

Japan in Canada had promised they would be restricted. All the assurances of Japan, all the assurances given by the consul general of Japan and accepted by the government here, were carried out. Then we had a series of letters read by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Lemieux), making a connecting chain showing that these assurances were persisted in and would be carried out in the future as they had been in the past. These facts were all present in the minds of the government and the minister.

My hon. friend (Mr. Borden) has referred to the message from the Colonial Secretary and has accused this government of having practically forgotten so important an issue in a treaty between Canada and Japan. I do not take that view at all. I do not believe that the government forgot or overlooked in any way that issue. But the question which this government had to face was this: If we are to enter into this treaty with Japan, we have to rely on the good faith of Japan that she will restrict emigration into British Columbia. If we ask for more, we shall not get it, and may as well abandon the idea of entering into a treaty with Japan at all. Of course we are all wiser after the event than before, but I would point out that, up to the time when they were in active negotiation over this treaty we find that Japan had kept her promise and restricted within the number she undertook to do through her consul general. Then it was a question, as it would be with us if we were considering it to-day, whether we were prepared to accept that treaty with Japan, relying on her good faith to carry out in the future, as she had in the past, the promises given us. Or should we refuse the treaty altogether. It was either the one or the other because the correspondence brought down and read by the Minister of Labour shows clearly that the Japanese government would not consent to a clause in the treaty which would practically discriminate against her people as compared with the people of other nations. Therefore the criticism of the hon. the leader of the opposition can only hold provided there was any reasonable doubt in the minds of the government of Canada as to whether or not Japan would continue to maintain her restriction of emigration to Canada. Let us then see how these assurances were carried out by her.

Until some time in the summer of 1907 there was no complaint that these regulations were not being carried out. At that time, suddenly there was a large influx of Orientals, both Japanese and Hindus. The people of British Columbia became alarmed, and very rightly so. They saw at once that there was something wrong; that either the Japanese government was deliberately disregarding the assurances it had given by its consul to the government of Can-

ada, or there was an evasion in some way. And, naturally, the people of British Columbia became very much excited, and telegrams and resolutions were sent to the Prime Minister of this country, some asking him at once to cancel the treaty; others asking him to convene a special session of parliament to pass the Natal Act, and others of an equally direct nature. Now, in view of the feeling of the people of British Columbia, I do not blame any of the bodies or citizens that sent any of these telegrams or resolutions. At the same time I think it is well for Canada that we had a Prime Minister who, notwithstanding the pressure, notwithstanding the excitement that existed, could go about the remedying of the evil in a calm, though active, manner. Canada has assumed a position among the nations of the world, and we cannot act like a petulant child—she cannot enter into a treaty one day and cancel that treaty with a stroke of the pen the next day. We must have broader views of national matters than that. Our Prime Minister had those views. He took the only course he could take as Prime Minister of a great country—that of immediately going to the root of the trouble and applying the remedy there. In pursuance of that policy the Minister of Labour was sent on a mission to Japan. Before dealing with that part of the case, I may say that I do not consider the signing of that treaty between Canada and Japan is at all the reason for the great influx of orientals into Canada at that time. That influx was brought about by the commercial conditions of the country. We had very large railway enterprises in the western portion of Canada in course of carrying out, and I contend that had the conditions been the same at any previous time there would have been the same influx of Japanese into British Columbia then that there was in 1907. Had the conditions been the same before the signing of the treaty, there would have been the same influx that there was after the signing of the treaty.

Now, let us see how the Japanese carried out their restrictions, even after the treaty of 1907, as set out in the report of Mr. Mackenzie King, a report which, I am sure, not only every member of this House, but every person in the country, will recognize as one dealing fairly and impartially with the question, and, at the same time, one that is ably compiled and very clear. At page 19 of that report, Mr. Mackenzie King, speaking of Japanese labour coming from Japan, says:

On the other hand it is to be remembered that they were not without powerful Canadian interests behind them when they went to Japan, that they had in their possession documents which indicated the need and the desire for Japanese labour in this country, that they were able to afford assurances that for this labour employment would be immediately