

portant as indicating the reasons upon which this Government then declined to accede to the treaty with Japan. The report of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, in its preamble, refers to the treaty and to various confidential communications which had taken place with regard thereto, and continues as follows:

"The Minister in reporting thereon has the honour to submit for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, that while he fully approves of the general provisions of the treaty as modified, yet considering the interpretation put by Her Majesty's Government as well as by those governments interested upon the intent and meaning of the 'most favoured nation clauses,' as they appear in treaties between Great Britain and foreign countries, which interpretation under existing circumstances would be held to be binding upon the Dominion of Canada, and in view of the provisions contained in article V. of the said treaty, and of questions arising as to the exact meaning of provisions contained in articles VIII. IX. and XV., and considering that apparently under the provisions of these several articles the Dominion would be further hampered in any effort that might be made in connection with the negotiation of arrangements under which any concession made for special equivalents granted by reason thereof to or with other countries, he does not deem it advisable that the Dominion should become a party to or be bound by the provisions of the treaty in question. He therefore respectfully recommends that, if approved, His Excellency the Governor General be moved to communicate by cable to the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies the substance of the minute of council founded hereon, in order that the Japanese Government may be advised thereof with as little delay as possible and within the time limit as per article XIX. of the said treaty.

R. J. CARTWRIGHT."

The language of this recommendation is very confused. There seems to be an omission, one of the sentences being apparently incomplete; but the purport is easily to be understood. The Government were oppressed by the fear that the adherence of Canada to that treaty might in some way hamper them in connection with preferential trade, which was then under discussion. For my part, I do not see what possible effect it could have in that respect,