Ruiju <u>sandai kyaku</u> – 類聚三代格 Supplementary Legislation from the Three Eras

類聚三代-格卷十九 禁制事

Ruiju Sandai Kyaku - Scroll 19, Prohibitions

Passages from Shintei Zōhō Kokushi Taikei edition, pp. 605, 612, 613-614, 616, 617-618, 625

PAGE 605

[原]

太政官符

應禁断諸院諸宮王臣家假民私宅号庄家貯積稻穀等物事

右諸院諸宮王臣家。於諸國部內。或本有田地自立庄家。或新占山野收其地利。囙此等「一」事各求便冝。借民私宅積聚稻穀才物。号稱庄家好妨官物。國史之力不敢制止。出舉収納不能自由。公事難済職此之由。去天平九年九月廿一日。及天平勝寶三年九月四日両度格云。臣家之物貯蓄諸國。自今以後。冝皆禁断。若有犯者科違勑罪。其物沒官國司郡司即觧·見任者。左大臣{藤時平}宣。奉 勑。先後格旨禁制嚴峻。諸國牧宰無有履行。冝重下知勿使更然。仍須仮 号庄家爲國致妨者科違勑罪。物皆沒官。其稱使及庄檢校專當預蒔。放縱不遜以妨國務者。不論蔭贖決杖六十。但元來實爲庄家不妨國務者不在制限。

延喜二年(902)三月十三日

[訓]

太政官符す

まさに諸院<u></u>諸宮、王臣<u>家</u>は民の私宅を仮に庄家を号し、稻穀等の物を貯積<u>すること</u>

右に諸院、諸宮、王臣家は諸国の部内に、或いは本の有る田地を自らの住家に立つ、或いは新に山野を世め、其の地の利を收さむ。此等「一」の事により、各の便宜を求め、たみ。民の私宅を借りて、稻穀は才物に積聚す。す庄家を号称し、このみに官物を妨ぐ。国吏之力を敢えて制止せず、出擧・収納、自由に能ず。公事済難き職此之由る。さんめる天平九年九月廿一日。及び天平勝宝三年九月四日、両度の格に云く。『臣家之物を諸国に貯蓄すこと、今自り以後宜く皆禁断すべし。若犯有らば、違勅罪の科なり。其の物は沒官し、国司郡司即見任の解にせよ。』左大臣宣す。勅を奉るに、先後の格旨は厳峻に禁制せよ。諸国の牧宰が履行すること有無し。宜しく、重ねて、下知し

て、更然使勿べし。仍りて須く仮庄家と号し、国の爲に、妨げをいたさば、違勅のすみを科し、物は、皆、沒官せよ。

それ使及び庄検校・専当・預かり等と称し、放縦・不遜以って国務を妨ぐるは蔭贖を 論不、杖六十に決せよ。値し元来実として庄家と為し、国務を妨げざらば、制ずる限 りに在不れ。

延喜二年(902)三月十三日

[英]

The Council of State orders:

Regarding prohibiting various <u>powerful</u> households of royals and nobles from claiming the private residences of commoners as their <u>estates</u> and stockpiling rice <u>therein</u>

The powerful households of royals and nobles mentioned here create their own estate offices in various provinces on land that was originally rice paddies and take over uncultivated countryside land, collecting rent on it. Through such [actions], they seek every benefit [for themselves]. They take over the private residences of the people and accumulate rice there, and by calling these places their estates, they hinder the collection of provincial taxes. The provincial governor is unable to prevent this and can neither oversee rice lending nor tax collection easily. In Tenpyo 9th year [737 CE], 9th month, 21st day, and also in Tenpyō Shōhō 3rd year [751 CE], 9th month, 4th day, there were supplementary laws to this effect: "The stockpiling of things in the provinces by noble households must hereafter be prohibited. If there are such crimes, they constitute a violation of the tenno's edicts. The goods shall be confiscated and [guilty parties who are] provincial governors or district officials shall have their offices terminated." The Minister of the Left {Fujiwara Tokihira} declares, "I have received the tenno's command: 'In the Tenpyo and Tenpyō Shōhō eras, the intent of the law was strictly enforced. But administration in the provinces has not improved. Let orders be sent out once again, such officials should not be tolerated. Those who persist in calling places "temporary estates" and obstruct government shall be considered guilty of the crime of lèse majesté and all their goods shall be confiscated. Their agents and estate agents calling themselves 'shokengyō,' 'sentō,' or 'azukari' and who persist in obstructing provincial administration shall receive 60 blows of the cane. However those who actually hold a [valid] estate and who do not obstruct government are not party to this prohibition."

