KOREA.

DISCOURTEOUS TREATMENT OF AMERICAN RESIDENTS OF PENGYANG BY KOREAN OFFICIALS.

Mr. Allen to Mr. Hay.

No. 531.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Seoul, November 19, 1902.

SIR: I regret to have to inform you of my inability to obtain satisfaction for unwarranted conduct on the part of the governor and magistrate of Pengyang, whereby Americans residing in that port, open to trade, have been injured in property and pained and humiliated by having their servants severely beaten.

I hand you inclosed a copy of a letter I addressed to the minister for foreign affairs on October 23, in which I show that Mr. Hunt, a missionary under the board of Presbyterian missions, of 156 Fifth avenue, New York City, was robbed of lumber he had purchased for very necessary building operations, the lumber having been taken by order of the officials serving under the governor. I sent in a lot of documents covering this case on September 19, with the request that it be investigated. Upon the report of the foreign minister that I had called his attention to it, the native concerned was inhumanly beaten and the Christian followers of the Americans were threatened with death. I commend to your perusal the account I gave to the foreign minister in my letter, of which the inclosed is a copy.

In the same letter I had to complain of the conduct of the magistrate in beating the servant of Miss Estey, a missionary of the Methodist board of missions, 156 Fifth avenue, New York City, and use of threatening and abusive language to Reverend Mr. Morris of the same mission, who called upon him in regard to the matter.

I also in the same letter complained of the cruel beating, without cause, of the servant of the Reverend Mr. Noble, a missionary of the same Methodist mission, living at Pengyang, and of the unwarranted interference with a boat engaged by the latter.

These cases seemed to indicate a determination on the part of the officials at Pengyang to make it is as uncomfortable as possible for the Americans residing there, and I could not but take up the cases, though the boat case alone I would not have taken up.

* * * * * * *

I have, etc.,

HORACE N. ALLEN.

[Inclosure.]

Mr. Allen to Mr. Sik.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Seoul, October 23, 1902.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: I regret to have to bring to your excellency's attention several complaints from American citizens residing in the city of Pengyang, which show

that Governor Min Yung Chull seems determined to make life disagreeable for them in that city, opened to the residence of foreigners by the Korean Government.

On September 19 I wrote to your excellency's predecessor informing him of the seizure of certain lumber belonging to an American citizen, Mr. Hunt, and asking that he give instructions that would lead to the rendering of justice in the case. I sent the documents covering the transaction as inclosures with that note.

The settlement obtained was the cruel beating of the agent of the Americans, as well as the wood merchant, the threatening of the native Christians with death, and the loss of about 100 yen on the transaction.

By a perusal of inclosure 1 you will see that Mr. Hunt purchased lumber on September 6 of Ye Hak Syon, through his (Hunt's) agent Syon On Chun, making an advance payment of 150 yen. On September 7 this lumber was seized by Cho Choa Syon, the governor's overseer of the work on a new palace building. On the 8th Mr. Hunt reported the matter by letter to the kamni, Paing Han Chung, who replied by letter that a mistake had been made and he would return the lumber. I sent copies of these two notes in my letter of September 19 to your predecessor.

On Mr. Hunt's sending for the lumber in accordance with this letter of the kamni, the seller was at once arrested; the lumber was not delivered, and the seller was badly beaten. Hearing of this, Mr. Hunt wrote to the kamni, sending his letter by his agent or servant who had originally purchased the lumber. The letter could not be delivered as the man was thrown into jail. Later he was removed to the jail at the governor's office and was placed in the death cell.

In the absence of Mr. Hunt, Mr. Lee went to see the governor on the subject, but was refused admittance. He went to see the kamni, who agreed to put the matter right, but did nothing whatever.

On September 11 Syon, the agent of the Americans, was taken before the governor for trial. The latter opened the proceedings by informing the prisoner that, although he followed a foreign religion, he (the governor) could kill him if he chose, and he asked him if he would deliver up the lumber contract. Syon replied that it was impossible, as the lumber belonged to a foreigner. He was then beaten by the order of the governor. The jailors took from him the lumber contract and gave it to the governor, who then had him beaten again. The seller of the lumber, Ye, was then ordered to pay back to Syon the money he had received. He paid it to the chief of police. On the 12th the money was taken to Syon's house, where it was found to be 135 nyang short. Also his family had been ordered to pay over to the governor a further sum of 70 nyang. On September 19 Syon was released, being told by the chief of police that if he continued to be a "foreign-doctrine" man he would be killed.

In this case the servants of Americans were arrested and tortured, and the Americans were prevented from purchasing supplies, as is allowed them by treaty. They were put to a money loss of about 100 yen, and they were treated with great indignity. I had simply asked for justice. They were treated with great injustice.

Among a number of similar complaints against this governor and his underlings I will cite three more which have been forwarded to me.

On October 1 a Korean named Yun Hyeng Pil, who is regularly employed by the Americans at Pengyang as a teacher to Miss Estey, was arrested by the orders of the kamni, Paing Han Chung, and cruelly beaten. The reason for this arrest was said to be that Yun had not paid the new special tax for the erection of a palace. It seems he had paid it and showed his official receipt for the payment; further, he had not refused to pay a second time. Mr. Morris, an American, went to see the kamni in regard to this matter, and was told by the latter that he had a right to arrest and beat anyone he saw fit, even though such person might be the servant of a foreigner, and if by so doing the foreigner's home should be endangered it would be nothing to him. He further threatened Mr. Morris to make life hard for the foreigners in Pengyang. (See inclosure 2.)

Another Korean named Pai Ni Il, who is regularly employed by Mr. Noble, an American citizen living at Pengyang, was arrested without any known reason, and was so cruelly beaten that he could not sit up. The kamni admitted that a wrong had been done in this case, but he made no effort to bring the guilty parties to justice. He released the wounded man from prison.

On October 1 Mr. Noble sent a boat from Pengyang to Chenampo for goods. The boat was loaded with household effects on the way down, and a small American flag and the card of Mr. Noble were given to the boatman with a written statement to the effect that the boat was hired by an American. The boat was seized by officials of the office of the kamni, Paing Han Chung, and when the proofs of its being chartered by Americans were shown the officials replied that that was so much more reason for its being seized. It required two days to secure a permit from the kamni or the release of this boat. (Inclosure 4.)

