

The
"Relations between
Japan and Canada."

BY

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*Issued, in his private capacity, for the information of the
Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate and
House of Commons of Canada.*

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INTRODUCTORY.

This statement has been prepared by the one who has the honour to represent the Government of Japan in the Dominion of Canada. It is issued by him not in his official capacity, but merely as a subject of Japan, for the information of the Honourable Gentlemen in the Parliament of Canada, in order that the views of the Japanese people may be known by them in regard to the question of the immigration of Japanese into British Columbia. The writer is quite sensible of the friendly attitude assumed by the Dominion Government towards Japan in recent years; yet he thought it advisable to submit a few principles and facts for the consideration of the Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada.

S. S.

"JAPAN AND CANADA."

1 The modern history of Japan, so far as concerns its relations with the European Powers, dates from about the year 1855, although Commodore Perry of the American Navy was an Envoy to Japan in 1853. Internecine wars in Japan, the Crimean invasion in 1853-55, and the Indian Mutiny of 1857-58, postponed the advancement of Japan until 1860, from which date it may be said that the new life of modern civilization was given to my country. From an exclusive and insular people we have, in the last forty years, developed into one of the great Powers of the earth. Our greatness is due, not only to the inherent qualities of our race, but to the splendid opportunities which modern civilization has given to us in the development. Our course has been one of aggressive progress. We opened our ports to the trade of all peoples; we represented ourselves by accredited Ministers at all the great capitals of Europe and America, and we adopted as our laws the civil laws as founded in Rome, modified to our wants and conditions. In the observation of international duties and courtesies we have been guided by that sense of justice and grace of purpose which is at once a protection to ourselves and a strength to friendly nations. Not only in the great development of her mercantile and industrial life, but likewise in her wars, Japan has shown not only an ability and character to do her part in the stubborn work of developing national life, but a power to discriminate on broad grounds; the fittest work she could accomplish. I need not recall the important part Japan has played in the world's history in the past ten years, nor need I remind the British people, who glory in their fairness and justice to others that in the late South African war Japan stood ready and willing to render every assistance to Great Britain. Just now Japan is playing no small part in one of the most complex and stupendous

questions that has been presented to the world in modern times; and but for her guiding hand and loyalty to Great Britain, a tale of havoc would have been written to the disgrace of modern warfare. The services of Japan have been of paramount importance in the grave and anxious days of the last year with China, and she has cheerfully committed herself to a policy which has the merit of favour and regard by Great Britain.

2. Animated by a spirit of deep and genuine regard for Great Britain and her children nations, my country has upon all occasions testified her loyalty and friendship for you, even when other and more kindred peoples gave no proof of regard, and even uttered sentiments of hostility towards you. I have spoken of the recent unhappy war in South Africa and of the attitude of His Imperial Majesty's Government, but even in British Columbia, where the Japanese were most traduced, a spontaneous offer of assistance was made by my countrymen. In February last year, Mr. S. Tamura, a merchant in Vancouver, wired the Hon. Dr. Borden, Minister of Militia for Canada, as follows :

"Japanese residents in British Columbia, being British subjects, wish to raise a corps for service in South Africa, and would respectfully ask you to transmit their offer to the British Government."

Had this been accepted the Japanese in British Columbia would have offered up their lives as freely for the integrity of the British Empire as did the brave sons of your great Empire. Poor as the Japanese in British Columbia are, yet they gratuitously sent over \$100 to the sick fund of Vancouver, while in the recent disastrous fires in this country they subscribed and paid the following sums : New Westminster fire \$350.00, Hull and Ottawa fire \$409.60.

These facts are recapitulated not boastfully, but simply to impress the people of Canada with no other feeling than

this, that unsolicited, the Japanese in British Columbia are ever ready to do their part as good and loyal subjects

3 There is no principle of international law more elementary in its character than this: once a nation opens its ports to the nations of the world, and by its laws guarantees security of life and property to foreigners, just so soon does that nation become entitled as of right to like privileges from all nations acknowledging this principle and sharing the benefits thus freely granted. On this just and equitable rule have nations long acted, and to curtail its integrity is to abandon its essential and vital purpose. Japan has conformed and lives within the limits of this principle recognized in the comity of nations.

