

this treaty; was there any business investigation made by this business administration as a result of which they could announce to parliament that it would be a wise policy for Canada to come under this treaty? They did nothing of the kind. They sat down apparently until August, 1897, and then for reasons set forth in the memorandum which has been read, they refused to bring Canada under the treaty, mind you, they had an opportunity at that time of bringing Canada under a treaty by which Canada to-day would be restricting or not restricting Japanese or any other immigration if she chose to do so, and this government declined to avail itself of that opportunity. I ask hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House: What reason was there that existed in 1897 why they should not have approved of that treaty reserving to Canada the right to deal with the immigration of Japanese labourers and artisans; what reason existed then that did not exist in 1907 when the treaty was signed? If it was a good thing for Canada to increase its trade with Japan, what change has taken place? What reason was there why it would not have been good business in the interests of the people of this country to have put this treaty in force ten years ago and obtained for Canada the benefit of that trade? I have not heard from the other side of the House one solitary remark which would tend to disprove the charge that the government has been derelict in its duty in not having brought that treaty into force at a time when they could have put it into force without injury to the people of this country and which if they had put it into force then, would have given us for these intervening ten years the benefit of this trade with Japan, if there is benefit in it. We find the present government not merely careless of the rights of the people of this country in not restricting immigration, but we have them careless of the financial and business interests of the country in not putting into force ten years ago a treaty which if it is good for Canadian trade to-day was at least as good at that time. I venture the statement that the most serious mistake this government made was that when in 1897 they had an opportunity of clearing up this matter once and for all, they had not the good sense to follow the policy which had been laid down by the previous Conservative administration, and which if followed would have left us our self respect, our full power to deal with immigration, and would have benefited the trade of Canada.

Leaving the year 1897, when the matter could have been properly adjusted so as to satisfy every interest concerned, the treaty stood over. But while it stood over there was a warning addressed to this government by the government of British Columbia on the 30th of April, 1897. On that

date the government of British Columbia memorialized this government and:

Respectfully requested that should the Dominion government decide to become a party to the treaty with Japan they will make such stipulation as will prevent unrestricted immigration of Japanese into Canada.

Therefore, as far back as 1897 this government had before it the policy of the previous Conservative government; it had before it the attitude of the people of British Columbia which has not changed; it had before it the memorial from the government of British Columbia; it had in fact the fullest possible warning that any government could have had, that if it entered into this treaty without reserving the right to restrict this immigration it was going to lead to trouble in Canada. Again in 1900 there was a petition of 2,167 residents of British Columbia to the Governor General which pointed out that between the 1st of January, 1900, and the 30th of April of that year, 4,669 Japanese landed in Victoria and Vancouver, and that the province seriously felt such an enormous immigration within such a short time.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman from Kootenay (Mr. Galliher) said there was no need for restriction up to the present time.

Mr. BRISTOL. I cannot agree with the hon. member (Mr. Galliher) in view of the facts before us. Of course, if you forget the facts you can argue any thing.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear hear.

Mr. BRISTOL. I dont wonder that the hon. members from British Columbia say 'hear, hear,' for if there ever was a case which they will have to forget the facts concerning this is it. But the people of British Columbia will not let them forget the facts and it is in the interest of the people of Canada that the facts should be placed before them.

Mr. MACPHERSON. Dont shed any tears about the British Columbia members.

Mr. BRISTOL. It must be objectionable to some of my friends opposite to have the facts brought out, and among these facts is a letter written on the 30th of March, 1903 by Mr. Nossé. Now, if I understood at all the argument of the Minister of Labour, it was, that the Canadian government had assurances both written and verbal that Japanese immigration would be restricted and kept within bounds. If I at all understood the argument of my hon. friend (Mr. Galliher) it was that this letter which was read by the Minister of Labour and I think quite properly read by him, meant nothing of the kind. The House will have to judge between the interpretation put on this letter by the Minister of Labour and the in-