

to the treaty, I may say that, when in Japan I discussed these matters with the government there. Of course the discussion was entirely informal, as it is a matter with which the Foreign Office of Britain must deal. But I was assured by the government in Japan that if, at any time, Canada wished to give her adherence to the treaty they would be very willing to overlook the fact that the term expressed in the treaty had expired.

Mr. FOSTER. How long ago was that?

Mr. FISHER. A little over two years ago. I have no doubt in my own mind, owing to information from various sources, that the same feeling actuates the government there at this time.

Mr. FOSTER. I understood the minister to say there would be no objection to bring down the Order in Council to which reference has been made?

Mr. FISHER. No.

Mr. OSLER. This is one of the most important commercial questions before Canada to-day. The market of Japan, I believe, is the best market we can hope to gain—and a growing market too. We have the shipping facilities unexcelled by any country. I heard incidentally the other day that some gentlemen from Japan visiting Canada—I do not know whether for the purpose or not—purchased some high grade Jersey cattle to take over to Japan; and are satisfied that they are the best cattle to take, and expressed surprise that they had not earlier known that Canada was raising for sale that class of cattle. This would indicate a want of enterprise on the part of Canada. If this is the case in regard to our cattle, surely the advertising that Canada has been doing in other parts of the world as to our products has not been done in Japan.

Mr. FISHER. I heartily agree with what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Osler) has said as to the value of the Japanese market to Canada. But what he said with regard to the Japanese gentlemen to whom he has referred is not quite correct. Two gentlemen came from Japan to this continent to purchase cattle. They first directed their attention to the United States; but, in consequence of what they had seen of the Canadian exhibit at Osaka two years ago, they thought they would not return to Japan until they had visited Canada and found what could be done here. They came here, and put themselves in communication with my department, with the result that they purchased over twenty head. These gentlemen expressed regret that they had not come first to Canada instead of going first to the United States.

Mr. FOSTER. Were there any particular reasons which led the hon. minister (Mr. Fisher) to delay action in the matter from

Mr. FISHER.

the time, two years ago, when he learned of the significance of the treaty and of the good will of Japan to our adherence thereto until now?

Mr. FISHER. Simply that the matter was before the government and was not acted upon.

INQUIRY FOR RETURN.

Mr. A. B. INGRAM. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Emmerson) to a promise he made when acting as Minister of Labour. He promised to lay on the table certain correspondence relating to complaints made against the Père Marquette Railway Company. I would like to know when that correspondence will be brought down.

Mr. EMMERSON. I have not received the papers from the deputy. I have not seen him within a day or two, but will communicate with him and get them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Hon. GEO. E. FOSTER. The hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Bole) is not present and I was not here yesterday when he drew the attention of the House to a statement said to have been made by myself. It is not a very important matter, but might just as well be made clear. In the unrevised 'Hansard,' I am reported as having made the statement that the hon. member (Mr. Bole) has brought down with him from Winnipeg certain statements and correspondence and an assignment of Mr. Chaffee's claims. I did not say that, although the unrevised 'Hansard' would be sufficient warrant for the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Bole) to think I had. The full stop was left out and also some words. What I meant to say was that Mr. Bole was in Winnipeg that time. I then preceeded to say that shortly afterwards the papers brought down show an assignment from Mr. Chaffee to McDonald & Co. That makes all the difference in the world in the statement, but the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Bole) was fully justified in calling attention to it from what appeared in the unrevised 'Hansard.'

TRANSCONTINENTAL COMMISSION.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Have the government made any appointment to the vacancy on the board of the Transcontinental Commission? I make the inquiry now because of the statement in the government press that a selection has been or is being made.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. No appointment, Mr. Speaker, has been made.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

House in committee on Bill (No. 69) to establish and provide for the government of