JAPAN.

DEATH OF EMPEROR MUTSUHITO. ACCESSION TO THE THRONE OF EMPEROR YOSHIHITO.

File No. 894.001 M98/9.

The Ambassador of Japan to the Secretary of State.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE EMBASSY,
Washington, July 29, 1912.

SIR: I am profoundly grieved to inform you that I have received a cable message from Viscount Uchida, His Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, announcing the demise of His Majesty the Emperor at the Imperial Palace at Tokio at 12:43 Tuesday morning, July 30th.

It is my melancholy duty to request that you will bring this sad intelligence to the knowledge of the President and his Cabinet.

Accept [etc.]

J. CHINDA.

File No. 894.001 M98/9.

The President to the Empress Dowager.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, July 29, 1912.

[Telegram.]

I beg Your Majesty to accept the condolences and sincerest sympathy of Mrs. Taft and myself in the great loss which you have sustained in the death of your illustrious husband for whom I entertained sentiments of the highest personal esteem and regard.

WM. H. TAFT.

File No. 894.001 M98/9.

The President to the Emperor.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, July 29, 1912.

[Telegram.]

On the sad occasion of the death of His Majesty the Emperor Mutsuhito, your illustrious father, I offer to Your Majesty my most profound sympathy and that of the Government and people of the United States.

Accept my good wishes for a long and prosperous reign and the continuance of the welfare of the Japanese Empire.

WM. H. TAFT.

File No. 894.001 M98/9.

The Secretary of State to the American Ambassador.

[Telegram.—Paraphrase.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 29, 1912.

You will make to the Government of Japan appropriate expressions of the sympathy of the President, the Government and the people of the United States in the loss by the Japanese Empire of a ruler whose reign has been so beneficent and distinguished. This will be in addition to the messages which the President has sent to the new Emperor and to the Empress Dowager, and my own cable to Viscount Uchida.

KNOX.

File No. 894.001 M98/9.

The Secretary of State to the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 29, 1912.

I offer to your excellency the expression of my personal sympathy and sorrow in the great loss which has been sustained by the Japanese nation in the death of His Majesty the Emperor Mutsuhito.

P. C. KNOX.

File No. 894.001 M98/9.

The Secretary of State to the Ambassador of Japan.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 30, 1912.

EXCELLENCY: I have had the honor to receive with great regret your note of the 30th instant by which you officially communicate to me the sad intelligence of the demise of His Majesty the late Emperor Mutsuhito at 12:45 o'clock in the morning of July 30 (Japanese time).

I did not fail to bring this melancholy news at once to the knowledge of the President who, greatly shocked by the death of this beneficient and distinguished ruler for whom he entertained the highest esteem and regard, has conveyed directly by telegraph to the new Emperor and the Empress Dowager his own sincere condolence and those of the Government and people of the United States under their present affliction.

I have in like manner offered to his excellency Viscount Uchida the expression of my personal sympathy and sorrow in the great loss which has been sustained by the Japanese nation.

Accept [etc.]

P. C. KNOX.

File No. 894.001 M98/27A.

The President to the Emperor.

GREAT AND GOOD FRIEND: Desiring not only to give evidence of the high personal esteem and regard which I entertained for His late Majesty the Emperor Mutsuhito, your dearly beloved father, but to show as well the friendship borne by the Government and the people of the United States for Your Majesty and the Japanese nation, I have made choice of the Honorable Philander C. Knox, Secretary of State of the United States of America, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary, for the special purpose of representing the President and people of the United States at the ceremonies incident upon the funeral of His late Majesty.

My knowledge of his high character and ability gives me entire confidence that he will perform this duty of respect in a manner entirely agreeable to Your Majesty.

I therefore request Your Majesty to receive him favorably and to give full credence to the expression of sympathy of the Government of the United States of America with that of Japan in the ceremonies, which I have charged him to convey to Your Majesty with the assurance of the best wishes of this Government for the welfare of Your Majesty and the prosperity of Japan.