Engi 2nd year (902), 3rd Month, 30th Day

PAGE 612 (First Full Entry)

[原文]

太政官符

應禁遏諸使越關私買唐物事

右左大臣宣。頃年如聞。唐人商船来着之時。諸院諸宮諸王臣家等。官使末至之前遣使爭買。又墎内富豪之輩心愛遠物。踊直?易。囙玆貸物價直定准不平。是則關司不慥勘過。府吏簡略撿察之所致也。律曰。官司未交易之前私共蕃人,交易者准盜論。罪止徒三年令云。官司未交易之前不得私共諸蕃交易為人糺獲者。二分其物。一分賞糺人。一分沒官。若官司於所部捉獲者。眥沒官者。府司須囙准法條(条)愼(慎)其撿(検)挍(校)而寬縱(縱)不行。令人狎侮。宜更下知公家未交易之間嚴(厳)加禁遏勿復乖違。若猶犯制者。沒物科罪。曾(曽)不寬有。

延喜三年(903)八月一日

[訓読]

太政官符す

まさに諸使關を越えて私くしに唐物を買うを禁遏すべき事

延喜3年(903)三月一日

[現代]

太政官符する

<u>諸々の王家や貴族家</u>の使が關(せき)を越えて個人的に中国からの物を買うことを禁止 すべきこと

<u>右、左大臣{藤時平</u>}が命令を述べた。最近、聞くところによると、「中国人の商船が着く時に、諸院諸宮諸王臣家等は、朝廷の使が着く前に自分の使を派遣し、争い買いつけている。また、太宰府にいるお金持ちの人達も、遠物を好んで、値段が高くなっても、貿易す。これによって貸物の価値に於いては定めて決まるべき値段が変動してしまう。是れに、關司は確かに調べていない。太宰府の役人の撿察も簡略にしてしまっていて、十分に行っていないので、こういう状態が起きている。

[英文]

The Council of State orders:

That <u>agents from</u> the various <u>powerful houses</u> (<u>royal and aristocratic</u>) <u>shall</u> be forbidden from bypassing barriers and privately buying goods from China.

In this regard Minister of Left {Fujiwara no Tokihira} proclaims: "In recent times, we have heard: "When the ships of the Chinese merchants arrive, the various powerful households send their emissaries and compete to make purchases before the official emissaries can reach [the port]. Furthermore, the wealthy people at the *Dazaifu* love foreign goods, and though prices rise they still make purchases. As a result, the set value of the goods is unstable. Since barrier officials do not investigate carefully and check into these matters, and officials of the Dazaifu conduct lax investigations, this situation has resulted. The penal code states, "If people trade privately with foreigners without the involvement of government officials, it is considered a crime of theft and shall be punished by more than three years [of hard labor]." The administrative code states, "If people trade privately with foreigners before government officials have done so, they shall be investigated and their property divided into two parts. One part shall be a reward for the investigators; the other part shall be seized by the government. If government officials themselves seize the property, then all will be confiscated." Officials at the Dazaifu must, in accordance with the law, investigate diligently. Even though there should be no leniency, people ignore [the law]. Now it is again ordered that, before official trading, strict prohibitions are imposed. Let there be no transgressions. And if there are transgressions, the goods will be seized and crimes punished. There shall be absolutely no leniency.

First Day of the Eighth Month of Engi 3 [903]

PAGE 613-614 (First Full Entry) [原文]

太政官謹奏禁断双六事。

右頃聞。官人百姓不畏憲法私聚徒衆任意双六。至於淫迷。子無順父。終亡家業亦損孝道。望請。遍仰京四畿內七道諸国。固令禁断。其六位己下无論男女決杖一百。不洦蔭贖。但五位者則鮮却見任及奪位禄位田。四位己上停廢封戸。軄国郡司阿容不禁亦皆鮮。若有顕申廿人巳上者无位叙位三階。有位賜物絁十疋布十端。其所賭資財皆悉没官。臣等商量如前。伏聴。 天裁。謹以申聞。謹奏。奉勅。依奏。

天平勝宝六年十月十四日

[訓読]

