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PRISONS OF THE NAGAOKA AND MATSUYAMA CLANS DURING THE TOKUGAWA ERA

by *Yutaka Tezuka*

Ninsoku-Yoseba (人足寄場), or the first prison of the new kind, was established in the second year of *Kansei* (1790) in *Yedo*, Japan, as a place where prisoners were treated under the modern imprisonment system. Since then the same type of prisons have been established in the various places throughout Japan.

Although these prisons were similar to those of Europe, no relationship has been found between them up to now. However, the writer discovered the fact that the prison established by the *Matsuyama* (松山) Clan in the fourth year of *Kaei*, around 1851, was designed and modeled after the western prison system by *Hokoku Yamada*, who was an admirer of the Western system. Another finding is that *Tsugunosuke Kawai*, disciple of *Hokoku*, established the prison of the *Nagaoka* (長岡) Clan which was modeled after that of the *Matsuyama* Clan.

In this article, the writer discusses these new findings emphasizing that the prisons which introduced the European prison system were in existence even in the *Tokugawa* Era.
