

SEITO SAIBARA'S DIARY OF PLANTING A JAPANESE COLONY IN TEXAS

By KIYOKO T. KUROSAWA

Assistant, Hitotsubashi University

One wonders today why there is a small Japanese colony exists in Houston-Harris County area. This dwindled Japanese colony is the remain of the past, the vestige, of the once flourished Japanese agricultural colony in Texas. Seito Saibara [西原清東] (1861-1939) whose diary is to be introduced here was among the ones who ventured rice enterprise in Texas in the beginning of this century. He was one of the major forces in building this colony. Most of men who did not end their lives in Japan are dealt by few biographers. Their lives are not generally known or are erraneously known and so Seito's case is not an exception. He left Japan in the midst of his life span and before obtaining any high public esteem. Short biographies scattered among different books, which include many misinformations, leave his activity in Texas almost untouched. In the following brief sketch of his life the writer tries to give light on his diary.

Saibara was born in 1861 in a small community of Izuma located in the mountainous area of Tosa, present Kochi prefecture. His father, Masuya, belonged to a lower *samurai* class of Tosa clan, one of the three clans most powerful in promoting the Meiji Restoration of 1867-68. Masuya was a *goshi*, a squire, who managed to weather through the critical period when most of *ex-samurai* quickly became poor after 1876, knowing no trade. He even gradually increased his possession of land and as he was able to earn a living without tilling the field himself, engaged in local domestic industries such as making *miso* (bean paste) and *shoyu* (soy sauce) as well.¹ According to one of Seito's short biographers, he was a son of a peasant in the countryside of Tosa² which indicates that his ancestors were the kind of squire who were mainly occupied in farming. This background gives a clue to understanding his enterprise in Texas in rice culture. With this wealth behind him he went to the town of Kochi, the former seat of feudal government of Tosa clan but then the center of Kochi prefectural administration, and entered Risshisha English School in 1877.³

Risshisha (Society of Free Thinkers), the first political society in Japan, was originated in 1874 by Taisuke Itagaki, a clan bureaucrat known as a promoter of the Meiji Restoration, and his followers who had resigned their high governmental offices and returned to their native prefecture, Kochi, after their advocacy of a punitive expedition to Korea was defeated in 1873. Itagaki and others intended to stimulate the public opinion from local areas in

¹ T. Matsumoto, S. Kawasawa and Y. Hosoki, *Saibara Seito Sensei Shotokuhi Kensetsu Shuisho (A Pamphlet Explaining the Reason for Building the Monument for Mr. Seito Saibara)* (Takaoka, Kochi, 1955), 1; A talk by Mr. Kiyooki Saibara, Seito's son, to the present writer.

² M. Sawamoto, *Hito No Imamukashi (The Past and the Present of the People)* (Tokyo, 1912), 200.

³ E. Ikeda, ed., *Kensei To Tosa (The Constitutionalism and Tosa)* (Kochi, 1941), 85.

order to cope with the Meiji autocratic government. There were many discontented *ex-samurai*, now being called *shizoku*, of Tosa clan who were not able to hold influential positions in the newly established government of Meiji in spite of their distinguished services for the Restoration. These impoverished *shizoku* gathered at Risshisha and became enthusiastic over the imported thought of progress and revolution. For example, the works by Spencer, Mill, Rousseau, Bentham and Smith were well read and discussed. In order to educate the youth, Risshisha School was opened with Kenkichi Kataoka as its principal, shortly after the organization of the Society of Risshisha. Many well-known liberal politicians of later days received their training there. In consequence, the first half of Seito's life was always related with the movement for Liberty and People's Rights originated in Risshisha. Seito obtained the grade of the third class A which was fairly high.⁴ Also he received training in *Kendo* (fencing) and in his late teens became known for the skill in the art.⁵

There existed in Tosa strong backing for the school of thought which had lost faith in *joi* (Expel the Barbarian) and which held that the importation of learning from the Occidental world was the only sure way to cope with western civilization. On this foundation, the leadership of Itagaki promoted the tendency of *shizoku* toward the movement of Liberty and People's Rights. For example, at the meeting room of Risshisha Law Institute discourse on politics and public speaking were performed by the people of Kochi prefecture and it is known as the beginning of the political speech in Japan.⁶ In this atmosphere the respect for their feudal lord, the Yamanouchis, were disappeared entirely.⁷ Therefore, it is quite natural for Seito Saibara to grow up with the thought of parting with the old and not succumbing to the ruling power.

In 1877, the so-called Satsuma Revolt, the revolt of the discontented *ex-samurai* of Satsuma clan which created the last and the greatest crisis for the Meiji government, exerted a certain influence on Tosa *shizoku*. Yuzo Hayashi who was one of the founders of the Risshisha hoped to raise a rebellion echoing the Satsuma Revolt; however, the plot was quickly suppressed at its embryonic stage and Hayashi and his Risshisha colleagues were arrested⁸ including Seito, although he and other young men were pardoned shortly afterwards.⁹

Eventually, the Liberty and People's Rights' Movement spread beyond the boundary of *shizoku* to the commoners and in 1880, the petitioners of two *fu* and twenty-two prefectures, numbering 87,000 in all who were led by Hironaka Kono and Kenkichi Kataoka, presented the petition to the cabinet for the opening of the Diet only to be rejected.¹⁰

In the same year, this Hironaka Kono of Sanshusha, a political society in Fukushima prefecture which is an uncultivated area for political thought, sent to Risshisha for men to enlighten the public of that area. Seito was one of the two who were selected to perform this task and after less than a year of stay, because of their effort, particularly of Seito's who

⁴ M. Kawata, *Kataoka Kenkichi Sensei Den (A Biography of Mr. Kenkichi Kataoka)* (Kyoto, 1940), 294; T. Matsumoto and others, *op. cit.*, 1.

⁵ T. Matsumoto and others, *op. cit.*, 1.

⁶ M. Kawata, *op. cit.*, 295.

⁷ M. Hirao, *Risshisha To Minken Undo (The Risshisha and the People's Rights Movement)* (Kochi, 1955), 170.

⁸ Y. Hayashi, "Hayashi Yuzo Kyumu Dan" ("Old Stories Told by Yuzo Hayashi") in *Meiji Bunka Zenshu, (Collections of Works on Meiji Culture)* (Tokyo, 1929), vol. XXII, 53-100.

⁹ M. Matsumoto and others, *op. cit.*, 1.

¹⁰ Y. Uda and S. Wada, ed., *Jiyuto Shi (A History of Liberal Party)* (Tokyo, 1910), vol. I, 345.

was an eloquent and cheerful speaker, liberalism was widely accepted in Fukushima area. It is said that since then the Hanbatsu Seifu or "clan" government of Satsuma and Choshu felt the menace of their powerful enemy in Fukushima.¹¹ Two years later the local uprising, the Fukushima Revolt, led by the extremists including Kono against the arbitrary action of the prefectural governor, Tsuyo Mishima, was revealed and immediately followed by a severe suppression.

In 1881 Liberal Party was organized as a national party having Itagaki as its head. It is said that Seito accompanied Itagaki to Tokyo and after studying law at Shigematsu Law School for a while,¹² returned to Tosa and married Motoko Yamawaki of his native county Takaoka. He became the father of an only son Kiyooki in 1884. Two years later he had the honor of being one of the eleven out of 502 candidates all over Japan to be admitted to the bar¹³ and began his practice in the town of Kochi.

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It was the period of uprisings and the defeat of the Liberal Party in various sections of Japan and the governmental oppression caused friction after friction. The prefectural governor of Kochi at that time was Yoshiaki Tanabe, a man nicknamed Tsuyo Mishima II, and his autocratic rule raised much trouble with Liberal Party men. Seito himself was making a speech at a political discourse meeting with a "full house of more than 800 people"¹⁴ when policemen suspended the meeting because it was considered to be the breach of public peace. Not only this but other political or even Christian meetings were suspended. In the meantime, Seito was arrested, for, he was suspected of having helped his friend Iwamoto in planning the assassination of their governor. The period of his imprisonment was the time when the public trial of Osaka Revolt, the unsuccessful plot by the extremist wing of the Liberal Party, was going on.

Seito Saibara was acquitted more likely because of his unusual tenacity. Not accepting the decisions of the Kochi Prefectural Court for Minor Offense or of the Osaka Court of Appeal with the sentence of nine months' close confinement, he made appeal to the Supreme Court of Tokyo. After his case was returned to the Hiroshima Court of Appeal finally and the public procurator gave up the right of indictment he was given a verdict of not guilty in June, 1887, because of lack of proofs. During this whole year of confinement he was sent from Kochi to Osaka, from there to Tokyo, and further again to Hiroshima, all through the time guarded by the police force. The hardship of the trip hurt his health so that he had to postpone his return to Kochi for a month. Upon his arrival at Kochi, his friends gave a welcome party for him since he was considered to be a victim of the governmental oppression. Next year, a new prefectural governor who was friendly to Itagaki arrived so that the situation became much better.

After this incident Seito steadily built his position as a leader in the town. He worked

¹¹ Y. Suzuki, ed., *Jiyu Minken Undo Shi (A History of Liberty and the People's Rights Movements)* (Tokyo, 1947), 151-152; T. Takahashi, *Fukushima Jiyu Minken Undo Shi (A History of Liberty and the People's Rights Movement in Fukushima)* (Tokyo, 1954), 44, 62-63.

¹² T. Matsumoto and others, *op. cit.*, 1.

¹³ *Mainichi Shimbun* (a daily paper issued in Tokyo), June 10, 1886.

¹⁴ *Doyo Shimbun* (a daily organ of Liberal Party issued in Kochi), April 13, 1886.

for the confrontation of fraud which happened at an election of the members of prefectural assembly. Unfortunately it ended in the victory on the side of governmental authority. Seito now emerged as a local statesman and held the memberships of Kochi Educational Congress, of the Committee on Improvement of the Port of Urado, being at the same time one of the representatives to talk with the governor to organize Kochi as a municipality.