Mr. Knox will be assisted by Brigadier General John J. Pershing, U. S. A., and Rear Admiral Alfred Reynolds, U. S. N., representing the War and Navy Departments of the United States, respectively, and will be attended by Mr. Ransford S. Miller as his Secretary.

Written at Washington this thirteenth day of August, nineteen hundred and twelve.

Your Good Friend,

WM. H. TAFT.

File No. 894.001 M98/26.

The Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Japanese Ambassador.

[Read and presented by the Ambassador, August 14.]

The appointment of Mr. Knox has been duly confirmed by the United States Ambassador. You are consequently requested to say to the President that I hastened to inform His Imperial Majesty of the President's appointment of Mr. Knox, Secretary of State, as his Special Ambassador to attend the funeral of His late Majesty. His Imperial Majesty was much gratified to learn of this very exceptional manifestation of high esteem and regard in which His late Majesty was held by the President, and His Imperial Majesty commands that you express to the President his cordial appreciation of this mark of respect and sympathy. You will also assure the President that the appointment of the Secretary of State to this special mission has greatly pleased the Government and people of Japan. You will also assure the Secretary of State that I am sincerely gratified to hear of the appointment.

UCHIDA.

August 12, 1912.

File No. 894.001 M98/37.

The Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs to the American Ambassador.

[Translation.]

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
No. 14.] *Tokio, August 17, 1912.*

MR. AMBASSADOR: In reference to the appointment of Mr. Knox, the United States Secretary of State, to be Special Ambassador to attend the funeral of His late Majesty, which your excellency was good enough to communicate to me when you called at this Department on the 12th instant, I have now the honor to inform your excellency that upon my reporting the matter at once to His Majesty my August Sovereign, His Majesty expressed high appreciation of this courtesy and charged me to convey His cordial thanks to your excellency's Government. The appointment of Mr. Knox has also given great pleasure to the Government and the people of Japan; and although the Japanese Ambassador at Washington has already been instructed by telegraph to convey to His Excellency the President of the United States the thanks of the Imperial Family and the Government and the people of Japan, I beg to request that your excellency will be good enough also to transmit a similar expression of thanks to His Excellency the President.

I avail [etc.]

VISCOUNT Y. UCHIDA.

File No. 894.001 Y8.

The Ambassador of Japan to the Acting Secretary of State.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE EMBASSY,
No. 44.] *Washington, October 11, 1912.*

SIR: I have the honor to acquaint you that I have received from my Government, for presentation to the President of the United States, an autograph letter of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan announcing the much lamented demise of His Majesty the late Emperor, and the consequent Accession of my present August Master to the Throne.

As the President is, I understand, actually out of town, I beg to forward to you, under separate sealed cover, the Imperial communication addressed to the President and to enclose herewith a copy of its English translation, in the hope that you may be so good as to cause the said letter to be submitted to its high destination.

Accept [etc.]

S. CHINDA.

[Inclosure.—Translation.]

The Emperor to the President.

GREAT AND GOOD FRIEND: It is with the most profound grief that I announce to You the demise of My Greatly Revered and Beloved Father, His Majesty Emperor Mutsuhito, which took place at the Palace in Tokio, on the thirtieth

ultimo in the forty-fifth year of Meiji. I feel convinced that You will participate in the great sorrow which has befallen Me and the Imperial Family and the whole Nation.

In acquainting You, at the same time, with My accession to the Throne, I assure You that it will ever be My earnest desire to foster and to draw still closer the bonds of sincere friendship and good accord which so happily subsist between Our respective Countries.

I avail Myself of this occasion to tender to You, Mr. President, My cordial wishes for Your happiness, as well as the assurances of the profound esteem and invariable affection with which I am,

Your sincere Friend,

YOSHIHITO.

THE PALACE, TOKYO,
This thirtieth day of the eighth month
of the first year of Taisho.

File No. 894.001 Y8.

The Acting Secretary of State to the Ambassador of Japan.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 16, 1912.

EXCELLENCY: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 11th instant, enclosing under separate sealed cover, for presentation to the President of the United States, an autograph letter addressed to him by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, announcing the lamented demise of His Majesty the late Emperor, and the consequent accession to the Throne of His Majesty the present Emperor.

