

as to whether the Japanese Government held itself bound by all the engagements made by Mr. Nossé on its behalf. My hon. friend contended that Japan was bound. He asserted that the official status of the consul general was sufficient to give credit to these assurances. He put forward in one part of his speech the remarkable reason that these assurances were given upon paper bearing the impress of the Imperial Government of Japan. That would be, indeed, a far reaching argument if it were carried to its legitimate conclusion, and I presume my hon. friend the Postmaster General would not be disposed to lay too much stress upon it. But if this Government were entitled to accept the assurance of Mr. Nossé, as the Postmaster General declares, I would like to point out that Mr. Nossé, in 1903, made a very important statement which would have justified the Government in concluding that Japan was then willing to accept the treaty subject to the stipulation to which it had agreed in 1896. On the 30th of March, 1903, Mr. Nossé addressed a communication to the Prime Minister. This communication was not brought down in 1906; it is included, however, in the further return which has been laid upon the table of the House during the present session. It reads as follows:

March 30th, 1903.

Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier,
Premier and President of the Council,
Ottawa.

In answer to my cablegram to the Imperial Japanese Government advising them to continue the policy of restricting their people emigrating in any large number into British Columbia, I have received a cable instruction to the effect that I have to give your Government the renewed assurances that the Japanese government are not desirous of forcing their people into British Columbia against the wish of the province, and that they are willing to enter into an agreement with your Government by which they may bind themselves, if their present policy of rigid restriction is not deemed satisfactory to your Government.

T. NOSSE,
Consul General of Japan.

If that means anything it means that the Government of Japan, in March, 1903, would have been perfectly willing to have