

his white school friends purchased entrance tickets at the rink and when filing through the turnstile to the ice surface the negro lad was told by the manager: "Sorry, no coloured boys allowed here." The other five refused to enter and left the rink with young Garrey.

I know that the situation has now changed considerably with regard to the Japanese people. As a member from British Columbia I have always resented the fact that this question has been allowed to become a provincial one. It should always have been considered as a matter to be decided by the federal authorities. I personally have accepted the Prime Minister's statement of August 4, 1944, as a statesmanlike solution of this problem. I agree with him that not another Japanese should be allowed to come into Canada. I agree with him that those who are in Canada and who are to be allowed to remain should come before a quasi-judicial board so that their loyalty may be proved, and that those who remain in Canada should be distributed among the various provinces of this dominion. I submit that British Columbia should be willing to take her share of these people, but the other provinces should also stand their share of this particular burden. Oftentimes the impression is left that none of these people are any good. I should like to read a letter from a soldier which appeared under the date line of Esquimalt, British Columbia. It reads:

Lance-Corporal Stewart Ganton of Prince George, who arrived here with other repatriates from Hong Kong, declared that "there was a good Jap in Hong Kong—and he came from Vancouver."

Mr. REID: May I ask the hon. member what newspaper he is reading from?

Mr. MATTHEWS (Kootenay East): The *New Canadian*.

The report stated that Ganton, who was in auxiliary hospital when Hong Kong fell, said the man was formerly of Vancouver who had worked in a city lumber mill.

"He served as interpreter. He liked Canada and apparently had been given what he thought was good treatment over here. So he tried to do the same for us, such as giving us cigarettes," he said.

A few weeks ago I had the privilege of attending a meeting in a church here in Ottawa and listening to Captain U. Laité, a chaplain of the United church who had been released from Hong Kong, recounting some of his experiences in that captured city. He spoke most kindly of some of the Christian Japanese and related their kindnesses to himself and other prisoners in their care. A few weeks ago the hon. member for Fort William said that this is a great time for some forgiving. I would reiterate that statement and

[Mr. J. H. Matthews.]

repeat that it is a great time for some forgiving. Punish the criminals in Japan. By all means. They have asked for it; they must take it and like it. Punish the criminals in Europe also for that matter, but do not let us punish innocent and helpless people here in Canada and then call it an expression of patriotism. Just before Nurse Cavell faced the firing squad during the first great war for her work in assisting British prisoners to escape, she is reported to have said, "Patriotism is not enough." There is a feeling that goes deeper than patriotism, and I believe that we here in Canada should try to follow the greatest of Christian principles:

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.

During a previous debate the hon. member for New Westminster asked if we would be willing to allow the soldiers who had been released from Hong Kong to settle this matter of the Japanese. To that question I would say, "no." We in Canada have never been willing to allow any section of the people to settle our national problems. I believe that is a matter for the parliament of Canada to settle and not the soldiers alone. When we start looking back over what happened at Hong Kong we realize that there are two sides. I hold in my hand an editorial which appeared in the Vancouver *Sun* entitled, "The Blackest Page." It reads:

"We were shipped into a trap. It was a mess."

In fewest words, Private Harry Gyselman, of Winnipeg, summarizes the 1941 Hong Kong fiasco. Lack of equipment and too little of everything, men and munitions, spelled defeat even before the arrival of the ill-fated expedition.

The fact that the Japanese would probably have won anyway does not excuse our failure. Why the Canadian high command handled the situation so badly has never been explained.

It will be remembered that the men were here in Vancouver ready to sail, but their heavier equipment was still on its way from eastern Canada, stranded in half a dozen places. There were empty holds in the troopship. General Alexander—

The CHAIRMAN: I must inform the hon. member that this has nothing to do with the estimate under discussion.

Mr. MATTHEWS (Kootenay West): It was stated previously that the soldiers should be allowed to settle this matter of the Japanese. I would ask to be allowed to finish this and then I am through.

The CHAIRMAN: The discussion must be confined to the estimate before the committee.

Mr. MATTHEWS (Kootenay West): Then I can only say that it is the truth that hurts.