4 The Japanese in Canada at present number in all about 3,000, whose occupations are diverse. There are merchants, clergymen, artisans, domestic servants, labourers, fishermen, etc. As Japan consists of a number of islands, with an immense stretch of seaboard, fishing and seafaring life attract her people more than any other callings. Thus it happens that out of the 3,000 Japanese in Canada fully two thirds are engaged in fishing, and on boats. Like all such, their disposition is a roving one; they are attracted from time to time to fresh fields of profit and venture. So far as I can learn from exhaustive enquiries those to whom fishing licenses were granted in the last fishing season of British Columbia is as follows:—

Japanese.....	2,000
Indians.....	1,800
Other Nationalities.....	1,400

The other nationalities receiving licenses comprise Chileans, Austrians, Finns, Swedes, Norwegians, Americans and Italians, together with a sprinkling of English, Irish, Scotch and Canadians. The large number of Japanese engaged in fishing and seafaring life in British Col-

umbia is due to the inexhaustible wealth of the fisheries of the Province, and the great demand of the canneries (whose capacities have increased enormously in recent years) for a large supply of fish. The value of British Columbia fishery products from 1875 to 1896 was nearly forty-six millions of dollars, and of this amount canned salmon amounted to nearly twenty-nine millions of dollars. The salmon pack in 1876 was 9,847 cases; in 1896 it has grown to 601,570 cases, and in 1897 it had expanded to 1,040,000 cases. I find in 1892, 5,177 persons were employed in connection with the canning business, which was increased in 1895 to 11,000 employees, and in 1898 to 21,134. (See Gosnell's Year Book '97 and Report of Vancouver Board of Trade 1898.) The season lasts from six weeks to two months. It follows, therefore, that an industry at once so large and extensive in its character depends upon fishermen almost entirely for its success. I have not dwelt on the halibut fishing of the North which will, ere long, be a rival of the salmon in commerce. It was estimated in 1899 that the export of halibut from Canada was 2,075,000 pounds. I have dwelt thus upon the fishing question to make clear that not only has it been, but that it continues to be a necessity in a trade like the salmon industry, that everything be permitted which will assist in the development of the greatest of all the important commercial industries of British Columbia.

In Eastern Canada I find that New Brunswick in 1899 had engaged in fishing 276 large vessels and 6,743 fishing boats, while in Nova Scotia 19,466 men were employed in fishing, and in 1899 from that Province \$5,007,798 of fish were exported. In Quebec in 1899 there were 154 vessels 7,328 boats and 13,096 men engaged in fishing.

An estimate of the value of the fish product of British Columbia in 1897 was five millions of dollars, while the entire product of Canada was twenty-one millions of dollars. (See Mr. Gosnell's British Columbia Year Book 1897, page 258.) In 1899 the total value of the catch of fish in Canada was \$21,891,706; British Columbia's product being valued at \$5,214,074.

No Japanese fishermen are to be found participating in the Atlantic fisheries. It follows, therefore, that in the fishing industry of Canada as a country, there is but a small number of Japanese fishermen as compared with the large number engaged in the calling and the value of the product.

I append the following comparative statement of exports taken from the Trade and Navigation returns for the several years named. The figures apply exclusively to British Columbia salmon exported:—

CANNED SALMON.

YEAR.	LBS.	VALUE.
1896.	21,101,636	\$2,415,499
1897.	27,961,895	2,856,127
1898.	39,663,839	3,348,837
1899.	25,241,074	2,353,341

FRESH SALMON.

1896.	606,865	45,692
1897.	2,033,806	191,880
1898.	376,498	15,125
1899.	115,534	8,672

SMOKED SALMON.

1896.	8,408	258
1897.	22,348	1,465
1898.	275,701	6,205
1899.	649,191	15,435

PICKLED SALMON.

1896.	224 Barrels	2,436
1897.	3,811 "	58,398
1898.	4,706 "	14,836
1899.	5,883 "	28,667

The Trade and Navigation returns for 1899 show that British Columbia smoked salmon exported amounted to 649,191 lbs of which Japan bought..... 633,414 " leaving the outside world's purchases..... 14,666 " While in the same year the exported pickled salmon for British Columbia was..... 5,883 barrels of which Japan bought..... 4,638 " The rest of the world buying..... 1,245 "

These figures are instructive as evidences of the new trade in this merchandise now showing its first signs of growth. The readiness with which Japan favours the Canadian product is no doubt due to the knowledge gained from their fellow countrymen here.

