

# JAPANESE DENIED CITIZENSHIP

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Virginia Judge Bars Naval  
Steward, Holding No Alien  
Eligible Except of White or  
African Descent.

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Right Claimed Under Act En-  
franchising Foreigners Who  
Have Served Honorably in  
Navy or Marine Corps.

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NORFOLK, Va., Tuesday, May 4.—  
Federal Judge Edmond Waddill, Jr., of  
the United States court for the Eastern  
District of Virginia, in the application  
for naturalization of Namyō Bessho, a  
Japanese "chief steward" in the United  
States navy, denied the petition, holding  
that under the federal statute no Jap-  
anese or alien except of white blood or  
of African descent or nativity can be-  
come an American citizen, even though  
he has seen service in the United States  
navy or marine corps.

Bessho claimed the right of natural-  
ization under the act of Congress of July  
26, 1894, giving an alien of the age of  
21 years and upward who has served  
honorably in the navy or marine corps  
the right of citizenship after proper  
court form.

District Attorney Robert H. Talley,  
appearing for the government, resisted  
this, holding that under Section 2169 of  
the federal statutes, as amended in 1875,  
only "free white persons" and "aliens  
of African descent" are entitled to  
naturalization. Judge Waddill, sustain-  
ing this, ruled that the act of 1894 cou-  
not repeal by implication the statute of  
1875, and that there are no direct terms  
of repeal.

Bessho is preparing an appeal.

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