

Japan

Jan. 2nd, 1908.

Hon. T. Aiba,

Consular Agent for Japan,

Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your communication of the 28th of December 1907, with an enclosure containing excerpts from newspapers of this City in relation to some remarks made by me in an address delivered to the National Guard Association held at the Armory a few days ago. In your communication you ask if I have been correctly quoted in relation to the same.

In reply to your favor I have to say that the press reports of what was said by me were a much jumbled mixture of facts and fancies, so much so that I cannot separate the true from the false upon the slips sent to me by you and for this reason I will state what I did say at the meeting referred to above, which was as follows:

" I have been informed that certain persons citizens of a foreign nation were seen making maps and taking photographs of the strategical points about this City". The persons to whom I referred were Japanese; though I did not say so. I stated that I had also been informed that these persons were men of high rank in the Army of their country. I further stated that " I did not know the object of such observations, as were being made, whether they were done merely as a matter of curiosity or otherwise, but that I had reported the matter to Washington as it had been reported to me. I made no

-2-

comment upon the matter farther and asked that my remarks be treated as confidential and that they be not published.

I also said that I had been told that a number of military officers of the Japanese Army were in this City at that time.

This covers what I said upon the subject, except that I commented to a newspaper reporter, upon the folly of placing the means and opportunity to cut off the communications of a community in the hands of persons other than loyal citizens of that country.

Asked " If I thought that my report to Washington had anything to do with the dispatching of the fleet to this Coast?" I said that I did not think so.

Very respectfully yours,

Mayor.



CONSULATE OF JAPAN  
PORTLAND, OREGON  
P. O. BOX 136

(Japan)

PORTLAND, ORE. Dec. 28, 1907.

Hon. Harry Lane, M. D.,  
Mayor of Portland, Oregon.

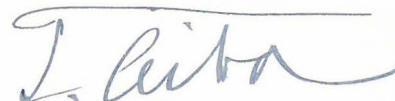
Dear Sir:-

Yesterday's Telegram and this morning's Oregonian both report an address delivered by you yesterday forenoon, in your official capacity of Mayor of this city, to the National Guard Association then assembled at the Armory.

I enclose copy of both reports.

Will you kindly state whether you have been correctly reported? And, in case there be any inaccuracy in the reports, correct such inaccuracies, and kindly return to me the enclosure thus corrected

Very respectfully Yours,



Consular Agent for Japan.

P. S. I left between the lines of the copy sufficient space for possible corrections.

(Japan)  
CONSULATE OF JAPAN  
PORTLAND, OREGON  
P. O. BOX 136

PORTLAND, ORE. Jan. 3, 1908.

Hon. Harry Lane, M. D.,  
Mayor of Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication bearing date of January the 2nd. 1908, in answer to mine of December the 28th 1907.

Yours very respectfully,

*T. Aiba*

The Oregonian of Dec. 28, 1907, p. 14 col. 1, under the heading "Japanese make Portland maps. Mayor Lane ascertains that foreigners have prepared detailed drawings. Advises War Department." publishes the following:

"That information furnished the Washington Government by Mayor Lane one year ago, to the effect that Japanese spies had secured first-class maps of this city and surrounding country, in part, at least, caused the dispatching of the great battleship fleet from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is the belief of Portland's chief executive. He further declares that the situation is grave, and says that the immediate territory about Portland contains hordes of drilled Japanese, some of whom are ranking officers in the Mikado's Imperial Army, or have been such; that they are trained in military tactics and are ready for instant service, and that he advised the President to look into the matter long ago.

The Mayor says that there are a large number of Japanese in Portland and the immediate territory, among them men who at one time ranked as high as major-generals in the Mikado's army. He also declares that they largely control the military situation in Oregon at present, being employed in large numbers by certain railroads, and being entrusted with immense supplies of powder.

Mayor Lane, in an address before the Oregon National Guard Association, at the Armory, yesterday morning, made his first announcement



of the matter, and his remarks created a profound sensation. He did not disclose one-half the information he is said to possess relative to the activity of Japanese in this vicinity. The Mayor did not mention the nationality to which he referred during his speech, but when interviewed at the City Hall, he frankly said that he meant the Japanese.

The Mayor says he ascertained through information furnished him by a policeman one year ago that Japanese were making maps of Portland, of its waterpipe lines and of the surrounding territory. He had the matter investigated, and learned that it was too late to stop the foreigners, as they had finished their work. He found out that they had secured detailed plats of the city, of its water supply and of the adjacent territory.