1887 is known as the year of three major petitions being presented. They were concerned on the topics such as revision of the treaty system, tax reduction and the freedom of speech and assembly. At the end of the year, with the Peace Preservation Law, the anti-governmental statesmen including Kenkichi Kataoka and other influential men from Tosa were expelled from Tokyo charged with the violation of the Peace Preservation Law and those who did not obey were imprisoned. They were pardoned by the decree of amnesty at the time of the promulgation of the first Japanese constitution in 1889. Seito was one of the members of the party representing Kochi town welcoming them home. In this year he was elected as president of the Kochi Law School. Also through this year, with the first election of the members of the House of Representatives drawing near he went day after day, through the villages of the prefecture on speech tour with men like Kiyoka Aki and Ansai Takechi for the purpose of enlightening the villagers.¹⁵ This first election of 1890 was the victory for the people's party as far as Kochi prefecture was concerned, for, the four elected were all Liberal Party men including Kenkichi Kataoka and Yuzo Hayashi, the men whom Seito respected. The year is a memorable one, for, by the convocation of the Diet in November, Japan became a constitutional monarchy.

In 1891, Seito went to Osaka, the second largest city in Japan next to Tokyo, and became one of the 105 lawyer members of the Osaka District Court.¹⁶ There, he obtained good reputation as being handsome, eloquent as well as trustworthy and was very popular.¹⁷ A year later, he became the lawyer to the plaintiff Kenkichi Kataoka who was defeated at the second national election because of the notorious governmental intervention. Seito and others filed an action against the government party man who was fraudulently elected and they finally came out victorious.¹⁸

Within a few years after he came to Osaka, he emerged as a leader of the Osaka lawyers' group.¹⁹ About this time he made political speech tours to different sections of Japan for his Party.²⁰ In 1897 he attended a political meeting at the Headquarter of the Liberals as a representative from Tosa²¹ and eventually, in this manner he gained his footing as a statesman. When the first party cabinet of Japan was formed in which Itagaki was a minister, Seito became a candidate in the national election. Until the opening of the Diet, farmers, owners of small and middle-sized land holdings, and the city poor were the basic strength of the Liberal Party while participation in the local and the state politics was left to large land-owners. After that time, however, the party acquired a new character, that of a moderate

¹⁵ *Doyo Shimbun*, May 1886-June 1889.

¹⁶ Osaka Bengoshi Kai, ed., *Osaka Bengoshi Shiko (The Historical Material of the Osaka Lawyers' Society)* (Osaka, 1937), vol. II, 1115.

¹⁷ M. Sawamoto, *op. cit.*, 200.

¹⁸ M. Kawata, *op. cit.*, 642-644.

¹⁹ Osaka Bengoshi Kai, ed., *op. cit.*, 781, 787.

²⁰ *Jiyuto Ho (The Liberal Party News)*, December 10, 1896.

²¹ M. Kawata, *op. cit.*, 714-715.

party with leaders among the bourgeoisie and landed gentry.²² Seito Saibara was qualified for both, as a lawyer and as a landed gentry in Tosa. So he was elected as a member of the House of Representatives from his native area carrying the second largest vote of 1575.²³ He was only 37 years old, then.

He lived in Kobe with his lawyer's office in Osaka. One evening he made a seemingly unintentional visit to the Tamon Church in Kobe which led him eventually to join the Congregational Church. Christianity has been accepted by comparatively small number of people in Japan, however, one may find that many people of Meiji era with progressive ideas, especially the advocates of Liberty and People's Rights in Tosa, were Christians. Probably Seito had been interested in this faith before that time. This led to an invitation to him from Doshisha University, a college in Kyoto supported and financed by the Congregational Church, to be its fourth president after July 1899 which he accepted.²⁴ The move was especially supported by Dr. Davis of the Doshisha and the Christians in the Kinki district.²⁵ Seito kept his Diet membership and was an active protector and a defender of Christianity within and outside of the House. He was often chosen as a committee member to solve the problems encroached upon the Japanese Christians.²⁶

The Hanbatsu, which had managed the Diet without having its own political party, began to feel the inconvenience of the unreliable alliance with the people's parties, so Prince Hirobumi Ito of ex-Choshu clique organized a new political party, Seiyukai, the "Society of Political Friends." The ex-Liberal Party men joined Seiyukai since they thought it was the best way to approach power.²⁷ Kenkichi Kataoka and Seito's names are seen among them.²⁸ In a sense, their enthusiasm toward Liberalism seems to have spent itself.

As a member of the House, Seito went on a tour of inspection in China at the time of the Boxers' Uprising in 1900,²⁹ impeached Toru Hoshi, the Minister of Communications, whose name was closely associated with various deeds of corruption, at the head of a group of Tosa politicians within Seiyukai Party.³⁰ He was appointed as the chairman of the Standing Committee for Disciplinary Measures in the 16th Diet since he was backed by Yuzo Hayashi who was a cabinet member and Kenkichi Kataoka, then the Speaker of the House of Representatives.³¹

His term of four years as a member of the House was about to be over when he decided to go to Hartford Theological Seminary, the present Hartford Seminary Foundation, Connecticut, U. S. A., for studying theology. He was certainly expected to be elected again from his native electoral district and his political future in Japan was considered very bright.

²² S. Toyama, "Gaisetsu" ("General Discussion"), in *Nihon Rekishi Koza (Lectures of Japanese History Series)* (Tokyo, 1952), vol. V, no. 1, 76.

²³ *Tokyo Nichinichi Shimbun* (a daily paper issued in Tokyo), August 16, 1898.

²⁴ Doshisha, ed., *Doshisha Ichiran (A Catalogue of Doshisha)* (Kyoto, 1928), 23.

²⁵ E. Ikeda, ed., *op. cit.*, 87.

²⁶ W. Saba, *Uemura Masahisa To Sono Jidai (Masahisa Uemura and His Times)* (Tokyo, 1938), 486-487, 492; A talk by Mr. Kiyooki Saibara to the present writer.

²⁷ J. Otsu, *Dai Nihon Kensei Shi (A History of the Japanese Constitutionalism)* (Tokyo, 1927), vol. V, 116-130.

²⁸ *Seiyu* (an orgn-journal of Seiyukai), December 10, 1900.

²⁹ *Fukuin Shimpō (The Evangelist)* (an organ of the Presbyterian Church of Japan), September 19, 1900.

³⁰ *Hochi Shimbun* (a daily paper issued in Tokyo), November 25, 1900.

³¹ *Kampo Gogai (An Extra Edition of the Official Gazette)*, December 13, 1901; M. Sawamoto, *op. cit.*, 200.

In spite of all this, after having trusted the presidentship of Doshisha to Kenkichi Kataoka,³² he left for London on April 7, 1902 on board the battleship Takasago in order to be at the coronation of Edward VII of England. He had a big send off by Seiyukai members, Christian friends and politicians.³³ From England he went to the United States.

There are several theories concerning the motives of Seito's going to the States. Was he more of an idealist or a practical man? The ostentatious motive was to study theology because he said he lacked the theological discipline as the President of Doshisha. Incidentally he was the only one who did not become the President of Doshisha University itself but remained as the President of Doshisha. However, it cannot be imagined that his only reason of going abroad was study. He was already 41 years old who had other special fields of service than education. His social position had been established as a lawyer and statesman. As is the case today, many Japanese leaders used to visit Europe and the United States at that time, but it is unthinkable that Seito's intentions were merely to visit foreign countries.

Often, for a person to leave his home is motivated by escape from something. It seems that in his case he could not stand the corruption of political world any more. He was a Christian and his relations with women was unusually clean as far as we know, considering the customs of the general public of those days, especially the ways of influential people or the politicians. He loved only his wife, Taiko (Yamawaki), whom he married after Motoko's death. In the light of these facts, it is more likely that he tried to escape not having enough strength to cope with the depravity.³⁴ Some other less important reasons to account for are that he was too young to be very active in that fast changing world of the post Restoration era and that he had been away for a considerable time from the center of affairs. Besides, he identified himself with the private and Christian University which was hard pressed by government universities. Probably he was dissatisfied with his environment and tried to open a new field for himself. In fact, to what extent his ostensible purpose of studying theology bore fruit or how religious he was, can not be discerned from his diary. What we can read clearly in it is his feeling toward his beloved wife, Taiko.

There is another important matter as a background which should not be overlooked. In 1893, Ansai Takechi who had been a Diet member from Tosa resigned and left for Hokkaido, an northern island of Japan, accompanied by 26 Tosa youths. His enterprise was colored by the opening of Seien (Sacred Garden), a Christian Church, on the Takechi Farm at Urausu. It has been said that being a Puritanical Christian, Takechi could not stand the corruption and the intrigues of political circles as well as the governmental oppression toward Liberty and People's Rights Movement for which he had worked hard. Thus, his venture in Hokkaido has been regarded as his escape as well as the expression of his desire to make contributions to the country from a higher level. His intention seemed to build Utopia.

Ansai's venture had many followers especially when the reclamation of Hokkaido was in the hands of many grasping speculators after 1893, the Christian idealists including those from Tosa hoped to challenge this move. There were at least several of the kind of the

³² M. Kawata, *op. cit.*, 880-883.

³³ *Fukuin Shimpō*, April 9, 1902; *Jiji Shimpō* (a daily paper issued in Tokyo), April 4, 8, 1902; K. Hara, ed., *Hara Satoshi Nikki (Diary of Satoshi Hara)* (Tokyo, 1950), vol. II, 505.

