

CHOSE BETTER OF TWO WAYS IN SETTLEMENT OF ORIENTAL QUESTION

Statesmanlike Summing Up of
Japanese Problem by Sir
Wilfrid Laurier.

(Special Correspondence).

Ottawa, Jan. 28.—The House of Commons yesterday, by an overwhelming majority, fifty-five in fact, endorsed the means adopted by the government for the settlement of the Asiatic immigration question. The debate was a lively one, centering around an amendment introduced by the leader of the opposition protesting (to use the precise verbiage) "against a policy which cannot be protected from destructive invading competition except by entreating the forbearance and aid of a foreign government."

This, of course, was nothing less than a "want of confidence" motion, but it was something more. It was a fragment red herring dragged across the trail to confuse the public as to the attitude of the Conservative party with respect to the immigration question, and these negotiations. Did anybody rise among the opposition to suggest the denunciation of the treaty? Oh, no. Mr. Borden and his friends knew that in 1905 they voted for the ratification of the treaty with an alacrity that seemed to carry a reproach that it was not placed before them sooner. As for Mr. Foster, at that time he felt grieved that the government should have waited so long before taking advantage of the treaty. The gentlemen did not worry much over the immigration question those days, because that was two years ago and there was no political agitation in sight. And in those days, also, Mr. Foster had not developed his anti-Asiatic idea, for he has long notoriously stood for an open door policy.

In yesterday's debate excellent speeches were delivered by Messrs. Gallihier, Macpherson, Smith, Ross and Kennedy, who urged that the arrangements made by the government for the settlement of the immigration question be approved by the House. The opinion that the result would be satisfactory to the people of British Columbia, particularly.

Besides Messrs. Borden and Foster, a number of opposition members spoke. Some of them, probably, have never seen a score of Asiatics in their lives, and know as much about them as the inhabitants of Terra del Fuego, but they felt that for the welfare of the country and the Empire they must say something. If the debate showed anything it was the utter irresponsibility of the opposition in important matters of this kind. Its members can say anything because its chief prerogative (as exemplified by Dr. Sproule) is to talk but the people of this country and especially of British Columbia, must deplore anything like insincerity in the consideration of a matter of so much moment to them.

The speech of the premier was, as usual, broad and statesmanlike. That it impressed the House was indicated by the frequent interruptions of cheers and applause. Mr. Speaker, though it must be my duty, in a few observations which I have to offer to this House, to take issue with my hon. friend the leader of the opposition, with which he favored the House and upon the resolution which he has placed in your hands, yet I am free to confess that I welcome appreciation both of the speech and the resolution, because both present, in a clear line of cleavage, the policy of the opposition upon this most important question. In the object which both parties to the debate have in view, the difference is in the method. The policy of the hon. gentleman, the policy of his party, settled many years ago, re-affirmed on this occasion, is to obtain restriction of Japanese immigration to our shores by hostile legislation of this parliament, with all the consequences of hostile legislation upon the part of the Japanese government. It is to obtain the restriction of Japanese immigration to our shores, not by hostile legislation, but by the voluntary, friendly action of the Japanese authorities themselves.

Sir, in a few words this is the line of cleavage between that side of the House and this side. And now it will be my duty to proceed to give to the House the motives, the reasons and the results of our policy; and when this is done I shall be content to leave the whole question to the judgment of the members of this House and of the people of this country.

Sir, the central fact in this question, around which all other considerations revolve, is the fact that in all countries where the Caucasian race and the Oriental races come together there is at once an antagonism. There is a sharp, well-marked antagonism against the all white race against the Mongolian race. Of this fact we have been well aware for a long time; but the fact has been still more clearly put before us in the admirable speech of my hon. friend and colleague the postmaster general just a week ago to-day. My hon. friend, during the course of his observations, dilated at some length, though certainly not at too great a length, upon this aspect of the question. He gave us valuable information, until then unknown to us, though we have had on this point information from our colleagues from British Columbia. For my part, I had believed, as had many others, that there was at the bottom of this question of Asiatic labor problem, I had thought, and many others had thought, that white laborers objected to associating themselves with Oriental laborers on account of their different mode of living. But we know that there is another consideration which extends far beyond the labor problem.