After making an investigation the Mayor took up the matter with the War Department, filing a detailed report of the situation, and also suggested to President Roosevelt that it might be wise to send secret service agents to this section of the country to investigate. The Mayor wrote to the President stating that whatever might be done to protect the Coast would be appreciated.

"I told the President," said Mayor Lane, "that I did not wish any reply or to be informed of any action that might be taken, but I think that probably secret service agents were sent and that their reports



on the situation were of sufficiently grave import to cause the dispatching of the Atlantic squadron to the Pacific Coast.

"I first learned of the activity of the Japanese in this neighborhood one year ago from a policeman, who discovered one of them taking a plat of the western portion of the city. Immediate investigation was made by me, leading to the startling fact that the Japanese had secured first-class maps of the city and surroundings. I considered the matter so serious that I communicated the information to the War Department, and also wrote to President Roosevelt, suggesting that the Japanese were too busy in this locality to suit me, and suggesting an investigation by Federal agents."

Farther

"How many of you officers," he asked, are acquainted with the topography of your city and the contiguous country so well as are the agents of a certain foreign nation who have been active here getting maps and information concerning this city as well as other Pacific Coast points? It came to my attention recently that these representatives made maps of every roadway leading into Portland. They also made maps of our pipe lines and of our waterways and our harbor. Has it ever occurred to you how easy it would be, with such information, for a hostile force, sufficiently large, to cut off our water supply?

"They had completed their work before I learned of it but I re-



mented such a practice and at once notified the Federal Government of the matter. The Government thanked me for the information and sent a request that I supply any further information of a similar nature available."



The Telegram of Dec. 27, 1907, p. 1 col. 7, under the heading "Japs eye Rose City greedily. Brown spies have complete war maps of Portland" published the following;

"In an address before the National Guard Association at the Armory this morning Mayor Harry Lane informed the guardsmen that Japanese agents had secured accurate maps of the City of Portland, maps and specifications of every roadway leading into the city and of the various pipe lines with which the city is provided with water. The plans and maps were minute and contained a fuller and more complete amount of information than any city official possessed, he said.

The foreigners had completed their investigation and had gained all the information they desired before he learned of their operations, he declared. As soon as he ascertained what had been done, however, he notified the Federal Government. He forwarded to the authorities at Washington all the information he had gathered concerning the actions of the Japanese agents."

And further,

"I wonder how many of you officers are well acquainted with the topography of your city and adjacent country as are the representatives of a certain foreign power whose agents have been gathering information about this, as well as other Pacific Coast cities.

"It recently came to my knowledge that representatives of this

power had been in Portland gathering information concerning our city and that they had for their own private use maps of every roadway leading into Portland. They also have maps of our waterways and harbors, complete plans and maps of our pipe lines, with which our city is supplied with water. Have any of you ever thought of getting similar maps or details, and have any of you ever thought how easy it would be for a foreign power, backed with sufficient force, to cut off our water supply, or what our city would be without our water supply ?

"They had gathered all this information before I learned of it, and of course I resented it. I notified the Federal Government of what I had learned, and the Government replied by thanking me and requesting that I supply it with any additional information I might acquire of that nature."



## STORY

### He Told the Government of Japanese Spies, Thinks Lane Prompted the Pacific Cruise.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE ENQUIRER.

Portland, Ore., December 27. — Mayor Harry Lane, of Portland, believes that the dispatch of the battle-ship fleet from the Atlantic to the Pacific was occasioned by information furnished to the Government by him one year ago that Japanese spies had obtained accurate maps of this city and the surrounding country. The Mayor had not publicly divulged the information he obtained until to-day, when, in an address before the National Guard Association of Oregon, he took occasion to warn the state militia officials of the situation. In the address he did not name the Japanese as the nation to be feared, but in an interview to-night he did not hesitate to do so.

"I was first informed of the activity of Japanese spies in Portland by a policeman one year ago," said Mayor Lane. "He had caught a party of the Orientals making a plan of the western portion of the city. I made immediate investigation and learned that the Japanese had obtained first-class maps, not only of the city, but also of the roads leading to Portland and of the city's water mains.

"I considered the matter so serious that I communicated the information to the War Department and also wrote to President Roosevelt, telling him that the Japanese were too busy in this locality to suit me and suggested an investigation by Federal agents."