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September 1870

To His Excellency  
Sir Harry J. Parkes K.C.B.

Sir  
The British Government having  
on behalf of the Government of  
Japan signed the agreement on the  
terms of which I am now engaged,  
I trust it is not out of place  
for me to draw your attention to it,  
and to petition you to use your  
influence to get it in some particulars  
revised and amended. -

The date of my appointment  
was the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 1868, and  
the Japanese Government are engaged  
to employ me for five years from  
that time, or to make me such  
remuneration as may be decided  
on by you. - I at the present  
time not being bound to remain  
any longer in the service. -

Precisely one half of those five  
years have now expired, and  
on this account as well as  
from the fact that I have just  
handed in to the Government  
a resumé of our whole proceedings  
I deem this an opportune moment  
to lay before yourself and the  
Government a few alterations in  
the terms of my engagement  
which

which I would desire to see made. —

First. I would request that my salary be raised from \$450. to \$600. per month. — With the exception of my own the Government has consented to the increase in the pay of nearly every man in our service who has arrived from England. — The Salaries of the Assistant Engineers having been doubled. — And this is only a reasonable concession on account of the different mode of living in Japan, the high price of European articles of food, cloths, or furniture, and the consequent unthought of and unexpected expenses which Europeans here are put to, & which certainly reduces the salary one third of what it was imagined it would be when accepted, it in England.

I would further wish to point out that our works are of far greater magnitude and importance than was contemplated they would be when the amount of my salary was fixed, and that from instructions lately received they are likely to increase, and that we will be called on to carry out works of far greater extent than we have hitherto done. — My salary is also below the rate of pay in  
Japan

Japan of persons similarly situated at the head of a department whether in the service of the Government or of Commercial establishments. —

The Chief Engineer of Yokohama receiving nearly double my salary, his assistants receiving as much as I am now asking for. — I should also point out that any Engineer in England carrying out the same works and charging the usual Engineering fees would receive quite double the amount paid to me. — That without any engagement for life or prospect of a pension it is my duty to my family to lay by a small and reasonable amount, and that my present salary will not permit this but is barely sufficient to meet the expenses I have to incur to keep up a position consistent with my office among the foreign Community. —

Second. I have to ask a renewal of my engagement for a period of years or that some lengthened notice be given me before dismissal.

No one can conduct such works as I am engaged on with interest or any spirit unless he feels to some extent settled. — Perhaps the most convenient arrangement for the Government would be not to mention any fixed time of

of Engagement, but to undertake to give  
pay two years notice before dismissing  
me, and this I would be willing  
to agree to

Third, that my passage money &  
that of my family be paid to England  
on the termination of my engagement.

Fourth. That in case of sickness or  
accident such compensation be paid me  
as may be decided on by H. M's Minister,  
and passage money to England for  
self & family. - and that in case of  
my death such reasonable compensation  
be given my wife as may be decided  
by H. M's Minister, with passage for  
herself and children to England.

Fifth. That six or nine months leave  
on half pay be given every fifth year  
this would be looked on as a reward  
for five years steady application. -

I have delayed making this application  
until I had accomplished something  
to give the Government some confidence  
in me - and I have only now to lay  
all my endeavours before you & to  
hope that they may be considered  
sufficiently valuable to warrant the  
granting of these applications. -

Trusting to have an early  
reply I have the honor to be  
Sir your obedient servant

Wm. Hamilton

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