³⁴ M. Sawamoto, *op. cit.*, 200; A talk by Mr. Kiyooki Saibara to the present writer.

scheme which came into being.³⁵ Seito knew Ansai very well and it is quite natural that the influence of Ansai and the general atmosphere of the time made impression on Seito. In fact, Seito himself became one of the enterprisers of the Hokkosha Farm (The Northern Light Farm) with Kenkichi Kataoka and other Christians, having been granted a lease of 5,670,000 *tsubo* (4,630 acres) of land in Kitami area of Hokkaido.³⁶ In 1897, 112 families sailed away from the warm Tosa and settled on this cold area to open up the waste land. One of the managers was invited from the nearby Seien Farm. The venture seemed to be greatly checked because of the flood in the next year.³⁷

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Until May 1903 Seito studied religion at Hartford Theological Seminary, and his diary which is to be introduced here furnishes considerable material about his activities there. As it is seen in the diary he thought about the enterprise of colonization in Texas while at Hartford and went to Houston in the summer of 1903. At Webster, in the outskirts of Houston, he began to operate a rice farm. He chose Texas for the site of his enterprise because he had learned about the rice boom and the activities of the Americans as well as the Japanese in connection with the rice culture.

In 1884-1885, for the first time large scale production of rice became possible when some of the farmers from northwestern wheat belt came to Louisiana with their mechanical technique.³⁸ Not being satisfied with the strain known as "Japan" rice which was introduced in 1892,³⁹ through the effort of Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, the United States Department of Agriculture imported Japanese Kyushu rice and distributed free seeds to experimenters in southwestern Louisiana and other nearby rice growing areas along the Gulf coast.⁴⁰

In Texas, large scale production on irrigated land began in 1899, when 8,500 acres in Jefferson County near Beaumont were put under rice cultivation. Quickly the crop spread beyond the confines of southeastern Texas, and townships west of the city of Houston rapidly

³⁵ E. Kudo, "Shakai Keizaishi Teki Shikaku Yori Mitaru Sekishinsha No Hokkaido Kaitaku To Kiristokyo" ("The Colonization of Hokkaido by Sekishinsha and Christianity in the view of Social Economic History"), *Meijigakuin Ronso* (*The Collection of Treatises of Meijigakuin*), vol. 46, no. 2 (October, 1957), 105.

³⁶ Nokkeushi Town Office, ed., *Nokkeushi Choshi* (*A History of Nokkeushi Town*) (Nokkeushi, 1926), 7.

³⁷ T. Ando, ed., *Kitamishi-shi* (*A History of Kitami City*) (Kitami, 1957), 312, 316, 356-361.

³⁸ R. B. Vance, *Human Geography of the South* (Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1932), 215.

³⁹ W. N. Ginn, "New History of Rice Industry in America," *Rice Journal*, vol. 35, no. 9 (September, 1932), 11-12.

⁴⁰ B. T. Galloway, "Seaman Asahel Knapp," in *Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1911* (Washington, 1912), 151-154; S. A. Knapp, "Rice Culture," United States, Department of Agriculture, *Farmers' Bulletin 417* (Washington, 1910), 8; J. W. Jones, J. M. Jenkins, R. H. Wyche and M. Nelson, "Rice Culture in the Southern States," United States, Department of Agriculture, *Farmers' Bulletin 1808* (Washington, 1938), 2.

The late Dr. Seaman Asahel Knapp (1833-1911), one-time president of Iowa State Agricultural College, contributed a great deal to the farmers of the South. He promoted the development of the southwestern part of Louisiana by inviting thousands of farmers from the midwestern states. He was particularly well known by his work concerning the rice industry in Louisiana and Texas. He was authorized by Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson in 1898 and 1901 to visit the Oriental countries, including Japan, to study the rice industry. For many years he was president of the Rice Growers' Association of America, and was in charge of the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration work until the time of his death.

instituted rice culture.⁴¹ The addition of this new element of strength which would naturally increase the wealth and the business of the city greatly cheered Houstonians, as is revealed in this excerpt from the city directory of 1902-1903:

But Houston now has a new element of strength, being rapidly developed in that vast area of erstwhile unproductive prairie land, which covers for the most part twenty or more counties, immediately surrounding and directly tributary to the city. Since the last City Directory was published, rice has solved "the prairie land problem" and the comparatively great waste of country comprised in about 15,000 square miles of territory, which has hitherto been as barren of results as though it were a part of the Great Sahara desert, is beginning to yield up its resources in the new found adaptation to rice growing.⁴²

There was another background to the matter. The desire of the whole South to secure "immigrants to fill up its sparsely settled territories, develop its resources, and supplement its labor supply" was materialized by the southern railroads which had the urgent need for traffic and in possession of millions of acres around the years of 1900. The Southern Pacific employed 400 immigration agents and sold 3,000,000 acres between Corpus Christi and New Orleans in the decade following 1894.⁴³ With this encouragement by the railroad plus rice boom, it was quite natural for one observer in 1903 to witness the daily arrival of prospective settlers on Southern Pacific excursion trains, and by September they "swarmed through the city."⁴⁴ So famous was this new agricultural opportunity that reports of "the rice culture of Texas" even crossed the Pacific. The news sounded to many ambitious people in Japan like a golden opportunity especially as the original story was promptly endorsed by the publication of books and pamphlets.⁴⁵

To the Japanese, rice was truly the staff of life, the basic element of sustenance, indispensable and highly valued. Rice was a medium of exchange, and rural tenants paid rent with a share of their crop. The market price of rice had for ages dictated the welfare of the Japanese economy. Ownership of a rice field was the highest measure of wealth, more desirable than possession of other types of farm land. It is no wonder, then, that the rice boom of Texas seemed so appealing to a people to whom rice symbolized prosperity. Japanese agriculturalists confidently believed in their traditional excellence in rice growing and became

⁴¹ *Texas Almanac for 1904* (Galveston 1904), 80. J. W. Jones, J. O. Dockins, R. K. Walker and W. C. Davis, "Rice Production in the Southern States," United States, Department of Agriculture, *Farmers' Bulletin 2043* (Washington, 1952), 3.

⁴² Morrison and Fourmy Directory Company, *General Directory of the City of Houston, 1902-1903* (Galveston, 1902), 3.

⁴³ C. V. Woodward, *Origins of the New South* (Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1951), 298.

⁴⁴ Workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Texas, *Houston, A History and Guide* (Houston, 1942), 105.

⁴⁵ Those books and reports are as follows:

1. D. Yoshimura, *Hokubei Texas Shu No Beisaku (Rice Culture of the State of Texas, North America)* (Osaka, 1903).
2. D. Yoshimura, *Texas Beisaku No Jikken (The Experiment of Rice Culture in Texas)* (Osaka, 1905).
3. H. Mori, "Hokubei Gashukoku Ni Okeru Beisaku Ni Kansuru Chosa Hokoku" ("A Report of the Investigation Concerning the Rice Culture in the United States"), in Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce of Japan, *Special Report 12* (Tokyo, 1902). This was also published by the office of the Tokyo Tax Superintendent in 1903.
4. H. Yamawaki, *Beikoku Texas Shu Ni Okeru Beisaku Ni Kansuru Hokoku (A Report on the Rice Culture in Texas, United States of America)* (Tokyo, 1905).

convinced of their chances for success in a foreign land of such promise. One drawback, however, was the fact that rice raising in Texas required a sizable amount of initial capital. Because of this the earliest rice planters in the southwest were men of property and substance.

In the year 1902 the New York Consul-General of Japan, Sadazuchi Uchida, travelled widely through the southern states to gain knowledge of American cotton enterprises. On his trip Consul Uchida also inspected the rice fields of Louisiana and Texas, and his attitude toward this field of agriculture reflected a very hopeful outlook, particularly were invitations offered to qualified Japanese farmers. During his visit a group of rice growers met in Texas, and upon the invitation of Dr. Knapp, Uchida attended the conference and addressed the delegates concerning the skillful nature of Japanese farm techniques.⁴⁶

Soon afterwards these preliminary steps led to the arrival in Texas of several groups of Japanese rice growers. Junzo Fujino, a graduate of Doshisha, and several colleagues from Hiroshima prefecture rented 90 acres of land in Port Lavaca, planting their first crop in 1903.⁴⁷ In the same year a similar community headed by Hoshio Inoue of Hyogo prefecture started operations near Del Rio, but the attempts of both these groups ended in failure.⁴⁸

Seito was one of many Japanese who came to Texas after these ventures. The well accepted account says that the urge of Sadazuchi Uchida made him decide to go to Texas; however, it seems that California, too, was once thought of as the site for his scheme as it will be seen in his diary.

The practical mind of Seito made manifest itself in various directions. For example, he paid extreme care on expenditure, and he was very careful in employing and handling his employees. He was not easily moved when he intended to choose land and to have dealings. It is most likely this practical skill made him a man of success within three years having only "small capital" according to a contemporary.⁴⁹ In spite of the grand scale of agriculture which was quite different from Japanese practice, with Seito's unusually firm determination, effort and the skill the farm gradually solidified its groundwork. Not only his wife and son but also his 72 years old father, Masuya, were being accompanied to Texas in 1907 and all his possessions in Tosa was sold including his land holdings of more than 3 *cho* (7.35 acres) of rice fields.⁵⁰ Many of his former tenants were also invited to Texas. Eventually about 60 Japanese men and women moved to the Saibara farm including Seito's relatives, young acquaintances from the country-side of Kochi prefecture and technicians who experienced grand scale of agriculture in Hokkaido. He also cultivated Shinriki and Yamashiro brought by Rihei Onishi⁵¹ and he himself introduced a kind of Shinriki and Shiratama⁵² all

⁴⁶ T. Irie, *Hojin Kaigai Hatten Shi (A History of Japanese Expansion to Foreign Lands)* (Tokyo, 1936) vol. 1, 483; S. Uchida, "Texas No Beisaku" ("Rice Culture in Texas"), *Tobei Zasshi (Going to the States)* (a magazine), vol. 10, no. 9 (September, 1906), 16.

⁴⁷ J. Fujino, "Texas No Beisaku" ("Rice Culture in Texas"), *America*, vol. 11, no. 5 (May, 1907), 18-20.

