

acceptance except upon terms protecting its own peculiar interests. In the same year the United States negotiated a treaty with Japan, but so far as the control of immigration is concerned there was a marked difference between the terms of the British treaty and those of the United States treaty. The United States reserved to itself the right to control the immigration of labourers into the United States from Japan, as has been shown to this House in a very lucid and exhaustive manner by my honorable friend from Naniamo (Mr. Ralph Smith). The British treaty with Japan made no such provision, because so far as Great Britain itself was concerned the possible danger which confronted the United States did not confront the British isles. The British isles, thickly populated and at a great distance from Japan were in no danger of any immigration from that country which could in any way affect their economic interests or their labouring population. In the United States the reverse was the case. Japan had awakened; the Pacific had become merely a magnificent highway between the Orient and this continent, and so the United States took the precaution, when they entered into a treaty with Japan, in 1894, to insert a stipulation as to immigration which is not to be found in the treaty negotiated between Great Britain and Japan that same year.

For the purpose of what I desire to submit to the House it is necessary to review to some extent the negotiations between the Government of Canada and the Colonial Office of Great Britain with respect to the terms of this treaty and with respect to the conditions upon which Canada was willing to accede to it. I have in my hand a copy of an order in council which was passed by the Conservative administration of the day, on August 3, 1895. The treaty, as the House will remember, was negotiated in 1894, and shortly afterwards it was submitted to all the self-governing colonies of the empire. In 1895 it came under the consideration of the Canadian government, and on the 3rd of August, 1895, the order in council to which I refer was passed. I shall read it so that the House and the country may clearly and thoroughly understand what was the attitude of the Conservative government of the day with respect to the vital question of controlling immigration to Canada from Japan. I do not know the precise official status of Mr. Wilkinson who is referred to in this order in council. The despatch to which it is an answer has not been