

Sir Wilfrid Laurier conferred in Ottawa with Mr. Ishii, the Japanese Foreign Office representative who was in Vancouver at the time of the riots, and with Mr. Nosse, the Consul-General. On October 12, 1907, the Canadian Government appointed W.L. Mackenzie King, at that time Deputy Minister of Labour, as a Royal Commissioner to investigate the losses suffered by the Japanese in Vancouver; and announced that Mr. Rodolphe Lemieux, Postmaster General and Minister of Labour, would leave for Japan to discuss matters with the British Ambassador at Tokyo, Sir Claude Macdonald, and with the Japanese Government. Mr. Lemieux was accompanied by Mr. Joseph Pope. They remained in Japan some five weeks, and with the cooperation of the British Ambassador, and after conferences with Count Hayashi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and other officials of the Japanese Government, succeeded in negotiating what was afterwards known as the "gentleman's agreement" regarding Japanese immigration into Canada. Details for the implementation of this were subsequently worked out in Ottawa in 1908 between the Canadian Government and Mr. Nakamura, the new Japanese Consul-General. (1)

After the Conservative Government of Sir Robert Borden took office in 1911, the question of Japanese immigration, as well as of trade, was discussed for the next two years, in correspondence between Mr. Borden and Mr. Nakamura, and this led to vigorous controversy and

(1) See Woodsworth: Canada and the Orient. pp.79-80.