Reports which reach me seem to indicate that the local officials are determined to annoy the Americans all they can, and one great method of so doing is to persecute the natives who are friendly to them and who have become believers in Christianity. I am only making formal complaint at present, however, of the actual infringement of treaty rights by these Pengyang officials.

Article IX of the British treaty, which is applicable to Americans as well, provides as follows:

"I. The British (American) authorities and British subjects (American citizens) in Korea shall be allowed to employ Korean subjects as teachers, interpreters, servants, or in any lawful capacity, without any restriction on the part of the Korean authorities."

In the above-cited cases the servants and employees of the Americans have been taken from them and rendered unfit for service by being inhumanly beaten. The property of Americans has been seized, and they have been put to a loss of money and a very annoying loss of time, just when the winter is approaching.

I recommend that in the case of the lumber transaction the governor, Min Yung Chull, be obliged to repay to Mr. Hunt the 100 yen he modestly estimates as his loss, and that he apologize to Mr. Hunt for his conduct in that case.

In the other three cases I recommend that the kamni, Paing Han Chung, be obliged to apologize to Mr. Noble, Mr. Morris, and Miss Estey, and that both governor and kamni be given strict instructions not to molest the native Christians in future without legal cause.

I will be glad to receive an early reply from your excellency as to your decision in regard to these recommendations, in order that I may be able to report your action when forwarding a report on this subject to my Government.

I must ask to be furnished with a copy of your instructions to the Pengyang officials.

I take, etc., HORACE N. ALLEN.

[Subinclosure.]

Account of lumber transaction between Rev. W. B. Hunt and his agent, a Korean, Syen On Chun, and a lumber dealer, Yi Hak Syon, of Pyengyang, involving a violation of treaty rights on the part of the governor of South Pyeng An Province, Min Yung Chul.

On September 4 Syen On Chun obtained an agreement from Yi Hak Syon for the sale of 141 pieces of lumber at a stipulated price.

A copy of this agreement is on file with Mr. Paddock at the United States legation.

On Saturday, September 6, Mr. Hunt commissioned Syen On Chun to retain the other 41 poorer pieces to be rejected from the 141 pieces. Mr. Hunt paid him 150 yen or 1,320 nyang on account, taking receipt for same, and Syen On Chun then paid to Yi Hak Syon, the lumber merchant, 2,368 nyang for the 141 pieces, completing the transaction. He then had the lumber removed from the boats to the river bank, or landing, in front of a Japanese merchant's house, receiving permission to leave it there on Sunday.

Sunday morning word came to him that Cho Shoa Syon, governor's overseer of the palace building, had seized 26 of the best pieces; that when he was taking it a Japanese boy had asked why he was taking it since it had been bought for a foreigner by Syen On Chun; and that he replied, "This is the people's lumber and we want it for the palace."

Syen On Chun in the afternoon told Mr. Hunt of the seizure, Mr. Hunt replying that as it was Sunday, if he would come out next morning he would see what could be done.

Monday, September 8, before 6 a. m., Syen On Chun came to Mr. Hunt, saying sawyers had come to saw the lumber, but that upon his telling them the lumber belonged to Mr. Hunt they did not begin sawing but waited for instructions from the officials.

Mr. Hunt then wrote a letter to the magistrate or kamni, Paing Han Chon, telling him of the difficulty and asking him to look into the matter. Syen On Chun took this letter to the magistrate.

A copy of this letter is on file with Mr. Paddock at the United States legation.

The kamni replied that a mistake had been made and he would send the lumber back. A copy of this reply is on file with Mr. Paddock at United States legation.

Mr. Hunt then sent his "boy" with an ox cart to bring that part of the lumber which had not been taken. The "boy" hurried back saying that what had been taken had been sawed up and that they were taking more.

Mr. Hunt then sent Syen On Chun and his "boy," the latter with the kamni's letter as proof of his right to the lumber, and told them to bring out all the lumber. This letter was shown to Cho Choa Syon, the overseer, who replied that he would give up the lumber only on an order from the governor. To Syen On Chun he said, "Even though you follow a foreigner's doctrine, your flesh and bones are Korean; and what do you mean by selling lumber to a foreigner when we want it for the palace? You can get the money back but not the lumber." Syen On Chun said that he had bought the lumber for a foreigner. Asked from whom he had bought it, he replied from Yi Hak Syon. The overseer then ordered the arrest of Yi Hak Syon, who was then set upon by the policemen and badly beaten. Seeing this state of things Syen On Chun and the "boy" went back to Mr. Hunt and reported. Mr. Hunt then sent another letter to the kamni—a copy is appended to this statement—sending it by Syen On Chun. Finding that the kamni had gone to the governor's office in another part of the city, he was on his way there to deliver the letter when he was seized by one of the governor's policemen, and taken back to the kamni's residence and put in jail. He told the policeman that he had a letter from Mr. Hunt for the kamni and asked him to deliver it—receiving only abuse in reply. He was also unable to get any word to Mr. Hunt. Later two policemen came and took him to the governor's office, bound as a criminal, placing him in the jail there, putting him in the stocks in the death cell, and saying he was guilty of a crime for which he was to be put to death.

Mr. Hunt left that day for Seoul to attend the annual meeting of the council, leaving matters in Mr. Lee's charge. An hour or so after Mr. Hunt left, word reached Mr. Lee that one of the Christians had been arrested on account of the lumber deal. He started down to see the kamni and on the way met Syen On Chun, in charge of a policeman, under arrest, on his way to the governor's jail. Mr. Lee immediately went in to see the governor, who sent word that he was going somewhere and that Mr. Lee should go to see the kamni. Mr. Lee saw the kamni, who received him and said he would look the matter up and do what was right. Nothing being done, Mr. Lee the next day sent a man in to see the kamni, but could get no satisfaction.

September 11, Thursday, Syen On Chun was taken before the governor, Min Yung Chul, for trial, the lumber merchant, Yi Hak Syon, also being there.

The governor told him that, although he followed a foreigner's religion, he was subject to his rule and that he could kill him, and then asked whether he would reverse the lumber sale or not. Syen On Chun replied that he could not do as he pleased, that the lumber belonged to Mr. Hunt.

