

Memorandum regarding a trip to Shimosa and Tobeco districts in the neighborhood.

Leaving Tokio at 3 P.M. on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July, reached Cogani at 8 P.M.

Left Cogani at 6 Am, and reached Mitzui's plantation at 9 Am.

Proceeding at once to the ground marked (B) on the accompanying plan, the soil was found to be <sup>poor</sup> a dark brown colour, loamy, but without sufficient clay to be capable of in its present condition, of tobacco cultivation, unless artificially improved. It was said that 3 feet below the surface is a good stratum of clay, and this statement is borne out by a section of ground which was exposed near (C). This apparently is the most suitable land on Mitzui's property for tobacco cultivation, its extent is about 30,000 Kubos but a portion of it requires clearing from brushwood, undergrowth &c.

About 30,000 Kubos of similar land can be obtained adjoining the Mitzui property at a nominal rental of 2 Yen per annum per 300 Kubos of cleared suitable land.





There is about 3000 Tsubos of ground beyond the school established by Mitzui (a portion of which requires clearing) which is under cultivation with rice and wheat but the soil is of such a poor nature that neither of these cereals will reach maturity.

After traversing the whole of the Mitzui property a large portion was found uncultivated, covered with thick undergrowth, wooded and expensive to clear, the soil poor, and similar to that of the rest of the estate.

Proceeding beyond the limit of Mitzui's estate to about 3000 tsubos of ground <sup>which is</sup> under tobacco cultivation and marked (A), the soil here of a sandy clay nature and suitable with increased nourishment for tobacco cultivation: the <sup>tobacco</sup> plants on this ground were already seriously injured by neglect, and the tobacco worm had been allowed to develop to ~~its~~ ~~fullest~~ maturity on the leaf, and consequently had fatally injured the plants.

About 100,000 tsubos of similar land it was stated could be obtained in the vicinity at the cost mentioned above. Some tobacco leaf of last year's growth was produced but ~~the~~ <sup>leaf</sup> was small in size and ~~it~~ does not burn properly i.e. "hold fire" proving the exhausted nature of the soil through lack of sufficient acids.

On visiting Mr Okuma's property which has about 50% of the land under cultivation, it appears that ~~as~~ if a careful survey will show it even to be more suitable land than Mitzui's for the cultivation of tobacco, this opinion is however against that of the officers in charge of Mitzui's land who say the soil on Mr Okuma's is inferior.

After leaving Mitzui's place we travelled through the tobacco districts between Ishibara and Sakijiko - The change of soil near Ishibara was observed at once and some extensive fields of tobacco we examined - The tobacco plants here were in a fairly advanced condition about one foot in height, but they were suffering from the radical defect observable in the cultivation of tobacco in Japan viz: the plants being placed too close together, the soil requiring nourishment and inattention to the necessity of keeping the plants clear of the tobacco worm and other injurious insects - It was evident also that the ground had not been uniformly manured for within a few inches of each other some plants were 8 inches high, while others were only 4 inches.



in height. There is no reason if  
care is given to the nourishment  
and preparation of the soil, and  
with proper attention to plant while  
growing why the tobacco cultivation  
in these districts should not be  
greatly improved. A visit further  
north to the tobacco districts in  
the neighborhood of Uzinomija  
had to be postponed until another  
opportunity.

John R. R. R.

J. A. Dillon