

laid before the Delegates for their consideration a draft Tariff. After careful and thorough examination of this, they had drafted a counter-proposal, which he now begged to submit to the Japanese Delegates on the part of his Colleagues. The President had stated that he hoped to obtain a revenue of 4,000,000 yen, and it would be found that the Tariff proposed by the Foreign Delegates was estimated to yield about 3,300,000 yen. If however the charges were included as forming part of the values upon which the duties were to be calculated, the estimate of the Foreign Delegates would probably rise to 3,500,000 yen, and would therefore nearly approach the sum named by the President. The object sought to be attained by all the parties concerned was to obtain the largest amount of revenue compatible with a healthy expansion of the trade, and he believed that this aim would not be realized under a higher Tariff than that now presented by the Foreign Delegates.

The Chargé d'Affaires of Russia begged to say that, for his own part, he had no exception to take to the draft Tariff as submitted to the Conference by the Imperial Japanese Government. He considered it moderate and acceptable. The Government which he had the honour to represent had no commercial interests of importance in Japan, and could, in the course of the present negotiations on the Tariff question, pursue no other object than one of conciliation. He was therefore prepared to adhere to any proposal which, by taking into just account the interests and legitimate wishes of the Imperial Japanese Government as well as those of the other Treaty Powers, would tend to establish a basis for an agreement acceptable to all parties concerned.

Mr. Shioda replied that it afforded him much gratification to receive the counter-proposition just laid before the Conference, setting forth the views of the Treaty Powers there represented. He observed that the aggregate revenue estimated to be collected under the Tariff now proposed would be about 3,300,000 yen, or if the charges were included, about 3,500,000 yen, being in the latter case 500,000 yen less than the 4,000,000 which the Tariff proposed by the Japanese Government was expected to yield.

In view of this difference and of the fact that there still remained some items in the Tariff requiring further consideration, he wished to postpone any definite statement on the subject to a future occasion. He trusted that, notwithstanding this difference in the aggregate amount of revenue proposed to be obtained, the Conference was in a fair way to arrive at a definite understanding with respect to the Tariff. The favourable result already obtained was in no small degree due to the spirit of mutual conciliation which he was happy to say had animated the deliberations of the Conference from the commencement. He considered that the valuable services rendered by Sir Harry Parkes and Mr. Zappe in the examination of the Tariff question were entitled to general acknowledgment, as well as the tact displayed by them in reconciling the different interests of so many Powers.

He begged to tender to the Delegates, his sincere thanks for the labour they had bestowed upon the consideration of this question. He would reserve a final reply on the points still undetermined until the return of Mr. Inouye, when the counter-proposition now presented would be carefully taken into consideration by the Japanese Government.

The Conference adjourned at five o'clock.

## PROTOCOL No. 10.

MEETING OF MAY 11, 1882.

Present:

For Japan,

Mr. Inouye and Mr. Shioda;

For Austria-Hungary,

The Chevalier Hoffer von Hoffenfels;

For Belgium,

Mr. Scribe;

For France,

Mr. Tony Conte;

For Germany and Switzerland,

Mr. von Eisendecker, and as second delegate for Germany, Mr. Zappe;

For Great Britain,

Sir Harry S. Parkes;

For Italy,

The Chevalier E. Martin Lanciarez;

For the Netherlands, for Sweden and Norway and Denmark,

Mr. van der Pot;

For Russia,

Baron Rosen;

For Spain,

The Chevalier Don Luis del Castillo y Trigueros;

For the United States,

The Honourable John A. Bingham.

Protocol No. 9 was signed.

Mr. Inouye said that, owing to a serious indisposition, he had, to his great regret, been unable to attend at the last two meetings, but his health being now re-established, he was happy to be able to take part again in the labours of the Conference;

His colleague Mr. Shioda, Second Delegate for Japan, having reported to him the result of the proceedings of the Conference at the two meetings held during his absence, he had noted with much satisfaction the progress that had been made, especially with regard to the Tariff, in which question, owing to the conciliatory endeavours of the Foreign Delegates, an approximation had been made to the views of the Japanese Government. In thanking the Delegates for the result thus

accomplished by their united efforts, he desired to state that he entirely associated himself with the opinions expressed by Mr. Shioda on those two occasions. He was ready therefore to accept the counter-proposal of the Foreign Delegates, presented at the meeting of the 4th May, which was estimated to produce about 3,300,000 yen without the charges. When these were added he hoped that the aggregate would realize about 3,570,000 yen.

He regretted to say that he was not in a position on the present occasion to present to the Conference his draft scheme in connection with the opening of the country. His recent illness had prevented him from devoting his continuous attention to the subject, and he had not had sufficient leisure since his return to the capital to complete the study of the details. He now hoped, however, to be able to present the scheme without further delay.

Mr. Bingham stated that he had taken no part in preparing the counter-project, neither did he wish to be understood as having assented to it; that in the main he saw no objection to the proposition originally presented by His Majesty's Government to the Conference, although it contained some few objectionable provisions, the correction of which would not materially affect the general result.

For example, Mr. Bingham had suggested to the President before to-day that he did not see the propriety of imposing on Kerosene oil a duty 100 per centum greater than on cotton yarn or cotton fabrics.

The counter-project was then accepted by all the Delegates (excepting the Minister of the United States), and they all agreed (with that exception) to recommend it to their respective governments.

Upon the proposition of Mr. Inouye, a Committee was nominated to determine the values of Imported Goods and to calculate the charges thereon—the committee to consist of Sir Harry Parkes, Mr. van der Pot, Mr. Shioda and Mr. Zappe.

Sir Harry Parkes pointed out that as the work entrusted to this Committee would involve inquiry into a mass of commercial detail, it would be necessary that the Committee should be empowered to consult mercantile opinion and to obtain from both sides—Japanese and foreign—such evidence and technical information as would be required in order to frame correct and complete calculations.

Mr. Inouye proposed to proceed next to the consideration of the question of "Drawbacks."

As far as he was concerned, he was disposed to accept the principle, and asked the Foreign Delegates to give him the benefit of their views upon this subject, with which that of "Bonded Warehouses" was closely connected. As the Delegates were aware, the latter system was already in existence to a partial extent at some of the open ports under the Tariff Convention of 1866, but improvements could no doubt be introduced into its working.

If the Delegates were not prepared to state their opinions on the present occasion as to this question, he would suggest that it might be referred to a Committee.

Sir Harry Parkes observed that as mercantile opinion would have to be consulted on this subject, as on that of charges on Imports, some labour would be saved if the Committee appointed to report upon the latter would also undertake the

consideration of the question of "Drawbacks and Bonded Warehouses."

The Conference adopted this proposal, and leave was given to the Committee to take such steps as they might deem proper to obtain the necessary information with regard to both questions.

The Conference adjourned at half past three o'clock.