

## JAPAN WANTS TO BE RECOGNIZED AS SUPERIOR

(Correspondence of Associated Press) Tokio, March 15.—Baron Ishii, minister for foreign affairs, told the House of Peers on February 13 that Japan is negotiating with Great Britain concerning the anti-Japanese agitation in British colonies. The Foreign office, however, denies the report persistently circulated in Tokio that fresh negotiations are going on between Japan and England for the revision of the Anglo-Japanese alliance. The news put forth, as the basis of the report, is that Japan seeks from Great Britain some definite recognition of Japan's superior position in China.

The alliance with England, as a result of which Japan declared war against Germany, continues a favorite topic of discussion. A good many disparaging remarks have been made about it by Japanese who feel that Great Britain is asking and receiving too much under its terms and that it has ceased to be an instrument useful to the Japanese nation.

Baron Ishii referred to these criticisms in his remarks before the Peers. He deprecated them, he said, as being exceedingly regrettable because they do harm to the friendly sentiments between the two nations. He regretted also that British residents in China occasionally gave voice to unfriendly utterances about Japan but he pointed out that these criticisms should not be interpreted as the opinion of the nation as a whole.

At a recent dinner of the Japan Trade Association, Isidoro Tokonami, the editor of the Kokumin, declared that there prevails an opinion among a section of statesmen and politicians that the Anglo-Japanese alliance has become superannuated and should be refrained from meeting the changed situation of Japan—the growth, or cessation of her position and influence in Far Eastern affairs. He considered it most desirable, he said, that this opinion will come before long when they can meet with the seriously taken up and conducted in the future negotiations for the revision of the existing treaty. He noted that this view was shared by several members of the Cabinet and peace council.

The present negotiations with England to which reference was made by Baron Ishii are believed to include the status and treatment of Japanese emigrants particularly in Australia, but refer particularly to an alleged boycott of Japanese goods.

The case of those Japanese who are demanding a revision of the alliance with Great Britain is summarized by the Nichi Nichi. It declaims that in Canada, Australia and other British colonies Japanese are refused treatment on an equal footing with the British residents in China, official and

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otherwise are bent on curbing Japan's interests in that country, that Japan's position in China is of vital importance to Japan but that its predominant voice is not recognized and that notes were sent in case of misunderstanding with the United States over Chinese questions. The British government is known to be bent on avoiding the responsibility of rendering assistance to this country.

The newspaper further alleges that Britain is restricting Japan's movement in India. Under these circumstances the Japanese demands are natural that there should be a feeling of dissatisfaction concerning the relations of the two countries. The paper points out that Great Britain is not in a position to stand up to the interests of the Pacific nor has it depended solely on Japan in that respect. In other words Japan is now the only nation able to protect the interests of Great Britain

and other nations in China, and the paper thinks that this position of Japan deserves to be fully recognized by Great Britain by formally allowing Japan to have her position in the Far East clearly defined.

As far as the provisions in the alliance concerning the peace of India the paper points out that they were made when there was a fear of Russian advance to the South. Those provisions were made against a Russian invasion, but the present relations of Great Britain and Russia are entirely those of an alliance and the paper finds no reason or necessity for having the provisions in the alliance concerning India. Moreover, the paper thinks that the wording of those stipulations is rather ambiguous and calls for a more explicit arrangement concerning Japanese obligations on that point.

The Nichi Nichi does not want the treaty amended but it recommends a revision so that Japan may receive

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Lieut. Clarence Benson.

Lieut. Clarence Benson, 13th U. S. Cavalry, was wounded in Villa's raid on Columbus, New Mexico. He is a graduate of West Point, and for two years has been on patrol duty on the Mexican border, stationed at Columbus and Douglas, Ariz.

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