⁴⁸ T. Irie, *op. cit.*, 484.

⁴⁹ T. Takeda, "Texas No Beisaku" ("Rice Culture in Texas"), *America*, vol. 11, no. 3 (March, 1907), 36.

⁵⁰ 1 *cho* is 2.45 acres. The land holdings of more than 3 *cho* of rice field in Kochi prefecture as well as in Japan in the first decade of this century meant a considerably large land holding. (Kentaro Nomura, ed., *Chihoshi Kenkyu Hikkei (A Guidebook for Studying Local History)* (Tokyo, 1952), 228-229.

⁵¹ R. Onishi, "Beikoku No Beisaku Jijyo" ("The State of Rice Culture in the United States"), *Tobei Zasshi*, vol. 10, no. 2 (February, 1906), 17.

⁵² Y. Otsuka, "Beikoku Texas No Beisaku" ("Rice Culture in Texas, United States of America") *Tobei Zasshi*, vol. 10, no. 5 (May, 1906), 29.

new to the rice growers of Texas and Louisiana.

His farm weathered through various misfortunes by which more than 30 other Japanese rice enterprisers⁵³ had to give up by such causes as changes of weather, fluctuation of rice price, troubles within farms, mismanagement, etc., more likely because most of them were interested in rice culture with speculative motive than colonization. Of course, Seito was not always fortunate that the original boom of grand harvest by planting new Japanese grains and to sell all his products as seed rice with higher price⁵⁴ would not last long. The weather hurt his rice plants very easily. Occasionally the workers and their families deserted Texas for California or to return to Japan. His new effort of cultivating oranges at the time of orange boom followed by his opening a branch office and nursery in Mobile, Alabama, did not produce a successful result.

It is unfortunate that Seito's long-range dream of colonization and Americanization was finally ruined by the Immigration Act of 1924, which completely excluded Japanese emigrants from entry into the United States or its possessions. Saibara, who once obtained the first paper of naturalization and was refused to be given the second paper, later, and knew of impossibility of Japanese becoming naturalized American, was so very hurt and disillusioned at the end of his hope for naturalization and at his inability to attract young men from Japan to his settlement. So he entrusted the operation of his farm to his son and with his wife moved to Pindamonhangaba, Brazil to open a rice farm⁵⁵ hoping to launch still another colonization scheme in Amazon river basin.

In the meantime he became seriously ill and had to give up staying in Brazil. After the recovery he traveled on the mainland of Asia aided by his connection with the Seiyukai Party and finally began to operate a farm in Formosa only to experience recrudescence of his illness, varicocele.⁵⁶ So he quickly returned to Texas in 1937 to spend his last days with his family and to be buried in a lot in the family cemetery which he had purchased years before. His funeral was held in the only church in Webster, the Presbyterian Church, to which Seito had belonged for nearly 40 years. The April 11, 1939, issue of the *Houston Chronicle* accompanied his photograph with an article titled, "Seito Saibara, 78, Japanese Leader, Dies."⁵⁷

* * * * *

In his 70 years of eventful career, one questions, if he did accomplish his life purpose. It should be said that the building of colony in Texas to which probably he put most of his effort ended in failure, in a way. Out of the Japanese who accompanied him and were invited by him there is only one remaining in Texas today. Neither is there any descendants of them except his own family who still remain in that part of the country. The major force which has stayed in Houston-Harris County area consists of the people and their descendants who were invited by Rihei Onishi, a journalist, who opened his farm next to Seito's at Webster at the same time.

The reasons of failure may be interpreted in the following manner. One must have

⁵³ "Tobei Annai" ("A Guide to the United States"), *Tobei*, vol. 2, no. 1 (January, 1908), 14-15.

⁵⁴ S. Saibara, "Texas Kinkyo" ("A Letter from Texas"), *Tobei Zasshi*, vol. 9, no. 4 (April, 1905), 36.

⁵⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (*Zaihaku Hoishokumin Ni Kansuru Shisatsu Hokoku (A Report on the Japanese Immigrants and Colonists in Brazil)*) (Tokyo, 1926), 63.

⁵⁶ E. Ikeda, ed., *op. cit.*, 87.

⁵⁷ *Houston Chronicle*, April 11, 1939, section A, page 10.

been the unfriendly relationship between the United States and Japan culminating in the Immigration Act of 1924 which made the Japanese impossible to invite new comers. The site of his farm, in Texas, is far from the western coastal part of the United States where there were many Japanese. Also, he was engaged in the farming of the South which had been dominated by the Eastern industry, and furthermore, rice had a narrow market for its product after all in spite of Dr. Knapp's estimation of the broadening tendency of its market in the beginning of the century.⁵⁸ Again, he was a son of a *samurai* of the feudal Japan and although having become a liberalist he was not very democratic in the American sense so that his rather domineering attitude toward workers caused some of them to leave him.

However, on the other hand, one may well point at the fruit of his effort. At least, he and his family accomplished their settlement. None other of those who were talked or written about in the first decade of 1900 as successful rice growers, or even their descendants remain here in Texas, today. The Japanese colony in Texas came to be known among the Japanese and the Americans partly because its leader was a prominent man like Seito Saibara. His contribution to Texas in opening up the virgin land and introducing as well as distributing better rice seeds is outstanding.

His thinking was far ahead of his time. Probably, his attitude of parting company with the old was trained in his Risshisha period. It was not very easy, however, to move from Tokyo to the unopened land of Texas for a man who had already maintained high social position in Japan. Moreover, to try to settle and to be naturalized in the United States was a very unusual way of thinking⁵⁹ considering the general tendency of the Japanese and those immigrants at that time. Only since the World War II, the Japanese government has adopted the policy of encouraging its emigrants to become loyal subjects in their adopted land. Probably it was his patriotic mind which made Seito Saibara promote the establishment of a colony when the population problem of Japan had begun to talked about clamorously.

In a sense, he looked to the United States as his own country and to a forceful argument: if there were many Japanese who became naturalized, it would be very inadventagous for Japan, or if there were to be a war between the two countries, the Japanese known to be very patriotic, immediately leave America; he answered that if the United States permitted the Japanese to be naturalized and if many Japanese became her citizens, a war could easily be prevented in advance; there would not be any war, if there were frequent intercourse between the peoples of both countries and a vital mutual interest peace would emerge from this atmosphere and so there would be no need of war.⁶⁰

30 years after this, when the relations between the United States and his country became somewhat tense, he was said to tell his grandson who had become an American armyman as follows.

As youths of German parentage had certain sympathetic interests in things German, and yet were thoroughly American, so you have kindly feelings toward the Japanese and still you are thoroughly American. I hope the day never will come when there shall be armed conflict between Japan and the United States. If there should be, your duty lies

⁵⁸ S. Saibara, "Texas Beisaku Dan" ("A Talk on Rice Culture in Texas"), *America*, vol. 11, no. 4 (April 1907), 19.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 22.

⁶⁰ S. Saibara, "Texas No Iju" ("The Immigration to Texas"), *America*, vol. 11, no. 4 (April 1907), 17.

with your native America.⁶¹

He was one of those pioneering forerunners who had to follow a thorny path, for above all, Seito intended to build a colony in the Amazon area where some present day Japanese immigrants are moving in hoping to make it their second native land.

Seito's diary which will be introduced in the following pages might have perished in the fire of 1905, when the Saibaras lost every paper written before that time. Seito was away visiting his son in a high school in Galveston; and his wife, Taiko, took the notebook out when the fire started. It consists of a small leather covered notebook, about three inches wide and five inches long. The first twenty-eight pages of the notebook are his diary, while the remainder is filled with addresses written in English, records of his business transactions, and calculations on the transportation of rice. The latter half provides indispensable clues to his daily life. The diary itself is written in Japanese with very small handwriting, mostly by pen, only occasionally by pencil. Since the style of the sentences appears in the form of the written language of the Meiji era, *bungotai*, and since the words are spelled with *katakana*⁶² and *kanji*, Chinese characters, the letters and phrases are quite concise and terse. Also, the Japanese had a tendency toward subdued expression, so that behind an impassive brief account much feeling and emotion can be found:

The permission to publish the English version of this diary, the present writer is indebted to Mr. Seito Saibara's son, Mr. Kiyooki Saibara of Webster, Texas.

SAIBARA'S DIARY

May 19th

Paid slightly over \$ 66.00 to the Seminary Treasury⁶³ for board from February to May and gave Mr. Hirayama \$ 6.25 for room fee and \$ 3.75 for the balance of tuition fee for the month of May. Letters from Kiyooki and Taiko⁶⁴ arrived and I wrote answers to them.

May 20th

Letters from Messrs. Takada, Imahata arrived. On the 21st received letters from Taiko and Aunt. Wrote to Taiko and Tamotsu.

May 23rd

Wrote to Mr. Burton concerning the plan for the next school year and the amount of grants-in-aid for Messrs. Hirayama, Tanaka and others.

May 25th

Paid \$ 1.46 for laundry. Rent \$ 5.00 to Mr. Tanaka. Received letters from Kuma, Nakano and Mrs. Kate. Kuma sent me a photo. I sent him a congratulatory letter and a picture.

⁶¹ *Houston Chronicle*, February 26, 1933, page 5.

⁶² In the Meiji period educated people were given intensive training in Chinese classics, which were written in Chinese characters, *kanji*. From them over many centuries developed *katakana*, the square style of Japanese syllabary.

⁶³ In the Saibara diary the names of people and places in America are all written in *katakana*. Hence the present writer has sometimes had to make a guess as to his meaning. Often Seito was not sure how to pronounce proper nouns in the correct way, so that some names written in *katakana* are far removed from their original spelling. For example, the city of Houston appears both as "Fuston" and "Hyusuton." In the latter pages of the diary Seito lists some of the names and addresses of his acquaintances in English.

