

*Oriental Aliens*

at Steveston. Who is employing them? They are employed by white corporations that refuse to pay the wages that will keep our people there. That is where the trouble lies, and that is something that ought to be said. We would be going, perhaps, along saner lines if we said that we would make it a crime for any individual or corporation to pay any man or woman less than a living wage. As Paul Kellogg years ago said in his Study of Oriental Immigration in the United States, if we had minimum standards, we would erect an immigration tariff that would be more effective than any other kind of tariff we could possibly have.

We say that these orientals can get on better because they are united. Let me say that they have strong unions of their own. Although for many years labour has been bitterly opposed to oriental immigration, some labour unions—not many, I confess, are beginning to see the necessity for organizing the orientals who are already in this country. Speakers have said to-day that the orientals have succeeded because they have a strong organization. Yet there has been and there still is in existence, across this country from coast to coast, a policy that would tend to crush the unions that are the only safeguards that hitherto the labour people have had. I can take you to the coast, where my home has been for some years and still is and show you at the mines how, in the last few years, again and again the labour people have endeavoured to keep the oriental out of the mines. It is with the greatest difficulty that they have accomplished this. Indeed there are certain mines in British Columbia where the orientals, despite what the labour people have been able to do, are working not only above ground but underground. I can take you among the loggers. I know the Japanese have captured the shingle-bolt industry up the coast, and why? For the self-same reason, that they were willing to work long hours and under conditions which a white man would not tolerate. As one large employer said to me one day: "Why do we take these orientals? We want them because they will work cheaper and because they are a great deal easier to handle." He thought he could deal with them individually, put them to work longer hours at less agreeable types of work and all that kind of thing. That was the reason why to-night, even at this hour, I could not let the opportunity pass, in connection with this debate, without saying that we are not going to solve this

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

problem short of a definite effort to maintain in this country certain minimum standards for our people.

Sometimes we have failed to recognize how the world is unified to-day. I for one contend that we cannot maintain this idea of positive exclusion of one race from this country, and hope that that will be the solution for any of our problems. The world is too much unified to-day for anything of that sort. We remember that Japan remained a hermit nation for years, and Japan stagnated because of that; we remember that it is centuries since China tried to put a wall around herself and exclude other nations, and China remained static for many centuries. We would suffer the same penalty if we could keep ourselves away from the rest of the world. I maintain it is impossible in this day to do anything of that kind. We are trading in all parts of the world; goods from the Orient as well as from other parts of the world are coming into Canada; and if we maintain our trading and financial interests with other parts of the world, I cannot see how we are to adopt a rigid policy of exclusion of the people who are coming here. Some people say that this ought to be a white man's country. What about South Africa or India to-day? We claim the right to go in and dominate India, and yet at the very same time refuse to let the races of India come into Canada in any numbers at all. I am not pleading for permission for them to enter this country, but we must have regard to the larger international issues. May I be permitted to read just a word or two with regard to our rather arrogant position from a recent work by Stoddard on "The Rising Tide of Colour?" He says:

I showed that the white stocks together constitute the most numerous single branch of the human species, nearly one-third of all the human souls being whites. I also showed that white men racially occupy four-tenths of the entire habitable land area of the globe; while nearly nine-tenths of this area is under white political control. Such a situation is unprecedented. Never before has a race acquired such a combined preponderance of numbers and dominion.

I have no desire to extend this debate at this hour; but we would be dealing wisely with this question if we realized these larger international questions which, especially since the world war, have been borne in upon us, and recognized that we cannot solve this particular question

1 a.m. in a negative sort of way by mere rigid exclusion, without having regard to those larger international