

1207411
Communication from
Senate Chamber of Commerce
re. treaty between
United States and
Japan.

(See Resolution no 3035 - Ind. postponed)

J. D. LOWMAN, PRESIDENT.
C. J. SMITH, VICE-PRESIDENT.

F. W. BAKER, VICE PRESIDENT.
WILL H. PARRY, TREASURER.

Seattle Chamber of Commerce

CENTRAL BUILDING

Seattle, Washington.

C. B. YANDELL, SECRETARY.

Dec. 6. 1910.

Mr. Arnold Zbinden, Chairman,
Police Committee, City Council,
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Sir:-

My attention has been called to an article in the Post-Intelligencer of November 29, referring to a resolution introduced in the council providing that American citizens should be given preference over aliens in allotting of space in the Pike Place Market. I am also in receipt of a letter from Mr. Kahachi Abe of the Imperial Japanese Consulate in this city calling attention thereto.

The latter communication refers to Article Number 2 of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Japan and the United States, which says:

"The subject or citizens of each of the contracting parties may trade in any part of the territories of the other by wholesale or retail in all kinds of produce, manufactures, and merchandise of lawful commerce, either in person or by agents, singly or in partnerships with foreigners or native subjects or citizens; and they may there own, or hire and occupy houses, manufactories, warehouses, shops, and premises, which may be necessary for them, and lease land for residential and commercial purposes."

In view of the foregoing treaty, which, of course, you are aware takes precedence over all other statutes and laws subsequently enacted, it is evident that any such regulation, as that proposed, is clearly in violation of the Treaty rights between this nation and Japan. In the circumstances no good can come of its enactment into law, and it is entirely probable that any attempt to enforce such an ordinance will result in unnecessary friction between the people of the two nations.

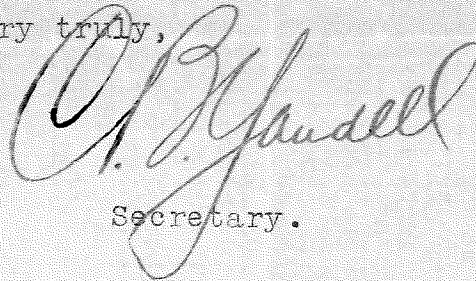
The officers of this Chamber trust that under the circumstances Your Honorable Committee will see the futility of attempting the enforcement of any such police regulation, which if enacted would apply not only to Japanese but the subjects of

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several other foreign nations, who are the most profitable tenants of some of the numerous land holders in King County and who are a considerable factor in regulating prices in the markets of this city, thereby materially reducing the cost of living.

If the foregoing is not sufficient for your purposes, I shall be glad upon notification to appear before your Committee with a view to discussing other phases of the question which you might perhaps care to consider before making final disposition of this matter.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. J. Grudell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Secretary".

Secretary.

CBY/L