In reply I have the honor to inform you that the Imperial communication has been laid before the President, whose reply will be delivered through the American Ambassador at Tokyo.

Accept [etc.]

ALVEY A. ADEE.

File No. 894.001 M98/44A.

The Special Ambassador to the President.

[Extract.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 15, 1912.

MR. PRESIDENT: I have the honor to submit to you herewith my report as Special Ambassador to represent the President and people of the United States at the funeral ceremony of His Majesty Mutsuhito, the late Emperor of Japan.

The Special Embassy consisting, in addition to myself, of Mr. Ransford S. Miller, Secretary, and Rear Admiral Alfred Reynolds, Naval Attaché, representing the United States Navy, sailed from Seattle August 22 on the cruiser *Maryland*, Captain John M. Ellicott in command. Brigadier General John J. Pershing, Military Attaché, representing the United States Army, joined the Embassy at Yokohama. In compliance with your request Mrs. Knox also accompanied me.

The *Maryland* stopped at Honolulu for coal August 29 and * * * left for Yokohama the following day. * * * We

arrived off the coast of Japan on Monday morning, September 9, a day in advance of the scheduled time of our arrival. In compliance with the request of the Japanese officials we anchored in Yokohama harbor at three o'clock that same afternoon, being the first of the special foreign embassies to arrive.

We were met aboard the *Maryland* by the full staff of the American Embassy at Tokio and by the special Japanese reception committee headed by his excellency Viscount Kurino, once representative of the Imperial Japanese Government in Washington, and escorted with the usual marks of honor to the landing where we were welcomed by the local Japanese officials and a company of American residents of Yokohama. Proceeding to Tokio by special train, we were greeted by a large concourse of Japanese officials, business men and American citizens, headed by his excellency Viscount Uchida, Minister for Foreign Affairs and late Japanese Ambassador to the United States. From the station we were formally escorted to the residence which had been assigned to us, the official residence of the Minister of the Imperial Household, adjoining the premises of the American Embassy in Tokio.

In view of the baseless reports current in many quarters that the Special Embassy might have also some ulterior political mission, I took occasion immediately upon my arrival in Tokio to set these reports at rest by making a public statement of its true object, which was to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Emperor and to express the interest of the American people in the progress of Japan under His Majesty's remarkable reign. A copy of this and of all other public or official statements made by me in connection with the Special Mission will be found annexed hereto. * * *

On Wednesday the 11th, accompanied by my staff and escorted by a guard of honor, I proceeded to the Palace to present my letter of credence to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. In presenting my letter I took occasion to make a few remarks voicing the respect, sympathy and friendship of the American nation. The Embassy, accompanied by Mrs. Knox, was also received in audience by Her Majesty the Empress and later given an opportunity of paying its respects to the memory of the late Emperor, whose body was lying in state in the Throne Room of the Palace. The formalities ended with a breakfast given by the Court to the members of the special embassies and resident diplomatic representatives.

The funeral services of the late Emperor, who will be known in history as Meiji Tenno, were held on Friday evening, September 13, in the Aoyama district of Tokio, where the special embassies, foreign representatives and a large concourse of Japanese and foreign officials and residents convened to await the arrival of the Imperial cortège, which left the Palace at eight o'clock. The funeral services, conducted according to the Shinto ritual, were most impressive in their simplicity. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, after paying their last respects before the bier, the foreign representatives withdrew. * * *

The Special Embassy took its formal departure from Tokio on Saturday September 21, with the same marks of courteous attention that had characterized its arrival, and proceeded to Yokohama. That evening, at a quiet dinner given in our honor by the American

Asiatic Association of Japan, I took occasion to make a few remarks to my fellow-countrymen, expressing my conception of the true relations that exist and should exist between Japan and the United States.

The Embassy sailed from Yokohama by the cruiser *Maryland* on Saturday, September 22.

In conclusion I wish to record my conviction, based upon my personal observations while in Japan as well as upon the unanimous expressions of the Jananese officials and press, that the sympathetic purpose of the Special Embassy was truly interpreted and deeply appreciated by the Japanese Court, Government and people alike and did much to emphasize and strengthen the ties of ancient friendship existing between the two nations.

