

Yokohama No 37

20 April 1871

My dear Sir

Before sending you in my official letter respecting the Staff for working the Railway I think it right to request your Excellency's special attention to the appointment of a Railway Commissioner who should be a Japanese Gentleman of sufficient rank & importance to give weight to his office & ensure implicit obedience - He will have to deal with persons of every rank in life & should possess good judgment & if possible be able to speak English - He will be required constantly to give prompt decisions on matters not admitting of delay & must therefore possess the perfect confidence of the Government - The office

will be so sincere I ought to be well
satisfied and whoever is elected to fill
it should now be prepared to begin
the duties before the time is ready for
opening

This office will be wholly occupied
with Railway & Telegraph Affairs &
cannot take up other branches of Public
Works which will require a separate Com-
-missioner & he will I presume Commu-
-nicate direct with the Public Works Mini-
-ster

I am sure you will excuse this
trespass upon your Excellency's attention
in an unofficial form when you know
how important the subject is to the first
success of the Railway

H. S.
Othman Saufi

I remain
Your very obed^t
M^t Oupil