

INTERNATIONAL OPIUM COMMISSION

Ninth Session.

Reply of the Japanese Delegation to Questions
submitted to them by Mr R. Laidlaw, M.P. at the
Fifth Session (February 10th 1909).

When replying, during the seventh Plenary Session held on
the 15th February, to some of the questions submitted by Mr Laidlaw,
I (Monsieur Miyaoka) stated on behalf of the Japanese Delegation
that questions 1 and 3 had been referred to the Imperial Government
by telegram.

With reference to question 1, I am glad to say that, so far
as it relates to the leased territory of Kwantao or Liaotung Peninsula,
the required information has already been received from the Imperial
Government and will be presented to you on Monday. Information
relating to Korea will also be laid before you as soon as it is
received from the Residency General in Seoul.

I now beg to present the reply of the Japanese Delegation to
Question 3, which reads as follows:- "Is it true, as currently
reported, that in the Formosa Budget for the current year a consider-
able increase is expected from Opium?"

REPLY:- The gross income from Opium for the fiscal year 1908-09,
which forms part of the general revenue of the Government of Formosa,
is estimated, as stated in our reply to Question 2, in the current
Budget at Yen 4,300,824. The Budget which was before the House of
Representatives of the Imperial Diet at the time Mr Laidlaw presented
his Question is for the fiscal year commencing April 1st 1909 and
terminating March 31st 1910. In that Budget the Revenue from Opium
to be derived by the Government of Formosa is put at Yen 4,121,692,
so that, as compared with the Budget for the current fiscal year, there
is a decrease of Yen 179,132. The rumour alluded to by Mr Laidlaw
is therefore entirely unfounded.