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Memorandum

The rapid progress which the Government of the Mikado is making in the way of modelling the institutions of Japan upon those of Western Countries will no doubt ere long suggest to the Rulers of this Empire the desirability of appointing Consular Agents in those of the principal cities of Europe which are mostly visited by Japanese officers, students or merchants.

By way of experiment the Government might commence by appointing a Consular Agent in London or Paris; the latter ^{city} especially is a central place whence he could in a short time and with little expense visit any other country of Europe. By such an arrangement the Japanese Government would be placed in a position either to dispose in the most advantageous manner of Japanese produce, - or to buy everything the Government may require from Europe, such as arms, ships, naval stores, military equipments etc. in the cheapest market. They would thus get good articles at reasonable prices.

There can be no doubt that the experiments hitherto made by the Japanese Government in buying foreign articles through Japanese Agents, have in most cases been most disastrous to them: they have been supplied with inferior articles at exorbitant prices. This fact is too clearly shown by the numerous claims now pending in foreign Consulates against the late Han -

Now if the Japanese Government had an

intelligent and honest Agent in Europe, I can see no reason why Japan should not be supplied with all the necessary requirements as cheaply as any European Power.

In addition to these great advantages, the Japanese Government would also, if desirable, be regularly informed of all political matters of importance in Europe.

Should the Japanese Government therefore decide to appoint such a Consular Agent, I should be willing to accept that office on reasonable terms; and I have no hesitation in saying that there is no foreigner in Japan who would be better qualified to occupy such a position. In the first place it is well known to Terashima how sincerely and earnestly I was devoted to the interests of the Japanese Government and people, while I had charge of the Municipal Office at Yokohama. His Excellency must confess that in many instances I showed even a greater desire to uphold the rights of the Japanese than the Government officials themselves; that I made enemies of some of the foreign Ministers, who formerly were my friends, because I would not allow them to commit what I considered to be an injustice to the Japanese. Therefore as to my honesty of purpose I need say no more.

As regards ability it is clear that if I did not know my business thoroughly, the British Government would not have entrusted to me an office of great importance. I would merely say, therefore, that I can speak

and write all the principal languages of Europe and that I am therefore competent to transact business in any country of Europe in which the Japanese Government might wish me to transact business for them.

In conclusion I beg to give the most solemn assurance that if the Government will confer upon me such an appointment, I shall serve the Government of the Mikado as faithfully as I am now serving the Government of the Queen of England. #.