NEW STUDY IN ECONOMICS.

If the announced plans of Mr. T.

Furushima, Japanese purchaser of a shingle mill at Sumas, are carried out. the shingle business on Puget Sound is in due season bound to present a new study in economics. The capitalist from the land of the Mikado will not close his shingle mill when times are hard and the demand is poor. Instead he will proceed on his commercial voyage under shortened sail by reducing the wages of the employes and storing the stock that cannot be disposed of. Mr. Furushima says that he will not draw the color line, but that white men will be given an opportunity to work if they will accept the same wages as are paid the Japanese. He also announces that for the present about the same wages will be paid as are paid by the mills now operated by the white men when the demand is good. For the present this new arrival in the industrial field will operate but one mill, but as rapidly as green hands can be broken into the work the syndicate which is supplying the funds for the enterprise will purchase more milis, employ more Japanese and make more shingles. Japanese labor, wherever it

there are none of the entaglements attendant on unionism to be reckoned with in employing the Japanese has tended to popularize it in many lines of industry, to the detriment of white lubor. At the same time, the Japanese has in certain lines failed to 'make good" when compared with the white laborer. Size, weight and intelligence count against him in many places where the two classes of labor have been tried, and to make up for his shortcomings he has to his credit only a willingness to work longer hours for less money than will be accepted by the white man. The Japanese have for many years been extensively employed in the lumber business in British Columbia, and the low schedule of wages paid them has been a popular complaint of the American lumbermen in their demands for protection against the Canadian lumber. Their advent in the shingle business on the American side of the

line, where they will come in direct

has been utilized on the Pacific Coast,

has been secured at a much lower cost

than white labor, and the fact that

competition with the American laborers and shingle manufacturers, cannot well do otherwise than create quite a disturbance in the business as soon as they secure a foothold. Unionism among the shingle workers on Puget Sound was at one time suificiently strong to prevent the manufacture of shingles or the marketing of them unless they were turned out by union labor. It is possible that the unions are still strong enough to ward off this new danger that seems destined in the end to play serious havoc with union principles and methods. It is not alone the laborer who seems slated to suffer by this foreign invasion of a protected steld, but, is Mr. Furushima proceeds on the plan he has outlined, he will be In a position eventually to defy the shingle trust and sell the product of his mills at any price he is willing to accept, regardless of what it may cost his white neighbors to turn out the goods. Viewed from the most liberal standpoint, it is aparent that the appearance of the Japanese as shingle manufacturers savors greatly of the "yellow perll" in a form where it may prove unpleasant for a large number of white men engaged in the shingle business.