

Hong Kong

4<sup>th</sup> December 1878

Sir,

Since addressing Your Excellency  
last on the 29<sup>th</sup> November, the Manager  
of the Chartered Bank of India  
Australia & China has arrived here  
on a visit, and he informs me  
that he understands from the Singapore  
Government that they prefer to  
retain the Japanese Yen as a legal  
tender there, and therefore there will  
be no alteration. I am further  
informed by this gentleman that  
the Japanese Yen is increasing  
in favour in Singapore and the  
Straits settlements, and he gave me  
an order for Yen 300.000 to Yen 500.000

Your Excellency at par delivered in Singapore.

Okuma Sengi

This order

Okuraoko

This order I transmitted to Your  
Excellency by telegraph through  
the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha yesterday,  
and it will afford Your Excellency  
practical evidence of the increasing  
favour of the Japanese You in  
this neighborhood; and I trust the  
You will soon be at a premium.

Takasima Coal — I would beg  
to call Your Excellency's attention  
to the conduct of Messrs Jardine  
Matheson & Co in endeavouring  
to injure the sale of Japanese Coal  
in this market. The merits or  
demerits of the quarrel between  
Messrs Jardine Matheson & Co and  
Mr Goto Sojiro is no concern of  
mine, but watching and guarding  
Japanese interests as I have  
promised to do, I cannot allow

(as I maintain) Messrs Jardine Matheson & Co  
illegal and mischievous action to pass  
without bringing it before Your Excellency,  
as the same is injurious to one of the  
most important products of Japan - Coal.

This advertisement has appeared  
in the Japan newspapers, and possibly  
by reason of the difficulty of jurisdiction,  
it was allowed to pass by the Japanese  
government without question, but being  
published in a British colony it is  
subjected to British law, and I have  
good reason to believe that Messrs  
Jardine Matheson & Co have committed  
an illegal act and can be held  
responsible. By reason of this  
advertisement the Chinese who have  
hitherto fully appreciated Japan Coal  
have been afraid to buy it, consequently  
it may have to be sent back to Japan.

I attach a letter I have addressed to the newspapers protesting against the conduct of the abovementioned firm in this matter. It is unnecessary to remark that I have nothing whatever to do with Mr Goto sojira in this matter and that my acquaintance with him is of the very slightest character.

It is only as regards its effect on Japanese interests that I have felt it my duty to bring it to Your Excellency's notice.

Mr Robertson of the Oriental Bank returns to Shanghai tomorrow and is anxious that I should see Your Excellency and explain everything.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient servant

John Pitman

在香港「チヨン、ピットマン」ヨリノ来翰譯

十一月二十九日書ヲ閣下ニ捧呈セシ以来印度、濠國、支那有理銀行ノ支配人巡視ノ為ニ当港ニ到着セリ同氏余ニ告テ云ク新埠坡政府ニテハ日本円銀ヲ以テ是迄通り其合法貨幣ニ取定メ置ンテ好ム由ヲ同政府ヨリ承知セリト故ニ最早廟議ノ變更スルヲアラカルヘシト

尚又同氏余ニ告テ云ク新埠坡長ニ「ストレイツ、セフトルメント」新埠坡近傍殖民地ノ總稱ニ於テハ日本円銀ヲ好ム者漸ク増殖ノ勢アリト且ツ新埠坡渡ニテ平價ヲ以テ三拾万円乃至五拾万円ノ円銀ヲ引受ケタキ注文ヲ余ニナセリ

大藏省

右円銀注文ノ後ハ昨日三井物産會社ヲ經由シ電報ヲ以テ閣下ニ報道セリサレハ此一事ヲ以テ当港近傍ニ於テ日本円銀ヲ好ム者漸ク増殖ノ色ヤルノ実跡ヲ閣下ニ示スニ足ラン又顧フニ円銀カ打安ヲ得ルニ至ルハ立刻ニアルベシ

高島石炭ノ事  
「ヂヤージーン、マキソン」社中カ勉メテ以テ日本石炭ノ当市場ニ販賣セラル、ヲ傷害セントスルノ舉動ニ付閣下ノ注目アラントヲ希望ス

夫レ「ヂヤージーン、マキソン」社中ト後藤象次郎君トノ間ニ起リシ訴訟ノ如キハ其曲直如何ニアルモ高島炭坑ニハ是モ關係ナキモノナリ

然レ氏余ハ嘗テ日本ノ利害得失ヲ目視保護センコトヲ約セシ如ク其念慮平生ニ在ルアレハ今ヤ此「ヂヤージーン、マキソン」社中ノ不法有害ナル處置ヲ黙ニ付スルアタハサレハ聊カ閣下ニ申陳スル所アラサルヘカラス何トナレハ夫レ此不法有害ノ處