Words in parentheses are explanations and/or supplementation made by the present translator.

⁶⁴ Kiyooki was Seito's only son. Taiko was his wife. See pages 56 and 59.

May 27th

Taiko's letter which was mailed on the 5th arrived.

May 28th

Mr. Hirayama went to North Bloomfield.

May 29th

Received an answer from Dr. Burton. Borrowed a history of colonization under the name of Mr. Tanaka.

May 30th

Attended the Fourth Church of G———(undecipherable).

June 1st

Wrote a letter to Taiko. Mr. Junnosuke Hitomi visited me so treated him dinner.

June 2nd

Received letters from Messrs. Harrington and Codman of Boston General Hospital asking me about my health after leaving the hospital.⁶⁵ Answered them immediately.

June 3rd

This evening a mountain fire began, and the sun changed to red.

June 4th

By the newspaper of the 4th, I understood that it was a mountain fire in the state of Maine.

June 6th

Smoke clouds do not disappear yet. Taiko wrote that Shosaku Yamawaki had been ill with tuberculosis. Promptly sent letters to Taiko and Yamawaki's father.

June 7th

All day long my mind was occupied by the thought of whether I should start the enterprise of the immigration of the Japanese nationalities or not in North America. I wrote a letter of inquiry to Mr. Tamaki (then in New York City) in order to obtain the report of the investigation of Consul Uchida.

June 8th

A card from Mr. Tamama⁶⁶ arrived and I learned that the eighteenth Diet has suspended its meeting.

June 9th

Wrote Kiyooki that he should not worry about the result of the examination.⁶⁷

June 10th

From Mr. Tamaki, received a newspaper with an article concerning the rice culture of Texas. Bought laxative medicine called Scales and relieved constipation.

June 11th

Because I longed to be with Taiko and others all the more, I wrote a letter. This evening I went for a walk with Major Kobayashi.

June 12th

⁶⁵ He was seriously ill once and stayed at this hospital longing to go back to Japan. ("America Kai" ("American Society"), *America*, vol. 11, no. 4 (April, 1907), 38).

⁶⁶ Iwao Tamama, a faculty member at Keio Gijuku University, Tokyo, had one tutored Seito privately in English.

⁶⁷ Kiyooki was attempting to qualify for the Daishichi Koto Gakko (the Seventh Higher School) in Kagoshima, a step which required considerable preparation and then competitive examination with other applicants.

Wrote Mr. Son Tanaka⁶⁸ asking if he would buy the house. In the evening Mr. Yoda visited me.

June 13th

Wrote Mr. Obata concerning the orchards in California. Wrote Messrs. Yoshiharu Tadokoro, Hiroyuki Kume, letters of favor concerning Toshiyasu Kuma and sent letter of thanks to Mr. Tamama.

June 14th

By the letter from Taiko dated May 22nd, I learned that Mr. Senda's money was received. Also received news that Aunt Otani,⁶⁹ maid Kura, Mrs. Yamamoto, and her daughter were all baptized.

June 15th

Wrote letters of thanks to Mr. Senda and others.

June 16th

Wrote letters to Taiko and three Otanis.

June 20th

Sent a detailed letter to Mr. Kiyoka Aki,⁷⁰ Kochi prefecture, concerning my friends' future conduct in life, the agriculture of the United States in general, and actual conditions in the two states, Texas and California. Spent three to four days in thinking and writing plans for this letter. Probably this was the greatest letter I ever wrote since I was born. After mailing it my feeling of satisfaction was immense.

June 21st

Sent letters of inquiry to Mr. Sadazuchi Uchida concerning the several affairs of Texas. Wrote a post card answering Mr. Aburatani's letter about his coming with me if possible.

June 22nd

Letters from Tokichi Tadokoro, Father, Taiko and Kiyotora Otani arrived. Wrote Taiko to sent 50 *yen* to Kiyotora as a gift.⁷¹

June 23rd

Mr. Tamama sent me several copies of the *Kokumin* and I learned about the actual state of the 18th Diet, the resignation of Mr. Kataoka,⁷² etc. Wrote letter to Mr. Kataoka.

June 25th

Went to see the Barnum and Bailey Circus. This is known as the best in the world. In the evening Mr. Hirayama came back. Paid \$16.00 for board.

June 26th

Left the town at 11:00 a.m. with Messrs. Tanaka and Hirayama. We met Mr. Aburatani on the train, and arrived at Northfield at 2:30 p.m.⁷³ I am staying at Halton Hall, Room 8.

⁶⁸ He was a member of the House of Representatives from Kochi prefecture until December 1902. (E. Ikeda, ed., *op. cit.*, 91-92.)

⁶⁹ Seito's sister was married to Kiyotora Otani.

⁷⁰ See page 57. He was a noted member of the Liberal Party and a Christian.

⁷¹ Kiyotora, Seito's brother-in-law, was one of the eight farm heads who opened the Hokkosha Farm. In 1896, with 17 others he went to Kitami to prepare housings for the coming immigrants from Tosa. (T. Ando, ed., *op. cit.*, 283, 286.) See pages 10 and 11. The Otanis suffered from floods and a fire at their Kitami settlement. The exchange rate in 1903 was about two *yen* to one dollar.

⁷² *Kokumin* is *Kokumin Shimibun*, a daily paper issued in Tokyo at that time. At the 18th Diet, Kataoka left the Seiyukai Party.

⁷³ Northfield, Massachusetts. He attended a summer conference for college students interested in church work.

In the evening we had the first meeting. There was a speech by Mr. McDowell.

27th

In the morning, we had speeches by each of the teachers, followed by classes. In the evening a meeting was held on the mountain. The session was closed with a speech on the problem of "sin" by Mr. Mott.

28th

In the morning we heard a sermon "Christ as God" by Mr. Mott. After lunch, had a picture taken with Messrs. Aburatani, Ikue, Tanaka, Hirayama, Takeda, Kugimiya, Yagi, Matsukata, Hata, Shibata, Hitomi, Kudo by the tent, on the top of the mountain. In the evening there was a meeting on the mountain. Late in the evening we heard a sermon concerning everlasting life by Mr. Morgan. After returning to the Hall we Japanese had a small meeting by ourselves.

29th

Otohiko Matsukata visited. He said that one could do nothing if he paid too much attention to criticisms. Today Mr. Matsukata hurt himself playing baseball.

June 30th

In the afternoon, went to the school of Mr. Moody⁷⁴ of Mt. Hermon with all others in horse-carriages. Letters from Taiko, Tokue,⁷⁵ Consul Uchida, Messrs. Ichiwara, Teiichi Kitamura and Katsumori arrived. Taiko kindly wrote that she would go wherever I would. She said that she bought a *koto* (a Japanese harp). I am sorry that she will have to part from it sooner or later. Wrote to Messrs. Ichiwara, Teiichi Kitamura, Katsumori and Messrs. Kozaki, Okawa, Tomeoka,⁷⁶ Makino, also.

July 1st

In the afternoon, had an interview with Mr. Mott.

2nd

Met Mr. De Forest. In the evening they collected contribution. I offered only \$1.00, probably the least among the crowd.

July 3rd

In the afternoon, they played various kinds of matches. In the evening, from 7 o'clock there was a celebration of the Independence. It was very exciting and with a grand spectacle. At 11:30 p.m. returned to the Hall. Had a Japanese dish at Takashi Komatsu's.

July 6th

Left Northfield at 9 a.m. Arrived at Hosmer Hall, Hartford, at 1 p.m.

July 7th

Wrote Taiko and Kiyooki about the actual state of summer school.

July 8th

Sent letters to hire helpers for my enterprise. Besides board, a helper will be paid 500 *yen* yearly and his wife will be paid 180 *yen*, while a laborer will be provided 1 *yen* and 50 *sen* a day and board, etc. Wrote to ask Mr. Ogasawara if he were willing to come for \$8.00

⁷⁴ Mount Hermon School for Boys was opened by the noted evangelist Dwight Lyman Moody (1837-1899) in 1881. Moody had also inaugurated the annual summer conference series which Seito attended in 1903.

⁷⁵ Tokue is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Kiyotora Otani.

⁷⁶ Kosuke Tomeoka is known as the one who endeavored for the improvement of the conditions of Japanese prisons and the rehabilitation program of ex-prisoners.

a month. Wrote to Dr. Burton asking him not to bother with the thing I had asked him to do for me.

July 9th

Wrote Messrs. Yukihiro Yamamoto⁷⁷ and Masami Oishi⁷⁸ the same kind of letters. \$4.16 was returned from Treasury on account of the overpayment.

July 13th

Bought a summer suit for \$5.50 and a straw hat for \$1.48. According to a letter from Mr. Kugimiya, a flag had been lost and could not be found; probably the woman who loved Japan took it. Bought a mosquito net for \$0.45.

July 17th

Received a letter from Shosaku Yamawaki. With the help of Mr. Tanaka, subscribed to a newspaper of Houston.

July 20th

Wrote a long letter to Taiko concerning Yamawaki. I told her she should love anyone to the end.

July 21st

A photo of Chieko Otani and others arrived.

July 28th

Received letters from Seikan Matsumoto.⁷⁹ In the afternoon visited the tobacco field of North Bloomfield.

July 29th

Wrote Matsumoto. Told my own decision concerning my way of life.

July 30th

Kugimiya and another person came. With his help bought a camera for \$21.00 and learned how to use it. Received \$350.00 and the interest, \$1.40, from the bank.

July 31st

Messrs. Kugimiya and Asakura left for Northfield.

August 1st

Wrote a letter of inquiry to Mr. Kaname Ogasawara saying if he could come paying his travel expenses or pay them out of his future salary, I should employ him for \$10.00 a month.

August 2nd

From Taiko the answer that she decided to come to the United States arrived. I was very much relieved and felt that I attained more courage. Kiyooki said that if he were able to enter the higher school, he would like to remain in Japan.

