

the complete enjoyment of the rights and privileges guaranteed by those stipulations when that would involve disregard of special conditions which may prevail in Canada from time to time.

Acting in this spirit and having particular regard to circumstances of recent occurrence in British Columbia, the imperial government have decided to take efficient means to restrict emigration to Canada. In carrying out this purpose, the imperial government, in pursuance of the policy above stated, will give careful consideration to local conditions prevailing in Canada, with a view to meeting the desires of the government of the Dominion as far as is compatible with the spirit of the treaty and the dignity of the state.

Although, as stated in the note under reply, it was not possible for me to acquiesce in all of the proposals made by you on behalf of the Canadian government, I trust that you will find in the statement herein made proof of the earnest desire of the imperial government to promote by every means within their power, the growth and stability of the cordial and mutually beneficial relations which exist between our countries. I venture to believe, also that this desirable result will be found to have been materially advanced by the full exchange of views which has taken place between us, and it gives me special pleasure to acknowledge the obligation under which I have been placed by your frank and considerate explanations regarding the attitude and wishes of your government.

I avail myself, &c., &c.,

(Sgd.) TADASU HAYASHI.

The Honourable Rodolphe Lemieux,
Postmaster General and Minister of Labour for Canada, Tokio.

Well, let us analyse this letter and see what there is in it.

First, there is the assertion of the full right and liberty of Japanese subjects to enter, travel and reside in Canada.

Second, there is the statement that it is not the intention of the Japanese government to insist upon the complete acknowledgment of its rights when that would involve a disregard of the special conditions prevailing in Canada from time to time. Who is to be the judge of these special conditions? Is it the government of Canada or the government of Japan? We are absolutely in the dark as to that. Why should special conditions in Canada, which ought to be the subject of regulation by the parliament and government of Canada, be a subject of appeal from this government to the government of Japan? Yet, that is the condition to which the affairs of this country have been brought by the adoption of this treaty without proviso.

Thirdly, he declares that the Japanese government has decided to take efficient means to restrict emigration to Canada so far as is compatible with the spirit of the treaty and the dignity of the state. Who is to be the judge of these matters? Is it the government of Canada or the government of Japan, and what are the efficient means

which are to be taken to restrict immigration? Are they to be efficient in the judgment of the government of Canada, or, are they to be efficient in the judgment of the government of Japan?

Fourthly, he declares that for this purpose the Japanese government will give careful consideration to local conditions in Canada. So that local conditions which should be the subject of observation, consideration and enactment by our own government and parliament have been transferred, by means of this treaty, to the Japanese government which graciously promises that it will, in future, for the purposes alluded to, give careful consideration to local conditions in Canada.

Now, I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that, by the action of the government in this regard, Canada has handed over to Japan that control of immigration which Canada herself ought to exercise, that the regulations governing immigration in future are to be Japanese regulations, that the control and policy are to be Japanese and that in case of difficulty our remedy and our only remedy, outside of the abrogation of this treaty, is by appeal to the Japanese government from time to time. The government of Japan can change its policy to-morrow. A new government might come into power within three months in Japan and that government might repeal every law on the statute-book in Japan with respect to the restriction of immigration, it might abolish every limitation which has been enacted by the present administration and we could, in three or four months, be in exactly back the same position as we were before the hon. Postmaster General went to Japan.

Of what avail after all are these assurances? Did we not have an abundance of assurances according to the view of this government, between 1900 and 1907? I have some of these in my hand. Let us look at them for a moment. In May, 1900, we were told that by an order of the Japanese government immigration to Canada had been limited to five per month for each emigration agent in cases of persons passing through the hands of emigration agents, and that the number of other immigrants had been limited to five per month for each prefecture. By a letter of the Japanese consul of the 7th August, 1900, it was declared that the Japanese government had entirely forbidden for the present emigration from Japan to Canada and also to the United States. It is perfectly obvious that that order must have been rescinded or otherwise we could not have had the immigration into this country which has prevailed during the past year. On the 3rd February, 1903, the Consul General for Japan, whose statements are regarded as official by this government declares in a letter to the Prime Minister that there is a total and absolute restriction of immigration from Japan to Canada by the