The governor in anger then said, "You rascal, will you make trouble for me with the foreigner? Beat him." With that they gave him five hard strokes with the paddles until he said he would reverse the sale. They also took the lumber agreement from his pocket and gave it to the governor. Then they beat him five times more and ordered Yi Hak Syon, the lumber merchant, to pay him back the money, which they had all ready to be paid to him. They made him count the bundle of money, reported as 2,368 nyang, and then ordered both man and money to jail, the money being placed in charge of the chief of police.

The next day, September 12, a cousin of Syen On Chun came and took the money to Syen On Chun's home, but found there was 135 nyang lacking.

Syen On Chun was kept in jail until the 19th of September, when he was taken before the chief of police, told that if he continued as a "foreign doctrine man" and caused trouble again he would be killed, and was then released.

Reaching his home, he found that the governor's servants had demanded from his family, in his name, 70 nyang.

Of the money sent to his home some had been used in settling the debts contracted in securing money to pay for the part of the lumber which Mr. Hunt did not wish and for handling the same, and he then took 1,020 nyang to Mr. Lee, being 300 nyang less than the amount received from Mr. Hunt, but in value in yen being less still on account of difference in rate of interest.

[Subinclosure 2.]

The case of Yun Hyeng Pil.

Yun Hyeng Pil is Miss Estey's personal teacher, helper, and general assistant.

About one month ago Mr. Yun paid the amount of 315 nyang, a demand made as a tax toward the building of a new palace in this city. He paid the amount at his old nome in An Ju, for which he received the Government receipt. On October 1, without any warning or hint that the officials wanted more, he was seized at his home by

the orders of the magistrate, Paing Han Chung, of this city, and, in spite of the receipt which he presented to the magistrate, he was cruelly beaten. The magistrate knew that Yun Hyeng Pil was in our employ, as he had been on errands to the yamen before this incident. Mr. Yun has never refused to pay any money demanded of him by Pyeng-Yang officials.

Mr. Morris had an interview with the magistrate regarding the beating of Mr. Yun, and the magistrate said he had a right to arrest and beat anyone he saw fit, even though such a one should be in the employ of the foreigner, and, by so doing, his (the foreigner's) home should be endangered and he should suffer loss, it would be nothing to him (the magistrate). He made threats to Mr. Morris that he would make life hard for the foreigners in Pyeng-Yang.

The violent attack on Mr. Yun has in it every evidence of a blow aimed at the Americans living in this city.

[Subinclosure 3.]

The case of Pai Ni Il.

Pai Ni Il was sent by W. A. Noble to take charge of funeral arrangements at the home of one of our Christians in this city. While there, two soldiers sent by officer in the army seized, bound, and beat him without formulating any charge. On our pressing the matter to the magistrate, Paing Han Chung, we secured Pai Ni Il's release, but he was so badly beaten he couldn't sit up. The magistrate did not claim that Mr. Pai was guilty of any wrong. They claimed that a certain man, who has no official position, by the name of ———, set the soldiers on to beat Pai, taking undue advantage of the arrest in order to extort money from him, but when the magistrate was urged to bring the guilty parties to justice he admitted that a wrong had been done Pai, but made no effort to correct the matter.

The obvious inference to be drawn from these facts is that the magistrate secretly abetted the acts of violence and protected the criminal, in order to injure us and our work.

Pai Ni Il is a general helper, and is paid a regular salary by the mission.

[Subinclosure 4.]

The case of the seizure of the boat.

October 1 we sent a boat from this port to Chingnampo, loaded with general household effects of a Korean family in our employ. The boatman, Choi Myung Oo, was furnished with a small American flag and a card stating for whom the boat was being sent. When the boat reached Kangsyo, 60 li from Pyeng-Yang, it was seized by the magistrates' (Paing Han Chung's) officials, and when the flag and card bearing the signature of W. A. Noble was presented they stated that inasmuch as the boat was hired by an American, so much the more reason for seizing it. It required two days to get a permit from the magistrate to allow the boat to pass. The permit read: "This boat is loaded with Government goods; let it pass." The inference, of course, is that boats hired by foreigners are open to seizure whenever the magistrates' runners see fit to do so.

This case, like the beating of Mr. Yun and others, bears the strongest evidence of a studied purpose to harass Americans residing in Pyeng-Yang.

[Subinclosure 4.]

The case of Choi Pong Ik.

Choi Pong Ik was seized by the governor, Min Yung Chul, September 28, and was ordered to pay over 100,000 yen. On October 3 he was beaten, and his friends collected from Choi Pong Ik's property 12,500 silver yen and paid it to the governor.

Details: There were no charges brought against Choi Pong Ik. He was simply seized for the sake of his money.

Choi Pong Ik has a son who is a dissolute fellow. Some of the governor's runners made him, the son, drunk and enticed him, on a promise that he should receive rank and the position of the magistrate, to sign an agreement to pay 100,000 silver yen. The governor holds the agreement and is trying to torture the amount out of the father. Two Christians, E Chai Hu and Kang Sin Yong, being acquaintances of the yamen runners, gained admission to Choi Pong Ik's cell immediately after the beating and found him unconscious. It required an hour's rubbing and bathing to bring the man back to consciousness. He is still lying in the criminal cell, awaiting further torture. The governor has threatened him with death.

Choi Pong Ik has been a Christian for several months, and he was arrested at his home, on returning from a Sunday morning church service.

The above complaint from Mr. Noble was not taken up by me.

HORACE N. ALLEN.

[Subinclosure 5.]

Mr. Noble to Mr. Allen.

PYENG-YANG, KOREA, *October 13, 1902.*

DEAR MR. ALLEN: In reply to your letter of the 6th instant, regarding our troubles in Pyeng-Yang, I consulted Dr. Moffett and Mr. Lee, and after a careful review of the grounds of our complaints have decided that, for the sake of our future peace and safety, it is necessary to present our several matters to you for such action as you may deem wise. I am mailing you the inclosed facts after each item has been under review and discussion by the committee and approved as they are now written. Mr. Moffett will mail you to-day under a different cover matters relating to troubles with the governor, of which you are already acquainted.

In addition to the inclosed, it was thought necessary to ask your attention to other incidents. While not in each case in a condition to formulate into a direct charge of violation of treaty rights, yet will show the attitude of the Pyeng-Yang officials toward us.

