

Memo. No. 24.

李氏第廿四号覚書
元口夕号船一余

The undersigned went to Yokoska yesterday in company with Captain Cassel, and, in the absence of Mr. Verrier, met one of the directors and the engineer of the Arsenal, who, after consultation, promised that the "Corroda" should be at Yokohama in readiness for sea on the morning of Wednesday next, the 8th instant, at the latest. In view of the speedy despatch of this vessel, the following suggestions by Captain Cassel are submitted.

1. - A bulk head should be run up for extra storage of coal.
2. - Side ports should be made for two guns, and a platform

apt for a third one. (a).

(3). - The provisions and stores, together with one hundred and twenty five (125) tons of coal, should be sent down to Yokosuka, and put aboard the ship at once to save time. (b).

(a). The Directors of the Arsenal have promised that the work designated under paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be executed at once, and within the specified time, so that no fresh instructions need be issued on these points.

(b). The Navy Department may consider that this should be attended to by Captain Brown as soon as he has been appointed to the "Corroda".

4. - Fifty soldiers should be detailed to serve in the ship, and her crew increased to at least forty men (sailors).

5. - The officer detailed to command the soldiers, should, if possible, be one able to instruct his men in the use of the Cannon.

6. - The ammunition, shell, canister, and particularly the charges of powder for the guns, should be inspected immediately, and if not ready and in order, the guns should be changed at once for others ready in all respects for service.

7. - Amongst the crew of the "Corroda" should be six good Carpenters. Those who have

been accustomed to going to sea would be preferable. (c).

8. — Another small gun should be put in the stern of the ship. (d).

(c) The Navy Department may consider that the recommendations contained in paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 should be attended to by the Chief of the Marine Corps, or some other suitable officer of the Navy Department.

(d) — There are no guns at the Goswicka Navy Yard to supply the requirement under paragraph 8. If the government has any guns of the description already on board the "Corroda", one of that sort should be sent; if not, a smooth-bore cannon will answer. If a list of the cannon in possession of the government be furnished, one will be selected.

The undersigned would also suggest that suitable arrangements should be made on board the "Corroda", whereby the foreign officers of the ship, who are found by the Japanese Government, may be provided with table accommodation during the long trip now before them; and, to this effect, as no officer has been appointed to the Command of the ship, if Captain Brown is to receive that post, he should be notified at once. He stated to Captain Cassel yesterday that he would be ready at twenty four hours notice; and inasmuch as he has not been informed by Captain Cassel of the destination of the ship,

and has said that he is not only ready to go anywhere, but is anxious to undertake any extraordinary service under Capt. Cassel's direction, it would be better not to tell him that he is to go to Formosa, but that he must get ready for an eight days' cruise.

Dr. Manson telegraphed me yesterday that the proposition of H. I. M. Government, made to him through me, to serve for four months from the 15th of April, has been accepted. The Government should write me at once, giving me authority to formally employ this gentleman upon the above stated terms, specifying in what manner his salary shall be paid.

The salary arrangements with Captain Cassel, Lieutenant Wasson,

Mr. Davids, and other foreign officers connected with the expedition, should also be perfected as soon as possible. This ^{officers} may, for a few months, be prevented from holding regular communication with their families, and be exposed to the danger of losing their lives; therefore they are anxious to settle their affairs, and, perhaps, remit funds to their homes before leaving.

A liberal provision should be made by the Japanese Government in favor of the families of such officers

(a). It may be that, in certain circumstances, the Chief Commissioner will be compelled to stop all mails, and thus prevent private communication between these officers and the outside world.

as may lose their lives in its service in Formosa, and announced to those officers before they leave. This would stimulate their zeal. In case of death by wounds received, or by diseases contracted, in Formosa, the families or legal heirs of the deceased should be paid one year's salary. A provision of this sort for six months' salary is made in Lieut. Masson's Contract; but as the risks in Formosa are much greater than in Yesso, the sum paid, in my opinion, instead of being six months, should be one year's salary. This, however, need not be done in my case,

Respectfully Submitted.

His Excellency *Gen. W. K. Seward*
Okuma Shigenobu,
 Minister of Finance, etc.