August 3rd

Wrote Taiko and Kiyooki that they should be accompanied by Tokue, too, and introduced to them many other affairs.

August 5th

Wrote Dr. Burton and Mr. Davis⁸⁰ about my decision of moving into Texas and asked for

⁷⁷ An educator of Kochi, later a statesman of the Liberal party. Elected as a member of the House three times from Kochi prefecture, once together with Seito. He was also noted as a Christian.

⁷⁸ Once studied at Risshisha. A member of the Liberal Party, a member of the House of Representatives for a number of times. Once a Minister of Agriculture and Commerce.

⁷⁹ His god father was Seito and he was a school boy while he was at the Saibaras. At that time he was already a lawyer.

⁸⁰ Dr. J. D. Davis was a Congregational missionary to Kyoto, Doshisha University. See page 58.

their introductions. Also wrote to Mr. Tomeoka. I asked Mr. Tatsu Tanaka to write the letters which are addressed to Americans.

August 6th

Wrote letters notifying of my going to Texas to Dr. Bailey, Mrs. M——(undecipherable), Allchin, Noyes, Miss Albrecht, Miss Adams, Miss Mathews, Messrs. Takagi, Yagi, Matsukata, Kimura, and Yonemura. Bought a trunk for \$ 4.50. Received kind letters from Mr. Kugimiya and Rev. Shieve.

August 8th

Gave Mr. Tanaka \$3.25 as the fee for the eleven English letters and the newspaper articles he had written for me. Trusted \$1.75 to him for forwarding my mail.

August 9th

There was a sermon by Mr. Jacobus at Firmington Avenue Church. We must believe in Christ as a son of God because of his personality and not because of his teachings, miracles and other works, etc. In the afternoon went to Firmington village with Mr. Tanaka. Came back at 4:30 p.m.

August 10th

I understood the kind concern of Mr. Davis and because of that I sent a letter which explained clearly the purpose of going to Texas. Although having been notified that Mr. Tomeoka arrived at Concord, I could not see him to my regret. Wrote him a letter notifying of my leaving on the 12th. In the evening, had an interview with Mr. Jacobus,⁸¹ acting president, and told him about my plan of going to Texas.

August 11th

There was a telegram from Mr. Davis telling me to come because Mr. Tomeoka wanted to see me. Since I had an appointment with the president, then, and also with Mr. Kugimiya who was coming to see me, I could not go. Sent wire for him to come so I shall put off my leave one day. In the morning received letters of introduction from President Jacobus addressed to ministers in Houston. In the afternoon Mr. Kugimiya came with a letter of introduction to Mr. Shieve. Wrote letters to Yamawaki's parents and Kiyooki, Taiko and also sent them a photo of University of Texas.

August 12th

In the afternoon, left Hartford, being seen off by Mr. Tanaka, 6 p.m. met by Mr. Soichi Asakura and stayed at Hirose's at——(undecipherable) E. 54th. Had Chinese dinner with Messrs. Kugimiya, Suzuki, Hasegawa, and Asakura. In the evening visited Aburatani.

13th

Mr. Asakura took me to see Dr. Takamine;⁸² went also to the Consulate, the offices of *Nichi Bei* (*The Japanese American News*), and *New York Shuhosha* (*The New York Weekly*). In the afternoon took a bath at Messrs. Kugimiya and Aburatani's. In the evening, was treated Japanese dinner by them at Saito Inn.

14th

In the morning visited Mr. Tamaki. In the afternoon saw Consul Uchida. Bought a ticket for the steamship and also some clothing. Mr. Suzuki took me around. In the evening,

⁸¹ M. W. Jacobus later became the dean of the Theological Seminary of Hartford Foundation. (C. A. Ealand, ed., *Athena. A Year Book of the Learned World* (New York, 1920), 117).

⁸² Jokichi Takamine (1854-1922), a pharmacist and one of the most famous Japanese in the United States at this time was respected as the Japanese ambassador without title.

Mr. Hasegawa took me to Mr. Uchida's and we were treated dinner there.

15th

Mr. Tamaki took me to see the sights around the park and the port. He treated me again to a Japanese dinner at Saito Inn, and saw Hishida there.

16th

With Messrs. Aburatani and Namba went to Collegiate Church and listened to Dr. Swanson's sermon. In the afternoon, Mr. Tamaki took me to Bronx Park.

17th

At the office of the *Nichi Bei* paid \$2.00 for one year's subscription and received introductory letters to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Knapp from Mr. Uchida at Consulate.

18th

Wrote a letter to Taiko. Received one from Mr. Tomeoka. He said he approved of my decision.

19th

Boarded *S.S. Proteus* at 11:30 a.m. from Pier 25 on North River and sailed out at 12 o'clock noon. Messrs. Hasegawa, Suzuki, Asakura saw me off. Selected the better place in the lower class room and paid \$3.00.

20th

It was rainy, windy and there were high waves.

21st

Rather nice weather. Early in the morning took a bath. In the afternoon it was very fine and a cool wind breezed through.

22nd

Fine. Early in the morning, the ship turned around the southern tip of Florida. Saw the white sand and green prairies right in front of my eyes. Toward the evening, the direction of the ship changed to the southwest, coinciding with the direction of wind; and so there seemed to be no wind.

23rd

Fine. The direction of the ship points toward the northwest.

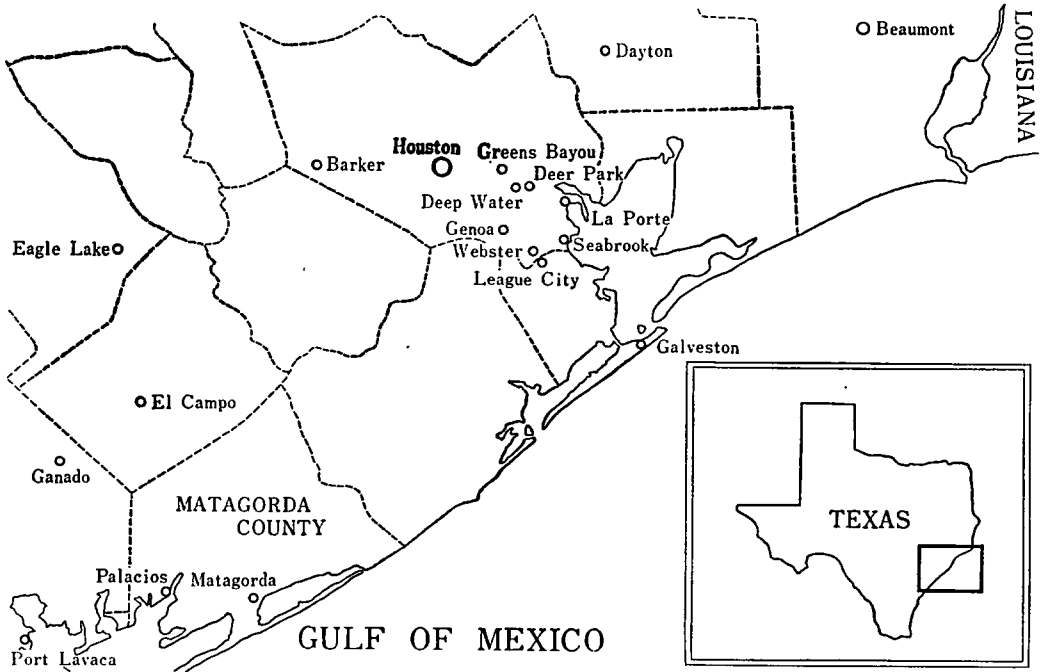
24th

Fine. At 3 a.m. arrived at the river mouth of the Mississippi, and at 6 a.m. noticed rice and sweet potatoes, etc. on the fields of both shores. They were so abundant that no limit or end of these fields was seen. At eleven landed at New Orleans and went into the hotel of the railroad station to take some rest. 9 p.m. took sleeping car and left.

25th

Got up at 6 a.m. and was looking at various agricultural fields from the train. At 10 a.m. arrived at Houston and was greeted by Mr. Oswald Wilson, his son, Hosho Inoue, and Kaname Inoue⁸⁸ and went into the hotel in front of the station. In the afternoon saw many people including bank presidents, the postmaster, presidents of newspapers, the staff of the newspapers, and the officers of Kangyo Kyokai (probably Houston Business League), being guided by Mr. Wilson.

⁸⁸ See page 62. After their attempt in rice culture had ended in failure they were in Houston to launch another rice venture.



26th

Saw Mr. Anderson⁸⁴ of the South Railroad Company and received a free ticket and went to Galveston. Wrote to Tamaki, Tanaka, Kiyooki and Taiko.

27th

Wrote to Mr. Uchida and received a visit from Mr. Wilson. In the afternoon, went to see the rice field of Deep Water with Mr. Moore by horse-carriage. Saw 456 acres of the best grade land with the price of \$25.00 (per acre).

28th

With Mr. Groesbeeck⁸⁵ went to inspect the rice fields of Matagorda County by train and spent the night at the Palacios Hotel.

29th

Early in the morning left and took the return trip. On the way back observed El Campo. This evening both Inoues left for home.

30th

Since it was a burning hot day, did not attend the Sunday service.

⁸⁴ Seito must have meant "Southern Pacific Co." In the *Directory of the City of Houston, 1903-1904* (Galveston, 1903), 56, under the article "Southern Pacific Co., Atlantic system," the name T. J. Anderson, "genl pass agt," is recorded.

⁸⁵ The name Groesbeeck appears in the Houston city directories for both 1903-1904 and 1905-1906. On page 202 of the former is an entry "Groesbeeck John N. (W.C. Moore & Co.);" and page 320 reads, "Moore W.C. & Co. (Walter C. Moore, John N. Groesbeeck), real estate, lands & loans...." Probably the "Mr. Moore" mentioned in the entry of August 27th was the associate of this Groesbeeck.

