

In order that means might be devised for preventing the recurrence of the troubles caused by the immigration into Canada of labourers from Japan, and the consequent disturbance of the present friendly relations between the two countries, the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Postmaster General and Minister of Labour, accompanied by Mr. Joseph Pope, C.M.G., Under-Secretary of State, arrived in Japan on November 29 for the purpose of discussing the situation with His Majesty's Ambassador at Tokio and with the Japanese authorities.

Mr. Lemieux's mission to Japan.

As the result of negotiations an amicable arrangement was arrived at by which Japan, while maintaining her legal rights under the treaty of 1894 as applied to Canada in 1906, agreed to restrict in future the emigration of Japanese subjects to Canada. The terms of the undertaking given by Japan are contained in a letter addressed by Count Hayashi, Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, to Mr. Lemieux on December 23, 1907. In this letter the Japanese Minister intimated that it was not the intention of his Government to insist upon the complete enjoyment of the rights and privileges guaranteed by the treaty when that would involve disregard of special conditions which might prevail in Canada from time to time, and that having particular regard to circumstances of recent occurrence in British Columbia the Government of Japan had decided to take efficient means to restrict emigration to Canada.

Result of negotiations.

In pursuance of the policy thus enunciated the Japanese Government adopted a series of stringent regulations, accompanied by instructions to the local governors and Japanese consuls in Canada. Amongst other provisions these regulations prohibit the emigration to Canada of contract labourers, including artisans, unless they come at the request of the Canadian Government. The emigration companies in Japan have been reduced in number, and the operations of those that remain are limited to the promotion of the emigration of Japanese subjects to Manchuria and Korea.

Japanese regulations for restriction of emigration to Canada.

The immigration of oriental labourers into Canada from countries other than Japan has been stopped by an Order in Council, which prohibits the landing of immigrants in Canada unless they come from the country of their birth or citizenship by a continuous journey on through tickets purchased before leaving the country of their birth or citizenship¹. This Order applies both to the Atlantic and the Pacific ports and indiscriminately to all countries. It will therefore operate to the exclusion from Canada of Japanese labourers from Hawaii and of Hindus from Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Prohibition of indirect immigration.

Industrial disputes during the year, including five which began in 1906, numbered 149, as compared with 138 in 1906, 87 in 1905, and 103 in 1904. The number of workpeople directly or indirectly involved was approximately 34,694 in 1907, compared with 26,014 in 1906. Working days lost through trade disputes

Industrial disputes of the year.

¹ The Order in Council was passed on January 8, 1908.