Respectfully submitted.

P. C. KNOX.

[Inclosure 1.]

Public announcement made by the Special Ambassador on arrival in Tokyo, September 9, 1912.

The President, as Chief Executive of the American Nation, has sent me as his special representative to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of your late Emperor; to manifest the appreciation of the American people of the wonderful achievements for Japan and humanity under His Majesty's benign reign; and to express the sympathetic, continuing and unabated American interest in united Japan and in the new life of equality of right and opportunity of her people for which his late Majesty's name will be forever revered. This is my mission and this my message to Japan, her Emperor, and her people. That I should have been selected as its bearer is an honor and privilege which I unfeignedly prize and appreciate.

[Inclosure 2.]

Remarks of the Special Ambassador on presenting Letter of Credence to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, September 11, 1912.

YOUR MAJESTY: I very keenly appreciate the honorable privilege that has been vouchsafed to me by the President in accrediting me, by the letter I bear, as his personal representative and ambassador charged with the special mission of bringing to Your Majesty and the Imperial family, the Government and people of Japan the sympathetic message of the American Commonwealth on this sad occasion. Not the least of the ties of true friendship that join the nations of the earth in the higher brotherhood of affectionate esteem is the bond of common sorrow. The people of the United States share in the grief which the people of the great Empire of the Orient feel in presence of the bereavement that has befallen them in the death of their beloved Ruler; and the President, in obedience to the sentiment of his countrymen no less than in response to his own personal feeling, has charged me to voice the condolence of his countrymen, and in so doing to express to oYur Majesty his own sincere sympathy with you in the loss of your distinguished father.

It is right that I should accomplish this mission in a spirit befitting the intimacy that has so long existed between the Republic of the West and the Empire of the East. First among the nations to greet the entrance of your Island Commonwealth into the family of the modern nations, and constantly since that memorable epoch an interested and applauding spectator of the marvelous progress of your gifted people in every walk of material progress and national advancement, the United States owes it to itself as well as to Japan to demonstrate adequately on this mournful occasion the closeness of the association of the two Commonwealths by partaking of your sorrow as earnestly as we admire your prosperity, and by rendering heartfelt tribute, at the bier

of your lamented Ruler, to the memory of one whose skill in statecraft and wisdom in governance were potent factors in setting Japan in the high place won by earnest effort and unwearying achievement.

[Inclosure 3.]

Remarks of the Special Ambassador made at a farewell dinner tendered by the American Asiatic Association, Yokohama, September 21, 1912.

In taking leave of this beautiful land and of you, my countrymen, who have shared with me the responsibility of making due expression of the sincere sympathy entertained by the American people in the great sorrow of Japan, my mind instinctively turns to some of the most conspicuous accomplishments for the general good of the reign that has just closed.

The present solemn grief of Japan, so sympathetically shared by the other civilized powers and which to many of you must in a sense seem personal, may surely be assuaged by the proud contemplation of the inestimable blessings of the Meiji era. Whether measured by the peculiar inherent difficulties overcome, the radical nature of reforms accomplished, or their effect upon the progress, happiness, and prestige of the people, it seems not too much to assert that the record of real accomplishment during the beneficent reign of the late Emperor is not excelled by any other chapter in human history.

The character and tastes of the Japanese people and the nature of their institutions have been largely molded and virilized by contact with the natural forces of their environment and softened by contemplation of the beauties of the land in which they were developed and matured.

Unaffected by external forces and influences for so many generations, Japanese institutions became deep rooted and seemed unchangeably fixed and the characteristics and temperament of the people apparently reflected a permanent result of their long isolation and a self-reliance well adapted to meet the conditions of the national life.

