

BORDEN MOVES AN AMENDMENT

Censures Government For Neglect in Making Treaty.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Shows That He Chose Better Way.

Foster on the Fence on Japanese Treaty.

Ottawa, Jan. 28.—The discussion on the Japanese immigration question was resumed in the House to-day by Mr. Borden, who moved an amendment to the motion submitted a week ago by Mr. Lemieux, censuring the Government for having neglected to embody in the treaty with Japan a clause restricting immigration. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in a brilliant speech, defended the policy which had been pursued by the Government, and contrasted it with that advocated by the Opposition. While the policy of the latter was to obtain a restriction of Japanese immigration by hostile legislation against a friendly power, the policy of the Government was to obtain the restriction by the voluntary and friendly action of Japan itself. Mr. Foster devoted two hours to a criticism of the Government's attitude, but concluded with what was practically an endorsement of it. The debate was continued until a late hour.

At 2 o'clock this morning the discussion was being continued by Hon. Mr. Lemieux.

International Fisheries.

Replying to Mr. Borden, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said informal negotiations had been carried on with the British Ambassador at Washington on different subjects affecting the relations between Canada and the United States. One of these questions concerned inland fisheries. It would be recalled that when the Conservatives were in office an attempt was made to secure a uniform regulation on the great lakes. That regulation was under consideration at the present time. Then there was the question of the distribution of water powers near the international boundary. He understood that Mr. Bryce was coming to Ottawa with a view of discussing these and other questions with the Government.

Japanese Immigration.

Mr. Borden, resuming the debate on the Japanese immigration question, maintained that in justifying the good faith of the Japanese Government, Mr. Lemieux had done the Canadian Government a very serious injustice, and in order to extricate it the Postmaster-General had invoked the support of the British Ambassador at Tokio, and any success Mr. Lemieux had achieved was largely due to that support. Referring to a lengthy review of the negotiations between Canada and Japan, Mr. Borden read an order in Council dispatched by the Dominion Government to the British Secretary of State on the seventh of May, 1895, recommending that in the treaty with Japan there should be a proviso similar to that contained in the treaty between that country and the United States with reference to immigration. In February, 1896, the British Ambassador informed Lord Salisbury that the Japanese Government were willing to agree to that stipulation, and on the 19th of March, 1896, the Japanese Government consented to the admission of the treaty of the other self-governing colonies of British North America. On the 15th of July, 1896, Mr. Chamberlain sent a despatch to the Governor-General inquiring whether the Government of Canada would adhere to the Japanese treaty. The Conservative Government had just gone out of office, and on the 29th of July, 1896, Sir Richard Cartwright submitted a report to the Privy Council giving the reasons why the Canadian Government declined to accede to the treaty. The Government were oppressed by the fear, said Mr. Borden, that the word "aboriginals" might hamper them in connection with the parental tariff, then under discussion, but he did not see what possible effect admission to the treaty would have had in that direction.

On the 6th of October, 1896, the British Ambassador at Tokio reported to Lord Salisbury that not only did Japan consent to the restriction in the treaty with the United States but it had acceded to the original demand of Canada in 1895 that the word "aboriginals" be broadened to include artisans. On the 7th of June, 1905, by an order in Council passed by the present Government it was declared that previous obstacles to the accession of Canada to the treaty had been removed and the Governor-General was moved to ascertain whether or not the Japanese Government were prepared to admit Canada. Mr. Lytton, Colonial Secretary, replied, on July 14th, directing the attention of the Government to the attitude of the Conservative Government in 1895, an attitude which, Mr. Borden claimed, had commanded the assent and approval of Japan, and which would have enabled Canada at that time to control the immigration of Japanese laborers and artisans. Eight weeks later the Government sent a despatch to the British Government requesting immediate entry into the Anglo-Japanese treaty, and on September 6, 1907, Mr. Lytton replied, pointing out that he had not received a reply to his telegram of July 14. "Here was a case," said Mr. Borden, "where the British Government were trying to preserve the interests of Canada, while the Canadian Government had so little regard for these interests that they had even forgotten the warning addressed to them by the Colonial Secretary. The Government had thrown away the opportunity to have control over immigration or to attempt to do that."

