

Private.

462
A
Tokai, July 12th 1874.

Your Excellency,

Mr. Itirai duly delivered
Your Excellency's message concerning the
copying of certain correspondence, on Friday
night; and he mentioned to Mr. Davids
this morning that the work may be delay-
ed some time longer. I am fully convinced,
however, that my departure for Amoy
should not be postponed for the want of
these documents; and, agreeably to Your
Excellency's instructions, I have decided to
leave Yokohama on the 15th instant, at
daylight, by the French mail for Hong
Kong, where I will take a coast steamer
for Amoy. This would give ample time for
the iron-clad to reach its destination either at
the same time as myself, or very shortly
afterwards.

On the other side, the sea trip will do me much good; and it is fully time that I should have such relief, as my head is becoming more and more painful each day that I stay here.

Should it be impossible to get the copy of the correspondence I asked for ready by tonight, I would be grateful if Your Excellency would consent to receive me tomorrow morning, at whatever hour may be agreeable to you, and communicate to me verbally the main points of said correspondence, and show me the heading of General Saigō's first letter to the Foochow authorities. With this information, I shall be able to draw up the draft of the instructions in accordance with Your Excellency's wishes. The other matters I can discuss with Your Excellency, and settle on the spot.

I beg to enclose to Your Excellency two copies of the Tōkei paper of this week, wherein Your Excellency will find a very interesting article on

the late case against the P. M. & S. Company. As Your Excellency has the goodness to express a desire to reward, in some manner, the efforts on our behalf of Mr. Beville, the editor of that paper, I beg respectfully to enclose a memo. on the advisability of establishing a Government Gazette at Tōkei. However crude these views may be, I hope Your Excellency will find in them some hints worthy of Your Excellency's attention.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's

Most Obedient Humble Servant,

Chu Wafukue

His Excellency

Okuma Shigenobu,

Minister of Colonization,

St. St. St.

Memo. No. 34.

Arguments in favor of
the establishment of a
Japanese Government Gazette.



Memo. No. 34.

In all countries which, from want of means, deficiency of appliances, or lack of knowledge, have not been able to develop their resources as to be enabled to rely upon themselves, much difficulty has been experienced by those holding the reins of Government in attracting to their countries that which they lack. It has always been necessary to establish a thorough confidence in not only the resources of the country, but in the ability and willingness of the Government to deal honestly and fairly by

those who devote to their service either capital, brains, or appliances. How a want of this confidence nearly all the South American States have suffered, many of the States of the United States have, also driven away European capital by their repudiation of foreign loans, while in Europe, Turkey and Spain form excellent examples of this statement. Examine any country which, by its unstable Government, or by its reckless dealing with foreign capital, has destroyed all confidence, and it is at once proved that such countries suffer much by the short sighted policy of their rulers. The progress of civilization is retarded, if not

wholly arrested; the resources of the country lie buried in the ground or are recklessly disregarded; and impoverishment and decay are the necessary results.

Other countries which have always striven to attract foreign assistance, have induced a feeling of confidence in the stability of their Governments which has, it is needless to say, had the most beneficial results. In most of these countries, that feeling of confidence has been materially assisted, it might almost be said, created - by the clear enunciation in the columns of the public press, of the intentions and desires of the Government, so far as such

enunciation does not interfere with or hinder the action of those entrusted with the control of public affairs. It has also been found, without exception, impossible to communicate Government information to all the papers, and therefore in all countries governed directly by the sovereign and his advisers, it has been necessary to establish an official gazette, the conductors of which, being in the pay of the Government, are bound in honor to keep secret all such information as should not be made public, and are, in fact, animated by that feeling of esprit de corps which pervades the Government services of every country. Through

them, events which otherwise appear mysterious and even tending to the injury of the country are explained; all feeling against the course adopted by the Government is swept away by the support thus afforded; and the Government itself is inspired with confidence to follow the path which its ministers consider advisable, by the fact that its actions will receive merited support and be duly explained by the conductors of the official gazette. The advantages thus gained by a government, be it strong or be it weak, are incalculable, and are so apparent that, even in England, where the country is ruled by responsible ministers, elected by the

people, it is customary for the editor of the leading journal to attend daily at the various public offices to obtain such information as the Government may desire to make public. Besides this, a Government Gazette has for years been in existence, and in its columns is always to be found such Government information as the public requires and ought to know.

