

Canada to restrict Japanese immigration if necessary. And he had before him, no doubt, the consent of the Japanese government to the protocol which I have already read—the protocol containing an express proviso and stipulation with regard to the control of immigration. So he addressed to the Governor General of Canada the despatch which I have under my hand, and which is as follows:

London, July 14, 1905.

Referring to your confidential despatch of 7th June, should Japanese government be informed that your government wishes to adhere to treaty of 1894 and supplementary convention of 1895 under same terms and conditions as Queensland in 1897 which Japanese government then agreed to extend to any other colonies adhering within prescribed period, namely (1) that stipulations contained in first and third articles of treaty shall not in any way affect laws, ordinances and regulations with regard to trade, immigration of labourers, artisans, police and public security, which are in force or hereafter may be enacted in Japan or in colony; (2) that treaty shall cease to be binding as between Japan and colony at expiration of twelve months after notice has been given on either side of desire to terminate same.

Or are your government prepared to adhere absolutely and without reserve as would appear to be the case from speech of Minister of Agriculture in Canadian parliament, June 22? Please telegraph reply.

LYTTLETON.

The speech of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) delivered in this House on the 22nd June, 1905, is to be found at page 7912 of 'Hansard.' It declares in effect that the government have absolutely abandoned an intention of discriminating in any way against Japanese labourers coming to Canada and that consequently Canada was prepared to accede absolutely to the treaty without reserving control of immigration from Japan. I am not giving the hon. gentleman's exact words but their effect, and the hon. gentleman will correct me if I am wrong.

Therefore, the government of this country had their attention directed by this despatch from the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Lyttleton, to the attitude which their predecessors, the Conservative government, had taken in 1895—an attitude which eventually had commanded the assent and approval of Japan. Thus, this government had before them the exact situation. They had before them, on the one hand, the question of absolute and unreserved adhesion, and on the other hand the question of acceding to that treaty upon the terms already consented to by Japan, which would enable the government of this country at all times to control the immigration of artisans and labourers from Japan into Canada. But hon. gentlemen opposite paid so little attention to the subject, they had this most

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important feature of the question so little in mind, that apparently they forgot all about the despatch of the Colonial Secretary. So that on the 5th September, 1905, nearly eight weeks afterwards, they sent a despatch through the Governor General to the Colonial Secretary to this effect:

My Prime Minister earnestly hopes that you will press the immediate entry of Canada into the Anglo-Japanese treaty.

Without deigning one word of reply to the warning addressed to them by the Colonial Secretary in respect of the attitude they should assume as to the control of immigration, they apparently forgot the subject absolutely, and some seven or eight weeks afterwards sent this further despatch through the Governor General requesting that the British government would press the immediate entry of Canada into the Anglo-Japanese treaty. Well, if they were forgetful, if they were mindful of Canada's interests, the Colonial Secretary had these matters in mind; for, the following day, September 6, he sent in reply the following telegram to the Governor General:

London, September 6, 1905.

In reply to your telegram received to-day please inform your Prime Minister that before taking steps as regards adhesion of your government to commercial treaty with Japan His Majesty's government awaiting reply to telegram of July 14.

LYTTLETON.

A great deal is said sometimes—I think, on occasion, even by the Prime Minister himself—as to the disregard by the imperial government of Canadian interests in the negotiation of treaties with foreign powers. Here was a case in which the British government were trying to preserve the interests of the Canadian people in the control of immigration, and these gentlemen upon the treasury benches had so little regard to this subject, of such transcendent importance, as it is that they even forgot within six or seven weeks the warning which had been addressed to them on the subject by the imperial government. They again called their cabinet together and took the subject into earnest consideration. And this is the result of their deliberations, as embodied in the order in council of September 25, 1905:

Ottawa, September 25, 1905.

The undersigned, the Secretary of State, has had under consideration the minute of council approved on June 7 last, advising, on the recommendation of the Minister of Trade and Commerce that His Excellency be moved to ascertain whether the Japanese government would be prepared to admit Canada to a participation in the existing treaty between Great Britain and Japan, adopted in the year 1894 and supplementary convention 1895 and has had also under consideration the cable des-