He closed by moving the following amendment: That all the words after the word "that" be left out, and the following substituted therefor: "By order in Council August 3rd, 1895, the Ministry then in office in Canada called attention to the dangers of unrestricted immigration, and declared that Canada's accession to the treaty of 1894 with Japan should be accompanied by such a proviso or stipulation as would enable Parliament to control the immigration of laborers and artisans. That Japan in 1896 consented that such a proviso and stipulation should accompany the admission of Canada to the treaty, that notwithstanding such consent, the pres-

ent Government in 1905 deliberately abandoned any such proviso or stipulation, although its great importance was twice called to their attention by the British Government during the course of the negotiations; and, having entered into the treaty of 1907 (which brought in to force in Canada the treaty of 1894 absolutely and without reserve) the Government secured its ratification by Parliament in 1907. That the ratification of the said treaty of 1907 was almost immediately followed by a great influx of Japanese laborers into Canada. That in the opinion of this House Canada should not enter into or accede to any treaty which deprives Parliament of the control of immigration into this country. That this House, while expressing its profound appreciation of the friendly intentions and courteous assurances of the Japanese Government, and while declaring its sincere desire for the most cordial relations with the Japanese people, desires nevertheless to record its strong protest against a policy under which our wage-earning population cannot be protected from destructive invading competition, except by entreating the forbearance and aid of a foreign Government."

Mr. Gallher said British Columbia wanted the restriction of all Oriental immigration, and the closer it was the better pleased would be the people of that Province and their representatives in Parliament. He did not think the Government of Japan was altogether bent on coming to the fountain head of the Dominion Government and inquiring whether the immigration of so many Japanese laborers was satisfactory, but he was prepared to accept in good faith the statement of the Postmaster-General that the restrictions agreed to were satisfactory. He had seen it stated in the press that immigration would be restricted to 1,000.

Mr. Lemieux—That statement is made without any authority.

Mr. Ross assured Mr. Bristol that the British Columbia members did not know anything, and had no authority to do on the question. On the contrary, the Opposition must do that, having now taken a position directly the opposite of that of a year ago, when the treaty was being ratified. The Opposition had approved of and urged, without asking for assurances or seeking for them, the ratification of the treaty. Mr. Ross defended the Government's position as one which the people of Canada would command.

Mr. Cocksburn argued that the Government were not justified in entering into the treaty last year on a commercial basis. The influx of a large number of Japanese was too heavy a price to pay for the small amount of trade Canada could hope to develop with Japan.

Mr. Smith (Nanaimo) said he was prepared to support the Government proposals. The arrangement he contended, would maintain trade relations with Japan and at the same time secure a restriction of Japanese immigrants. The reason that the Government did not enter into the treaty in 1896 was not because of other international trade relations of much greater importance. Circumstances had changed since then and what was a good reason in 1894 or 1895 was not a good reason in 1907. As to the clause secured by the United States in the treaty, he pointed out that more Japanese entered the United States during the twelve years following the adoption of the treaty than for twelve years before it, and there were ten times more Orientals in the United States than in Canada. Quoting from a speech delivered in Toronto by Mr. Foster, he showed that the member for Toronto accepted the treaty just as it was accepted by the Government, and complimented the Government upon adopting it. He believed that six months' trial would demonstrate that an invasion of Orientals under the arrangement secured was impossible, but if it proved to be otherwise and they found that the arrangement was not being carried out he would support the abrogation of the treaty.

Mr. Macpherson was convinced that we had seen the last of any great influx of Orientals into Canada, and that the arrangement with Japan would prove a satisfactory solution.

