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THE KAIIN-KYOKAI.

(The Mercantile Marine Officers' and Engineers' Association)

(I) THE HISTORICAL NOTES.

On the 29th of February, 1896, at about the same time that the Japan Shipowners' Federation was founded, an organisation named the " Kaiin Club " (The Mercantile Marine Officers' Club) was established at Kobe. That was the origin of the " Kaiin-Kyokai " and also the first seamen's organisation ever founded in Japan.

Its chief aims were to protect the professional interests of members and to improve the status of the merchant officers in general.

The progress of the organization was remarkable and in less than a year about one thousand captains, mates and engineers were enrolled as members, and gradually gained recognition in the social life in Japan.

In 1902, the members contributed the funds necessary for the purchase of spacious grounds in some favourable locality of the city of Kobe (the present site), and there they erected a fine building as the permanent headquarters.

Although the organisation experienced various difficulties, especially during the heavy slump following the Russo-Japanese War, the then leaders and Officials found their way