

bia especially, to the fact that Japan and its government have themselves taken the initiative in this respect and actually restricted emigration from Japan to Canada.

The 'Evening Post' of New York contains an article on this subject, which has been reproduced in the weekly edition of that paper the 'New York Nation,' and which I might read to the House as an evidence of what I am now saying.

The article in the 'Post' goes on to speak of the restriction by the Japanese government of immigration to the United States :

That is the actual order issued by the Japanese government restricting the number of emigrants to Canada to ten per month or one hundred and twenty per year. In the face of this condition of things, I think my hon. friend (Mr. Morrison) will find that it is not necessary to adopt an amendment which, if adopted, might lead to serious international difficulties, and which, if not adopted, will not affect the case, as the point is covered already by the action taken by the Japanese government.

And my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) spoke in this House on the same subject in 1903, after his return from Japan, where, I understand, he was invested with something akin to the functions of an ambassador. I asked him this question :—

Before the hon. gentleman sits down I would like to ask if he was able to make such observations of the social and economic conditions as would justify him in coming to a conclusion with respect to the effect that extensive emigration from Japan might have upon our conditions in Canada.

The hon. gentleman replied :

I am satisfied, in the first place, that there will be no such emigration from Japan. The Japanese are home-loving people and have abundant opportunity for progress and industry in their own country. The Japanese government itself forbids the emigration of anybody from the country without a permit, and for several years past they have refused to issue a permit to any Japanese to come from Japan to Canada, who is a labourer or of the ordinary labouring class. Permits are issued only to merchants, students and travellers.

Mr. CLANCY. Did that extend to emigration to any other country than Canada?

Mr. FISHER. The system extends to every country. No Japanese can leave his own country without a permit from his government. The government there, in accordance with negotiation with our government, issued orders, I think, about two years ago, that for the future no permit should be given to a Japanese, except the classes I have mentioned, to go to Canada, and that has been strictly maintained to the present time. I had the assurance of the government there, personally and in writing, that that policy would be maintained.

So that there was a definite assurance given to the Canadian ambassador, not only personally but in writing, that that policy of the Japanese government would be per-

sued in the future as it had been for some time in the past. Then the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) continued :

My hon friend spoke about the possibilities of industrial invasion. I consider that there is no prospect of that. The Japanese are a home-loving people, proud of their nation, proud of their empire, and a most devoted patriotism seems to inspire them, from top to bottom of every class, men, women and children.

Then my right hon. friend the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), when the Japanese treaty was passed last session, said this :—

At present the Japanese government do not allow emigration from their own provinces, with the exception of a very few from each province. I think not more than four or five from each province. That is all the Japanese permit to leave the Empire of Japan, and therefore practically there has been no emigration to British Columbia from that country.

Under these circumstances, with this information before the House, and in this light, the Japanese treaty was ratified by the parliament of Canada. Either the government was under some misapprehension or deceived parliament. Either the government deceived parliament when it said that such an assurance had been given by the Japanese government in that regard, or the government is in a position to call for the abrogation of that treaty on the ground that the Japanese have not carried out their assurances. Apparently the Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux) has gone to Japan in view of some such situation, and we ought to have from the right hon. the First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) a statement of the exact object of his mission and the position this matter occupies.

Now, the speech from the Throne refers us to another subject of considerable importance to the people of this country, and that is the financial stringency which prevails throughout Canada at the present time. I observe one peculiarity in the reference in the speech from the Throne to that stringency. In any reference to the prosperity of the country such as have often appeared in speeches from the Throne in bygone years there has never been much suggestion that that prosperity was world-wide. But I observe the remarkable care with which the world-wide character of this stringency is pointed out :—

The Dominion has been blessed by a long series of prosperous years, and, though at the present moment its business is being restricted by the financial stringency which prevails throughout the world, I feel assured that this unfavourable condition will be temporary and that the illimitable resources of Canada and the world-wide recognition of them give us ample guarantee of continued material progress.