Contents

Acknowledgments ix

Introduction 1

CHAPTER ONE
Mayor Straw Sandals: Kamata Sannosuke and the Meibōka Ideal 12

CHAPTER TWO
The World Turned Upside Down: Hydrological Conflict and the Transformation of Local Leadership 37

CHAPTER THREE
A Harvest of Knowledge and Ambition: Rōnō and the Rise of Agricultural Associations 66

CHAPTER FOUR
Fighting the Farmers for National Wealth: Landlord Meibōka and the New Agricultural Order 102