

His Excellency
Okuma Shigenobu
Minister of Finance.

Sir:

I have after thought that the organization within the Okurasho of a bureau to be charged with the gathering and publication of such information in regard to articles forming the export and imports of foreign countries, as would be of interest and benefit to the Government and people of Japan, would be of great use and advantage, and I accordingly suggest the matter to you for your consideration.

The following is a brief outline of the information that might be gathered by the Bureau:

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" The Quantity and value of all articles
imported into or exported from England (for
example) that Japan is interested in. This
would include Rice, Tea, Silk, Copper,
Camphor, Woolen and Cotton goods, iron &c.
Country from which imported.

Country " " exported
Monthly report of prices.

Information regarding the manner of
Sales or purchases in the London market, together
with the usual Commissions, Warehousing
and other charges, to be paid.

This information systematically and
properly gathered will be the first work of
the bureau. From it Japan can see
from what countries England receives
her imports and compare the quantity
received from Japan with that received
from other countries. Japan can also
see how her productions are valued

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as compared with the value of similar
productions of other Countries.

This Comparison may discover
that Rangoon and Patna rice is
valued higher, or can be sold cheaper
in London than Japanese rice and
in such event it should be the duty
of the Bureau to find out the
reason. This may necessitate the
sending of an agent to Rangoon to
gain information in regard to the
system pursued in the cultivation and
shipment of Rice. These enquiries should
embrace the following points:

What is the system of cultivation
in Rangoon?

By whom is the land owned upon
which the rice is grown?

If the land is owned by Government

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or by rich persons what payment is made
to the farmer who cultivates the rice?

What is the system of irrigation?

What is the labor system?

Is the cultivation of rice profitable,
and if so to what extent?

What is the average quantity of
rice raised on each acre?

Do foreigners contract with the
owners of the land, or with farmers, to
raise rice?

Do foreigners advance money to
owners of land, or to farmers, to enable
them to raise rice?

What is the usual manner of
shipment?

What is the quantity shipped to
each country?

What is the average cost of producing
a koku of rice in Bangkok?

What is the average cost of shipment
to London and New York markets?

What is the average rate of exchange?

These and many other questions
should be propounded and the answers
sent to the Bureau which would
enable it to determine:

Is there any part of the system
pursued in Rangoon that would be
of advantage if introduced in Japan?

Can Rice be raised as cheaply
in Japan as in Rangoon?

What is necessary to be done
by the Government in the matter?

After the whole matter has
been thoroughly considered the Bureau
should make its report, which should
be published and distributed among
all persons interested.

My experience leads me to believe that while Japan has expended large sums of money in gathering information upon many subjects the want of a system of arranging and publishing such information has made it of little use or benefit. The organization of the Bureau herein suggested will be a commencement, in the opinion of the undersigned, in the proper direction.

With great respect
 Very truly yours
 Geo. B. Williams



余平素數以為ラク大藏省中ニ於テ新ニ一局ヲ
 設ケ諸外國輸出入ノ物品ニ付キ日本政府ト日
 本人民トニ裨益スベキノ報告ヲ收集公告スル
 ノ事務ヲ掌ラシムバ大ニ有用利益ナルベシト
 依テ今其事故ヲ具状シテ以テ上陳ス閣下夫レ
 之ヲ商量セヨ
 茲ニ該局ノ收集スベキ報知ノ概畧ヲ奉ル左ノ
 如シ

英國（何レノ國ニラモ可ナリ）ニ輸入シ又英國ヨリ輸送スル

大藏省

ノ諸物品ニテ日本ノ關係スベキ物ノ量數并ニ
 價値

但シ米、茶、絹、銅、樟腦、毛布、綿布、錢等ヲ云フ

一 輸入ノ國一國ヨリ
一國ニ

一 輸出ノ國右同断

一 毎月相場報告

一 倫敦ノ市場ニ於テ賣買ノ仕方及ヒ通常口錢

供庫料其他拂入ルベキ雜費ノ報告

右等ノ報告ヲ妥當ニ目次編纂スルヲ該局第一

ノ事務トス而シテ是報告ニ就キ英國ハ何國ヨ



リ其輸入ヲナスカヲ詳ニシ又日本ヨリ其國ニ
輸入スルモノト他國ヨリ其國ニ輸入スルモノ
トヲ比較シ且ツ他國ノ物産ト比較シテハ日本
ノ物産ハ幾何ノ價值ナルモノカヲ視ルベシ
右比較ヨリシテ「ランゲン」及ヒ「バト」^{各地}ノ産米ハ
日本米ヨリ上等ニ位スルヲ又其産米ハ倫敦ニ
於テ日本米ヨリ廉價ニ賣販アリタルトトヲ料
知スベシ斯ル事情ニ際シ其所以ヲ發見スル
諛局ノ職務タルガ故諛局ヨリ管事ヲ「ランクシ」ニ
發遣シテ其耕種ト船積ト付キ其國ノ施用セル

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法告^{別知}ヲ得ルヲ要用トス即チ其尋問スベキノ條
件左ノ如シ

- 一「ランゲン」耕種ノ方法如何
- 一其産米地ハ何人ノ有ナルヤ
- 一若シ其地ヲ政府或ハ豪商ニ有スルナレバ
政府豪商ヨリ幾何ノ給銀ヲ其種米ノ農夫ニ
拂ヘルヤ
- 一放水入田ノ方法如何
- 一作工ノ法則如何
- 一其種米ハ利益ナルモノカ且ツ其利益ハ幾何ナ

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一 凡ソ地坪壹エークルヨリ産出セル米量平均ハ
如何幾

一 其米ヲ産出セシムルガ為メ外國人ノ地主或ハ
農夫ト約條ヲ取結ブヤ否

一 地主或ハ農夫ヲシテ其米ヲ産出セシムルガ
為メ外國人ヨリ金人等ニ前金渡スヤ否

一 通常船積ノ法如何
一 各國ヘハ輸出高幾何

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一 ラングニニ於テ米壹石ヲ産スルノ費用平均ハ幾何
一 倫敦并ニ新約克ノ市場ヘ船積ノ費用平均ハ幾何

一 為換ノ平均相場幾何

右管事ハ是等ノ尋問及ヒ其他許多ノ問題ヲナ
シテ其答ヲ談局ニ送致スベシ然ルキ談局ハ之

ニ就テ左ノ條款ヲ決論スベシ
一 ラングニニ使用セル規則中日本ニ施行シテ并利

ナルモノアルカ
一 日本ニテラングニノ如ク少費ニ米ヲ産スベキ

ハ幾何

一右等ノ事故ニ付テハ政府ガ何様ノ處分ヲナスヲ要スベキカ
斯ク右等ノ事故ヨ尽ク商量スル後ニ於テ該局ハ其報告表ヲ製シ上梓ノ上之ヲ關係ノ諸人ニ分配スベシ

抑モ余ガ見聞スル處ニテハ日本ハ夥多ノ事件ニ付其報告ヲ得ント欲シ多少ノ金額ヲ費スル由モ其報告ヲ收集シテ之ヲ公布スルノ規則ナキガ故其用ヲ尽サハルヲ往々ナリシ故ニ斯ル方法ノ設立ニ於テハ前ニ詳述セル開局ノ舉ヲ

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以テ第一着手スベキモノト余ハ謹案ス

ジヨージビラ井ルリアムス

大隈公閣下