The population of British Columbia is a small population as yet. The flow of

immigration from Europe has not yet reached the province by the Pacific ocean. The population of that province is small and sparse, and there is an apprehension which we can all share, that if the current of immigration from Asia were to be allowed to flow in free and unchecked, the balance of power might pass from one race to the other. This is a problem, Sir, which no government in this country can afford to ignore. This is a problem which has engrossed the attention of all governments from the early days of confederation to the present day. It is a problem which may say from this day forward, British Columbia's admission into this union of provinces. This problem, difficult at all times and under all circumstances, has been made doubly difficult, ten times more difficult—in so far as Japan is concerned, by the fact that Japan has suddenly risen to the proportions of a first-class power.

Sir, everybody will concede that no history of the human race has been more remarkable than the sudden revolution which has changed the institutions of Japan. Japan up to fifty years ago was an isolated country, a country which suddenly became one of the world's greatest powers. When I say an isolated community, I do not use the expression, as I have said, to draw attention to the marked difference between Oriental civilization and Occidental civilization. The nations of the Orient have been, I might say, for centuries, in a condition of lethargic immobility. To-day their civilization is the same as it was two thousand years ago.

Their religious thought, their code of ethics, their methods of commerce, their modes of transportation, their system of education—all this is the same as it was 2,000 years ago. While the nations of the West have been constantly striving towards improvement and progress, the nations of the East have been content to remain just as they were, and the result has been that in almost every walk of life they have been left steadily behind. But all at once, without any transition, Japan has risen from a condition of lethargy to a condition of actual activity and modern life. Japan has adopted our system of education, our methods of trade and industry, and in the art and science of war, both on land and sea, she has shown herself the peer of the most famous nations of the present day.

It is to the credit of Lord Lansdowne, of all the diplomats of Europe, that he was the first to recognize the possibilities of this change in the condition of Japan. Such was the importance that he attached, and rightly attached, to this change, that he expressed the opinion that the result would be satisfactory to the people of British Columbia, particularly. It had been the rule and tradition of British diplomacy that Britain was not to become entangled in any foreign alliance, that she would stand alone in her insular position, and be ready in all circumstances to take advantage of her opportunities without being tied by weighty alliances. But Lord Lansdowne attached so much importance to the new condition Japan had attained that in his mind what had not yet been the utter irresponsibility of the opposition in important matters of this kind. Its members can say anything because its chief prerogative (as exemplified by Dr. Sproule) is to talk but the people of this country and especially of British Columbia, must deplore anything like insincerity in the consideration of a matter of so much moment to them.

What is the condition, therefore, which has existed since 1905, is that under the treaty negotiated by Lord Lansdowne, it is possible, if unfortunately the interests of Great Britain are to be jeopardized in the Pacific ocean, we might see, should unfortunately we break out, the fleet of Japan and the fleet of England riding the waves together for a common purpose, and we might see the fleet of Japan and the fleet of England riding the waves together for a common purpose, and we might see the fleet of Japan and the fleet of England riding the waves together for a common purpose.

But though there may be treaties of defence, amity and peace, though on this occasion Japan and Great Britain proclaimed to the world that they were friends and prepared to fight, if need be, a common enemy, it is not to be expected that in the people, among all classes, high and low, the old feuds and antagonisms can disappear. We know, by the experience of the world, that antagonisms, especially those which have race for basis, are slow to die, and we know, moreover, accordingly. And we had a tangible proof of this when, in this year of 1902, the year when the treaty was concluded between Lord Lansdowne and Viscount Grey, the Japanese government, pressing than ever, from British Columbia for a law of exclusion against the Oriental races. The position we took on that occasion is well known. We have had hostile legislation in the request of British Columbia with regard to certain races of the Orient. But when it came to Japan we had to say that we could not comply with that request. We were pressed to introduce the Natal Act and we would not.

