

London

Dec. 8/44.

To His Excellency

Okuma Shigenobu

Minister of Finance.

Sir,

I beg to inform you that the Steam Ship "Bin" sailed from this Port yesterday the 7th inst. for Yokohama calling at Singapore and Hong Kong for the purpose of delivering Cargo and coaling, it will also be necessary for her to touch at Malta and Aden for coal only. The "Bin" also has a small quantity of cargo for Niogo and Nagasaki, but according to the conditions under which the Cargo was engaged she is bound to deliver her Yokohama cargo first, and then proceed to Niogo and Nagasaki, should however your Excellency

not wish her to go to those ports, the Cargo may be transhipped and sent on in some other Steamer, but in that case the "Bin" must pay the freight and insurance to its destination.

It has of course been necessary to purchase a large number of Stores for the Voyage, also some extra furniture, and about 340 Tons of coal, this has been done by me, so that I am satisfied no expenditure has taken place that is not absolutely necessary. The Ship, Furniture, stores & coal, I have Insured for the voyage out, and till thirty days after arrival, in the sum of Forty thousand Pounds. The cost of this Insurance will be one thousand two hundred pounds, the expense is of course great, but I considered it the safest plan to adopt.

M^r. Itō made arrangements
 with Mess^{rs}. Matheson to supply the
 Meiji Maru with coals, and what
 stores may be necessary at the differ-
 ent ports of call on the voyage out,
 also to pay the Tonnage dues for pas-
 sing through the Suez Canal. The
 same arrangement has been made
 with Mess^{rs}. Matheson & Co. in regard
 to the "Itin". The stores &c supplied
 at this Port will be paid for out of
 the freight, and a statement of the
 accounts forwarded as soon as
 made up. I was compelled to make
 engagements with the Captain and
 Engineers before the ship sailed, a
 copy of these engagements I forward
 herewith, also a copy of the sailing
 instructions I gave the Captain before
 his departure.

I trust the arrangements I have
 made in connection with this ship
 will meet with your Excellencies
 approval.

I herewith forward Bill of Lading
 for the box of Charts I despatched
 from here. This Bill of Lading should
 be sent to the office of the Peninsular
 and Oriental Company in Yokohama,
 on receipt of which they will deliver
 the box of charts.

I am, Sir,

your obedient servant

A R Brown.