Some time ago, in April, the present magistrate called upon me and charged me with stealing land, having already arrested a man for selling me a house. I took the magistrate over the property of our mission and showed him our late purchase and the extension of the compound to inclose it. Being unable to substantiate his charge, he left with the simple remark, "If you want land, ask me." This was the first sign of his hostility toward us.

A short time ago a soldier passing our compound raised his rifle and said, "Let them give me one word and I will shoot." This was said among a group of Koreans, who reported it to me. While the act was nothing in itself, it illustrates the spirit that has taken possession of the official class and the soldiers of this place. The fact is the more emphasized by the late open threat of the magistrate, to which I referred in the case of Mr. Yun.

Several times servants of the magistrate have come into our compound and called off our workmen. I am unable to give the names of the runners or the men taken, as we had so many of the latter.

Another fact is the persecution of our Christians. While it is the last to which I feel at liberty to call your attention, except in the case of the monstrous cruelty practiced upon Mr. Choe, it is no less a blow aimed at us, namely, the discrimination that is made against the Christians in the stupendous squeeze under the name of building a new palace in the city.

The heathen are squeezed within the bounds of their property, while our people are often compelled to sell their homes and move off and wander away.

At Pong-nong-dong, a town across the river from this city, a servant of the magistrate who had come bent on a squeeze was himself beaten by a resident of that place. The man who gave him the puishment had no relation to our church. A Christian interfered in the affair and helped the servant back to the city. The next day the magistrate sent a number of his runners to the town and singled out our people and beat them unmercifully for the thing of which they had no part or knowledge.

The governor and magistrate feel very secure in their position, and while the latter was beating Choe, of whom I have written, he would call out, "Do you think your faith will help you? Try it."

Trusting these facts will prove clear in what I have tried to represent to you,

I am, etc.,

W. A. NOBLE.

[Subinclosure.]

Mr. Moffett to Mr. Allen.

PYENGYANG, KOREA, *October 16, 1902.*

DEAR MR. ALLEN: The above account is made up from the statement of Mr. Hunt, Mr. Lee, Syen On Chun, Yi Hak Syon, and Mr. Hunt's "boy," the accounts agreeing in every essential particular.

While the man was in jail, and no money had been received and no satisfaction in any way, Mr. Lee telegraphed to me in Seoul, and I laid the case before the legation. The present situation is as given above.

To us it seems clear that our treaty rights have been denied us by the governor; that he seized lumber belonging to us, the transaction having been completed, the lumber paid for, and the lumber removed to another place pending removal after Sunday; that we laid the matter politely before the proper official, the kamni, and not only received no satisfaction, but were in fact told—by the governor's arrest and beating of our agent—that we could not buy lumber and that he had the right to compel the reversal of the transaction.

We should be glad to have you press this case until full satisfaction is secured, if in your judgment also our treaty rights have been clearly invaded. We ask this because of the principle involved and because to ignore this means constantly increasing trouble in the future and a contempt for the rights of foreigners on the part of officials, underlings, and people. While the financial loss is a small one, I think the most effective way to make an impression upon officials, and especially the underlings, is to insist upon their making good the loss occasioned by their unlawful proceeding. Mr. Hunt, Mr. Lee, and I agree that 1,000 nyang (a little over 100 yen) is a justly low estimate of the financial loss occasioned, considering Syen On Chun's loss in money and time and the breaking up of his business and his loss in interest on his money and Mr. Hunt's loss in money and delay in building. However, the money in itself is not a consideration, but the moral effect of obtaining it is a great factor.

Aside from this, anything you can do to impress the governor here with the fact that he must observe the treaty rights of foreigners resident here will be most grateful to us. I have taken pains to lay this clearly before you, because I believe it is such a clear case of violation of rights that it is one which you can justly press with the Government and through it reassert our rights, which are certainly held in great contempt just now by the officials here, who openly boast that they will make it hard for the foreigners and that they will kill a number of the Christians.

I have written of this case as it appeals to us, but if for any reason you think it unwise to press it you will understand, of course, that we are not insistent upon our rights, but prefer to waive them as a matter of expediency. Mr. Noble is writing you also of their difficulties, different from ours, but showing very clearly the attitude of the officials toward foreigners.

Yours, very sincerely, SAMUEL A. MOFFETT.

Mr. Hay to Mr. Allen.

No. 218.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 13, 1903.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 531, of November 19 last, reporting your inability to obtain satisfaction from the Korean Government for unwarranted conduct on the part of the governor and magistrate of Pengyang, whereby Americans residing in that port, open to trade, have been injured in property and pained and humiliated by having their servants severely beaten. You give the particulars of the cases of the Reverend Messrs. Hunt, Morris and Noble and Miss Estey, all of whom are missionaries.

In reply I have to say that these cases justify vigorous representations on the part of this Government to the Emperor of Korea. You are accordingly instructed to make such representations until proper satisfaction is obtained.

I am, etc., JOHN HAY.

Mr. Allen to Mr. Hay.

No. 598.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES.
Seoul, April 8, 1903.

SIR: In reply to your dispatch No. 218, of January 13, answering mine of November 19, last, No. 531, regarding my inability to obtain satisfaction from the Korean Government for unwarranted conduct on the part of the governor and magistrate of Pengyang, and instructing me to continue to make vigorous representations until proper satisfaction is obtained, I have the honor to inform you that with those instructions I was able to move the foreign office to do its utmost in the matter, and, after frequent strong telegraphic instructions from the minister for foreign affairs, the governor of Pengyang finally paid over the 100 yen to Reverend Mr. Hunt, of the Presbyterian mission.

I had instructed Mr. Hunt that an apology was to accompany the payment, but he disregarded my instructions and accepted the money from a messenger sent by the governor, giving a written receipt for the same. I was sorry for this, and so informed Mr. Hunt; yet it seems that the matter had better be dropped with the payment.

The minister for foreign affairs says he fears he can do no more, and that payment by a Korean in such a case is a greater admission of guilt than an apology. Also, the Americans inform me that the result has caused the practice of "squeezing" to almost stop at Pengyang.

I inclose duplicate receipt of Mr. Hunt, sent to me through the foreign office.

I have, etc. HORACE N. ALLEN.

[Inclosure.]