Under the Natal Act no people would be admitted to British Columbia unless they could speak some of the languages of Europe. That would be a direct slap in the face of our allies in Japan. But we entered into negotiations with the Japanese authorities themselves, through the instrumentality of Mr. Nossie, the Japanese consul, then in Montreal and since in this city. We represented to the Japanese authorities that although we were allies, we must know there were difficulties against their people coming to our country, where they could not expect to be received with the same favor. We knew that we could not prevent the clashing of race with race, and we asked the Japanese authorities themselves to restrict the immigration. And I am happy to say that the Japanese authorities, in these efforts, and the Japanese authorities consented to restrict immigration from their country. We have been asked in the course of this debate what was the authority of Mr. Nossie? Was he a plenipotentiary? Had he any letters of credit to present? The answer is easy. We have no accredited diplomatic agents in this country. It is to power to have any; but the fact that Mr. Nossie was authorized to give us the pledge he did, and the fact that in 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905 and 1906—there was

scarcely any immigration from Japan to British Columbia.

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Sir Wilfrid Laurier: Very well, let us say 2,000. How many of these went to the United States?

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Sir Wilfrid Laurier: More than one of them went to the United States; 2,000 landed in British Columbia, but the 2,000 did not remain in British Columbia; and if my hon. friend wants conclusive evidence, he has it in the fact that not a word of complaint came from British Columbia during those years.

A moment ago I stated that Japan had become a highly civilized country, so civilized indeed, so much in sympathy with the methods of the West, that she adopted this last product of European civilization. Japan had a universal exposition in Tokyo in 1903. Canada was represented at that exposition. We asked an appropriation from parliament, which was voted cheerfully without a word of dissent. Canada's exhibit made a most creditable showing. All the world was talking regarding it have been words of praise. So successful indeed was our exhibition at Tokyo that the business men, the merchants of Canada, not only the business men of Canada, but even those who are supposed to take an interest in the trade of Canada—and in those I would include even my hon. friend, the member for the district of St. John's—my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden)—all those pressed upon us the advisability of having a treaty of commerce with Japan. I thought that the time had come when we should endeavor to have such a treaty. For many years there had been a treaty of commerce between Japan and Great Britain. The treaty passed in 1854, which did not include Canada, but in which Canada might be included by her own will and consent. My hon. friend the leader of the opposition, who has the honor to be in the government, had a policy, and it was that if Canada were to be included in that treaty Canada should reserve the right to refuse to accept the treaty. Immigration. He quoted the order in council passed in August, 1905, the conclusion of which is as follows:

"The minister submits that in the interests of the Dominion there should be a treaty of commerce with Japan, similar to that contained in the treaty between that country and the United States."

"Since the government of Canada, at that time, wanted to have a provision similar to that in the treaty between Japan and the United States, it is important to know what this provision was. It was in the following terms:

"It is, however, understood that the stipulations contained in this and the preceding article do not in any way affect the laws, ordinances and regulations which may be enacted with regard to the immigration of laborers, police and public security, which are in force, or may hereafter be enacted in either of the two countries."

Now, let me come back to the conclusion of the order in council, which I read, but which I must read again. The minister submits that, in the interests of the Dominion of Canada, there should be a provision in the treaty of Great Britain with Japan similar to that contained in the treaty between that country and the United States. He says that, when the adhesion of Canada is being given to the treaty, and express stipulation of this kind should be made, and that some definition should be given to the term "laborer," so that it will definitely include artisans.

"The committee advise that Your Excellency be moved to forward to a certain day of the minute to the Right Hon. Mr. Foster's principal secretary of state for the colonies."

