

before them the option of absolute and unreserved adhesion, or of acceding to that treaty upon the terms already consented to by Japan, which would enable the Government of this country at all times to control the immigration of artisans and labourers from Japan. But the Government paid so little attention to the subject, they had this most important feature of the question so little in mind, that apparently they forgot all about the despatch of the Colonial Secretary. So that on the 5th September, 1905, nearly eight weeks afterwards, they sent a despatch through the Governor General to the Colonial Secretary to this effect:

"My Prime Minister earnestly hopes that you will press the "immediate entry of Canada into the Anglo-Japanese treaty."

They deigned no word of reply to the warning addressed to them by the Colonial Secretary as to control of immigration, it apparently passed out of their recollection, and some seven or eight weeks afterwards they sent that further despatch requesting that the British Government would press the immediate entry of Canada into the Anglo-Japanese treaty.

Well, Sir, if they were forgetful and unmindful of Canada's interests, the Colonial Secretary was of a different type. On the next day, September 6, he sent in reply the following telegram:

"London, September 6, 1905.

"In reply to your telegram received to-day please inform your "Prime Minister that before taking steps as regards adhesion of "your Government to commercial treaty with Japan, His "Majesty's Government awaiting reply to telegram of July 14.

"LYTTLETON."

A great deal is said sometimes—I think, on occasion, even by the Prime Minister himself—as to disregard by the Imperial Government of Canadian interests in the negotiation of treaties with foreign powers. Here was a case in which the British Government was endeavouring to preserve for Canada necessary control of immigration, and these gentlemen upon the treasury benches had so little regard to this subject, of transcendent importance, that they even forgot within six or seven weeks the warning which had been addressed to them on the subject by the Imperial Government.