

brought down by the Government, for the reason as stated by the Prime Minister, that it is of a confidential character. It is clear however, that Mr. Wilkinson was an official of either the colonial office or the foreign office, and that he had made representations to the government of Great Britain which were considered of moment, and which were forwarded to the government of Canada in 1895. This order in council was not brought down with the papers which accompanied the Japanese treaty when that treaty was laid upon the table of the House last session. I looked over the files of that return; I found allusion to this order in council, and the Prime Minister was good enough to send me a copy on Saturday last when for the first time I had an opportunity of perusing it. The order in council is in the following terms:

ORDER IN COUNCIL.

August 3, 1895.

The committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a circular despatch, hereto attached, dated May 7, 1895, from the Most Honourable the Marquis of Ripon, transmitting copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's minister at Tokio, Japan, on the subject of the emigration of Japanese labourers to the British Colonies; and also an article from the 'Japan Daily Mail' newspaper, with reference to the trade between Japan and Australia.

The Minister of Interior to whom the despatch and its enclosures were referred, states that the only portion of the reference which is of vital consequence to Canada, is that which relates to the former mentioned subject.

The minister observes from the memorandum of Mr. Wilkinson of January 10, that in the treaty lately concluded between Japan and the United States, there is the following proviso: 'It is, however, understood that the stipulations contained in this and the preceding article do not in any way affect the laws, ordinances and regulations with regard to trade, immigration of labourers, police and public security which are in force, *or may hereafter, be enacted in either of the two countries.*' The corresponding clause in the treaty between Great Britain and Japan merely reads:—'Subject always to the laws, ordinances and regulations of each country.'

The minister agrees with Mr. Wilkinson's observations that this proviso 'could scarcely be appealed to as justifying either