be asserted? No; it is reasonable to assume that any restrictions placed upon her people in this country would be accepted by the Japanese Government as the inevitable outcome of her own policy.

The Japanese flag now floats at the mast-head of about one-third of the boats engaged in the pearl-shell industry; and the bold occurrence of the British flag floating in British waters under a foreign nation's flag has been seen more than once in Torres Straits. Were there more loyal British tars in Port Kennedy there would have been serious racial troubles ere now, and the Japanese flag would have been lowered to its right position. In native papers published in Japan Torres Straits is spoken of as a Japanese settlement; and it is even predicted the trade and industry will become Japanese "in toto." With all these evidences of the aims and aspirations of the Japanese in the shelling industry, is it not high time the Government should pass restrictive legislation? The last twelve months has seen great changes for the better so far as the Japanese are concerned, and if the present session is closed without action, the Japanese will have still stronger hold of the fishery ere they can be checked. The danger is an immediate one, and should not be treated lightly, and with indifference by the Ministry.

As a first step towards checking the influx of Japanese, an Act should be passed similar to that prohibiting the entry of more than a certain number of Chinese by each steamer. That would save Queensland, for a while, at any rate; but to save the industry under discussion an Act should be passed forbidding the issue of licenses as owners, or hirers, of boats to "all" aliens. I say all aliens, because in legislating for the industry the Japanese cannot be singled out as more obnoxious than other aliens, even though they are actually so. The weak point of this scheme lies in the fact that a commission agent might allow the boats to appear in his boats in his own name, and the profits accruing from her working be given at stated periods as a bonus to the Japanese diver. The Act could thus be defeated, and would in some cases be so dodged; but the position would place the Japanese entirely at the mercy of the agent, with no redress whatever against the latter. The Japanese now in the industry might be disposed to place themselves so completely in the hands of Europeans, but few new men would be inclined to do so. In fact, the illegal position of working would soon work itself out of the industry with but very few exceptions. Certainly, no Japanese would come to the Straits with the idea of placing himself under the whips of a white agent; and with such an Act the incentive now existing amongst the Japanese of acquiring boats and probably the whole industry would vanish.

The rights acquired under our laws by those now in the industry must be respected, and I cannot for a moment hold with Mr. Clark when he advocates the rescindment of nationalisation papers. A law of repudiation with aliens under the British flag would never be sanctioned by the Imperial Government, even if blindly passed by a colonial Parliament. Neither is there much occasion for this repudiation, for the nationalisation papers already issued must be few, and the authorities can use caution in issuing further papers, making it as difficult for a Japanese to be naturalised as it is for a Chinaman to be so.

The question of how to deal with those already in the industry presents many difficulties. Mr. Clark advocates their boats be purchased by the Government, and for this he has been ably supported by Mr. G. R. Rodgers, who instances a refutation of statements in your leading article, the prohibition placed upon the Chinese in mining matters. I do not remember how far the Chinese are restricted; but, if I mistake not, miners' rights are withheld from aliens, while Chinese are forbidden to work on any new field for three years. If a mining license (or "right" as it is called) is withheld from aliens, can not similar action be justified in the shelling industry? In many ways proper action acquired by Britishers can be taken from them, notably to allow of railway extensions. Of course compensation is allowed. In discussing temperance questions, it is accepted as perfectly justifiable to close hotels provided compensation is allowed. If it be just to take a person's land, or a publican's license, when deemed necessary for the public weal, why is it not just to take the boats from Japanese, provided they are paid full value for such boats?

If the Japanese can be gradually driven out of the pearl-shell industry by harassing restrictions, white men will slowly regain some of their lost ground, for the other coloured races to the Straits are not such uncompromising opponents of the white men. The Japanese will work all day and part of the night, Sunday included, to better himself, whereas other coloured men have as much love for recreation and reasonable hours as white men have. The Japs save their money to send it home, and they import most of their food supplies and clothing from their own country; while other coloured races spend their earnings in the colony and live upon colonial products where possible.—I am, sir, &c., FRED. C. HOEDEL, Bald Hills, 18th October.

Sir,—During the current month there have appeared in your columns two articles and several letters on the above subject. In the former, I regret that you view our position unfavourably. As far as we are concerned we want our industry saved from falling entirely into the hands of the Japs; or, rather, to prevent it falling out of the hands of the whites. To attain this object, what appears to be very drastic measures, but which are really very simple ones, must be adopted.

The new Fishery Bill was printed last year. It has been promised for this session. Could not a clause be inserted imposing certain conditions on persons before they could obtain licenses to fish in Queensland waters? The first condition being that the licensee must be a British-born or a naturalised British subject; and, secondly, that the boats be worked by the licensee or by other person of British nationality. This latter condition is necessary to prevent dummies on the part of unscrupulous whites. I do not suggest that divers' licenses be restricted. If these suggestions be carried out, our industry would be effectively protected and the Japs would receive a check in their colonisation of the North.

