

surrendered all control of the immigration of laborers and artisans from Japan.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT DECEIVED

When Parliament was asked in 1907 to ratify the treaty of 1906, the Laurier Government pretended to bring down all the papers relating to the subject; but withheld the Order-in-Council passed by the Conservative Government on 3rd August, 1895, which was suppressed until the Opposition forced its production in the session of 1908.

Parliament's consent to the treaty was obtained by assurances of Sir Wilfrid Laurier that Japan had agreed to restrict most effectually the emigration of her subjects to Canada. His words in 1900 were as follows:—

"Japan and its Government have themselves taken the initiative in this respect and actually restrict emigration from Japan to Canada." "The actual order issued by the Japanese Government restricts the number of emigrants to Canada to ten per month, or one hundred and twenty per year. In face of this condition of things I think my hon. friend (Mr. Morrison) will find that it is not necessary to adopt an amendment which, if adopted might lead to serious international difficulties, and which, if not adopted will not affect the case as the point is covered already by the action taken by the Japanese Government." (Hansard, 1900, page 8207).

He supplemented this in 1907 by making the following declaration:—

"At present the Japanese Government do not allow emigration from their own provinces with the exception of a very few from each province. I think not more than four or five from each Province. That is all the Japanese permit to leave the Empire of Japan and therefore practically there has been no emigration to British Columbia from that country." (Hansard, 1907, page 1851).

Parliament was thus misled by

- (a) Sir Wilfrid Laurier's assurances in 1900,
- (b) Mr. Fisher's assurances in 1903,
- (c) Sir Wilfrid Laurier's reiterated assurances in 1907.

The people's representatives were thus led to believe that no considerable immigration from Japan could possibly arise.

RUSH OF JAPANESE LABORERS TO CANADA

The treaty had not been ratified a month before every one of these assurances was absolutely falsified. Japanese laborers and artisans began to pour into British Columbia by the thousands. From January to October, 1907, a period of ten months, 8,125 Japanese arrived at the ports of Vancouver and Victoria.

The Canadian Government, having plunged into the treaty without due consideration and against the warning of Great Britain, now sought the aid of the British Government. Even with its powerful aid Mr. Lemieux, who was sent to Japan accomplished very little. The Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs addressed to Mr. Lemieux a very polite letter, which has been published in the press.

AT THE MERCY OF JAPAN

That letter

- (a) affirmed the full right of Japanese subjects to enter and reside in Canada and expressed the opinion that the Japanese Government would have regard to special conditions in Canada before insisting upon the complete enjoyment of such rights;
- (b) declared that the Japanese Government would take efficient means to restrict emigration to Canada and for that purpose would give careful considerations to local conditions in Canada;
- (c) expressed regret that the Japanese Government had not found it possible to acquiesce in all

the proposals made by the Canadian Government.

The Japanese Government in effect declared that Japan and not Canada must control emigration from Japan to Canada; that Japan would give consideration to conditions in Canada; but that Japan was unable to meet the views of the Canadian Government as to the restrictions demanded.

SURRENDER APPROVED BY LIBERAL MAJORITY

On his return from Japan, Mr. Lemieux made a speech in the House of Commons in which there was much eloquence but very little information. Mr. Borden on behalf of the Conservatives moved a resolution regretting the difficulties into which the country had been plunged. The resolution which was voted down by the usual Government majority, is as follows:—

"That the ratification of the treaty with Japan in 1906 was almost immediately followed by a great influx of Japanese labourers 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." (Hansard 1908, p. 2034.)

MINISTERS OPPOSE EXCLUSION

Two remarkable statements were made on this question in the Session of 1908 by Mr. Lemieux, Postmaster-General and Minister of Labor, recent Government delegate to Japan, and by Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Lemieux said:

"The policy expressed by the Leader of the Opposition during his campaign in Western Canada last fall was a policy of complete exclusion. He argued before the British Columbians that if he were in power he would have a white British Columbia, which I understood to mean the exclusion of Oriental labour and which applied to the case in hand, means the exclusion of the Japanese."

Mr. R. L. Borden.—Might I ask the Hon. Minister whether his policy is not for a white British Columbia.

Mr. Lemieux.—No Sir." (Hansard 1908, page 2145.)

Mr. Fisher in the same discussion said, in reference to Japanese immigration:

"Many of them may come in. I am not so much afraid as some people that many of them will come in. There was an allusion made this afternoon to a proposal to take 10,000 acres of land in the Northwest and cultivate it as a Japanese farm. I do not know that there will be any great injury to the people of Canada to take 10,000 acres of the Northwest which is not highly cultivated and which is not highly productive and place it under Japanese methods of cultivating. I do not know that it would hurt, and I have confidence that if a few thousands, or a few tens of thousands, or I do not hesitate to say, if a few hundreds of thousands of Japanese came into Canada the present Canadian people will still rule this land. . . . For these reasons I am not so very much afraid of Japanese immigration." (Hansard 1908, p. 2122.)

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BRITISH SUBJECTS

To relieve one supposed difficulty the Government in January, 1908, passed an Order-in-Council, authorizing the Minister of the Interior to prohibit the landing of immigrants unless they came by a continuous journey and on through tickets from the country of their birth or citizenship. This had the effect of excluding Hindoos, (loyal British subjects and soldiers bearing the King's medals) coming from Hong Kong while it admitted Japanese coming from Japan. It is difficult to appreciate such a discrimination.

The whole subject is not free from difficulty but the true remedy will be found in energetic efforts to induce the flow of a vigorous and industrious white