The relations of the United States and other western powers to the marvelous changes that have taken place in Japan during the past sixty years have been intimate and direct. If the Japanese horizon has been expanded it is largely because we have urged her to open the door for the ingress of our civilization and the egress of her own. If the dual system of government that for hundreds of years seemed to meet the demands of Japanese conditions has now been permanently abolished and the Empire unified and strengthened, through self-sacrificing patriotism that has no historic precedent, it is because such changes were necessary to enable Japan to meet the responsibilities and protect herself against the danger of the new relations to the world's progress to which the West invited her. We have applauded the zealous and intelligently directed efforts and the rapid success attained under the late Emperor in the adjustment of Japan to new responsibilities. When he insisted upon respect for and gave protection to productive labor, eliminated feudalism and its attendant special privileges, established and promulgated equal and humane laws for the government of his people, the West looked on with admiration and recognized a highly intelligent and assiduous preparation to faithfully perform an important part in the work of advancing a higher world civilization.

The renascence of Japan has occurred in the "Meiji Era" of international intercourse. There is to-day a decided impulse towards social coordination that must become a real cosmic force. Through the marvelous modern development in the means of communication each nation promptly feels the influence of the public opinion of all nations. As nations understand each other better and the world draws closer together in the recognition of a common humanity and conscience, of common needs and purposes, there is carried into the international field the insistent demand for greater unity in enforcing everywhere the principle of a high humanity and, by restraints mutually applied and observed, all the human ameliorations without which both national and international life would soon fall into anarchy and decadence.

At all times recalling with satisfaction the special and important part taken by America in urging Japan to take her proper place upon a broader stage of the world's activities, we, logically, are prepared to rejoice with her in her progress towards the attainment of her maximum development and usefulness to the civilization of the future.

[Inclosure 4.]

Statement to the Press on return of the Special Ambassador to the United States.

As publicly announced before I left Washington and repeated on my arrival in Japan, the purpose of my recent mission was, on behalf of the President and the people of the United States, to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Emperor; to manifest the appreciation of the American people of the wonderful achievements under His Majesty's benign reign; and to express the sympathetic American interest in the new Japan.

In fulfilling that high mission I was received on all sides by the Court, the officials, and the people of Japan in the spirit in which I came. I have the pleasantest recollections of the kindly reception that was everywhere accorded me in Japan, both personally and as representative of the American people, at a time of profound national mourning.

LAND LAWS OF CHOSEN. VALIDITY OF CONSULAR REGISTRATION OF TITLE.

File No. 895.52/10.

The Vice Consul General at Seoul to the Secretary of State.

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,
No. 334.] *Seoul, April 22, 1912.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith translations,[1] made in this office, of ordinances of the Government General of Chosen, as follows:

Ordinance for Certification of Immovables in Chosen (effective April 1, 1912).
Ordinance for Registration of Immovables in Chosen. (Date of enforcement to be determined by the Governor General.)
Registration Tax Ordinance (effective April 1, 1912).

These ordinances in no wise affect the validity of titles which have already been certified. They merely provide for the maintenance by local officials of comprehensive land records, and all future transactions must be carried out in accordance with them.

Viewed broadly, these laws appear to be the latest move on the part of the Government General to complete the work which has occupied the attention of the Japanese authorities ever since their arrival in this country, i. e., to establish some authoritative record of land rights. The first land laws were promulgated by the then Korean Government on October 31, 1906, and supplemented by numerous other laws regarding the certification and registration of rights in land. Finally, on August 24, 1910, a law providing for a thorough investigation of the lands of the peninsula was enacted.[2] This investigation will, when finished, furnish a complete cadastre of Chosen. These new ordinances provide a means of keeping the cadastre up to date. They have, moreover, the advantage of compelling uniformity of land records throughout the country, a condition which has not obtained hitherto.

While these ordinances place considerable power in the hands of local officials, there is provision for appeal to the courts, and it is not anticipated that any injustice will result.

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[1] Not printed.

[2] For. Rel. 1911, p. 328.

I respectfully direct attention to the Registration Tax Ordinance, (Enclosure No. 3) which provides, upon certification of land rights, for the payment of fees ranging from one half of one per centum to two per centum of the value of the land or of the rights therein. This provision appears to mark the first attempt on the part of the Government to levy an equitable land tax. Provision is also made for the payment of fees by juridical persons. Article 7, paragraph 3, provides that upon certification of the sites of shrines and temples and tomb lands registration taxes shall not be paid. I have asked whether this category would include Christian churches, but have not, as yet, received a reply.