太政官謹奏す。

双六禁断する事。

右、この頃聞くならく、「官人百姓憲法畏まれず、私に徒衆に聚め、任意に双六す。淫し迷するに於いて至る。子父に順わず、終わりに家業亡くなり、また、孝道に損す。」。望み請ふすらく、遍く京四畿内七道諸国に仰せ、固く禁断せしめん。其の六位己下、男女を論ずること无く、杖一百を決し、蔭贖をもちいざらん。但し、五位は則見任を鮮却し、及び位禄位田を奪えよ。四位己上は封戸を停廢せん。織国の郡司阿容して禁ざれず、亦皆見任を鮮かん。若、顕申すこと、廿人巳上有者、无位は位三階を叙し、ずれず、亦皆見任を鮮かん。若、顕申すこと、廿人巳上有者、无位は位三階を叙し、有位は物を賜うこと、統十疋布十端とせん。其の賭所の資財は皆悉く官に没せん。臣等商量するに前の如し。伏して天裁を聴かん。謹みて以って申聞す。謹奏すらく。勅奉るに。奏に依れ。

天平勝宝六年(754)十月十四日

[現代]

太政官 謹んで奏す。

双六を禁止する事。

右、最近聞いたのは、「官人も庶民も法令を承らなく、わがままに<u>群を集め</u>双六する。それらは程度をすごして、迷っていることに及ぶ。子は父に従わなく、ついに家業がなくなる。これは孝行にも損を与<u>える</u>。望むのは、京・四畿内・七道・諸国へ双六が禁止であることを仰せてほしい。其の六位己下の人にかんしては、男女を考慮せず、百回杖で打つ刑罰を決めてほしい。 蘆贖をもちいざれ。ただし五位にかんして、役を首にして、位と位禄位田を奪ってほしい. 四位以上にかんして、封戸(ふこ)を取りやめてほしい。職国郡司にかんして、禁止しなければ、役を解除(かいじょ)してほしい。もし密告することあらば、二十人以上であったら、位がない人には位三階を授ける。位があ

る人には物として 施 十疋、布十端を賜わせるようにお願いする。その 賭 所 の資財をすべて政府に没収<u>してほしい</u>。臣下は以前のようにご 商 量 させていただいた。伏して天裁を聴かせていただいて、 謹 んで申し上げる。 謹 みて奏す。」 勅を奉るに、奏に依れ。

天平勝宝六年(754)十月十四日

[英文]

The Council of State humbly presents a memorial to the throne

Concerning the banning backgammon¹

As to <u>this</u>, of late we have heard that the various officials and commoners do not show reverence for the law, and instead assemble <u>in</u> groups and play backgammon without restraint. They play beyond reason, and lose themselves in the game. Sons do not heed their fathers, and household livelihood crumbles, <u>impacting</u> the way of filial piety. Therefore we wish that you widely command the capital, the home provinces, the seven circuits, and all the provinces that the playing of backgammon be strictly banned.

For those of the sixth rank or below [who <u>persist in playing</u> backgammon], (a <u>punishment of</u>) one hundred blows <u>is</u> set <u>with</u> no consideration of gender. One should not have recourse to the use of rank or paying fines to compensate [for the punishment]. However, if one is of the fifth rank, then one should be relieved of one's post and divested of rank <u>as well as rank and salary</u> fields. Persons of the fourth rank and above shall have their prebendal tax units taken away. [If] the Capital Office <u>or</u> provincial and district officials turn the other way and do not prohibit it, they will all have their appointments terminated.

In the event <u>of an informant</u>, <u>if</u> there are 20 people turned in, for the <u>[informant]</u> without rank <u>he shall be raised</u> three levels. For <u>one</u> with rank, <u>he/she shall</u> receive goods: ten *hiki*² of <u>coarse</u> silk and ten *tan*³ of cloth. <u>Let the gambler's goods be fully</u> confiscated by the <u>authorities</u>. In the forgoing, your <u>ministers</u> have given careful consideration, <u>and</u> we <u>beg</u> the <u>monarch's permission</u>. Humbly <u>stated and petitioned</u>.

[In response, the senior counselor proclaims:] I have received the <u>royal decree</u>, it shall be as memorialized.

