

"States, and that they desire a further definition of the word 'labourers' by adding thereto the words 'including artisans.' "

And on the 7th of February, 1896, the Japanese Government acceded to that request except so far as the word 'artisans' was concerned. I will read that portion, which relates to this particular subject, of the despatch of the British ambassador at Tokio to the Marquis of Salisbury, then Foreign Minister for Great Britain. The despatch is under date February 7, 1906, at Tokio, and it contains the following:—

"His Excellency (that is, the Japanese Foreign Minister) produced a written memorandum, the terms of which were to the purpose that the Japanese Government were willing to agree that Canada, in signifying her adhesion to the treaty, might do so with a proviso that the stipulation of the treaty shall not in any way affect the laws of either country in regard to the immigration of labourers, and further, that the treaty should cease to be binding six months after notice to terminate it had been given by either side."

So there was a complete assent by the Japanese Government to the demand of the Canadian Government, except that at that time they did not consent that the word 'labourers' should be expanded by adding thereto the words 'including artisans.'

The British ambassador, on February 10, 1896, following the suggestion of Canada in that regard, inquired of the Government of Japan whether they were willing to make the same arrangement with other self-governing dependencies of the Empire. On the 19th of March, 1896, the Japanese Government, in reply to this inquiry, expressed its consent to the adhesion of all the other self-governing colonies on the same terms as Canada, but continued to object to the addition of the word 'artisans.'

On the 15th of July, 1896, Mr. Chamberlain, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, sent a dispatch to the Governor General inquiring whether the Government of Canada would adhere to the Japanese treaty. The Conservative Government had just gone out of power and my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) had assumed the reins of office. On the 29th of July Sir Richard Cartwright, then Minister of Trade and Commerce, submitted a report to the Privy Council. I will not read the whole of that report, but I will read a portion because it is rather im-