I have [etc.]

EDWIN L. NEVILLE.

File No. 895.52/11.

The American Ambassador to the Secretary of State.

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
No. 86.] *Tokyo, June 14, 1912.*

SIR: Referring to the Embassy's despatch No. 1295[1] of February 7, 1911, in regard to the rights of American citizens claiming title to land in Chosen (Korea), with which were enclosed notes exchanged with the Foreign Office on the subject, I have the honor to transmit, in duplicate, a copy of a despatch No. 3582E. of June 7, 1912, from the Consul-General at Seoul, enclosing a circular[2] issued on that day to foreign owners of land and their agents by the Land Investigation Committee of the Government-General at Seoul.

I would respectfully call the Department's attention to the provisions of the first paragraph of the circular, entitled "Matters to be paid attention to by Foreign Land-Owners," which is as follows:

> Land-owners shall present reports of their lands or copies of consular registrations of their lands directly to the Land Investigation Bureau or officials of the same office. It is better for them to send reports of their lands than to send copies of Consular registrations.

The investigation into land titles which is now being conducted by the office of the Government-General at Seoul is of great interest to American citizens resident in Korea, many of whom are land owners.

Inasmuch as the provisions of the first paragraph did not seem to be in accord with the assurance that Consular registrations would be considered as prima facie evidence of title, which was expressed in Count Komura's note of February 4, 1911, a copy of which was enclosed with the Embassy despatch of February 7, 1911, herein referred to, I today addressed a note to the Foreign Office referring to the circular and requesting that the probative value contemplated in Count Komura's note be accorded registrations of land from the archives of the American Consulate-General at Seoul. I beg to enclose a copy of this note.

I have [etc.]

CHARLES PAGE BRYAN.

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[1] Should be 1297; see For. Rel. 1911, p. 333.

[2] Not printed.

[Inclosure 1.]

The Consul General at Seoul to the American Ambassador.

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,
Seoul, June 7, 1912.

No. 3582 E.]

SIR: Referring to my letter of December 9, 1910, (No. 1754), addressed to Mr. Schuyler,[1] and to Mr. O'Brien's reply thereto, of February 7, 1911, (C. No. 1514),[2] relating to the investigation of lands by the Government of Chosen, I have the honor to enclose herewith circulars, which have been this day issued to foreign owners of land and their agents by the Land Investigation Committee at Seoul, containing instructions to aid in said investigation.

I have [etc.]

GEO. H. SCIDMORE.

[Inclosure 2.]

The American Ambassador to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
Tokyo, June 14, 1912.

No. 54]

EXCELLENCY: Referring to this Embassy's note[3] of December 15, 1910, and to the reply of your excellency's predecessor, Count Komura, of February 4, 1911,[4] in regard to the investigation of land titles in Chosen, I have the honor to request your excellency's attention to the circular "Matters to be paid attention to by Foreign Land-owners" which was on June 7 issued to foreign owners of land and their agents by the Land Investigation Committee of the Government-General.

The provisions of the first paragraph of this circular require that land owners shall present to the proper officials "reports" of their lands or copies of Consular registrations of their holdings, and continues, "It is better for them to send reports of their lands than to send copies of Consular regulations."

In the note herein referred to, Count Komura assured the Embassy that the Consular registrations would, in the investigations undertaken by the Government-General, be taken as prima facie proof of the ownership of the land recorded.

I am confident that your excellency under these circumstances will take the necessary steps to the end that the records of registration from the archives of the American Consulate-General at Seoul shall be accorded the probative value contemplated in Count Komura's note.

I avail [etc.]

CHARLES PAGE BRYAN.

File No. 895.52/12.

The American Ambassador to the Secretary of State.

AMERICAN EMBASSY,
Tokyo, August 2, 1912.

SIR: Referring to my despatch No. 86 of June 14, 1912, in regard to the rights of American citizens claiming title to land in Chosen (Korea), I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a note (No. 1) received this day from the Japanese Foreign Office in reply to my note No. 54 of June 14.