PYENGYANG, *March 9, 1903.*

Received of Pyengan governor, Min Yung Tyul, 100 yen (silver).

WM. B. HUNT.

Mr. Hay to Mr. Allen.

No. 233.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 18, 1903.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 598, of the 8th ultimo, reporting the payment to Reverend Mr. Hunt of 100 yen in satisfaction of the injury and humiliation caused him by the unwarranted conduct of the governor and magistrate of Pyengyang.

Your treatment of this case is approved.

I am, etc., JOHN HAY.

CEREMONIAL AUDIENCE OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WITH THE EMPEROR OF KOREA.

Mr. Allen to Mr. Hay.

No. 561.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Seoul, January 2, 1903.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I joined with my colleagues of the diplomatic corps in declining to attend a ceremonial audience at

the palace on New Year's day, for the reason that we had been unsuccessful in securing attention to certain important matters, and had therefore applied for a joint audience, which was refused. As a result of our action a satisfactory arrangement was made for the discussion and settlement of our matters, and we therefore attended the audience.

The circumstances are as follows:

On November 5 last we addressed a joint note to the minister for foreign affairs, complaining that we were unable to secure attention to matters relating to the transfer of property in Seoul, and we made certain propositions looking to a removal of the difficulties under which we were laboring. Although we asked the minister to fix a date for receiving us for the consideration of these matters, and intimated that a failure to give attention to the matter would compel us to apply for a joint audience, we got no reply. (Inclosure 1.)

On December 5 Mr. Hayashi, the Japanese minister and doyen, was obliged to remind the minister of the failure to attend to our request, and to ask for a joint audience. He, of course, wrote for all of us.

This communication brought a reply from the minister, dated December 12, in which he said he could and would attend to the matter. He failed to do so, however. (See inclosure 2.)

We therefore met on the 29th instant and decided to decline to attend the New Year ceremonial audience, which we did in a joint note, a copy of which I inclose (No. 3).

I was empowered to state personally that the receipt of a formal dispatch fixing a date early in January for the joint discussion of these matters by the minister for foreign affairs and ourselves would induce us to recall our refusal to attend the audience. Such dispatch was received on the 31st (inclosure 4), and we accepted it and agreed to attend the audience (inclosure 5).

I may add that I drafted these notes to the foreign minister, including that of November 5, and the suggestion to decline to attend the audience was also my own. I felt confident such course was necessary and that it would result as it did. We may possibly be able now to effect a settlement of difficulties that the Korean Government should never have placed in our way, though the matter may still require action by the Governments represented.

I inclose a copy of the remarks I made on the occasion of the audience. * * *

The results of our action so far are very satisfactory to the foreign representatives. We meet the foreign minister on the 10th instant for a full discussion of the matter.

I have, etc.,

HORACE N. ALLEN.

[Inclosure 1—Translation.]

Joint note to Mr. Cho Pyeng Sik.

SEOUL, *November 5, 1902.*

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE: We have the honor to address your excellency on the subject of the issue of title deeds for land in and about the city of Seoul, which city has been duly opened to foreign residence by treaty.

At present when land is purchased by foreigners in accordance with their treaty rights the personal deed of the Korean owner is transmitted to the governor with an application for the issue of an official deed.

Of late great delay and annoyance has been experienced in nearly every one if not all of these cases.

Objections are raised on the score of the land being too near some Government establishment, or of its being destined to official uses. Deeds specifying the measurements of the area purchased are refused as well as those for land without houses.

All this is manifestly in violation of the treaty stipulations.

When delay is complained of the governor excuses himself on the ground that the issue of deeds is a matter controlled by the home office, to which we can not apply.

With a view to placing the matter on a satisfactory footing, we have the honor to request that all matters relating to the transfer of land, in or about the city of Seoul, to foreigners, be placed in the hands of the governor or his deputy, and that an imperial decree to this effect be issued. In this decree we would ask that the official be instructed to give prompt attention to such matters, to refrain from all obstructive measures not warranted by treaty, to include measurements of ground in the deeds issued, and to raise no objections to the transfer of land alone.

The land question has become a serious matter for each one of us, and we would request your excellency to favor us with an early and satisfactory reply, which will assure us that our nationals will no longer be subjected to restrictions in the full enjoyment of their treaty rights in this respect.

Failing the receipt of such an answer we shall be obliged to apply for a joint audience with His Majesty the Emperor in order to lay the matter before him, prior to requesting instructions from our respective Governments on the subject.

We would at the same time draw your excellency's attention to the obstructive measures frequently adopted by the Kamnis at the various treaty ports, whereby foreigners are refused deeds for property within the 10 li radius or within the limits of the city of Pyeng-Yang.

We avail, etc., (Signed by the members of the Diplomatic Corps.)

[Inclosure 2—Translation.]

Mr. Sik to Mr. Hayashi, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

FOREIGN OFFICE, *December 12, 1902.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the date of the 5th instant, in which you informed me that regarding the matter of the deeds of property bought by the foreigners in the city and other places, the diplomatic corps submitted on the 5th ultimo their opinions; that on the 27th of last month you wrote me for an appointment of time for the diplomatic corps to come to see me on the same subject, but that you were wondering why I did not answer, and that the diplomatic corps desired to have a joint audience, asking me to arrange for an audience.

I beg to inform you that I am very sorry that it needs my thinking over, and it caused me to delay in answering you. I am the representative of the Korean Government, and all matters between the foreign representatives and the Korean Government shall be discussed and managed with me. Therefore I do not think it necessary to have an audience with His Majesty merely on this matter. I will appoint a time and invite you and the foreign representatives to meet at my office, when I will not certainly delay any longer to manage it.

I have, etc.,

CHO PYUNG SIK,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

[Inclosure 3.]

Joint note to Mr. Cho Pyung Sik.

SEOUL, KOREA, *December 29, 1902.*

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE: On November 5 last we had the honor to address your excellency in regard to certain difficulties we were experiencing in regard to property rights in Seoul and the ports, asking for a joint interview with you for the discussion of the subject, and intimating that we might be obliged to carry the matter before His Imperial Majesty the Emperor in a joint audience.

Not being favored with a reply, on December 5 we again addressed you on the subject asking for a joint audience with His Imperial Majesty.

On December 12 you replied that an audience was unnecessary and that you were able to arrange the matter, which you said was a part of your duty.