There are several strong reasons why the industry should be protected for the whites, the first being that Queensland is a British colony and not an appanage of Japan; and, secondly, the fishery was discovered, capital found, developed, and worked up to its present importance by whites. Long before any Japs were in the colony the whites worked the industry. Then why should these foreigners be allowed to come along, profit by our years of experience and labour, and by unfair competition turn us out neck and croon? What harm there would be if the Japs got a footing in the sugar industry, or the mining industry, or farming, and threatened to absorb the profits derived from these industries, remitting every penny available to their native land. Without being an alarmist, I say that such a picture is quite within the bounds of realisation within ten to fifteen years unless restrictive measures be adopted.

Much has been said about giving offence

to Japan. Such hyper-sensitiveness is absurd. Surely Japan could not be offended if we protect our own industries for the benefit of the colonists who developed the industries? Why, we should be but carrying out a policy, only in a lesser degree, similar to what Japan is doing. It is not generally known, perhaps, that no alien in Japan can engage in any industry as a principal. All industries, manufactures, &c., in Japan are jealously guarded and protected for the subjects of Japan. Even the newspapers, a number of which are at present being carried on by Europeans, are being restricted, and the present owners (if aliens) are debarred by regulation coming into force in July, 1898, from carrying on. The papers in future are to be carried on only by Japanese. Is Britain going to be offended because of Japan's action? I do not advocate that the example of Japan be followed. I merely mention these facts to show that it is not reasonable to suppose that Japan can be offended by the suggested legislation.

Many will say How does the pearling phase of the question affect the general question of the threatened Japanese influx? Everyone knows that Thursday Island at present is the distributing centre for the Japs. They are attracted there because they make so much profit out of the pearling industry. When sufficient capital is at command some men will scatter over the country to engage in all kinds of work for which they may be fitted. Then, I say, withdraw the means of their making so much money (and the proposed regulations will effectively do it), and the desire to swarm to Thursday Island will vanish. Our desire is not to increase our interests in the industry, but to protect what we have already invested, and such a desire is only natural, when you consider the difficult conditions under which we have had to labour to attain our present position.

Viewing the question generally, I say that there are quite enough Japs in the colony now—there are too many for the good of the pearling industry—and restrictive measures should be taken to prevent further immigration, the restriction being that immigrants must possess certain educational qualifications similar, but a little more severe, than that initiated by Natal. With regard to the passport system for checking the Japs, everyone considers that system ineffectual and a perfect farce.

There are other matters of detail which I could write about, but I am afraid I have already trespassed on your valuable space.—I am, sir, &c., P. P. OUTRIDGE.

JAPANESE IN THE PEARLSHELL INDUSTRY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Before proceeding to deal with the question of restricting the Japanese now in Torres Straits, I may be pardoned for remarking the statement of the Home Secretary in the Assembly "that fifty Japanese had arrived at Thursday Island, all holding passports," tends to prove the contention in my previous letter that the Japanese Government is not likely to refuse passports to her subjects who are able to depart unfettered, but intends withholding passports only in the case of those intended or having their passages paid by one of the emigration societies. This last batch of fifty more Japs increases the seriousness of the question, especially as concerns the pearl-shell industry, one of the least troublesome and best assets the colony can boast of if only it were conserved to white races.

Mr. Clark in his letter directs attention to the fact that "no foreign people can engage in any country's fishery." This international right of restricting foreigners is the foundation upon which it is hoped to build up a "white Australia." In Japan the right is asserted to an extreme degree: "the restrictions placed upon Britishers becoming proprietors of the public Press are so great as to spell almost prohibition; the primary and the secondary industries are all so hedged in with regulations as to make it difficult for Europeans to acquire any foothold. Mr. Clark quite recently visited Japan, and his experiences are thus defined in the "Torres Straits Pilot":—"When I went to Japan I had to get a passport from the British Consul, for which I paid. It was necessary to produce this paper whenever I put up at a hotel (outside the five treaty ports, where a passport is not required), or whenever an official demanded it. At one town—Simonsaki—we had a policeman or soldier told off to follow us. Regulations were printed on our passports, by which I saw we could not rent a house in the interior, trade, or fire off a gun, &c. Contrast this with the liberty Japanese enjoy on British soil, and the question naturally arises, Why should we give more than we get from foreigners?"

Mr. Satow, the leading Japanese in Thurs-



東京外務省
外務大臣
伯爵大隈重信閣下

Compt Okuma

Tokio

Japan





KOR
29
NOV
87
JAPAN



E. SATOH
MERCHANT,
THURSDAY ISLAND

Faint handwritten text, possibly a name or address.