

TOKIO, 29TH JULY, 1887.

The undersigned has had the honor to inform the honorable Delegates of the Treaty Powers at the last meeting of the Conference that His Imperial Majesty's Government had desired to propose certain modifications in respect to the Draft of the Jurisdictional Convention, and that he would be shortly in a position to communicate them to the Members of the Conference.

A careful examination to which the Draft of the Jurisdictional Convention was submitted on the part of the Imperial Cabinet showed that essential modifications and additional interpretations were absolutely required; particular exception was taken, however, by the Imperial Cabinet to the stipulation of Article V, according to which the Japanese codifications had to be submitted to the approbation of the Foreign Powers. It is true that the wording of the Article itself is not exactly expressed in these terms, but the subsequent interpretations which have been given to it, prove, in the opinion of the Cabinet, that this was the real aim.

The Cabinet was in respect to this unanimously of opinion, that it would be more in conformity with the dignity of the Japanese Empire if the laws were completed in the first instance, because this result would then in all probability be sufficient to prove that there existed really no cause for the submission of the Codes to the Treaty Powers, as intended by the Draft of the Jurisdictional Convention.

The undersigned has, in consequence, the honor to inform the honorable Delegates that he is authorized by his Government to declare herewith the adjournment of the Conference sine die, until such time when the Japanese Delegates will be able to place before the Conference the work of codification, which will serve as the best evidence of the sincere intention which continues to animate the Government for the assimilation of its administration and laws with the West.

The undersigned trusts that this work, the completion of which stands in such an intimate connection with the opening of the Empire will not fail to obtain for the great scheme which the Conference is engaged upon the friendly support of the Treaty Powers.

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion, &c. &c.

(signed)

INOUE KAORU.

To.....

&c. . &c. &c.