
PAPERS

Relating to the proposal to amend the Naturalization Laws respecting the Naturalization of Chinese and Japanese.

By Command.

JAMES BAKER,

Provincial Secretary.

*Provincial Secretary's Office,
July, 1897.*

OTTAWA, 13th July, 1897.

SIR,—Adverting to your despatch of the 20th May last, covering copy of a Resolution of the Legislative Assembly of your Province relative to the naturalization of Chinese and Japanese, and urging upon the Dominion Government the necessity of having the naturalization laws so amended that in the case of Chinese or Japanese a residence of ten years shall be required before naturalization can be granted, and also that in their cases they shall appear in person before the Judge of the Court, the Government of His Excellency is of opinion that the suggestion is not practicable considering the relations and treaties existing between the British Government and those of China and Japan. A certified copy of the Minute of the Privy Council, dated the 5th inst., embodying that view, is herewith transmitted.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. PELLETIER,

Acting Under-Secretary of State.

*His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor
of British Columbia, Victoria, B. C.*

*Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by
His Excellency on the 5th July, 1897.*

The Committee of the Privy Council have under consideration a copy of a despatch, hereto attached, from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia, dated 20th May, 1897, covering a copy of a Resolution of the Legislative Assembly of that Province relative to the naturalization of Chinese and Japanese, and urging upon the Dominion Government the necessity of having the naturalization laws so amended that, in the case of Chinese or Japanese, a residence of ten years shall be required before naturalization can be granted, and also that in their cases they shall appear in person before the Judge of the Court.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce, to whom the matter was referred, submits that the suggestion is not practicable considering the relations and treaties existing between the British Government and those of China and Japan, it being evident that under the treaties in question such exceptional treatment could not be applied.

The Committee advise that a certified copy of this Minute, if approved, be forwarded to the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, in answer to his despatch of the 20th May last.

JOHN J. MCGEE,

Clerk of the Privy Council.

VICTORIA, B. C.:

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