

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I am not quite sure about these, I will inquire and let the hon. gentleman know to-morrow.

Mr. FOSTER. There are some returns that I have inquired about half a dozen times, and have not got them yet. One was from the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and the other from the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. BRODEUR. The return regarding my department is very voluminous, but it is being prepared.

#### SUPPLY—JAPANESE IMMIGRATION.

Mr. FIELDING moved that the House go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Carleton, Ont.). Before you leave the chair, I desire to address a few remarks to a subject that has already been discussed at considerable length in this House during the present session. My hon. friend the Postmaster General has lately returned from a mission to Japan, and he delivered in this House a week ago to-day a very eloquent speech, giving us an account of the result of his mission. My hon. friend always speaks gracefully and eloquently, and perhaps some of us might have entertained the wish that on that occasion there had been a little less eloquence and a little more information. He found himself constrained, no doubt for good reasons, to circumscribe considerably the information he gave on certain points which are of very material interest and importance to the people of this country at the present juncture. I do not, in the least, desire to be understood as reflecting upon the hon. gentleman in that regard, because, if one principle is to be more insisted upon than another in international dealings, it is that confidences of the character alluded to should be respected. I am alluding to this, however, for the reason that the action and attitude of the present government have brought our affairs in relation to Japan into such a condition that what would otherwise be necessary and desirable information was denied and necessarily denied, I presume, by my hon. friend the Postmaster General to this House on that occasion.

The hon. gentleman took great pains to justify the good faith and courteous attitude of the government and the people of Japan and so far as his remarks in that regard are concerned I entirely concur in what he says. The government of Japan negotiated this treaty with Canada at our instance. As I shall show later on they were not asked to accompany that treaty by any stipulation or proviso which should reserve to the parliament of Canada control of immigration from Japan into this country. This government went to Japan and asked Japan to

permit Canada to accede to that treaty absolutely and without reserve and it was upon that application that the government of Japan entered into the convention of 1906 which accorded to the citizens of Japan absolute and full right and liberty to enter and travel and reside in this country. The hon. gentleman has referred to a so-called tacit understanding between the government of this country and the government of Japan. He has also alluded to assurances given on behalf of the government of Japan to the government of this country with respect to the restriction or even the prohibition of immigration from Japan to Canada; and he has declared to the House, speaking for the government in that regard, that this tacit understanding and these assurances have been absolutely and perfectly carried out in good faith by the government of Japan. In that regard he does absolutely justify the government of Japan, but it seems to me, that, having regard to the condition of affairs which has prevailed in this country during the past twelve months, when he justifies the government of Japan he condemns the government of which he, himself, is a member. That, it seems to me, necessarily follows, because, if these assurances were not made on behalf of the government of Japan and therefore indeed not to be respected on behalf of the government of Japan, that is one horn of the dilemma; or, on the other hand, if they have been made, kept and respected in perfect good faith it necessarily follows that these assurances could not, in the first instance, have been what the necessities of this country demanded. I think that absolutely and logically follows. When you justify the government of Japan with respect to the conditions which have prevailed in this country during the past twelve months, then you say in so many words that this government did not take the necessary safeguards and guarantees for the protection of this country and especially of the western provinces from that immigration as to which so many warnings have been uttered to this government during the past six or seven years.

There is one other aspect of my hon. friend's mission to which I desire to call attention before proceeding to deal with the general question. He has spoken of the very great aid and support afforded him, not only by the British Ambassador, but by the British government, and if there is one particular course in which my hon. friend especially showed very great wisdom and shrewdness it is the course which he took as soon as he arrived in Japan in placing himself under the ægis of the British Ambassador and in endeavouring to secure the whole weight of the empire behind him in his application to the Japanese government to exercise that control which the government of this country should itself have been able to exercise if the proper policy