

Sir,

We, the undersigned land renters, lessees of premises and insurance agents, of Yokohama, beg to request the aid of Your Excellency and that of Your Excellency's colleagues, the Foreign Ministers resident in Japan, in obtaining from the Imperial Japanese Government a water supply for the foreign settlement of this port, at present dependent on shallow wells sunk in the various compounds, which according to the report of the sanitary examiners in 1879 and 1880 have been proved to be contaminated by sewage and unfit for drinking purposes.

During the last two years a considerable extension has been made to the settlement, by buildings erected on the new swamp lots, from the public garden to the Homura creek, where large numbers of Japanese are employed in tea-firing and other work. On this ground no water whatever can be obtained, fit even for washing.

The sanitary authorities have for years been aware of the great danger to the health of both the native and foreign population caused by the present want of good water; yet, although several representations have been made on the subject, with a view of obtaining an extension of the Rokugô aqueduct, nothing whatever has resulted.

This aqueduct already reaches into a portion of the Japanese town, and has, according to the report of Mr. Mita, the Kenchô engineer, a flow sufficient for the requirements of 60,000 people, while the water is of excellent quality.

It is at present carried from Kanagawa in wooden pipes, which, besides being liable to leakage and consequent contamination, are unable to bear any great pressure, and are liable to decay.

Mr. Mita states that with proper iron piping the water would have pressure for a rise of twenty feet. This would enable it to be conveyed to all parts of the town, and in addition to avoiding the sanitary danger of wooden piping, would be of the greatest importance for extinguishing fires, which often cause such great destruction of property in Yokohama, the fire engines now being often unable to obtain water when most wanted. There would also, when once the iron pipes were laid, be no interruption to the supply by repairs.

With a regular supply of water at hand the drains could always be flushed when required, and with regard to the expense entailed by a proper scheme, we need only refer to the heavy outlay (said to amount to 20,000 yen per month), now incurred in conveying water by boats and buckets to the native town during the present epidemic.

Although we, as foreigners, now address Your Excellency more particularly in regard to the foreign settlement, it is evident that the subject is one that should have the greatest interest to the government of Japan for the sake of its own people, now suffering so severely from the insanitary condition of Yokohama.

We may also add that, as the necessary iron piping can only be obtained from abroad, which will take some months, it is most important that an arrangement should be arrived at as soon as possible, in order that the work be completed before the hot season of 1883.

The great importance of the subject to this community will, we trust, justify our troubling Your Excellency with it, at a moment when so many other matters have claim on your attention.

We have the honour to be,  
Your Excellency's  
Most obedient humble servants,

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR HARRY S. PARKES, K.C.B., G.C.M.G.,

*H.B.M.'s Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary,  
Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, Tokio,*

## PROTOCOLE N<sup>o</sup> 16.

SÉANCE DU 27 JUILLET 1882.

Étaient présents :

Pour le Japon,  
M. Inouyé;  
Pour l'Allemagne et la Suisse,  
M. de Eisendecher, et second Délégué pour l'Allemagne, M. Zappe;  
Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie,  
M. le Chevalier Hoffer von Hoffenfels;  
Pour la Belgique,  
M. C. de Groote;  
Pour l'Espagne,  
M. le Chevalier Don Luis del Castillo y Trigueros;  
Pour la France,  
M. Tricou;  
Pour la Grande-Bretagne,  
Sir Harry S. Parkes;  
Pour l'Italie,  
M. le Chevalier E. Martin Lanciarez;  
Pour les Pays-Bas, la Suède et Norwége et le Danemark,  
M. J. J. van der Pot;  
Pour le Portugal,  
M. J. J. da Graça;  
Pour la Russie,  
M. le Baron Rosen;  
Pour les États-Unis,  
L'Honorable M. John A. Bingham.

La séance est ouverte à 9 heures et demie du matin.

Relativement aux traités, cités par le Président dans le dernier protocole comme ayant été conclus par des États européens avec la Perse, Sir Harry Parkes fait remarquer que les traités entre la Perse et la Grande-Bretagne ne peuvent pas être dénoncés et qu'ils contiennent des conditions beaucoup plus libérales que le traité entre la Grande-Bretagne et le Japon. Il veut encore faire observer que la durée d'un des traités cités par le Président (celui avec l'Autriche-Hongrie) est de 25 ans, et que dans la Déclaration signée par six grandes Puissances à Londres en janvier 1871, il