

MORE THAN MERE SENTIMENT.

There is something more than sentiment to be considered in the ultimate fixing of the attitude of the United States government towards the Chinese. This was very clearly put in a speech made at the Chamber of Commerce banquet in New York by Charles Stewart Smith, president of that body. The speaker has had facilities for personal observation concerning the sentiment that exists in that country in the premises and his remarks are certainly entitled to great weight. He declared that the large and constantly growing commerce which we now have with China has already been seriously jeopardized by the recent anti-Chinese legislation, and that further action in the same direction will increase the danger and bring deplorable results.

No question exists in the minds of those with whom he conferred on the subject, while in China recently, that retaliatory measures will be used if sufficient provocation is given that will work great hardship to important branches of American trade.

The principal item in this country's export trade to China is cotton goods, but the matter of breadstuffs, provisions, oils and miscellaneous articles goes to make up a handsome total, worth consideration when the country is so much in need of expanding markets for its surplus products. It must be considered whether the loss of this trade to the whole country can be afforded at the demand of demagogic clamor on the part of sand lot politicians on the Pacific coast. And it should be taken into account that of the 60 millions of people in this country not more than 125,000 are Chinese—and these distributed all over the land, and in great part welcome and useful in their way. The only demand that is heard that these people shall be deported comes from a section of the country that will suffer little or not at all from any retaliatory measures which China may adopt. The personal observations made by Mr. Smith simply confirm the arguments that have been set forth against the policy which would send these people from the country while holding the gates wide open for a flood of immigration, bringing a class beside which the Chinese should be welcomed with open arms.