

sarily conceded to self-governing dominions. Each of the self-governing dominions was master in its own house. When the action of the self-governing dominions came into opposition with what were supposed to be the interests and feelings of a branch of one of the other races inhabiting another part of the empire, and when that race thought that in the person of members of the same race it was injured or wounded a painful dilemma arose. He did not see satisfactory issue from that dilemma. All we could do was to exert our influence to the utmost to endeavour to mitigate the feeling and to make each party understand the difficulties of the position and need of dealing tenderly with each other. Seeing how acute this antagonism was, would it not be better to endeavour to induce each race to stay so long as the position remained so acute within its own country. He was not without hope that in time those feelings would pass away, but when one saw how strong racial feeling could be and in a certain sense how unreasonable and how hard to deal with, one felt that the more we could avert occasions for it arising, the better for both parties.

The words of Mr. Bryce should serve as a lesson to all the ultra-jingoos who, not being satisfied with the conditions existing in this country, would like to write a new constitution for Canada, with centralization of the affairs of the dominions in an imperial parliament. The people who advocate such a plan should profit by the lesson now given us by the very events which have taken place in British Columbia. After all, these events only emphasise the wise policy which has always been followed by England during the latter portion of the last century, to give each dominion its autonomy and the right to deal with its own problems and its own conditions.

I did not intend to speak so long, but I think that the question deserves more than a passing reference in view of what has taken place in British Columbia.

Mr. H. H. STEVENS (Vancouver): It is a matter of some gratification to the members from British Columbia to note the concern which apparently exercises the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) and the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) for the affairs of British Columbia, especially in regard to this most perplexing problem, one which has been for many years almost peculiar to British Columbia. We do not, however, look upon it in that limited manner; we hold that it is a problem which interests the whole Dominion of Canada. It is quite true that from a practical standpoint the effects of Asiatic or Oriental immigration are to be seen chiefly in British Columbia, and only to a limited extent in other parts of Canada. However, I repeat that we hold this to be

[M. Lemieux.]

a problem of more than provincial importance. The hon. member for Edmonton has intimated—I think asserted—that in so far as European immigration is concerned, no objection can be taken to it. To a certain extent I must take issue with him on that point, and I take this occasion of placing my opinion very briefly before the House.

Mr. OLIVER: I do not wish to interrupt my hon. friend, but I think he will search 'Hansard' in vain for any such assertion on my part. My hon. friend knows that when the late Government was in office and I was responsible for the administration of the Department of Immigration, I took very drastic measures in regard to the restriction of European as well as other immigration. Perhaps my hon. friend misunderstood me when I spoke about European civilization.

Mr. STEVENS: I am glad my hon. friend has corrected me, because I should not like to think that he or any other member of the House would, without consideration at all, welcome all immigration from Europe. I believe it is the function of this Government and the function of every government of Canada carefully to scrutinize immigration into this country, whether it comes from Europe or from Asia. There is no question whatever of the fact that the problem of Oriental immigration is one of considerable difficulty. The difficulty with which we are faced at the present time in connection with Oriental immigration is due largely to the fact that the government of which my hon. friends, both of whom spoke this afternoon, were members, did not deal properly with the matter when it was before them. I refer especially to the question of Hindu immigration. The hon. member for Rouville gave the whole case away this afternoon when he pointed out the care that ought to be taken in connection with immigration into Canada from any country under the British flag, at the same time assenting that it was when he was Minister of Labour that the then Deputy Minister of Labour, Mr. Mackenzie King, was sent to London; that the authorities there agreed to exclude Hindus from Canada, and that the agreement verbally entered into at that time was afterwards incorporated into an Order in Council constituting the immigration regulation which was placed on 'Hansard' by the hon. member for Edmonton. That being the case, we find the hon. member for Rouville in an