

the Orient is one which may become very acute at any moment, and the moment the question becomes acute, Great Britain will be involved in these complications and she may be precipitated into war. If she is precipitated into war it is to her of the greatest and mightiest importance to have the support of the Empire of Japan. For these reasons, I hope the hon. gentleman who addressed the House a moment ago, upon the question of Japanese labour and upon the action of the Government, so far as we disallowed the Acts of the British Columbia legislature, will reconsider his determination, and will give his support in this matter to the Government which has acted in obedience to reasons of wide Imperial policy, and upon the conviction that we should do our best to maintain the alliance of Great Britain with the Empire of Japan. These are the reasons which actuated us. It is not a pleasant thing to have to come to this decision, but we thought we owed it to ourselves and our position as British subjects that every other consideration should give way before that reason of Imperial necessity. It will not do for us as British subjects only to sing "God Save the Queen" and to boast of our British connection at banquets and at demonstrations and celebrations. We must also be prepared to make some sacrifices because our obligations may claim sacrifices. I suppose I do not utter my own sentiment alone, but that I utter the sentiment of every hon. gentleman on this occasion, when I say, that we should be prepared and be ready for every sacrifice which our Imperial connection may demand at our hands. If we take the glory and the advantages we must also take the duties; we must be ready for them and abide by them. There are the reasons which have actuated the Government in relation to this question. There are other statutes which were passed by the legislature of British Columbia last session. In reply to the hon. gentleman some few days ago, I stated that these statutes had been submitted to the hon. Minister of Justice who is reporting upon them. He is considering whether or not they are legal and constitutional, and if they are legal and constitutional he has to report to the Government and the Government will have to consider whether the same reasons of Imperial policy are involved. The duty which may be incumbent upon us as to these statutes we must discharge in the light of the considerations that actuated us in dealing with the statutes passed by the British Columbia legislature the session before last. With the other question raised by my hon. friend, as to Galician and Doukhobor immigration, I shall not attempt at this moment to deal. I will leave it to my hon. colleague, the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), but I must deprecate the tone of the remarks of the hon. gentleman upon this subject. We

cannot in this, our Canada, allow this policy of the dog-in-the-manger to prevail. We have lands in the North-west, what do we want to do with them? Of course we must have desirable immigrants. As to the Galicians I know nothing, but as to the Doukhobors I know a little, not that I know them personally, but all accounts agree that they are a noble race. Let me call the attention of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) to this fact, and I think it ought be sufficient to make him recall his remarks with regard to Doukhobors. They belong to the Caucasian race; they do not belong to the Galician race. They are very peculiar in their habits; they will not fight, but I am sorry to have heard the remarks of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) on this subject. The Doukhobors will not bear arms, it is true, but has it ever come into the mind of a British subject, in any part of the British Empire, to ostracize the Quakers or people of similar religious thought, because they will not bear arms? Why, Sir, some of these Quakers are amongst the best men that the British Empire has ever known. In conclusion let me say that, for my part, I am not prepared to favour the immigration of these Mongolian races which do not assimilate with us, but as to the Caucasian races and European races—not all of them, but all those who readily assimilate with us—it is our duty to open our doors to them and follow the example of the mother country in that respect.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). The reference which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) has made to immigration outside of the Chinese and Japanese, makes it desirable that I should say a few words. The House will be in committee upon the immigration estimates in a short while, when every possible information will be given to the members of this House, and they will necessarily be in a much better position to discuss intelligently the subject than it is possible for them to do at the present time. To a very considerable extent I sympathize with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) in regard to the Chinese and Japanese. The same views have been expressed in this House by the hon. member for Burrard (Mr. Maxwell), and these views have been pressed very strongly upon the Government by the different members from British Columbia. As I understand it, this is largely a question in British Columbia between the white labouring man and the Chinese and Japanese; and, as in most cases where the labouring man comes in contact with a competitor who deals with him unfairly, I am bound to say that my sympathies are altogether with the Canadian labouring man. I feel that the labouring man of British Columbia has a right to protect himself against this unhealthy rivalry; a rivalry which does not tend to develop the highest type of citizens. It was with very