This dispatch, covering the minute of council, was sent to the British ambassador at Tokyo. We have the observations of that ambassador upon this minute of council. This is set out in the dispatch of Sir Ernest Satow, February 7th, 1906. The hon. gentleman (Mr. R. L. Borden) was extremely chary in his quotation of this document. He should have quoted more than he did in order to get the true meaning that we know was taken by the Canadian government of this dispatch. The hon. gentleman (Mr. R. L. Borden) told us that the Japanese government were agreeable to inserting a provision under which we should reserve to ourselves the right to legislate against Japanese immigration and ask the Japanese government to do the same. We know, by the experience of the world, that antagonisms, especially those which have race for basis, are slow to die, and we know, moreover, accordingly. And we had a tangible proof of this when, in this year of 1902, the year when the treaty was concluded between Lord Lansdowne and Viscount Grey, the Japanese government, pressing than ever, from British Columbia for a law of exclusion against the Oriental races. The position we took on that occasion is well known. We have had hostile legislation in the request of British Columbia with regard to certain races of the Orient. But when it came to Japan we had to say that we could not comply with that request. We were pressed to introduce the Natal Act and we would not.

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side should be enabled to terminate the treaty by giving six months' notice. His Excellency said that it had seemed to the Japanese government that neither party should be bound for a longer period than was desirable, and therefore the term of one year, named in the United States treaty had been reduced to six months. I observed to His Excellency that the United States treaty, as it was originally drafted, stipulated for a duration of twelve years, and the stipulation reducing this period to one year had been made after the treaty was signed. It was expressly stated that the amendment in question had been proposed by the government of the United States. It would consequently appear that at the time of the negotiations with the United States the Japanese government were willing to concede a duration of twelve years, and that the Japanese government were willing to concede a duration of twelve years, and that the Japanese government were willing to concede a duration of twelve years.

It is obvious what was the reason why Japan, in the treaty with the United States, desired to limit its duration to twelve months in one case and six months in the other. Were the United States in a position to restrict immigration, immediately Japan would give notice of the termination of the treaty. And the reason is made all the more apparent by the very language of the dispatch which the hon. friend read, but the effect of which apparently escaped his attention.

"After some further conversation on this point, the minister said that he had received the memorandum had received the approval of the cabinet, he would give the matter further consideration, and that, for the present, he would reserve the right to refuse to accept the treaty. Immigration. He quoted the order in council passed in August, 1905, the conclusion of which is as follows:

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Careful tests have proved beyond question that orange juice has clearly defined medicinal virtues. Those who suffer with indigestion—are compelled "to diet"—find that after eating oranges regularly for breakfast there is no distress, no palpitation.

Wherever the tendency towards constipation, the eating of oranges regulated the bowels.

In skin troubles, those who began the morning meal with an orange were noticeably improved.

There is, however, a quicker way to get better results. This is to take one or two "Fruit-a-lives" tablets at bedtime before breakfast the next morning. "Fruit-a-lives" are the juices of oranges, apples, figs and prunes, in which the medicinal action is many times intensified by the special way of combining them. Valuable tonics are then added.

Take the juice of an orange before breakfast—take "Fruit-a-lives" at night—and you will quickly be rid of Indigestion, Stomach Troubles, Constipation and Biliousness. "Fruit-a-lives" are sold at 50c. a box—6 for \$2.50. Sent on receipt of price by "Fruit-a-lives," Limited, Ottawa.

of the opposition has indicated by his motion, we take another course. We negotiated with Mr. Nossie, we asked him if it were not possible to get the Japanese authorities to continue the understanding we had already with them, and this is the letter which we received from him, addressed to the minister of agriculture:

"Ottawa, Sept. 18th, 1905.

"Dear Mr. Fisher,—I am leaving this note with you as I will be absent for a few days from the city. I learned this afternoon from Hon. Mr. Scott, the secretary of state, that your government was going to exact from Japan a special concession on the subject of a party to the Anglo-Japanese treaty. Your government, I understand, proposes to restrict the immigration, coastwise navigation, and some other items. It is rather surprising to me that your government, in spite of your statement, is going to ask for such restrictions.

