

SPEECH

(IN PART)

DELIVERED BY MR. R. L. BORDEN

In the House of Commons, January 28th, 1908.

After commenting upon the results of the visit of the Postmaster-General to Japan, Mr. Borden proceeded as follows:

Now, the question with which we are concerned to-day is a very important one. It is fraught with momentous issues to this country; it is a question which probably will confront Canada when all those who are within the sound of my voice to-day have passed off the scene. It is the great question of world politics which must be worked out on the Pacific ocean in the years to come; it is the great question of the influence, perhaps domination, that the mighty nations of the Orient, aroused to modern methods and organized as they have not been organized before, will exercise over the destinies of the world, especially on the Pacific. This question, while at the present moment within a rather narrow compass, is clearly a very great question; and we are only upon the fringe of it to-day in discussing the control of immigration from the great empire of Japan into the Dominion of Canada.

We all know that in 1894 treaties were negotiated by Japan with various countries. In 1894 a treaty was negotiated between Great Britain and Japan. That treaty did not bind the self-governing colonies of the empire but by article XIX it was competent for any of these self-governing dependencies to accede to the treaty, and so take advantage of it and be bound by its terms. I need hardly say that it was competent for any colony to decline