
RETURN

To an Address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him to cause to be laid before the House copies of all correspondence between the Dominion Government and the Provincial Government, touching the protest made by the Emperor of Japan to the Imperial Government, calling in question the "Labour Regulation Act, 1898," or legislation of a similar character concerning Japanese subjects.

By Command.

J. FRED HUME,

*Provincial Secretary's Office,
16th January, 1899.*

Provincial Secretary.

Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency on the 10th November, 1898.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a despatch, hereto annexed, dated 11th August, 1898, from the Right Honourable Mr. Chamberlain, transmitting copies of correspondence with the Foreign Office, respecting a note from the Japanese Minister complaining of the recent Acts of the Legislature of British Columbia aimed at the exclusion of Japanese subjects from employment in that Province.

The Committee, on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice, to whom the despatch was referred, advise that a copy of the said despatch and of the accompanying correspondence with the Foreign Office, be transmitted to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia, and that he be requested to state the views of his Government upon the subject for the information of Your Excellency in replying to Mr. Chamberlain's despatch.

All which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE,

*His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor
of British Columbia.*

Clerk of the Privy Council.

Mr. Chamberlain to Lord Aberdeen.

DOWNING STREET, 11th August, 1898.

MY LORD,—With reference to my telegram of the 18th June and my despatch No. 214 of the 20th ult., I have the honour to transmit to you, for communication to your Ministers, copies of correspondence with the F.O. respecting a note from the Japanese Minister at this Court complaining of the recent Bills of the Legislature of British Columbia aimed at the exclusion of Japanese subjects from employment in that Province.

I shall be glad if you will move your Ministers to give their early consideration to this matter.

I have, &c.,

*Governor-General,
&c., &c., &c.*

(Signed) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

FOREIGN OFFICE, 6th August, 1898.

SIR,—I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, copy of a note which has been received from the Japanese Minister at this Court, complaining of recent legislation in British Columbia for the exclusion of Japanese subjects from employment in that Province.

His Lordship would be glad to be informed what answer Mr. Secretary Chamberlain would suggest to be returned to the Japanese Minister's note.

I am, &c.,

*The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.*

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

JAPANESE LEGATION, 3rd August, 1898.

MONSIEUR LE MARQUIS,—The Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in the Dominion of Canada, passed in the month of May last an Act “to prohibit the employment of Chinese and Japanese persons on work carried on under the franchises granted by private Acts”; also another Act “to amend the British Columbia Public Works Loan Act, 1897,” and several railway and other private bills, all of which contain provisions prohibiting the employment of Japanese subjects in several works, public and private, under the penalty of a fine for each Japanese so employed. The Japanese Consul at Vancouver has, therefore, under instructions from the Imperial Government, entered a protest to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, in the hope that the necessary approval of the Governor might be withheld from those enactments. His representations were, however, fruitless, and the Acts were approved by the Lieutenant-Governor, and are now awaiting the assent of the Governor-General of Canada.

My Government, although they confidently believe that the legislation so unfriendly and discriminating against Japanese subjects would not receive the sanction of the Governor-General, have instructed me to call the attention of H.M. Government to the matter.

The impropriety of such discriminating legislation against the subjects of a friendly State is evident in itself, and requires hardly any comment on the part of my Government. The Japanese subjects in Canada are not large in number. So far as my Government are aware, they have always been law-abiding and have done nothing that might necessitate a legislative action adverse to their interests. Moreover, in the opinion of my Government, such measures if allowed to become law, cannot but injuriously affect the cordial relations which now happily exist between Japan and the Dominion of Canada, and which have every prospect of further developments in the near future.

I have therefore the honour to ask the good offices of Y. L., so that H. M. Government may see their way to exercise their influence with the Governor-General of Canada, in order that his assent may be withheld from the aforesaid legislation of British Columbia.

*The Marquis of Salisbury, K.C.G.,
&c., &c., &c.*

I have, &c.,
(Signed) KATO.

Immediate.

DOWNING STREET, 11th August, 1898.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 6th instant, enclosing a copy of a note from the Japanese Minister at this Court protesting against recent legislation in British Columbia for the exclusion of Japanese subjects from employment in that Province, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that no reply has yet been received to the communications addressed to the Governor-General on this subject.

A copy of M. Kato's note will, however, be sent to him, with a request that he will press his Ministers for early consideration of the matter, and in the meantime I am to suggest that M. Kato should be informed that Mr. Chamberlain is in communication with the Governor-General of Canada on this subject.

*The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.*

I am, &c.,
(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

VICTORIA, B. C. :

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