Since then we have had no intimation from you as to a compliance with our request for a joint interview, and we know of no steps having been taken looking to any arrangement regarding the matters of which we had to complain.

In view of this state of affairs; the apparent ignoring of our complaint; our failure to secure an interview with yourself, and the fact that our request for a joint audience remains unsatisfied, we are reluctantly compelled to inform your excellency that we will be unable to accept the invitation of the president of the ceremonial department to attend a ceremonial audience on New Year's day.

We take this opportunity, etc.,

(Signed by the members of the Diplomatic Corps.)

[Inclosure 4.]

Mr. Sik to the foreign representatives.

FOREIGN OFFICE, *December 30, 1902.*

YOUR EXCELLENCIES: In reply to your excellencies' letter of the 29th instant, regarding the matter of deeds of property in this city and in the ports, in which you say that your excellencies would not be in the audience on January 1 next unless a day in the early part of January was fixed to settle the matter, etc.

I have the honor to inform you that I am very busy in the office lately and I can not spare a day before New Year's day to discuss the matter with your excellencies, so I name the day of 10th January, at 2 o'clock p. m., asking your excellencies to come to my office to discuss and settle the matter on that date.

I said in my previous answer that I would not trifle and delay the matter. Is what I said incredible? Your excellencies say in the letter to which this is an answer that I ignored the matter, which I did not expect from you, and in such a matter it must be discussed; so I said in my answer there was no necessity to have an audience. But you say that an audieuce was not granted, and that therefore you would not go to the audience to congratulate His Majesty on the New Year's day. This is also what I could not expect from you.

I therefore ask you to think of the amicable friendship and attend the New Year's audience.

I have, etc.,

CHO PYUNG SIK,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

[Inclosure 5.]

Joint note.

SEOUL, *December 31, 1902.*

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE: We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your excellency's dispatch of yesterday's date, replying to our joint note of the 29th instant.

In this dispatch you fix January 10, at 2 p. m., as the date and hour for receiving us at your office for the purpose of discussing and settling the questions mentioned in our joint notes, to which this is a reply.

As your excellency seems to be somewhat surprised at the action taken by us in our joint note, we wish to remind you that we had no intention of giving offense by our refusal to attend the ceremonial audience on New Year's day. Our action was forced upon us by our inability to secure the discussion of matters of serious importance relating to treaty stipulations.

In view of the fact that your excellency has arranged a date for the discussion and adjustment of the matters in question, we herewith recall our refusal to attend the ceremonial audience and we respectfully request your excellency to inform the president of the ceremonial department that we will be present at the hour named in his invitation, 10 a. m. to-morrow.

We take this opportunity, etc.,

HORACE N. ALLEN,
For the foreign representatives.

[Inclosure 6.]

Remarks made by Mr. Allen at Audience.

YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY: On behalf of the Governments and peoples we represent, as well as for ourselves, we tender to Your Majesty our sincere congratulations upon

the successful closing of another year and the beginning of this New Year, which we hope may be one of promise to yourself; to His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince and to the Princess, as well as to Your Majesty's Government and people.

During the past twelve months Your Majesty has entered the honorable stage of advanced age, having celebrated the close of the first cycle of the sixth decade of your honorable life.

You have also successfully passed the fortieth anniversary of your enthronement, in connection with which event the country has witnessed great celebrations. The extensive preparations for the celebration of this event by foreigners had to be abandoned owing to the presence of a dread scourge. Your Majesty's health was, however, preserved, and you have reached an age and a length of reign such as may be said to be unusual and, therefore, a subject for congratulation.

We wish you a continuance of health and peace and bespeak prosperity for your honorable country.

OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN LANDS IN THE GENERAL FOREIGN SETTLEMENT AT CHEMULPO.

Mr. Allen to Mr. Hay.

No. 568.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Seoul, January 28, 1903.

SIR: As a matter of record, I have the honor to hand you inclosed copies of correspondence leading to the settlement of an important question relating to the general foreign settlement at Chemulpo, namely, the ownership of the northwest foreshore, now occupied by the Seoul-Chemulpo Railway.

When this railway was being built in 1897 the Korean Government allowed the American concessionaire, James R. Morse, to fill in an extensive tract of mud flats lying off the general foreign settlement on the northwest sea front.

After the railway had passed into the hands of the Japanese in 1898 the Chemulpo municipal council, on completion of the foreshore, very naturally attempted to collect taxes on the ground as a part of the general foreign settlement, and to reimburse them for caring for the same. The Japanese company, after much discussion and upon legal advice, declined to pay taxes, on the ground that the concession for the railway exempted them from any such responsibilities, and that the payment of the taxes in question should devolve upon the Korean Government, who seem to have been at fault in granting to the railway a portion of the foreshore of the international settlement.

This opinion met with the support of the foreign representatives at Seoul, and on February 22, 1902, the matter was laid before the Korean minister for foreign affairs, as per joint note of the foreign representatives of that date, of which I inclose a copy. With this note was inclosed a memorandum of what was proposed. I inclose a copy of this.

After considerable discussion, in which Mr. J. McLeavy Brown, commissioner of customs, was concerned, as he was largely responsible for the original grant of the foreshore to the railway company, the Korean Government, on December 23 last, accepted the responsibility for the payment of taxes to the amount of 100 yen per month; the building of a road and drains, and the handing over of the same to the municipal council, who are required to metal the surface of the road and attend to the policing, lighting, and maintenance of the same. (See letter from the foreign office, copy inclosed.)

On January 3, as doyen, I notified the Chemulpo municipal council of this settlement, and asked for their acceptance of the same. (Inclosure 4.) This they did on January 10, by previous arrangement, detailing the conditions as they understood them and as they were willing to accept them. On January 13, therefore, I addressed the minister for foreign affairs, accepting his proposal of December 23, in the language of the letter from the municipal council, and fully defining the present status of the railway foreshore. This letter was approved by all my colleagues. (Inclosure 5.)

I have, etc.,

HORACE N. ALLEN.

[Inclosure 1.]

Foreign representatives to minister for foreign affairs.

