

took place in connection with that disallowance. One finds a letter from the Japanese consul in Vancouver to the governor general, complaining about the British Columbia act. Then one finds correspondence between the governor general and the colonial secretary, who was no other than the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain. One also finds a dispatch from Mr. Chamberlain to the governor general, dated the 20th of July, 1898, which began—I am quoting from “Provincial Legislation, 1896 to 1920”, volume 2, at page 542:

My Lord, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches of the numbers and dates noted in the margin, in which you forwarded copies of various communications received by you from the Japanese consul for Canada respecting the anti-Japanese legislation recently passed by the legislature of British Columbia.

The second paragraph asks that various documents be forwarded to Mr. Chamberlain, and the third paragraph, which is the significant one, reads:

In the meantime I have to request that you will impress on your ministers—

That is, upon the dominion ministers.

—that restrictive legislation of the type of which the legislation in question appears to be, is extremely repugnant to the sentiments of the people and government of Japan, and you should not fail to impress upon them the importance—

Here is where Mr. Chamberlain showed the Canadian government the way out:

—you should not fail to impress upon them the importance, if there is any real prospect of a large influx of Japanese labourers into Canada, of dealing with it by legislation of the dominion parliament on the lines of the accompanying Natal Act, which is likely to be generally adopted in Australia.

He enclosed a copy of the Natal Act, and by the way that act was adopted in Australia and as a result Australia went into this war with Japan with fewer than 2,400 Japanese in the whole Australian commonwealth, while in British Columbia alone we had almost 24,000.

The effective portion of the Natal Act is in section 3, subsection (a). Section 3 deals with prohibited immigrants, and subsection (a) reads as follows:

Any person who, when asked to do so by an officer appointed under this act, shall fail to himself write out and sign, in the characters of any language of Europe, an application to the colonial secretary in the form set out in schedule B of this act. . . .

Joe Chamberlain suggested to the dominion government in 1898 that it should pass a Natal act. Had that been done, there would to-day be no Japanese problem facing Canada. But for some reason or another the dominion gov-

ernment failed to pass a Natal act. The British Columbia government, when it found that it got no help from the dominion, itself had a Natal act passed through the legislature in 1900 entitled, “an act to regulate immigration into British Columbia”, and it contained a European language test of the type set out in the Natal Act.

Again there was correspondence. The Japanese consul wrote in to the governor general; correspondence with the colonial secretary followed, and in due course, in 1901, the act was disallowed by the dominion government.

Again, in 1902, the British Columbia legislature passed the same act, and again it was disallowed by the dominion government. In 1903 they passed the same act for the third time, and again it was disallowed. In 1904 the act was passed again by the British Columbia legislature. During all this time the letters from the Japanese consul were becoming more insistent. We find this in his letter in 1904. I quote from page 645 of the same volume:

I see no reason why the British Columbia legislature is so very persistent in taking such high-handed and unfriendly measures against the Japanese people, and why this act should be tolerated—

Tolerated, mind you!

—to any length of time, without being disallowed.

Well, the dominion government disallowed it in 1904. Again in 1905 the British Columbia legislature passed the same act, and it was disallowed. In 1908, for the sixth time, the British Columbia legislature passed the same act, and it was duly disallowed by the dominion government.

About that time there were riots in Vancouver. The Japanese had been coming in by the thousands, and riots broke out. As a result, the dominion government negotiated a gentlemen's agreement with Japan which was known as the Lemieux act, and which by the way has not yet been tabled in this house. Under that agreement 400 Japanese labourers were allowed to come into Canada each year. Subsequently, in 1929, a variation in the agreement was negotiated which reduced that number to 150. All this time the Japanese were coming in.

I have no intention now of going into the reasons why the British Columbia people fought the entry of the Japanese. The house has heard them many times, and I shall not repeat them to-night. During all these years British Columbia members of parliament without, I think, one exception, have been pleading with the other members of this house for help in facing this Japanese problem. I have been