

Convention between the United States and the Empire of Japan; Concluded October 22, 1864; Proclaimed April 9, 1866.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Oct. 22, 1864.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS a Convention between the Empire of Japan and the governments of the United States, Great Britain, France, and Holland, providing for the payment to said governments of the sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for indemnities and expenses, was concluded and signed by their respective plenipotentiaries on the twenty-second day of October, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, which Convention, being in the English, Dutch, and Japanese languages, is word for word as follows:—

Preamble.

CONVENTION.

The representatives of the United States of America, Great Britain, France, and the Netherlands, in view of the hostile acts of Mori Daizen, prince of Nagato and Suwo, which were assuming such formidable proportions as to make it difficult for the Tycoon faithfully to observe the treaties, having been obliged to send their combined forces to the Straits of Simonoseki in order to destroy the batteries erected by that daimio for the destruction of foreign vessels and the stoppage of trade; and the government of the Tycoon, on whom devolved the duty of chastising this rebellious prince, being held responsible for any damage resulting to the interests of treaty powers, as well as the expenses occasioned by the expedition:

Amount of damages to be paid the four treaty powers.

The undersigned, representatives of treaty powers, and Sakai Hida no Kami, a member of his second council, invested with plenipotentiary powers by the Tycoon of Japan, animated with the desire to put an end to all reclamations concerning the acts of aggression and hostility committed by the said Mori Daizen since the first of these acts, in June, 1863, against the flags of divers treaty powers, and at the same time to regulate definitively the question of indemnities of war, of whatever kind, in respect to the allied expedition to Simonoseki, have agreed and determined upon the four articles following:—

I. The amount payable to the four powers is fixed at three millions of dollars. This sum to include all claims, of whatever nature, for past aggressions on the part of Nagato, whether indemnities, ransom for Simonoseki, or expenses entailed by the operations of the allied squadrons.

All claims included.

II. The whole sum to be payable quarterly, in instalments of one sixth, or half a million dollars, to begin from the date when the representatives of said powers shall make known to the Tycoon's government the ratification of this Convention and the instructions of their respective governments.

Instalments, and when payable.

III. Inasmuch as the receipt of money has never been the object of the said powers, but the establishment of better relations with Japan, and the desire to place these on a more satisfactory and mutually advantageous footing is still the leading object in view; therefore, if his Majesty the Tycoon wishes to offer, in lieu of payment of the sum claimed, and as a material compensation for loss and injury sustained, the opening of Simonoseki, or some other eligible port in the Inland sea, it shall be at the

Opening of a port in the Inland sea may be accepted in lieu of payment of money.

option of the said foreign governments to accept the same, or insist on the payment of the indemnity in money, under the conditions above stipulated.

When to be ratified.

IV. This Convention to be formally ratified by the Tycoon's government within fifteen days from the date thereof.

Execution.

In token of which, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed and sealed this Convention, in quintuplicate, with English, Dutch, and Japanese versions, whereof the English shall be considered the original.

Done at Yokohama, this 22d day of October, 1864, corresponding to the 22d day of the ninth month of the first year of Gengi.

ROBERT H. PRUYN,

Minister Resident of the United States in Japan.

RUTHERFORD ALCOCK,

H. B. M's Envoy Extraordinary

and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.

LEON ROCHES,

Ministre Plenipotentiaire de S. M. L'Empereur

des Francais au Japon.

D. DE GRAEFF VAN POLSBROEK,

H. N. M's Consul-General and Political Agent in Japan.

(Signature of Sakai Hida no Kami.)

Ratification.

And whereas the said Convention has been duly ratified by the respective governments:—

Proclaimed.

Now, therefore, be it known that I, ANDREW JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, have caused the said Convention to be made public, to the end that the same and every clause and article thereof may be observed and fulfilled with good faith by the United States and the citizens thereof.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-six,

[L. s.] and of the Independence of the United States of America the ninetieth.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

By the President:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*