SEOUL, *February 22, 1902.*

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE: By the contract entered into between Mr. Morse and the Korean Government on the 29th March, 1896, for the construction of a railway from Seoul to Chemulpo, your excellency's government agreed to provide free of taxes the land needed for stations, sheds, etc., in connection with the undertaking. The Korean Government, apparently by misunderstanding, committed the mistake of granting to the concessionaire the western foreshore of the general foreign settlement at Chemulpo as the terminus of the railway line at that port, and the ground was in due course filled in, bunded, and made ready for the use of the railway.

The site which was thus granted and prepared passed with the other interests and obligations of the concessionaire to the present Seoul-Chemulpo Railway Company, but various questions connected with the reclamation and tenure of the ground, its liabilities to the municipal council, and the conditions under which, in the event of the purchase of the railway, it should revert to the Korean Government, have never been definitely settled. The matter having now been referred to us by the municipal council, we, the undersigned representatives of the treaty powers, have, after full consideration of all the circumstances, formulated the following arrangements as a definite solution of the whole question. These proposals, while carefully adhering to the terms of the agreement between the Korean Government and the original concessionaire, will be found, we believe, to afford a fair and equitable adjustment of all the interests involved in the enforcement of that agreement.

It is not our intention at present to enter into any account of the reasons which led in each case to the conclusion at which we have arrived. This, we consider, can be done much more satisfactorily in personal consultation with your excellency, and we would therefore ask you to be good enough to fix a day and hour at which we, or a committee of our body, may have an opportunity of laying before you a full explanation of the whole question.

In the meantime we desire to add that the scheme has been approved by the Seoul-Chemulpo Railway Company, who, in order to make their acceptance as little onerous as possible to the Korean Government, have intimated their readiness to allow the refund of the cost of constructing the sea wall, estimated by the company at 41,000 yen, to remain over until the expiration of the original concession or of any further term for which it may be extended.

We trust, therefore, that your excellency will have no difficulty in giving your adhesion to the proposed arrangement.

We avail, etc.,

Signed by all Representatives.

[Subinclosure.]

Memorandum.

I. That the filled-in ground on the western side of the general foreign settlement, now occupied by the Seoul-Chemulpo Railway, while being part of the general foreign settlement, and therefore subject to the by-laws thereof, shall be considered as granted during the term of the railway concession, or during any further period

for which the concession may be extended, to the said company for the use of the railway, by special arrangement between the Korean Government and the foreign representatives in the interests of the general foreign settlement.

II. That no title deeds shall be given for the filled-in ground during the term of the said grant.

III. That no tax or rental shall be paid for the filled-in ground during the term of the said grant.

IV. That the cost of constructing and keeping in repair the sea wall protecting the said land, in accordance with clause 3 of the land regulations, shall be borne by the Korean Government.

V. That in consideration of the fact that no taxes are to be paid for the land in question, the primary cost of metalling and draining the bund road, from the customs jetty to cemetery point, estimated by the municipal council at 2,900 yen, shall be borne by the Korean Government, and that the maintaining, lighting, policing, etc., of the said road shall be undertaken by the municipal council in consideration of a yearly payment of 1,500 yen, to be made to them by the Korean Government through the customs.

VI. That if after the expiration of the original term of the railway concession, or of any further term for which it may be extended, the Korean Government shall purchase the railway, the Korean Government shall have the right of using the filled-in ground for the railway on the same terms under which its use is granted to the railway company by this arrangement (viz, that is, that no deeds are issued and no taxes paid), and in consideration of their paying to the railway company the actual cost incurred in filling in the ground and of their continuing to provide for the keeping in repair, lighting, policing, etc., of the bund road in the manner set forth under clause 5.

VII. That in the event of the railway company or the Korean Government (the latter after the purchase of the railway) removing the station from its present site the ground shall be taken over by the municipal council and dealt with in the same way as other unoccupied ground in the general foreign settlement; and further, in the event of the railway company removing the station the actual cost of filling in the ground shall be refunded to them from the proceeds of the land in question, viz, the upset price of the lots to be increased by the proportional part of the expenses incurred in filling in the foreshore in question, this and only this latter part of the price to be paid to the railway company on the sale of each lot.

[Inclosure 2.—Translation.]

Foreign minister to foreign representatives.

SEOUL, *December 23, 1902.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your excellencies' joint note of the 22d February last, with reference to the western foreshore of the Chemulpo settlement, which has been filled in for use as a railway station. In this dispatch you proposed that a sum of 3,000 yen should be appropriated for the present from the customs revenue to meet the expenses of policing and lighting the land surrounding the station and of building a bund road 15 meters in width.

The tract in question was originally surplus land adjoining the settlement, and remained waste so long as it was put to no use; but as soon as it was employed the municipal council ought to have assumed control of it. But some office or other, under the impression that the land did not form part of the settlement, granted it to the American concessionaire, Mr. Morse, on the understanding that rent and other expenses should be paid by the railway company.

Subsequently Mr. Morse sold the land to Japanese.

Under the terms of the original concession all land, official or private, required for the track, stations, etc., was to be provided by the Korean Government free of rent and taxes. The municipal council, inasmuch as they received no ground tax thereon, refused to expend money on its upkeep. These expenses should properly fall on the office which made a free grant of the land; as, however, the commencement of work and the collection of money is urgent, it would be useless to delay in order to discover the responsible office.

In order, therefore, to meet the circumstances of the case, the customs will assist the council, and from the 1st of January, 1903, a sum of 100 yen will be paid monthly from the customs revenue to meet the expenses of lighting and policing the area and of maintaining the road in repair. And further, the work of building a public road 15 meters wide along the bund will be taken in hand immediately, together with the provision of covered and uncovered drains, the estimated cost of which will be entirely paid from the customs revenues.

As soon as the road is completed it will be handed over, in accordance with the regulations, to the municipal council, who will bear the expense of metaling in order to keep the road in repair.

Should the Korean Government at any time resume possession of the station land the amounts advanced must be refunded to the customs, and the land itself will be given over to the council, who will be responsible for the expenses in connection with its maintenance.

[SEAL OF FOREIGN OFFICE.]

[Inclosure 3.]

Mr. Allen to secretary of municipal council.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Seoul, January 3, 1903.

SIR: I have the honor to address you upon the subject of the railway foreshore at Chemulpo, which matter is now apparently arranged, pending your acceptance of the conditions inposed.

