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Your Excellency.

I most respectfully beg to call Your Excellency's attention to the amount of work under contract by one of the great Railway Contractors, Henry Meiggs, whose contracts for the last few years with Chile, Bolivia, and Peru, amount to over one Hundred & Thirty million Dollars, and paid for in the Bonds of the Govt and negotiated by said Meiggs in London when required.

I respectfully ask if your Govt will build one railway by contract? It is the only speedy, cheap, and instructive way to build railways. The experience of all governments have been that it was better to contract public work. Most Public Works Departments are expensive, and slow. Usually a very large percentage of the amount expended, is for expensive and superfluous salaried officers. Your present system of Railway building is not instructive, expeditious, or economical; to continue to build your Railways in Japan by this system, will waste many millions of

To His Excellency

Okuma Shigenobu

dollars.

dollars.

Most of the formidable items of cost that burdens so heavily your system of Railway building is unknown to the Railway Contractor; his staff is not so large; his remuneration for salaries much less; only practical assistants are employed; then, the contractor himself is thoroughly practical;- understands every kind of Service and construction required, consequently he takes the field more actively, and having built many roads, knows how to avoid the larger portion of expenditures of a Public Works Department Staff.

Should your Govt. desire to build one, or more Railways under contract, giving your Bonds in payment for the same at 7% interest I will be pleased to introduce to you, responsible parties who will enter into contract with you for any roads you may require.

In building new Railways, the property alongside is much enhanced in value, and much of the Govt. land adjoining would bring good prices, and taxes would greatly increase.

Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
J. Mc. Batchelder

Tokio. Nov. 22.
1874.

バチルドルヨリ鉄道建築方ノ儀ニ
付建台