

Memorandum.

994

Private & Confidential

Recent circumstances have shown that the Press of Europe is turning considerable attention to the current of affairs in this country and must seek much of its material upon which it works in the foreign journals published in Japan. It is therefore of great importance that the information sent from here should be of such a character, and should be placed before the European & American public in such a form, as to do justice to the acts and intention of this Government.

The weight which a foreign journal carries with it in Europe depends upon the correctness of the information it diffuses and the solid character of its comments on this information.

Such is the influence of the Press in Europe that no Government can safely disregard its opinion, or can dispense with the means for giving this a sound direction.

The rapid extension of the relations between this country and the World from which it has until quite recently been shut out, demands that means should be taken to place its Government in as fair and favourable a light as circumstances permit, and the increased circulation of a journal which has weight enough to do this, will prove of incalculable service to this country especially now that it has been brought into financial relations with the Western World.

In entrusting this task to a paper which has consistently supported the action of the Government whenever it has been able or thought it important to do so, which has thrown much light upon the institutions, history & Policy of Japan, and which has become an authority in Europe upon Japanese questions, the

Government will be adding strength to itself, and assisting in dispelling that ignorance of this country and its people which is at present a source of more or less distrust abroad and therefore of weakness here.