In Japan, a country which is, so to speak, in a transition state, the confidence of foreign countries is especially desirable, even necessary. Now, no one would be so rash as to say that the Government has done

anything to mar that feeling of confidence. Indeed, at the present moment, it is evident that the capitalists of the world have every confidence in this country; and were such a state of affairs to continue, no money would be wanting to secure to Japan the development of her resources to the fullest extent.

But, despite this, it must not be forgotten that Japan is yet a new country; that few persons, even those generally well-informed, know anything at all about it; and that by many, Japan is thought to be even more exclusive than China. And yet these are the people

to whom Japan must look
for its capital. The large bank-
ing houses of London may "float"
the loan, but from the pockets
of the masses comes the money
which eventually finds its way
into the coffers of the Imperial
Treasury; and to influence these
people must be the desire and
aim of the Government. It has
been said that at present there
is every confidence in the
Japanese Government; but
it need hardly be added that,
with a country so new to the
world as is Japan, the shock
need not be very severe to
injure, if not destroy, that
confidence. If it be asked
how such a shock is to be
given, it is only necessary

to point to the Yokohama
papers. Their conductors, writing
without knowledge, reckless of
all consequences, and desirous
only to gratify the Yokohama
merchants who, from various
causes, are nearly all inim-
ical to the Government and
people, convey to the people
of both England and the Uni-
ted States a feeling that this
country is over-estimated, that
its government is weak; that
its resources are small; and that
it is eminently unsafe for
any capitalist to entrust his
money to a country which,
as the papers say, is on
the eve of rebellion and
disintegration. It is useless
for the Government to feel

that they are acting wisely and are doing their best for the country, if those from whom they desire to obtain capital have constantly before them in the papers the statement that the country is bankrupt and its Government a fiction. However absurd such statements are, and though those acquainted with the country and unbiased in their opinions may feel their absurdity, yet the public believe them, and the Government is thereby injured. Indeed it is hardly to be wondered at, since these statements are never contradicted, and the "Japan Mail," which has the credit

of possessing Government support, while one day upholding the Government, the next throws in its teeth the vilest and most unmerited abuse.

To counteract these statements it is necessary that the Government should establish an organ of its own in Tokio. No Yokohama journal, the proprietor of which depends upon public support for his profit, would answer, as such a journal would have to pander to the public taste in order to secure patronage, and would therefore be antagonistic to the Government. No gigantic sum, such as the \$25,000 demanded by the "Japan Mail," would

be necessary for the purpose. About \$3,500 or \$4000, not entrusted to amateurs like the Yokohama journalists, but to one who has been trained for years to the journalistic profession, would be ample to purchase all the type and material necessary for the establishment of a weekly paper, while the working expenses would be less than \$1000 per month, including editor's salary, contributions, and other expenses.

It should here be mentioned, on the contra side of the account, that this expenditure of \$4000 would provide not only sufficient material for the paper, but

also for printing all the foreign forms and books required for the various departments. This can not amount to less than \$800 a month, and that, together with the subscribers, etc., would not only prevent any loss, but might, in experienced hands, be made a source of profit. To secure this, it would be useless to employ as the conductor of the paper, an amateur whose only experience has been in connection with the Yokohama journals. He must be a man of experience, who has been brought up to the profession, and has learned it in the best journals of England and America.

In proof of the statement that the establishment of a Government organ might be made a source of revenue, it may be mentioned that the English Government Gazette produced, in the year 1873, a net profit of £24,000.

Such an organ ought to be possessed by the Government of Japan - to be under their control and to be conducted by a salaried editor. We have seen how the Yokohama journals have misconstrued the action of the Government in the Saga rebellion and the Formosa mission; and though at present the statements in their columns have not produced

much effect, yet it is certain that, unless checked, the slightest reverse with which this country may meet, will, exaggerated by the press beyond all reason, prove most injurious to this country and its people.

Tokio, July 8th, 1874.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ch. W. ...
His Excellency
Okuma Shigenobu,
Minister of Okurasho,
Sh. Sh. Sh.

Robertson