

LAND LAW TO AFFECT ALL ALIENS

Assemblyman A. M. Drew
Proposes That No Foreigners
Be Allowed to Own Real Es-
tate in California.

JAPANESE CANNOT ALLEGE DISCRIMINATION

Suggested Legislation Said to
Be in Conformity With Ex-
pressed Views of National
Authorities.

SACRAMENTO, Friday, Jan. 29.—As-
semblyman A. M. Drew, of Fresno,
Cal., introduced in the Legisla-
ture today a substitute for the alien
land bill that President Roosevelt ob-
jected to on the ground that it dis-
criminated against Japanese in denying
aliens the right to own land.

The substitute does not contain the
features deemed unwise by the national
authorities and is in accord with sug-
gestions made by Gov. J. N. Gillett in
his recent special message to the
Legislature.

It is modeled after the Oklahoma law,
which denies all aliens the right to own
lands. The original Drew measure was
alleged to be discriminatory because it
provided that aliens who did not become
citizens of the United States should not
own real estate. As Japanese are de-
nied the right of citizenship, they would
be placed at a disadvantage with other
aliens who might take out citizenship
papers in order to hold their property.

Extension of Time.

Assemblyman Drew introduced his
new bill just before adjournment this
afternoon.

Drew moved that it be referred to a
select committee of one, but Assembly-
man Johnson moved to amend the mo-
tion by referring it to the judiciary
committee. Drew then asked that the
clerk send the bill back to him.

This the speaker would not permit.
Drew then explained that he feared he
would not be able to keep his promise
to President Roosevelt, Gov. Gillett and
many members of the assembly that
he would call up his bill next Wednes-
day to amend it to conform to the ad-
ministration's wishes by eliminating the
clause preventing only Japanese from
owning land.

Earlier in the day Drew had promised
Speaker Stanton that he would withhold
the new bill until tomorrow, pending the
arrival of President Roosevelt's letter
on the subject. He then decided to get
the amendment into the hands of the
printer at once.

The judiciary committee will report
on the new bill Tuesday.

The important sections of the amend-
ment as proposed are as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting
clause and insert:

"Section 1—No alien shall acquire
title to or own land in the state of Cal-
ifornia except as hereinafter provided,
but he shall have and enjoy in the state
of California such rights as to personal
property as are or shall be accorded a
citizen of the United States under the
laws of the nation to which such alien
belongs or by the treaties of such na-
tion with the United States, except as
may be affected by the provisions of this
act.

"Section 2—This act shall not apply
to lands now owned in this state by
aliens so long as they are held by the
present owners.

May Hold for Five Years.

"Section 3—All aliens who may here-
after acquire real property in California
by device, descent or purchase may hold
the same for five years from the date
of so acquiring such title. If any alien
at the time of acquiring title to lands
situated in this state be under the age
of 21 years he may hold title to the
same for five years after the time he
becomes 21 years of age.

"Section 4—Any alien who shall here-
after hold lands in the state of Califor-
nia in contravention of the provisions
of this act may nevertheless convey the
fee simple title thereof at any time be-
fore the institution of escheat proceed-
ings as hereinafter provided; provided,
however, that, if any such conveyance
shall be made by such alien either to
an alien or to a citizen of the United
States in trust and for the purpose and
intention of evading the provisions of
this act such conveyance shall be null
and void and such lands so conveyed
shall be forfeited and escheated to the
state of California absolutely for the
benefit and use of the public school
fund."