5. The Government of Japan wholly stopped the issuance of passports to any intending emigrants to Canada since the 1st of August last, and still continues to do so, under a provision of the emigration protection law (Law No. 70, 1896.) The principal reason for the measure thus taken was to avoid any friction that might occur by allowing them to come into British Columbia where their immigration was not desired by a certain element of that Province. Even by this action alone you may imagine how careful is my Government to maintain and cultivate good relations with our friends in Canada.

6 The government of Japan exercises a paternal care over all distressed immigrants of Japanese nationality in foreign countries so that no Japanese subject shall become a public charge on such foreign country.

7 The Japanese are law abiding, and statistics show that in the calendar of crime the Japanese set an example of well doing that could be imitated with profit by those who would place them under the ban of ostracism in Canada. The following testimonies are of service as recommendations of character :

Chief of Police Stewart, Vancouver, says, that in the record of his office there are no cases of serious crime committed by the Japanese and only four cases of theft committed by them. They are a people most easily governed.

Provincial Chief Constable Leiter says, "that in his long service of twelve years not a single Japanese came before him charged with dishonesty.

Mr. E. Hunt, Merchant, Steveston, B. C., is reported as saying that he has dealt with various nationalities who came to the Fraser River in thousands in the fishing season, and that he has ever found the Japanese most honest in settling their liabilities.

8 The Japanese who settle in this country seek naturalization, conforming to the new conditions of their adopted country, and seeking by patient self sacrifice and devotion to their humble duties to found permanent homes for themselves and their families. They are insignificant in number, about two hundred householders in all, as follows :

Vancouver.....	50
Victoria.....	20
Fraser River District.....	100
Union.....	30

— 200

with their families.

The cry that has gone up against my countrymen in British Columbia is wholly unjustifiable and unworthy of the spirit of free men who, having the blessings of nature and fortune vouchsafed to them in this great country, make as an excuse for their improvident methods of life, the presence of a small number of Japanese. Thrift, sobriety, and a sense of duty are more necessary to such men than any gifts of legislative interference. Laziness, dissipation and bad workmanship are ever the worst foes of the workman.

9 Political economists, as well as all scientific treatises on the laws of population, are agreed that the true principle which rules all markets, whether commercial, professional, or labour, is the law of supply and demand. By this I do not wish to be misunderstood. I recognize the necessity of other laws for the purposes of adjustment, yet I maintain, that where the demand is, there the supply will be attracted. If the Japanese, Swedes, Norwegians, Finlanders, etc., cannot secure work here, they will not continue here. If my countrymen are inefficient, dishonest or otherwise unworthy of confidence, their presence will not be tolerated here any more than elsewhere; yet if they are capable, honest, and trustworthy, what country on that account should exclude them? The age of intolerance in religion has passed away. Is an era of intolerance of race to be built upon its ruins? The Government of Japan seeks no concession for her subjects that she is unwilling to grant to foreigners who live under the protection of her flag. And while she seeks no special favours she expects no discrimination against her commerce or her people.

10 By the adoption of a linguistic test, those who propound it, seek under cover of a sophism to evade a just principle and are thus driven to their last refuge. The Government and people of Japan are as alive to the full meaning of such a condition as its inventor. The recognition of national courtesies is not easily evaded, even under a pleasant guise and fair words. The fallacy of such a test lies in its principle. Good citizenship, which has ever been the test, and by which men are raised from slavery to be free men, with all the incidents of that order, has from the earliest times of history found favour with all kinds of people and amongst all rulers. Imagine an officer of the Japanese Government addressing himself to an Englishman unacquainted with the Japanese language, and finding this gentleman so deficient in linguistic knowledge, stow him away

in prison may be, until he could be deported whence he came? Do you think under such circumstances, that Great Britain would consider Japan as a friendly country and worthy of cordial relationship? Would not the individual feel it an insult of a wanton order? Would not such an action be the open challenge for race distinctions which all wise and prudent statesmen are earnestly seeking to dissolve? If Great Britain and her colonies could take umbrage at such action by an otherwise friendly nation, what think you would be the feelings towards you of your friend and ally, Japan? All history and experience teaches no truth more forcibly than this, that any test which is apt to humiliate or degrade a people or country is an unfriendly act that will not be looked at lightly.

The writer is, however, quite confident that such a drastic measure as this, or any measure that discriminates against the subjects of Japan, will never receive the sanction of the Government or Parliament of the Dominion who are, he feels sure, always anxious to cultivate friendship and closer trade relations with Japan, no less than are the Government and people of Japan, with Canada.