

would have reserved to Canada necessary control over immigration. The second reason assigned is as follows:

"It is doubtful whether Japan would now agree to a treaty "on any other basis than the proposals contained in the "original treaty."

What was the ground for that doubt? Japan had consented to the protocol in October, 1896, and this Government had it open to them at all times between October, 1896, and September 25, 1907, to accede to that treaty, with a stipulation ensuring to Canada control over immigration. For what reason is it to be said that there was any doubt? At all events, assuming that there was doubt, would it not have been prudent and statesmanlike, before plunging into such a treaty, to make at least an attempt, and, after ascertaining what the conditions were, to come to Parliament and by discussion discover whether or not the true voice and spirit of this country was in favour of abandoning control of immigration from Japan in order to secure any commercial advantages which would accrue to us from the treaty?

Now, we have heard a good deal about assurances, and we have had much oratory from my hon. friend the Postmaster General as to the spirit in which these assurances have been carried out by Japan. I do not desire to controvert these statements in the slightest degree. But I am prompted to observe that these assurances, as I understand the matter, were conveyed to the Government by the Consul General of Japan, Mr. Nossé, who formerly resided in Montreal and afterwards in Ottawa. I have yet to learn that a consul general has any diplomatic functions or status which could have justified our Government in accepting Mr. Nossé's assurances. Why, the very first duty of a new ambassador—and an ambassador has a high diplomatic status—upon his arrival in the country to which he is accredited, is to present his credentials, sometimes with a further statement of his powers. These powers are narrowly and closely examined, and no engagement made by him outside of his powers is accepted by the country to which he is accredited.

So far as Mr. Nossé is concerned, any elementary book on international law, all the standard authorities on international law lay it down as beyond question that a consul has no diplomatic status, he has no apparent authority to enter into an agreement of this kind. I could get no answer from the Postmaster General