"The Japanese government will, I am afraid, never agree to such terms, and decline to entertain the question of allowing Canada into the party, if she will ask Japan to give her special concessions. Japan gives England the right of coastwise navigation, for instance, the Canadian Pacific railway steamers at present call at all the open ports in Japan, but Japan will never agree to give us the same privilege. Immigration will always be restricted voluntarily by Japan, and I do hope very much that Canada will depend upon our good faith and will not try to put any restrictions upon this privilege. The Queensland treaty is quoted, but this treaty does not now exist since her amalgamation into the commonwealth, and there is not any treaty at present between the colony and Japan.

"I hope you will do your best not to make any special proposal to the English government, else your endeavors will come to nothing in times of peace."

I am yours sincerely, "T. NOSSIE."

Now, we relied upon this assurance of Mr. Nossie, the same assurance we had before; we had the same ground for relying upon the assurance that the restriction of immigration would continue as it had during the past four years. But, unfortunately, this year we lived up to, and that the Japanese government was going to exact from Japan a special concession on the subject of a party to the Anglo-Japanese treaty. Your government, I understand, proposes to restrict the immigration, coastwise navigation, and some other items. It is rather surprising to me that your government, in spite of your statement, is going to ask for such restrictions.

Now, in face of all this we are told, "but why do you not do as the Americans do, insert a clause in your treaty reserving to yourself the power to restrict Japanese immigration?" Well, Sir, the answer is this: I claim that we are to-day in a better position than the Americans. The American government reserved to themselves the power to restrict Japanese immigration and, as I understand, they have availed themselves of this power, and because they have availed themselves of that power, they have had some trouble. We do not have any such trouble, but we know something about it.

Last spring, I think it was in April or May, Japanese children were not allowed the privilege of the public schools in San Francisco, and the Japanese government remonstrated with the American government, and considered it an unfriendly act. Of course, I may be doing it myself, but the American government acting altogether in their right in so doing, they could exclude Japanese from attending their schools; they could restrict Japanese from going into their country. They have done so. But if they do so, they do it at their peril, and that peril is the cancellation of their treaty with Japan. At this moment they are having trouble for that reason.

Does anybody in this House suppose that the Japanese people will allow American goods to enter their country freely at the preferred rate, while at the same time their own people are slapped in the face and rejected from American territory? Does anyone believe that if we had passed a treaty with such a proviso as there is in the American treaty, and if we were to exercise that power so provided for by an act of this parliament, and exclude Japanese immigrants from coming into this country—does anyone suppose that the Japanese government would endure such humiliation or that they would allow our goods to continue to go into their country under the benefit

of the treaty? Why, Sir, the thing is so clear that it is not necessary to discuss it. Japan is a proud country; she is willing to do voluntarily what we ask her to do, but she will not do it by compulsion in a treaty. So I say that at this moment we stand in a better position than do the Americans. We see to-day in the Evening Journal of this city a very suggestive telegram from Tokyo. It was quoted in a moment ago by my hon. friend from Vancouver, but I will quote it again:

"Tokio, Jan. 28.—Replying to interpellations in the Lower House of the Diet this evening, Foreign Minister Viscount Hayashi spoke at length on the foreign policy of the government, including negotiations with the United States and Canada.

"He announced that the Canadian question had been definitely settled, and read the correspondence with Hon. Rodolph Lemieux, the Canadian commissioner of labor, wherein Japan has agreed to restrict immigration to Canada within reasonable limits.

"Viscount Hayashi, continuing, said it was the duty of the central government to conserve the interests of Japanese subjects resident in other countries by preventing a further exodus of their countrymen which might be prejudicial to those already residing abroad, and the restrictions therefore would be extremely rigid."