31st

In the morning, tried to visit Mr. Knapp⁸⁶ and missed the train. So in the afternoon, went to Webster by myself and observed the area around Webster.

September 1st

I asked many times for Mr. Knapp at the hotel in front of the station but he did not arrive. Mailed printed matter concerning rice culture in Texas to about thirty of my friends.

September 2nd

Went to inspect Deep Water and Seabrook by myself and hoped to see Mr. Knapp but could not.

September 3rd

Went to Dayton, alone, and visited Mr. Armstrong and asked him to find suitable land near Deer Park. He accepted my request readily.

September 4th

Had an interview with Mr. Brown, and learned that 500 acres of land in Deep Water will be sold for \$15.00 (per acre), \$1,500.00 as down payment, \$2,000.00 at the end of a year, \$4,000.00 at the end of two years. So, promised to go with him the next Monday morning to the place.

September 5th

Waited for Mr. Armstrong all day long and he did not come.

September 6th

In the morning, Mr. Armstrong came and told me that there was good land of 371 acres for sale at Deer Park. Went to Deer Park with him and had lunch at Mr. Hawsberg's of the Post Office and rented horses from him. Went to inspect the land closely and acquired satisfactory results. On the same day, in the evening returned to hotel and Mr. A. went back to Dayton.

September 7th

Observed Mr. Brown's land in Deep Water; then had dinner with him at Mr. Gibbs'.

September 8th

Mr. Wilson came and was informed of the arrival of Mr. Rihei Kondow,⁸⁷ and four others on the coming 15th. Being guided by Mr. Harman, I went to Ganado and observed the rice fields. Also saw the mulberry trees which were planted by Mrs. Shatt, who is a successful sericulturist.

September 9th

At one o'clock returned to the hotel. From Mr. A. there was information that the cost of land in Deer Park was \$10,000.00.

September 10th

Again went to Deer Park and brought back a box of soil.

September 11th

Had an interview with Dr. Knapp and asked his opinion of the soil. He said that it should

⁸⁶ See pages 60, 62. See also note 40.

⁸⁷ Probably either Wilson or Seito mistakenly confused the names of Rihei Onishi and his brother Eitaro Kondow, soon to be important members of the Japanese community in Texas. Rihei Onishi, a journalist, was deeply moved by the report of Consul-General Uchida and convinced one of his cousins, a wealthy wine merchant named Toraichi Onishi, of the wisdom of uniting their forces and coming to Webster in Harris County.

be very suitable and good land. Then, riding in the same horse-carriage with him, went to La Porte and observed the bays and inlets.

September 12th

Being guided by Mr. Baker, saw the area around Barker. Today read letters and newspaper being forwarded by Mr. Tatsu Tanaka (in Hartford). There was news of Kiyooki passing the entrance examinations. Received an answer from Mr. Aki.

September 13th

Waited for Mr. Uchida and, although I went to the station twice, he did not come. Mr. Oswald recommended that I buy the land in Webster.

14th

Saw the land in Webster with Mr. Uchida.

15th

Saw the port and the bay of Galveston with Mr. Uchida. Received the kind guidance of Messrs. Miller and Langbehen.⁸⁸

16th

At dawn went to see Mr. Onishi and others but they did not come. Visited Mr. Jones, attorney, and went to the *hoga* (law court) and applied for naturalization, having Mr. Uchida and Mr. Wilson as my witnesses.⁸⁹ Received a letter telling me of Mr. Horimi's coming to the States.

17th

Went to Port Lavaca with Mr. Uchida.

18th

In the morning returned to hotel. Saw Rev. Shive (Shieve) and Rev. Jenkin on the train.

19th

At dawn, went to see Mr. Onishi and others at the station but they did not come. The two Inoues arrived. In the morning, Armstrong came and talked about difficulties in negotiating for the land at Deer Park because of the sickness of the owner. Thanked him for his trouble and declined the deal for the time being.

20th

At 4:30 a.m., the two Onishis (Rihei and Toraiichi) arrived. Went to Webster in the afternoon.

21st

Went to Webster again in the morning.

22nd

Went to Eagle Lake. Agreed with Mr. Fujino to be the buyer and the keeper of the land for him. Also consented to employ Mr. Fujino's workers for \$250.00 per year, provide land, agricultural implements, horses, food for the horses and water, and have the workers stay as tenants on the farm for a rent of 60 per cent of the harvest.⁹⁰

⁸⁸ J. H. Langbehen (1867-1944) of Galveston served as honorary Japanese consul from 1903 to the outbreak of World War II. (S. Fujioka, "Ayumi no Ato" ("In the Steps of our Forefathers"), No. 82, 83 and 84, in *Rafu Shimpo* (*The Los Angeles Japanese Daily News*), August 18, 19, and 20, 1955.)

⁸⁹ It was highly unusual for the Japanese to apply for naturalization after so short a stay, for most of them hoped eventually to return home. Seito was an exception. In his mind was a vision, a purpose to build a colony of Japanese and to demonstrate that the Japanese could be fully as good citizens of the United States as immigrants from other countries. His thinking was far advanced for his time.

⁹⁰ This promise was not materialized. See pages 62. Junzo Fujino had come to Houston after his experiment in rice culture in Port Lavaca had failed.

23rd

Being guided by Armstrong, observed Greens Bayou.

24th

Went to Webster with Mr. Onishi and inquired of several inhabitants as to the actual condition of the area. Returned and began to have negotiations with Mr. Wilson, the land owner.

25th

In the morning and the afternoon had more conferences with Mr. Wilson and at one time, because of differences, negotiations were halted. This day, Mr. Onishi and Mr. Fujino received the first documents of naturalization. The news of acceptance from Mr. Tadao Yasui⁹¹ came.

26th

Went to Beaumont with Mr. Uchida and Mr. Onishi and saw the flourishing oil business.

27th

Also went to Crowley (Louisiana) and learned about the actual state of rice culture from Mr. Allison. At night saw Mr. Knapp in the train and parted with Mr. Uchida at Beaumont, and he started on his way home.

28th

Saw Wilson. Wrote to my wife, son, and Mr. Tadao Yasui.

29th

Saw the land of El Campo.

30th

Returned to Houston.

October 1st

Saw lands at Deep Water with Messrs. Onishi and Nishimura.⁹²

October 2nd

Suffered from diarrhes. Rested all day long. Mr. Onishi went to Barker and returned, being satisfied with the land. Mr. Nishimura and Fujino went to Beaumont.

October 3rd

A letter from Ryoji Imamura arrived.

October 4th

For several days have had diarrhes and still have not recovered from it. Bought medicine. Mailed letters to Mr. Yasui and Yasue Yamawaki asking for employment of laborers. Wrote an answer to Mr. Imamura. Mr. Akazawa came.

October 5th

Did not feel good and stayed at hotel.

October 6th

Being accompanied by Mr. Wilson, went to S.P. Company (Southern Pacific Company) and conferred about free tickets for my family. In the afternoon went to the office of an attorney, Mr. Jones, and asked his opinions concerning the title of Webster.

October 7th

⁹¹ According to Mr. Kiyooki Saibara, Tadao Yasui was a technical expert from the agricultural experiment station in Hokkaido, where, unlike the rest of the islands of Japan, relatively large scale farming is undertaken. He and his wife reached Houston in January, 1904.

⁹² Shotaro Nishimura was a tea merchant of Yokohama with a branch office in Montreal, Canada, who also planned to try rice farming in Webster.

Went to Webster with Messrs. Onishi, Nishimura and Wilson and in the evening made a substantial promise of buying 160 acres of land with the house for \$23,000 (per acre), having Mr. Jones as my witness. And at night sent a telegram requesting \$2,000.00 by wire.

October 8th

There is a point which needs consent from Mr. Wilson's brother before I can finally buy the land. Sent a telegram to this person's place and as yet I am waiting for an answer.

October 9th

Since the above stated brother's residence is not clear, I promised to buy 304 acres at the southeast corner of the railroad track which is close to the town area and I promised to build a house with my money and to subtract \$1,000.00 from the price of the land, and also to rent Mr. Wilson's house free for six months until the completion of my house, rather than the land I had intended to buy on the preceding day. Mr. Rihei Onishi left (for Japan).⁹³

October 10th

There was a return wire telling me that \$2,000.00 was sent to the New York Consulate. Wrote letters to Consul Uchida, Yasue Yamawaki, and Mr. Tadao Yasui. Stayed at the same hotel with Mr. Toraichi (Onishi).

October 11th

Attended services at the First Presbyterian Church.

October 12th

Visited the farms of Messrs. Hosoda and Nakajima and others.

October 13th

Wrote a letter to Governor Munakata (of Kochi prefecture) concerning student workers. A \$2,000.00 check arrived from Shokin Bank (the Yokohama Specie Bank), New York branch. A congratulatory telegram from Mr. Uchida arrived.

October 14th

Being guided by Mr. Collins, saw the lands around Genoa.

October 15th

Mr. Shojiro Tsuji came. Wrote letters to Taiko, Mr. Nishimura, Mr. Uchida and the Shokin Bank. Deposited the \$2,000.00 in the First National Bank.

October 17th

Mr. Hosoda came. Sent a letter of introduction to Mr. Uchida concerning the passports of the wife, children, and relatives of Mr. Nakajima. Suffered from a boil on the chin. Tonight had diarrhea again.

October 18th

Early in the morning, Messrs. Kondow, Kuwamura and Nagai⁹⁴ arrived. Attended services at the Presbyterian church. Was invited by Edgar Watkins⁹⁵ for dinner. Wrote a letter to Seiichi Koike.

19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd

Stayed in the city of Houston. Wrote letters to various places.

⁹³ Rihei Onishi went to Japan in order to bring his wife and child, Seito's family, workers, and rice seeds back to Texas. The entire group reached their new homes in Webster on January 24, 1904.

⁹⁴ Eitaro Kondow was Rihei Onishi's younger brother. Kuwamura and Nagai came from the native county of the Onishi family, Shuso-gun of Ehime prefecture, to help as workers on the rice farms in Webster.