The Premier's Position.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that while he took issue with Mr. Borden, both upon his speech and resolution, he welcomed them both, because they presented a clear line of cleavage between the policy of the Government and the policy of the Opposition on the questions. In the object which both parties had in view he saw no difference; all the difference was in the method. "The policy of the Government," he said, "is to obtain a restriction of Japanese immigration by voluntary and friendly action of the Japanese authorities themselves. That is the clear line of cleavage between this House and the House and that side." Proceeding to give the motives, reasons and results of the Government's policy, Sir Wilfrid pointed out that the central fact upon which the question revolved was that in all countries where the Caucasian and the Mongolian races are in contact at the bottom of the antagonism in British Columbia was the labor problem, but they now knew that there was another consideration which extended far beyond the labor problem. The population of British Columbia was small, and there was a well-understood apprehension that if the current from Asia was allowed to come in free and unchecked the balance of power might pass from one race to another. That was a problem which no Government in this country could afford to ignore; it was a problem which had received the attention of all Governments. A problem difficult at all times and under all circumstances, it had been made doubly difficult—ten times more difficult so far as Japan was concerned—by the fact that Japan had suddenly risen to the proportions of a first-rate power.

Sir Wilfrid drew an eloquent picture of the evolution of Japan, and of her rise to the position of one of the world's great powers. It was to the credit of Lord Lansdowne, he continued, that of all the diplomats of Europe he was the first to recognize the possibilities of the change in the condition of Japan, and such was the importance he attached to that condition that he suddenly broke away from all traditions of British diplomacy, that Britain would not be entangled in any foreign alliance, and concluded an offensive and defensive alliance with Japan, one result of which might possibly be that in the event of a war threatening British interests in the Pacific the fleets of Britain and Japan would be seen weighing anchor together in the harbor of Vancouver. That was a condition which had not entirely

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escaped the attention of the Opposition, and it was a condition which the Government had had before their eyes all the time. It was not to be expected that old feuds, old antagonisms, would disappear in one day. They knew by the experience of the world that antagonisms, especially those which had a racial basis, were slow to die, and they must reckon accordingly. They had tangible proof of it when within a year of the alliance the request came from British Columbia pressing for a law of exclusion against the Oriental races. The Government had no hesitation in acceding to the request with regard to certain races, but when it came to Japan the Government had to say that they could not comply with that request. They were pressed to renew the Natal Act, which provides that no people would be admitted to British Columbia unless they could speak some of the languages of Europe. "That was a direct slap in the face of our ally, Japan," declared Sir Wilfrid, "and the Government did not agree to it, but they entered into negotiations with the Japanese authorities themselves through the instrumentality of Mr. Nossé, their representative in Canada, and represented that though there was an alliance between Great Britain and Japan, they must know that there were difficulties as to their people ceasing as immigrants, that perhaps there would be clashing between the two races."

"We represented to the Japanese authorities that we expected them to restrict immigration, and I am happy to say that we were successful in this, and that the Japanese authorities consented to restrict immigration. "It was a fact," said Sir Wilfrid Laurier, "that in the years following the adoption of the treaty, there was scarcely any immigration from Japan into British Columbia."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier—In those years how many went to the United States? Mr. Foster—Nearly two thousand. Sir Wilfrid Laurier—Surely more than one thousand. Two thousand landed, but two thousand did not remain, and if the hon. gentleman wants more conclusive evidence on this point he can find it in the fact that not one word of complaint came from British Columbia. There was, he proceeded, a treaty between Britain and Japan in which the Dominion might of her own free will be included, and the time came when she desired to be. The leader of the Opposition had stated and had quoted from a minute of Council to show that the late Conservative Government had a policy on this question, namely, inclusion in the treaty of a proviso similar to that contained in the treaty between Japan and the United States as to laws with regard to trade, immigration, etc. This minute was sent to the Colonial Secretary, and by him referred to Sir Ernest Satow, British Ambassador at Tokio. The latter in a communication in February, 1906, to the British Government, reported, in connection with the Japanese Foreign Minister, who while expressing the willingness of the Japanese Government to agree that Canada might signify her adhesion as a party to the treaty between Britain and Japan, with the stipulation that it should not affect the Canadian law with respect to immigration, added a qualification.