置タル日本ノ至緊至要ナル産物ノ一タル石炭ニ取リテ有害ノ  
モノタレハナリ

高島炭坑云々ノ廣告ハ日本ニアル諸新聞紙上ニ見  
ニ日本政府カ毫モ向フ所ナク之ヲ黙々ニ付シテ顧ミサリシ  
以ノモノハ蓋シ管轄ノ難キカ為シナラン

然レモ今ヤ此事タル英國殖民地ニ於テ廣ク世上ニ公告セラル  
所トナリシカ故ニ英國法律ノ向フ所トナルナリ然ルカ故ニ  
余思ヒラリ「ヂヤ」シーン「マキソン」社中ハ不法ノ處置ヲ行ヘ  
ルモノナレハ必ス之カ責任ニ立ツヘキモノト信スルニ是ル充  
分ノ理由アルナリ

此廣告ノ新聞紙上ニ出テシヨリ為シニ是迄充分ニ日本ノ石炭  
ヲ貴重セシ支那人等ハ既ニ之ヲ購買スルヲ恐ル、ノ色ヲ表セ  
リ故ヲ以テ動モスレハ石炭ヲ日本ニ送戻スルニ至ルモ知ルヘ

### 大藏省

カラス

別紙新聞切抜ハ余カ此事ニ付テ前書「マキソン」社中ノ處置ニ對  
シ聊カ保護スル所アラント欲シテ新聞紙上ニ掲載セシ投書ナ  
リ

余此事ニ付後藤象次郎君ト毫モ關係等ノナキハ固ヨリ辨ヲ  
竣クスシテ明ラカナリ全固ヨリ全氏ト懇親ニアラス唯僅ニ知  
巴ナルノミ

若シ夫レ余カ此事ニ付テ閣下ニ申陳スルヲ以テ余ノ職務ト思  
考セシカ如キハ日本ノ利害得失上ニ其影響ヲ波及スルノ如何  
ニ由ル而已

東洋銀行ノ「ロベルトソン」氏ハ明日上海ニ向テ帰途ニ就ク若且  
リ全氏ハ余カ是非閣下ニ面謁シ以テ百事ヲ具陳セントテ欲ス  
謹言

千八百七十八年十二月四日

在香港

「ゲヨン、ベリトマン」

大隈参議閣下

大藏省

千八百七十八年十一月三十日付香港「デイリー・プレス」

新聞記

高島炭坑ノ事

貴社本日ノ新聞紙中載セテ日本ノ高島炭坑ニ関スル廣告アリ  
今其告文ニ就テ視レハ「ヂヤーン・マクソン」社中ハ高島炭坑  
ノ事ニ関シ公然其汚穢ナル麻布ヲ洗濯セシム一決セシモノ  
如シ「母」汚穢ナル麻布ヲ洗濯スルトハ所謂他人ノ迷惑ヲ顧  
シテ出スル破産取ラモ事トセシテ公然新聞紙上ニ不正ノ廣  
告ヲ掲出スルヲ云フナラン  
夫レ「ヂヤーン・マクソン」社中カ高島炭坑ノ如キ所得弊少ナ  
ラサル事業ヲ手離シテ以テ着々他人ノ所有ニ「歸」スルヲ視ルハ  
同社ニ取リテ固ヨリ當ニ憂鬱ノ事タラサルベカラス余モ亦其  
ニ同情ヲ懷クアレハ誠ニ憂悶ニ堪サルナリ  
夫レ然リ然リト至レ不得止ノ事故アレハ有益ノ事業ト至レ之

大藏省

ヲ中途ニ手離サ、ルヲ得サルハ固ヨリ當ニ理ノ然ラシムル所  
ナリ然レ氏世間凡百ノ事商トナリ衆トナクエトナク均シク皆  
堪忍ヲ尺クヘカラス然ラハ則チ之カ從事ノ際必ラス堪忍ヲ為  
サ、ルヘカラス