I have [etc.]

CHARLES PAGE BRYAN.

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[1] For. Rel. 1911, p. 328.
[2] Not printed.
[3] For. Rel. 1911, p. 330.
[4] For. Rel. 1911, p. 333.

[Inclosure.—Translation.]

The Minister for Foreign Affairs to the American Ambassador.

No. 1.] DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Tokyo, August 1st, 1912.

MR. AMBASSADOR: In acknowledging the receipt of Your Excellency's note No. 54 dated the 14th ult., in which you deem it necessary to call my attention to certain provisions of the circular "Matters to be paid attention to by foreign land-owners" which was issued by the Land Investigation Bureau of the Government-General of Chosen, I have the honor to state that having at once communicated the above to the Government-General, I am now in receipt of a reply therefrom to the following effect:

With a view to make known the necessary formalities in connection with the land investigation in Seoul to all foreigners owning land there, the Temporary Land Investigation Bureau detailed in the beginning of June last some of its members to foreign Consulates in Seoul with the request that the two circulars "Matters to be paid attention to by foreign land-owners" hereto appended might be distributed to the land-owners interested; and the expression "It is better for them, etc." cited in Your Excellency's note under acknowledgment is merely an English rendering of the Japanese 便利ト又ハ. The purport of the circulars was to show that either formal reports relating to land tenure or copies of Consular registrations would be sufficient; but as blank forms hereto appended (marked C) for writing reports on had been prepared by the said Bureau, it would be more convenient both for presenters of reports and the authorities concerned to fill up the same according to Form B.; and the circulars were not intended to affect in any way the validity of Consular registrations.

In communicating the above to your excellency, I avail myself on this occasion to renew to you, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

VISCOUNT Y. UCHIDA.

File No. 895.52/13.

The American Consul General at Seoul to the Secretary of State.

No. 367.] AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,
Seoul, August 23, 1912.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a translation of an ordinance,[1] with subsidary regulations,[1] promulgated by the Government General of Chosen on August 13, 1912, relating to land surveys and titles.

These measures supplement and in a few particulars modify the law No. 7, promulgated August 24, 1910, a translation of which was forwarded by me to the Department through the Embassy at Tokyo in December, 1910.[2]

Article 2 of this ordinance provides for numbering and classifying holdings.

Article 3 gives as the unit for areas the "tsubo" or "bu", equivalent to nearly 36 square feet. There are about 1200 tsubos to an acre.

Articles 4 and 5 relate to information to be furnished to the Land Investigation Bureau by land owners or lessees.

Article 6 relates to appointment of representatives of owners to assist in investigation and survey.

Article 7 relates to attendance of parties, and witnesses and production of muniments of title.

Article 8 authorizes entry upon lands by officials, after notification, and for compensation for damage arising from such entry.

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[1] Not printed.

[2] See For. Rel. 1911, p. 328.

Under Articles 9, 10, and 11 the President of the Special Land Investigation Bureau shall decide as to ownership and boundaries of land, and publish the same during 30 days, after which, and within 60 days following, dissatisfied parties may appeal to the Higher Land Investigation Committee.

Articles 12, 13, 14, and 15 relate to procedure on appeal.

Under Article 16 a rehearing before the Higher Land Investigation Committee may be applied for within three years from the date of its decision in cases of misconduct of the parties or fraud.

Article 17 provides for land registers and maps.

Articles 18 and 19 prescribe penalties.

The appended regulations give further details as to the application of these articles.

I have [etc.]

GEO. H. SCIDMORE.

File No. 895.52/12.

The Acting Secretary of State to the American Ambassador.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

No. 43] *Washington, September 7, 1912.*

SIR: The Department is in receipt of your despatch (unnumbered) of August 2, 1912, transmitting copy of a note from the Japanese Foreign Office relating to certain provisions of the circulars issued by the Japanese Government concerning the rights of American citizens claiming title to land in Chosen.

Your action in this matter has the approval of the Department, and it notes with satisfaction the statement in the communication from the Foreign Office, dated August 1, 1912, that the circulars were not intended to affect in any way the validity of consular registrations.