² Counter for rolls of cloth (two han in size). (Jim Breen)

¹ Sugoroku

³ Variable measure of fabric (28.8 cm in width); for kimonos: at least 10 m in length; for haori: at least 7.27 m in length; for other clothes: at least 6.06 m in length. (Jim Breen)

PAGE 616

[原]

太政官符

應禁止諸司諸家徵物使寃勘調綱郡司雑掌事

右得丹波。伊豫。土左等国觧俏。調庸雜物貢進立限。若違其期罪有恒法。而今件徵物使等多集黨類。候郡司雜掌入京校之日各競寃勘。先号前分責取官物。次稱土毛掠奪私粮。縱不叶其求遂加凌轢。爰郡司爲免身辱偏忘公損。或折納官内徒賂遺之贈。或取封戸物還致本家之費。又雜掌処軄専在公文不預雜物。而郡司末到之間勘責如前。公粮竭於酒食○資盡於苞苴。曰茲不濟預事。並以迯歸。調物難濟。公文濟濟。軄此之由。於是國司常被絆觧由。郡司亦不免决罰。不加禁止何弭苛酷。望請。官裁。被停件。將令貢調使并郡司務進納之事。然則納官封家無末進之弊。國宰郡司免罪責之料者。左大臣{源○}宣。奉勅。依請。若有背符旨强遮之輩捕身言上殊處重料。宜令有司亦加礼彈。諸國准此。

寛平三年(891)五月廿九日

[訓]

太政官符す

まさに諸司諸家の徴物使が調綱郡司と雑掌の寃勘を禁止すべき事

右、丹波・伊豫・土左等の国の解を得るにいえらく:「調庸雑物の貢進に限りを立つ。若し其の期に違あらば、罪の恒法有り。而して今、件の徴物使等多く黨類集どい、郡司の雑掌京入の日に候えて、各 競いて寃勘す。先に前分と号し官物を責取り、次で土毛と稱し私粮を掠奪す。縱し其の求め叶ずんば、遂に凌 轢 を加う。爰に郡司身の季めを免れんが爲に偏に公損を忘れ、或いは納官の内を折ぐ、徒 に賂遺の贈にあつ。或いは封戸の物を取り、還えりて本家の費に致す。又た雑掌を 軄 とする処、専ら公文に在りて雑物に預からず。而れに郡司いまだ到らざるの間、勘責、さきの如し。公粮を酒食に竭き。資を苞苴に盡す。茲れに囙り預り事を濟ず、並に以て逃げ歸る。調物濟み難く、公文濟すは 轍 此れに由る。是に於て國司、常に觧由耕たされ、郡司亦た決罰を免れず。禁止を加ずんば、何ぞ苛酷弭めんや。望み請らくは官裁。「件の使を管られ、まさに貢調使并に郡司をして進納の事を務めしめんことを。然らば則ち納官封家未進之弊無く。國宰郡司の罪責の料を免れる」てへり。

寛平三年(891)五月廿九日

[現代]

太政官が符する

諸司諸家の微物使は調綱郡司や雑掌をおどしづける「寃勘」こと<u>を</u>禁止すべき事

右、丹波・伊豫・土左などの国は解を得って、言ったことには:「調庸の雑物の貢進は期限が定めている。その期限をまもらないと、それは違犯であると決まってある。。 而かるに今、件の徴物使等多く黨類集どい。郡司の雑掌 京 入 之日候じて、各の競いて 党 数 す。先に前の年の分と言い、その官物を無理に矢理とってしまう。次で土毛と稱し 私粮を掠奪す。縱し其の求め叶ずんば遂に 凌 轢 を加う。爰に郡司が身の辱しめを免がれんが爲偏へに公損を忘れ。或いは納官の内を折ぐ 徒 に賂遺の贈にいたす O。或いは封戸の物を取り還えして本家の費に致す。

[Part II missing]

[英]

The Council of State orders:

<u>That</u> false <u>accusations made</u> by tax_collectors <u>from</u> various government offices and noble households <u>against</u> district officials and <u>agents</u> delivering taxes shall be <u>prohibited</u>

As to this, petitions from Tanba, Iyo and Tosa provinces note the following: "There are deadlines for the delivery of taxes in kind, labor taxes, and miscellaneous tax goods. There is a long-standing law stating that missing these deadlines is a crime. However these days collection agents gather in menacing bands and wait for the day when tax-delivering district officials and agents enter the capital. They compete for their goods, and accuse them of various crimes. First they assess tribute goods (kanmotsu), calling it payment of back taxes. Then they take the tax-delivery district official's personal provisions, calling it special provincial levies. When the district officials refuse their demands, they become violent. To save themselves, the district officials ignore the public loss – some split up the goods to be given to the government, giving them out as bribes. Some take the goods due prebendal holders, diminishing the livelihood of that household. District agents are primarily to handle public documents rather than dealing with tax goods (zōmotsu). But during the interval when the district officials have not yet arrived [in

the capital], they too are subject to trumped up charges. So they use official tax rice for food and drink, and they use up their travel allowances for bribes. It is therefore hard [for both the tax delivery district officials and district agents] to fulfill their duties, and they flee home.