On February 22 last we, the foreign representatives, addressed a note on the subject to the minister for foreign affairs. With this note we presented a memorandum covering the case, and on December 23 we received a reply in which the Korean Government, through the customs, agree to a monthly payment to the municipal council of 100 yen, for the purposes of maintaining the roads of this foreshore. The Government also agrees to make the road of proper width and build the drains. The road is to be handed over to the municipal council on completion, and the latter will be obliged to metal the same.

You will note from a perusal of this correspondence that the letter of the foreign minister is not a complete reply to ours of February 22. At the same time it seems to cover the points we raised, and I shall, under instructions from my colleagues, accept the same with your assent, at the same time calling the attention of the minister to the seeming omissions of his reply.

I have, etc.,

HORACE N. ALLEN,
For the Foreign Representatives.

[Inclosure 4.]

Mr. Allen to Mr. Sik.

SEOUL, KOREA, *January 13, 1903.*

MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE: In reply to your letter of the 23d December regarding the matter of the railway foreshore at Chemulpo, I have the honor to inform you that, while your letter does not fully cover all the points raised in the joint note of the foreign representatives of February 22, 1902, the intention seemed to be satisfactory, and your excellency's note was accepted by the foreign representatives as covering the case, subject to acceptance by the Chemulpo municipal council.

On reference of your note to that body, together with the joint note of the foreign representatives of February 22 last, with the memorandum that accompanied that note, the municipal council accepted the propositions contained in your note with an elaboration of what they understand to be the full meaning of the same, and that your excellency's letter of December 23 does not imply any future obligation on the part of the municipal council to refund any amounts advanced by the customs; and that in view of the modifications thus introduced into the memorandum accompanying our note of February 22 last, the arrangement now accepted by the Korean Government, as well as by the representatives of the treaty powers, the municipal council, and the Seoul-Chemulpo Railway Company, has taken the following form:

1. That the filled-in ground on the western side of the general foreign settlement, now occupied by the Seoul-Chemulpo Railway, while being part of the general foreign settlement and therefore subject to the by-laws thereof, shall be considered as granted during the term of the railway concession, or during any further period for which the concession may be extended to the said company, for the use of the

railway, by special arrangement between the Korean Government and the foreign representatives in the interest of the general foreign settlement.

II. That no title deeds shall be given for the filled-in ground during the term of the said grant.

III. That no tax or rental shall be paid for the filled-in ground during the term of the said grant.

IV. That the cost of constructing and keeping in repair the sea wall protecting the said land, in accordance with clause 3 of the land regulations, shall be borne by the Korean Government.

V. That in consideration of the fact that no taxes are to be paid for the land in question:

1. A public road 15 meters wide along the bund from the customs jetty to cemetery point shall be constructed by the Korean Government through the customs; the work of building this road to be taken in hand immediately together with the provision of covered and uncovered drains, and the road as soon as it is completed to be handed over in accordance with the regulations to the municipal council, who will bear the expense of metaling in order to keep the road in repair.

2. A sum of 100 yen shall, from the 1st of January, 1903, be paid monthly by the Korean Government through the customs to the municipal council, in order to assist the latter in meeting the expense of lighting and policing the area and of maintaining the road in repair.

VI. That if, after the expiration of the original term of the railway concession or of any further term for which it may be extended, the Korean Government shall purchase the railway, the Korean Government shall have the right of using the filled-in ground for the railway, on the same terms under which its use is granted to the railway company. By this arrangement (viz, that is, that no deeds are issued and no taxes paid) and in consideration of their paying to the railway company the actual cost incurred in filling in the ground and of their continuing to provide for the keeping in repair, lighting, policing, etc., of the bund road in the manner set forth under Clause V.

VII. That in the event of the railway company or the Korean Government (the latter after purchase of the railway) removing the station from the present site, the ground shall be taken over by the municipal council and dealt with in the same way as other unoccupied ground in the general foreign settlement, and further, in the event of the railway company removing the station, the actual cost of filling in the ground shall be refunded to them from the proceeds of the land in question, viz, the upset price of the lots to be increased by the proportional part of the expenses incurred in filling in the foreshore in question, this and only this latter part of the price to be paid to the railway company on the sale of each lot.

As this is but an explicit statement of the agreement apparently arrived at, I infer it will be satisfactory to your excellency, and without information to the contrary, it will be so regarded.

I take, etc.,

HORACE N. ALLEN,
For the Foreign Representatives.

Mr. Allen to Mr. Hay.

No. 579.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Seoul, February 12, 1903.

SIR: Continuing the subject of my dispatch No. 568, of January 28 last, regarding the matter of the settlement of the question of the ownership of the railway foreshore at Chemulpo, I now have the honor to hand you inclosed, for purpose of record, a final reply from the Korean minister for foreign affairs, dated the 10th instant, accepting the definition of the terms of the agreement as made by me for the foreign representatives on January 13 last.

This reply was not really necessary and was not expected, but it places the whole matter of the said foreshore in much better position than it might possibly be without it.

I have, etc.,

HORACE N. ALLEN.

[Inclosure.]

Mr. Ye Toh Chai to Mr. Allen.

No. 4.] FOREIGN OFFICE, *February 10, 1903.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th of January this year, in which you proposed seven things for the matter of granting the filled-in ground of the general foreign settlement at Chemulpo to the Seoul-Chemulpo Railway Company for its station. You state that along this filled-in ground the Korean Government will make a public road 15 meters wide; that the Korean Government will pay, through the customs, 100 yen every month to the municipal council for policing, lighting, and repairing this road; that the filled-in ground is to be granted to the Seoul-Chemulpo Railroad Company during the period of its concession or during the time the concession may be extended; that no tax is to be collected on this ground and no title deeds are to be issued for this ground; that when the Korean Government buys the Seoul-Chemulpo Railway, she can use the ground for the same purpose, but no tax is to be collected and no title deeds are to be issued for it; that the railway company will be paid the amount actually expended in filling in the ground; that when the station is removed, the municipal council shall possess the ground as unoccupied ground of the general foreign settlement to be sold at auction, but the Japanese Railway Company will receive only the actual amount that they expended in filling in the ground.

I beg to inform you that I have read this letter carefully and found that it is a proper way to arrange the matter, and I have no objections, but I fully agree with the same.

I have, etc.,

YE TOH CHAI,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.