I am [etc.]

ADVEY A. ADEE.

File No. 895.52/14.

The American Consul General at Seoul to the Secretary of State.

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

No. 382.] *Seoul, November 2, 1912.*

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a clipping from this morning's edition of the semi-official "Seoul Press," entitled "Suspension of Issue of Land Title Deeds," in which it is stated that the issue of title deeds or land certificates will be unnecessary under present arrangements, "the ownership of land in Chosen being fully ensured by means of the registration by owners in the official land ledger," and that "copies of the land ledger will, on application, be given to land owners, after the investigation work has been concluded."

Article X of Korean Law No. 7, promulgated August 24, 1910, a translation of which was forwarded from this office through the

American Embassy at Tokio under date of December 9, 1910,[1] provides:

"The Government shall provide registers of lands and maps, record affairs concerning lands, and issue title deeds for lands."

I have [etc.]

GEO. H. SCIDMORE.

[Inclosure.]

Suspension of Issue of Land Title Deeds.

It was originally planned to issue title deeds to ensure the possession of land to land owners in Chosen, on the conclusion of the investigation of land now being carried out by the Government-General. Subsequently, however, the Chosen Civil Law as well as the Law for Registration of Immovable Assets in Chosen was promulgated, and by virtue of these two laws the ownership of land in the peninsula has come to be fully ensured. In consequence it has now been considered that the issue of land certificates is unnecessary and the plan has been cancelled, the ownership of land in Chosen being fully ensured by means of the registration by owners in the official land ledger. Copies of the land ledger will on application be given to landowners, after the investigation work has been concluded.

ABANDONMENT OF THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION AT TOKYO.[2]

File No. 894.607A/231.

The American Ambassador to the Secretary of State.

AMERICAN EMBASSY,

No. 44.] *Tokyo, March 5, 1912.*

SIR: Referring to my despatch No. 17, of January 8,[3] reporting that I had been informally advised by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce of the Japanese Government that the proposed holding by the Government of an International Exposition at Tokyo in 1917 had been abandoned, I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of a note, dated February 29, from the Foreign Office, stating officially that the Government have, to their deep regret, been compelled by unavoidable circumstances to abandon the project.

Some reference has been made in the local press to the possibility that those countries, including America and Mexico, which had arranged for participation in the exposition, might feel offense in the abandonment of the enterprise, but it should be viewed simply as an economy made necessary by the present Government's policy of retrenchment in national finance.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, in my last interview with him, said the chief regret of himself and his colleagues at the abandonment of the exposition was on account of the generous appropriation made by our Government, granted as a bounteous evidence of friendliness and encouragement.

I have [etc.]

CHARLES PAGE BRYAN.

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[1] For. Rel. 1911, p. 328. [2] See For. Rel. 1908, p. 515. [3] Not printed.

[Inclosure.—Translation.]

The Minister for Foreign Affairs to the American Ambassador.

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
No. 20.] *Tōkyo, February 29, 1912.*

MR. AMBASSADOR: Referring to our former communication in regard to the Grand Exhibition of Japan which was to be held in Tokyo in 1917, I beg leave to inform you that the Imperial Government have to their deep regret been compelled by unavoidable circumstances to abandon that project.

I avail [etc.]

VISCOUNT Y. UCHIDA.

File No. 894.607 A/230.

The Japanese Department of Foreign Affairs to the Japanese Ambassador.

[Left by the Ambassador at the Department of State, March 6, 1912.]

IMPERIAL JAPANESE EMBASSY,
Washington. (Undated.)

On submitting the question of the proposed exhibition in 1917 to a new examination and considering all the surrounding circumstances and the advantages as well as disadvantages of holding such an exhibition in Japan at the time appointed, the Imperial Government have persuaded themselves of the inexpediency of carrying out the project. They have accordingly decided, with much reluctance and deep regret, to abandon the scheme. You are instructed to bring the decision to the attention of the United States Government and at the same time express to the Secretary of State the sense of high appreciation on the part of the Imperial Government of the very friendly encouragement and generous support which the Government of the United States had given to the undertaking.