Completing collection of tax goods is difficult, and stagnation of paperwork stems from this.

Provincial governors are constantly limited by their term-end accounting reports (geyu), and district officials do not avoid punishment [either]. Why has there been no prohibition? Why is strictness abandoned in this case? What we ask is a judgment by the Council. Let these tax collectors be stopped, and let the district officials and tax delivery agents do their duty and deliver taxes. Then there will be no non-payment of tax goods or prebendal stuffs, and the provincial governor and district officials can avoid accusation of committing such crimes." [In response:] Minister of the Left {Minamoto no Tōru} received the royal edict and transmits it as follows: "Let it be as you requested. If there are any who go against this order and forcibly obstruct the delivery of taxes, arrest them and report it—and consider it a serious crime. Let the offices with jurisdiction exercise effective control and let the provinces do the same."

Kanpyō 3rd year (891) 5th month 29th day

PAGE 617-618

[原文]

太政官符

應停止諸院諸宮諸家不剥經國司召勘郡司雑色人等事

右得播磨國觧称。太政官度度·下山·近江·美濃·紀伊等國符称。彼國觧称。凡 処部非違國同処糺。若不糺劾法有罪料。而前件院宮諸家偏就田宅資財之事。不經國宰直 放家符。召捕郡司雜免人等。勘責禁固殆過囚人。或涉月不免已絶家業。或經日被繋遂弃 公務。加以為使之人多卛従類。追喚之間酷加陵轢。凢家長濁被召捕舉姻騒動。妻子流冗 親族逃竄。国司之政以誰辨行。望請。官裁。停止件事。若有強召。即捕身進上。謹請官 裁者。中納言従三位藤原朝臣諸葛宣。依請者。此国部内曠遠庶務繁多。而今郡司雜邑等犯 過有称強以召捕。是故可行之務自過時節。可貢之物既以懈怠。望請。官裁。準件等国。 為使来者捕身進上者。左大臣[藤原時平]宣。依請。諸国准此。

延喜五年八月廿五日

[訓読]

太政官符す

まさに諸院諸宮諸家、國司を經ずに郡司の雑色人等を召し勘えることを停止すべき事

右、播磨國の解を得るにいえらく<u>:</u>「太政官度度山城・近江・美濃・紀伊等の國に下す符いえらく「彼の國の解いえらく、「凡そ所部の非違は国司が糺す所<u>なり</u>。若し糺 効せざれば法に罪<u>を料こと</u>有り。而して<u>前の件</u>は院宮諸家が偏に田宅を資財<u>に就きて、でんたく</u>國宰を經ずに直に家に符を放<u>ち</u>、郡司の雑色人等を召し捕<u>る</u>。勘責は禁固<u>で、</u>始ど、囚人<u>に過ぎる</u>。或いは月渉りて免れず、已に家業が絶える。或<u>いは日を經て繋被</u>れ、

中納言従三位藤原朝臣<u>の諸葛</u>宣すらく。<u>「</u>請へに依<u>れ」てへり</u>。此の国<u>の</u>部内<u>は</u>曠遠なり、庶務繁多なり。而して、今郡司・雑色ら犯過有ると称し、強いて以って召し捕<u>らえば、</u>是の故行<u>ふべく務</u>め自ら時節を過ぎ、貢<u>べく</u>物、既<u>にを</u>以って懈怠す。望み請らく官裁。件らの国<u>準</u>え、使<u>として</u>来たる者身を捕<u>らえるものを</u>進上<u>せよ。」</u>てへり。

左大臣 [藤原の時平] 宣すらく。 「請えに依れ。諸国此れに准え。」

延喜五年 (905) 八月廿五日

[英文]

The Council of State orders:

That various princely, royal, and noble families should be made to cease their <u>calling up and investigating</u> of district official functionaries without consulting the provincial governor

As to the above, there has been a complaint from Harima province as follows: "Orders sent down from the Council of State to such provinces as Yamashiro, Ōmi, Mino, and Kii state: 'Complaints from these provinces say, 'As a rule, crimes falling within their jurisdiction should be corrected by the provincial governors. If they do not investigate and correct [the crime], that is itself a crime.' However regarding the previous matter, the royal, princely, and noble houses are determined to take the fields and houses as their own. Without going through the provincial governor, they send orders directly to the households, and they call up the various district officials and functionaries (for investigation). They judge those officials and functionaries harshly and make them into near prisoners. Some may spend a month without being let go. Their livelihoods (as district officials) cease and many abandon their official duties for days when they are so denied their freedom.

