

ment of railway systems, factories, and the operation of mines, it is quite possible to be grinding out, by a system of alien and low priced labour, any amount of high dividends and enormous profits, but in spite of such prosperity and development it is possible that we may not be grinding out these profits in the best interests of the country. I do not regard this condition as a system of spoliation and injustice, but I do regard a system which has for its object the promotion of the personal and private interests of the few as against the welfare of the people of the country as a whole as a system of spoliation and injustice. We are very apt to be tainted and affected by the excitement which is associated with this question in British Columbia. All level-headed and sensible men in British Columbia have had to bring pressure to bear to restrain the explosive tendencies of the province. Every sensible man who wanted to view this question without prejudice, to consider it from every standpoint, to be fair and to take into consideration every interest, has had to use his influence to restrain feelings that can so easily be aroused under such conditions as these. It has been difficult for the representatives of the people in parliament to impress upon the public mind of British Columbia the seriousness of this question from every standpoint. The disposition, in consequence of that natural excitement, is not to look at and see the national or international aspects of this question. I regard it as a most important question, and while some men have been ready to try to use this question in the interest of party politics, in so far as I am concerned, I desire to say that I have too strong an opinion in regard to the seriousness of the subject, as it is associated with the social and industrial life of British Columbia and of Canada, and as it is associated with international considerations in every part of the world, to sympathize with any attempt on the part of any one who make it serve political ends. It is an important question. It is important because of its international features. We stand in this House for peace and harmony. We stand in this House as representatives prepared to give every consideration to international affiliations and interests. We recognize our responsibility as representatives in this House for maintaining the closest feelings and connections with the other portions of the empire. When any question affecting a local interest is likely to involve anything that would injuriously affect the association of Canada with the British Empire, it is an important consideration. Although there may be on the surface an evil that may directly affect a local interest with which I am associated, still I am prepared, in the consideration of that question, to look at it only as it affects the international interests with which we are associated. This

is an empire problem and it must be looked at in the light of our empire. What is bad for Canada cannot be very good for the empire. If the settlement of this question is good for British Columbia it is good for Canada, and what is good for Canada is good for the empire. We cannot disassociate these several interests. The strength of the empire depends absolutely upon the quality and condition of the units that constitute that empire, and any weakness or any supposed injustice felt by any people in any section or portion of the empire is something that creates a weakness in the link connecting together the various parts of that empire. It is a serious question because there is an attempt on the part of the imperial authorities to suddenly work out the assimilation of alien races. The disposition of the British government is to make settlements in the interest of peace, of trade and of more close and friendly relations with alien powers. It is in the line of the advancement of civilization. It is the duty and the business of this government—and we believe it is a part of the great prerogative of the British empire—to seek to influence and to bring about conditions of peace and friendly relations with every alien country in the world in the interest of her own commerce and people. But, it does strike me that with the disposition of the British government in creating treaties with oriental countries like Japan there has been a tendency to seek to bring about an association of alien races on a plan that is more sudden than it is possible to work it out. There is existing in the minds of people generally, the idea that the Asiatic race cannot be brought to suddenly assimilate with the occidental race. I know that it is generally supposed that the prejudice is all on the side of the occidental. It is common to hear the statement in Canada that Canadians are prejudiced against the orientals. I could occupy the time of this House by giving instances from literary men who have lived in those countries, who have written works connected with the history of those countries, who have had an experience of those countries to show the bitterness of the jealousy existing in the mind of the oriental against the occidental. It is not the occidental against the oriental, but it is vice versa. To say the least, it is as much on one side as it is on the other. Centuries have developed insurmountable divergencies between the oriental and occidental races and it may take centuries to obliterate the divergencies which have been created. I am hopeful that it can be done. Still, there are some people who do not believe that it can. I am absolutely certain that it is not within immediate reach, and I am also certain that a process of slow and intellectual moral development and a change of system must take place to bring about the eradication of the prejudice that exists between these two races. It is a