

The emigration of Japanese has for the present practically ceased, only fifty-six having arrived at Canadian ports in the last six months of 1901. This is doubtless owing to instructions given to local authorities by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs for Japan instructing them to prohibit entirely the emigration of Japanese labourers destined for Canada or the United States. The commission was favoured by a copy of these instructions, through the Japanese Consul at Vancouver, which is as follows:—

Department of Foreign Affairs,
Tokio, Aug. 2, 1906.

To the Governors of the Prefectures.

You are hereby instructed to prohibit entirely for the time being the emigration of Japanese labourers for the Dominion of Canada or for the United States.

VISCOUNT AOKI,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The commissioners appreciated that instruction and reported to this government that they did not consider it at all necessary to pass any legislation, so long as that understanding was maintained. The question, to all practical intents and purposes, was settled up to 1906. Speaking only for myself, I want to state plainly to this House that from the period when the \$500 head tax was imposed on the Chinese and from the time when there was an understanding between this government and the government of Japan, by reason of which no legislation was imposed against the Japanese—from that period up to last year, when the treaty was considered and endorsed, I am not aware that there was any serious Japanese or oriental question in British Columbia. Some will ask: Did not the legislature of British Columbia seek to impose restrictions during all this period? Is it not true that the legislature sought to impose regulations or restrictions, from year to year, during the very period when you say there was a complete settlement, and was it not through the influence of the imperial authorities on the Dominion government, that these provincial Acts were disallowed? I want to say that there was no public agitation in favour of any restriction against the Japanese during that period. I am not prepared to say that politicians in the local legislature were not making a political football of this question, but what I do say is that during the period I have stated, from 1902 to the beginning of 1907, there was no public demand for any increased restrictive legislation against orientals coming into British Columbia by public petition to representatives in the House of Commons. So far as I am concerned, I understand, when I endorsed that treaty in January, 1907, that it was in the public interest. I endorsed that treaty because there was no demand made upon me in my district in favour of increased restriction and because I under-

stood that that immigration was absolutely regulated by the understanding between the federal government and the government of Japan and that the practical results of that understanding were quite as effective up to that period as if there had been positive enactment. There is one thing more which it is important to mention. The Chinese question had become entirely obliterated, as the head tax had operated almost to their entire exclusion. Let me give the House the figure. The tax was imposed in 1903. In 1904, only three Chinamen came into British Columbia. Of course I am estimating the number of Chinese immigrants, by dividing the amount of tax collected by 500. There were only \$1,500 collected in 1904, which would give only three Chinese. There were only eight Chinese immigrants in 1905. In 1906 there were 22, and in 1907, 91. But from the first day of January, 1907, up to the end of October of the same year, I am surprised to find there were 829. Before I am through I propose to try to account for this sudden increase.

For five years it was almost prohibited by the passage of that law and the imposition of the tax almost completely stopped this immigration. But, in this present year we see that 829 Chinese have paid the head tax to get into Canada, a matter with which I shall perhaps deal later on. After the endorsement of the British treaty by this parliament a very sudden change occurred in British Columbia. The Hindoos had then been coming in for a year before, and their appearance created some excitement, but was never considered by the commercial and industrial interests of British Columbia generally as being as serious a question as the importation of Chinese or Japanese. There were two reasons for this: The Hindu was not as great a commercial advantage to the average employer, he was not as suitable a workman, he could not be employed with the same percentage of benefit and interest, and in the second place neither the conditions nor the climate nor the surroundings were suitable to the individual himself. Thus the competition of the Hindoos in British Columbia was never regarded as serious as Japanese or Chinese. But the strange thing is that in this very period of 1907 nearly 900 Chinese paid the \$500 head tax to get into British Columbia and enormous numbers of Japanese came in in the same period. I shall give to the House a statement to the immigration of orientals into Canada for the last seventeen months. According to my calculations and information gathered from the Immigration Department of the government, nearly 9,000 Japanese entered British Columbia in less than seventeen months, 1,000 Chinese came into British Columbia in the eight months of the present year and in the past seventeen months 4,080 Hindoos entered British