Moreover, many of <u>these</u> messengers command followers. <u>When they are assembled</u>, they resort to <u>harsh</u> violence. <u>And when</u> a household <u>head is himself arrested</u>, the household itself falls into <u>chaos</u>. Wives and children <u>are impoverished</u> and relatives flee. <u>Who is then to help</u> the provincial governor carry out his administration?

What we <u>ask for</u> is a judgment of the <u>government—let this sort of thing cease</u>. If there is <u>someone who takes (district officials and functionaries)</u> by force, then <u>that</u> person [should be] arrested and <u>sent up (to the capital).</u>

(In regards to all this, we again) appeal for a decision from the Council."

(In response to such please) the Middle Counselor Junior Third Rank Fujiwara Ason no Morokatsu (the Council minister in charge of this matter) declared: "This province's area is vast, and its government affairs numerous. However, even now some are claiming that district chieftains and low-level functionaries have committed crimes and using force to arrest them. And because of this, their duties are not carried out in time, and collections are ignored. We ask that there be a decision that affects all provinces. When such agents from the great houses come out, let them be arrested and sent up to the capital."

<u>In response [to this memorial from the Council]</u> Minister of the Left (Fujiwara <u>no Tokihira)</u> proclaims, "Let it be as requested, in every province."

Engi 5th Year (905), 8th Month 25th Day

PAGE 625 [原文]

太政官符

應禁断喫田夫魚酒事

右右大臣{藤継縄} 宣被俏[偁]。奉勅。凡制魚酒之状。頻年行下已訖。如聞。頃者畿内國司不導格旨。曽無禁制。囙茲殷富之人多畜魚酒。旣樂産業之易就。貧窮之輩僅辨蔬食。還憂播殖之難成。是以貧富共競竭己家資喫彼田夫。百姓之弊莫甚於斯。於事商量深乖道理。

亘仰所由長官嚴加捉搦。專富[當]人等親臨郷邑子細撿察。若有違犯者不論蔭贖隨犯决罰。 永爲恒例。不得阿容。

延曆九年(909)四月十六日

[訓読]

だいじょうかんぷ太政官符

うぉざけくらはしむるきんだん あたるの魚酒 喫 禁断に応る事 田夫の魚酒

い下し已に訖ぬ。如聞、 「頃者畿内國司格の旨を導ず。 たくわえる すで さんぎょう しゅう えきらく? ひんきゅう ともがら わずかそしょく そなへ かえって人多く魚酒畜える。既に産業の就は易楽。貧窮の輩に僅蔬食を辨。還って はんしょく かし なんゆう ひんぷ きそい かし つくし でんぷきっす 播殖を成すに難憂す。是を以て貧富共に競い、すでに家資を竭し、彼田夫喫す。百姓 の弊に於て斯れ甚しきなし。事に於て商量深く道理を乖く。よろしく所由を長官に おおせ そくじゃく もっぱらふじん みずからきょうゆう みおろしてしさい 仰せ、嚴しく捉搦を加え、専ら富人等親郷邑を臨して子細を検察すべし。若し違犯 有らば蔭贖論せず犯隨って決罰せよ。永く恒例と爲せ。阿容を得ず。

延曆九年(909)四月十六日

[英文]

Order from the Council of State

That the fêting of field workers with fish and sake should be prohibited

The Minister of the Right (Fujiwara no Tsugunawa) proclaims, "The royal order states: 'The rule against (the fêting of field hands with fish and sake) has already been handed down many times. However we have heard 'Of late provincial governors of the five inner provinces do not follow the purport of the supplementary laws and there are no prohibitions (being enforced) whatever. As a result, wealthy people pile up fish and sake and enjoy ease in their livelihoods (because they can hire workers easily). But the poor can only provide simple food, and as a result they worry over the difficulty of planting (their fields). So do the wealthy and the poor compete with each other, using up their household resources to feed field workers. There is nothing worse than when people starve. Having given this serious consideration, we find that this runs deeply counter to the way things should be. Let the official in charge resort to strong measures. Those in authority must oversee the countryside and investigate in detail. If there are crimes, no special privileges⁴ will apply, and the punishment must be decided according to the crime. This shall become the practice going forward. Do not be swayed by flattery.""

Enryaku 9th year (909) 4th month 16th day

⁴ 蔭贖