⁹⁵ Edgar Watkins was an attorney whose office was in the Kiam Building. His law partner, Frank C. Jones, is mentioned frequently in the diary. (*Directory of the City of Houston, 1903-1904*, 445).

October 23rd

Moved to Webster. This day the weather is fine and I felt magnificent.

October 24th

Rented Post Box No. 34. Plowed about six *tsubo*⁹⁶ of the better part of the premises and sowed *negi* (green onions or stone-leek), *shungiku* (*Chrysanthemum coronarium*), *mana*, *hojona*,⁹⁷ etc.

October 25th

Attended services of the Presbyterian church. Wrote to Taiko and Kiyooki, and others that they should bring over clothes, bedding, and other things.

October 26th

Sowed cabbage and celery seeds.

October 27th

Went to Houston with Mr. Onishi and saw Mr. Wilson. He consented to cut the trees for fences and to the free use of the neighboring land for one year. Also, he consented to send out a surveyor and to send wire in the near future. Had an interview with Messrs. Okahara⁹⁸ and Nagamine.

October 28th

Mr. Wise, a surveyor, and his son began surveying with the guidance of Mr. Plumlee. Engaged in surveying all day long and finished most of the Onishi's part. Sowed onions and turnip greens. Wrote the last letter of rejection to Kaname Ogasawara.

October 29th

Surveyed Mr. Nishimura's land with Mr. Wise and others. In the afternoon surveyed the rest of Mr. Onishi's land. Began to plow the southern part of the field.

October 30th

In the morning finished the survey of Onishi's part and surveyed the Saibara's part. Taiko's letter of the 13th arrived. Learned that she had received 50,000 *yen* from Mr. Oku.

October 31st

Finished all surveys. Wrote answer to Taiko.

November 1st

Wrote a letter of thanks to Mr. Oku. Messrs. Okahara, Nagamine and Tsuji visited me.

November 2nd

Wrote an answer to Mr. Ichiro Sakata of Nara prefecture. Sent a letter to Mr. Abe's son in Osaka. Finished plowing the field of one hundred *tsubo*.

November 3rd

Since today is the Emperor's birthday,⁹⁹ rested all afternoon.

November 4th

In the south side sowed *daikon* (horse-radish), *kabu* (turnip) and *hiraguki*.¹⁰⁰ Mr. Onishi began to finish the wood for the posts.

November 5th

With Kuwamura began to prepare wood for the fence.

⁹⁶ 1 *tsubo* is 35.584 square feet.

⁹⁷ These seeds apparently were brought to Webster on October 18th. *Mana* and *hojona* are green vegetables used as food by the Japanese, as are *negi* and *shungiku*.

⁹⁸ Tokizo Okahara was engaged in cotton culture.

⁹⁹ The birthday of Emperor Meiji, Mutsuhito (1852-1912), was observed by all Japanese as a holiday.

¹⁰⁰ *Hiraguki* is a common type of white vegetable of Chinese origin.

6th and 7th

The two worked.

November 8th

Attended services of the church. Ryuzo Abe came around.

November 9th

Beside Kuwamura, with Mr. Ryuzo Abe and others, engaged in finishing of the material for the posts.

November 10th

Engaged in finishing of the posts' material. Received letters from Isojiro Doi, Motomi Saibara, Shigeshi Tani, etc. Wrote answers in the evening.

November 12th

Both Fujinos¹⁰¹ arrived. They are going to stay with us for a while.

November 14th

Mr. Torataro Nakajima came.

November 15th

Attended church.

November 16th, 17th

Built a bathroom.

November 18th and 19th

North wind. The coldness was severe. The water outside was frozen.

November 20th

Kuwamura was injured.

November 22nd

Church. In the afternoon, Mr. J. M. Alford of League City came and entrusted me with the matter of the laborers. A certain person of this town visited us with his three children.

November 23rd

For the time being, I am employing Mr. Yasuichi Fujino with the same wages as Kuwamura, and beginning today it is in effect. Also asked Mr. Tsuji to help him. Today Mr. Rodgers comes to paste the wall paper. 9:50 a. m. went to Houston with Messrs. Onishi and Fujino and visited the attorney, Mr. Jones. We consulted with him about submitting the contract and then saw Mr. Wilson.

November 24th and 25th

Both days continuously negotiated the contract of purchase.

November 26th and 27th

Both days worked hard to complete the deed, and finally it is almost completed. We signed with the seller and offered Mr. Jones \$500.00 for the guarantee as well as for the completion of the legal formalities, and returned to Webster.

November 28th

Returned home.

November 29th

Moved our bathroom with the help of Mr. Fujino.

November 30th

There were letters telling me about the death of Mr. Kataoka, Speaker, and of both the

¹⁰¹ Junzo and Yasuichi Fujino were presumably brothers. Later Junzo became manager of the Nishimura farm when its owner returned to Canada.

Yamawakis coming to the States.

December 1st

Made contract with Whitcomb to build two rooms and asked him to finish everything for \$110.00. The date of completion should be December 20th.

December 2nd

Engaged in cultivation of pear and fig trees.

December 3rd

This afternoon father and son Rodgers engaged to move the temporary barn.

December 4th

Rainy day. Plowed the land where the barn was. Carpenters did not come.

December 5th

Fine. In the afternoon, transplanted *taina*¹⁰² to the place where the barn was. In the afternoon the carpenter came.

December 6th

The Sabbath. Church.

December 7th

Messrs. Yasuichi and Kuwamura went to finish the fence posts. Rev. Miyama came and visited us. Gave a sermon to all of us.

December 8th

Mr. Miyama left.

December 9th

Today I discharged Yasuichi Fujino. Gave \$10.00 to Rodgers.

December 10th

Completed finishing the posts. In the afternoon the prairie caught fire at Onishi's farm. Although everybody went out to fight the fire at night, it would have soon gone out anyway.

December 11th

Concerning the matter of the house, Mr. Plumlee suggested to me the way to buy it for \$600.00 in three years payment. Trusted the matter to Mr. Whitcomb. Gave \$6.00 to Mr. Fujino.

December 22nd

Received four head of mules. Beside mules other agricultural equipment arrived. Since all of the equipment had not arrived, we did not distribute anything except one wagon each.

December 24th

Plowing. One of the contractors, Mr. Patrick, began to plow. In the same evening attended the Christmas festival.

December 25th

In the afternoon heard that the well of Mr. Fujino reached water after digging for 475 *shaku*.¹⁰³

December 26th

Messrs. Onishi and Fujino each moved to his own house. In the same evening Mr. Fujita came and stayed overnight.

¹⁰² *Taina* is another Japanese fresh green vegetable.

¹⁰³ 1 *shaku* is 0.995 feet. Since a *shaku* is very close to a foot in length, the Japanese used both *shaku* and feet interchangeably at that time, according to the account of Mr. Kiyooki Saibara. Irrigation water was one of the biggest troubles encountered by the early rice farmers. The cost of drilling wells was nearly prohibitive.

December 27th

Messrs. Okasaki,¹⁰⁴ Ogawa, and others visited me. They brought much beef as a gift.

December 30th

Mr. Nishimura came. Gave Whitcomb \$91.00 for building rooms and other purchases.

December 31st

Bought lumber to complete the barn and also some for beds for \$13.10. Paid Mr. Onishi all past-due money accounts.¹⁰⁵

January, 37th Year of Meiji

1st It was peaceful. Nothing happened.

2nd In the morning went to the city of Houston and went shopping for boots and other things.

3rd 6 a. m. Kikusaburo Ono¹⁰⁶ arrived. In the afternoon returned home with Ono.

4th Sowed garlic and lima beans. Wagons came. Began to dig a well.

5th Mr. Ono engaged to use the disk harrow and put the newly plowed oat field in shape.

6th Used a smoothing-harrow on the land mentioned above and in the afternoon sowed 2½ bushels of seeds. Although I went to S. P. Company concerning free tickets, had to go home in vain since Anderson was not in the office. Was returned \$28.00 by Mr. Ono.

12th Went to make a change in the deed of sale with Messrs. Nishimura and Onishi. Bought four sets of rainwear.

13th After having dug 520 *shaku* reached the water deposit and dug 80 *shaku* more, reaching to 600 *shaku*. 7 p. m. left (Webster). Went to San Francisco. Mr. Okasaki promised to lend me money up to \$5,000.00 at any time. The train which should have left (Houston) at 12:25 started at 1:25.

17th In the morning took up my lodgings at the Teikoku Hotel (Imperial Hotel) on Stockton Street in San Francisco. My wife and son are already here. Remained (in San Francisco) the 18th and 19th.

20th 6 p. m. left San Francisco and headed toward Texas. The members of the party were as follows: Taiko, Kiyooki, wife and a child of Mr. Rihei Onishi (also Rihei Onishi), Mr. and Mrs. Yasui, Tokue Otani, Yasue Yamawaki, Yoshio Yamawaki, Isekichi Nishino and his elder brother, Asaji Azou of Oita prefecture, and four workers for Mr. Onishi.

January 24th 5 p. m. arrived at Webster.

¹⁰⁴ Tsunekichi Okasaki, educated at a mission school (present Aoyama Gakuin) in Tokyo, became a successful restaurant operator in Houston during his third visit to the United States. Photos and some fantastic stories of his success can be found in the 1905 and 1906 issues of *Tobei Zasshi*. His establishment at 1111 Congress Avenue was one of the favorite resorts of Houstonians in the gay 1890's. (Work Projects Administration, *op. cit.*, 101-102.)

¹⁰⁵ It has been the general practice in Japan that all accounts should be settled by the last day of the year.

¹⁰⁶ According to the account of Mr. Kiyooki Saibara, Kikusaburo Ono was a former technical expert of the Hokkaido agricultural experiment station, who had worked under Tadao Yasui.