抑モ斯ノ如キ廣告ヲ当殖民地ノ新聞紙上ニ掲載セシヨリ日本  
石炭ノ當市場ニ販賣セラル、ヲ傷害スルノ外果シテ何等ノ結  
果ヲ生出シ得ル乎

今ヤ此訴訟ハ法律ノ向フ所トナリ法庭ノ審判スル所ニ係ル之  
ニ依テ其事ノ曲直判決ノ日ニ至ル迄ハ目今ノ如キ「マクソン」社  
中ノ行為ハ宜シク英國人ノ視テ以テ不良ノ處置トナスモノタ  
ルヘシ否ラサレハ又以テ不法ノ處置トナスニ過キス

然ルニ今度ノ如キニ至テハ蓋シ「マクソン」社中ハ  
日本人ニ對シ其好ム所其欲スル所ニ依リテ何等ノ事ヲモ為シ

得ルト推料スルナルベシ

柳モ「ヂヤーン」社中カ今度ノ處置ニ出シカ如キハ  
實ニ不当ノ諫言ニ依リテ成ルモノニシテ且ツ危険クルヲ免レ  
ス況ンチヤ日本カ今度ノ事ニ付テ事ヲ処スルニハ嚮日夫ノ  
「ヂヤーン」<sup>(支那)</sup>、架設セシ玩物<sup>(即)</sup>鐵道一件ニ付テ支那人カ輕率ニ  
事ヲ信センカ如クニ至ラサルヘキノ實アルニ於テオヤ

夫レ「ヂヤーン」鐵道事件ノ如キハ其初ニ三ノ「マンチエ」<sup>(支)</sup>  
商人ノ所謂慈仁ヨリ成リテ終ニ支那人ヲシテ一里ニ付大約志  
万封度ツ、ヲ拂ハンソテ以テ其局ヲ結フニ至リタリ蓋シ此鐵  
道ノ如キハ玩物ノ名ニ負カス粗造ノ組立ナレハ後令今日ニ存  
スルアルモ英國ノ管商局ニテハ之ヲシテ貨物ヲモ運搬セン  
サルヘシ況ヤ旅客等ノ乗車ニ於テオヤ其製造ノ粗惡ナリシ推  
レテ知ルヘキナリ

大藏省

若シ上海ニアル英國船舶出入主簿官ノ言ヲシテ果シテ信ナラ  
レソハ上海ノ「セイロルスホーム」ノ訴訟ノ際ニ於テモ右ノ鐵道  
一件同様ノ慈仁ヲ施サレタルナリ

夫レ西班牙國ノ「リオ・キント」礦山ノ如キハ經驗上ニ就テ觀ルニ  
費用嵩ミタルモノナルヘシ蓋シ亦高島炭坑ノ如キモ此「ヂヤーン」  
社中ノ處置ノ為メニ尚ホ以テ然ルヘキナルベ  
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聖制敵



602

THE TAKASIMA COAL MINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—From an advertisement in your issue of to-day relating to the Japanese coal mine of Takasima, it would appear that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. are determined to "wash their dirty linen" in public with respect to this concern.

I can sympathise with the natural mortification the firm must feel at seeing such a profitable business slipping from their grasp, but resignation should be practised in mercantile transactions, as well as in other affairs of life. What possible end can be served (except damaging the sale of the Japanese coal in this market) by such an advertisement in the newspapers of the colony? The case is being tried at law, and until it is decided such a course as that now adopted would in England be considered indecent if not illegal. Here, however, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. possibly think they can do as they like with the Japanese.

The step that the firm have taken is ill-advised and dangerous, and one thing is certain, viz.—that the Japanese will not be found as credulous in this matter as the Chinese were in the matter of the toy railway to Woosung, which, originating in the so-called philanthropy of some Manchester merchants, ended in the Chinese having to pay some £10,000 sterling per mile for a so-called railway, which the English Board of Trade would not have passed for goods, much less passenger, traffic. If the Registrar of British shipping at Shanghai is an authority, a similar philanthropy has been exhibited in the case of the Sailors' Home there. The Rio Tinto mining experience in Spain may have been costly; possibly Takasima (by reason of this action) may prove more so.—Yours, &c.,

ANTI-OPPRESSION.

Hongkong, 30th November, 1878.



S.S. "Sunda"

His Excellency

Okuma Saigi

Okurasho

Tokio Japan





大日本東京

大隈大藏卿

閣下

殿



在香港

ジョン・ロビンソン