That qualification was most important. It was that a clause should be inserted providing that the treaty might be terminated on either side giving six months' notice. This would have meant that the moment Canada passed restrictive legislation Japan would have immediately given notice for the termination of the treaty. The British Ambassador made it quite clear in his despatch that the reservation made by Japan had in view "unfriendly legislation" that might be passed by any British colonies becoming a party to the treaty. He also stated that undoubtedly any such legislation passed by the colonies would make the Japanese feel that in the eyes of the world they had been placed on a par with the Chinese, and that they have rendered the treaty inoperative from the beginning. Sir Wilfrid Laurier went on: "The moment that we have negotiated such a treaty with such a provision we would have been forced to introduce legislation to restrict Japanese immigration, and from that moment the treaty would have been doomed."

Mr. Broder—Suppose they fail to carry out the understanding now, what action will you take? Sir Wilfrid Laurier—If they fail to carry out this understanding, then, sir, we have power to put an end to the treaty. But this is the last resort. This is only if the means of conciliation have been exhausted; if everything else has failed. We want to preserve the peace with the Japanese. They are allies of ours, and we do not want to

humiliate them by asking this Parliament to legislate against them. Referring to the recent influx of Japanese into British Columbia, and subsequent steps, he said the Government had taken the only course possible. The success of that course, the carrying out of which had been entrusted to Mr. Lemieux, every one knew.

Hon. George E. Foster.

Hon. Mr. Foster criticized the Government for not embodying the same proviso as that in Japan's treaty with the United States, which had been referred to. "No great country would dream of putting its safety at the hazard of the simple statement of the men who happened to be in power for the time being."

Mr. Devlin asked whether Mr. Foster was in favor of Japanese exclusion. Mr. Foster waxed facetious, but declined to answer the question. He charged the Government with having handed over to the Japanese for the time being their right of legislating and of restraining immigration, and claimed that all Mr. Lemieux had done was to restrict the avenue of immigration from Japan direct. The avenue from Hawaii having been closed by virtue of the alien labor act, he believed the agitation in British Columbia against the Japanese was not a racial but an economic question.

Mr. Fisher twitted Mr. Foster with having, after a two hours' speech, concluded with a cordial endorsement of the Government's policy. Mr. Foster had stated that Japan had honorably lived up to her assurances, and yet in Mr. Borden's resolution there was the implication that Japan had not lived up to her obligation.

Mr. Heron and Mr. Kennedy were followed by Hon. Mr. Lemieux, who regarded the resolution as a subterfuge. It was cleverly designed, and while some might not so think, others did think that exclusion was its aim. He was in striking contrast to the claim of that party to a great imperial party. Their attitude, if adopted, might seriously affect the British-Japanese treaty.

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Republicans Have Made Another Attempt to Capture Premier Franco—Plot to Take King Prisoner—Regiment of Infantry Disarmed.

New York, Jan. 28.—The Herald has received the following cable despatch from Madrid: Letters received here to-day from Lisbon and statements made by travellers arriving at the frontier from the Portuguese capital indicate that a most serious state of affairs exists in Portugal, in spite of the official denials.

The Republicans have made another attempt, it is stated, to capture the Premier, Senor Franco, whose residence is still guarded by cavalry; the guns of the 1st Regiment of Artillery have been diverted of their breech locks by the officers; the rifles of the 16th Regiment of Infantry have been taken away from them, and a plot was discovered on the part of these two regiments of infantry to capture King Carlos in the Royal Palace.

A strict censorship has been established at Lisbon, all the newspaper correspondents have been expelled, and the frontier is closely guarded. The streets of the capital are almost deserted, people who gather in groups are promptly dispersed by the police, and many arrests have been made, those taken into custody including two captains of police.

In the police prisons and barracks there are more than two thousand prisoners, the guns of Fort Buen Suceso are trained on the River Tagus, instead of landward, and troops are sleeping beside their arms, and the Council of Ministers remains in permanent session.

Premier Franco has forced the King to suspend the constitutional guarantees, and a large number of arrests have followed the suspension.

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