

Canada accede to this treaty subject to that proviso and stipulation to which Japan did give its assent in October, 1896. With a communication expressed in such forcible terms, and of so recent a date, it does seem remarkable that the Government in 1906, saw fit to plunge this country into the difficulty with which it is now confronted, and so to alter the condition of affairs that we cannot maintain over immigration to this country that control which is eminently necessary in the public interest.

Now I come more particularly to the results of the mission to Japan of my hon. friend the Postmaster General. The real object of his mission was to induce Japan to exercise that control over immigration into Canada which we should be able to exercise ourselves. It is one of the attributes of the sovereign power of any State to restrict, or even altogether prohibit, the entrance of aliens within its territory. If we had preserved that right by the stipulation insisted on by the Conservative Government in August, 1895, there would have been no difficulty. We did not reserve that right; therefore, having passed over to the Japanese Government the control which should have been retained by Canada, it became necessary to ask the Japanese Government to exercise that control. That in short is the position which confronted this Government when the Postmaster General embarked on his mission to Japan. I am bound to say that the Japanese Government seems to have exercised a perfect courtesy and a most wonderful forbearance in agreeing not to insist, for the time being, upon its full treaty rights, which undoubtedly had been granted to Japan by the treaty of 1906, bringing into force the treaty of 1894. What has my hon. friend the Postmaster General brought back? He has brought back, outside of the information which he is not at liberty to disclose to this House, a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Viscount Hayashi. That letter has been read to this House, and appears on the pages of 'Hansard.' It is a very polite letter, it is couched in the most courteous terms. Let us see what there really is in it.

"Tokio, December 23, 1907.

"Monsieur le Ministre,—

"In reply to your note of even date, I have the honour to state that although the existing treaty between Japan and Canada absolutely guarantees to Japanese subjects full liberty