

JAPAN FRIEND OF AMERICA, SAYS TAKAHIRA

Ambassador to United States
Discredits Rumors of Un-
friendly Feelings Between
Two Countries.

MIKADO'S DIPLOMATIC POLICY GETS PRAISE

Declares While Some Unde-
sirable Incidents Occurred,
They Were Only Local Af-
fairs and Not National.

By United Press, Special by Leased
Wire.

NEW YORK, Saturday, Dec. 19.—
Kogoro Takahira, Japanese am-
bassador to the United States,
discredited all rumors of unfriendly
feeling between America and Japan in
an address tonight before the Lotus
Club. Incidentally, he hung a few flow-
ers on the character of the Japanese
diplomatic policy, declaring that it was
not founded upon craft, but honesty and
straightforwardness.

"A diplomat speaks much when his
affairs are not in good shape," said the
ambassador, "but as things are now be-
tween the United States and Japan there
is nothing to warrant much speech-
making. I fully believe that I am not
mistaken when I say that our relations
are in the best possible condition. I
think we may say there is nothing to
be desired in the relations between the
two countries. But if the past is to
serve as a lesson for the future, it would
be well to consider what we have had
to experience for these few years.

Undesirable Incidents.

"In these years, we have to admit, we
have had such a terrible time in relation
to our relations as we could never have
anticipated. No doubt there were some
undesirable incidents occurring between
people of the two countries, but they
were only local affairs and in no way
to be regarded as menacing to our tra-
ditional friendship.

"But too much importance was given
to them in some quarters and even a
war clamor was allowed to be raised
in spite of the sincere good will exist-
ing all the time between the two gov-
ernments. But thanks to the sincerity
of the friendship existing all the time
between the two governments no serious
consequences were allowed to occur that
might otherwise follow such circum-
stances.

Rights Truly Protected.

"The declaration of the two govern-
ments recently made by the United
States and Japan in regard to their re-
spective policy in China and the Pa-
cific is simply a reaffirmation of what
was understood between them years ago
and there is practically nothing which
was not hitherto declared by them.

"Still, when such a declaration is
made by two governments of great
moral standing like the United States
and Japan, it will undoubtedly have an
important effect which, I think, is al-
ready beginning to be felt in many ways
and it is my sincere desire that the
people of each country will have the
same mind as their governments in
trusting that of the other, and in so
doing, I am convinced their rights will
be fully protected and their interests
largely advanced to the mutual benefit of
the two countries."