

## Document 6 - Effects of the Meiji Restoration

...Nights became bright with gas and electric lights. Diseases long regarded as incurable surrendered to improved medical science. Travel became immeasurably easier with the introduction of railways and tram-cars...

...My sister and I wore Western clothes. They were made by a tailor who catered to foreign customers. I was made to wear a high, stiff collar and broad "Bohemian" tie with my suits and suffered agonies of embarrassment when other children poked fun at me...

...Vehicles rumbling through the often unpaved streets of Meiji times were also interesting, not least because the types were constantly changing. Government leaders, business leaders, and the wealthy owned splendid private carriages and well-groomed horses in the European style. For the common people, there were the horse-drawn omnibuses, or trams, called "entaro-basha," and these were much more humble affairs.

...Change was the one constant of Meiji times, however, as the horse-drawn trams were replaced by electric trolleys. They had much the same shape as the horse-drawn vehicles, but their source of power was fascinating to the public...

...Rickshaws were powered by human muscle; trams, by horses. Anyone could see that. But what was the invisible source of energy for electric streetcars? So the people called the newfangled transportation "horseless horse-trams." And they were really amazed at the innovation.

Amazement. There was a lot of that in Japan for those of us who shared the fantastic Era of Meiji...