

To His Excellency

Okuma Mimbu no Jaiw
 Kusaka
 Department of Finance
 Osaka

Sir

Since I last had the honour of reporting on the progress of the works here, I would beg to state that Mr Hattori arrived here safely a few days after his arrival in Nagasaki where he was detained by bad weather.

The reports had been put on a Japanese sailing boat, and on account of bad weather were detained on the way some eighteen or twenty days. They only

arrived here on the 12th of the
3rd Japanese month - they
were landed the next day
and brought here to the
furnace a distance of 200
Kens, by men, each retort
taking 50 men. As no roads
exist wide enough, the men
had to walk through the
rice fields in mud one foot
deep - however the whole work
was accomplished and every
thing brought here during the
day.

Rain falling on the 15th
no work was undertaken. On
the 16th two of the retorts were
lifted in their place in the
furnace, the stone ^{had} then
to fit some of the stone work
around ^{these} two, for
the third one, which was
lifted in its place yesterday.
Today the front & back wall
is finished & I hope in five
days more to see the oven
finished. A slow fire must
at first be made to dry and
prevent the stone from cracking
this will continue about ten
days when I hope to charge
the retorts for the first time.

The work in the mine
is progressing as usual,

Cinnabar being taken out
every day -

Sheds, of a cheap character
have been put over the place
where the stone is washed &
sorted - & a Coal & lime shed
built.

I just learn that two
officers from Tokyo have
arrived at Shinoua, but
not officially.

Hoping to report
further in a few days I
have the honour to be

Your Excellency's
most obedient &
humble servant

H. M. Fowler

N. E. to the Japan Gov^{ts}.