So there is a difficulty between Japan and the United States, notwithstanding that the United States have power to restrict immigration, showing conclusively that, put any restrictions upon please in a treaty, you must always come back to diplomatic action to settle the questions of this kind. This is a policy which we have pursued. Now, we are in this position and it is very plain; we all desire in Canada to restrict Japanese immigration. All sides are agreed to that. I have stated more than once that I regret the condition of things which exists in British Columbia, but it is a condition of things which we are bound to respect, and which we must give heed to. We are prepared to do so. We are prepared on both sides of the House—at all events on this side of the House—to give reasonable and generous heed to the views of British Columbia upon this question. There are two ways of doing that. One way is the method of the opposition, which is to legislate which is embodied in his amendment. One way is to legislate against the Japanese and by an act of this parliament, by the will of the Commons, of the Senate and of the people of British Columbia, shall it be said in this parliament, are hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House to vote to-day that we shall admit Japanese into this country only when they come with a man-of-war in company with the British fleet in order to protect our shores, and that there shall be an enactment of parliament to prevent them coming in times of peace?

Is that the position which is taken by these hon. gentlemen? I have only this to say that I feel sure that when our action is known in British Columbia, when it is properly understood, when they know of the effort which we have made in order to bring about the result which they want to have brought about, they will be satisfied that our result has been brought about not by hostile legislation but by friendly conciliation.

HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF

Rival Conservative Association Starts Up in Bella Coola Valley.

(Special Correspondence).

Bella Coola, Jan. 25.—The annual meeting of the Conservative Association was held on Tuesday, Jan. 14th, at Hagensburg, the president being in the chair.

The principal business was the election of officers for the coming year, the result being the re-election of J. A. Sylvester as president, John Tongue as vice president, J. H. Lunnas as 2nd vice president, and C. Carlson, secretary-treasurer.

Many matters were discussed; one being the action of some Conservatives in the valley who are starting another association; the feeling of the meeting being that there ought to be only one association and no two.

Sleighing has been very good during the last few days, and very much freight, lumber, etc., is being moved. Mr. West, manager of the Olga mine, returned on the steamer Amur with a lot of supplies. The mine has started work with a full gang of men and the outlook is very bright indeed. This mine being close to the wharf, ore will be shipped very cheaply to the smelters. Some very rich samples of copper have been taken out.

Organ-grinders are not allowed to play in Vienna in the morning or evening—only between midday and sunset.

The sea is much more salt in the tropics than in the northern latitudes, owing to the greater evaporation.

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NATURAL GAS ON PASSENGER TRAINS

Recent Experiment Tried by C. P. R. Has Been an Entire Success.

The most important experiment yet tried by the C. P. R. for improving the lighting of its trains, has been successfully carried out by the use of natural gas. The object was to ascertain if the Pintch gas tanks on the passenger coaches could be charged with natural gas for illuminating purposes. The gas proved that it so commodated itself perfectly to the Pintch gas fixtures, and gave a far better light.

The car selected for the test was car No. 303, which was equipped with two standard Pintch gas tanks with a joint equalized capacity of 1,150 cubic feet, and sent to Medicine Hat. The tanks were charged with natural gas to a pressure of ten atmospheres at 140 lbs., with which the Pintch gas would light the car for thirty-six hours. The tanks were charged on Thursday at 11 o'clock and were unlit at 6 a.m. the following Thursday morning, thus demonstrating its superiority over Pintch gas by four hours. The Pintch gas inverted mantles were used in the test.

The test was made of the two gases used together, and this also proved successful. Coach No. 303 was charged Thursday afternoon and brought right through to Winnipeg, arriving there last night with the lights still burning. It is the intention of the C. P. R. to recharge all passenger coaches on the main line with natural gas. This will be the best advertisement possible for the wonderful gas fields of Western Canada.

The local C. P. R. officials in charge are much pleased with the experiment as it solves an important economic question. It is said a large plant for charging these tanks will be erected at Medicine Hat in the near future.

—The new Empress hotel has received a large consignment of palms from Santa Barbara, California, costing over \$900. One of the trees is an exceedingly fine specimen weighing about one ton and a half. These will be placed in the palm room of the hotel, which is becoming a very popular feature of the Empress.

DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS

ROSES—Just to hand—a large stock of roses, including the latest varieties, strong plants. Your choice. J. Flew's Gardens, 50 South P.

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