

against the Japanese, and this could never be attempted so long as Canada proposes to keep on friendly and trading terms with the most progressive people in the orient.

We must surely continue then to rely upon the word of our ally until that word be proven unreliable.

That is the position the Montreal 'Star' takes. The Toronto 'News,' which I believe is supposed to be independent but which is rather favourable to the leader of the opposition, has this to say :

Mr. Lemieux shows that from 1900 to October 1, 1907, the Japanese government's restriction of emigration had proved satisfactory even to British Columbia. Last year's influx was largely from Hawaii, a portion of the United States. Now that the Dominion government had shut this avenue of entrance, the situation would revert to that which existed prior to last autumn. For seven years the Tokio government had carried out its undertaking in good faith, and even the small influx direct from Japan was due to special representations made to the Japanese government by Canadian interests. Tokio agrees to suppress the emigration companies, and thus end the transfer of contract labourers to Canada.

The Toronto 'World,' a newspaper loyal to the leader of the opposition commends in very strong terms the satisfactory arrangement made by the Postmaster General. The Montreal 'Gazette,' a newspaper which is always orthodox Tory in its political views commends in the strongest possible terms the settlement made by the Postmaster General and asks that it be given a fair trial and that turmoil in connection with the question be discontinued. So that the leader of the opposition not only condemns himself for having agreed to the ratification of this treaty, but by the resolution he has introduced to-day he brings upon his head the condemnation of all the influential Conservative newspapers which have expressed their gratification and their pleasure at the satisfactory arrangement made by the Minister of Labour.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are two views to every question. We, in the province of British Columbia take one extreme view of this oriental question. The people of British Columbia are opposed to oriental immigration. The members from British Columbia have endeavoured in the House to impress these views upon the House; in their interviews with the government they have endeavoured to impress these views upon the government. On the other hand, the friends of hon. gentlemen opposite, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Canadian Pacific Railway and other organizations which are known to be not unfriendly to hon. gentlemen opposite, take the other extreme view. They believe that it is in the best interests of this country that it should be flooded with cheap labour. Between these two extreme views, the government

have taken, I believe, a course that will meet with the approval of the majority of the people of Canada, and will also meet the wishes of the people of British Columbia. In this connection I might be permitted to say that the right hon. leader of the government has, in his wise administration of public affairs always followed a course similar to that which he has adopted in connection with this question. His policy on other cognate questions has always resulted in the best interests of Canada. When we had to face questions that disturbed and aroused the passions and prejudices of the people; when we had to face questions of race and creed in this country, the right hon. gentleman always refused to accede to the extreme views of either one class or the other, and has wisely sought a middle course to bring about a settlement which would restore peace and harmony in the Dominion. In connection with this Japanese question, by diplomacy, by negotiations, by moderation, I believe he has succeeded in satisfactorily solving the difficulty, as he has succeeded in satisfactorily solving all other problems of a similar nature which have presented themselves since he has been head of the government. I believe, Sir, that a trial of the arrangement entered into will convince not only the people of British Columbia but the people of Canada, that it is the best and the happiest solution of this difficulty.

Mr. W. F. COCKSHUTT (Brantford). Mr. Speaker, the historical record of the negotiations between this country and Japan has been very fully placed before us this afternoon by the leader of the opposition. I believe, as others believe, that this question we are now discussing is not simply a provincial question; is not simply a matter for British Columbia, but is an economic question and a national question. It is a question which is certainly exercising the minds of the citizens of Canada generally. The records at our disposal (which I have only seen recently) contain some astounding information with regard to the negotiations up to the present time. The question is not a new one; it has been before this country since 1894. The negotiations that were entered into by the late Conservative government and the position, they took in the matter have been very fully dealt with to-day, so that it will be necessary to make but a brief allusion to them. In the order in council of the 3rd of August, 1895, we have a very full statement of the attitude of the Conservative government on the question of immigration from Japan and from the orient generally. That order in council is of great interest in the light of what has taken place since. When the present government came to power it had the advantage of all the information that had been gathered up to that time; it had the advantage of all the information that had been