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Oriental Bank Corporation,  
Hongkong 1<sup>st</sup> Decr 1873.

Sir

I have the honor to request that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to take into consideration the advisability of proclaiming as a legal tender in this Colony, under the power granted by the order in Council dated 9<sup>th</sup> January 1868, the two coins known as the "Japanese Silver Yen" and the "United States Trade Dollar".

In support of this memorial I beg to submit the following reasons.

1. Since the closing of the Hongkong Mint the Colony has practically depended for its currency on the mints of Mexico. The supplies obtainable from that Country have been very uncertain and in consequence great inconvenience has been often experienced here.
2. The weight, fineness, and patterns of the various Mexican dollars have

The Honble.

Frederick B. Smith.

Acting Colonial Secretary.

been frequently altered, and these changes have been causes of difficulty and loss in dealing with the Chinese.

3 The ability of the Mexican Government to restrict the manufacture or export of Coin, or to increase its cost to foreigners by taxation, or otherwise, places in the hands of that Country a power that at any time and without any warning may limit the available supply of Dollars here and seriously affect Eastern Commerce.

The same grave consequences may follow causes beyond the Control of the Government of the producing Country, such as internal dissensions or foreign complications.

In either case, from whatever cause a stoppage of export might arise, the results would be equally disastrous to the Currency system of this Colony and the Treaty ports of China generally.

4 The disadvantage of having only one source of supply, and that an unreluctant one is self-evident.

5 The Imperial Government of Japan has established a Mint at Osaka and as His Excellency is aware the Machinery of the late Hongkong Mint was purchased for this undertaking, and has since been largely added to. The Mint is in a position to coin on an extensive scale and in a perfectly reliable manner. The entire operations are carried out by a carefully chosen staff of foreign officials, and the Master, Major Kinder was the gentleman selected by His Government as best fitted to fill a similar position in the Mint of this Colony.

6 The Silver dollar of Japan coined at the Osaka Mint known as the "Yen" is the counterpart of the Hongkong Dollar in weight and fineness, and thereby comes within the permissive clause of the order in Council.

7 A recent act of Congress authorized the Mint at San Francisco to issue the Coin known as the "Trade Dollar"

This is of the same fineness as the Hongkong Dollar and its weight is slightly greater. His Excellency is aware that, at the request of the late manager of this Bank, that the legalization of the Trade Dollar should be secured at Canton. It was consented at that port obtained an official Assay and subsequent proclamation by H. E. the Viceroy, declaring it a legal tender. On this head I need only refer to Government Notification No. 173 of the present year.

8. The proximity of the Japan & San Francisco Route offers great advantages for speedily and cheaply procuring money.

I have only shortly alluded to the inconveniences that have already arisen from being dependent on an uncertain supply of coin.

The experience of every one who has lived here for a few years will furnish numerous instances.

I cannot venture to say what

difficulties might occur in case of our present channel of supply being closed. The absorption of coin into China is continuous, and a short time would suffice to drain the Colony and ports of their small stocks. I need only point out further that a ready acceptance here of the two new coins, opening as it would the way for their admission on the Coast, would be the strongest inducement for the steady manufacture of the Dollars, and offer the best guarantee that their standard of intrinsic value should be maintained.

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Your most obedient Servant  
For the Oriental Bank Corporation  
(Sigs.) L. Cameron  
per manager